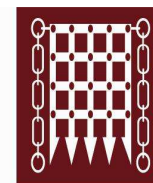


Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Raising educational attainment in the North of England - school improvement, opportunity areas and social mobility

Timing: Morning, Monday, 26th June 2017

Venue: Central Manchester



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 - 9.25 **Growing Up North: tackling educational inequality and improving social mobility - the key issues**
Martin Lennon, Project Lead - Growing Up North, Children's Commissioner's Office
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 9.50 **Policy priorities for raising attainment in the North of England**
Vicky Beer, Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire and West Yorkshire (subject to Departmental business)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.50 - 10.00 **Tackling the attainment gap in early years education**
Anna Round, Senior Research Fellow, North East, IPPR North
- 10.00 - 10.55 **School improvement: leadership, teacher recruitment and retention and the role of multi-academy trusts**
With Ofsted's annual report showing secondary schools in the North of England lagging behind primary schools in terms of improvement, what are the reasons for this gap and what can be done to address it? In light of proposals to use multi-academy trusts (MATs) as a vehicle for school improvement in the North, what barriers exist to struggling schools joining MATs and how might they be overcome? How can the research schools in the North be supported in developing and disseminating evidence-led practice in schools in the region, and how best could the programme be extended to increase the number of schools reached? What form should proposed schemes to increase the number of high quality teachers in the North take and how can they target regions most in need? In view of evidence that three quarters of all schools rated inadequate for leadership are in the Midlands or the North, how can leadership development programmes be used to develop networks of outstanding school leaders at all levels in disadvantaged communities?
Les Walton, Chair, Northern Education Trust
Colin Ferguson, Director, North West, Teach First
Raksha Pattni, Senior Director, North, Ambition School Leadership
Garath Jackson, Director of Training and Regional Lead, Achievement for All
Senior representative, headteacher
Questions and comments from the floor with **Anna Round**, Senior Research Fellow, North East, IPPR North
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord O'Neill of Gatley, former Commercial Secretary to the Treasury and Board Member, Northern Powerhouse Partnership
- 11.35 - 12.30 **Local approaches to improving social mobility: opportunity areas, devolution and pathways to the labour market and higher education**
What opportunities will regional governments in the North, headed by elected mayors, have to develop localised approaches to improving children's life chances and what should be their key priorities? How can funding for Opportunity Areas, seven of which are in the North of England, be used to co-ordinate local efforts to improve educational attainment? What are the barriers to schools and colleges providing high-quality careers advice to young people in the North; how might collaboration between education providers and employers to create employer engagement plans help to overcome them? Will proposals to reform technical education, including the introduction of T-Levels and a framework of 15 routes address skills shortages in the North of England and improve pathways to the labour market?
Karen Redhead, Principal and Chief Executive, Derwentside College, County Durham
Karleen Dowden, Regional & Education Policy Lead, The Careers & Enterprise Company
Nicola McLeod, Principal Skills Lead for Careers and Participation, New Economy Manchester
Professor Ruth Lupton, Professor of Education and Head of Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit, University of Manchester
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **The future role of opportunity areas in improving social mobility**
Damon Boxer, Head of Delivery for the Oldham and Bradford Opportunity Areas, Department for Education
(subject to Departmental business)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Lord O'Neill of Gatley, former Commercial Secretary to the Treasury and Board Member, Northern Powerhouse Partnership
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum