

**Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:  
Next steps for the charity sector in England and Wales**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



**WESTMINSTER  
SOCIAL POLICY  
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Mary Kelly Foy MP**, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Charities and Volunteering
- 9.05 **Key considerations for the future of the charity sector in England and Wales**  
**Professor Christopher Dayson**, Professor, Voluntary Action, Health and Wellbeing, Sheffield Hallam University  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Sector priorities for policy, regulation and partnership working**  
**Rebecca Young**, Policy and Public Affairs Lead, National Council for Voluntary Organisations
- 9.40 **'Diagnosis Connect: Unlocking the benefits of charity support'**  
**Duleep Allirajah**, CEO, The Richmond Group of Charities
- 9.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 **The Civil Society Covenant - early experience of implementation and assessing priorities moving forward**  
*immediate operational implications for charities and delivery partners | implementing consistent commissioning and funding practices | role of the Joint Civil Society Covenant Council and early priorities for Task and Finish Groups | alignment across the current partnership framework, new fundraising standards, and recent governance reform | funding terms, grant standards and expectations around charities' independence and advocacy activity | ensuring opportunities and platforms for engagement | addressing key sector challenges outlined in Charity Sector Risk Assessment 2025 report | supporting place-based partnerships and routes for SMEs | monitoring, reporting and accountability frameworks | engagement standards between public bodies and civil society | implications of devolution and local government reorganisation arrangements | expectations for culture change within public bodies | navigating cost of living and income pressures*  
**Ali Gourley**, Senior Public Affairs Manager, FareShare and The Felix Project  
**Jennifer Rouse**, Strategic Lead, VCFSE Accord, Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
**Kate Keightley**, Deputy Director, Support and Clinical Services, Blood Cancer  
**Angela Lucas**, Director, Area Engagement and Partnerships, Clinks  
**Suhan Rajkumar**, Partner, Bates Wells  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Mary Kelly Foy MP**, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Charities and Volunteering
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **Priorities and next steps for adopting the charitable soft opt-in**  
**Melissa Mathieson**, Director, Regulatory Policy Projects, Information Commissioner's Office  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Assessing wider regulatory changes and implications for the charity sector**  
Senior representative, charities
- 11.55 **Practicalities for implementing fundraising, governance, data and reporting reforms**  
*regulator powers and responsibilities, and implementation of the new Code of Fundraising Practice | financial reporting reform and SORP 2026 tiered requirements | developing Trustees' Annual Reports and sustainability reporting expectations | addressing non-compliance and malpractice | fundraising design and prize competitions across organisation sizes | improving public confidence and tackling unlicensed fundraising | third-party oversight, fraud and AML controls | data protection priorities and soft opt-in implementation under the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 | trustee duties under the Charity Act 2022 | sequencing and proportionality of cumulative reforms | board decisions on financial and reputational risk | securing staff and volunteer compliance | moral ex gratia payments rule reform | governance considerations in the use of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies*  
**Daniel Chan**, Partner and Charities Leader, PwC; and Member, Charities SORP Committee  
**Liz Lowther**, CEO, Association of Chairs  
**James Muscat-Sharp**, Director, Business Development and Partnerships, Good Things Foundation  
**Roger Waite**, Partner, Withers  
Senior representative, social enterprise
- 12.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Harry Nelson**, Westminster Social Policy Forum