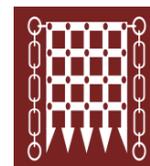


Westminster Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for SEND provision in England

Timing: Morning, Friday, 27th February 2026

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
EDUCATION
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **The future of the SEND system in England and identifying priorities for policy implementation**
Gary Aubin, Member, Curriculum and Assessment Review Group; Consultant, SEND; and Author, *SEND Matters UK blog*
Lorna Beard, Strategic Director, Education and Deputy CEO, Nasen
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.40 **Developing effective early support and intervention mechanisms**
managing increased demand for EHCPs | mitigating inequalities in access to support | workforce capacity | multi-agency collaboration | access to training and support for the early years and teaching workforce | implementing early identification measures and effective practice in interventions | primary school transitions | potential impact of Early Language Support for Every Child | co-design with children, parents and teachers
Catherine Mole, Chief Executive, Dingley's Promise
Senior representative, primary school
Senior representative, local authority
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Building capacity in local SEND provision - support for local systems and collaboration between health, social care, and education**
reviewing progress in delivering 10,000 new special school places | funding for specialist units in mainstream schools | financial sustainability of local authority SEND services and funding proposals | future of independent provision | parental involvement in decision-making processes and formal co-design approaches | strengthening local provision and integrated EHC pathways | building trust in the SEND system | availability of specialist services and one-to-one support | monitoring delivery using clear local indicators of progress
Senior representative, parents group
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, school
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 Break
- 11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.30 **Accountability and oversight within the SEND system**
inspection and oversight mechanisms | options for inspection frameworks and quality assurance measures | improving transparency and consistency across regions | addressing geographic and socio-economic disparities in SEND support | priorities for new Ofsted inspection frameworks and implications of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill | accountability for schools and local authorities | streamlining dispute resolution
Hilary Cook, Head, SEND, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, school
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 **Improving school and post-16 outcomes for learners with SEND**
priorities for digital tools and technology in supporting inclusion and attainment | teacher training and professional development opportunities | defining and measuring attainment | managing transitions to further study and employment | inclusive and supported work experience opportunities | potential impact of the Curriculum and Assessment Review | qualification options and curriculum adaptation
Senior representative, school
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, FE
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **SEND provision in England moving forward**
Dame Christine Lenahan, Strategic Advisor, SEND, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.15 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Education Forum