

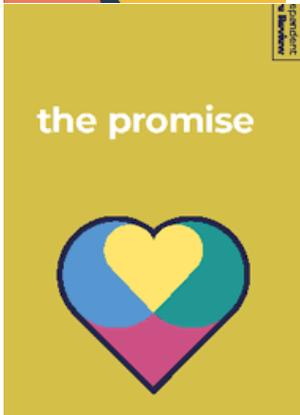
# The Promise Scotland Oversight Board

## Easy Read Summary

### What is this easy read about?



The Promise Oversight Board was set up after the Independent Care Review.



The Independent Care Review said that lots of things needed to happen to make things better.



The things that need to happen are called actions. It is the job of lots of people and different groups to make these actions happen.



The Promise Oversight Board's job is to say if these actions are happening.



It says what types of things are going well.



It says what types of things are not going well.



It says what sort of things need to happen faster.



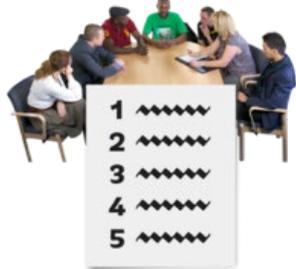
It produced a report saying what it thought.

This easy read is about lots of the important messages in that report.

# Message from the Chair



The Chair of The Promise Oversight Board is someone called Fiona Duncan.



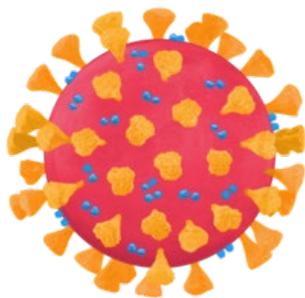
The Chair is someone who helps decide what the Oversight Board will talk about.



Fiona was also the Chair of the Independent Care Review.



Fiona thinks that change is not happening fast enough.



Fiona thinks there are reasons for this like the coronavirus pandemic.



She thinks it is important we do not blame anybody as this will not help things.



Fiona thinks it is important that we keep working together for all of the young people in Scotland.

# Monitoring Progress



Monitoring progress means finding out if the actions needed to make change are happening.



The oversight board knows it has to tell care experienced people in Scotland if things are changing for the better.



The oversight board think that Scotland can still keep the promise.



For this to happen they think that more change needs to happen faster.



The Oversight Board thinks lots of people in Scotland are working hard to keep change happen.



The Oversight Board thinks it is difficult to say if the lives of people are changing.



This is because Scotland does not do enough to find out enough about what their lives are really like.

# Accountability



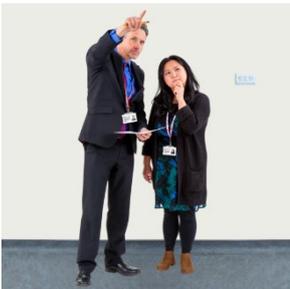
Accountability is about whether somebody or something is doing what they are supposed to do.



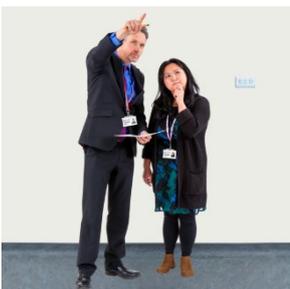
It is about whether they are doing something in the right way that they are supposed to do.



To measure we accountability we have things called inspection and regulation.



Inspection is a way of checking if things are being done in the way they are supposed to do.



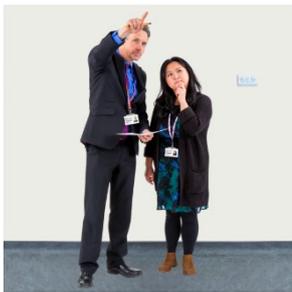
Regulation is about the right types of things that somebody or something should do. It is about what they do and how they do them.



One of the problems is that our inspection and regulation does not think about what children and families really want and need.



The oversight board wants inspectors and regulators to ask people what they are doing to keep the promise.



It is more about what professionals and people work in the system want and need.



Another problem is that our accountability is so messy and hard to understand.





If the data does not say what their lives are like we cannot know if their lives are getting better.



There are still some data and bits of information that can be considered.



Some very difficult data is about early death.



Data collected between 2012 and 2018 shows that between 61 children died while in the care of local authorities.



These deaths are a tragedy and are incredibly sad.



We do not know enough about or how they died.



This lack of information makes these terrible deaths even worse.



The Promise says that children should stay with their brothers and sisters whenever they can.



We still do not have national data on how many brothers and sisters stay together.



We need to be able to get data across Scotland not just in some local areas.



Some things are happening to make this better.



But far too many brothers and sisters are being split up and this needs to change.



Homelessness can mean lots of different things.



It can mean sleeping on the streets or people who have to stay with friends.



This is a problem in Scotland but at the moment the data does not tell us enough about how big the problem is.



Restraint can mean that people are physically held down. Data does not have to be collected in places like schools when restraint is used so we do not know how much it is happening.



The independent care review said 16 and 17 year olds should not go into places that are like prisons.



Data says that the numbers of children being placed in these types of places has gone down.



We do not understand why these numbers are going down yet and we need to know more.



The Oversight Board think much more needs to be done on data so we can know if Scotland is keeping the promise.

## Response to the Scottish Government



In March 2022 the Scottish Government published its implementation plan to keep the promise.



The Oversight Board thinks this plan has a lot about what the Scottish Government wants to try to do.



It does not have as much about what the Scottish Government definitely will do or when.



The Oversight Board still think the Scottish Government need to do more about making what they want to happen actually happen.

## Response to the National Care Service



The national care service is something the Scottish Government want to make happen.



The idea is that this will make social care and social work better for people that use these services.



We do not have enough information about the national care service to know if it will help keep the promise or not.



The oversight board is worried that it is going to make things confusing and slow down important things that should be happening.

## Response to COSLA



The Oversight Board said it was good that COSLA had produced a report on keeping the promise.



COSLA is an organisation that works with and helps speak for all of the local councils and authorities in Scotland.



The COSLA report had lots of examples of good things that are happening.

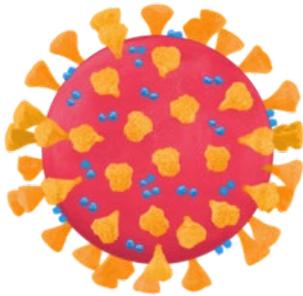


It is important that COSLA also has a plan of how it will make other good things happen.

# Conclusion



The Oversight Board do think that there are things to be happy and hopeful about.



The pandemic did make things very difficult for lots of people.

All the parts of the system that should work together to help children and families are not doing that.



We do not have the data and information about why the system is not working.



We still have time to keep the promise. But Scotland must change things much faster.