

▶ A Note from Claire Stuart, Head of Insights

Firstly, I hope everyone was able to enjoy a much-deserved break over the summer. As we properly enter the second half of the year, and with only about four months until the halfway point to 2030, it is more important than ever to reflect on how far we have come and how far we still have to go to #KeepThePromise.

So far, 2024 has been a significant year for the planning and system focused work required to #KeepThePromise. [Plan 24-30 launched in June](#) and work to develop it continues. It is clear from the work to create Plan 24-30 that there are lots of people and organisations working hard to ensure the promise is kept, and thanks go to all those who added engaging with the development of the Plan onto their already packed to do lists. Even more recently, The Scottish Government published a [progress update on their Promise Implementation Plan](#) which provides important insight into the work they've done and still need to do.

And yet, despite all the work underway across Scotland, voices from the care community continue to make clear that the promise doesn't feel like it is being kept, and those working within the system continue to highlight stretched capacities and decreasing resources. Lives are not necessarily getting better, even though everyone is working as hard as they can to improve the system, and we need to be honest about the challenge of that.

Tracking and [understanding progress](#) are some of the most challenging parts in the journey of complex system change. Understanding the progress that is being made, that people are trying their best, is important but it cannot eclipse the reality of what is happening in the lives of those with experience of the 'care system'.

Ensuring that the voice of the care community is central to the ways that we understand, measure, and report on impact is essential.

[‘Doing Data Differently’](#) was one of the first work programmes set up by The Promise Scotland and it excites me that it is still growing, with involvement of partners key to real change in the way Scotland collects and uses data.

By ensuring data and information is gathered at different levels from many sources and blended to tell a story, we have a clear path to moving Scotland further towards using data to understand the system and improve the realities of those who experience it.

Being able to tell the story of progress is essential, as is understanding the stories of every child, young person, and family with experience of care. There must be no disconnect between these stories if Scotland is going to #KeepThePromise and we all have a part to play in getting this right. Organisations must be willing to hear that their monitoring and reporting might look positive, but that the impact of their work might not be reaching the lives of those who matter and be ready to do something about that. That includes The Promise Scotland, and we will always be committed to making sure the impact we’re having and support we’re providing is the best it can be and make changes if it’s not.

Scotland, and all the organisations in it, needs to keep communicating and collaborating to ensure the promise that was made, is kept. Highlighting and sharing work underway is crucial but working together to properly understand the impact it is having on lives and the work of change is even more important.

When Plan 24-30 launched, it included information on the [Promise Progress Framework](#), and how it will start to achieve this by telling Scotland's story. Through October and November, The Promise Scotland, Scottish Government, and COSLA will be engaging with stakeholders on the proposed Framework.

If you are interested in being involved or have questions, please reach out to hello@thepromise.scot.

▶ What has been heard since the launch of Plan 24-30?

It's been three months since the launch of Plan 24-30, Scotland's route map to #KeepThePromise. In her most recent blog, Fiona Duncan, Independent Strategic Advisor - the promise, responds to what's been heard in the feedback so far and what happens next.

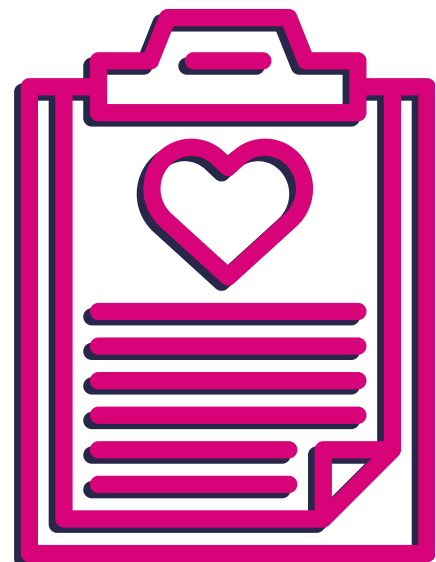
Plan 24-30 has a static destination but requires a dynamic route map to get there. There are some essential elements required to ensure the Plan 24-30 route map evolves to keep Scotland on track. These include, updates, assessments of progress, and an improved understanding of where, how, and who is pushing forward change. Read more in the [full blog here](#).

▶ On the Radar

In August, the Scottish Government published the latest information on [education outcomes for children legally considered looked after](#). Read The Promise Scotland's response [here](#).

On 19 September, the Scottish Government [published a progress update](#) on its Promise Implementation Plan, two years on from its original publication. It is a welcome publication which outlines progress that is being made in key areas, but also recognises there remains a lot to do to keep the promise. Read The Promise Scotland's full statement [here](#).

Within this, the Scottish Government have highlighted the Promise Bill, a key piece of legislation for keeping the promise. The Promise Scotland are working alongside the Scottish Government and partners to advise on the process and content to ensure the Bill contains what is required to keep the promise.



▶ On the Radar

The Promise Scotland recently wrote to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee about the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill (Stage 2) call for evidence. While the Committee consider the scope of the National Care Service, The Promise Scotland's position remains that there is no clear evidence that including children's services as part of this will be more likely to keep the promise by 2030. To learn more about The Promise Scotland's positioning, you can read the letter [here](#).

The Promise was clear that by 2030, there is a need to transform secure care in Scotland, and for children to be removed from Young Offenders Institutions.

Following the introduction of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024, all under 18s were moved from Young Offenders Institutions to secure care centres in September 2024 – a significant step towards upholding children's rights and keeping the promise.



The Scottish Government commissioned CYCJ to explore potential options as to what a reimagined secure care should look like for children in Scotland, and on 27 September its findings were [published](#). It provides a clear vision of how secure care can take a child first, rights-based approach, and The Promise Scotland will support partners involved in ensuring that this vision is realised. Read The Promise Scotland's comment on the report [here](#).

► Education Scotland Resources

The Promise Scotland is delighted to be a part of the publication of two new family learning resources, created with Education Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Services Partners and Aberdeen City Council.

Family learning is an approach to engaging families in learning that has an impact on both children and adults. It aims to support the most disadvantaged communities, break attainment gaps, and enable parents to learn how to support their children's learning.

Aligning Family Learning and the promise: A guide for family learning professionals and GIRFEC strategic leads, was created by Education Scotland, The Promise Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway's Children's Services Partners. It provides guidance for family learning professionals and GIRFEC strategic leaders on how family learning aligns with the promise and how it can help to keep the promise.

This resource can help people on the front line, and strategic leaders to work in a unified way to achieve the promise. It can help to make those strategic leaders aware of the work happening on the ground.

The other resource, **Family Learning Keeping the Promise Award Pack**, has been created by Education Scotland, The Promise Scotland and Aberdeen City Council.

This builds on the Keeping the Promise Award for schools, run by Education Scotland. The award is a professional learning programme, which people can take part in to get the Promise Award. The new resources repurposes the award for family learning professionals.



► Education Scotland Resources

The learning programme helps practitioners in developing their awareness and understanding of the promise and the specific commitments around families.

It highlights professionals' responsibilities under the promise and gives formal recognition to individuals and settings who complete the learning.

You can download both resources from the Education Scotland website following the links below:

- [Aligning Family Learning and the promise: A guide for family learning professionals and GIRFEC strategic leads.](#)
- [Family Learning Keeping the Promise Award Pack.](#)

Co-Design
Cafe 

Join the Promise Design School for a new opportunity to come together with others working to #KeepThePromise, to share wins, learning, and challenges in your co-design journeys. Upcoming sessions will be held on **29 October** and **26 November**.

Learn more and sign up [here](#).

► Upcoming and of Note

- [Upcoming Each and Every Child Events and Training](#)
- [Media Toolkit for Journalists and Care Experienced People](#)
- [Statutory guidance on Part 2 of the UNCRC \(Incorporation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#)
- [National Trauma Transformation Programme: workforce survey 2024](#)
- [Empowering Voice: Amplifying the Social Care Workforce](#)
- [New Promise Package provides support for care and justice experienced young people](#)
- [Barnardo's launches service for care experienced youngsters](#)
- [Upcoming Care2Connect Events](#)
- [Permanently Progressing? Building secure futures for children in Scotland](#)
- [Sound Lab Music Makes Glasgow Event - 12 October](#)
- [Musicares: Raising the wellbeing and soft skills of care-experienced young people through music mentoring.](#)

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If you have any questions or feedback, please reach out to hello@thepromise.scot.

