

C-19 Education Recovery Group

Minutes of meeting, Thursday 12 November 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)*
- Maree Todd MSP, *Minister for Children and Young People*
- Sam Anson, *Deputy Director, Improvement Attainment & Wellbeing, Scottish Government*
- Ellen Leaver, *Early Learning and Childcare Directorate, Scottish Government*
- Sheena Devlin, *Executive Director, Perth & Kinross Council (ADES)*
- Greg Dempster, *General Secretary, Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland (AHDS)*
- Larry Flanagan, *General Secretary, Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)*
- Eddie Follan, *Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)*
- Matthew Sweeney, *Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)*
- 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)*
- Ken Muir, *Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)*
- Diane Stockton, *Public Health Scotland*
- Gillian Hamilton, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Jim Thewliss, *General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland (SLS)*
- Jane Brumpton, *Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland*
- Janie McManus, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Margaret Wilson, *Chair, National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)*
- Fiona Robertson, *Chief Executive, SQA*
- Andrew Drought, *Deputy Director for Workforce, Infrastructure & Reform, Scottish Government*
- Liam Fowley MSYP, *Vice Chair, Scottish Youth Parliament*
- Karen Reid, *Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council*
- Gary Sutton, *Education Analytical Services, Scottish Government*

Apologies

- Graeme Logan, *Director of Learning, Scottish Government*

Welcome

DFM welcomed members to the meeting.

Ongoing monitoring

An update on the regular management information data was provided, with reference to the weekly infographic and dashboard. In line with usual practice, the infographic was published following the meeting.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-education-recovery-group-children-and-young-people-infographic/>

An update was provided on Public Health Scotland (PHS) plans to publish further evidence and information on self-isolating young people and transmission in schools.

Member feedback

The paper on member feedback was noted.

There was specific mention of concern about the additional workload faced by school leaders in relation to identifying and following up close contacts of confirmed cases in evenings, weekends and holiday periods, with a particular concern being expressed about the potential impact of this over the Christmas period.

Parents' views

DFM invited Margaret Wilson to introduce the paper/discussion on issues raised by members of the National Parent Forum of Scotland. The main issues were how to keep parents informed, the challenge of maintaining an equity of provision across the board, particularly with those who were self-isolating, and support for young people with additional support needs.

The paper was welcomed by the group and led to constructive discussion on which there was broad consensus. Consideration will be given as to how to embed this important feedback into the future work of the group.

Forward Look

The group considered a paper setting out a proposed framework for future meetings. It was agreed that future agenda items will cover PHS work on surveillance, input from the Scottish Youth Parliament on young people's views, consideration of National Qualifications in 2021, discussion of workforce planning and support, and feedback from the International Council of Education Advisers.

There are a number of different governance groups in the wider education landscape, and the interplay between these groups remains an important aspect of education recovery. The group agreed that its oversight role remained important in the current circumstances.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on 19 November 2020.