

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for supporting students with disabilities

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 27th February 2024

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Mark Pratt, Design Adviser lead for Access, Inclusion and SENDAP, DfE Capital, Department for Education
- 9.05 **Disabled students in higher education - key priorities moving forward**
Alice Speller, Executive Director, National Association of Disability Practitioners
- 9.15 **Delivering for disabled students**
HEI governance structures, leadership and accountability | The Disabled Student Commitment | Coordinating approaches across departments and between HEIs | Increasing awareness of the visible and non-visible disability spectrum
Dr Rille Raaper, Associate Professor, Deputy Director of Research, School of Education; and Co-Director, Institute of Advanced Study, Durham University
Dr Sean Cullen, Lecturer, Mechanical Engineering, Brunel University; and former Student Voice Commissioner, Disabled Students' Commission
Dr Suanne Gibson, Associate Professor of Inclusive Education, Plymouth Institute of Education, University of Plymouth
Christopher McFarland, Director, Education and Public Law, Sinclairslaw
- 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 **Listening to student experience and findings from Disabled Students UK's research**
Mette Anwar-Westander, Founding Director and CEO, Disabled Students UK
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Mark Pratt, Design Adviser lead for Access, Inclusion and SENDAP, DfE Capital, Department for Education
- 10.40 Break
- 10.50 **Chair's opening remarks**
Christopher McFarland, Director, Education and Public Law, Sinclairslaw
- 10.55 **Examining the evidence gap - what can be learnt about the transition to HE for disabled students, and research priorities**
Dr Omar Khan, CEO, Transforming Access and Student Outcomes in Higher Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 **Improving disabled student experience**
Supporting academic achievement and improving student retention | Enhancing access to services and standards of student support | Increasing accessibility in the future design of the university estate
Nicola Turner, Senior Fair Access Advisor, UCAS
Ava Loughton, Student, Sheffield Hallam University; and Field Sales and Service Agent, Adapt Ability
David Livermore, Director, AccessAble
Caitlin Parsons, Board Member (Yorkshire), Whizz Kidz
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 **Support beyond university**
The availability of recruitment and careers advice | Provisions for ongoing study | Improving opportunities for progression into high-skilled employment and leadership positions
Tabassum Ahmad, Founder and CEO, EmployAbility
Helen Cooke, Founder and CEO, MyPlus
Amelia Underwood-King, Communities Manager, University College London; and Committee Member, Snowdon Trust Disabled Leaders Network
Richard Wheeler, Committee Member, Snowdon Trust Disabled Leaders Network
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Christopher McFarland, Director, Education and Public Law, Sinclairslaw
Jessica Lear, Associate Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum