

**Westminster Education Forum policy conference:  
Next steps for careers guidance in England's schools and colleges**

*Timing: Morning, Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026*

**\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\***

*Draft agenda subject to change*



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **Benchmarks for high-quality careers guidance in England's schools and colleges - updated guidance and practical approaches**  
**Beth Jones**, Head, Careers Programmes, The Gatsby Charitable Foundation  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Careers guidance implementation priorities - next steps for leadership, governance, curriculum integration and evidencing impact**  
*embedding careers guidance in school and college strategies | leadership and governance responsibilities | senior oversight and accountability | integrating careers education across the curriculum | aligning provision with revised Gatsby Benchmarks and statutory guidance | supporting teachers and careers leaders with training and resources | effective frameworks for engagement with local employers | collaboration with external providers and regional networks | linking careers guidance to skills development and future pathways | reporting, benchmarking and tracking via Compass and Compass+ | evidencing impact on learner progression, quality assurance and outcomes | addressing disparities in provision and access | funding models and sustainability of careers programmes*  
Senior representative, primary school  
Senior representative, secondary school  
Senior representative, college  
Senior representative, employer  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Embedding careers guidance in inspection criteria - expectations for raising standards and improving outcomes**  
Senior representative, regulation  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.40 Break
- 10.50 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.55 **Developing accessibility in careers guidance and work experience options**  
Senior representative, SEND
- 11.05 **Effective frameworks for employer involvement in work placements**  
Senior representative, employers
- 11.15 **Integrating work experience and engagement with employers in schools and colleges - practical delivery, partnerships and impact**  
*integrating work experience into the curriculum | aligning provision with Gatsby Benchmarks and statutory guidance | practicalities of two-week work placements by age 16 | building sustainable employer partnerships | innovative models for engaging local businesses and national networks, including brokerage, incentives and virtual encounters | safeguards for impartiality and inclusion | options for standardised checks for placement hosts and avoiding duplication | securing equity in provision, including transport and access funding | employer awareness and reasonable-adjustment training | addressing regional, capacity and socio-economic disparities | sector-specific initiatives and pathways | monitoring quality, outcomes and impact | supporting teachers and career mentors with training and resources | funding models and sustainability of programmes*  
Senior representative, school  
Senior representative, college  
Senior representative, local authority
- 11.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Developing progression pathways and supporting transitions from education to employment and further study**  
**John Yarham**, Chief Executive, The Careers and Enterprise Company
- 12.00 **Post-16 progression and the Youth Guarantee - aligning regional skills priorities with education and employer needs**  
*developing clear progression pathways for young people | implementation of the Youth Guarantee and widening participation | early identification of those at risk of becoming NEET and supporting re-engagement | coordination between schools, colleges, universities and employment support, including transition towards the Jobs and Careers Service | employer involvement in curriculum design | use of labour market intelligence to inform provision | addressing skills gaps in growth sectors and regional economies | supporting disadvantaged learners and improving social mobility | leveraging combined authority strategies and local partnerships | monitoring outcomes and accountability of placements and programmes for skills delivery | funding models and sustainability for progression programmes*  
Senior representative, combined authority  
Senior representative, employer  
Senior representative, college  
Senior representative, university
- 12.20 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Policy priorities for careers guidance in England moving forward**  
**Deborah McCann**, Head, Future Careers Offer, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Education Forum