

Fifth Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday, 18th January 2018

10.30am – 13.30

COSLA, Edinburgh

Commission Attendees

Douglas Hamilton, Chair

Kaliani Lyle, Deputy Chair

Hugh Foy

Katie Schmuecker

Sally Witcher

Caroline Kennedy

Apologies; David Eiser, Naomi Eisenstadt

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat Administrator

1. Welcome and apologies

Douglas opened the meeting and gave apologies from Naomi Eisenstadt and David Eiser.

2. Matters arising

Douglas noted that a response to the draft Public Services Reform (Poverty & Inequality Commission) (Scotland) Order had been sent to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission discussed the need to develop a Communications strategy for the Commission. It was agreed that it was important that papers and reports produced by the Commission and for the Commission were clear and accessible. It was noted that work on the website was progressing and that it would be reviewed to ensure accessibility.

3. Child Poverty Delivery Plan Advice

The Commission discussed the key elements of its advice on the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Delivery Plan. This covered:

- General principles that should underpin the advice
- Work and wages
- Social Security
- Housing
- Helping families manage the impact of poverty
- £50m Tackling Child Poverty fund

The Commission agreed amendments and additional recommendations to be included in the advice and identified areas where further information was needed. A draft of the full advice will be circulated to Commissioners by the end of the month.

4. Commission Work Plan

The Commission discussed its approach to developing its work plan. The Commission agreed that its approach would include setting up working groups, developing a stakeholder network, publishing reports, regional visits, round tables and events, and an annual meeting. It was noted that it was important to be realistic about what could be undertaken within available resources. The Commission needs to be clear about what outcomes the different activities will aim to achieve and also ensure that events are valuable for everyone involved. It was agreed that the Secretariat would look at the potential to hold the first annual meeting in June.

The Commission agreed to use three themes to structure discussions about its work plan: Wealth, Household Income and Household Expenditure. It was agreed that the Commission would ask Policy Scotland to develop evidence papers around these themes, with a particular focus on looking at existing work on people's views and experiences on these themes so that the Commission could build on this rather than duplicating previous work. The Commission will use this to develop a consultation paper to consult widely with stakeholders on its work plan.

5. Any Other Business

The Secretariat agreed to circulate details of meetings, events and relevant press coverage to Commissioners on a regular basis.