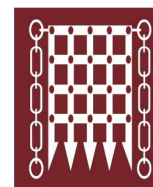


**Westminster Employment Forum Keynote Seminar:
Priorities for improving the quality of apprenticeships in England**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 17th January 2019

Venue: The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR



**WESTMINSTER
EMPLOYMENT
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Young of Norwood Green, Apprenticeship Ambassador and former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills and Apprenticeships
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Utilising levy funds effectively to meet future skills needs**
John Cope, Head of Group for Education and Skills, CBI
- 9.15 - 10.20 **Priorities for improving the pathway: off-the-job training, end-point assessment and apprentice experience**
With Ofsted figures showing that nearly half of all registered apprenticeship providers inspected were inadequate or required improvement, what needs to be done to improve quality and reduce variation by sector, particularly at Level 2 and 3? How well are levy payers managing with the freedom to pick their own training providers, what support is needed to help them navigate the market? To what extent does off-the-job training contribute to the quality of apprenticeships, and with Ofsted not tracking how long apprentices spend on off-the-job training as part of inspections, how should the rule be effectively enforced? Does more need to be done to ensure suitable end-point assessors are being chosen and how can External Quality Assurance be better clarified? With Government figures showing a drop in apprenticeship starts despite high levels of satisfaction from learners, what are the next steps for employers and providers to communicate the benefits of apprenticeships?
Dr Jacqueline Hall, Associate Director and Head of Assessment Services, Energy and Utilities Independent Assessment Service
Joanne Giles, Director of Apprenticeships and Employer Engagement, South Essex College
Louise Doyle, Senior Strategic Associate, Strategic Development Network
Simon Hawthorn, Apprentice Project Manager, Transport for London and Leadership Team, National Society of Apprentices
Questions and comments from the floor with **John Cope**, Head of Group for Education and Skills, CBI
- 10.20 - 10.50 **Funding reform and apprenticeship quality**
Ailsa Harris, Head of Apprenticeship Standards, Quality and Assessment, Education and Skills Funding Agency
Questions and comments from the floor with **Mike Rabjohns**, Head of Apprenticeship Funding Policy Design, Education and Skills Funding Agency
- 10.50 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.25 **Next steps for inspections - raising standards, meeting demand and quality of new providers**
Dr Christopher Jones HMI, Specialist Adviser for Apprenticeships, Ofsted
- 11.25 - 11.40 **Ensuring confidence in end-point assessments**
Lucy Sydney, Director of Strategic Relationships for VTQ, Ofqual
- 11.40 - 11.50 **'Degree apprenticeships as a means of addressing skills gaps'**
Dr Brooke Storer-Church, Skills and Industrial Strategy Manager, Office for Students
- 11.50 - 12.00 **Key issues for providers and the impact of the Register of Approved Training Providers review**
Mark Dawe, Chief Executive, Association of Employment and Learning Providers
- 12.00 - 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Next steps for improving the quality of apprenticeships**
Nikki Christie, Deputy Director, Assessment and Quality Assurance, Institute for Apprenticeships
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Lord Young of Norwood Green, Apprenticeship Ambassador and former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills and Apprenticeships
Helen Crocker, Senior Researcher, Westminster Employment Forum