

**C-19 Education Recovery Group**  
**Minutes of meeting, Thursday 10 September 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*
- Alan Armstrong, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Jane Brumpton, *Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland*
- Greg Dempster, *General Secretary, Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland (AHDS)*
- Sheena Devlin, *Executive Director, Perth & Kinross Council (ADES)*
- Andrew Drought, *Deputy Director for Workforce, Infrastructure & Reform, Scottish Government*
- Larry Flanagan, *General Secretary, Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)*
- John Gallacher, *Regional Manager (UNISON)*
- 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*
- Elizabeth Morrison, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Ken Muir, *Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)*
- Joanna Murphy, *Chair, National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFSS)*
- Jane O'Donnell, *COSLA*
- Malcolm Pentland, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Fiona Robertson, *Chief Executive, SQA*
- Diane Stockton, *Public Health Scotland*
- Jim Thewliss, *General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland (SLS)*
- Marie Todd MSP, *Minister for Children and Young People*
- Maria Walker, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Mick Wilson, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*

The meeting began with an update on the development of an infographic, aimed to capture regularly updated data from schools in Scotland, and to be published shortly. The group welcomed the news that school attendance amongst pupils has begun to rise again after the fall since start of the autumn term.

The group also discussed updates on teaching and support staff numbers across Scotland, highlighting that challenges vary in rural and urban areas, and the importance of Test and Protect for school staff. An update was also provided on the work underway by GTCS to secure increased numbers of re-registered teachers.

In relation to guidance updates, it was highlighted that a consistent approach to sharing information on cases or outbreaks of COVID-19 in schools should be strengthened. Colleagues agreed to work together to urgently finalise guidance on this.

Education Scotland provided an update on the continuing work to develop the national e-learning offer. Teaching staff are receiving training on new systems and resources each week, and there is positive feedback from the sector on numbers of staff and students enrolled, particularly as a growing number of subjects are covered.

SQA then provided an update on work underway to identify best options for the 2021 exam diet. Modifications and contingency plans are currently being considered, which take into account feedback received to an SQA consultation. The group recognised the pressing need to reach decisions on the exam diet, but agreed to await the outcome of the Priestley Review before finalising plans.

Finally, the Deputy First Minister confirmed that officials are working to appoint a representative of the Scottish Youth Parliament to join the CERG group.

**Next meeting:** Thursday 17 September 2020