

## C-19 Education Recovery Group

### Minutes of meeting, Friday 31 July 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)*
- Eddie Follan, *Chief Officer, Children and Young People (CoSLA)*
- Graeme Logan, *Director of Learning, Scottish Government*
- Sam Anson *Deputy Director of Improvement, Attainment & Wellbeing, Scottish Government*
- Andy Drought, *Deputy Director of Workforce, Infrastructure and Reform, Scottish Government*
- Sheena Devlin, *Executive Director, Perth & Kinross Council (ADES)*
- Joanna Murphy, *Chair, National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFs)*
- Greg Dempster, *General Secretary, Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland (AHDS)*
- Fiona Robertson, *Chief Executive, Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)*
- Jim Thewliss, *General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland (SLS)*
- Maree Todd, *Minister for Children and Young People*
- Gayle Gorman, *Chief Executive and Chief Inspector, Education Scotland*
- Alison Cumming, *Interim Director of Early Learning & Childcare, Scottish Government*
- Larry Flanagan, *General Secretary, Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)*
- John Gallacher, *Regional Manager (UNISON)*
- Ken Muir, *Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)*
- Karen Reid, *Chief Executive, Perth & Kinross Council*
- Frank Strang, *Deputy Director, Covid Response Directorate, Scottish Government*
- Dona Milne, *Director of Public Health, Fife*
- Marion McCormack *Deputy Director, Community Surveillance, Scottish Government*

#### Apologies

- Carrie Lindsay, *President, Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)*
- Jane Brumpton, *Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland*
- Maria Walker, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Gillian Hamilton, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Jane O'Donnell, *Head of Policy, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA)*
- Elizabeth Morrison, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*

The meeting began with a discussion on the parliamentary statement of 30 July and the group gave their views on how the announcement/guidance has been received so far by teachers, school leaders, local authorities, parents, etc. It was highlighted that there have been concerns from teachers/parents and there needs to be vital mitigations in place and appropriate planning to ensure that schools are fully prepared in time for reopening.

An update was provided on the approach to assessment for Academic Year 2020/21. This was a follow up agenda item from the CERG on 6 July. A paper was presented to the group which set out SQA's proposed approach for the modification of course assessment; modelling of an adjusted examination diet timetable; and high-level consideration of what might be required should further disruption occur during the year. There was a strong consensus that there is a need for decisions to be made regarding assessments for next year, however, any decisions need to be balanced and must take into consideration the uncertainty of the pandemic. It was agreed that discussions would be taken forward following this meeting and this issue will be brought back to a CERG meeting to discuss in due course.

Finally, the group discussed outbreak management – in particular, what will happen in practice, once schools are back, in terms of responses to Covid outbreaks. Members were clear that a consistent and clear public comms message on how schools should respond to any outbreaks would be helpful.

DFM agreed to reconvene the group for a meeting at the end of w/c 10 August to reflect on the first week of term.

**Next meeting:** Friday 14 August 2020