

Meeting of the Poverty and Inequality Commission

Thursday 18 February 2021

11:00 – 13:00

Virtual Meeting by Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Bill Scott, Chair

Professor Morag Treanor

Lindsay Graham

Yvonne Blake

Linda Bamford

Alex Cobham

Katie Schmuecker

Douglas White

Shona Stephen

Secretariat attendees

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

1. Welcome and apologies

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Unpaid Carers Discussion

Linda Bamford gave an overview of the paper on Unpaid Carers. Commissioners discussed the paper. It was agreed that a working group could be set up to do a short piece on how the Commission can influence the current policy on unpaid carers. The secretariat will circulate an invite to the group and ask if any Commissioners would like to volunteer to be part of an unpaid carers working group. Commissioners suggested other organisations involved with carers to be invited to a future Commission meeting.

3. Free School Meals research

Katherine Hudson presented the paper and first draft report on Free School Meals research which the Commission had commissioned the Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit (SPIRU) to undertake. Commissioners discussed the report and will provide comments to the secretariat. The report will be published on the 10

March. A Scotland/USA webinar on School Meals and COVID-19 is taking place on 10 March, Commissioners will be invited to attend the event. ASSIST FM are also holding a seminar on the same day which would allow the research to be promoted to local catering leaders

4. Budget/Risk Register/Work Programme

The Commissioners discussed the budget, risk register and work plan. Commissioners agreed updates to the risk register. The secretariat will confirm whether the Commission's work programme needs to be signed off by the Scottish Government sponsorship team. The unpaid carers working group will be added to the work programme.

5. AOB

- Date of next meeting 18 March
- Katherine provided an update on the Scottish Government election guidance, if Commissioners have any election queries they can direct them to the secretariat.
- The Social Security Commission are looking at setting up Freedom Of Information training and have invited the Commission to share the training. More details will be shared with Commissioners once they are available.