

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

**Thursday 19 January**

**10:00 – 12:30**

**Virtual meeting - Microsoft Teams**

### **Commission attendees**

Bill Scott, Chair

Professor Morag Treanor

Lindsay Graham

Alex Cobham

Linda Bamford

Katie Schmuecker

Yvonne Blake

Shona Stephen

### **Other Attendees**

Two Experts by Experience Panel members

### **External Attendees – Scottish Government (item 2)**

Christina Stokes, Head of Policy Engagement, Covid Recovery, Scottish Government

Gillian Cross, Policy Lead, Place Based Social Justice, Scottish Government

### **Secretariat attendees**

Katherine Hudson, Secretariat Manager

Rory Morrison, Analytical Manager

Munwar Hussain, Senior Participation Officer

Michele Barr, Secretariat Administrator

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

Bill Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **2. Pathfinders discussion**

Christina Stokes, Head of Policy Engagement, Covid Recovery, Scottish Government and Gillian Cross, Policy Lead, Place Based Social Justice, Scottish Government joined the meeting. The Commission had agreed that it would invite policy teams with responsibility for commitments in the Child Poverty Delivery Plan to meet with the Commission to discuss progress with those commitments. SG officials presented to the Commission an update on the Dundee and Glasgow Pathfinders, then there was an opportunity for the Commission and Panel members to have a further discussion and to ask questions.

Scottish Government officials talked through the learning from Dundee and Glasgow pathfinders to date. The Place Based Social Justice Division hosted a National Learning Event on 5th December for local authority, public health and third sector leaders and a second learning event is planned for Spring 2023 and an invite was extended to the Commission for this.

As part of the Scottish Government Pathfinders evaluation programme, SG officials are working with an external contractor to conduct an evaluability study, and Commissioners indicated an interest in seeing the outcome of this work.

### **Scottish Government officials left the meeting**

### **3. Pathfinders follow-up discussion**

The Commissioners and Panel members had a follow-up discussion on the Dundee and Glasgow Pathfinders and reflected on what they had heard at the presentation. The secretariat will follow up with Scottish Government with further questions from the Commissioners and Panel Members.

### **Panel members left the meeting**

### **4. Tax Working Group update**

Shona Stephen provided an update on progress of the Tax Working Group. Other Commissioner members of the group are Bill Scott, Alex Cobham and two Experts by Experience Panel members, external members are Professor Mike Danson from Heriot-Watt University, and Joanne Walker of the Low Incomes Tax Reform Group. The group have had two meetings with all members present and others planned in February, March and April where the working group will invite external experts to come along to talk through various issues on tax. The group will offer recommendations on taxation for the endorsement of the wider Commission during summer 2023.

The Commissions website will provide information on the Tax Working Group, and the group's minutes will be published on the website. The Commission will be kept updated on the working group at regular intervals.

### **5. Intersectionality**

Katherine Hudson provided an update on next steps in developing the Commission's intersectional analysis strategy. Talat Yaqoob Consulting will review some of the Commission's work so far and work with Commissioners and Experts by Experience Panel members to deliver training sessions on Intersectionality. The initial sessions are expected to be held either February or March.

## **6. AOB**

- Date of next meeting Commission meeting 16 March.
- The Commissioners discussed future hybrid meetings. The secretariat can set up more formal meetings at external venues and Commissioners agreed to have a planned face-to-face Commission meeting in the Spring. For other Commission meetings, if Commissioners would prefer to come into either Edinburgh or Glasgow Scottish Government offices on an ad hoc basis the secretariat can organise.