

**Westminster Education Forum and Westminster Social Policy Forum Keynote Seminar**  
**Education and social mobility: improving life chances, raising aspiration and widening access to the professions**

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Venue: Hall of India and Pakistan, Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.05 Registration and coffee
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**David Ward MP**, Member, Business, Innovation and Skills Committee
- 9.15 - 9.45 **'Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers' - next steps for the social mobility strategy**  
**Rt Hon Alan Milburn**, Independent Reviewer on Social Mobility and Child Poverty, HM Government  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 - 9.50 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MP**, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility and Chair, Public Accounts Select Committee
- 9.50 - 10.35 **Raising aspiration and improving life chances for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds**  
*What will be the likely impact on improving life chances of the Government's Pupil Premium, which provides additional funding for schools with large numbers of disadvantaged children? Is there evidence to suggest that the conversion of 'struggling schools' into academies will help to improve social mobility and aspiration within those schools? Would the introduction of compulsory mentoring in schools for disadvantaged pupils, as suggested by the OECD, help develop personal motivation? How should schools work with the new National Careers Service, planned to launch in April 2012, to deliver targeted advice and guidance for pupils? What is the likely impact of the planned Inspiring the Future Programme, which encourages professionals to discuss career options with school pupils, and could the scheme be developed as part of a pupil's educational entitlement? What is the link between parental aspiration and young people's ambitions and how can young people's general self-confidence be improved?*  
**Nick Chambers**, Taskforce Director, Education and Employers Taskforce  
**Dr Emma Smith**, Head, Department of Education and Social Justice, University of Birmingham  
**Neil Sherlock**, Partner, Public Affairs, KPMG  
**Peter Walker**, Principal, Evelyn Grace Academy, Brixton  
**Owen Jones**, Freelance Journalist and Author, *Chavs: The Demonization of the Working Class*  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chairman's closing remarks**  
**Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MP**, Member, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility and Chair, Public Accounts Select Committee
- 10.40 - 11.00 Coffee
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Stephen Gilbert MP**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility
- 11.05 - 11.35 **Improving educational opportunity for young people from non-privileged backgrounds**  
**David Johnston**, Chief Executive Officer, Social Mobility Foundation  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 - 12.15 **Access to university - beyond Fair Access Agreements**  
*What is the current social demographic of universities and the professions? What support can be given to parent and students during the university application process? Are higher tuition fees likely to deter prospective students from low income backgrounds from entering higher education? Are current maintenance grants sufficient to support students from low income backgrounds, and what further financial support could be provided? Would the expansion of vocational, work-based higher education help improve social mobility whilst also better meeting the needs of employers? Would the introduction of standardised postgraduate funding and financial support widen access to key professions, given that many professional career paths now favour postgraduate qualifications?*  
**Dr Jacqueline Stevenson**, Reader, Widening Participation, Carnegie Faculty, Leeds Metropolitan University  
**Pam Tatlow**, Chief Executive, million+  
**Dr Richard Harvey**, Director of Admissions and Outreach, University of East Anglia and Dean, University of East Anglia London  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.15 - 12.55 **Widening access to the professions and internships**  
*Should the professions provide more non-graduate entry routes? Should industries that require post-graduate qualifications for entry be obliged to provide financial support to students from disadvantaged backgrounds? Will the introduction of a voluntary code of practice on internships help improve fair access? How can employers be incentivised to establish new internship and work placement schemes that provide meaningful work experience? Should the National Minimum Wage be applied to all internships, and what alternative funding arrangements would ensure fair access to internship schemes?*  
**Crispin Passmore**, Strategy Director, Legal Services Board  
**Robin Fieth**, Executive Director, Finance & Operations, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)  
**Tom Richmond**, Author, *Internships: To pay or not to pay?* and Head of Policy, G4S Welfare to Work  
**Andrew Scherer**, Marketing Manager, Inspiring Interns and Author, *Brilliant Intern*  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Education Forum and Westminster Social Policy Forum thanks and closing remarks**  
**Stephen Gilbert MP**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility  
**Sean Cudmore**, Senior Producer, Westminster Education Forum and Westminster Social Policy Forum