

Westminster Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for SEND provision in England

Timing: Morning, Friday, 18th July 2025

Taking place online



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **Assessing the current SEND landscape and key priorities for policy**
Dame Christine Lenehan, Strategic Advisor, SEND, Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Evaluating the current SEND system and priorities for improving provision**
options for the long-term structure of the SEND system / improving inclusion, accountability and sustainability of provision / local authority finances and strategic options for sustainable funding going forward / practical steps for increasing inclusion in mainstream schools / identifying and promoting effective inclusive practice / strategies for improving staff expertise and capacity / responding to rising EHCP demand / addressing geographical disparities and placement pressures / effective multi-agency coordination / development of Local Inclusion Partnerships
Georgina Durrant, National Inclusion Lead, Twinkl
Gayle Voigt, Headteacher, Brockwood Primary and Nursery School, Hemel Hempstead
Dr Vasilis Strogilos, Associate Professor, Southampton Education School, University of Southampton
Senior representative, local authority
Speaker with lived experience
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Supporting SEND learners and learning from best practice**
Annamarie Hassall, Chief Executive, Nasen
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.00 **Key considerations from the Curriculum and Assessment Review Interim Report - next steps for SEND**
Gary Aubin, Member, Curriculum and Assessment Review Group; Consultant, SEND; and Author, SEND Matters UK blog
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 **Improving accountability and oversight within the SEND system**
inspection and assessment mechanisms / assessing proposals for improved national oversight / strategic options for achieving quality and equity in provision / implications of limiting parental rights of appeal or tribunal authority / maintaining trust and clarity in decision-making / safeguarding fairness in access to support / identifying and addressing gaps in national data on need and capacity / optimal use of data to inform planning and reduce variation in provision / approaches and best practice in joined-up system planning / assessing proposals for improving transparency and benchmarking
Oliver Persey, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers
Judith Carter, Educational Psychologist; and Director, Willow Tree Learning
Senior representative, school
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, finance
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.10 **Improving positive outcomes for SEND pupils - post-16 education and transitions into the workforce**
improving support for transition into further education or employment / measuring long-term attainment and progression for pupils with SEND / models for integrated support and early intervention
Linda Jordan, Senior Development Advisor, National Development Team for Inclusion
Senior Representative, FE
Senior representative, HE
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, awarding organisation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Education Forum