

Covid-19 Response Working Group

Thursday 11 June 2020

10:00-11:00

Virtual Meeting by Zoom video communications

Attendees Commission

Bill Scott, Chair

Katie Schmuecker

Lindsay Graham

Shona Stephen

Morag Treanor

Secretariat Attendees

Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

External Attendees

Katrine Pearson, 3x1PR

Apologies

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Patrick Hogan, 3x1PR

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies were given for Katherine Hudson and Patrick Hogan.

2. Food insecurity – update on publication

Katherine Myant gave an update on the Food Insecurity Survey which was carried out by Professor John McKendrick, Scottish Poverty Inequality Research Unit (SPIRU) on behalf of the Commission. SPIRU's report of the survey findings was published on the Commission's website on 8 June, along with a briefing providing the Commission's recommendations. A press release was issued and there was good media pick-up. The report and briefing was sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government in advance of publication and we are awaiting a response on the recommendations. It was also shared with COSLA who will contact the group with any thoughts on the report.

3. Scottish Welfare Fund

Katie Schmuecker gave an update to the group on the analysis she carried out on the 32 local authority websites to find out how easy or difficult was to navigate to find information on the Scottish Welfare Fund and to apply for the fund. The group discussed the findings from the analysis work.

Katherine Myant will put a paper together based on Katie's analysis. The working group will then consider next steps at the next meeting.

4. Free School Meals

Morag Treanor updated the group on the analysis she has carried out on Free School Meals. This has been written up as a blog and will be published on the Heriot Watt University blog site. Katherine will draft up a response from the Commission and share with the group to consider if they wish to make any recommendations around free school meal provision.

5. AOB

- Date of next meeting is 25 June 2020
- The group agreed to continue the frequency of the meetings every 2 weeks up until the end of August.
- The Secretariat is in process of setting up a meeting with COSLA to discuss families who have no recourse to public funds. Lindsay Graham will attend along with another Commissioner.