

**Westminster Education Forum policy conference**  
**The future of the children's social care system in England**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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



**WESTMINSTER  
EDUCATION  
FORUM**

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Steve McCabe MP**, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood
- 9.05 **Regulating the children's care system in England and current standards**  
**Matthew Brazier**, Specialist Advisor for Looked After Children, Ofsted  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 Break
- 9.40 **Reforming the care system - system capacity, funding priorities, improving data sharing, reducing bureaucracy and aligning agency and regional approaches**  
**Darren Bishton**, Practice Lead, National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum, Catch 22  
**Peter Sandiford**, CEO, Independent Children's Homes Association  
**Joe Lane**, Head of Policy and Research, Action for Children  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, industry body  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Preventative support and early intervention - keeping families together, avoiding escalation, engaging with parents and providing family help**  
**Professor June Thoburn**, Emeritus Professor of Social Work, Centre for Research on Children and Families, University of East Anglia  
**Jon Brown**, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Barnardos  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, police  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.15 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Steve McCabe MP**, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood
- 11.20 Break
- 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Uddin**
- 11.35 **Care demographics and providing targeted support - addressing racial and socio-economic inequalities, reducing re-entry into care and breaking the cycle of intergenerational care**  
**Dr Carol Homden**, Chief Executive Officer, Coram  
**Megan Davies**, Head of Political Engagement, Drive Forward Foundation  
**Professor Rick Hood**, Professor of Social Work, Centre for Health and Social Care Research, Kingston University  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.10 Break
- 12.15 **Priorities for the care workforce - recruitment and retention, improving leadership stability and dealing with the challenge of burnout amongst staff**  
**John McGowan**, General Secretary, Social Workers Union  
**Lisa Hackett**, Delivery Director, Frontline  
**Councillor Cordelia Law**, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Torbay Council  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Baroness Uddin**  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum