

C-19 Education Recovery Group

Minutes of meeting, Friday 14 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)*
- Alan Armstrong, *Education Scotland*
- Jane Brumpton, *Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland*
- Alison Cumming, *Director of Early Learning and 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, *Chief Officer, Children and Young People (CoSLA)*
- John Gallacher, *Regional Manager (UNISON)*
- Carrie Lindsay, *President, Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)*
- Graeme Logan, *Director of Learning, Scottish Government*
- Elizabeth Morrison, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Ken Muir, *Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)*
- Karen Reid, *Chief Executive, Perth & Kinross Council*
- Fiona Robertson, *Chief Executive, Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)*
- Frank Strang, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Jim Thewliss, *General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland (SLS)*
- Maria Walker, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*

Apologies

- Andy Drought, *Deputy Director of Workforce, Infrastructure and Reform, Scottish Government*
- Gayle Gorman, *Chief Executive and Chief Inspector, Education Scotland*
- Sam Anson, *Deputy Director Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing, Scottish Government*

The meeting began with reflections from the DFM on the last week, followed by a discussion of the wider experiences of the last week and the reopening of schools across Scotland. All members had the opportunity to provide comments.

Individuals were keen to recognise the huge effort by staff to ensure schools could open. It was noted that most teachers were keen to be back and to be able to teach in front of children and young people again. Members noted that most pupils were also excited to be back. However members acknowledged that there was still some anxiety.

It was noted that it will be important to identify the implications of schools reopening, and this will be done, in part, by gathering the intelligence and feedback from all members of the group and, where appropriate, ensuring relevant guidance is updated. The issue of quarantine was raised regarding children and young people

returning from countries not exempt from self-isolation. It was noted that advice needed to be updated to reflect the position on this.

Discussion moved to the ongoing role of the Education Recovery Group. Members agreed it was important for the group to continue and to be the focal point on discussion on issues of Education Recovery for the foreseeable future.

Action: CERG secretariat to arrange a weekly 1 hour meeting to recur for the immediate future.

Next meeting: Friday 21 August 2020