

Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Next steps for reforming England's school system

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 19th October 2016

Venue: Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD



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Agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**

Lord Storey, House of Lords Liberal Democrat Education Spokesperson

9.05 - 9.30 **The future for England's school system and the role of Regional Schools Commissioners in maintaining standards**

Sir David Carter, National Schools Commissioner, Department for Education

Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 - 10.20 **Key issues posed for schools in working towards creating an increasingly diverse school system**

What does the future hold for grammar schools in light of the Government proposals to allow existing grammar schools to expand and new ones to be opened to meet local demand? In what ways can new and selective schools wanting to expand collaborate with local authorities and existing local non-selective schools to meet the requirements for expansion and opening up new selective schools? Given the anticipated rise in the number of new faith school following the proposals in the Education Green Paper to allow new faith schools to select up to 100% of pupils based on their faith; what would be the role of faith schools in a diverse school system? In light of concerns expressed by a range of policymakers about Government's goal, outlined in the Education White Paper and the Queen's speech to create a school-led system with schools working towards becoming academies, what changes to policy would school leaders and others in the sector regard most worthy of consideration? How can the Government address concerns raised by school leaders about the need to reduce the cost of academy conversions to make it more affordable for schools? What could be done to support small primary schools and schools in rural areas to convert into academies amidst concerns about their lack of capacity to do so? In what ways can local authorities, schools, and academy trusts work together to minimise any disruption to provision ahead of the anticipated rise in the number of faith schools and selective schools in light of the proposed reforms in the recent education green paper?

Councillor Tom Bewick, Chair, Children, Young People & Skills Committee, Brighton & Hove City Council

Kim Knappett, Immediate Past President, ATL

Tim Care, Partner, Public Sector and Academies, Ward Hadaway

Russel Ellicott, Chairman, Grammar School Heads Association and Headmaster, Pate's Grammar School, Gloucestershire

Peter Taylor, Education Advisor, Catholic Education Service

Questions and comments from the floor

10.20 - 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**

Lord Storey, House of Lords Liberal Democrat Education Spokesperson

10.25 - 10.50 Coffee - sponsored by **PS Financials**

10.50 - 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**

Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, formerly Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools in England

10.55 - 11.05 **Building the next generation of academy leaders to support the expansion of academies**

Julie Mercer, Global Industry Leader for Education and UK Lead Partner, Deloitte

11.05 - 11.45 **Growing importance of multi-academy trusts - opportunities and challenges for new and existing academy chains**

What could be done to further support multi-academy trusts (MATs) to take on more schools to fulfil the Government's aim of making all schools in poorly performing local areas to convert to academy status? Should the Government offer more help to academy chains in addition to the proposed growth fund for MATs? How can smaller scale MATs tackle the challenges of expansion and to take on more schools as they prepare their transition to academy status? What steps could be taken to attract new sponsors to enter the school system and form MATs in light of concerns raised about their lack of capacity to support the rise in academies? Is the multi-academy trust model the most suited model to create an effective academised school system?

Kirsty Watt, Head of Academies Ambassadors, New Schools Network

Andrew Thraves, Trustee, Academies Enterprise Trust

Ty Goddard, Co-Founder, The Education Foundation

Questions and comments from the floor with **Julie Mercer**, Global Industry Leader for Education and UK Lead Partner, Deloitte

11.45 - 12.05 **Multi-academy trusts in a fully academised school system: role and accountability**

Anna Connell-Smith, Committee Specialist, Education Select Committee

Questions and comments from the floor

12.05 - 12.55 **The future accountability and oversight of free schools and academies**

Are the proposed accountability measures for MATs - new performance tables that include information on individual school performance - sufficient to hold them into account effectively? Will the model of RSCs supported by their Headteacher Boards have the sufficient capacity to oversee all struggling schools? Should there be more RSCs or another mid-level of responsibility to help the accountability system to cope in light of the anticipated rise in free schools following the recent Government proposals for the expansion of new free selective schools and free faith schools? How can the Government respond to claims that the proposals to replace parent governors with governors based on specific expertise reduce the parents' capacity to hold schools to account? In light of the recent concerns raised by the National Audit Office on their financial accountability, should the Government take a more robust approach to account for academy trusts? What steps can they take in order to increase their overall transparency and accountability?

Stephen Munday, Member, East of England and North-East London Headteacher Board

Barbara Daykin, Chief Executive Officer, Endeavour Trust, Bristol

Emma Knights, Chief Executive, National Governors' Association

Dr Andy Fisher, Audit Manager, National Audit Office

Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**

Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, formerly Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools in England

Dieuni Welihinda, Forum Lead, Westminster Education Forum