

“If not now, when?” The Social Renewal Advisory Board Report

Summary

Easy Read Version



This easy read information was produced for The Social Renewable Advisory Board by CH Consultancy on behalf of Values Into Action Scotland



Values Into Action
Scotland





January 2021 Summary



The Social Renewal Advisory Board was set up by Scottish Ministers. The Board will come up with ways for Scotland to move forward when the pandemic is over.



Right now, the pandemic is still happening and changing. This is very worrying. We need to learn from it now.



The challenges facing public health have been made worse by the structural inequalities. This means organisations and the wider society help some people which leads to disadvantage for others. This report is to look at that and make it better. We must plan and act now.



From June 2020 to January 2021 the Board have had 11 meetings. They were to develop ideas. 9 policy groups and other people got involved in the meetings.

This included:

THE
Poverty Truth
Commission



- Community listening events in 31 local authority areas
- 4 discussions with Poverty Truth Commissions
- A set of 'focus groups' (Deep Dive events) with equality groups
- Over 100 responses from organisations we asked for evidence and ideas.



We would like to say thank you to everyone who took part.



We hope you see your thoughts and ideas in this report.



- **Money and Work** – Everyone should have a basic level of money from employment and social security.



- **People, Rights and Advancing Equality** – Everyone should have access to basic rights, goods and services and the chance to achieve them



- **Communities and collective endeavour** – We need to work together for a fairer society. We need to give more power to people, communities and frontline teams.



To do all these things better we will need to involve our communities more in making decisions.

The work we do will be decided by how everyone has dealt with the pandemic. This includes:



- People and communities
- Government
- Councils
- Businesses



We know people all over the country are helping those in need.



All kinds of organisations are working together to save lives and protect communities.



Volunteers and local teams are helping to feed families and deliver medicines.



Inequality was harming people before the pandemic. We need to act now to change this, so the pandemic does not make things even worse.



Making sure everyone's human rights are at the heart of all our work is important.



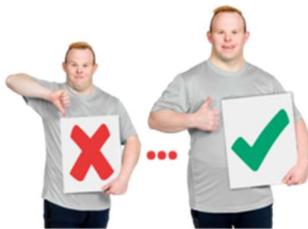
Since devolution, Scotland has changed. It is better in many ways. We know some things still need to change. We know we are building on strong foundations.



In this summary, we have described what needs to change. We have called these ideas **Calls to Action**. This is because they need to change urgently.



You can find more information about each of them in the main report. Go to <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800045309>



If the Calls to Action are put in place, they will change Scotland. They will help those who need it most.

They are about changing the systems that affect all our lives. They ask the Scottish Government and/or local councils to do more.



The Scottish Government does not control all the power and there is not enough money for everything. Local councils have some responsibility, but they are also finding it hard.

Employers, NHS, the public sector and third sector organisations also need to do more. We know they are facing their own pressures now too.



Not all of this is about money. It is about a better way to do things and sharing power. We know some things need to be step-by-step or take longer to do.



Hard times means hard choices. The pandemic has shown how much change is needed. Now is the time for change.



Because if not now, when?



**Key Principle 1 - Money and Work -
Making sure everyone has enough money
to lead a decent life.**

Action 1

Ask the Scottish Government to aim for a Minimum Income Guarantee for everyone.





Action 2

Do more to help people with personal debt problems.



Action 3

Ask Scottish Government, employers, employees and other partners to develop a new social contract on Fair Work.



Action 4

Ask Scottish Government and the public sector to do more to help the people most affected by the pandemic, especially on Fair Work.



Action 5

Ask the next Scottish Government to make plans to offer everyone 50 hours per week of free, good quality learning and childcare. This should be for all children between six months and five years old.



Key Principle 2 - People, Rights and Equality - Making sure people can lead their best life. People should have somewhere acceptable to live, food, internet access and good services.



Action 6

Put into Scots Law that everyone should have an acceptable home.



Action 7

Ask Scottish Government to make sure everyone has a safe, warm home. The homes should be accessible and have enough rooms for people who live there. They should be in places where people want to live.



Action 8

Ask Scottish Government to make sure everyone can easily get hold of food that is good. It should be healthy and affordable.



Action 9

Ask the next Scottish Government to set a target to end digital exclusion over the next 5 years. This means making sure everyone can access the internet. It also means everyone will know how to do this.





Action 10

Ask the next Scottish Government to make sure everyone can afford basic services like energy and transport.



Action 11

To include international human rights law in Scots Law to match the recommendations of the National Taskforce on Leadership in Human Rights.



Action 12

Take action to make sure disabled peoples human rights are accounted for



Action 13

Ask national and local government to work towards all communication being inclusive.

Action 14

Get better at how we deal with hate crime and public sexual harassment.





Action 15

We want the rights in this report to be available to all migrants. This includes refugees and asylum seekers.



Key Principle 3 - Communities and Collective Endeavour - How do we make sure people, communities and teams have power to make the changes they want?



Action 16

Ask the public sector to give more control to people and communities over decisions about their lives and to have more say about what happens in the places where they live and work.



Action 17

Ask the public sector and partners to improve services.

We want them to give teams more power to help people where there are problems.

We want people to have more say in the services they use.



Action 18

We are asking the public sector and partners to use what they learned from the pandemic. This will be used to build on better ways of working. It will help them to find new and better ways for local government. This will be better for their communities.



Action 19

We must make sure the benefits of the calls to action in this report helps our communities to be:



- Stronger
- More resilient
- Fairer
- Healthier

The communities must meet social, climate and economic fairness requirements



Action 20

Sharing how we are doing with the people who are affected most by poverty, inequality, and restricted life chances.



This will help us to get it right