



# APPG for Further Education and Lifelong Learning

All Party Parliamentary Group on FE and Lifelong Learning  
Wednesday 26 Feb 2020, 4.30pm  
Portcullis House, Room O

Meeting was opened at 4.40pm

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## Present

### MPs

Peter Kyle MP, Hove, Labour (meeting host)  
Emma Hardy MP, Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle, Labour  
Stephen Farry MP, North Down, Alliance

### Peers

Baroness Garden of Frognal, Liberal Democrat

### Observers

Lauren Tiltman, Association of Colleges  
David Hughes, Association of Colleges  
Liz Wenzel, Association of Colleges  
Lewis Cooper, Independent Commission on the College of the Future  
Philippa Alway, Independent Commission on the College of the Future  
Leigh Powell, Unison  
Siobhan Reynolds, Office of Peter Kyle

## Apologies

Lord Watson of Invergowrie, Labour  
Beth Winter MP, Cynon Valley, Labour

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## **Presentation from Mr Lewis Cooper, Director, Independent Commission on the College of the Future**

Lewis Cooper presented on the work to date on the Commission. David Hughes supported his comments and provided some England examples. David also highlighted that it is endeavoured that the final report from the Commission will have an impact on the priorities of the upcoming spending review, and that a white paper is likely within the next six months.

Stephen Farry spoke of his experience of participating in the commission as a commissioner.

The draft vision statement for the Commission was tabled at the meeting.

## **Any other business**

Emma Hardy raised the topic of the impact of devolution on colleges, in particular highlighting the breadth of funding streams some colleges work with (14 in one case) and the impact that administrative, reporting and compliance burden that had on colleges ability to deliver, collaborate and plan.

Emma Hardy left the meeting at 5.00pm.

Baroness Garden raised concern with the disparity of teacher pay between schools and further education. She also raised concern with the lack of understanding and experience of further education within the staff of the Department for Education. David Hughes spoke to the DfE immersion programme that the AoC has been running, with over 200 DfE staff spending 3 days on site with colleges and gaining a deep appreciation for their quality and the quality of students. Baroness Garden also flagged concern about the impact of distance on opportunities for collaboration for rural and regional colleges.

### **Topics for next and future meetings**

Top priority:

- Meeting with Gillian Keegan MP, newly appointed Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills to get a sense of where this government is headed with further education and lifelong learning.

Additional topics:

- Spending review: The future of college education
- Panel discussion on measuring the introduction and impact of T Levels
- Meeting with Michelle Donelan MP (Minister for Higher Education) or Chair of the Education Select Committee, Robert Halfon MP

The chair expressed his thanks to David Hughes, and his team at AoC, that have continued to provide excellent support as secretariat to the APPG.

Meeting closed at 5.10pm