

Driving Change in the Welfare System 2021

ONLINE EVENT

13TH JULY

IGPP Institute of Government & Public Policy



University of East London



About the event

In August 2019 there were 20 million people claiming DWP benefits, with two thirds of claimants of State Pension Age (13 million). As of December 2019, there were 2.7 million Universal Credit claimants. The coronavirus crisis has had a huge impact on household finances and has caused an increased reliance on the UK benefits system, in particular Universal Credit.

In March 2020, 3 million people were on Universal Credit, but this has risen substantially during the pandemic, reaching 5.8 million people by November 2020. Huge operational pressures were placed on the DWP and services were adapted to reallocate resources to meet new demand and facilitate social distancing.

This timely event will explore the UK welfare system and will look at how it can adapt and evolve after the Covid-19 pandemic. Using a combination of high-level keynote presentations and practical case study examples, it will provide a comprehensive overview of the current UK welfare system and how effectively it serves the community and can meet the challenges ahead with a weaker labour market and a recovering economy.

Why attend?

- Meet other like-minded professionals and develop new, beneficial connections
- Through the learning opportunities and sharing of best practice, you will be able to implement improvements in your workplace
- Impact the wider agenda and be part of future planning
- Be part of organisations that continue to evolve, improve and innovate
- Learn how to make the best use of key products and services that can help transform your organisational capabilities

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Agenda

- 9:00** **Online Registration**

- 9:30** **Chair's Welcome Address**
- 9:40** **Keynote Address: Supporting UK Household Finances Through The Covid-19 Pandemic And Beyond**
- 10:00** **Keynote Address: Scrutinising The DWP's Response To the Coronavirus Outbreak And Making Recommendation For Change To Universal Credit**
- 10:20** **Keynote Address: Working Towards A Fairer Benefits System To Meet The Needs Of Disabled People**
- 10:40** **Q&A Session**

- 11:05** **Break And Networking**

- 11:35** **Mutuality – working in partnership to improve the life chances of vulnerable and disadvantage children and young people**
Key Address: Child Poverty Action Group
- 11:55** **Case Study: Examining The Effects On Mental Health Of Welfare Benefit Reform Through The Introduction Of Universal Credit**
- 12:15** **Q&A Session**

- 12:35** **Q&A Session**

- 12:55** **Break and Networking**

- 13:40** **Case Study: Developing Digital Services To Support New Social Security Scotland Benefits And Meet the Needs Of Citizens**
- 14:00** **Case Study: Delivering Support Schemes To Respond Effectively To Economic Vulnerability And Financial Hardship**
- 14:20** **Keynote Address: Strengthening The Benefits System To Provide Adequate Support To Help People Get Out Of Poverty**
- 14:40** **Q&A Session**

- 15:00** **Chair's Summary and Close**

Key speakers



**Rt Hon Stephen Timms
MP**

Chair,
House of Commons Work
and Pensions Select
Committee



Will Quince MP

Minister for Welfare Delivery,
Department of Work and
Pensions

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Learning outcomes

- Get the latest updates from the Department of Work and Pensions on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and how the benefits system will change in the future
- Hear how disabled people's needs can be met through a fairer benefit system
- Discover how councils and the Crown Prosecution Services are collaborating to tackle benefit fraud
- Learn how mental health has been affected by the introduction of Universal Credit and what the impact has been for the NHS, social care and the welfare system
- Consider how the benefits system can be strengthened to provide adequate support to help people get out of poverty

Audience

Driving Change in the Welfare System 2021 brings together Central and Local Government, the wider public sector, academia, senior leaders and key stakeholders from across the sector to discuss policy updates, developments and practical case studies to overcome the issues facing the sector in these challenging times.

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