

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

[Etc Venues, One Drummond Gate, Victoria, London, SW1V 2QQ](#) | Tuesday 16 October

10.15 Registration & Morning Refreshments

11.00 **Chair's Introduction - *Dr 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
 - Creating smooth and supported pathways to HE
 - Giving care leavers a voice
 - LAs, schools & colleges: building links with key partners
 - Developing a whole institution approach
 - Improving outcomes & supporting positive destinations
- ⇒ **Michael Allured MBE**, *Children in Care and Permanence/Care Leavers' Team, DfE*
- ⇒ **David Barrett**, *Assistant Director, Fair Access and Participation, Office for Students*
- ⇒ **Sam Turner**, *Voice & Influencing Manager, Become Charity*
- ⇒ **Jade Bytheway**, *Widening Participation Coordinator (Vulnerable Groups), Sheffield Hallam University*

13.15 Networking Lunch

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

- Addressing barriers to student success
 - Successful peer-mentoring programmes
 - Inspiring children in care to apply
- ⇒ **Arron Pile**, *Student Inclusion & Diversity Manager, University of Salford*
- ⇒ **Beth Taswell**, *Access and Support Officer Kingston University*
- ⇒ **Liz Ferguson**, *Outreach Officer, University of East Anglia*

15.30 Event Close

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