

Freedom of Information Request  
Received 21 November 2023, 15:31

**Item 3 A full minute/note from this section and any paper/speaking notes that the chair used for item 3**

No separate notes or minutes were taken during this item of business. Pursuant to Section 17 of FOISA, we do not hold information that relates to your request.

Paper 3 was tabled in relation to this item and follows:

## Paper 3: Report TWO – Reflecting the macro context, whilst starting from Report ONE...

### Macro Context

The Promise Oversight Board intends to report on Scotland's overall progress to #KeepThePromise by 2030, in line with the Independent Care Review's vision of a decade-long timeframe. This requires:

- ♥ A single shared vision for Scotland for 2030  
*that supports development of*
- ♥ A suite of time-bound 'destination statements' fully owned by all those responsible for change,  
*that will inform*
- ♥ A single, shared set of macro indicators - over a timeline to 2030 (with milestones along the way)  
*to enable*
- ♥ All responsible for change to embed 'the promise' into their existing strategies and plans and / or develop stand-alone work programmes aligned to reaching their destination / meet their responsibility  
*to*
- ♥ Make clear each and every individual organisation's (with statutory duties, all across Scotland's) role and responsibility to #KeepThePromise – sequenced across a timeline that will support collectively a promise kept  
*that collectively will deliver*
- ♥ One (implementation) plan for Scotland that makes clear who will do what, by when (so... that all destinations are reached / missions fulfilled etc. – and the macro indicators are met)  
*to support*
- ♥ Effective, sequenced delivery felt by children and families in their day-to-day lives  
*allowing*
- ♥ Progress to be monitored and evaluated and the identification of bridges and barriers and opportunities.

Critically all of this must meaningfully involve the care community.

Its conclusion will provide the Promise Oversight Board with a framework to assess Scotland's progress towards #KeepThePromise, and be confident in its assertions about what good looks like.

The mid-point review of Plan 21-24 carried out by The Promise Scotland provides a foundation for this work, as does the Scottish Government's work to apply logic models to Plan 21-24.

The introduction of the post of Strategic Advisor for Scotland provides an opportunity for this work to be led by an individual with no vested interest other than the promise being kept and allows for the Promise Scotland to secure resourcing. It allows for consideration about of the benefits / non-benefits of the next co-devised Plan being three-years, i.e. Plan 24-27, as per the Independent Care Review's conclusions - or stretch across six years to Plan 24-30 with 2027 as a milestone. Either way, the planning process will take time to complete, and not be ready for Report TWO.

This has been discussed with Scottish Government, alongside a governance mechanisms that involves the First Minister. The Promise Oversight Board will be given a fuller update at Meeting THIRTEEN.

## Reports

### Report ONE

Report ONE was published on 26 May 2022. It was 48 pages long, a mix of graphics and text, and ran to approximately 10,500 words.

### Purpose, Content, Tone, Audience

In advance of Report ONE, the Promise Oversight Board discussed and agreed:

- **Purpose**
  - To report on Scotland's progress, in line with [Plan 21-24](#)
  - To encourage, support and drive change, by keeping a focus on impact and lives.
  - To maintain collective momentum to #KeepThePromise.
- **Content**
  - Informed by evidence - and upfront where there are evidence gaps.
  - Tangible and real - where there is 'data' that must be reported on, it should be contextualised and explained.
  - Cognisant of the broader context.

- **Tone**
  - Inspiring Scotland to do better.
  - Hopeful and challenging.
  - Honest.
  - Not shaming organisations - but clear where facts, evidence and assessment show no progress.
- **Audience**
  - The audience as agreed at the Independent Care Review's conclusion in February 2020, for The Promise Oversight Board is **the Care Community** and **Scottish Parliament**. The Promise Oversight Board sought to produce a report that would be read beyond these audiences, and achieved this.

## Report TWO

Since Report ONE, the Promise Oversight Board have considered its impact and what this means for Report TWO, discussing:

- **Purpose**
  - The need to report on Scotland's progress to #KeepThePromise beyond 2024, through to 2030 - to increase momentum and maintain collective focus
  - To connect to Report ONE by reporting on Scotland's progress, in line with [Plan 21-24](#).
  - To continue to encourage, support and drive change, by keeping a focus on impact and lives.
- **Content**
  - Continue to be informed by data and evidence - and upfront where there are continued gaps and how long it will take for these to be shored up.
  - Continue to be tangible and real - where there is 'data' that must be reported on, it should be contextualised and explained.
  - Continue to cognisant of the broader context.
- **Tone**
  - At Meeting TWELVE it was agreed to consider the benefit of dialing up / dialing down the tone of - inspiring, hopeful and challenging, honest whilst not shaming organisations - but clear where facts, evidence and assessment show no progress.
- **Audience**
  - The Promise Oversight Board will continue to report to **the Care Community** and **Scottish Parliament**, whilst noting in Meeting TWELVE the benefits of widening the audience definition to include anyone who has an interest in keeping the promise to maximise and its impact.

All of this will be tested in Meeting THIRTEEN.

## Possible contents of Report TWO

- ♥ Report Summary
- ♥ Context
- ♥ Update on next Steps from Report ONE (p43)
- ♥ Update on themes from Report ONE
  - Early death
  - Brothers and sisters
  - Homelessness
  - Restraint
  - Youth justice
  - Right to education
- ♥ Emerging issues
- ♥ Next Steps
- ♥ Conclusion

## Proposed schedule

The following schedule is designed to support publication of Report TWO in late May, a year after Report ONE.




date	activity
Meeting THIRTEEN on <b>10 February</b>	The Promise Oversight Board settles on content and commissions drafting.
By Monday <b>13 March</b>	A first draft of Report TWO is sent to The Promise Oversight Board for comment.
By Friday <b>24 March</b>	The Promise Oversight Board sends their comments back.
By Monday <b>10 April</b>	The second draft of Report TWO is included in the paper pack for Meeting FOURTEEN.
Meeting FOURTEEN on <b>18 April</b>	The agenda for the Promise Oversight Board allows for in-depth discussions of the second draft of Report TWO, with members agreeing edits and agreeing sign-off process.
<b>April and May</b>	Report TWO is sent to be designed, proofed and prepared for sign-off.
<b>April and May</b>	The Promise Oversight Board agree spokespeople who are supported and trained.
Week of <b>22 May</b>	Report TWO is published.

A presentation given in the meeting also relates to this item and follows:

# Report TWO – Macro context

Item 4; paper 3

# a few slides to keep us focussed on today's

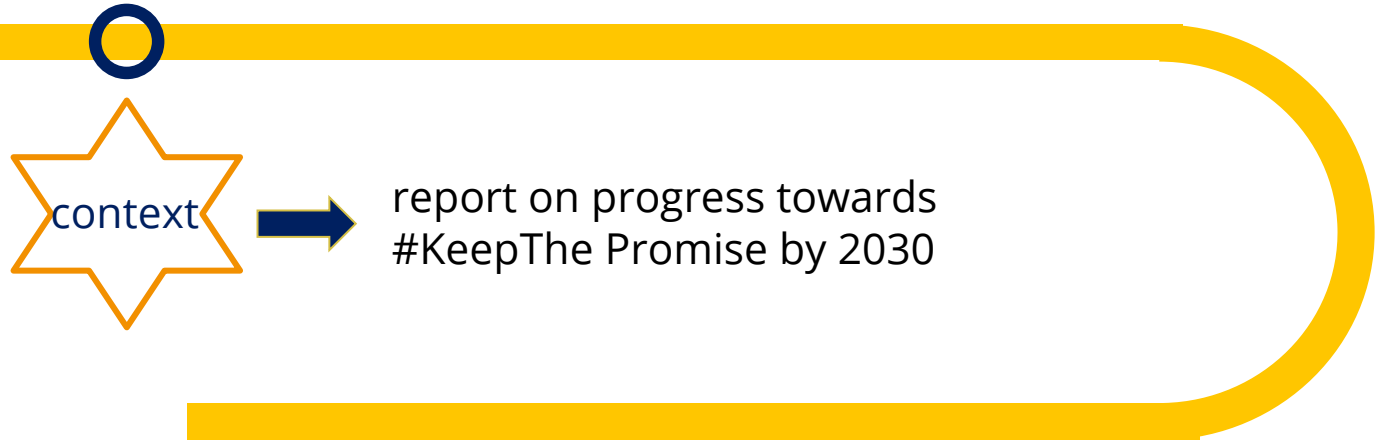
1135-1200	4	<b>Report TWO</b> Macro context	3		Fiona
BREAK					
1210-1300	5	<b>Report TWO</b> From context to issues	4		Fiona
LUNCH					
1345-1500	6	<b>Report TWO</b> Content - work in groups	-		Fiona
BREAK					



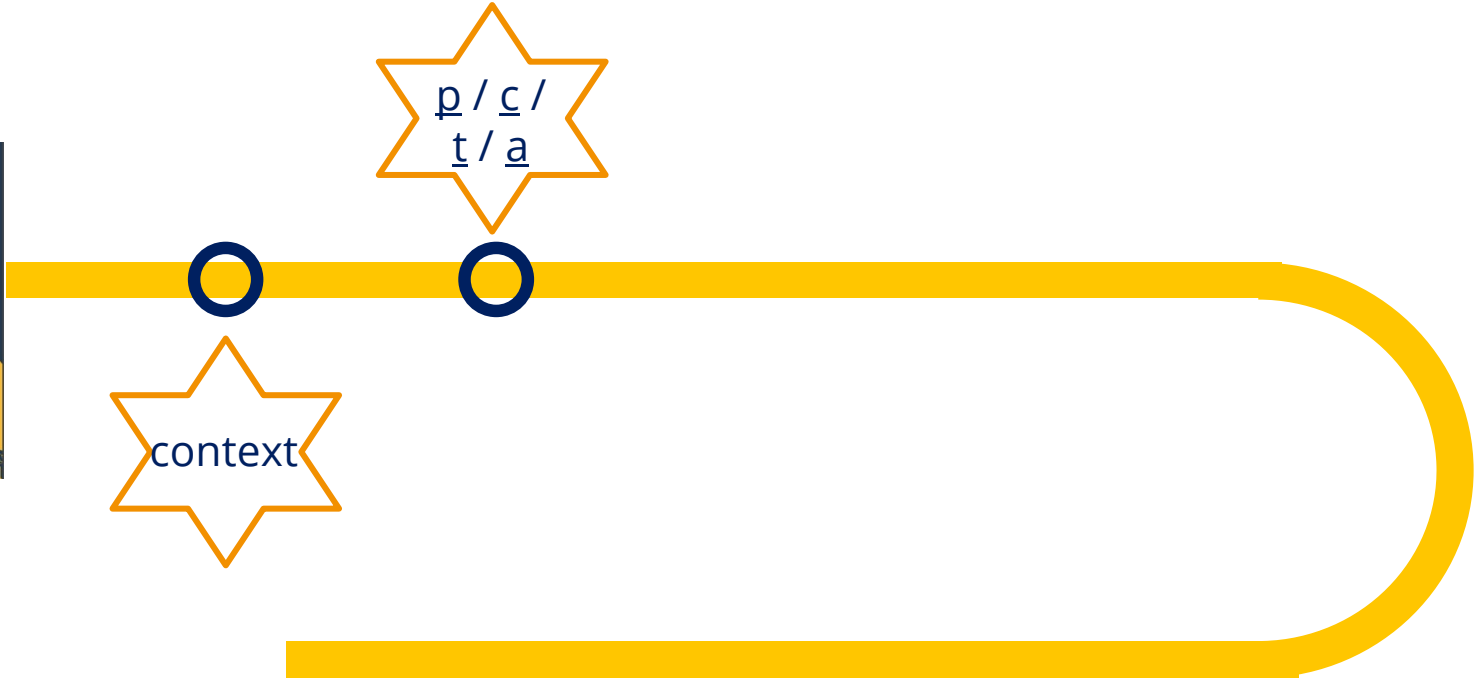
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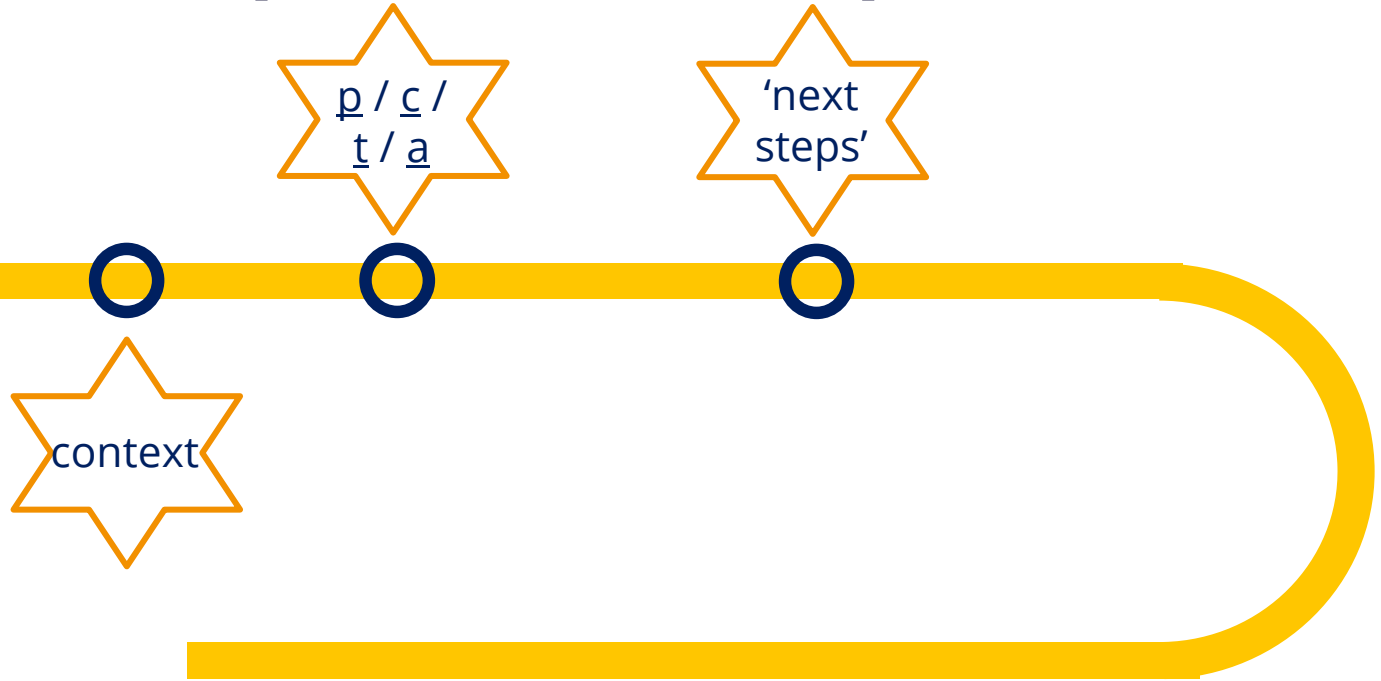
context

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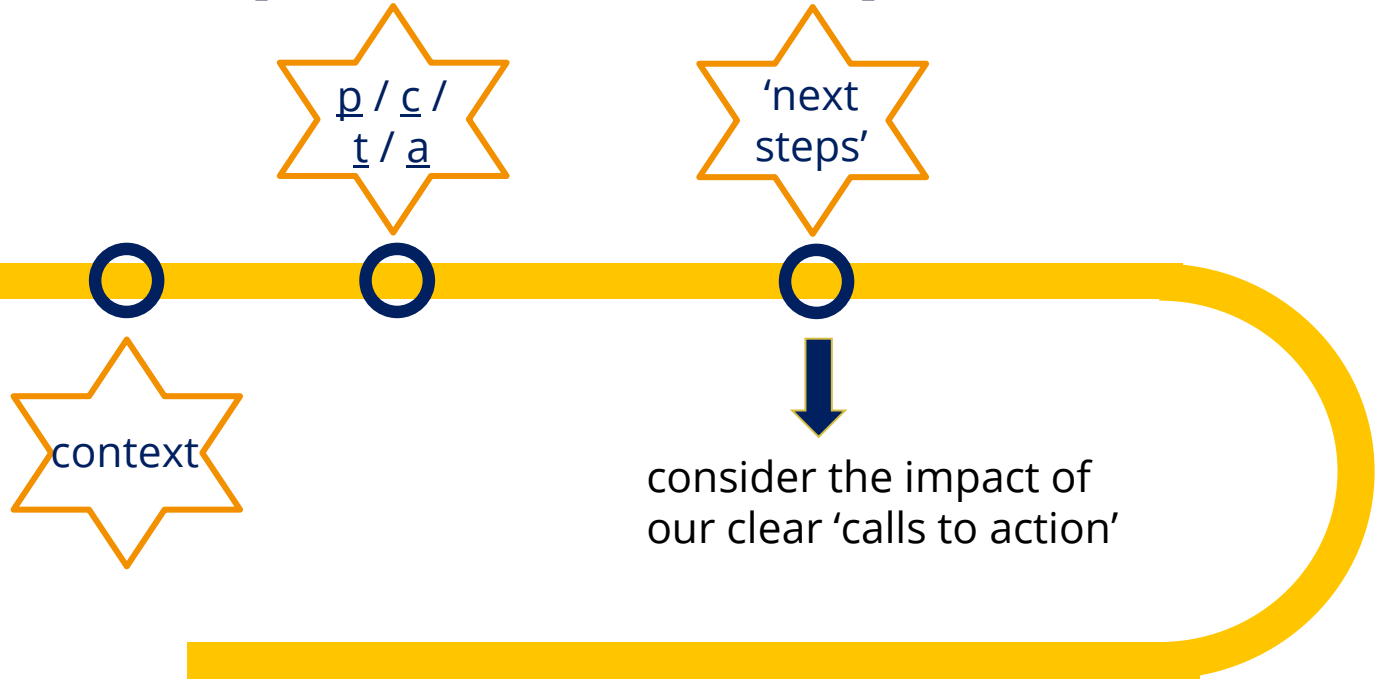


revisit purpose / content  
/ tone / audience

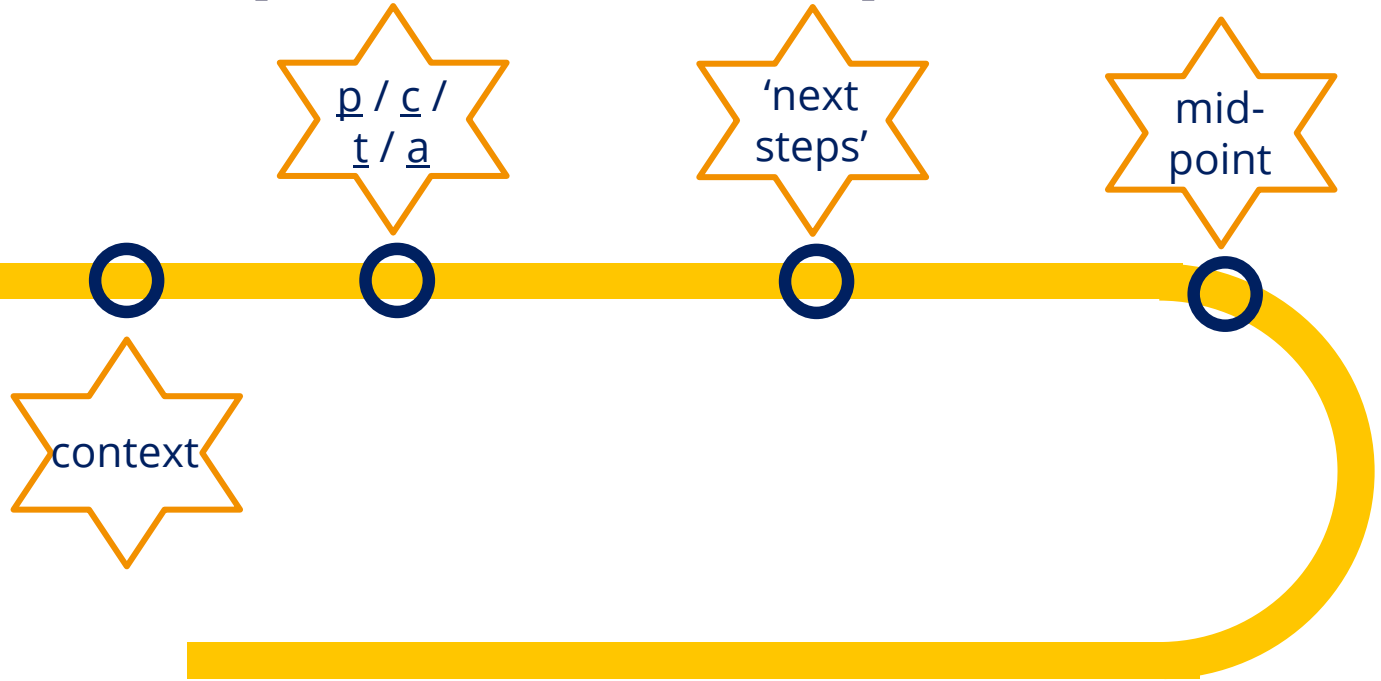
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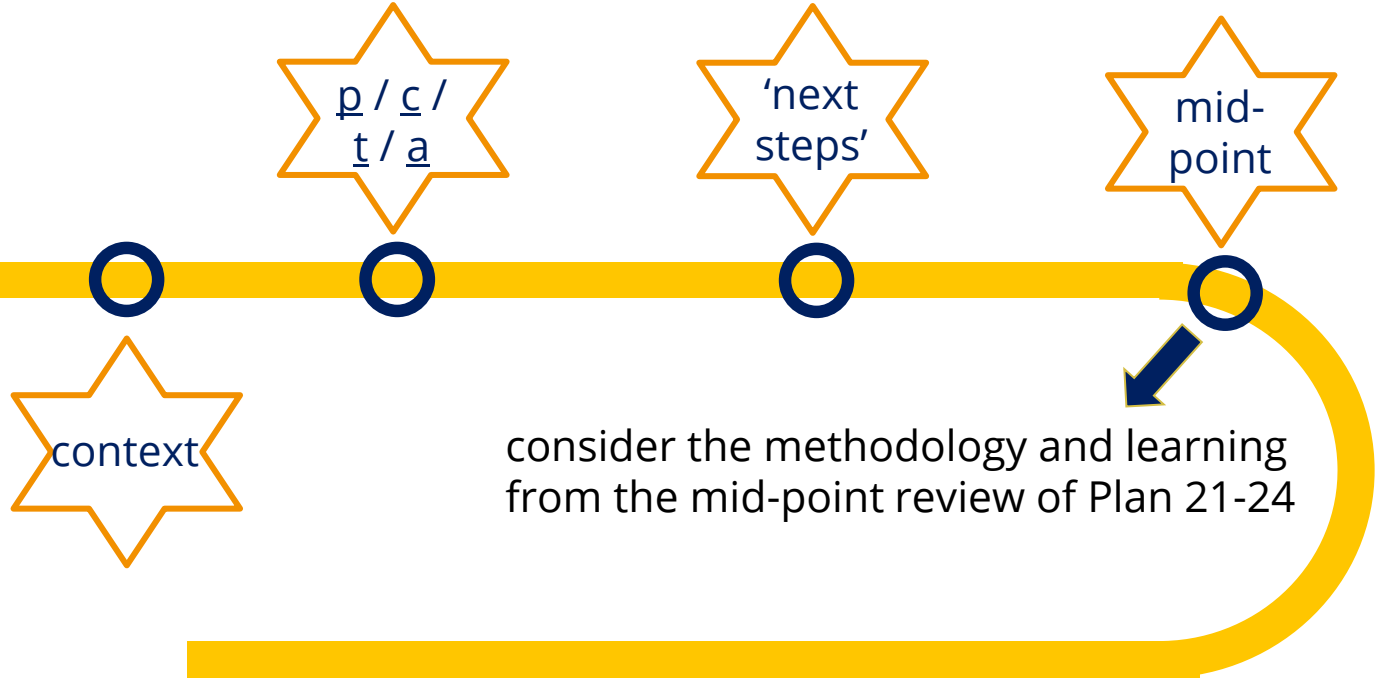
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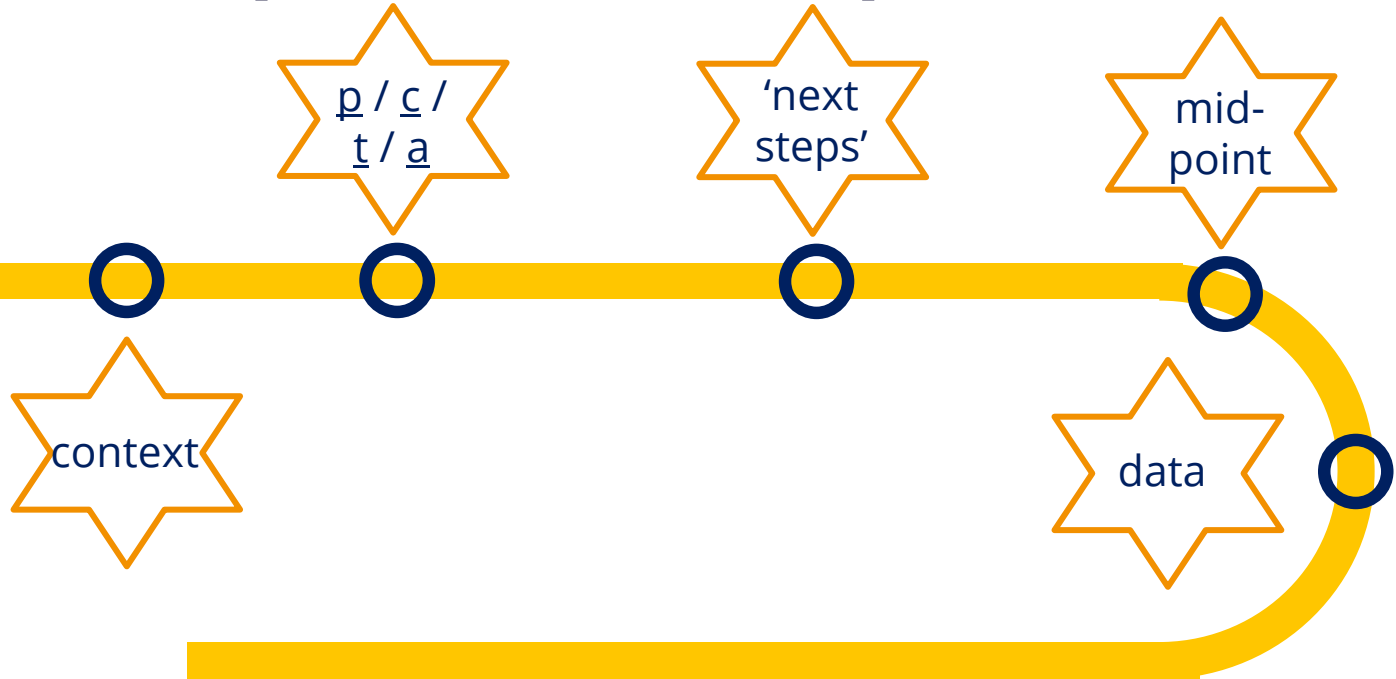


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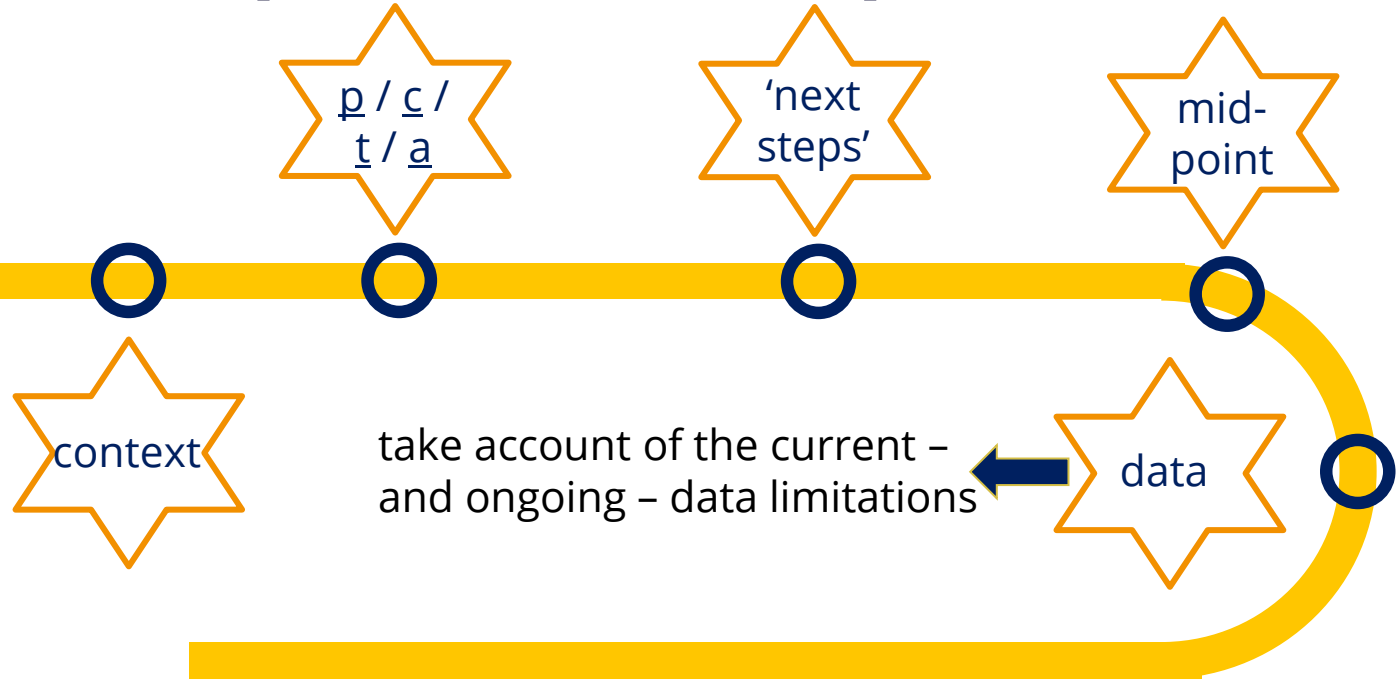




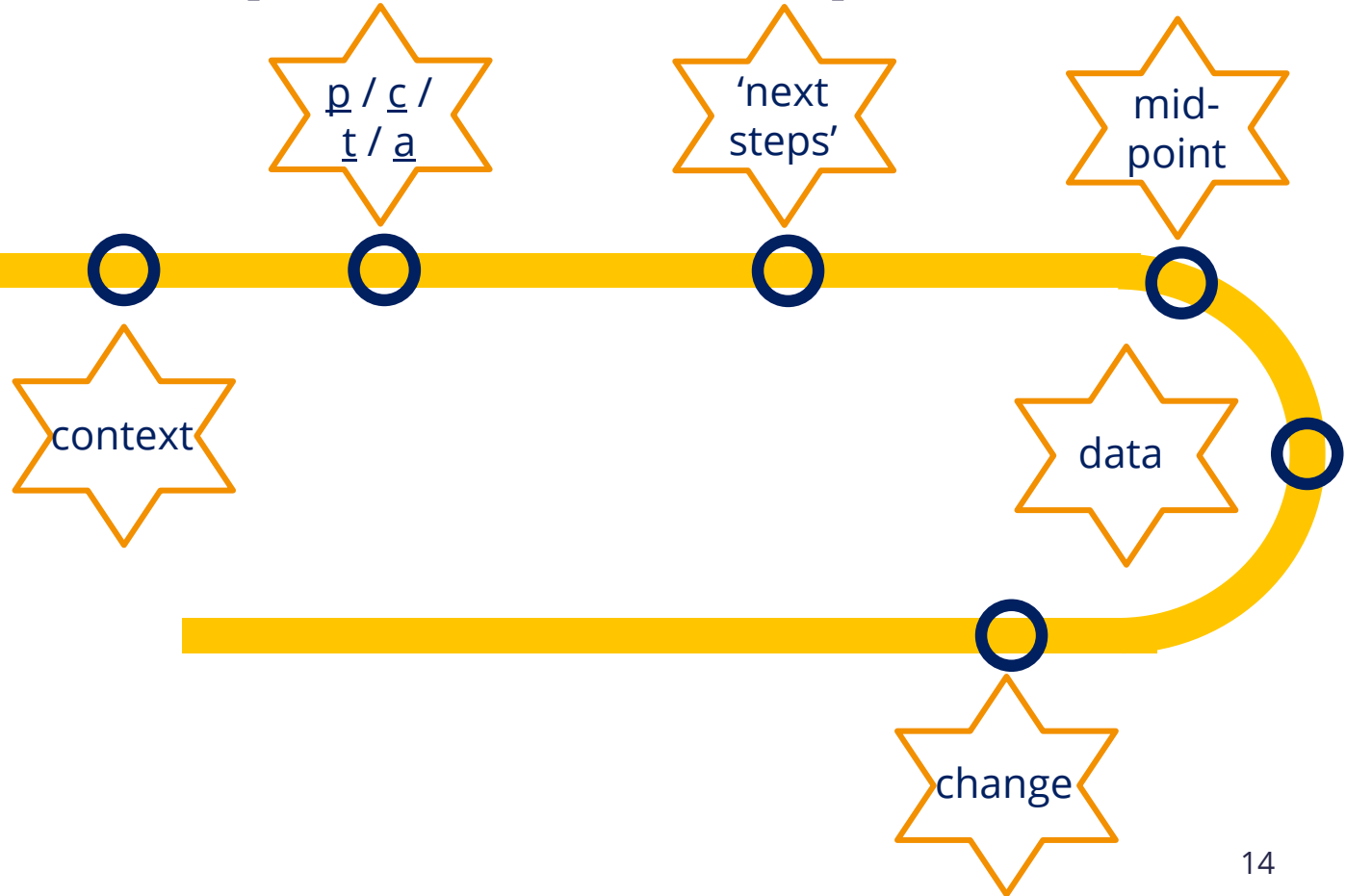
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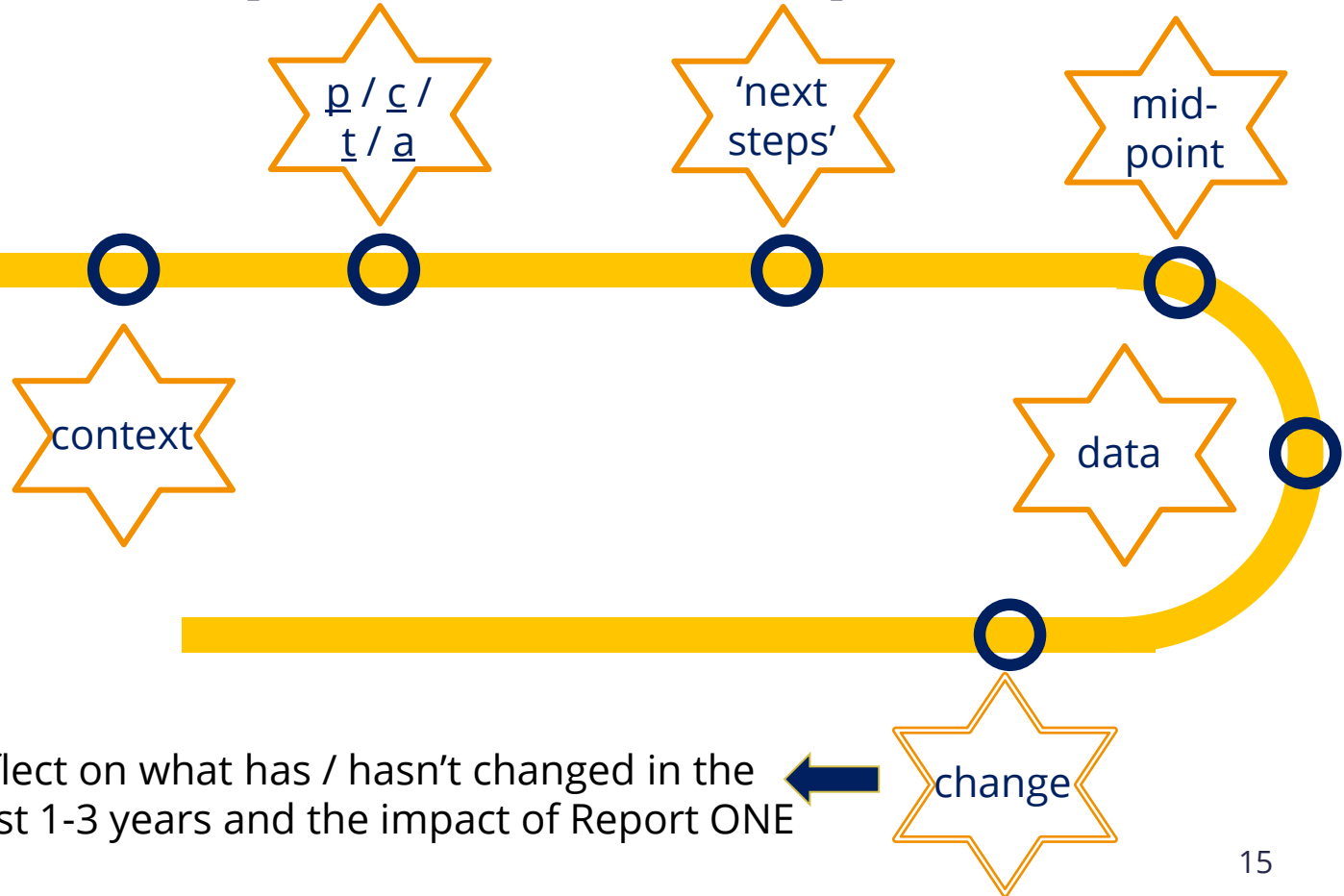
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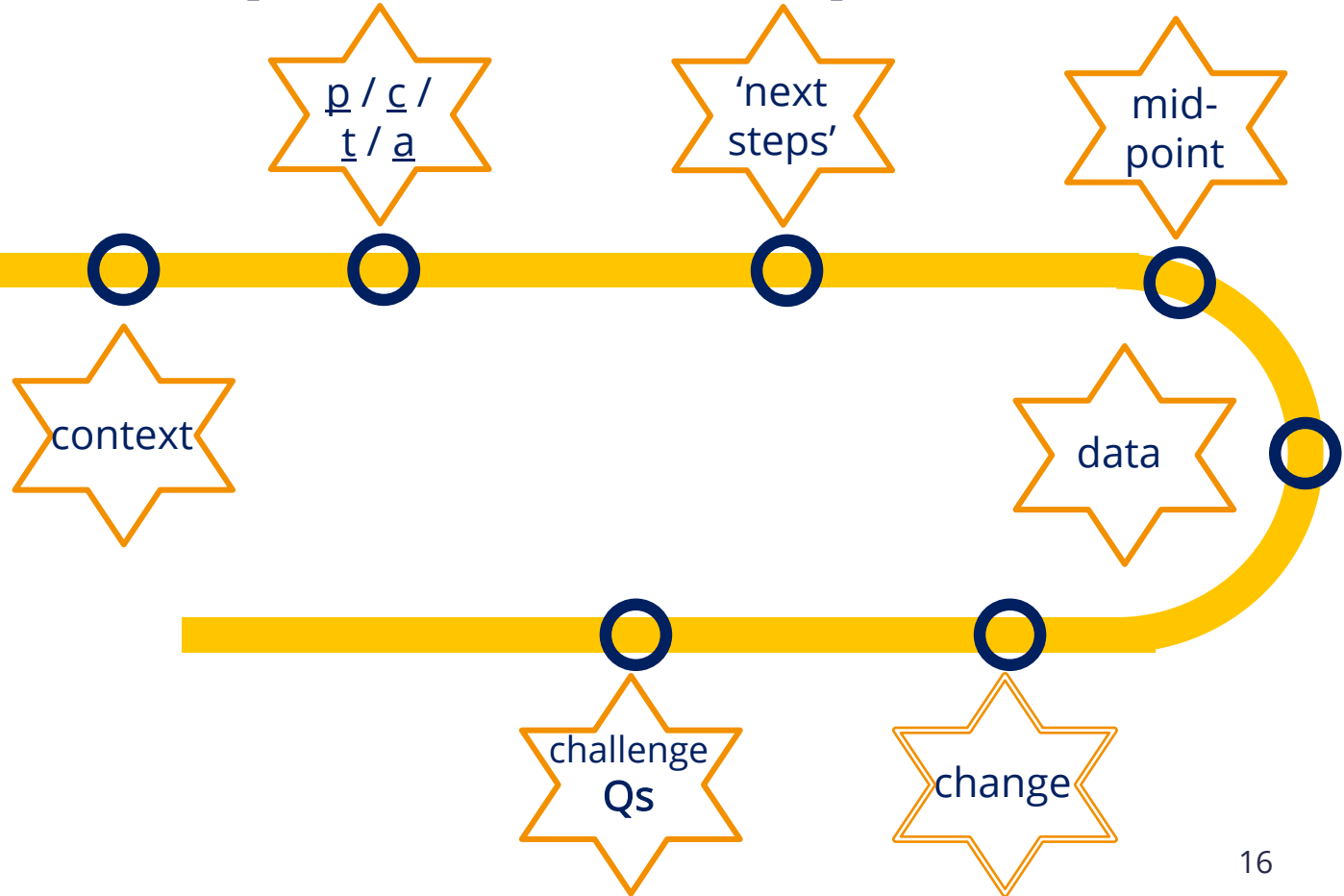
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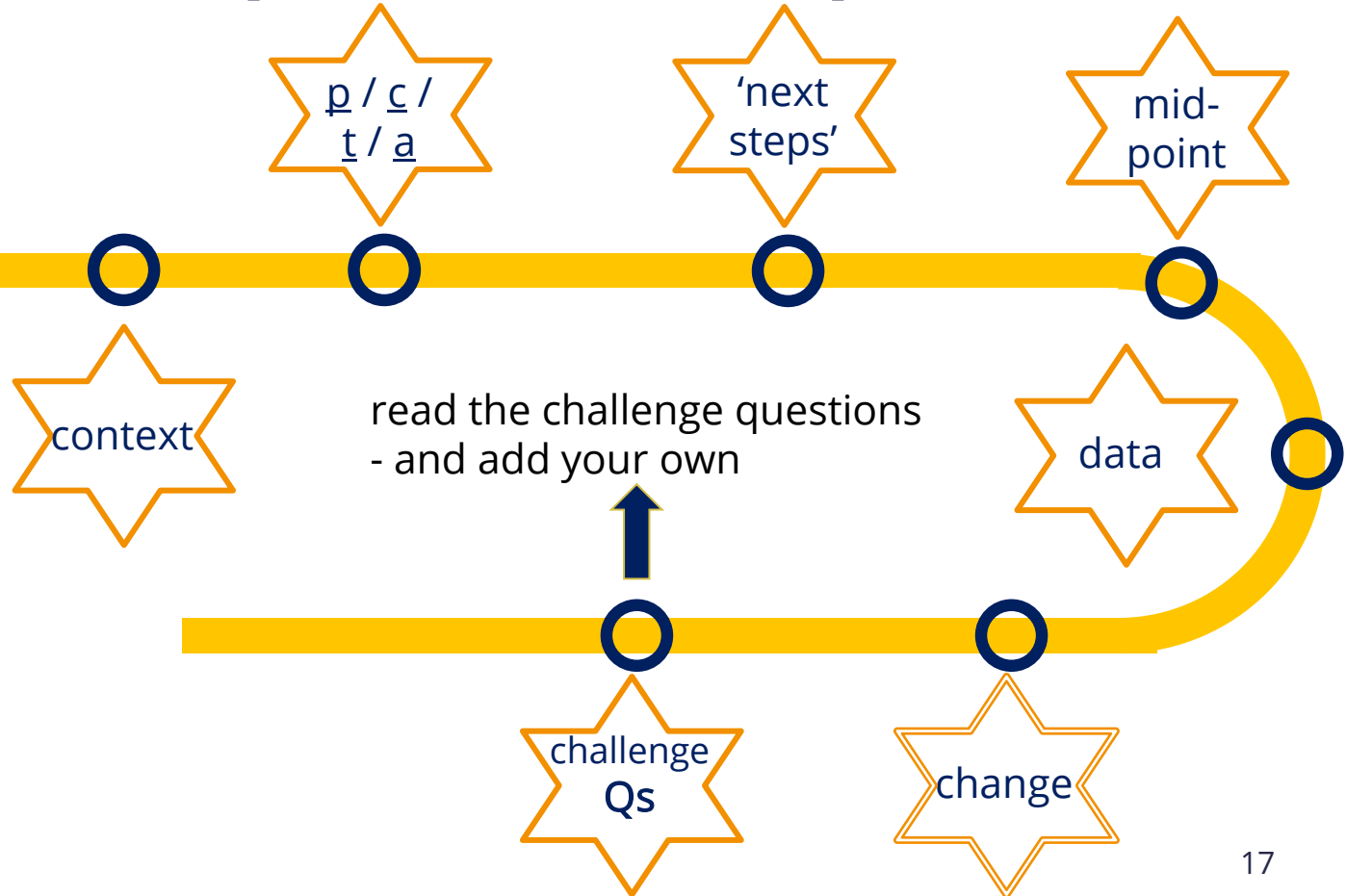
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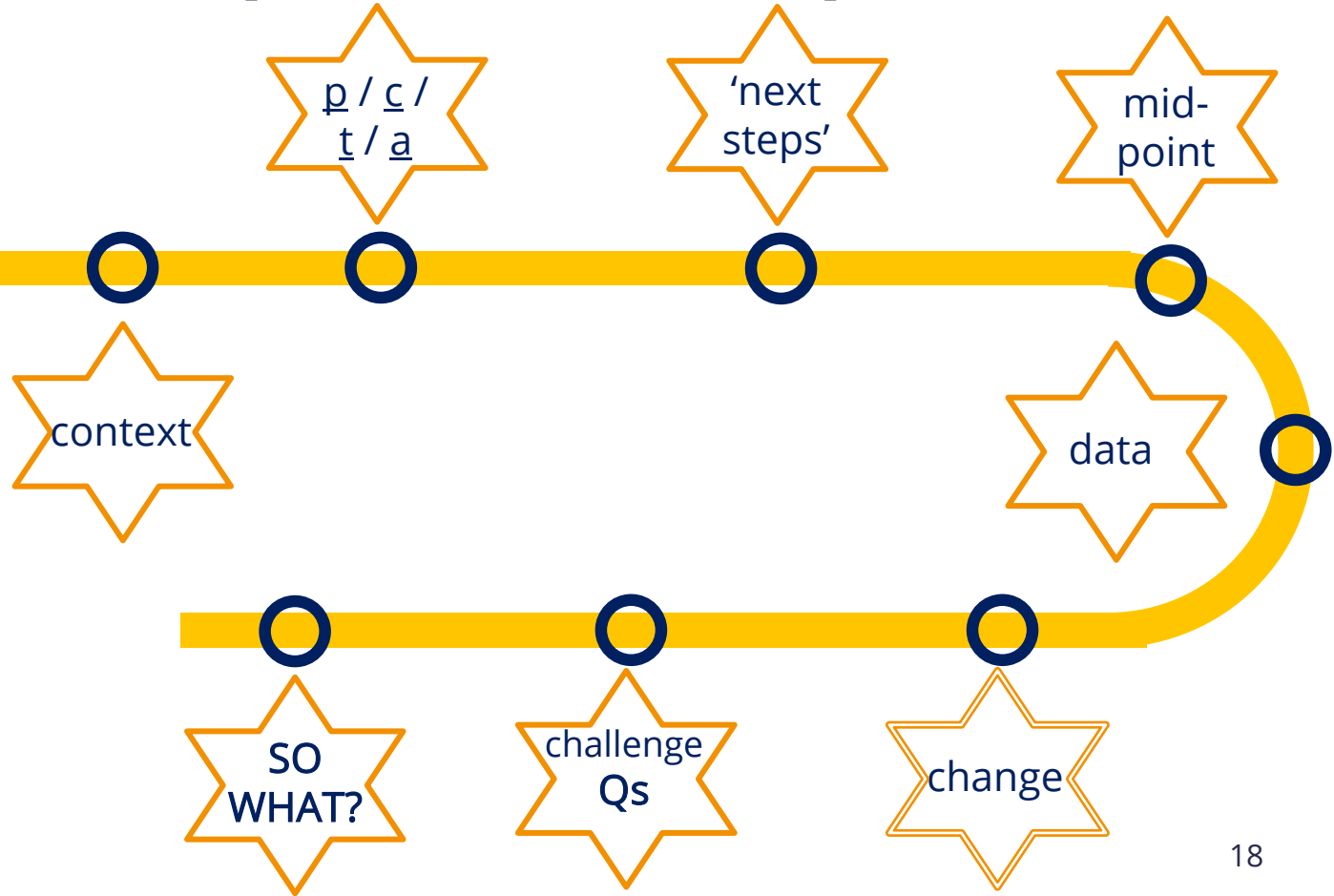
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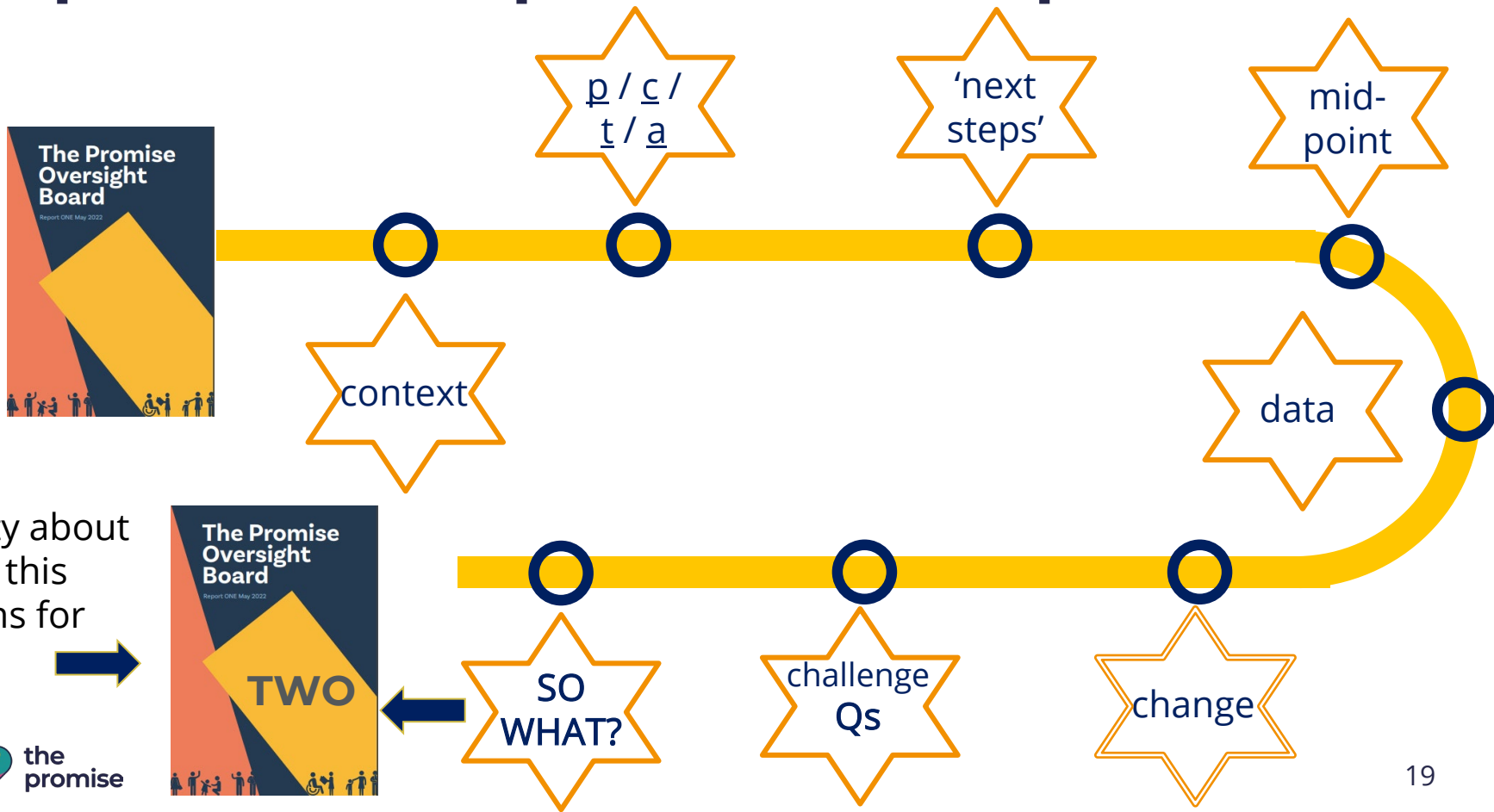
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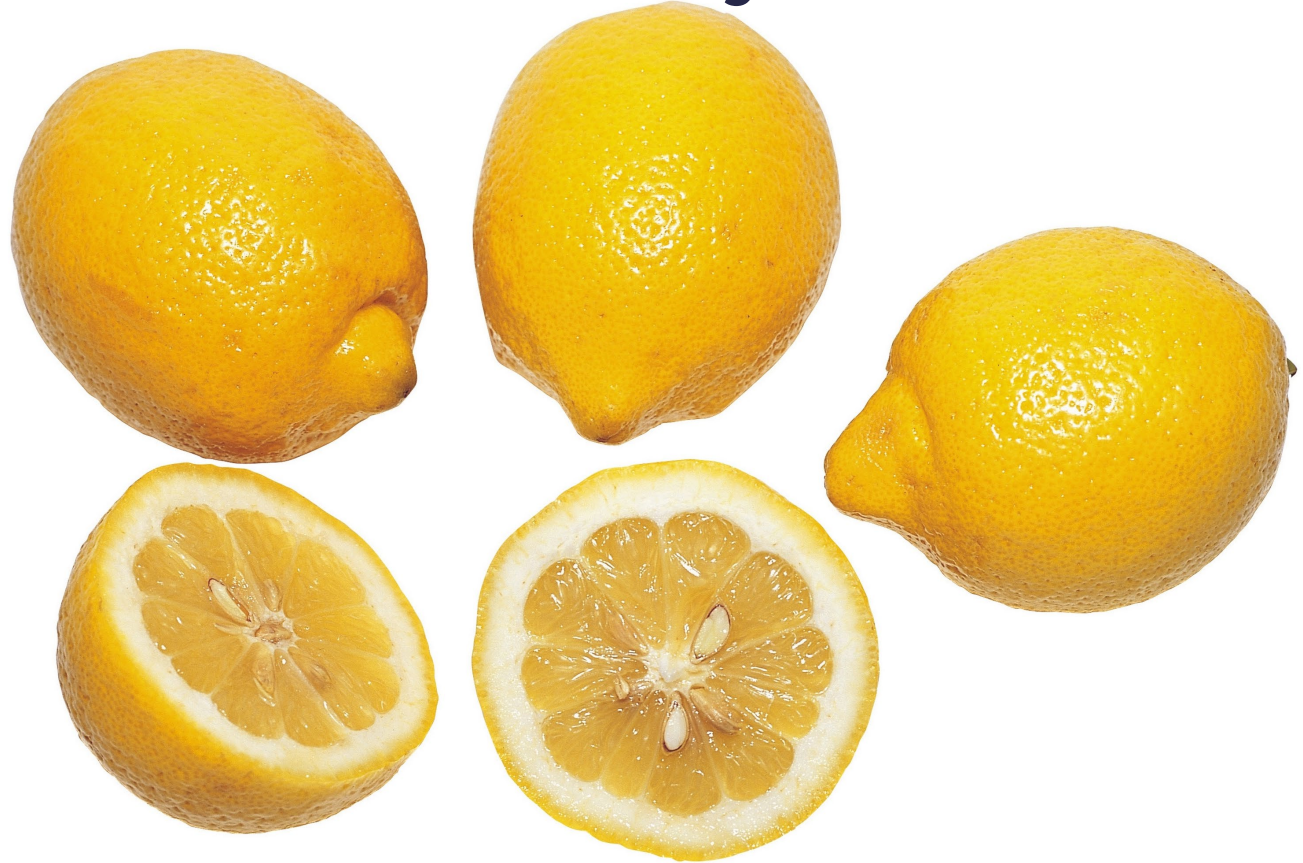
Clarity about what this means for





# What this means for today...

# What this means for today...



# Item 4 - Report TWO: **Macro context** (paper 3)

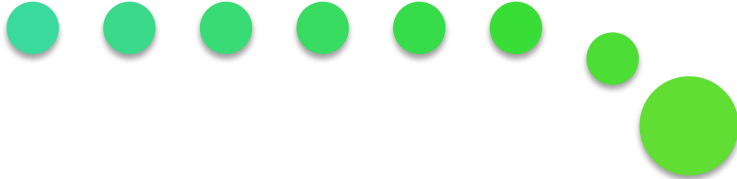
# Item 4 - Report TWO: Macro context (paper 3)

In 20 mins, before the hard work starts, let's do three things:

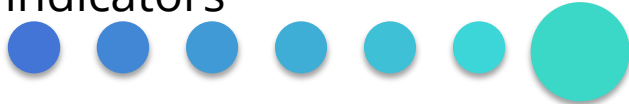
1. Get a verbal update on plans for a **BIG plan**...
2. Check purpose / content / tone / audience paper reflects what we said in previous meetings?  
(we will revisit it later today to get it into a fit shape to be used as a guide as Report TWO emerges)
3. Check the **Next Steps** paper against what we know  
(*content* of the paper - *progress* will be assessed later today)

# 1. Verbal update on a BIG Plan

Destination statements



Macro indicators



→ measures that matter →



→ governance that works →

Individual & collective plans



Timeline to 2030 – with milestones



Scotland's Plan:  
#KeepThePromise

any questions?



**Item 4 - A copy of any paper associated with this item and a copy of the full note/minute re this item**

No separate notes or other minutes were taken during this item of business. Pursuant to Section 17 of FOISA, we do not hold information that relates to your request.

Paper 4 was tabled in relation to this item and follows:

## Paper 4: Report TWO - From macro context to mid-point review of Plan 21-24

### Mid-point review of Plan 21-24

The Promise Scotland team is carrying out a mid-point review of work done, currently underway and in plan against Plan 21-24. This has involved desktop analysis of information in the public domain published between May 2022 (the publication of Report ONE) and 8 December 2022 inclusive, plus incorporation of what the team has learned through active engagement with all 32 local authorities and the national organisations identified in Plan 21-24 as having responsibility to change.

A single 'Information Source' report has been curated under the themes identified in Plan 21-24. It seeks to provide intelligence to The Promise Oversight Board to support the development of content for Report TWO. The 'Information Source' with appendices will be printed out and available to The Promise Oversight Board for use in Meeting THIRTEEN. At a later stage, the Promise Scotland Chair and Chief Executive will decide whether to use this to produce and publish a mid-point review.

Currently, the Promise Scotland team is working through the 'Information Source' to highlight issues that relate directly to Report ONE; progress towards Plan 21-24; towards Scotland's vision that the promise will be kept by 2030.

By Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, The Promise Oversight Board will be sent a SharePoint link to a summary paper which will provide more detail that outlined below. Reviewing this in advance of Meeting THIRTEEN is entirely optional as the agenda will be structured to allow for greater consideration to support The Promise Oversight Board to identify where it may require greater analysis.

There continue to be caveats with the available date: the text agreed by The Promise Oversight Board for the summary section of Report ONE was →

There are many strands of work actively progressing the data gaps highlighted in 'the promise' to ensure that the voices of children, young people and families are at the heart of work. Although underway, these strands of work will not resolve Scotland's data challenges immediately.

### Data

As anticipated, we found the data available to be insufficient for understanding children's lives, and incomplete in providing information for us to properly do our job. The way that data is predominantly used by the 'care system' has evolved to meet the needs of the 'system', rather than being founded on what matters to children, families, and care experienced adults. Too often, it seems that Scotland only measures things which are easily quantifiable, rather than things that matter, such as a child's personal development as they grow older. Too often, statistics are reported so that progress can be demonstrated – rather than using information to make sure change is truly felt in people's lives (p24).



There continue to be gaps in the data, meaning Scotland still cannot understand the complete picture that is required to #KeepThePromise. Realistically, it will be years before The Promise Oversight Board can access reliable, real-time data that reflects what matters to children and families. That said, The Promise Oversight Board's commitment to highlight the urgent need for this and continue to apply pressure to the 'system' is generating progress.

## Data Map

Report ONE referenced the work of The Promise Scotland to develop a data map. This is one of the many data initiatives currently underway that aim to improve Scotland's public sector data and its infrastructure.

The Promise Scotland is building a data map from the perspective of children and families by exploring the datasets Scotland currently has and linking them to the experiences and outcomes outlined in the [Independent Care Review's composite stories](#).

Mapping in this way means that data, and the gaps within it, can be properly seen from the perspective of children and their families. It means the work to use that data and fill the gaps is able to be done from the same perspective, pushing us closer to being able to measure what matters.

The map will be published by The Promise Scotland in summer 2022. It will be linked to the evolving Change Programme to bring together the work underway across Scotland and the data that currently exists to monitor it. Keeping it up to date and useable will require all those involved in the collection of information about children and their families to support it.

This recognises that more work is required to identify and develop meaningful ways to understand the experiences of children, young people and families, to ensure that lived experience and voice are a core influence on decision-making, strategy, funding, planning and practice.

The Promise Data Map is an ongoing project that aims to support this crucial area of change. It will facilitate a cohesive central picture of all data on the processes and systems that directly and indirectly impact on children and their families.

Crucially, it will be a tool and a vehicle for Scotland to understand the extent to which existing data can help to understand and deliver on what the Care Review heard matters to children and families, where there are gaps, and what new ways of working may be required to fill them.

The Promise Oversight Board asked for an optional deep dive session on this and members are encouraged to listen to a [podcast](#) which provides an overview the collate any questions for the Promise Scotland team.

## Content of the Information Source

In terms of the 'Information Source', the continued challenges with data will create caveats about levels of confidence in reporting. It includes an overview of what is known regarding progress towards five of the six themes highlighted in [Report ONE](#).

Based on what has been learned progress is coded:

- **Red** – Plan 21-24 will not be kept.
- **Amber** – Plan 21-24 progress is in jeopardy.
- **Green** – Plan 21-24 is likely to be kept.
- **Blue** – Awaiting more information.

## Progress

### Early Death

- There continues to be no update on the report published by the Care Inspectorate published in 2020.
- There is no analysis or understanding of the links between the experience of care and suicide.
- There continues to be not enough done to understand the lives and circumstances of the lives of young people who died so tragically.
- It is concerning that the suicide strategy does not address these issues.

### Brothers and sisters

- Despite legislation and clear policy intent and guidance, progress remains insufficient.
- The Staying Together and Connected group co-chaired by Scottish Government and CELCIS are providing draft recommendations around next steps to support implementation in March 2023.
- This is following **legislation enacted in 2021**.
- Care experienced children, young people and families continue to experience the separation of brothers and sisters.
- Data collection is not routinized and does not adequately reflect experiences of children, young people and families.

### Homelessness

- The latest update from Scottish Government on their [Ending Homelessness Strategy](#) says that the implementation of “the prevention pathways for care leavers, young people and veterans has been temporarily paused.”
- This pause is reflective of Scottish Government capacity: Scotland’s care experienced young people continue to experience the impact of inadequate housing pathways.
- Most recent data (while not directly referencing care experience) shows 30% of the homeless households included children. 9,130 children were in temporary accommodation at the time of counting.

### Physical restraint

- Restrictive practice and restraint continue to be experienced by children and young people.
- Draft guidance on physical intervention in schools was consulted on in **2022**, and Scottish Government due to respond in **2023**. timescales for reviewing the implementation of the forthcoming guidance will impede upon Scotland’s stated ambition to be confident of the delivery of what is required by Plan 21-24.
- Work to change culture and practice across all setting has begun, but is inconsistent.

### Youth Justice

- The Children’s Care and Justice Bill was introduced to the Parliament on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022. This Bill will outlaw the placement of children in Young Offenders Institutes.
- Some concerns about the funding associated with the inclusion of 16- and 17-year-olds in the Hearing System and the support that will need to be provided through properly resourced Community Supervision Orders.
- Significant work underway across training; engagement; voice; policy; and practice.

### Education

- Scotland has recognised that reform of education is required.
- Questions remain as to what the outcomes of reform processes will meaningfully mean to children, young people, and families.
- The use of restraint in educational settings continues: draft guidance consultation awaits response from Scottish Government.
- Despite downturns in levels of exclusion, there remain young people on highly restricted timetables.

It also covers what is known about progress towards all priority areas of [Plan 21-24](#).

### Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

- There continues to be **no clarity** around the route map to achieve the ambition that “..by 2030 at least 5% of all community-based health and social care spend will be on preventative whole family support measures”.
- Although many local authorities will have excellent examples of progressive and rights- based whole family support services that meet the needs of children and families in their communities there remains an **inconsistency in terms of access to support** across the country.
- It is also clear that the number of inter-linked work programmes relating to poverty, mental health, drugs deaths, violence against women and girls, education, family support and other areas are often operating in parallel to each other—with similar policies and initiatives intended to help the same families.

### Poverty

- Scotland’s families continue to experience significant increases in the costs associated with housing and fuel: increases that disproportionately impact the most vulnerable households.
- Mitigating actions from Scottish Government do not off-set the impact of downturns and UK-wide benefit policies.
- In relation to both experience and data, it is indicated that the voice of children and families is not always meaningfully reflected, and that benchmarking data is not adequately embedded to track Scotland’s progress.

The ‘Information Source’ seeks to identify areas where work is progressing that could generate positive shifts. This includes common threads that have emerged around key barriers and efforts being made to overcome these:

- **Partnership Working**
  - An increasing recognition of the siloes within and across organisations that are getting in the way of change, and the need to challenges these to break them down.
  - There continues to be a lot of commitment within individual organisations but not yet sufficient collaboration.
  - There is a need to establishing a common understanding that all agencies and sectors have a role to play to #KeepThePromise.
- **Financial Resource**
  - There is a concern that the current funding landscape is not aligned with the breadth of work to #KeepThePromise. Local areas are experiencing financial pressure, and concerns this is not likely to be alleviated. This provides opportunities to quantify how much more investment is needed, and push Scottish Government to mobilise its commitment to the £500 million Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.
  - Challenges with finances is highlighting concerns about onerous reporting and surfacing duplication of effort.

- **Staffing**
  - Challenges recruiting and retaining staff, with delays to recruitment timelines.
  - Workforce is seeking more 'what to' and 'how to' change to enable them to play their part.
  - The workforce continues to feel fatigue post-pandemic, citing a lack of resource impacting on its ability to deliver change and exhausted goodwill which has a cultural impact.
- **Language**
  - Continues to be heavily reliant on culture.
- **Voice**
  - Challenge in being confident about 'how to' meaningfully incorporate 'voice' in the change.
- **Impact and evidence**
  - A desire to achieve a common understanding of evidencing change.

### What The Promise Oversight Board may wish to consider

The Promise Oversight Board may wish to consider what conclusions it draws; potential actions it identifies; and recommendations it may wish to make when considering the totality of information. Colleagues may, for instance, wish to consider any links between progress made and barriers identified; and recommendations to drive solutions.

An additional paper was also produced for this item and follows:



## Meeting THIRTEEN: Additional Optional Reading

### Report ONE: Next Steps

[Report ONE](#) Next Steps section (p41) was clear about seven urgent changes necessary to maintain pace and quality. At Meeting THIRTEEN, The Promise Oversight Board will start to establish what to include in Report TWO about progress against these.

The following information comes from the mid-point review of Plan 21-24 carried out by The Promise Scotland team and therefore based on fact and anecdotal evidence:

#### **What Report ONE said: credible plans**

Organisations with responsibility for delivering progress on the promise must recognise their responsibilities and have **credible plans** in place to deliver them.

#### **What was established via the Plan 21-24 mid-point review:**

The Scottish Government, all 32 local authorities and each national agency referenced in Plan 21-24 have either stand-alone plans to #KeepThePromise or it is embedded in Corporate Plans such as Children's Services Plans.

The Promise Oversight Board commented on the Scottish Government [Keeping The Promise Implementation Plan](#) (published on 30 March 2022) in Report ONE.

There continue to be inconsistencies in ambition and pace across the 32 local authorities with some organisations falling short on delivery.

The output from [Hearings System Work Group](#), expected later in the spring, will influence the future work programmes of both Children's Hearings Scotland and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration.

Many organisations in the statutory sector (like Public Health Scotland) and the third sector have embedded actions to #KeepThePromise in their plans, with some charities realigning their entire work towards it.

Despite sustained commitment within individual organisations, there continues to be inadequate cross-sector, multi-agency collaboration, with very few notable exceptions.

As part of the engagement work to carry out the mid-point assessment, The Promise Scotland is seeking assurances that the changes being made are being felt in the day-to-day lives of children and families. This ongoing dialogue will aim to establish whether their work to embed the 'VOICE' foundation from the promise report is taking place and to build a rounded understanding of how children and families are experiencing the change.

♥ **What Report ONE said: data**

**Data gaps** must be closed in relation to these key areas identified in Plan 21-24 to allow us to collect and analyse the information we need on: - Homelessness - Early death - Brothers & sisters - Restraint - Youth justice - Right to education

♥ **What was established via the Plan 21-24 mid-point review:**

Despite a number of initiatives that will prove immensely helpful in shoring up the data gaps in the years to come, currently they continue. The mid-point review has identified these following in relation to data gaps (not what can be established about progress towards Plan 21-24). The red-amber-green status reflects the extent to which available data sets can help assess progress.

- **Homelessness** – data currently held does not include all care-experienced young people, but only those who are labelled a ‘looked after child’ on/after their 16th birthday or who are a ‘care leaver’.
- **Early death** – no data since 2020 (with no plans on behalf of the Care Inspectorate to repeat the data gathering exercise).
- **Brothers & sisters** – work is underway to understand and improve qualitative and quantitative data.
- **Restraint** – work has begun to increase and improve recording via the Care Inspectorate; there remain concerns that recording of this practice in educational settings has not yet been agreed. Whilst progress is being made, there continues to be a data gap around understanding the extent to which Scotland’s children and young people experience restraint.
- **Youth Justice** – there is confidence in available data sets but these do not reflect experiential data.
- **Right to education** – there are concerns that despite reported decreases in the levels of exclusion Scotland’s children and young people, they remain high. In addition there are concerns that decreases in exclusions mask informal exclusion from education through significant timetable reductions.

♥ **What Report ONE said: accountability**

There is an urgent need to **declutter the accountability landscape** and there must be greater respect in the relationships between different parts of the ‘care system’. A collaborative approach is needed, with peer accountability and better communication.

♥ **What was established via the Plan 21-24 mid-point review:**

The Scottish Government’s Keeping The Promise Implementation Plan contained the following commitment: We will collaborate with The Promise Scotland to scope a new, holistic framework for governance and accountability. This work will report by June 2024 and any recommendations requiring legislative underpinning will be considered for inclusion in The Promise Bill.



On 23 September 2022, it was [announced](#) that Dame Sue Bruce would conduct an independent review of the way social care is regulated, as per the findings of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care.

An output will be 'how regulation and inspection of social care and related services can deliver improved outcomes for people within a regulatory framework that meets the needs of the planned National Care Service'.

As there continues to be uncertainty about whether children and families will be included in the scope of the National Care Service, Dame Sue is taking account of the work carried out to date by The Promise Scotland team on governance.

### **What Report ONE said: Scottish Government**

The **Scottish Government must focus** more on its own areas of responsibility, particularly policy and funding, rather than seeking to manage delivery where that is the role of other organisations.

### **What was established via the Plan 21-24 mid-point review:**

In terms of policy, the Scottish Government has not demonstrated that the necessary work has been done to embed the commitment to #KeepThePromise.

This is most acutely illustrated by the absence of any recognition that the care community is over-represented in the homeless population in the government's [Ending Homeless Together](#) report to Scottish Parliament in October 2022. As a minimum, care leavers should be a policy priority. The same is true [for Suicide Prevention Strategy](#).

The engagement work carried out to inform the mid-point review of Plan 21-24 highlighted that the fragmented funding landscape and continued absence of clarity about what the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund will do, and an associated long-term investment strategy are major barriers to both planning for change and delivering change across the entirety of Scotland's 'care system'.

The Hunter Foundation created an initiative with two local authorities to track all monies coming in via Scottish Government policy teams aligned to work to #KeepThePromise. An update will be given to The Promise Oversight Board when available.

### **What Report ONE said: workforce capacity**

The **capacity of the 'care sector' workforce must be increased**, with employees given greater support so that they, in turn, can support children and families.

### **What was established via the Plan 21-24 mid-point review:**

The data sources make clear that there is a workforce crisis – organisations are struggling to recruit and retain staff in care and in social work. Despite this, the engagement work identified pockets where individuals and teams are being supported to develop relationships.

Although funding is a significant barrier to resourcing, the continued absence of a workforce plan coupled with bureaucracy and culture contribute to the ‘capacity’ challenges.

 **What Report ONE said: young people in Polmont**

There must be a **clear timeframe for the removal of 16 and 17-year-olds from Polmont** Young Offenders Institute.

 **What was established via the Plan 21-24 mid-point review:**

At present the number of children in YOI provision is two, but given age out, and changing remand and sentencing, the numbers vary regularly.

 **What Report ONE said: Scottish Government and COSLA**

The **Scottish Government and COSLA** must adopt a partnership approach to address whether Scotland has the right provisions in place to meet the ambition to keep brothers and sisters together

 **What was established via the Plan 21-24 mid-point review:**

Both parties report continued areas of disagreement (such as the amount required to deliver on allowances for kinship and fostering) resulting in the demise of the relationship, impacting on partnership working.

## Summary Paper: Information Source

The full ‘Information Source’ and references will be available at Meeting THIRTEEN with the following tables intended to provide members of The Promise Oversight Board with updates on the issues highlighted in Report ONE. Detailed below is a high-level overview of what was gleaned from midpoint review of the Plan 21-24.

 **Early Death**

**Report ONE**

By the time of our next report, we expect that this work will have begun to enhance the data landscape and that identified learning will be being actively used to prevent any child from dying prematurely.

<b>Has the change been made?</b>	No.
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The <a href="#">Care Inspectorate</a> require notification of a death of a 'looked after' child and a young person receiving aftercare and/or continuing care. There has been no further report since the Care Inspectorate published <a href="#">A Report on the Deaths of Looked After Children in Scotland 2012-2018</a> in January 2020.</p> <p>There remains no way of understanding how many individuals with experience of care die prematurely in Scotland, or what they die of. There continues to be not enough done to understand the lives and circumstances of young people who died prematurely.</p>
<b>Detailed analysis</b>	<p>As above, it is concerning that care experience is absent from the <a href="#">Suicide Prevention Strategy</a> intended "to reduce the number of suicide deaths in Scotland, whilst tackling the inequalities which contribute to suicide". The same is true for Public Health Scotland's report <a href="#">Suicide Amongst Young People in Scotland</a> published in September 2022.</p>

### **Brothers and Sisters**

<b>Report ONE</b>	Ongoing separation of brothers and sisters continues to be unacceptable.
<b>Has the change been made?</b>	No.
<b>Summary</b>	<p>Despite legislative change, practice guidance, and a <a href="#">Staying Together and Connected National Implementation Group</a> the engagement activity highlighted continued challenges in keeping siblings together.</p>
<b>Detailed analysis</b>	<p>Challenges cited include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the lack of availability of foster carers who are able or willing to take groups of more than two siblings due to physical space</li> <li>• regulatory issues attached to the care of larger groups of children</li> <li>• providing suitable, flexible spaces and supports for families to spend time together</li> <li>• difficulties in rural areas regarding limited transport links and lack of homes available within close reach of one another</li> </ul>

### **Homelessness**


<b>Report ONE</b>	It is unacceptable for young people who have been 'looked after' to transition into the homelessness system. At present it the
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	data is not sufficiently joined up to allow identification of care experienced people within all national datasets and for us to know with confidence the extent of the problem.
<b>Has the change been achieved?</b>	No.
<b>Summary</b>	A significant gap in Scotland's approach to supporting 'moving on' is that the implementation of the prevention pathways for care leavers has been 'temporarily paused' as per the government's <a href="#">Ending Homeless Together</a> report.
<b>Detailed analysis</b>	<p>Current pathways do not include all care-experienced young people, but only those who are labelled a 'looked after child' on/after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday or who are a 'care leaver': "Young people who are care experienced or on the edges of care may have similar experiences to care leavers but do not qualify for corporate parenting supports and are considered within the general population".<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Homelessness system is the "default response", and so the 'system' is slow to change towards multi-agency working</p>

 **Restraint**

<b>Report ONE</b>	They (children) must not be subjected to restraints that they told The Independent Care Review were painful, violent, unnecessary and embarrassing.
<b>Has this been achieved?</b>	No.
<b>Summary</b>	There is no clear pathway for developing a clear picture on how Scotland's children and young people experience restraint and seclusion.
<b>Detailed Analysis</b>	<p>There is currently no clear training and support plan for teachers and education staff, nor clarification re which regulatory body has responsibility for monitoring the use of seclusion and restraint in schools.</p> <p>Where local authorities commission care services, there is not always direct monitoring of restraint and restrictive practices.</p>

<sup>1</sup> 'Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway: For All Young People'.

 **Youth Justice**

<b>Report ONE</b>	With the numbers involved, it is difficult to have confidence that what is being observed represents a genuine shift in culture and approach to the criminalisation of children.
<b>Has this been achieved?</b>	Unclear.
<b>Summary</b>	There is evidence of progress, but a lack of clarity over how this is experienced by children, young people and families.
<b>Detailed Analysis</b>	The <a href="#">Children's Care and Justice Bill</a> was introduced to the Parliament on 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022. This Bill will outlaw the 'placement' of children in Young Offenders Institutes. It will also seek to ensure that 16- and 17-year-olds go to the Children's Hearings System rather than the Sheriff Court although there will be some offences that are so serious that do go to the formal criminal courts. This is broadly welcome, however there are concerns about the funding associated with the inclusion of 16- and 17-year-olds in the Hearing System and the support that will need to be provided through properly resourced Community Supervision Orders.

 **Right to education**

<b>Report ONE</b>	Educational outcomes for care experienced children and young people must mirror that of their peers.
<b>Has this been achieved?</b>	No.
<b>Summary</b>	The process for national reform of education has begun but the outcome of this is unclear.
<b>Detailed Analysis</b>	<p>Despite reported progress towards improving outcomes, care experienced children and young people are not experiencing the same outcomes as their peers.</p> <p>There has been recognition of the impact of poverty on education and policy initiatives launched to mitigate this, such as free school meals throughout primary education. Nonetheless, despite the policy intent, delays to full roll-out mean that children and young people fail to benefit from policy intent. The current provision is for primaries one to five, with an ambition for full expansion from August 2023. Beyond this, work to eliminate the impact of</p>

poverty on educational attainment continues through the [Scottish Attainment Challenge](#). Local Authorities have developed next steps in their local improvement journeys, but it has been noted that fewer than half have included a next step around data.

Some notes were taken from post-its written by Oversight Board members during this item :

No further notes or full minutes were taken during this item of business. Pursuant to Section 17 of FOISA, we do not hold information that relates to your request.

## Purpose

- Remind reader of real lives of children and families being affected by all of this.
- Less wordy. Highlight good practice – what is working?
- To effect change, to show change is possible.

## Audience

- Policy; care experience; also need practitioners (in terms of who makes change).
- Leaders – leadership about driving change around the promise is key.
- Where are the decision-makers – where is/are/who are our audience?
- Acknowledge impact of trauma and working with trauma, especially signpost to supports. What need to do and how to change. Include workforce in audience – we care about them – self-care is important. Compassionate leadership is vital. Model behaviours. Cant work with trauma within a system that's not!

## Tone

- Change the structure – positive first.
- Celebrate / raise / show good practice examples at all levels – individual, family, community, systems.
- We are distressed and angry because we are in contact with practitioners, parents and children.
- Validate pressures rather than criticise within all of them. What can we do? Hopeful.
- We need to challenge the Scottish Government on their progress.
- Relationship is key.

## Content

- Less is more.
- Stop the guff or we'll miss the message!!!
- Whilst staying positive (tone) validate the significant pressures of cuts/capacity – but here's what we can do (hope).
- Main message needs to be bigger than 'we don't know, we don't have the data'.
- Reality check – contextualise the headwinds.
- Define headwinds – reality of challenge (cost of living, cuts) – can still act.
- Reality check – identify the contradictions in relation to SG policy priority areas that cut across the promise.
- Context is v important (staffing crisis, impact of COVID, cost of living crisis, cuts etc) but culture is changing. Fiona's input on the Plan v.g. Examples of change – big and small. Isla's story – continue.
- SG are contradicting the promise by undermining connected policy areas – ie housing.
- Good examples must be linked to a challenge to scale up and make these in essence universal services / approaches (eg family support principles).
- Focus on Brothers and Sisters.
- Be explicit about the importance of relationships.
- List notable exceptions (from the optional reading in the Meeting THIRTEEN paper pack). Be explicit about what work is underway and what it means for children.



- Include Fiona's update on the next steps of the 'Plan'.
- Less introduction – start with next steps – then go to blue, amber, green, red from optional reading.
- Be explicit about the importance of relationships.
- Our journey as a board.

### **Responses to challenges**

- Contextualise the excuses
  - What's COVID and what's not?
  - What is contradictory legislative change (NCS)?
  - What's money and what's not?
  - What is just unacceptable failure?
- Promise Champions vs whole ownership.
- We need to identify the change makers within organisations.
- To build a town we need investment rather than cuts!
- Merit in 'the good, the bad, the ugly'?
  - Good – all the progress that's been made using examples
  - Bad – the stuff that's happened that made change harder. Cuts, COVID, rising inequality etc
  - Ugly – unacceptable / inexcusable failure or backwards steps.
- Point the reader back to the child – this isn't a policy report
- We need to comment on disparity in practice – a lot of work still to do on changing how families are greeted at the front door of services.

Re Item 7 - "Chair(s) appointment and terms of reference.

Details of the chair's appointment and the terms of reference. This should include any papers/reports associated with the chairs appointment and/or governance of the Promise Oversight Board as per item 7 as discussed at this meeting. It should also include any note/full minute from this meeting and any papers/presentations/speaking notes used to discuss this item

A paper was tabled in relation to the Chair(s) appointment and this follows.

No separate notes or other minutes were taken during this item of business. Pursuant to Section 17 of FOISA, we do not hold information that relates to your request.

## Paper 2: Chair(s) appointment and terms of reference

### Chair(s) appointment

A verbal update will be given in Meeting THIRTEEN of the outcome of the chair(s) appointment process. The process to date is set out here for the Promise Oversight Board's records.

Nominations for co-chairs were open from 20 December 2022 to 16 January 2023. Four individuals were nominated: Ashley, David, Sharon and Tracey. Ashley subsequently withdrew from the process for work reasons.

The three nominees each recorded a short video outlining why they want to co-chair the Promise Oversight Board and what they think they would bring to the role. Videos were shared with all Promise Oversight Board members on 1 February 2023. Voting was open until 8 February 2023 on the following basis:

- Each Board member has two votes.
- All Board members are eligible to vote, including the nominees (and just like in elections they can vote for themselves if they want to).
- All votes cast will remain confidential.
- Board members are not required to vote.

Nominees were asked to respect the process and not to lobby or canvass their fellow Board members for votes.

Votes will be sent to and collated by Morag Burnett, Head of Governance and Operations. The result will be shared with the Chair, Fiona, who will communicate it to the nominees in advance of Meeting THIRTEEN on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

### Terms of reference

In Meeting TWELVE it was agreed that the Promise Oversight Board's terms of reference would be updated. This will be done between April and June 2023, after the formal appointment of the new chairs at Meeting FOURTEEN on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

It is envisaged that the updated terms of reference will include:

- The Promise Oversight Board's responsibilities.
- Appointment terms and expectations of members of the Promise Oversight Board.
- A clarified, simplified process for remuneration.
- The running of Promise Oversight Board meetings
  - including to support consistency the role of trauma-informed facilitation.
- Support inside and outwith meetings.
- Safeguarding and whistleblowing.