

# The Promise Scotland NEWSLETTER

## ► Stories of Change

As part of our commitment to supporting people and organisations to #KeepThePromise, The Promise Scotland seeks to tell collective stories of change to support learning and momentum – to provide ideas, purpose, and most importantly, hope.

Below are the most recent stories you may have missed -

### [Giving Children a Voice in Scheduling - SCRA](#)

The promise made clear that ‘when meetings take place, they must be at times and in locations that work for the child and must not adversely impact on their life and education.’

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has worked to put this finding into practice through their Child Friendly Scheduling project. Learn more about this approach and the learning you can take into your work to #KeepThePromise at the link above.

### [Building Trusted Relationships - intandem](#)

Scotland made a promise to its children that they will grow up loved, safe and respected so they can realise their full potential. Providing trusted relationships and building confidence are an essential part of keeping this promise.

Read this Story of Change to learn about intandem's journey to developing supportive relationships and meaningful participation and how you can apply this in your approach.

[For more information on this project and how to submit your own story of change click here.](#)



## ► Strategic Work Programme Update

The Promise Scotland's [Strategic Work Programme](#) was launched earlier this year. Since then, work is being driven forward to progress the priority areas of focus identified.

During Care Experienced Week, The Promise Scotland's Chief Executive, Fraser McKinlay wrote about the importance of ending exclusions for care experienced pupils by supporting the workforce in our schools. These messages were clearly articulated when The Promise Scotland attended the Scottish Government's summit on behaviour. Also during Care Experienced Week, the First Minister visited [Staf](#) where the 100 Days of Listening Project has been launched, led by Thomas Carlton on secondment from The Promise Scotland.

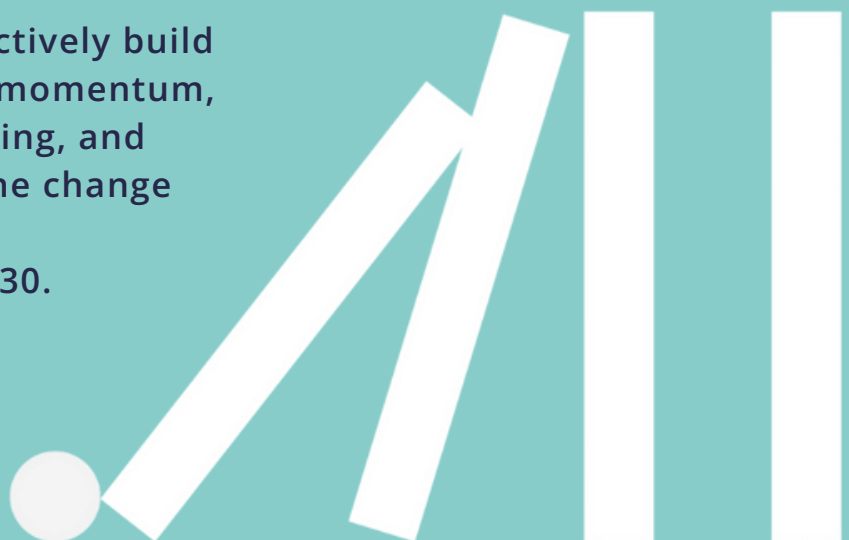
The Promise in Places is engaging with the Centre for Policy Impact to consider how different learning approaches can inform ways to embed the promise in its entirety in specific communities. The family support workstream has been engaging with stakeholders to support the development of the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, as has the Good Childhood team which is progressing work centered on keeping brothers and sisters together, and foster care more widely.

## ► An Update on Plan 24-30

As we near the end of the year, it is the perfect time to reflect on where we have been and look ahead to the future. In her role as Independent Strategic Advisor on the promise, Fiona Duncan is working to develop a successor plan to [Plan 21-24](#).

Plan 24-30 aims to collectively build on positive change and momentum, capture and share learning, and unlock the barriers to the change needed for Scotland to #KeepThePromise by 2030.

[To learn more about what has been heard and what is next, read the full update here.](#)






## ▶ On the Radar

The important Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill is continuing its progression through the Scottish Parliament with two further evidence sessions ahead of Stage 2 amendments.

This Bill has important protections for children and young people's rights and will end the practice of sending children to Young Offenders Institutes.

The Committee has heard evidence from Natalie Don, Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise. Witnesses continued to express support for the broad principles of the Bill with ongoing questions around resourcing and sequencing. Stage 2 is expected to be concluded by the middle of December.



On Wednesday, 22nd November, Fraser McKinlay, Chief Executive of The Promise Scotland, will also be giving evidence to the Education, Children and Young People Committee alongside other witnesses, with the session examining the progress towards achieving the promise.

The session is also likely to hear about the recommendations proposed by the Hearings System Working Group and the Scottish Government response which is expected before the end of 2023.

The Promise Scotland continued to use other opportunities to talk about the report's recommendations. In October, Chloe Riddell, Policy Lead at The Promise Scotland presented to the Cross Party Group on Social Work about the report and the involvement of social workers in the development of the recommendations.



## ▶ On the Radar continued

The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill is now being reconsidered by Scottish Parliament through the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee. Two evidence sessions have been held by the Committee: one with the Children and Young People's Commissioner, Scottish Human Rights Commission, the Law Society of Scotland, COSLA, Police Scotland and legal experts, and the second with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Shirley-Anne Sommerville.

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on the proposed 'Care Leavers Payment', which will provide a one-off payment of £2000 to young people moving on from care. The Scottish Government says the payment is intended to reduce some of the financial barriers those who leave care face whilst moving into adulthood. The Promise Scotland will be developing a response to this consultation, which closes on 26th of January 2024.

## ▶ 100 Days of Listening

Staf in partnership with The Promise Scotland, is leading the 100 Days of Listening project as a part of the Moving On Change Programme seeking to provide a supportive response to the current context in which young people are moving on from care.

The 100 Days of Listening will give Moving On experts – whether they are part of the paid or unpaid workforce, or whether or not they have experienced care – a voice.

[Learn more with Moving On Strategic Lead, Thomas Carlton, in this Q&A.](#)



To get involved, fill out [this expression of interest form](#) or reach out through email at [Listening@Staf.Scot](mailto:Listening@Staf.Scot).

## ► The Oversight Board Recruitment

The Oversight Board exists to report on the pace and performance of change to #KeepThePromise. Since being established in 2021, they have produced two reports that you can [read here](#). With their term of office at an end, a third of the Board's members are leaving— meaning new members are needed with the knowledge, experience and skills to help support necessary change.

The applications for new members have recently closed and The Oversight Board is excited to meet all of the fantastic candidates in the coming weeks. The Oversight Board is an independent group to which The Promise Scotland provides secretariat support.

[To learn more about The Oversight Board, click here.](#)

I can't believe its November already! It seems like the summer was only a few weeks ago and all of a sudden, if the shop windows are anything to go by, we are hurtling towards the holiday season. Where did 2023 go?

As we look towards the end of the year, and beyond that to the conclusion of Plan 21-24, I have been reflecting on the progress Scotland has made to #KeepThe Promise and how much further there is to go. There will be many different reasons why everyone receiving this newsletter came to be invested in keeping the promise. It seems to me that, for many, the commitment to the promise is both deeply personal and professional. I know it is for me. Countless numbers of people across Scotland have chosen to commit themselves to keeping the promise by 2030, with the inherent challenge and complexity that brings.

And this is no small commitment. I am humbled by the continued effort, passion and care that people display day-in, day-out to uphold the promise; I attended my first Love Rally last month – it was a lovely event, full of hope, expectation, frustration and love. The speakers were extremely powerful, making the case for lifelong rights for care experienced people. I will continue to do everything I can to push for the changes needed to uphold these rights.

Just over one year into this job, I continue to learn every day from those of you who are working so hard to #KeepThePromise, particularly those for whom this is a lifetime's work. I remain committed to doing better for children, young people and families across Scotland. Thank you for your commitment to doing the same.



FRASER MCKINLAY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE  
PROMISE SCOTLAND

## ► The Stories of Change Conference

The Promise Scotland is hosting the Stories of Change Conference on February 5, 2024. This conference is an opportunity for Scotland to continue to listen and learn. Save the date and look out for more information to come.

Save the  
Date

February 5  
2024



Change  
is happening to **#KeepThePromise.**

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