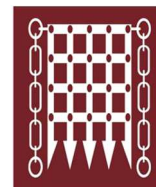


Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference
Next steps for improving student mental health - support frameworks, best practice, and learning from the impact of the pandemic

Timing: Morning, Thursday 4th February 2021

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 **Policy priorities for supporting student mental health**
Amy Norton, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Office for Students
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Supporting student mental health during the pandemic - transition to university, student bubbles, student retention, remote learning, and improving awareness of support services**
John de Pury, Assistant Director of Policy, Universities UK
Dr Paul Gorczynski, Senior Lecturer, School of Sport, Health & Exercise Science, University of Portsmouth
James Smythe, Assistant Principal, Student Experience, The Sheffield College and **Harry Bliss**, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, UniHeads
Ian Munton, Director of Library and Student Services, Staffordshire University
Megan Ball, President, Winchester Student Union
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 Break
- 10.25 **Building a sense of community remotely**
Jenny Shaw, Student Experience Director, Unite Students
- 10.35 **Use of technology to support mental health - remote counselling, mental health apps, and identifying, tracking and staying in touch with vulnerable students**
Dr Laura Biggart, Lecturer in Social Science Research, University of East Anglia
Dr Kamena Henshaw, Associate Professor in Psychology, School of Psychology, University of East Anglia
Professor Ian Tucker, Director of Impact and Innovation, School of Psychology, University of East London
Kate Lister, Lecturer in Inclusive Education, Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies, The Open University
Questions and comments from the floor with **Jenny Shaw**, Student Experience Director, Unite Students
- 11.20 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.25 Break
- 11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.40 **Addressing specific issues around student mental health**

International students and mental health - inclusion, integration and tackling racism
Yunyan Li, PhD Student, University of Bristol and International Student Ambassador, UKCISA

Providing effective careers guidance, and relieving anxiety for students when they are seeking employment
Graham Pilpott, Lead Careers Consultant, Henley Business School, University of Reading

Supporting students through grief - bereavement counselling and mitigating circumstances procedures
Alice Ludgate, Head of Student Services, University of Plymouth

'Understanding mental health issues for BME students and staff in higher education: ensuring better outcomes'
Dr Jason Arday, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Durham University

Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 **Next steps for implementing the University Mental Health Charter**
Rosie Tressler, Chief Executive Officer, Student Minds
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