



## GROUP 6 – EXPLANATORY NOTE AND JAMBOARDS

### 1. Explanatory note on Group 6's topic

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR GROUP 6**

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

This group is invited to consider recommendations on the following topic, which relates to vision element E and relevant aspects of vision element F:

**Recommendations to enable everyone to reach their full potential and create a better standard of living, by investing in accessible, relevant training and support and fair and equality-driven opportunities, through personal development, with a focus on life and vocational skills, apprenticeships and hands-on experience.**

The focus of recommendations should be around training and support for all adults as group 6 looking at such issues specifically for young people.

Group 7 will consider fair wage measures to improving standards of living whilst group 8 are looking at innovation, such as investment in new sectors and R&D for economic development.

##### **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. In weekend 1 you learned about Scotland's demographics, including varying educational qualification levels, geographical inequalities and the impact of this on life chances.
2. The importance of access to education and fair employment to our wellbeing and happiness were discussed in weekend 2.
3. In weekends 3 and 4 you learned about a wide range of policy issues around a sustainable country and tax and finances. Fairness was a key component in this in relation to creating an economy which serves the people (a wellbeing economy) or fostering a fair and more inclusive workforce. Also how this benefits society through increased taxes and businesses by having a more diverse workforce. You explored how tax can be used to encourage fair work practices and incentivise particular behaviours.
4. In weekend 5 you learned about the impact of COVID on education and the economy, including the unequal impact the pandemic has had on certain parts of Scottish society. A wide range of ideas were discussed about longer term recovery, with many commentators focussed on the opportunity to build an economy that is green, fair and resilient. Commentators advocated for skills and training to meet the needs of the future.

### **Constitutional implications**

Education and skills are devolved matters while employment law and the minimum wage are reserved matters.

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:


- commits to investing in a national training transition fund to provide retraining opportunities for people who have lost their jobs or are at risk of doing so.
- pledges to double the funding for the flexible workforce development fund which enables employers to access up to £15,000 each to address skills gaps in their workforce.
- a national mission to create new jobs, good jobs and green jobs
- creating a Green jobs fund, investing alongside a range of sectors - such as manufacturing, tech, and land based organisations - to support new and increased opportunities for green job creation across Scotland.
- puts equality and human rights at the heart of its approach to recovery



- acknowledges the global awakening to the continued racial injustices in our society and commits to work with trade unions and employers to pioneer new ways of embedding fair work practices in all workplaces.

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

(E) Scotland should be a country where we encourage and support everyone to reach their full potential through support and training. Providing fair and equality-driven opportunities, through personal development, with a focus on life and vocational skills, apprenticeships and hands-on experience (from area of consensus: Ensuring fairness with equal opportunities for all)



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

Better support with more funding and no budgets

Change in service with bodies not working together anymore in last 10 years

Disabled people treatment over Covid-19 was horrendous: excluded, despite online access. Assistance is needed

Can't make people have the same morals. These are tied into education and societal norms

'Can't do that' attitude to get out of it. Helplessness and is instilled in their kids

Government to be held accountable but people should also be accountable for their own behaviours

Socio-economic-standardised testing and league table of results. Tutors and parental support comes into play. Children live in areas that have changed over years due to budget cuts in education

Q: What could be key actions or recommendations?

Free education in Scotland (e.g. no university fees). This is important and we're privileged to have that

Schools need more money put into them to standardise

Coming from a certain area doesn't guarantee you a fair standard of education. How do we fix that?

Q: Who should be accountable?

Free education for Scottish citizens (but excluding everyone else)

Not just education: look at social work and health service working together to facilitate fairer education

Q: How will you know it is being enacted?

Need more access to stuff online and government being more transparent about what they're doing

Head of services accountable for making it work, giving more power to local authorities

Standardised education: more flexibility in education to fit different needs, it's not a one size fits all, testing system is not ideal

Services working together

More transparency from Holyrood

People can't access information online about what the government is doing

Separate task force to ensure that things are allocated

Total inclusion

Economic factors to be considered for standard of education

Things need to happen more locally in schools, libraries, etc

HMI, but just for education



Recommendations about the support and training that can be provided to encourage and support everyone to reach their full potential, and recommendations for how we can create a better standard of living and opportunities by investing in accessible, relevant training and support

