

Social Mobility Commission

Commission Board Minutes 21 April 2021 2.00 - 4.00pm

Attendees: Commissioners

Sandra Wallace (Interim Co-chair) Steven Cooper (Interim Co-chair) Saeed Atcha Alistair Da Costa Pippa Dunn Sam Friedman Harvey Matthewson Jessica Oghenegweke Jody Walker Liz Williams Sammy Wright Members of the Secretariat

Apologies: Farrah Storr

Introductions

- 1.1 The Co-chairs began with a welcome and apologies.
- 1.2 The Co-chairs highlighted some of the recent activities undertaken by Commissioners:
 - Particularly the outstanding work Sam Friedman carried out on the progression in the Navigating the labyrinth report the report will be published in May;
 - Sammy's continued influence on education catch-up and 2021 exams and engagement with Minister Nick Gibb on our recommendation for a student premium for disadvantaged 16-19-year olds;
 - Alastair and Jess's productive engagement with Minister Gillian Keegan on socio-economic disparities and post-16 education.

2. <u>Reflections on the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities (CRED) report</u>

2.1 Secretariat led a discussion on the CRED report. Commissioners considered what our approach to the report should be and debated a series of options. Following discussion, Commissioners agreed that we should produce a statement and reactive lines which we would issue before publication of the State of the Nation report.

Action: Secretariat to produce a draft statement and reactive lines

3. State of the Nation update and discussion

- 3.1 Commissioners received a presentation from Secretariat on the State of the Nation report covering where we are; what is happening; what the statistics are showing and the key messages coming out of the four nations essays.
- 3.2 Following discussion, Commissioners were invited to attend pre-arranged deep dive sessions to delve further into the issues arising and to discuss our key messages. Secretariat would send Commissioners the dates of deep dive sessions.

Action: Secretariat to send Commissioners the dates of deep dive sessions.

4. Operational and workplan update

4.1 Secretariat updated Commissioners on its workplan over the coming months.

5. <u>30 years project</u>

- 5.1 This paper was circulated to gather Commissioners views rather than for discussion in the meeting. The paper set out a long-term vision towards a socially mobile society and proposals for a revised measurement framework. The paper sought Commissioners response to a number of questions.
- 5.2 The Co-chairs asked Secretariat to lay the questions onto a template and send to Commissioners for their response.

Action: Secretariat to send Commissioners a template outlining the questions for their response by 10 May.