

## Adult basic skills: building back better

**Wednesday 4 November 2020**

**10.00am - 12.45pm**

### Agenda

- 10.00**      **Welcome, orientation and introductions**  
**Stephen Evans**, Chief Executive, Learning and Work Institute
- 10.15**      **Learner testimonies**  
Meet two 2020 Festival of Learning learner award ambassadors.
- 10.30**      **Panel**  
Around nine million adults in the UK are held back by low basic skills and the coronavirus pandemic has highlighted inequalities in health, quality of work and labour market opportunities for individuals, families and communities. Why should we focus on adult basic skills and can doing this really enhance the employment and skills policy response to the pandemic?  
  
Panellists:
- **Sam Sims**, Chief Executive, National Numeracy
  - **Helen Ryan**, Policy Officer, National Adult Literacy Agency, Ireland
  - **Catherine Sezen**, Senior Policy Manager, Association of Colleges
- 11.00 - 12.05**      **Breakout sessions**  
*Delegates may join one of the following breakout sessions via the zoom link.*
- Breakout 1**      **Top of the Policies**  
What should investment in adult basic skills and ESOL provision look like and which initiatives will support more adults to take up basic skills learning? Vote on your top of the policies.  
  
Chair: **Joe Dromey**, Learning and Work Institute  
Speakers: **Graham Griffiths**, Institute of Education; **Alex Stevenson**, Learning and Work Institute; **Anna Grant**, Carnegie UK
- Breakout 2**      **Adult Basic Skills Learning in the 'New Normal'**  
How are providers and practitioners adapting to learning in the 'new normal' and ensure that adult basic skills provision remain accessible and inclusive?  
  
Co-Chairs: **Tara Furlong**, RaPAL and **Mary Osmaston**, NATECLA  
  
Contributors: **Diane Gardner**, Citizen Literacy Project, City of Glasgow College; **Dermot Bryers**, English for Action and **Nadifa Osman**, Learner
- Breakout 3**      **What Works in adult basic skills?**  
  
Hear about effective practice from the sector and gain valuable insights into recent research and evaluation within the sector and identify the kinds of research you would like to see happening to support the sector.  
  
Co-Chairs: **Fay Sadro**, Learning and Work Institute; **Dr Sam Duncan**, Associate Professor of Adult Education and Literacies, UCL Institute of Education

Contributors: **Helen Ryan**, National Adult Literacy Agency, Ireland; **Seana Friel**, Learning and Work Institute

**12.05**      **Recess**

**12.15**      **Ministerial address**

**Gillian Keegan MP**, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills

**12.45**      **Close**

#### Our partners

