

FOR DISCUSSION

ROLE AND REMIT OF THE C-19 EDUCATION RECOVERY GROUP

Background

1. As the time of writing (April 2020) the majority of schools and early learning and childcare settings in Scotland are closed, with a minimal number of settings open only for vulnerable children and children of key workers. The longer the policy of social distancing is maintained, the greater the impact is likely to be on the education system and the more significant the issues that will need to be addressed in any recovery phase.
2. To ensure continued partnership working to address these issues, it will be important to have appropriate structures in place. This includes the means by which we bring together the necessary strategic expertise and experience to consider and develop the necessary responses to issues.

Role

3. The C-19 Education Recovery Group is being convened to fulfil that function. It will provide advice on education policy and delivery to ministers and local government leaders in the context of the response to the C-19 epidemic. The Group will drive forward a series of workstreams that will address the issues that are impacting on education in Scotland as a result of the pandemic. Its immediate focus will be to generate system-wide input into decisions around the re-opening of schools, with a focus on *how* this happens rather than *when* (which will be led separately by the ongoing scientific analysis of C-19).
4. The Group will be chaired by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills with Councillor Stephen McCabe, COSLA Children and Young People Spokesperson having a co-chairing role. This reflects the joint initiative between national and local government to bring together representation at a strategic level from key education and early learning and childcare stakeholders to provide advice on taking forward Scottish education in the light of C-19.
5. In the immediate term the Group will generate system-wide input into decisions on re-opening; over the longer term the Group will look beyond the immediate impact to consider, from a strategic and policy perspective, how a joint Scottish Government and Local Government approach can best support the education and ELC sectors moving forward.

Draft remit

6. The Group will:
 - Bring together decision makers and key influencers to ensure that the delivery of childcare, early learning and education maintains a strong focus on excellence and equity for all, within the necessary constraints of the C-19 response;

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- Provide leadership and advice to ministers and local government leaders in developing the strategic approach to the response and recovery of the ELC and education system
- Work across organisational and structural boundaries to support the response and recovery efforts;
- Consider and provide advice on any proposed changes in Scottish education strategy, taking into account any long-term effects of the C-19 response; and
- Be a forum for frank and open discussion about what is working and what and where more improvement is required

Summary

7. The Group is invited to:

- Note the role of the Group; and
- Provide any written comments on the draft remit to the secretariat by 1 May 2020.

**C-19 Education Recovery Group Secretariat
April 2020**