

C-19 Education Recovery Group
Minutes of meeting, Thursday 19 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)*
- Sam Anson, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Jane Brumpton, *Chief Executive, Early Years Scotland*
- Carol Campbell, *International Council of Education Advisers (ICEA)*
- Alison Cumming, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Greg Dempster, *General Secretary, Association of Headteachers and Deputies in Scotland (AHDS)*
- Sheena Devlin, *Executive Director, Perth & Kinross Council (ADES)*
- Andrew Drought, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Lynda Fenton, *Public Health Scotland*
- Larry Flanagan, *General Secretary, Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)*
- Eddie Follan, *Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)*
- Liam Fowley, *Children and Young Person's Representative, Scottish Youth Parliament*
- John Gallacher, *Regional Manager (UNISON)*
- Gayle Gorman, *Chief Executive and Chief Inspector, Education Scotland*
- Gillian Hamilton, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Andy Hargreaves, *ICEA*
- Carrie Lindsay, *President, Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)*
- Graeme Logan, *Director of Learning, Scottish Government*
- Ben McKendrick, *Scottish Youth Parliament*
- Janie McManus, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Elizabeth Morrison, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Ken Muir, *Chief Executive, General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)*
- Malcolm Pentland, *Deputy Director, Scottish Government*
- Fiona Robertson, *SQA*
- Diane Stockton, *Public Health Scotland*
- Matthew Sweeney, *Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)*
- Jim Thewliss, *General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland (SLS)*
- Marie Todd MSP, *Minister for Children and Young People*
- Maria Walker, *Strategic Director, Education Scotland*
- Margaret Wilson, *Chair, National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)*

The Deputy First Minister first welcomed members of the International Council of Education Advisors (ICEA), who were joining the meeting for the first time.

Weekly feedback

Officials then provided an update on the recently published infographic, which included noting that the number of cases of COVID-19 in 2-17 year olds had fallen over the previous week, in line with the rest of the population. It was also noted that of pupils not attending school for COVID-related reasons, the majority are due to self-isolation, rather than infection.

Group members then discussed experiences over the last week, with a focus on the impact of contact tracing on the workload of school leaders, the impact of self-isolation on mental wellbeing, and the flexibility of remote learning as a contingency plan for schools in Level 4 Protection Level areas.

GTCS provided an update the numbers of previous teacher members looking to reregister, as well as the support going to probationer teachers who were not able to complete their training year due to school closures.

Surveillance

Public Health Scotland provided an update on the analysis of surveillance data since schools opened in August, focusing on identifying schools with multiple cases. It was shared that there are ambitions to provide more real-time reporting, as well as to further geographical analysis as soon as possible.

Feedback from ICEA

The ICEA have redirected the focus of their advice and support since COVID-19. They are preparing a detailed report on long-term recovery from the pandemic, and shared a summary of their thinking with the group. This included the importance of expanding both digital and physical school facilities, while keeping in mind the perspectives of young people, the work/life balance of education practitioners and the integration of the exam diet with the curriculum.

It was recognised that many of the ambitions raised are on a large scale, which may not be easy to focus on while schools are facing immediate challenges.

Next meeting: Thursday 26 November 2020