

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

**Thursday 7 July 2022**

**10:00 – 12:00**

**Virtual Meeting by Microsoft Teams**

### **Commission attendees**

Professor Morag Treanor

Yvonne Blake

Shona Stephen

### **Apologies**

Bill Scott, Chair

Lindsay Graham

Linda Bamford

Lindsay Graham

Alex Cobham

Katie Schmuecker

Douglas White

### **Secretariat attendees**

Kathrine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Orlaith McAree, Senior Participation Officer

Michele Barr, Secretariat/Administrator

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Morag Treanor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Bill Scott, Lindsay Graham, Linda Bamford, Katie Schmuecker, Douglas White and Alex Cobham.

## **2. Cost of Living advice**

Katherine Hudson introduced the paper on Cost of Living advice to Scottish Government – next steps. Commissioners discussed the next steps for the cost of living advice and considered the scope of the cost of living project as a whole.

The initial advice has been sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government. Commissioners discussed the proposals to include in its final advice. The Commission will continue to work to decide what to include in its final advice to Scottish Government which is due to go to the Scottish Government on 12

August and the secretariat will prepare a draft to be considered at the Commission meeting on 4 August.

### **3. Annual Scrutiny Report - next steps**

Katherine Hudson introduced the paper on the Annual Scrutiny Report and the proposal to use content developed for the report for a series of briefing papers. Commissioners discussed the proposal and agreed to use the content developed for the Annual Scrutiny Report, and use this for a series of briefing papers which will be published with sign off from the Chair/Deputy Chairs. Commissioners suggested the Commission could do blogs on the briefings and these could be sent to communities of interest, a podcast and videos were suggested also by the Commissioners.

### **4. Impact of COVID-19 on young people - joint research with Social Mobility Commission**

Katherine Hudson updated the Commissioners on the joint work with the Social Mobility Commission on an evidence review titled "Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on young people across the UK". Due to changes in the leadership of the Social Mobility Commission a decision has not been made yet about when or how to publish the evidence review. One option is that the Poverty and Inequality Commission might publish the review. Commissioners indicated that they would be content to do so, but some changes to the language would be preferable and context should be provided to explain that the work had been commissioned by the Social Mobility Commission and that this was reflected in the way the review was framed.

### **5. Child Poverty - engagement with Scottish Government policy teams**

Katherine Hudson presented the Child Poverty paper. As part of the Commission's work programme, the Commission agreed that throughout the year, it would invite policy teams with responsibility for key child poverty commitments to meet with the Commission and discuss progress. The Commissioners discussed the paper, and provided the commitments the Commission would like to look over at the next few meetings. Commissioners agreed to focus on Pathfinders and Employability Support.

Morag Treanor suggested the Commission make contact with the independent Poverty Strategy Commission which aims to develop consensus around a strategy for tackling poverty in the UK.

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

The Commissioners discussed the budget/risk register and work programme. Commissioners were asked to flag if there was research work they would like to carry out with the Commission budget and this would need to be decided in the next month or alternatively the budget could be used for lived experience work.

## **7. AOB**

- Next Commission Meeting will be on the 4 August 2022.
- Katherine Hudson provided an update on the new Fuel Poverty Commission, Bill Scott has met recently with the newly appointed chair Matthew Cole.
- The Scottish Government Child Poverty Programme Board have met and the papers will be circulated to Commissioners.