

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

**Wednesday 27 February 2019**

**11:00am – 14:00pm**

**Scottish Youth Theatre, Glasgow**

### **Commission Attendees**

Douglas Hamilton, Chair

Kaliani Lyle, Deputy Chair

Sally Witcher

Hugh Foy

Katie Schmuecker

Caroline Kennedy

David Eiser

### **Statutory Commission**

Bill Scott, Chair of the new Statutory Poverty and Inequality Commission

### **Secretariat Attendees**

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

### **Contributors (for item 1)**

Russell Gunson, IPPR

Rachel Statham, IPPR

Mark Diffley, Mark Diffley Consultancy and Research

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Douglas opened the meeting and introduced the Commissioners and Secretariat to Russell Gunson and Rachel Statham from IPPR Scotland and Mark Diffley from Mark Diffley Consultancy and Research. Douglas welcomed Bill Scott, Chair of the new Statutory Poverty and Inequality Commission.

## **2. Advocacy**

### **Inclusive Growth – presentation from IPPR**

IPPR and MDCR provided a summary report outlining the findings from the research so far for the Commission. Russell Gunson talked through the report, highlighting the main findings and potential areas for recommendations. The Commission had the

opportunity to ask questions about the findings and the recommendations of the paper

The Commission will publish the report and summary in week commencing 29 April 2019. Plans for publication and dissemination will be discussed at the next Commission meeting on 3 April.

### **Transport update**

Katherine Hudson provided an update paper on the work of the Transport working group so far and the plans for future work. Caroline Kennedy has been in contact with a number of groups in Glasgow, Dundee and Shetland about transport issues and will update the Transport Working Group at their next meeting on the 5 March.

The working group are meeting with the Transport Bill and Transport Strategy officials at the end of March to discuss potential amendments to the Transport Bill. The secretariat are working to organise a further workshop in the Highland area to explore rural transport and poverty issues at the end of April.

### **Housing wealth update**

Katherine Myant gave an update on the progress of the Housing Wealth inequality in Scotland work. The secretariat had advertised a contract for a research project in December and the contract was awarded jointly to Glasgow University and the Resolution Foundation in January.

The work is now underway, and the research team will present their findings to the Commission at the meeting on the 30 May. There will be two separate reports, one from each organisation, and the findings will be brought together in a summary report. The reports will be published before the end of June.

## **3. Scrutiny**

### **Budget Scrutiny update**

Katherine Myant provided an update on progress with the Budget scrutiny, and also provided a summary of findings so far. Katherine asked the Commissioners for feedback and if there were additional points that the Commission would like to make around the budget.

A budget forum with people with lived experience has been organised in conjunction with Oxfam, University of the West of Scotland and Poverty Alliance at the end of March, Commissioners have been invited to attend the event. A report which brings together all the aspects of the budget scrutiny will be published in May.

### **Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan**

Douglas gave an overview of the Commission's proposed approach to scrutiny of the Scottish Government report on progress of The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan.

The progress report must include any comments or recommendations made by the Commission. Timings for this are tight and the Commission has agreed a timetable with Scottish Government officials. Members of the Commission have been invited to meet with the Scottish Government Directors' Group on Child Poverty on 13 May to discuss progress and this will be an opportunity to feed in comments from the Commission on the delivery plan.

The Commissioners agreed to form a sub group to work on this along with the secretariat. David, Katie and Douglas have agreed to be part the group . The Commission will discuss this work in more detail at the next Commission meeting on the 3 April.

### **Shifting the Curve update**

Katherine Myant gave an update on the Shifting the Curve report. The Commission have now recruited a PhD student who starts at the beginning of April and who will take forward a piece of work on recommendation 14 - treating people with dignity and respect in the public sector. As part of their project they will conduct focus groups with organisations and gather information for a report that will be published in July.

## **4. Advice**

### **Update on school holidays advice**

The Commission has received no formal response from Scottish Government on the school holidays advice. The Commission has been advised this will follow shortly.

## **5. Other Business**

### **Annual Public Meeting**

The annual public meeting will take place on the 20 June in Glasgow. The Commission discussed inviting some local Glasgow community groups. Caroline and Hugh will forward contacts for the secretariat to invite to the annual public meeting. The meeting will focus on key transport issues and will also provide a handover to the new statutory Commission.

### **Update on the statutory Poverty and Inequality Commission**

Bill Scott, chair of the new statutory Commission gave an update on the progress of recruiting Commissioners for the statutory Commission, these will be advertised early March through the Public Appointments website with interviews end April/start of May.

**Update paper**

Douglas gave an update on the various meetings/events attended by Commissioners.