Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference
Next steps for improving student mental health - support frameworks, best practice, and dealing with the impact of the pandemic
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 4th February 2021
Taking Place Online

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30   Registration

9.00   **Chair's opening remarks**
          Lord Lucas

9.05   **Policy priorities for supporting student mental health**
          Amy Norton, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Office for Students
          Questions and comments from the floor

9.30   **Supporting student mental health during the pandemic - transition to university, student bubbles, student retention, remote learning, and improving awareness of support services**
          Amy Dicks, Policy Researcher, Universities UK
          Dr Paul Gorczynski, Senior Lecturer, School of Sport, Health & Exercise Science, University of Portsmouth
          James Smythe, Assistant Principal, Student Experience, The Sheffield College and **Harry Bliss**, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, UniHeads
          Ian Munton, Director of Library and Student Services, Staffordshire University
          Megan Ball, President, Winchester Student Union
          Questions and comments from the floor

10.20   Break

10.25   **Building a sense of community remotely**
          Jenny Shaw, Student Experience Director, Unite Students

10.35   **Use of technology to support mental health - remote counselling, mental health apps, and identifying, tracking and staying in touch with vulnerable students**
          Dr Laura Biggart, Associate Professor in Psychology, School of Psychology, University of East Anglia and **Dr Kamena Henshaw**, Associate Professor in Psychology, School of Psychology, University of East Anglia
          Professor Ian Tucker, Director of Impact and Innovation, School of Psychology, University of East London
          Kate Lister, Lecturer in Inclusive Education, Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies, The Open University

10.55   Questions and comments from the floor

11.20   **Chair's closing remarks**
          Lord Lucas

11.25   Break

11.35   **Chair's opening remarks**
          Baroness Tyler, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Mental Health

11.40   **Addressing specific issues around student mental health**

          International students and mental health - inclusion, integration and tackling racism
          Yunyan Li, PhD Student, University of Bristol and International Student Ambassador, UKCISA

          Providing effective careers guidance, and relieving anxiety for students when they are seeking employment
          Graham Philpott, Lead Careers Consultant, Henley Business School, University of Reading

          Supporting students through grief and bereavement
          Alice Ludgate, Head of Student Services, University of Plymouth

          'Understanding mental health issues for BME students and staff in higher education: ensuring better outcomes'
          Dr Jason Arday, Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Durham University

          Questions and comments from the floor

12.25   **Next steps for implementing the University Mental Health Charter**
          Rosie Tressler, Chief Executive Officer, Student Minds
          Questions and comments from the floor

12.55   **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
          Baroness Tyler, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Mental Health
          Aleksiina Kallunki, Researcher, Westminster Higher Education Forum