

## Hearings System Working Group: Terms of Reference

The Hearings System Working Group (“HSWG”) is a partnership between Children’s Hearing Scotland (“CHS”), the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (“SCRA”) and The Promise Scotland, with the Scottish Government playing a critical role.

The HSWG has been created to oversee the redesign process for The Children’s Hearing System as set out in [Plan 21-24](#) and [Change Programme ONE](#). It will facilitate a process that will have the needs of children and families with lived experience of The Children’s Hearing System at its heart, to ensure effective implementation of The Independent Care Review and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### Purpose

1. The HSWG will produce clear, collective proposals that redesign The Children’s Hearings System and define the legislative changes required.

### Membership

2. The HSWG will be independently chaired with membership comprising four core partners who will undertake the bulk of the work and inquiry:
  - Children’s Hearing Scotland (CHS)
  - Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA)
  - The Promise Scotland
  - Scottish Government

Partners will decide who will represent their organization and ensure consistency of attendance.

3. HSWG will work with other organisations throughout its lifetime. Those include but are not limited to:
  - COSLA
  - SOLACE
  - Police Scotland
  - Social Work Scotland
  - Legal services providers
  - Advocacy providers
  - Organisations providing safeguarding work.

4. HSWG will ensure that the lived experience of the Children's Hearing System is at the centre of what a new legislative framework will look like.

### Responsibilities

5. The HSWG will prepare detailed proposals for the redesign of The Children's Hearing System. It will do so by:
  - a. Agreeing a vision for The Children's Hearings System;
  - b. Analysing the practice, legislative, budgetary and structural blocks to implementation of the vision;
  - c. Agreeing proposals for legislative change.
6. Core members will share data and insights with one another openly and in pursuit of the shared goal. When the HSWG identifies opportunities for change that do not require legislation and are aligned to #KeepThePromise, these will be progressed to ensure continuous improvement.
7. The Scottish Government will support CHS and SCRA Boards to fully participate in HSWG and create an authorising environment for change. The Scottish Government will work closely with HSWG to ensure work to prepare legislation is planned and sequenced in line with parliamentary cycles.

### Governance

8. Twice a year, the Chairs of the HSWG, CHS, SCRA and The Promise Scotland will meet to track progress.
9. CHS and SCRA boards will hold two exceptional meetings a year to track progress.
10. The Promise Scotland's Oversight Board will receive regular updates on progress of the HSWG.