

## **MINUTES**

### **APPG on Apprenticeships**

#### **Gender Parity in Apprenticeships**

**7 March 2023**

**Room U, Portcullis House**

**Chair: Baroness Alison Wolf of Dulwich**

**Parliamentarians in Attendance or Represented:**

- **Lord Moynihan**
- **Lord Blunkett**

**Speakers:**

- **Royal Shakespeare Company**
- **Southwark Council**
- **EngineeringUK**

Baroness Alison Wolf of Dulwich introduced the theme of International Women's Day, #EmbraceEquity, which the session sought to discuss through the lens of apprenticeships. The APPG session aimed to celebrate the contribution of women in apprenticeships and skills, highlighting best practice from stakeholders across the industry.

The session examined the role we can all play in making the sector truly gender-equal, across a wide range of industries, hearing evidence from representatives at the Royal Shakespeare Company, Southwark Council and Engineering UK.

The speakers examined a range of challenges currently facing the sector on gender parity across industries including:

- Lower levels of take up in apprenticeships sectors such as engineering, technical theatre.
- Barriers to take up of apprenticeships including outdated gendering of certain sectors, including STEM.

In particular, the Royal Shakespeare company listed the ways they are encouraging gender parity in the take up of their apprenticeships including:

- The continuation of development work breaking barriers/stereotypes of apprenticeships.
- The regular review of apprenticeships standards being fit for purpose and when in development with useful.
- Ensuring there is sufficient support for supporting apprentices to cope with the cost-of-living vs apprentices salary.

The session recognised that whilst progress has been made within recent years, there is still much to do.