

# Supporting Care Leavers at University: Closing the Gap in Access and Participation

Central London (Zone 1) | Tuesday 16th October 2018

10.15 Registration & Morning Refreshments

11.00 **Chair's Introduction**

⇒ *Patricia Walker, Visiting Professor, University of West London*

11.05 **Morning Session: Policy overview & HEIs' responsibilities**

- Role of Office for Students: care leavers as a target group for Fair Access
  - The Government's care leaver strategy & the responsibilities of HEIs
  - Meeting commitments in access agreements
  - Pro-active steps to reducing non-continuation rates
  - Creating smooth and supported pathways to HE
  - Giving care leavers a voice
  - LAs, schools & colleges: building links with key partners
  - Offering long-term therapeutic support
  - Developing a whole institution approach: e.g. ensuring student residences are open out-of-term
- ⇒ *Michael Allured MBE, Children in Care and Permanence/Care Leavers' Team, DfE*
- ⇒ *David Barrett, Assistant Director, Fair Access and Participation, Office for Students*

13.00 Networking Lunch

13.45 **Afternoon Session: Practical strategies & learning from leading HEIs**

- Addressing barriers to student success
- Successful peer-mentoring programmes
- Improving outcomes & supporting positive destinations
- Providing information to relevant staff
- Inspiring children in care to apply

15.30 Event Close

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