

**Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for improving student mental health in higher education**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 9th December 2024

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



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Priorities for student mental health support in HE settings and key considerations for sectoral practice and wider policy**
Jane Harris, Chair, Mental Wellbeing in Higher Education Expert Group
- 9.15 **Progress in implementing the renewed Mental Health Charter Programme across HEIs**
Yeme Onoabagbe, Interim CEO, Student Minds
- 9.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 **Assessing current initiatives and addressing challenges in student mental health support**
priorities for policy | implementation of the renewed MHCP | sharing best practices across HEIs | addressing factors leading to the rise in mental health conditions among students | workload pressures | online harms | financial stresses | aftermath of the pandemic
Professor Michael Sanders, Director of the International School for Government, King's College London
Toby Chelms, Associate Director, Student Wellbeing, University of Bradford
Teslimat Bello, Vice-President, Welfare and Community, Kent Students' Union
Senior representative, healthcare
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 **Enhancing suicide prevention strategies in universities**
Senior commentator
- 11.05 **Assessing best practice and latest thinking on implementing mental health support strategies in HEIs**
embedding mental health into university governance | identifying at-risk students | implementing tailored interventions | compassionate communications and case management | examining arguments for a statutory duty of care | implications for HE providers and students
Siân Jones-Davies, Principal Associate, Mills & Reeve
Professor Juliet Foster, Dean of Education, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London
Ellie Garraway, CEO, Grit
Senior representative, consultancy
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Priorities for collaboration and partnerships for improved mental health support**
developing effective partnerships between HEIs, local services, and health providers | improving multi-agency coordination | practicalities of collaboration and data sharing | data privacy in student mental health support | implementation of proposed changes to mental health service user's rights and access to treatment outlined in the Mental Health Bill
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, healthcare
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for policy and support for HE student mental health services**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum