

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for the Lifelong Learning Entitlement

Timing: Morning, Friday, 26th September 2025

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing institutional readiness and next steps for delivering the LLE**
Sandra Binns, Policy Advisor, Universities UK
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for funding the LLE**
financial sustainability of modular learning models / government-designated student funding levels / lessons from international systems / strategies to improve collaboration and cost-sharing / financial impact on HEIs / impact of delays to implementation on student confidence
Professor Sally Wheeler, Vice-Chancellor, Birkbeck, University of London
Ellen Engstrom, Policy and Engagement Manager, Independent Higher Education
Rod Bristow, CEO, College Online; and Chair, University of Bradford
Senior representative, international university
Senior representative, employer
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Aligning course provision with labour market needs and skills gaps**
Kirstie Donnelly, Chief Executive, City & Guilds
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Delivering the LLE through modular and flexible learning**
Helena Vine, Lead Policy Officer, England, Quality Assurance Agency
- 11.15 **Designing and delivering modular learning**
modular learning, stackable qualifications and credit accumulation / eligibility and approval of modules / ensuring value for money for learners / course structure and delivery / pathways for progression / closing skills gaps
Dr Ismini Vasileiou, Associate Professor, De Montfort University; Director, East Midlands Cyber Security Cluster; and Director and Co-Chair, UK Cyber Cluster Collaboration
Dr Michelle Morgan, Dean, Students, University of East London
Mark Morrin, Principal Research Consultant, ResPublica
Jasbir Sondhi, Group Principal, Capital City College Group
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Widening participation and inclusion**
raising awareness and engaging learners / improving access for underrepresented and disadvantaged learners / regional upskilling and employer partnerships / barriers to participation / supporting social mobility and economic inclusion
Mary Curnock Cook CBE, Chair, Dyson Institute and Pearson Education
Professor René Koglbauer, Dean, Lifelong Learning and Professional Practice, Newcastle University
Michael McLaughlin, Group Social Value Manager, LHC Procurement Group
Aaron Revel, Head, Lifelong Learning, Learning and Work Institute
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for the LLE moving forward and preparing for 2027 delivery**
Simone Bolshaw, Deputy Director, Lifelong Learning Entitlement, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum