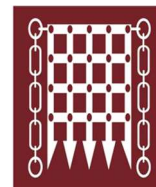


Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference

Priorities for supporting disabled students in HE - student experience, academic attainment, preparation for the labour market, and the impact of COVID-19

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 8th December 2020

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 **Supporting disabled students - the current state of play and initial insights from the Disabled Students Commission**
Professor Geoff Layer, Chair, Disabled Students' Commission and Vice-Chancellor, University of Wolverhampton
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **The experiences of disabled students in higher education**
Professor Kathryn Mitchell, Vice-Chancellor, University of Derby and Co-Chair, Higher Education Commission Disabled Students Inquiry
Megan Hector, Senior Researcher, Policy Connect
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.50 Break
- 9.55 **Welcoming disabled students to university - inclusion and accessibility, improving awareness of support services and the DSA, and arrangements in a socially-distanced campus**
Rhys Brown, Disabled Students' Officer, Birkbeck Students' Union
Leanne Thompson, Disability and Inclusion Manager, Student and Education Services, Lancaster University
Sean Cullen, Disability Officer, Brunel University
Senior representative, university
Commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Improving educational attainment for disabled students - inclusivity in blended learning, use of assistive technologies, and provision of alternative assessment**
Dr Nasser Siabi, Chief Executive Officer, Microlink PC
Dr Annalu Waller, Professor of Computer Science, School of Science and Engineering, and Programme Director, MSc in Educational Assistive Technology, University of Dundee
Kate Lister, Lecturer in Inclusive Education, Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies, The Open University
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 Break
- 11.50 **Preparing disabled graduates for the labour market - holistic approaches to career guidance, partnerships between universities and employers, and improving outcomes**
Tabassum Ahmad, Founder, EmployAbility
Emma Pollard, Principal Research Fellow, Institute for Employment Studies
Keren Coney, Careers Advisor, Liverpool John Moores University and Co-Chair, Disability Task Group, Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services
Senior representative, employer
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for improving support for disabled students**
Senior speaker to be confirmed
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