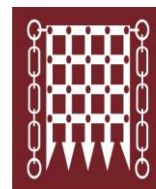


Westminster Employment Forum policy conference
The future for apprenticeships in England - growing participation and improving diversity

Timing: Morning, Friday, 19th March 2021

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



**WESTMINSTER
EMPLOYMENT
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Apprenticeships in England - priorities for participation and diversity**
Louise Wright, Deputy Director for Apprentices, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Apprenticeship participation post-pandemic - redundancies and the apprenticeship brand, emergency funding, and support for providers and for apprentices from disadvantaged backgrounds**
Cindy Rampersaud, Senior Vice President, BTEC and Apprenticeships, Pearson
Senior analyst
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, FE college
Senior representative, local authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 Break
- 10.25 **The role of flexible provision and funding in apprenticeship diversity and participation - the new pledge function, effective use of the apprenticeship levy, and the National Minimum Wage increase**
Jane Hickie, Managing Director, Association of Employment and Learning Providers
Iain Gallagher, Senior Manager, Emerging Talent, Santander UK
Commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior parliamentarian
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Karin Smyth MP
- 11.15 **Case studies: initiatives for diversity in apprenticeships**

The Inclusive Employers Toolkit: supporting young black men into construction and digital sectors
Jeremy Crook, Chief Executive, Black Training and Enterprise Group

The impact of the 5 Cities Project and next steps for improving ethnic minority inclusion
Nic Hutchins, Principal Skills Manager (Apprenticeships), Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 Break
- 11.50 **Integrating diversity and participation into economic recovery - coverage and access in disadvantaged areas, improving awareness of apprenticeships, and plans for supporting hardest-hit sectors**
Kirsti Lord, Deputy Chief Executive, Association of Colleges
Peter Dickinson, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, college
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for promoting apprenticeships and supporting students to explore options**
John Cope, Director of Strategy, Policy and Public Affairs, UCAS
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Karin Smyth MP
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Employment Forum