

# **Sixth Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission**

**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**10.30am – 12.30pm**

**COSLA, Edinburgh**

## **Commission Attendees**

Douglas Hamilton, Chair

Kaliani Lyle, Deputy Chair

Naomi Eisenstadt, Deputy Chair

## **Secretariat attendee**

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

## **Dialled in**

David Eiser

Katie Schmuecker

Sally Witcher

Caroline Kennedy

Michele Barr, Secretariat Administrator

## **Scottish Government Attendees (for items 1 and 2)**

Angela Constance, The Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities

Stuart McLean, Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary CSSE

Paul Tyrer, Head of Social Justice Strategy

*Apologies:* Hugh Foy

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Douglas opened the meeting and welcomed Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary, Stuart McLean and Paul Tyrer from Scottish Government and gave apologies from Hugh Foy. Due to the adverse weather, representatives from Poverty Truth Commission were unable to attend and they will be invited to a future meeting.

## **2. Items for Discussion with the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social security and Equalities**

### **Child Poverty Delivery Plan Advice – initial thoughts**

The Cabinet Secretary thanked the Commission for the advice that had been published on 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms Constance appreciated the clarity of the advice and said that it would be invaluable to the Scottish Government when they publish their three-year child poverty delivery plan by 1 April 2018. Ms Constance said that she would work to make sure that the recommendations and ethos of the advice given by the Commission are reflected in the child poverty delivery plan.

Ms Constance said that she agreed with the focus on Social Security, Housing and Work and Welfare in order to make progress towards the statutory targets. Attention was also drawn to the importance of thinking about people and not just about numbers. The Commission discussed some of the recommendations in more detail with Ms Constance, in particular those relating to the Transition Fund, unintended consequences and parenting support.

### **Commission Work Plan**

The Commission discussed its draft Work Plan with Ms Constance. A number of issues were suggested for further exploration such as the role of local authorities and Health Boards in tackling poverty, advice services and universal credit. It was noted by the Chair that after its initial focus on child poverty the Commission would need to consider all people who were in poverty and not just children.

Douglas thanked Ms Constance and her officials and they exited from the meeting.

### **3. Commission only**

#### **Reflection and feedback on developing the Child Poverty Delivery Plan Advice**

Douglas thanked the Commissioners for all their input and the Commissioners thanked Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager for her work on the advice.

The Commission agreed that the overall process had been good but felt they would need to develop the Communication Strategy further for all future publications and media announcements. The Communications strategy will also address issues such as stakeholder engagement, and internal communication between Commissioners. The secretariat agreed to circulate around the group the list of stakeholders that received the Child Poverty Delivery Plan publication.

#### **Child Poverty Delivery Plan Measurement Framework Paper**

The Commission had been asked by Scottish Government officials to feed back their views on the draft Child Poverty Measurement Framework. The Commission identified a number of areas they would like to comment on, including the importance of qualitative data, the limitations of focusing only on existing data, the need to break down data by gender, and the need to link changes in the measures to government activity. David Eiser agreed to lead on a short paper to respond to the Scottish Government. Sally Witcher offered to contribute to the paper on how qualitative information might be included in monitoring progress.

### **4. Any Other Business**

The meeting was drawn to a close early due to the adverse weather conditions, and it was agreed that an email would be circulated seeking views on the Commission's response to the Education Committee's inquiry into poverty and educational

attainment. Commissioners would also be asked for any thoughts they may have about the public meeting of the Commission in June.

- Date of next meeting 19 April 2018 at COSLA, Edinburgh