

Westminster Social Policy Forum keynote seminar

The future of social security - the impact of COVID-19, priorities for tackling unemployment, and taking forward the Kickstart Scheme

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 1st February 2022

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
SOCIAL POLICY
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Debbie Abrahams MP, Member, Work and Pensions Select Committee
- 9.05 **Key and emerging issues for the structure of financial support provided to working age people in the UK and priorities for meeting the ongoing challenge of the pandemic**
Dr Stephen Brien, Chair, Social Security Advisory Committee
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 Break
- 9.35 **The impact of the pandemic on social security in England - local approaches to supporting vulnerable groups, how the system needs to adapt, and what this means for the ongoing rollout of Universal Credit**
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Public Realm, Tower Hamlets Council
Alison Garnham, Chief Executive, Child Poverty Action Group
Gavin Rice, Head of Work and Welfare Policy Unit, The Centre for Social Justice
Robert Joyce, Deputy Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Case Study - an update on the planned Universal Basic Income pilot in Wales**
Jonathan Rhys Williams, Co-founder, UBI Lab Cymru
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Debbie Abrahams MP, Member, Work and Pensions Select Committee
- 11.05 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Nigel Mills MP, Member, Work and Pensions Select Committee
- 11.15 **Taking forward the Kickstart scheme, reducing unemployment, and boosting skills amongst young people**
Senior speaker to be announced
- 11.20 **Latest thinking on supporting people back into work - the role of the social security system and job seeker services, addressing inequality in training and education provision, and working together to address barriers to employment**
Matthew Oakley, Director, WPI Economics
Angela Harrington, Director of Inclusive Economy, Manchester City Council
Rachel Jones, Director of Talent, Learning, Engagement, Wellbeing and Organisational Design, Sodexo
Jessica Tucker, Head of Personal Development and Learner Progress, South Devon College
Katy Joy, Head of Teacher Training and Community Learning, South Devon College
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.20 Break
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for adapting the social security system to meet future challenges**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**
Nigel Mills MP, Member, Work and Pensions Select Committee
Michael Ryan, Deputy Editor, Westminster Social Policy Forum