



WESTMINSTER  
EDUCATION  
FORUM

# Improving educational attainment and social mobility: the role of schools, progression post-16 and implementing the Opportunity Areas programme

## 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### CONDITIONS FOR USE OF TRANSCRIPTS:

This document is intended to provide a timely reference for interested parties who are unable to attend the event to which it refers. Some portions are based on transcripts of proceedings and others consist of text submitted by speakers or authors, and are clearly marked as such. As such, apart from where it is indicated that the text was supplied by the speaker, it has not been possible for the transcript to be checked by speakers and so this portion of the document does not represent a formal record of proceedings. Despite best endeavours by Westminster Forum Projects and its suppliers to ensure accuracy, text based on transcription may contain errors which could alter the intended meaning of any portion of the reported content. Anyone who intends to publicly use or refer to any text based on the transcript should make clear that speakers have not had the opportunity for any corrections, or check first with the speaker in question. If in doubt please contact the forum first.

## Contents

<b><u>About this Publication</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>Agenda</u></b>	<b>4</b>
<b><u>Session Chair's opening remarks</u></b>	
<b>Siobhain McDonagh MP</b> , Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>6</b>
<b><u>Evaluating progress made towards improving social mobility</u></b>	
<b>Charles Samuda</b> , Team Leader, Social Mobility, Department for Education ( <i>text to be submitted by speaker</i> )	<b>8</b>
Questions and comments from the floor ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>9</b>
<b><u>The role of education in raising aspirations and improving attainment - tackling disadvantage in the early years, improving teaching quality, school improvement in challenging areas and partnerships</u></b>	
<b>Gillian Peck</b> , Headteacher, Putnoe Primary School, Bedfordshire ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>14</b>
<b>Vanessa Housley</b> , Senior Advisor, Inclusion and Development, Education Improvement Service, Stockton-on-Tees Council ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>16</b>
<b>Kim Caplin</b> , Principal, Westminster Kingsway College ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>18</b>
<b>Mark Vickers</b> , Chief Executive, Olive Academies ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>20</b>
<b>Jennifer Gifford</b> , Deputy Head of Advisory Services, New Schools Network ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>22</b>
Questions and comments from the floor ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>24</b>
<b><u>Session Chair's closing remarks</u></b>	
<b>Siobhain McDonagh MP</b> , Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>32</b>
<b><u>Session Chair's opening remarks</u></b>	
<b>Peter Aldous MP</b> , Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Employment and Chair, County All-Party Parliamentary Group ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>33</b>
<b><u>'Improving the opportunities of disadvantaged young people'</u></b>	
<b>Jenny Ann</b> , Access and Participation Funding Manager, Office for Students ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>35</b>
<b><u>Enhancing opportunities post-16 - the impact of T-Levels, improving and ensuring the sustainability of the FE sector and routes into employment and Higher Education</u></b>	
<b>Damian Corneal</b> , Managing Director, Accenture ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>38</b>
<b>David Walrond</b> , College Principal, Truro and Penwith College ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>40</b>
<b>David Woolley</b> , National Collaborative Outreach Programme Manager, Nottingham Trent University ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>43</b>
<b>Luqman Haydar</b> , Financial Analyst, Sky UK ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>45</b>
Questions and comments from the floor with <b>Jenny Ann</b> , Access and Participation Funding Manager, Office for Students ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>47</b>
<b><u>Next steps for the Opportunity Areas programme - what's worked so far, areas for improvement and spreading best practice more widely across the country</u></b>	
<b>Professor Kathryn Mitchell</b> , Chair, Derby Opportunity Area Partnership Board and Vice Chancellor, University of Derby ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>54</b>
<b>Professor Liz Barnes</b> , Co-Chair, Stoke-on-Trent Opportunity Area Partnership Board and Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, Staffordshire University ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>56</b>
<b>Melanie Richards</b> , Deputy Chair, KPMG UK ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>58</b>
<b>Julia Ridge</b> , West Somerset Opportunity Area Lead, Somerset County Council ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>60</b>
Questions and comments from the floor ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>62</b>
<b><u>Policy priorities for social mobility and the Opportunity Areas programme</u></b>	
<b>Hannah Streatfeild</b> , Deputy Director, Opportunity Areas, Department for Education ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>66</b>
Questions and comments from the floor ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>71</b>
<b><u>Session Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks</u></b>	
<b>Peter Aldous MP</b> , Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Employment and Chair, County All-Party Parliamentary Group ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>74</b>
<b>Sean Cudmore</b> , Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>76</b>
<b><u>List of Delegates Registered for Seminar</u></b>	<b>77</b>
<b><u>Contributor Biographies</u></b>	<b>81</b>
<b><u>About the Core Sponsors of the Westminster Education Forum</u></b>	<b>85</b>

Please be advised that speakers' PowerPoint presentations are included within the transcript itself, just beneath the relevant speaker's text. Please note that not all speakers are able to grant permission for us to include their slides.

## About this Publication

This publication reflects proceedings at the Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Improving educational attainment and social mobility: the role of schools, progression post-16 and implementing the Opportunity Areas programme on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The views expressed in the articles are those of the named authors, not those of the Forum or the sponsors, apart from their own articles.

Although Westminster Education Forum is grateful to all sponsors for the funding on which we depend, participation in events and publications is never conditional on being a sponsor. As well as funding ongoing operations, sponsorship enables the Forum to distribute complimentary copies of publications, and offer complimentary tickets for events, to Government ministers, parliamentarians and officials most involved in policy.

This publication is copyright. Its copying, in whole or in part, is not permitted without the prior written consent of the publishers. However, extracts of the text may be reproduced for academic or review purposes, subject to the conditions of use outlined in the previous page, providing they are accurate, are not used in a misleading context and the author, their organisation and the Westminster Education Forum are acknowledged. We would also appreciate being informed.

### Westminster Education Forum

UK Headquarters  
4 Bracknell Beeches  
Old Bracknell Lane West  
Bracknell  
Berkshire RG12 7BW

T: 01344 864796

F: 01344 420121

[publications@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk](mailto:publications@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk)

### Directors

Peter van Gelder

Chris Whitehouse