

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for Lifelong Learning Entitlement

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 28th April 2026

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Mohammed of Tinsley, Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson, Education
- 9.05 **The current landscape for the Lifelong Learning Entitlement and next steps for delivery**
Andy Forbes, Chair, Barking & Dagenham College; and former Executive Director, Lifelong Education Institute
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Preparing for implementation of the LLE - funding, design, and delivery**
alignment with ambitions in the Post-16 Education and Skills White Paper and the modern Industrial Strategy | practicalities for translation of LLE policy into workable provision | implications for learners, employers and providers | regulatory readiness and provider transition timelines | sequencing implementation | minimising financial and administrative pressures | personal learner accounts and the Student Loans Company | positioning of the LLE within the wider post-16 qualification and funding landscape, including devolved and local skills funding | clarifying interactions between the LLE and the Growth and Skills Levy | employer engagement | financial sustainability priorities for providers scalability of modular delivery models | data sharing, learner tracking and reporting requirements
Professor Harriet Dunbar-Morris, Professor of Higher Education, Visiting Fellow at Oxford Lifelong Learning, University of Oxford
Andrew Harding, Secretary General, CIMA
Senior representative, FE
Senior representative, employer
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Supporting delivery of modular learning and LLE development within institutions - partnerships, pathways, and progress**
Sandra Binns, Policy Advisor, Universities UK
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Mohammed of Tinsley, Liberal Democrat Lords Spokesperson, Education
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Knight of Weymouth, Co-Chair, APPG Future of Work; and former Schools Minister (2006-2009) and Employment Minister (2009-2010)
- 11.05 **Quality assurance in modular learning**
Helena Vine, Lead Policy Officer, England, Quality Assurance Agency
- 11.15 **Designing and delivering modular and flexible learning programmes**
balancing flexibility with programme coherence | effective models for employer engagement in module design | managing co-design without narrowing provision | supporting credit transfer systems | approaches to structuring modules that support progression | achieving recognition across institutions and sectors | portability between FE and HE providers | consistency of quality assurance
Pascal Paschoud, Director, Formation Continue UNIL-EPFL; and President, European University Continuing Education Network
Professor Ang Davies, Academic Lead, Lifelong Learning, University of Manchester
Sue Alder, Head, Professional Development and Standards, Career Development Institute
Senior representative FE
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Supporting workforce development and addressing skills gaps**
Hannah Larsen, Policy Officer, British Chambers of Commerce
- 11.50 **Widening participation and developing employment pathways**
Strategies for effectively accommodating prior learning, varied career stages and caring responsibilities | considering barriers linked to cost, debt aversion and time commitment | next steps for driving for take-up and participation | outreach, guidance and awareness-building | supporting quality alongside efficiency and accessibility | addressing skills needs in priority sectors and workforce mobility | improving access for underrepresented and disadvantaged learners | priorities for regional upskilling and workforce development pathways | promoting partnerships between employers and HEIs | implications of exclusion of postgraduate study from the LLE | supporting learner and employer awareness
Alice Wilby, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Education and Student Experience, University of Northampton
Peter Moss, Business Development Director, Ellucian
Dr Michelle Morgan, Dean, Students, University of East London
Dr Nikos Savvas OBE DL, CEO, Eastern Education Group
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for the Lifelong Learning Entitlement and next steps for preparation for 2027 delivery**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Lord Knight of Weymouth, Co-Chair, APPG Future of Work; and former Schools Minister (2006-2009) and Employment Minister (2009-2010)
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum