

Covid-19 Response Working Group

Thursday 14 May 2020

10:00-11:00

Virtual Meeting by Zoom video communications

Attendees Commission

Bill Scott, Chair

Commissioners

Katie Schmuecker

Lindsay Graham

Shona Stephen

Morag Treanor

Secretariat Attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

External Attendees

Patrick Hogan, 3x1PR

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Update on Food insecurity work

Katherine Myant updated the group on the Food insecurity work. Professor John McKendrick from the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit (SPIRU) is conducting a survey of local community organisations on behalf of the Commission. The survey will be live from the 15th to 22nd May and is designed to explore the challenges faced by community organisations and identify emerging practice. John will present the findings of the survey at the next working group on the 28 May and working group members will discuss what action they might like to take on the back of the results. A briefing based on the survey will be published at the beginning of June.

Lindsay Graham has a follow up meeting with Scottish Government officials to discuss Food insecurity and will update them on the survey on local action to tackle food insecurity.

3. Update on Cosla meeting

Katie Schmuecker and Lindsay Graham provided an update on their meeting with COSLA. This was part of the regular series of six-monthly meetings between COSLA and the Commission to discuss priorities, areas of shared interest and update on respective workplans.

COSLA updated the Commissioners on the work they are undertaking around support for vulnerable communities, young people, employability, community hubs and the Scottish Welfare Fund. The Commission updated on its plans around looking at both the short term and long term impacts of the Covid-19 crisis.

4. Update on arranging meetings with SG on Scottish Welfare Fund and Free School Meals

A meeting with Scottish Government officials has been organised to discuss Free School Meals data. A meeting is currently being arranged with policy officials from the Scottish Welfare Fund.

5. AOB

- Date of next meeting is 28 May and it was agreed this meeting should be extended to allow sufficient time to discuss the survey findings.
- Bill Scott has received a request for evidence from the Economy, Energy and Fair Commission, the working group will take this request to the wider Commission meeting on the 21 May.