

Westminster Employment Forum policy conference
Next steps for improving apprenticeship quality in England

Timing: Morning, Monday, 24th January 2022

Taking Place Online



**WESTMINSTER
EMPLOYMENT
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Apprenticeship quality in the wake of the pandemic and priorities for improvement**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 Break
- 9.30 **Improving the apprenticeships induction process - providing clarity on expectations and the overall learning journey, access to networking opportunities, and ensuring mental health needs are cared for**
Kevin Davis, Chairperson, Ladder for Greater Birmingham
Andrew Turner, Work Based Learning Skills and Participation Development Officer, Rochdale Borough Council
Paul Warner, Director of Strategy and Business Development, Association of Employment and Learning Providers
Joel Roach, Chair of Apprentice Council, Association of Apprentices
Senior representative, college
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Driving up the quality of training on and off the job - monitoring progress in skills and aligning with industry needs, strengthening partnerships, addressing regional variation in quality, and acting on apprentice feedback**
Naomi Clayton, Interim Director for Policy and Research, Learning and Work Institute
Cllr William McCaughey, Mayor, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Mike Blakely, Director of Apprenticeships & Employer Engagement, Exeter College
Senior representative, apprenticeship provider
Senior representative, employer
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.10 Break
- 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Young of Norwood Green, former Parliamentary Under Secretary, Skills and Apprenticeships, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (2008 - 2009)
- 11.25 **Assessing apprenticeships in England and achieving equity**
Simon Field, Director, Skills Policy
- 11.35 **Raising standards for end-point assessments - supporting apprentices to prepare, improving completion rates, and developing a coherent assessment system**
Thomas Burton, Group Director of Apprenticeships, NOCN Group
David Phillips, Managing Director, City & Guilds Group
Jacqui Molkenthin, Independent Consultant, JEML Consulting
Caroline Larissey, Director of Quality and Standards, National Hair and Beauty Federation
Senior representative, college

Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **Next steps for raising standards in apprenticeships**
Jonathan Mitchell, Deputy Director, Portfolio and Partnerships, Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Lord Young of Norwood Green, former Parliamentary Under Secretary, Skills and Apprenticeships, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (2008 - 2009)
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Employment Forum