

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

**Thursday 15 October 2020**

**10:00 – 12:00**

**Virtual Meeting by Zoom video communications**

### **Attendees**

Bill Scott, Chair

Professor Morag Treanor

Yvonne Blake

Linda Bamford

Alex Cobham

Douglas White

Lindsay Graham

Shona Stephen

Katie Schmuecker

### **Secretariat attendees**

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Katherine Myant, Analytical Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **2. Experts by experience**

Katherine Myant provided an outline of the plan for involving people with lived experience in the work of the Commission. The Commissioners discussed the plan and provided views and suggestions. They raised a number of issues to be considered, including whether the Commission could reimburse costs for informal childcare for panel members, and the importance of providing a translator/interpreter support.

The Commission agreed to the proposed hybrid approach of recruiting core panel members to work with the Commission and to develop networks across Scotland.

The Commission agreed to proceed with the recruitment of a participation manager subject to the secretariat looking further at costs and the impact on other parts of the Commission's budget, particularly future research work. The secretariat will explore budget costs with the Scottish Government Sponsorship team and are engaging in discussions with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to explore whether JRF might be interested in supporting the approach the Commission is taking.

It was suggested that the Commission could offer an intern opportunity through the Rank Foundation Time to Shine Leadership programme to support the Commission's work to involve experts by experience. It was agreed that this should be explored for 2022.

### **3. Payment Guidance – Experts by experience**

Katherine Hudson introduced the paper on interim guidance on expenses and payments for experts by experience. Commissioners agreed to the approach to make payments to experts by experience to acknowledge their contribution to the Commission's work. Commissioners will provide written comments on the guidance to the secretariat. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation will share with the Commission the work it has undertaken on making payments to experts by experience.

### **4. Budget/Risk Register/Work Programme**

The Commissioners discussed the budget, risk register and work programme. Commissioners agreed updates to the risk register. The secretariat will provide the Commission with a regular paper detailing the work programme which will highlight any pressure points of the Commission.

The Commission discussed the increased demands on the Commission and secretariat due to Covid-19 and suggested this should be highlighted to the Scottish Government sponsorship team.

### **5. Reflections on Child Poverty Delivery Plan Progress Report**

The Commission spent some time reflecting on the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Progress Report and the Scottish Government's response to the Commission's scrutiny. Commissioners considered that the progress report had not responded fully to the Commission's recommendations. Commissioners will provide written comments on the report to the secretariat. Commissioners agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government to follow-up on the recommendations that were not fully answered or addressed.

### **6. Feedback from Social Renewal Advisory Board**

Bill Scott provided a verbal update to Commissioners on the Social Renewal Advisory Board meeting he had attended and the joint presentations provided by himself, Lindsay Graham and Russell Gunson on the work of the Addressing Low Income, Food and Financial Security policy circles.

The final reports from the policy circles have to be sent to the Scottish Government Social Renewal Advisory Board by the start of November.

## **7. AOB**

- The next Commission meeting will be on 12 November 2020.