

## Westminster Education Forum policy conference:

### Next steps for SEND provision in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2026

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



WESTMINSTER  
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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Key considerations for SEND reform - implementation, transition timelines, and priorities for the Education for All Bill**  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.20 **Developing early support, graduated responses and Individual Support Plans**  
*next steps for reform implementation and the Every Child Achieving and Thriving white paper | expectations for the Education for All Bill | development of Individual Support Plans | managing transition and maintaining continuity of support | access to specialist expertise, including Experts at Hand | workforce readiness, recruitment, retention, and professional development | SENCO capacity and frontline delivery | local authority readiness, commissioning, and governance | reducing delays, inconsistency, and pressure on families navigating assessments and support pathways | developing clearer end-to-end pathways from early identification through graduated responses*  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, school  
Senior representative, parents group  
Senior commentator
- 9.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 **Improving capacity, commissioning, and multi-agency delivery in local SEND systems**  
*assessing funding pressures and sustainability of high needs budgets | place planning and commissioning across mainstream, specialist and alternative provision | workforce capacity across schools, specialist providers, and local authorities | joint working across education, health, and social care | managing demand for EHCPs and specialist placements | provision for young people with more complex needs | developing reintegration pathways and expectations for movement between specialist and mainstream provision | managing variation in provision and access across local areas*  
**Dr Sue Franklin**, Principal Educational Psychologist, Lewisham Council  
Senior representative, school  
Senior representative, union  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.10 **Development of National Inclusion Standards and supporting accountability across mainstream provision**  
Senior representative, policy
- 11.20 **Strengthening existing legal frameworks for children with SEND and options for future legislation**  
**Madeleine Cassidy**, Chief Executive, IPSEA
- 11.30 **Strengthening inclusion, accountability, and system oversight**  
*National Inclusion Standards and implications for expectations on mainstream and specialist provision | Curriculum and Assessment Review implications | updated Ofsted inspection framework | curriculum design, assessment approaches, classroom delivery, and wider school culture | consistency of provision across local areas | local offer development | data, transparency, and monitoring outcomes and variation | expectations on mainstream and specialist settings | complaints, mediation, and tribunal processes under a reformed system*  
Senior representative, local authority  
Senior representative, school
- 11.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 **Improving outcomes and progression for learners with SEND**  
*transitions into further education, training, supported internships, and employment | qualification reform including V Levels and wider level 3 changes | access to work placements and employer engagement | attendance, attainment, wellbeing and placement stability | progression gaps and long-term outcomes across provision | strengthening post-16 pathways and continuity of support*  
**Karen Taylor**, Deputy Headteacher, Post 16, Linwood School, Bournemouth  
Senior representative, FE  
Senior representative, employer  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.50 **Policy priorities for SEND provision moving forward**  
**Dame Christine Lenehan**, 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