

Covid-19 Response Working Group

Thursday 2 April 2020

11:30-12:30

Virtual Meeting by Zoom video communications

Attendees Commission

Bill Scott, Chair

Commissioners

Katie Schmuecker

Lindsay Graham

Shona Stephen

Apologies

Morag Treanor

Secretariat Attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

External Attendees

Patrick Hogan, 3x1PR

Katrine Pearson, 3x1PR

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies were given from Morag Treanor. Bill welcomed Patrick Hogan and Katrine Pearson from 3x1PR.

2. Purpose, role and membership of the group

The Poverty and Inequality Commission has set up the working group to consider how the group should respond to the Covid-19 crisis. Katherine Myant introduced the Terms of Reference. The working group discussed the remit and role of the group.

The group agreed:

- It would aim to primarily work with and influence the Scottish Government. However, it would also continue to keep abreast of the UK Government response to the crisis and comment on this where appropriate.

- The formal membership of the group would be Commission members only. However, others would be invited to join meetings when key issues were identified.
- It would focus on short term responses around Covid-19. The full Commission would have a role in considering longer term impacts.
- The group would be set up for 6 months initially.

3. Draft letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government

The group discussed the draft letter to Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary Communities and Local Government, offering the support of the Commission during the Covid-19 crisis. The working group suggested amendments to the letter. When the letter is finalised, it was agreed that it would be sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government. Recognising that the crisis was affecting all aspects of government, it was also agreed that the letter would be copied to other members of the Scottish Cabinet so that they were all aware of the Commission's offer of support.

4. Feedback on stakeholder engagement

The secretariat had contacted other organisations to get an update on what intelligence they had gathered on how communities were responding to the Covid-19 crisis. Poverty Alliance had provided a summary of responses they had received from community organisations and activists on the immediate impact of the crisis which was helpful in identifying key issues.

5. Initial actions

The group agreed their initial area of focus would be food insecurity. Bill Scott and Lindsay Graham will work on a draft a letter to Scottish Government and a media statement. This will be circulated around the group early next week.

6. Media and communications messaging

Patrick Hogan, 3x1PR will provide a short document setting out ideas for the group's media strategy and communications messaging.

7. AOB

- The next meeting is scheduled for 30 April. When developing the agenda, the group will consider extending the time of the meetings.