

Westminster Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for SEND provision in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 3rd November 2026

Taking Place Online



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Key considerations for SEND reform - implementation, transition timelines, and priorities for the Education for All Bill**
Annamarie Hassall, Chief Executive, nasen
- 9.20 **Developing early support, graduated responses and Individual Support Plans**
next steps for reform implementation and the Every Child Achieving and Thriving white paper | expectations for the Education for All Bill | development of Individual Support Plans | managing transition and maintaining continuity of support | access to specialist expertise, including Experts at Hand | workforce readiness, recruitment, retention, and professional development | SENCO capacity and frontline delivery | local authority readiness, commissioning, and governance | reducing delays, inconsistency, and pressure on families navigating assessments and support pathways | developing clearer end-to-end pathways from early identification through graduated responses
Elizabeth Harris, Headteacher, Monega Primary School, London
Louisa Reeves, Director, Policy and Evidence, Speech and Language UK
Elaine Allegretti, Strategic Director, Adult and Children's Services, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council
Natalie Bishop, CEO, Little Years Nurseries
Georgina Durrant, Strategic Lead, Inclusion, Twinkl
- 9.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.10 **SEND in mainstream settings - key priorities moving forward**
Matthew Walker, Senior Research Manager, National Foundation for Educational Research
- 10.20 **Improving capacity, commissioning, and multi-agency delivery in local SEND systems**
assessing funding pressures and sustainability of high needs budgets | place planning and commissioning across mainstream, specialist and alternative provision | workforce capacity across schools, specialist providers, and local authorities | joint working across education, health, and social care | managing demand for EHCPs and specialist placements | provision for young people with more complex needs | developing reintegration pathways and expectations for movement between specialist and mainstream provision | managing variation in provision and access across local areas
Dr Sue Franklin, Principal Educational Psychologist, Lewisham Council
Mari Davis, Senior Policy and Public Affairs Officer, NASS
Senior representative, union
- 10.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 Break
- 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Ben Coleman MP
- 11.20 **Development of National Inclusion Standards and supporting accountability across mainstream provision**
Senior representative, policy
- 11.30 **Strengthening existing legal frameworks for children with SEND and options for future legislation**
Madeleine Cassidy, Chief Executive, IPSEA
- 11.40 **Strengthening inclusion, accountability, and system oversight**
National Inclusion Standards and implications for expectations on mainstream and specialist provision | Curriculum and Assessment Review implications | updated Ofsted inspection framework | curriculum design, assessment approaches, classroom delivery, and wider school culture | consistency of provision across local areas | local offer development | data, transparency, and monitoring outcomes and variation | expectations on mainstream and specialist settings | complaints, mediation, and tribunal processes under a reformed system
Sharon Smith, Policy and Parliamentary Lead, Down's Syndrome Association
Charlotte Mitchell, Assistant Director, Schools and Inclusion, Children's Services, Rochdale Borough Council
Senior representative, school
- 11.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.15 **Improving outcomes and progression for learners with SEND**
transitions into further education, training, supported internships, and employment | qualification reform including V Levels and wider level 3 changes | access to work placements and employer engagement | attendance, attainment, wellbeing and placement stability | progression gaps and long-term outcomes across provision | strengthening post-16 pathways and continuity of support
Karen Taylor, Deputy Headteacher, Post 16, Linwood School, Bournemouth
Chris Lefcovitch, Strategic Lead, SEND and Head, Inclusive Learning, Milton Keynes College
Jenny Fox, Senior Subject Specialist, PSHE Association
Senior representative, employer
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.00 **Policy priorities for SEND provision moving forward**
Dame Christine Lenehan, Strategic Advisor, SEND, Department For Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.25 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Ben Coleman MP
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Education Forum