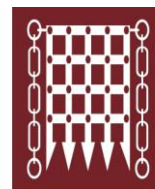


Westminster Employment Forum policy conference
Priorities for reducing youth unemployment in the wake of COVID-19

Timing: Morning, Monday, 22nd February 2021

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



**WESTMINSTER
EMPLOYMENT
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Nigel Mills MP, Member, Work and Pensions Committee
- 9.05 **The careers strategy for young people in England**
John Yarham, Interim Chief Executive Officer, The Careers and Enterprise Company
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Careers advice and services - developing Careers Hubs, improving advice in schools, the role of the National Careers Service, and work search support**
Councillor Sean Fielding, Leader, Oldham Council
Senior representative, careers hub
Senior representative, school
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.10 Break
- 10.15 **Work placements and other training opportunities - the Kickstart Scheme, participation, quality of provision, and engaging employers**
Mark Smith, Chief Executive Office, Ada. The National College for Digital Skills, London
Ruth South, Head of Graduate and Apprentice Programmes, Capgemini UK
Chris Russell, Policy Lead for Talent and Skills, The National Centre for Universities and Business
Senior representative, awarding body
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Nigel Mills MP, Member, Work and Pensions Committee
- 11.05 Break
- 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Debbie Abrahams MP, Member, Work and Pensions Committee
- 11.25 **Preparing young people for the labour market and the role of business in developing employment opportunities**
Lord Bilimoria, President, CBI; Chancellor, University of Birmingham and President, UK Council for International Student Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 Break
- 11.50 **Skills gaps and regional employment imbalances - the role of LEPs, providing upskilling opportunities, and the sector-based work academy programme (SWAP)**
Joe Fitzsimons, Head of Education and Skills Policy, Institute of Director
Mike Cherry, National Chair, Federation of Small Businesses
Dr Jamie Mackay, Skills Strategy Manager, Enterprise M3
Jude Robinson, Head of Strategy, Skills & Participation, Hampshire County Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **The next steps for the Work and Health Programme - its impact so far and its future role in tackling long term unemployment in the wake of COVID-19**
Senior speaker to be confirmed
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Debbie Abrahams MP, Member, Work and Pensions Committee
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Employment Forum