

**Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar:  
Next steps for improving mental health provision at university**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Venue: Central London



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Mental health at university - the current state of provision and the next steps for developing a whole university approach to mental health support**  
**Professor Steve West**, Vice-Chancellor, President and Chief Executive Officer, University of the West of England and Chair, Universities UK Mental health in Higher Education Working Group  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.20 **Changing trends in campus mental health - improving sensitivity, addressing stigma and establishing a duty of care**  
*With increasing demand for services and growing policy focus on mental health provision, what should be the priorities for HEIs in developing the culture to support a whole-institution approach. With the need for sensitivity surrounding reporting and establishing a clear duty of care for students being cited as priorities, what are the chief challenges for organisations - particularly in the context of their varying scale and levels of experience in these matters - and how can they be tackled. How should HEIs and other agencies approach developing better collaboration on prevention and treatment, and where should divisions of responsibility lie.*  
**Izzy Lenga**, Vice President (Welfare), NUS  
**Rachel King**, 8S Programme Lead, Lothian Mental Health and Well-Being Team, NHS Lothian  
Senior speaker confirmed from **Student Minds**  
Senior representative, university  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 - 10.40 **Addressing complaints in student mental health - strategies for meeting increased demand for services**  
**Judy Clements**, Independent Adjudicator and Chief Executive, Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 - 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.20 - 11.45 **Utilising data and evidence-based approaches in mental health treatment**  
**Gregor Henderson**, National Lead for Wellbeing and Mental Health, Public Health England  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 - 12.30 **Treating mental health issues on campus - embedding wellbeing in curricula, using data and best practice**  
*What are the most promising strategies for embedding mental wellbeing into curricula, teaching and assessment, and how can the organisational and cultural challenges for HEIs be tackled. What are the potential implications of increasing focus on mental wellbeing in terms of teaching excellence and the outcomes for students, university staff and their institutions. What is needed to introduce and gather baseline data to establish the successes and failures of current models of intervention. What are the priorities for equipping staff to recognise and distinguish between different clinical and stress-based conditions? What do HEIs and their students most need from the future development of policy?*  
**Professor Jo Smith**, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Suicide Safer Project Lead, University of Worcester  
**Dr Pauline Hanesworth**, Academic Lead (Equality and Diversity/TEF), Higher Education Academy  
**Craig Thorley**, Senior Research Fellow, IPPR  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **The future of mental health support in higher education - priorities for policy**  
**Grace Simpson**, Higher Education Policy Advisor, HEFCE  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum