



House of Commons Event “Mental Health Crisis in Schools” 10th September 2018

Speaker Biographies (in order of appearance)

Catherine West MP, Haringey (Lab)

Before being elected as an MP Catherine was leader of Islington Council. Following her election to parliament in 2015, Catherine was appointed to the front bench of the Official Opposition as Shadow Foreign Minister, with responsibility for the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Oceania and the Overseas Territories. She held this position until June 2017, when she returned to the backbenches.

In September 2017, Catherine was elected onto the Parliamentary Select Committee on International Trade, and the joint Committee on Arms Export Controls. Catherine is also Deputy-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on China, Vice-Chair of the APPG on North Korea, the patron of Hong Kong Watch and the Vice-Chair of the APPG on American Football.

Natasha Devon MBE, Writer, Speaker and Mental Health Campaigner [drafted by Nicky]

Natasha Devon MBE is a writer & activist. She tours schools and colleges throughout the UK, delivering talks as well as conducting research on mental health, body image, gender and social equality. She campaigns both on and offline to make the world a fairer place. Her current projects are the [Mental Health Media Charter](#) and [Where’s Your Head At?](#) which aims to change the law to protect the mental health of British workers.

Natasha regularly speaks at Parliament and gives evidence to the Education and Health Select Committees, representing the interests of teenagers and teachers. In 2015 she was awarded an MBE for her services to young people and in 2016 the Sunday Times and Debretts named her one of the 500 most influential people in Britain.

Natasha is also a patron for the charity No Panic, which provides advice and support for people struggling with anxiety. She is also a certified instructor for Mental Health First Aid England and the eating disorder charity Beat. She is a fellow of University of Wales: Aberystwyth and advises them, as well as Coventry University: London, on campus wellbeing.



Emma Murray, Headteacher, Seven Sisters Primary School, Tottenham

I have been in the LB of Haringey for 21 years. I have taught across the primary age range and was Haringey's first Advanced Skills Teacher. I was a deputy head for curriculum and learning for 8 years before taking on a Co-Headship prior to becoming Head of Seven Sisters Primary. I have been at Seven Sisters for 3 years and successfully moved the school from satisfactory to good in the first 6 months.

I work with an extremely knowledgeable governing body who have given me the freedom and courage to pursue the agenda of Mental Health in Primary schools. I am a big believer in Early Intervention and I currently represent Head Teachers on the CAMHs Transformation Board and the DfEs Children and Young People's Mental Health Research and Evaluation Programme Advisory Group.

Saffron Worrell, University Student

Saffron is a campaigner and Politics and Sociology student at Liverpool University. She grew up in Lewisham, and remains involved with Lewisham Council's Youth Council, as a Young Advisor, supporting and mentoring younger advisors. She represented Lewisham in Youth Parliament, speaking passionately for young people in Lewisham and across the country. She is also passionate about mental health issues in young people and raising awareness to help young people support themselves, and also find appropriate support.

Judy Ellerby, Senior Policy Officer, Equality & SEND, NEU

Judy Ellerby is the Senior Policy Officer for Equality and SEND at the National Education Union. She was formerly a primary and early years teacher in London and an early year policy specialist at the NUT.

Madeleine Holt – parent education campaigner

Madeleine is involved in a number of education projects. She is a co-founder of Rescue Our Schools, a parent-led campaign group for properly funded, imaginative and locally accountable state education. She is also a founding member of the Slow Education movement. She helped set up the alliance for alternatives to SATS, More than a Score, for whom she makes films. She was formerly a reporter at the BBC for 20 years, most recently as culture correspondent on Newsnight.



Cllr Anntoinette Bramble - Deputy Mayor & Cabinet Member for Cabinet member for education, young people and children's social care, Hackney

After beginning her career in primary education in 2006, with a speciality in special educational needs, Anntoinette was elected as a ward councillor in 2010, becoming Cabinet Member for Children's Services in Hackney in 2012, and the Deputy Mayor of Hackney in 2016. In addition to her responsibilities as the Deputy Mayor and the lead member for children's social care, education, and young people, Anntoinette is also a member of the City and Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board, and Chairs the Local Government Association Children and Young People Board.

Naomi Burgess – Educational Pyschologist

Naomi is an Independent Chartered Educational Psychologist, of long standing. Her perspective is one of a social and inclusive model of disability. She is fully committed to an equalities agenda for children, young people and adults.

She is trained in Neurolingusitic Programming (NLP), Hypnotherapy, Mindfulness, is a certified practitioner in EFT, and is an energy healer and member of the Healing Trust (MNFSH). She has been practising yoga since 1972 and transcendental meditation for 18 years.

She is the Psychology Consultant to Thymes Trust (The Young ME Sufferer) with whom she co-authored ME/CFS Guidelines for Educational Psychologists. From its inception in 1981 she was actively involved in the development of IPSEA The Independent Panel for Special Education Advice, the UK's largest SEN advocacy organisation, and remained a trustee for 26 years. She has been a lay member of the Barnet Children's Safeguarding Board and now focuses more on working with individual young people, adolescents and adults.

She has taught, managed and worked in an advisory capacity, across all age-phases from Pre-School to Higher Education, including Post Professional Education and Training. She has practised as an Independent Witness in Educational Legal Work and Disability Discrimination

Publications include Including Children in the Playground (Course delivered by Access Training, updated 2014 (updated 2017), Breaking the vicious circle of stress in examinations for dyslexics Adult Dyslexia Org. 2013, ME/CFS Assessment Guidelines for Educational Psychologists (2005), Simple Words and Words Games – Consultant Editor, Micro Mates Granada (1984).



Dr Max Coates – Educational Psychologist

Max is a former secondary school headteacher and has worked for the Institute of Education, now part of University College London, for 15 years. During this time he has lectured on leadership, coaching, wellbeing and team development. A significant part of his work has been undertaken in a wide variety of countries which have included; Colombia, Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Pakistan and the Netherlands.

Through this period, he has developed his thinking around leadership and particularly how the demands placed on leaders can distort their thinking around strategy. He has also undertaken research into wellbeing and place and belonging. He has published a number of books including: Personalising Learning, The Constant Leader, and Shaping a New Educational Landscape.

Additionally, he has contributed to other publications including research into pupil underachievement, place and belonging and most recently into the emerging role of Chief Executive Officers of Multi-Academy Trusts and his latest published book on stress and leadership It's Doing My Head In.

Rachel Landon CEO, MiSST – Music in Secondary Schools Trust

Rachel joined MiSST in June 2018 having worked in the senior leadership team of the founding MiSST school. Experiences she brings include raising standards for all; student health and well-being and the development of programmes to ensure young people become more resilient.

Rachel is totally committed to ensuring that music plays a key part within each school's curriculum, MiSST continues to be inclusive, striving for excellence in all we do, MiSST scales up, moving beyond London so more young people can benefit.

MiSST was launched in April 2013. MiSST funds schools to be able to deliver the Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme. In our partner schools, every student as they begin their secondary education in Year 7 has a guaranteed entitlement to study a classical instrument for a minimum of 3 years as part of their compulsory curriculum. The engagement in music develops the skills of students in a technical and interpersonal capacity.

In addition to the ALW programme MiSST has several Programmes of Excellence. In September 2018 MiSST will have reached over 6,000 teenagers in 13 challenging London schools, and supported over 500 teenagers to spend 4 days on an intensive music residency out of London.