

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference

Widening participation and access to higher education - improving outcomes, HEI and school collaboration, and the future role of universities in skills development

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 26th May 2022

Taking Place Online

Draft agenda subject to change



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Garden
- 9.05 **Access and participation in Higher Education - the current landscape and next steps**
Ben Jordan, Head of Policy, UCAS
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 Break
- 9.35 **Addressing current barriers to accessing Higher Education and widening participation - achieving positive outcomes, tackling drop-out rates, and supporting graduates into high skilled jobs**
- Students with SEND - easing the transition to Higher Education, and priorities for support*
Amelia McLoughlan, Network Director, Disabled Students UK
- Social mobility - increasing uptake for students from disadvantaged backgrounds*
Susie Whigham, Interim Chief Executive Officer, The Brilliant Club
- Fresh starts - improving access to higher education for students with criminal records*
Caroline Bald, Lecturer, School of Health and Social Care, University of Essex
- Future pathways for care leavers - increasing awareness of the opportunities available*
Clare Bracey, Director of Policy, Communications and Campaigns, Become
- Use of contextual offers in diversifying student intake*
Professor Judith Squires, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, University of Bristol
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Garden
- 10.35 Break
- 10.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 **Next steps for HEI and school collaboration - information, guidance and clarity for students, technical and vocational routes, and improving catch-up and attainment**
Marie Muir, Head of Student and Community Engagement, Nottingham Trent University
Charley Fowler, UK Education Lead and Area Manager, Unifrog
Zac Aldridge, Director of Qualifications and Assessment, NCFE
Ellie Mulcahy, Head of Research, Centre for Education and Youth
Senior representative, school
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 **HEIs and local skills systems - meeting local needs, upskilling opportunities for mature learners, and provision of flexible, part-time and technical courses**
Professor Graeme Atherton, Head of the Centre for Levelling Up, University of West London; and Director, Neon
Professor Katy Shaw, Director of Cultural Partnerships, Northumbria University
Lewis Cooper, Director, Commission on the College of the Future
Sarah Fullwood, Pathways Manager, Student Recruitment and Outreach, Aston University
Alex Bishop, Partner and Head of Office, Birmingham, Shoosmiths
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **Priorities for improving access to Higher Education moving forward**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum