



the promise
**Learning
Collaboratives**

Promise Learning Collaborative -

Event description:

Promise Learning Collaboratives are in person opportunities for participants to come together and share their experiences and learning in addressing challenges around the five foundations Plan 24-30. These free events are open to all.

As a collaborative we asked that when participants registered they:

- Tell us what challenges they faced around Family
- Shared their work and learning

This event focussed on the foundation of Family

The format allowed equal time for inputs, presentations and networking amongst participants.

Date: 25th March 2025, Livingston

No of Attendees: 34

Audience Profile: Participants came from a wide range of organisations across statutory and third sectors.



sharing learning

Copies of the Power point Presentations can be found on the Promise Scotland website

Organisation	The Promise Scotland
Contact(s)	
Summary of Presentation	Family Learning Animation – Introducing the Promise Family https://youtu.be/smgY0VC_QHE
Key learning	Participants were asked to relate the presentations back to the Promise Family or a family they had worked with. Reflecting on what they hear and how it might have impacted on this family.

Organisation	West Lothian Council and Children 1st
Contact	Claire Quinn, West Lothian Council – kinship@westlothian.gov.uk Caroline Millar, Children First – westlothian@children1st.org.uk
Summary of Presentation	West Lothian Kinship Service: Voice What is a Kinship Carer? Why do we need Kinship Care? Overview of the service and the types of support that they offer Partnership work between the two organisations
Key learning	Strengths of Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Wider reach within West Lothian ▶ More flexibility of support – areas / days coffee mornings ▶ Better planning and access to support – moving between third sector and statutory agencies ▶ Closer working relationship between Statutory and Third sector Challenges of Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Lack of knowledge / understanding around Kinship and their challenges within Statutory and wider organisations ▶ Long term funding

Organisation	Dad's Rock
Contact(s)	Thomas Lynch Thomas@dadsrock.org.uk
Summary of Presentation	Introduction to the work of Dads Rock The impact that engaging dads in services can have both for men and their children/family The impact on mental health and child death
Key learning	"76% of young people in prison have an absent father "Living in a home without a dad is more highly correlated with suicide among children and teenagers than any other factor" Services are still not routinely engaging with fathers.

Organisation	Cyrenians
Contact	Kerry Watson, Mediation and Whole Family Support kerrywatson@cyrenians.scot Jim Gray, SCCR – JimGray@cyrenians.scot
Summary of Presentation	Children's Rights and Youth Justice "Distressed not disruptive" Everyone wants and works hard to deliver the best care they can in that moment and within their reach. Everyone is under enormous strain – work, life and emotions. Talked about the complexity of the system and how difficult it is to achieve change (evolution). How process and risk leads decision making. How time can be more important than information. The importance of being understood and gaining participation. How rights can sometimes be a barrier? The changes in relation to better facilitating parents / carers and YP voice.
Key learning	The system is complex and it is difficult to achieve change. In this process time can be more important than information. Building relationships and trust takes time but ensures that meaningful engagement happens to inform change across the system. Asking ourselves what we 'must' do, what we 'should do' and what we 'could do' helps realise what is possible. Does corporate parenting increase the gaps between YP in care and families? If this increases tension and conflict between the groups and whether this is really contributing to the reformation of 'families'?

Organisation	Midlothian Council
Contact	Sean Godek sean.godek@midlothian.gov.uk Belen Moreno belen.moreno@midlothian.gov.uk
Summary of Presentation	Systemic Family Practice in Midlothian Systemically trained workers based in CP team- Wanting to do things differently

	The Promise- focus on therapeutic family support- intensive in nature Looking at the wider picture and taking account of wider family who would be in a position to support and care for children.
Key learning	<p>Strengths of the model –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systemically and NVR trained Independent of decision making Relational risk- less task orientated and family led Voluntary Based in Children's services- visible/accessible <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different approach to engage families New service- not been done before- Not therapy! Size and scope Expectations from family and organisation Based in Children's services- visible/accessible Crisis vs planned work

Organisation	Passion 4 Fusion
Contact(s)	Helene Rodger helene@passion4fusion.com www.passion4fusion.com
Summary of Presentation	<p>Working With African Families</p> <p>Overview of Passion 4 Fusion and the toolkit they have developed in collaboration with IRISS</p> <p>Lack of Knowledge, Racial Bias and Stigma</p> <p>How the toolkit can help practitioners and professionals</p> <p>How the toolkits is structured – Pause / Level/ Listen / Reflect, share, and shape the system</p>
Key learning	<p>The Cultural Safety Self-reflection tool is a guide that allows workers to reflect on the understanding of their own culture in order to determine how to face cultures that aren't their own</p> <p>The two-house tool activity allows for professionals to listen and respect both experiences in a family's country of origin and new place of residence</p> <p>The group discussion tool can be utilised for the LEARN objective and best used alongside colleagues in groups or pairs</p>



Feedback:

There was rich discussion throughout the day.

Organisations shared their work and practice. Recurrent themes in the discussions included:

- The inclusion of dads in services, where this was happening and potential barriers.
- The impact of culture.
- The need for upskilling of the workforce around certain issues.
- Budgets and how funding is allocated.



Participant Feedback on the event -

Overall feedback on the event was very positive. Participants appreciated the opportunity to reflect on how far we have come. The opportunity to network, share information and enter discussion was particularly helpful.

Some participant thought it may be good to cut the number of presentations to four and/or shorten lunch to allow more time for discussion.

"... perhaps 1 less presentation would have been better to have more time spent on world cafe discussions as these were useful. It was a positive experience and day."

(For full on the day feedback see the Event Evaluation PDF)



world cafe discussions

World Cafe Discussion

The world café session took the challenges that participants had identified in incorporating voice in their work, during the registration process. We then asked those attending to share ideas and experiences that they had used in practice to help mitigate the challenges.

The challenges and feedback can be found on the attached PDF documents.

Next Steps:

This session will be followed by 3 online sessions focussing on

Places on these sessions can be booked via Eventbrite: [The Promise Scotland Events - 8 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

Our next In person Promise Learning Collaborative will be in Aberdeen on and focus on Care. Again spaces will be bookable via Eventbrite.