

C-19 Education Recovery Group
Minutes of meeting, Friday 27 August 2020

Attendees

- John Swinney MSP, *Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Chair)*
- Councillor McCabe, *Children and Young People spokesperson, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities – CoSLA (Co-Chair)*
- Maree Todd MSP, *Minister for Children and Young People*
- Elizabeth Morrison, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Andy Drought, *Deputy Director of Workforce, Infrastructure and Reform, Scottish Government*
- Greg Dempster, *General Secretary, Association of Headteachers and Deputes in Scotland (AHDS)*
- Larry Flanagan, *General Secretary, Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)*
- Carrie Lindsay, *President, Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)*
- Ken Muir, *Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)*
- Joanna Murphy, *Chair, National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)*
- Jim Thewliss, *General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland (SLS)*
- Maria Walker, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Gayle Gorman, *Chief Executive and Chief Inspector, Education Scotland*
- Alan Armstrong *Strategic Director of Lifelong Learning, Scottish Government*
- Alison Cumming, *Director of Early Learning and Childcare, Scottish Government*
- Diane Stockton, *Social and System Recovery Programme Lead*
- Eddie Follan, *Chief Officer, Children and Young People (CoSLA)*
- Fiona Robertson, *Chief Executive, Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)*
- Graeme Logan, *Director of Learning, Scottish Government*
- Mick Wilson *Deputy Director of Education Analytical Services, Scottish Government*
- Sheena Devlin, *Executive Director, Perth & Kinross Council (ADES)*
- Sam Anson, *Deputy Director of Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing, Scottish Government*

Apologies

- Jane Brumpton, *Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland*

The meeting began with thanks to members for the swift input to proposed amendments to the guidance earlier this week in relation to face coverings.

Members reviewed the updated Management Information report, which had been updated based on feedback from last Friday's meeting. The update included additional data from Public Health Scotland. The group acknowledge the need for some of this data to be published, in a format that is valuable, understandable and helps to further build public confidence.

A key point in the discussion was around staffing absence numbers. Further discussion on the possible mobilisation of “lapsed” teachers (suitably qualified individuals who have maintained their professional development and registration with GTCS, but are not currently working as teachers). It was noted that there is around a four week lead time to complete all necessary activities to bring a lapsed teacher on-board. Understanding the geographical position of these individuals would help with planning next steps.

The group discussed the approach to Monitoring and Surveillance which covered the current position, the proposed additional studies and the questions these studies would address, and how the different strands under Monitoring and Surveillance relate to each other. The discussion was welcomed by members, and there was further discussion on messaging and communications around this programme. The regularity of individuals being tested as well as the groups of children and young people involved in the testing was also noted.

The last agenda item covered the National eLearning offer. The current collaborative proposition was outlined and looked at what the proposed offer is. It was noted that there needs to be a clear National offer and an understanding of how the different partners can work together to deliver learning. The communication of what this is - and how it can be operationally utilised - is important. The use of language is also important for understanding the offer, whether this is digital learning, online learning, blended learning or remote learning. There was also acknowledgement that there should be a proposition for the Primary and Broad General Education years as well as the Senior Phase leading to qualifications. The use of BBC Scotland was also suggested.

Under other business the SQA noted a significant response to the consultation undertaken in relation to moderation of this year’s results. There is also work underway on contingency planning for national qualifications due to be awarded in 2021 due to the continuing uncertainty of the virus and the likely position next year.

Actions to be taken forward

- Consolidation of management information into one dataset;
- Consider the creation of an A4 infographic for public distribution which represents the key Management Information;
- Confirm how many languages the FACTS posters are available in;
- Commence the process of activation of inactive teaching workforce;
- Further discussion of Monitoring and Surveillance in the next few days by the original task force, to be followed by work on how to communicate this with maximum impact;
- Ongoing work to ensure clarity in the National eLearning offer.

Next meeting: Thursday 3 September 2020