**Annual General Meeting 2016**

Monday 11 July**; 2:30pm-3:00pm; Committee Room 19, House of Commons, Westminster, SW1A 0AA**

**Attendees**

Paul Blomfield

Alison Thewliss

Roberta Blackman-Woods

Daniel Zeichner

Richard Burden

Gavin Newlands

**Formal business**

In line with the rules of APPGs, quorum was met.

* Paul Blomfield was re-elected as Chair of the Group for the next twelve months.
* Ben Howlett, Alison Thewliss, Caroline Lucas and Jo Stevens were all re-nominated, and re-elected, as Vice Chairs of the Group. The Group therefore meets the rules on Officers of APPGs.
* Baroness Sharp, a Vice Chair of the Group since 2014, declined to stand for re-election owing to her imminent retirement from the House of Lords. As Chair of the Group, Paul Blomfield put on record his thanks to her for her service to the Group and to students.
* The National Union of Students were formally confirmed to continue as the Group’s secretariat.
* These results will be reported to the relevant authorities in the usual way.

**Future business**

The members proceeded to discuss potential topics for the Group’s future work programme.

Chair Paul Blomfield suggested a number of topics, including:

* The implications of the EU referendum result for students
* The decline of part-time and mature student numbers
* The taskforce on sexual harassment, violence and hate crime against students, which is due to publish a report later this year
* Democratic participation of, and disillusionment amongst, young people
* The accessibility of education for refugees and asylum seekers, possibly as a joint event
* Issues facing further education
* Widening access and participation

Comments from other members supported these lines of thought.

* In particular, the implications of Brexit were identified as an urgent issue for students – and it was suggested that there are many strands that could be explored (for HE students, for FE students, for international students, for students involved in research).
* Mental health was also raised as an issue and the meeting of the Group in December on student mental health was highlighted as a way in which the Group had previously explored this.
* Access and participation was raised as a big area of interest, especially in respect of the focus of the Government’s current higher education reforms.

The Group resolved to hold its first three meetings of this parliamentary session on the following topics, at especially relevant times before the end of the calendar year:

* **Widening access and participation** – to coincide with Committee stage of the Higher Education and Research Bill
* **The impact of Brexit on students** – as soon as possible
* **Sexual** **harassment and hate crime** – to be held after the taskforce reports in autumn

The Group resolved to consider the work programme for the remainder of this parliamentary session (from January 2017 onwards) after these three meetings had been finalised and held.