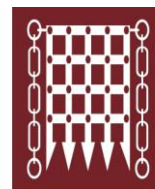


Westminster Employment Forum policy conference
Reducing youth unemployment - next steps for careers advice and services, training and work placements, and tackling regional employment imbalances

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
Elaine Bowker, Principal and Group Chief Executive, The City of Liverpool College; and Champion, Skills and Equality & Diversity, Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership
Anita Traffon, Deputy Chief Executive and Deputy Principal, The Sheffield College
Jan Ellis, Chief Executive, CDI
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**
Chris Russell, Policy Lead for Talent and Skills, The National Centre for Universities and Business
Mark Smith, Chief Executive Office, Ada. The National College for Digital Skills, London
Ruth South, Head of Graduate and Apprentice Programmes, Capgemini UK
Patrick Craven, Executive Director, Policy and Strategic Partnerships, City and Guilds
Angie Doll, Managing Director, Southern Rail and Gatwick Express
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Nigel Mills MP, Member, Work and Pensions Committee
- 11.10 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, Senior Policy Advisor, Institute of Directors
Dan Miller, Policy Chair, Apprenticeships, Federation of Small Businesses
Dr Jamie Mackay, Skills Strategy Manager, Enterprise M3
Jude Robinson, Head of Strategy & Performance, Skills & Participation Service, 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**
Austin Hardie, Operational Managing Director of Employability, Shaw Trust
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Debbie Abrahams MP, Member, Work and Pensions Committee
Helen Crocker, Forum Lead, Westminster Employment Forum