

C-19 Education Recovery Group
Minutes of meeting, Friday 1 May 2020

Attendees

- John Swinney MSP, *Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Chair)*
- Councillor Stephen McCabe, *Children and Young People spokesperson, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA)*
- 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*
- 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 (NPFS)*
- 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*
- Maria Walker, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Andrew Drought, *Deputy Director for Workforce, Infrastructure & Reform, Scottish Government*

Apologies

- Gillian Hamilton, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*

1. Welcome and updates

- DFM welcomed members and thanked them for their comments on Paper 3 received in advance.
- DFM emphasised that in considering the way forward for Scotland, the similarities and differences between education systems and rates of infection across the UK nations should be taken into account.
- Councillor McCabe highlighted the necessity to consider variations across regions of Scotland as well.

2. For agreement: Minutes of previous meeting and CERG Terms of Reference

- Members were requested to share any comments with the secretariat.

3. The phased re-opening of education settings

Members were invited to discuss thoughts and comments on the options put forward in Paper 3:

FOR AGREEMENT

- The over-riding priority is health and safety of staff and pupils. Physical distancing in schools was highlighted as a challenge to be kept in mind throughout. Hubs currently running can provide valuable insight into the practicalities of physical distancing in schools.
- As modern learners do not spend all their time in school sitting at a desk, the group is keen to ensure that modern teaching approaches are maintained where possible.
- Equally, pedagogy styles in early learning and childcare settings, should be considered to ensure good practice continues in new circumstances.
- The group discussed the potential of using other community buildings in addition to school buildings in order to facilitate physical distancing more easily.
- On a phased return, it was suggested that the first phase reintroduces staff only to school buildings.
- The group recognised that as the number of priority workers returning to work grows, so also will the demand for childcare.
- It was emphasised that family groupings should be considered throughout, including families with children who normally attend multiple settings.
- The work of local authorities in the current circumstances was recognised, and the group highlighted the need to consider local variation in any approach taken.
- It was highlighted that a phased approach should be tested at each phase before moving on to the next in order to ensure the health and safety of staff, pupils and the wider community.
- When considering part-time schooling options the wider impact should be considered eg. school transport.
- Key groups of learners should be considered throughout, including ASN pupils and learners in transition years.

4. Next steps

The group agreed that a phased return would be necessary, and to consider both rota and priority groups approaches ahead of the next meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday 6 May 2020