

Westminster Social Policy Forum and Westminster Education Forum conference:

Next steps for tackling child poverty in the UK

Timing: Morning, Monday, 27th April 2026

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Policy priorities for tackling child poverty in the UK and implementation of the *Child Poverty Strategy***
James Wolfe, Director, Poverty, Families and Disadvantage, Department for Work and Pensions
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Assessing key measures in the *Child Poverty Strategy* and priorities for implementation, delivery and accountability**
removal of the two child benefit cap | impact of revised child poverty statistics | monitoring outcomes | rollout of Best Start Family Hubs and coordination with wider services | impact of minimum wage increase and wider social security | priorities for local delivery, devolved responsibilities and multi-agency partnerships | strategy implementation, local government reorganisation and the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill | implications of the Employment Rights Act 2025 | wider priorities for improving employment security for parents and carers | improving access to baby formula and further considerations for reducing child hunger | impact of measures on children facing extreme poverty and long-term disadvantage | addressing regional disparities and variations in local provision | accountability mechanisms and assessment | impact of changes to earned settlement | reducing the impact of short-term financial shocks | utilising the Crisis and Resilience Fund
Lindsey Macdonald, Chief Executive, Magic Breakfast
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, health
Senior representative, legal
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Priorities for improving children's experience and outcomes in social services, housing, and education**
Senior representative, regulation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.10 **The role of the education system in addressing child poverty and inequalities in outcomes**
multi-agency collaboration between schools, early years services, health providers and community partners | the Early Years Pupil Premium, funding access and reducing the school-readiness gap | improving access to childcare | implications of SEND reform for EHCP access, quality and support | meeting child development targets | free school meals and breakfast club access and delivery challenges | addressing links between poverty and child development, and tackling longstanding barriers to progression | approaches to reducing the cost for families of school uniforms and other required school items | supporting social mobility | expectations for teaching and pastoral staff | improving support for children in care and care leavers | the role of youth clubs, extracurricular activities and youth spaces in supporting participation and wellbeing | alignment with the National Youth Strategy and approaches to reducing the risk of young people becoming NEET
Senior representative, school
Senior representative, early years
Senior representative, attainment
Senior representative, local services
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Improving access to safe and secure housing and tackling long-term health impacts**
reducing the mental and physical impacts of inadequate and insecure housing | alignment with the Homelessness Strategy and approaches to reducing long-term reliance on emergency accommodation | implementation of Awaab's Law and transition towards the Decent Homes Standard | Social and Affordable Homes and Pride in Place Programmes | reducing the impact of short-term financial shocks on households | Warm Homes Plan | tracking household need and monitoring vulnerability
Sam Pratt, Policy and Communications Lead, Shared Health Foundation
Senior representative, health
Senior representative, housing
Senior representative, legal
- 12.45 **Next steps for local and community approaches to tackling child poverty**
Senior representative, local government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Harry Nelson, Westminster Forum Projects

