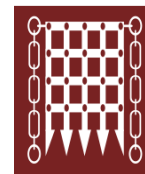


**Westminster Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for qualifications at Level 2 and below in England**

Timing: Morning, Friday, 13th November 2026

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



**WESTMINSTER
EDUCATION
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **Assessing the new qualifications landscape - Foundation Certificates, Occupational Certificates and post-16 pathways reform**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Preparing for qualification reform and supporting providers in transition**
Nina Chorzelewski, Policy Manager, Association of Colleges
- 9.40 **Implementation of Occupational and Foundation Certificates, provider readiness and funding reform**
sequencing qualification defunding and introduction of new pathways from 2027 | provider readiness across colleges, schools and independent training providers | curriculum planning, workforce capacity and resource requirements | implementation support, approvals processes, communications, guidance and learner information | evolving responsibilities for strategic and mayoral authorities in post-16 planning and funding | implications of revised funding arrangements for providers and learners | maintaining quality, learner choice and employer confidence during transition
Senior speaker confirmed from **Pearson**
Senior representative, independent training provider
Senior representative, SEND
- 9.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Regulation and quality assurance for new qualifications and pathways**
Senior representative, regulation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.05 **Qualification design, employer engagement and alignment with local skills priorities**
involvement in qualification content, occupational standards and curriculum development | shaping local skills priorities, curriculum planning and post-16 provision through devolution | balancing national consistency with local and sectoral skills needs | alignment with Skills England priorities, Local Skills Improvement Plans and devolution arrangements | responding to changing workforce needs across sectors and regions | apprenticeships, Foundation Apprenticeships and apprenticeship units within the wider pathways offer | supporting progression into further study, apprenticeships and employment
Jake Wall, Policy Manager, Skills and Future of Work, techUK
David Rowley, Product Manager, NCFE
Senior representative, skills body
Senior representative, college
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Supporting participation and progression into further study, apprenticeships and employment**
progression between occupational and further study pathways | learner choice, accessibility and confidence in the new qualifications framework | supporting learners with SEND and those requiring additional preparation | role of new Level 1 English and maths qualifications in supporting lower-attaining learners and progression towards GCSE attainment | access and progression for adult learners | implications of the Youth Guarantee, Trailblazer programmes and the Milburn Review | addressing regional disparities in participation and supporting learners at risk of becoming NEET
Nicola Hall, Director, Education, The Careers and Enterprise Company
Phil Eves, Social Sustainability Manager, BAM Construction
Senior representative, college
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **Policy priorities for qualification reform, alignment with skills requirements and workforce development**
Richard Mole, Head, Skills Evaluation and Development, Skills England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Education Forum