

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

**Tuesday 23 June 2020**

**10am – 12pm**

**Virtual Meeting by Zoom video communications**

### **Commissioners**

Professor Morag Treanor

Yvonne Blake

Linda Bamford

Katie Schmuecker

Alex Cobham

Douglas White

Lindsay Graham

Shona Stephen

### **Apologies**

Bill Scott, Chair

### **Secretariat Attendees**

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Morag Treanor, Deputy Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Bill Scott, Chair.

## **2. Commission business as usual**

### **Child poverty progress report scrutiny**

Morag Treanor gave an overview of the Child Poverty progress scrutiny. The Commission has received the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Delivery Plan progress update and the paper sets out an initial draft of the Commission's scrutiny of the Scottish Government's progress towards meeting the child poverty targets.

The Commissioners discussed the initial draft of the Commission's scrutiny response to the delivery plan and discussed in more detail recommendations they would like to make to Scottish Government. Commissioners were asked to provide comments and any recommendations to the Secretariat.

## **Strategic Plan**

Katherine Hudson introduced a paper on the Commission's Strategic Plan. Commissioners were asked for their views on a set of draft strategic priorities in order for the Commission to start development of its draft strategic plan. The strategic plan will run until the end of March 2023. Commissioners felt that this was a good timescale. Commissioners agreed five strategic priorities would be sufficient. The Commissioners felt that the impact of Covid-19 should be reflected in the strategic plan and in the Commission's work going forward.

## **3. Covid-19 short-term response work**

### **Update from working group**

Katherine Myant updated the Commissioners on the work of the working group so far. A Food Insecurity Survey 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, along with a briefing providing the Commission's recommendations. The report and briefing was sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government.

The Scottish Welfare Fund will be the next area of work that will be carried out by the working group. Analysis was 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 and Katherine Myant will put a paper together based on the analysis.

## **4. Covid-19 input into recovery and renewal**

### **Update on Social Renewal Group**

Katherine Hudson gave an update on the request received from the Scottish Government to the Commission. The Scottish Government has set up a new Social Renewal Advisory Board and Bill Scott and Lindsay Graham were invited to join the Advisory Board. The board has invited the Commission to form a policy circle on Tackling Poverty to feed into the group's work. Some additional members will be invited to join the policy circle. The Commissioners discussed the request and agreed that the Commission would form the Social Renewal Advisory Board policy circle on poverty. The Commission noted some issues (e.g. ensuring the work aligns with the Commission's principles and ensuring the voice of those with lived experience is amplified) and the Commissioners will consider ways to alleviate or mitigate their concerns about these issues. The secretariat will speak to Scottish Government officials to discuss the Commission's concerns and will provide an update.

## **5. AOB**

- The next Commission meeting will be on the 9 July 2020.