



## GROUP 12 – EXPLANATORY NOTE AND JAMBOARDS

### 1. Explanatory note on Group 12's topic

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR GROUP 12**

##### **What topic will we discuss?**

This group is invited to consider recommendations on the following topic, which relates to vision element I:

**Scotland should be a country where people are supported out of poverty by identifying and removing barriers to employment, education and housing.**

Whilst it is for the group to decide where to make recommendations, it should be noted that other groups are considering education and training for young people and adults respectively, improving incomes, economic development and fairer taxation.

##### **What is the task and process we will go through?**

Notes 1 and 2 explain how recommendations will be prepared and provide a worked example. You will review the summary of evidence in the explanatory note and the weekend 6 jam boards and identify the 2-3 areas you want to focus on to develop recommendations. You will then prepare the text of draft recommendations and accompanying information to be included in the final report.

Recommendations should be about either:

- Remit Q 2: how we overcome the challenges facing Scotland and the world
- Remit Q 3: what further information citizens need to take informed decisions

And they should also be supported by evidence: And they should also be supported by evidence:

- Given by or discussed with experts
- From the Assembly process and the experience of participation
- From 'lived experience' of members, shared and discussed over the course of the Assembly

##### **Summary of the Assembly evidence on the issue**

The following aspects of the Assembly journey may be relevant when considering recommendations in this area.

1. The importance of access to education and fair employment to our wellbeing and happiness were discussed in weekend 2.
2. In weekend 3 you heard about wealth inequalities and poverty in Scotland; different economic models, including the idea of a wellbeing economy. Speakers



covered ideas such as promoting fair work opportunities and a more inclusive economy, which could protect lower earners' incomes.

3. In Weekend 4, you learned about Scotland's finances and tax including ideas to protect lower earners' incomes, such as taxing wealth more fairly, and the use of taxes to encourage fair work.
4. In Weekend 5 you learned about the impact of COVID. You heard about the social and economic impacts of the pandemic, where certain groups such as low income households, young people and women have been more severely impacted. Experts spoke about how we can respond to the pandemic, such as ways to ensure fairer work through the protection of incomes of lower earners, and through fairer taxation. Commentators also advocated for improving incomes such as through the introduction of a universal basic income.

### **Constitutional implications**

The Scottish Government and Parliament can take action on education, skills and housing and, but not on reserved areas such as employment law and the minimum wage. Many of the powers over the economy are reserved to the UK Government, however, both Governments having responsibility for some tax and social security powers.

The Scottish Government and Parliament could take action in this area where any proposed arrangements applied to devolved matters. Should any recommendations cover reserved matters you may wish to consider whether the evidence supports any constitutional change. For further detail on reserved and devolved matters, please see Professor Nicola McEwen's factsheet [here](#).

### **Action in hand**

The Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2020-21:

- Sets out the Scotland's wellbeing framework which aims to "tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally."
- States that Scotland has statutory income-based targets to reduce and eradicate child poverty.
- Commits to an additional £2.35 million for the Parental Employability Support Fund for those most at-risk of poverty, and is expected to support 17,500 low income parents.
- Commits to funding to recruit 1,400 additional teachers and 200 support staff to help close the poverty related attainment gap.
- Scottish Government's *No One Left Behind* agenda, with partners, aims to support those who face the biggest barriers to employment.
- Complete the delivery of 50,000 affordable homes as quickly as it is safe to do so
- Establish a £10 million Tenants Hardship Loan Fund and increase Discretionary Housing Payments support for tenants by a further £3m
- Notes recent £20 million investment to decarbonise heating in social housing



## 2. Jamboards from Weekend 6 on topic being considered by Group 12

(I) Scotland should be a country where people are supported out of poverty by identifying and removing barriers to employment, education and housing (from area of consensus: Putting an end to poverty)



What is at the heart of it? What are you really trying to say to Scotland your vision for the country is?

Is there awareness of how bad poverty is?

If as an Assembly we could come up with something, an action that would lift people out of poverty, we could be proud of that.

Universal income, more simple, straightforward and timely

**Better incomes and living wage**

Addressing issues that lead to people falling into poverty

To reduce poverty state education should be free to everyone through to university

Many working people need to access foodbanks

Basic income would be a requirement, a minimum income

Universal income might not be needed by all, but only below a certain level

Reducing barriers to moving from poverty into as position where you can better yourself

Opportunity needed, address barriers, difference between uni and workplace.



Recommendations for how we remove barriers to employment, education and housing to support people out of poverty

Define what poverty is, what is the threshold. Provide access to housing, food and utilities

**Poverty**

Better information about what people are entitled to in terms of benefits

Community councils in areas that could highlight issues regarding poverty in that area

More powers to address issues that lead to people falling into poverty

Evidence: Interested in how perceptions have changed in the group during the Covid-19 pandemic

Addressing issues that lead to people falling into poverty

There's a link between poverty, health and social care. It should be funded properly and carers valued. They're often at the low pay end

Evidence: Through the weeks poverty has been a big issue

Removing barriers to employment, education and housing

More opportunities for disabled people

Work - universal income

Reform the structure of how we get paid

Reform of the structure of work

Evidence: Over the weeks, poverty has come up a number of times and caused by a number of factors - not being in work is one of the biggest

More protection for zero hours contracts

More protection for self employed

Introduction of a National Care Service

**Other**

Introduction of Law/Bill: Guarantee fairness and eradication of poverty, nationally and locally. Whoever has a moral, legal and ethical responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of everyone