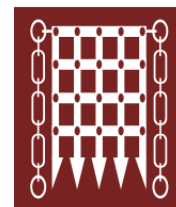


**Westminster Social Policy Forum and Westminster Education Forum conference:
Next steps for tackling child poverty in the UK**

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, local delivery and accountability**
removal of the two child benefit limit and wider social security reform | impact of revised child poverty statistics | monitoring outcomes, statutory targets and accountability | rollout of Best Start Family Hubs and coordination with wider local services | impact of minimum wage increase and wider employment support for parents and carers | priorities for local delivery, devolved responsibilities and multi-agency partnerships | implications of local government reorganisation and the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill | implications of the Employment Rights Act 2025 | reducing child hunger, including free school meals, breakfast provision and access to baby formula | reducing the impact of short-term financial shocks and utilising the Crisis and Resilience Fund | addressing regional disparities, variation in local provision and longer-term disadvantage
Professor Ashwin Kumar, Professor, Social Policy, Manchester Metropolitan University
Lindsey Macdonald, Chief Executive, Magic Breakfast
Christine McInnes, Interim Director, Children, Young People, and Education, Kent County Council
Senior representative, health
Senior representative, legal
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**
Baroness Lister of Burtersett, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Poverty and Inequality; and Emeritus Professor, Social Policy, Loughborough University
- 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 and early years support | implications of SEND reform for EHCP access, quality and support | meeting child development targets and improving participation and attainment | free school meals, breakfast club access and delivery challenges | approaches to reducing the cost for families of school uniforms and other required school items | expectations for teaching and pastoral staff and wider support for children's wellbeing | 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 reducing the risk of young people becoming NEET
Mairead Waugh, Headteacher, St Philip Howard Catholic Primary School, Hertfordshire
Lorna Nicoll, Operational Lead, Poverty Proofing, Children North East
Adele Pearson-Atkinson, Director, Academy Improvement, The Ascent Academies' Trust
Senior representative, local services
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Improving access to safe and secure housing, reducing homelessness and tackling long-term health impacts**
reducing reliance on temporary accommodation and earlier approaches to homelessness prevention | coordination between housing, health and family support services for children in insecure housing | implementation of Awaab's Law and transition towards the Decent Homes Standard | Social and Affordable Homes Programme, Local Authority Housing Fund and wider priorities for stable and affordable homes | reducing the mental and physical health impacts of inadequate housing and homelessness | Warm Homes Plan and priorities for housing quality, safety and energy efficiency | tracking household need, monitoring vulnerability and identifying families at risk earlier
Sam Pratt, Policy and Communications Lead, Shared Health Foundation
Abigail Knight, Chief Innovation Officer, Raise Camden; and Chair, ADHP London Children and Young People's Network
Kate Still, Chief Customer Officer, Clarion Housing
Jasmine Basran, Head, Policy and Campaigns, Crisis
William Ford, Partner, Osbornes Law
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Next steps for local and community approaches to tackling child poverty**
Robin Fry, Inclusive Economy Advisor, North East Combined Authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**
Baroness Lister of Burtersett, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Poverty and Inequality; and Emeritus Professor, Social Policy, Loughborough University
Harry Nelson, Westminster Forum Projects