



**Citizens' Assembly of Scotland: Scotland's Climate Assembly
Stewarding Group Meeting Minutes
11th Meeting: 18th January 2021**

Attendees:

Andrew McCornick	National Farmers Union, Scotland
Liam Fowley	Scottish Youth Parliament
Laura Moodie	Scottish Green Party
Kelly McBride	Democratic Society
Kaela Scott	Involve
Evelyn Bowes	Scottish Government Research
Jess Pepper	Climate Café / Stop Climate Chaos
Jenny Marr	Scottish Parliament
Paul de Leeuw	Robert Gordon University
Nadine Andrews	Scottish Government Research
Sally Thomas	SFTA
Andrew McRae	Federation of Small Business
Tim Hughes	Involve
Iain Docherty	University of Stirling
Doreen Grove	Scottish Government, Open Government
Oliver Escobar	University of Edinburgh
Susie Townend	Secretariat
Jamie Gregory	Secretariat
Julie Steel	Secretariat
Anna Santucci	Secretariat
Ruth Mattock	Secretariat
Isabelle Rayner	Secretariat
Jessamyn Briers	Secretariat

Apologies:

Audrey MacDougall, Scottish Government Social Research
Claudia Beamish, Scottish Labour Party
John Dickie, Child Poverty Action Group

1) Introduction

Susie Townend welcomed all to the first Stewarding Group meeting of 2021. She highlighted the approaching end of the evidence phase of the Assembly. Several apologies were sent, some including comments which will be shared within the meeting. The meeting agenda will include hearing from Research Team, discussion of member support, initial plans for Weekend Four and consideration of the structure for the final report.

2) Research reflections

Research team members Nadine Andrews and Evelyn Bowes shared reflections from Weekend Two data collection, as Weekend Three data collection is still ongoing. The Research Team plan to share summaries of findings for Weekends 2 and 3 rather than full briefings due to time pressures (Weekend 2 summary was provided to Stewarding Group in advance of meeting).



Overall: There were 67 survey responses out of a total 83 consenting to research. Most people report positive experiences. There remain some issues with connection difficulties, but members are receiving support in these cases.

Nadine and Evelyn reported on group dynamics over the weekend. Observations and surveys highlighted a minority of members feeling one or more person in their group is dominating: this will be monitored. People were broadly positive about their facilitator. Three quarters reported learning quite a bit or a lot, and more found the evidence material helpful. Observations noted a high level of engagement and participation. The Research Team noted the high volume of material presented. Suggestions were made to provide members with summary materials: the Secretariat noted this has already been actioned retrospectively and for Weekend 4.

Responses to the Climate anxiety and Children's Parliament videos were mixed. Surveys introduced a question on emotional responses, which will continue to be monitored in future weekends. Following a vote from Stewarding Group members, the Secretariat will explore options for additional member support with the Climate Psychology Alliance and put options to the Group.

3) Children's Parliament

The structure of the Children's Parliament's engagement with the Assembly has had to change, due to the Covid situation. The CP team are working on reconstructing plans to better suit home schooling. Stewarding Group members requested sensitivity, as children are under a lot of pressure at the moment.

4) Group reflections on Weekend Three

A key point of discussion was the balance of evidence and time for deliberation. The tension between these two priorities was recognised by all, with particular points including:

- The need to accommodate different levels of knowledge
- Members' appreciation of the longer deliberation time in Weekend Three
- Diminishing returns as evidence volume grew.

5) Weekend Four

Weekend 4 will cover Lifestyle, Communities and Work within the three streams. Kaela outlined the structure of the weekend, which would feature time for work on propositions for fairness, and a scoping exercise on their initial recommendations. The option of an additional weekend, or additional time, would also be put to the members. The process for developing recommendations would include a 'technical review' option for the Evidence Group to sense-check initial recommendations.

Stewarding Group members requested sight of the initial findings, to fulfil their role in evaluating the balance. The Secretariat and Design team would work out the most effective way to present these to the Stewarding Group for their review.

There was discussion around one SG member's suggestion to bring in additional voices from community-lead initiatives to present to the members. Others raised the importance of continued emphasis on the global and uneven impacts of climate



change. There was agreement to discuss this further. The Group addressed the nature of the material that should be presented to members in the later stages of the Assembly: suggestions one minute 'lightning talks', provision of extra learning materials on the online hub, experts for 'on-demand' sense-checking and community and lived experience panels. The following points were raised:

- Material at later stages should help members make their recommendations constructive and effective, not derail decisions that have already been made.
- This time should allow for dialogue, rather than volume of information
- Concern that exposing members to new perspectives at a very late stage could disproportionately impact their recommendations
- No external group can have 'veto' over recommendations, they must be within the hands of the members.

6) Structure and format of the final report

The Group discussed how recommendations should be presented in the report to be most effective. Reference was made to the Climate Assembly UK which produced 50 recommendations, and the Future of Scotland Assemble which produced 60 recommendations. It was noted that there are multiple ways to generate recommendations, such as voting procedures, futures work and others. A number of initial points were raised:

- Too many recommendations can allow media and policy-makers to 'cherry-pick' rather than engaging with the whole of the Assembly's proposals.
- Recommendations must translate easily into action by policy-makers
- A preference was generally expressed for a small number of substantive recommendations, with detail gathered under each. Kaela highlighted here that the Assembly have already been working with a series of 'sub-questions' in their streams.
- A need to convey clearly to members that the format of the report will impact how it is picked up.
- Previous assemblies have involved members to varying degrees in the presentation of the report. A decision for this process will need to be made.

The Secretariat with the Design team would come back to the Stewarding Group with a series of options and case studies on report development for review. The majority of the next meeting would be dedicated to this subject.

7) Final remarks

Members of the Stewarding Group reported positive feedback on the Assembly from within their networks. Susie thanked all for their input and engagement, and requested that all continue to share Assembly information widely and encourage people to engage.