

January 2024

The Promise Scotland

NEWSLETTER

▶ **A Look at What's to Come**

An Update from Fraser McKinlay,
Chief Executive of The Promise Scotland

The 5th of February 2024 marks four years since the conclusion of the Independent Care Review. All political parties, public bodies, local authorities and third sector organisations are committed to keeping the promise, ensuring fewer children are removed from their families and, for those who need to be looked after away from home, ensuring they experience a childhood of love, support and kindness.

That commitment has been tested, but it remains as strong today as it ever has. There are so many people changing the way they work to transform services and experiences for children and families.

That work is not always easy, it takes longer than anyone wants it to, and often the barriers to change are not removed as quickly or easily as anyone would like.

This anniversary, many people who are working for change will gather at Scotland's first national promise conference. The 'Stories for Change' conference will provide a place and an opportunity to connect, sharing learning and experiences about what is working and what is not; all through the lens of collective endeavor and shared commitment.

In the run up to the conference, we are encouraging everyone to take the opportunity to share and showcase what you and your organisation are doing to #KeepThePromise. As well as demonstrating the huge efforts taking place across Scotland, and showing that change is happening, it is an opportunity to talk about why change is hard and what is getting in the way.

So please do take the opportunity to talk about what you are doing. You can access graphic templates and additional materials for sharing your story here and remember to use the hashtags #KeepThePromise and #StoriesOfChange. You can get in touch with the team for support and guidance on sharing of stories at supporthelp@thepromise.scot.



You can also showcase your story of change as a part of the poster session at the conference and on The Promise Scotland's online gallery following the event. To get an idea of what to expect, view this quick read guide and get in touch with supporthelp@thepromise.scot if you want to get involved.

The Promise Scotland will be continuing to highlight work that is ongoing, so do keep a look out for what is happening and check our conference webpage for updates.

If you are attending, we look forward to welcoming you on the 5th of February. If not, we look forward to working alongside you in 2024 to continue work toward keeping the promise.

► Update on Plan 24-30

Independent Strategic Advisor on the promise, Fiona Duncan, has published an outline of the work to develop Plan 24-30.

The timeline is divided into three phases between now and June 2024 to understand, create, check, and publish Scotland's plan to #KeepThePromise.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Independent
Strategic Advisor



Devising Plan 24-30
together

Phase one: Understanding and Creating

Between now and February 2024

Phase two Creating and Checking

From late February until the end of May 2024

Phase three Checking and Publishing

Between late May and end of June 2024



▶ On the Radar

In December, the Education, Children and Young People Committee wrote to Natalie Don MSP, Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise as part of their ongoing scrutiny of the promise. The Committee are seeking the Ministers reflections on several matters including the workforce, school exclusions, sequencing, sibling contact and premature deaths. The Minister will be responding to the questions raised in the letter by Monday 22nd January.

The Scottish Government also responded to the 'Hearings for Children', the Hearings System Working Group's Redesign Report'. The response detailed the Scottish Government's acceptance of the majority of the Group's recommendations, which will lead to a transformed Children's Hearings System.

The Promise Scotland's statement following the publication of the Scottish Government's response can be found here. The Hearings Redesign Board – the group responsible for providing oversight for delivering on the recommended changes to the Children's Hearings System – will hold their first meeting this January.

The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill received Royal Assent on 16th of January 2024, making Scotland the first UK nation to enshrine the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law. This is a monumental milestone in ensuring the rights of children and young people in Scotland are protected and respected.



► On the Radar continued

The Promise Scotland is closely monitoring the progression of Bills in the Scottish Parliament, including the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill and the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Bill, which is currently at Stage 2. If passed, this Bill will ensure no children are placed in Young Offenders Institutions and expand the accessibility of the Children's Hearings System to 16 and 17 year olds.

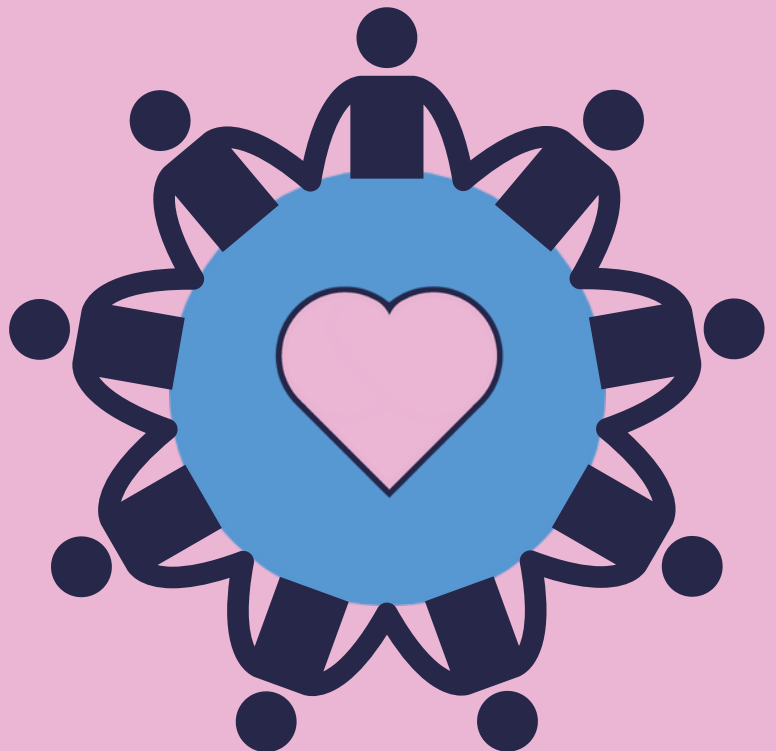
The Scottish Government's consultation on the proposed 'Care Leavers Payment' will close for submissions on Friday 26th January. The Promise Scotland will be responding.

► Community of Practice for Siblings Gathering

The next Community of Practice gathering will be hosted online on February 1, 2024 from 10am - 12am and will focus on the innovative work that West Dunbartonshire have been doing to better understand and improve how they are nurturing sibling. You can book your place to join [HERE](#).

Please share with anyone you feel would welcome involvement in the Community of Practice, which is for change-makers of all sorts with a passion for keeping the promise to brothers, sisters and those with sibling-like relationships.

You can also sign up to receive the Siblings Community of Practice newsletter and invites directly [using this link](#).



► 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 -



[Care Inspectorate: Embedding Voice in Practice](#)

The promise has a lot to say about inspection and regulation and the need to make sure that inspections value the voices and experiences of the children and young people who experience those services.

Learn more about the Care Inspectorate secure care pathway review and what can be learned from embedding voice in practice at the link above.

[Blog: Supported Parenting and Shared Lives](#)

The promise made clear that with the right support, parents with learning disabilities can and do become good parents. Shared Lives Plus has put this into practice through their supported parenting model, enabling more parents to realise their right to a family life.

Learn more about this model and the real difference it is making for parents with learning disabilities and their children in this blog.

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.



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