

What is

the promise?

Between 2017 and 2020, **Scotland's Independent Care Review** heard the experiences of **over 5,500 people**, who included:

- care experienced infants, children, young people and adults
- members of the paid and unpaid workforce of Scotland's 'care system.'

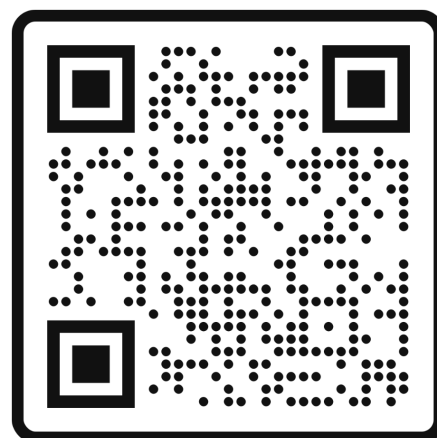
Their vision was set out in the Independent Care Review's conclusions.

In 2020, the **Scottish Parliament** agreed to keep these conclusions in full.

And, when it did, it made a promise.



Learn more about keeping the promise at thepromise.scot



Background to the promise

Parenting does not stop at 18. Scotland must continue to consider how to create Scotland's ambition that **all** children will grow up loved, safe and respected so that they meet their full potential.

But in Scotland, care experienced people aren't always as loved, safe and respected as they should be. In 2020, the conclusions of Scotland's **Independent Care Review** made a series of recommendations about how this had to change. **The promise** is that Scotland will implement these recommendations in full— by 2030 at the latest.

What was the Independent Care Review?

The journey to the Independent Care Review

The Independent Care Review was a consultation into how Scotland's "care system" needed to change.

It came from a place of activism and voice, following the work of a movement of care experienced people across Scotland— who were determined to improve the life chances of people with experience of care.

In 2016, this movement secured a cross party commitment to an Independent Care Review ahead of elections to the Scottish Parliament. Following these, the then First Minister pledged her support— announcing an *independent root and branch review of care*.

The process of the Independent Care Review

The Independent Care Review commenced in 2017 and concluded in 2020. In that time, it listened to what thousands of children, adults and families told them about their experiences of the "care system".

It also heard from thousands of others: parents, carers and members of the paid and unpaid workforce.

And it heard from over 500 organisations, including:

- schools and universities,

- think tanks,
- The Curious Collaborative of Funders,
- corporate parents, and
- national bodies.

The scope was intentionally wide, so that it could be a true reflection of what was experienced for children and families as well as for those working in and around the system. The aim was to speak to everyone who would come into contact with children and their families— throughout their care journeys and beyond.

Finally, over 150 volunteers used 943 research sources to produce 56 outputs in areas including:

- education,
- health,
- data,
- inspection,
- regulation, and
- justice.

The promise is formed from the Independent Care Review's conclusions

The Care Review published its conclusions in February 2020. These conclusions were made up of seven reports:

- **the promise**, which outlines the vision for a Scotland where care experienced children and young people can all grow up loved, safe and respected,
- **the pinky promise**, which explains this vision in a child friendly way,

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- **follow the money**, which tracked where investment went in the “care system,”
- **the money**, which reflected how any investment in how we care for Scotland’s children and families could be better spent to impact their lives,
- **the plan**, which laid out that for Scotland to keep the promise, there needed to be a radical redesign of care,
- **the rules**, which highlighted the legislation, policies, and organisations which govern the care system, and
- **thank you**, which aimed to acknowledge and thank the thousands of people who made the Independent Care Review happen.

The promise in brief

Scotland’s ambition is that **every** child and young person should grow up safe, loved and respected.

The conclusions of Scotland’s Independent Care Review set out the changes that need to take place to achieve this for care experienced children and young people.

Scotland’s **promise** is that these conclusions will be implemented in full— by 2030 at the latest.



The promise has five foundations

The Promise is built upon **five foundations**, which change is centered around. These are:

Voice: Children and young people must be listened to and involved in decision making about their care.

Family: Where children are safe with their families and feel love, they should stay with them. They should be given support to overcome any difficulties.

Care: When it isn't possible for children and young people to remain with their family, children must stay with their brothers and sisters wherever it is safe to do so. They must also belong to a loving home, where they are able to stay for as long as needed.

People: The workforce must be supported to develop trusting, compassionate relationships with those they support. They must also be aware of the importance of listening during decision making.

Scaffolding: Children, families and the workforce must be supported by a system that is there when it is needed: the scaffolding of help, support and accountability.

Whose role is it to keep the promise?

Scotland committed to the promise— so people and organisations throughout the public sector are working to keep it. Among them are:

- Scottish Government,
- COSLA,
- Local Authorities,
- The NHS,
- Social workers, and
- Teachers.

But this is far from an exhaustive list.

As well as this, other people and organisations may also do work to keep the promise— including those in the third sector.

Who helps make sure the promise is kept?

The Promise Scotland: The organisation established by Scottish Ministers to drive and support the change required for Scotland to keep the promise.

The Oversight Board: The Oversight Board monitors the pace and performance of the change required for Scotland to keep the promise.

The Promise Collective: A group that has been brought together to support the development of assessment of change.

Independent Strategic Advisor: Fiona Duncan is Independent Strategic Advisor for the promise, appointed by the Scottish Government.

Corra Foundation: Corra Foundation has the responsibility in disseminating and monitoring the Promise Partnership Fund.

Some questions to discuss

What changes can you be involved in to keep the promise?

Are these changes that can be done by yourself? Will they need your whole organisation to change? Or will they require change to happen at a level which is higher than this?