

Meeting of the Addressing low income policy circle

Thursday 6 August 2020

10:00 – 11:00

Virtual Meeting by Zoom video communications

Attendees

Bill Scott, Chair, Poverty and Inequality Commission
Yvonne Blake, Poverty and Inequality Commission
Linda Bamford, Poverty and Inequality Commission
Katie Schmuecker, Poverty and Inequality Commission
Shona Stephen, Poverty and Inequality Commission
Satwat Rehman, Director, One Parent Families Scotland
Anna Ritchie Allan, Executive Director, Close the Gap
Matthew Sweeney, COSLA
Kerry McKenzie, Public Health Scotland
Andrew Fraser, Social Justice Strategy Unit, Scottish Government
Dawn Abell, Reserved & Working Age Benefits Policy Unit, Scottish Government
Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager, Poverty and Inequality Commission
Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator, Poverty and Inequality Commission

Apologies

Professor Morag Treanor, Poverty and Inequality Commission
Alex Cobham, Poverty and Inequality Commission
Douglas White, Poverty and Inequality Commission
Lindsay Graham, Poverty and Inequality Commission
Professor Jennifer Davidson, Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures, and Co-chair, Scottish Leaders Forum Child Poverty Group
Emma Ritch, Executive Director, Engender
Ann McKenzie, Social Justice Strategy Unit, Scottish Government
Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager, Poverty and Inequality Commission

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Anna Ritchie Allan to the policy circle. Apologies were given for Morag Treanor, Alex Cobham, Douglas White, Lindsay Graham, Jennifer Davidson, Emma, Ritch, Ann McKenzie and Katherine Hudson.

2. Feedback and reflection on Programme for Government recommendations

Bill Scott provided a verbal update on the Addressing low income policy circle recommendations which were taken to the Social Renewal Advisory Board on the 29 July for consideration. The Board also met on the 5 August do discuss the recommendations from the other Policy Circles. Bill explained that not all of the recommendations emerging from the policy circles will go into the Programme for

Government, but many will inform Scottish Governments thinking in the medium to long term recovery.

Andrew Fraser provided an update on the Policy Circle Leads meeting.

3. Stage 2 proposals and future meetings

Katherine Myant outlined the proposal for completing stage 2 of the policy circle's work and how future meetings of the policy circle could be structured.

The policy circle agreed with the proposal to assess emerging recommendations and proposals around recovery and renewal for the extent to which they will address poverty and inequality. They agreed to look at the Programme for Government and the Advisory Group for Economic Recovery, and to focus on education, training and employment. The circle were particularly keen to involve people with lived experience and felt that hearing people's experiences and having their input into the final recommendations of the policy circle were both required to do this properly.

The circle will discuss the Scottish Government's response to the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery (AGER) at their next meeting on 3 September.

Action Points

- Poverty and Inequality Commission secretariat to invite speakers with lived experience expertise to each of the meetings and to set up deliberative workshops with people with lived experience to discuss the work of the circle.
- Andrew Fraser to check if the business communication tool SLACK used by the Social Renewal Advisory Board can be shared with policy circle groups.
- Poverty and Inequality Commission secretariat to look at the evidence collated by the Scottish Parliament Equalities Committee and consider if any of this would be of interest to the policy circle.

4. AOB

- The next Addressing low income policy circle meeting will be on 3 September.