

Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 6 August 2020

11:00 – 12:00

Virtual Meeting by Zoom video communications

Attendees

Bill Scott, Chair

Yvonne Blake

Linda Bamford

Katie Schmuecker

Douglas White

Shona Stephen

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

Apologies

Professor Morag Treanor

Alex Cobham

Lindsay Graham

Katherine Hudson

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the Commission meeting. Apologies were given for Morag Treanor, Alex Cobham, Lindsay Graham and Katherine Hudson.

2. Updates from Meetings

Meeting with Deputy First Minister

Members of the Commission met with the Deputy First Minister on Monday 27th July to discuss the Working Group on Covid-19 Response's recommendations around free school meals. Bill provided an update on the main points of this meeting. The secretariat will circulate a write up of the meeting with the Deputy First Minister.

Transport Recovery Group

Linda Bamford provided an update of the paper on the Transport Recovery Group. Linda has been attending the Transport Transition Plan Advisory Board which has met fortnightly. She has also been attending the Transport Equalities Network which has been progressing the stages of the TTP -Equality Impact Assessment.

Food insecurity policy circle

Lindsay Graham was not at the meeting so Katherine Myant will circulate the Food Insecurity Policy Circle recommendations.

3. Involving people with lived experience in the work of the Commission

Katherine Myant gave an overview of Paper 2 which outlined options for prioritising involving people with lived experience in the work of the Commission.

Last year the Commission commissioned Poverty Alliance and Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit to co-produce guidance with people with lived experience on how the Commission could meaningfully involve people with lived experience in its work.

The Commission now have a draft of the guidance and discussed what this meant for how they work and the budget they had available. The Commissioners present at the meeting were all in agreement that they preferred the option of more meaningful engagement which would have considerable cost implications compared to making a few adjustments to how they currently work. However, it was recognised that this would represent a fundamental change in how the Commission works and how it uses its budget so the full Commission would need to be involved in this decision. The secretariat will consider what budget is available for this and draft a more detailed plan for the next meeting.

4. Risk Register and budget paper

The Commissioners discussed the risk register and budget. Douglas White and Linda Bamford provided comments to be updated on the risk register.

5. AOB

- The next Commission meeting will be on the 17 September 2020.
- The collaboration with the Social Mobility Commission is progressing and the secretariat are currently working together to develop specifications for a programme of research. These will be shared with the Commission members for their input in early September.
- The COVID-19 response working group is to be revived following a break over the summer. The focus of the next meeting on 13 August will be to discuss the Scottish Welfare Fund.