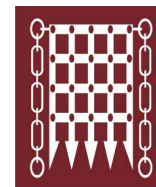


**Westminster Employment Forum Apprenticeships Series:  
Improving Apprenticeships in England - quality, assessment and options for policy**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Venue: Central London



**WESTMINSTER  
EMPLOYMENT  
FORUM**

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 **Where are we now? The quality of apprenticeships in England**  
**John Higton**, Research Director, CFE Research  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.00 **Priorities for the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA)**  
**Ruth Harries**, Head of Standards, Assessment and Quality, Department for Education  
(subject to Departmental business)  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 - 11.00 **Improving the quality of apprenticeships - standard creation, level 2 programmes and further opportunities**  
*Should the post-election government seek to introduce further success measures for the apprenticeships programme, focusing on quality, as well as the total number of apprenticeships to be completed? What issues might the scale of the current target of 3 million apprenticeship starts by 2020 have on the IfA's work in improving the quality and rigour of programmes, and how could they be addressed? How effective has the Trailblazer system proved so far and where could improvements come? What steps can be taken to accelerate the transition from frameworks to standards? How much detail should apprenticeship standards include - where does the balance lie between occupational requirements and the requirements for a particular employer? What steps can be taken to limit the proliferation of new standards and to improve consistency in their quality? Should government introduce further quality targets for those sectors highlighted in the Industrial Strategy, as called for by the Learning and Work Institute? What lessons can be learnt from high-quality apprenticeship programmes from other countries? In order to maintain the quality of the apprenticeship brand, should level 2 programmes be re-branded as traineeships, or do they represent an important first step on the apprenticeships ladder?*  
**Caroline Roberts**, Head of Policy, Governance and Stakeholder Recognitions, City & Guilds  
**Kevin Rowan**, Director, Unionlearn  
**Paul Warner**, Director of Research and Development, Association of Employment and Learning Providers  
Senior representative, employer  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 - 11.35 Coffee
- 11.35 - 11.40 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lord Young of Norwood Green**, former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills and Apprenticeships
- 11.40 - 11.50 **Creating a rigorous assessment system for apprenticeships**  
Senior speaker confirmed from **Ofqual**
- 11.50 - 12.30 **Perspectives on the introduction of end-point assessment**  
*Should all standards have an approved assessment organisation in place before approval, as called for by the Sub-Committee on Education, Skills and the Economy? What further support can government provide Trailblazers with regard to setting-up assessment plans; could government offer more guidance to employers on an appropriate cost for end-point assessment? Is the IfA in a suitable position to approve assessment plans, or would this role be better provided by Ofqual, as suggested by the Association of Employment and Learning Providers; does more need to be done to clarify the roles of the different external quality assessment bodies for apprenticeships assessment? To what extent might the lack of intermediate assessments make it difficult for apprentices to continue an uninterrupted apprenticeship with a different employer, and how might these concerns be addressed?*  
**Graham Hasting-Evans**, Managing Director, NOCN  
**Jill Whittaker**, Managing Director, HIT Training  
Senior representative, business  
Questions and comments from the floor with senior speaker confirmed from **Ofqual**
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Priorities for improving apprenticeship quality**  
Senior speaker to be confirmed  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**  
**Lord Young of Norwood Green**, former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills and Apprenticeships  
**Tom Overend**, Forum Lead, Westminster Employment Forum