

MEETING MINUTES

C-19 Education Recovery Group
Minutes of meeting, Friday 24 April 2020**Attendees**

- John Swinney MSP, *Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Chair)*
- Sam Anson, *Deputy Director of Improvement, Attainment & Wellbeing, Scottish Government*
- Jane Brumpton, *Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland*
- Alison Cumming, *Interim Director of Early Learning & Childcare, Scottish Government*
- Greg Dempster, *General Secretary, Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland (AHDS)*
- Sheena Devlin, *Executive Director, Perth & Kinross Council (ADES)*
- Larry Flanagan, *General Secretary, Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)*
- Eddie Follan, *Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA)*
- Gayle Gorman, *Chief Executive and Chief Inspector, Education Scotland*
- Gillian Hamilton, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Carrie Lindsay, *President, Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)*
- Graeme Logan, *Director of Learning, Scottish Government*
- Ken Muir, *Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)*
- Joanna Murphy, *Chair, National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPF)*
- Karen Reid, *Chief Executive, Perth & Kinross Council*
- Fiona Robertson, *Chief Executive, Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)*
- Jim Thewliss, *General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland (SLS)*
- Marie Todd MSP, *Minister for Children and Young People*

Apologies

- Councillor Stephen McCabe, *Children and Young People spokesperson, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA)*

1. Introduction and outline

- The Deputy First Minister (DFM) thanked the group for their attendance and set out the purpose of creating the new C-19 Education Recovery Group (CERG).
- DFM stated that the group is intended to be a collaborative endeavour, bringing together key stakeholders in school education, early learning and childcare, to support national and local government in the journey to re-opening education and childcare settings.
- DFM said the focus of the group would be to consider how schools and early learning and childcare settings could re-open once it was considered the right time for that to happen - what are the priorities going forward and the implications for support, delivery and the curriculum.
- Decisions on timing would take a science-led approach and form part of the wider ongoing consideration and analysis around easing restrictions in Scotland – as set out in the Covid 19 – A Framework for Decision Making, published on 23 April.

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2. Workstreams

Ten workstreams were proposed to the group in advance of the meeting:

1. Term 4 learning
2. Preparing for the next academic year
3. Curriculum & assessment
4. Supporting learners from disadvantaged backgrounds
5. Pastoral care for cyp
6. Workforce support
7. Workforce planning
8. School improvement in a new context
9. Critical childcare
10. Early learning and childcare

Members used the opportunity to emphasise priorities and suggest further areas of consideration, including:

- The differences between rural and urban settings
- The importance of safeguarding vulnerable young people currently in home-learning settings
- The importance of instilling confidence in parents that education settings are a safe space prior to re-opening
- Consultation with school leaders when developing policy
- Health and wellbeing of staff and learners
- The links between school settings with both the ELC and college sectors
- The variation of home-learning provision that pupils and parents are currently experiencing
- The consideration of disadvantaged children and young people in all elements of recovery, including those that are most vulnerable
- The impact of time away from school for learners at key stages in their education eg. exam years, transition years

3. Next steps

Conditional upon edits based upon the above feedback, the group agreed to collaborate in sub-groups on the ten agreed workstreams. Prior to the next meeting members agreed to:

- Identify sub-group members and provide to the secretariat (by COP Monday 27th April)
- Establish initial meetings for sub-groups to identify next steps, with those workstreams that are most time-critical to meet before the next CERG meeting.
- Focus on options for a possible phased re-opening of education and childcare settings. An overarching paper on what a phased re-opening could look like to be drafted ahead of the next meeting.

Next meeting: Friday 1st May 2020 (further meetings thereafter on a weekly basis)