

September 2023

# The Promise Scotland NEWSLETTER

## ► Stories of Change

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

That is why The Promise Scotland is launching the new [Stories of Change webpage](#) to provide a central hub to shine a spotlight on change journeys from across Scotland.

### These stories will:

- highlight **great practice**, showing **impact** for children, young people, their families and support networks where possible,
- support those delivering change and highlight where **connections and collaboration** can affect greater change,
- uncover **how** change is happening and **where**,
- celebrate **hope** and **positive impact** while understanding where further change is needed,
- recognise where things have gone wrong and where there are barriers to change, so that we can learn **how to do better**.



The Promise Scotland hopes you will join in telling these stories of change and allow this project to support and amplify your voices.

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

## ▶ The Promise Design School September Cohort

The Promise Design School launched its "2D Sprint" in April 2023 and has been developing the offer across six learning cohorts. This month, the Promise Design School welcomes 7 projects to collaborate on their work, supporting teams of people with foundational design tools and resource's that enable them to better share influence in how their services and supports are designed.

The Promise Design School team are delighted to see so many colleagues from the education sector signing up to this month's cohort, joined by social work teams from local authorities and national organisations looking to reframe how they support the workforce in a bigger picture. [Keep an eye on this website to sign up for an upcoming cohort.](#)



“It has been a busy summer despite the holiday season and while we look forward to even more progress to close out the year, it is important to note not just the destination we are seeking but the path we will follow to get there.

We have published a [Strategic Work Programme 'Focus on the promise'](#) which sets out The Promise Scotland's work priorities for 2023/24. This work programme has been developed using the collective knowledge and experience of the past two years and will align our work with the development of Plan 24-30. Fiona Duncan, Independent Strategic Advisor on the promise, is leading work to develop Plan 24-30 which will set out the route to #KeepThePromise by 2030.

Looking externally, we welcome the Scottish Government's Programme for Government with its focus on ending poverty and supporting families and the announcement of a Cabinet Sub-Committee dedicated to the promise. The Promise Scotland is committed to supporting these new ways of working, which will be vital to support Scotland's workforce who are already working so hard to #KeepThePromise.

As always, we will continue to support the transformation needed to ensure all children in Scotland have fulfilling, happy, and safe childhoods. This is within Scotland's reach, but it is a collective endeavour. Thank you for playing your part.”

**Fraser McKinlay**

Chief Executive of The Promise Scotland

The logo features a pink triangle pointing right, followed by the text "On Our Radar" in a bold, pink, sans-serif font. Above the text is a graphic of five curved lines, resembling a radar signal or a stylized 'R'.

The Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill is currently at Stage 2 in the Scottish Parliament. Work continues to prepare for the implementation of the Bill, a milestone for keeping the promise which ensures no children are sent to Young Offenders Institutions and additional numbers of 16-17 year olds are able to access the welfare-based approach of the Children's Hearings System.

A revised Financial Memorandum will be published imminently as the Education, Children and Young People Committee restarts the scrutiny process following the summer recess. Alongside this, the Scottish Government has announced £16m funding to ensure foster and kinship carers across Scotland will receive at least a standard national allowance to support them in caring for the children and young people that they look after.

Last week, there was also a Parliamentary debate which saw broad cross-party support for Bairns Hoose and welcomed the opening of Scotland's first Bairns Hoose led by Children 1st and partners. This will enable child victims or witnesses to access care, support, justice, and protection in one place.

The Scottish Government also introduced a motion to reconsider the UNCRC Bill, which sought Parliament's agreement to consider a revised Bill. The amendments to the Bill have been formally lodged to restart the legislative process after a lengthy delay following the Supreme Court judgement.

An announcement is expected on the Scottish Government's response to the Hearings System Working Group's 'Redesign Report' in December. The last few months have been an opportunity to digest the group's findings and consider what difference an inquisitorial approach to a redesigned Children's Hearings System will make.

The Scottish Government, COSLA, Social Work Scotland and many others are working hard to analyse and understand the recommendations while Children's Hearings Scotland and the Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration continue to build on improvement work in their efforts to transform the Children's Hearings System.

## ► Upcoming Events

### Scottish Charter Workshops

Parents and parents-to-be with care experience, and others who have considered the support available to families with care experience, are invited to join teams from the Why Not? Trust, Early Years Scotland, Staf and The Promise Scotland at a series of workshops in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, and Aberdeen.

At each session, you can:

- find out more about what happened in Wales and what their charter looked like
- discuss whether a similar charter would work for local authorities and others in Scotland
- influence plans to bring about meaningful change on your doorstep

[Click here for more information and to sign up for a workshop](#)

## ► A Message from Alison Sutherland, Head of Support

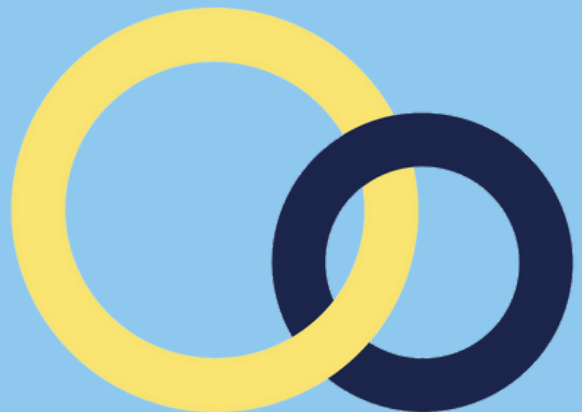
As the new Head of Support for the Promise Scotland, I am keen to find out what is working well in terms of the current support offer and where the gaps are.

I would be most grateful if you could spare 20 minutes to complete a short, anonymous questionnaire about your thoughts on the revised support offer, as well as your ideas and feedback on how we continue to develop a support offer that is flexible, adaptive, and best meets your needs.

[Find out more information on the revised offer of support here.](#)

The questionnaire will remain open until **29 September 2023**. Thank you for your help and any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

[Click here to fill out the questionnaire](#)



## ▶ Resource Spotlights

*There are so many organisations and professionals doing the work necessary to #KeepThePromise to care-experienced children and young people. Below are a few highlights from that work. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but simply a spotlight on a few resources that may be helpful to you.*

### Alright?

Clan Childlaw recently launched Alright?, an animation by children and young people about their experiences of legal representation which articulates what they want from their lawyers, and from care and justice settings more generally. It highlights the gap that often exists between what children and young people want and need, and what they are given. Please take a moment to watch and consider sharing with your networks.



[Click here to view the video and further information.](#)

### Care Experience and Trauma-Informed Practice Companion Document – National Trauma Training Programme

With the right support at the right time, we know that each and every child who experiences trauma can recover and thrive. This document is for everyone who supports children and young people with experience of trauma. It has particular advice and guidance for those supporting children and young people with care experience – who may both need and benefit from trauma-informed practice.

[Click here to access the document.](#)

*Thank you for reading this edition of The Promise Scotland's Newsletter. Please be aware of The Promise Scotland's [Privacy Notice](#). If you would like to opt out at any time, please unsubscribe at the bottom of the email.*

*If you have any questions or feedback, please reach out to [hello@thepromise.scot](mailto:hello@thepromise.scot).*



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