

January 2025

The Promise Scotland

NEWSLETTER

► 5 years since the promise was made

5 February marks five years since the promise was made in 2020.

On this day, The Oversight Board, whose role is to report on whether Scotland is keeping the promise, will release their third report. This will show where progress has been made and where there is still work to do.

As a subscriber to this newsletter, you will receive an email directly to your inbox with more information and a link to the full report. You can also attend the launch at the below event.

Over the next few weeks and months, The Promise Scotland will be profiling some of the stories of change which have happened across the country since the promise was made. These stories will highlight not just the positive changes but also what it took to make them happen. Follow us on social media or visit thepromise.scot to keep up to date.

► SCVO's The Gathering

Join The Oversight Board and Fiona Duncan, Independent Strategic Advisor – the promise, at SCVO's The Gathering on 5 February 2025 to reflect on the progress Scotland has made and the change still needed to keep the promise by 2030.

This session is for those working in the third sector to keep the promise or for professionals who want to learn more.

[Sign up for free here.](#)



► The Promise Progress Framework

Now LIVE, the Promise Progress Framework is the first step in telling the story of progress towards keeping the promise, which will look at:

- How is Scotland doing in its progress towards keeping the promise?
- How are organisations doing in their work to keep the promise?
- Does the care community feel the impact of the promise being kept?

The Framework provides a structure to be able to answer all three questions by pulling together data from multiple sources into one place, giving the first high-level understanding of progress across key aims of the promise.

The Promise Progress Framework can be used by any individual or organisation in a way that works for them. It can give users a way to contextualise their own data, organisations can use it to support their own reporting, aligning to the vision statements, outcomes and indicators, or to see where more work is needed to keep the promise.

[Find out more here.](#)

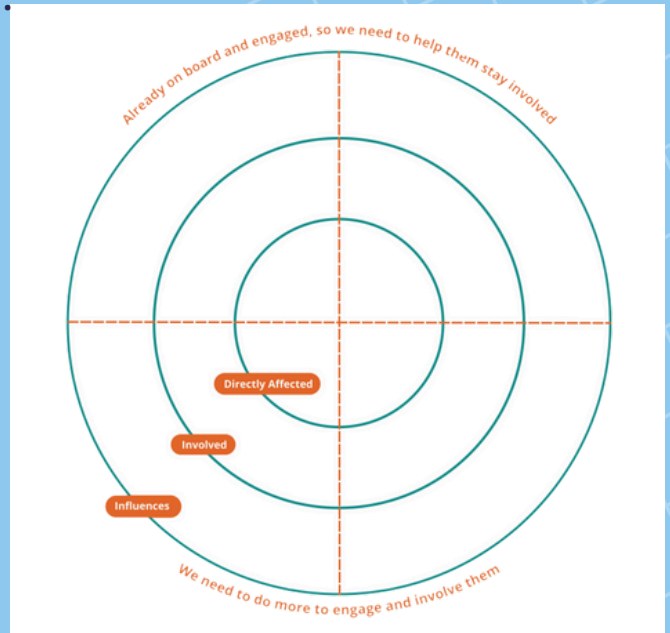


► Design Tool Spotlight - Stakeholder and Co-Designers Map: A Tool for Better Engagement

The [Promise Design Tools](#) are free, downloadable, and interactive resources that can help you think differently and collaborate more widely. In each edition of the newsletter, we are going into a bit more detail on the different Design Tools available to support those working to keep the promise; to overcome problems, re-design services and make the changes they need.

A stakeholder and co-designers map is a simple tool to help you plan how to engage with different groups of people. It ensures that everyone who has a connection to your work has a chance to contribute in meaningful ways.

- Stakeholders: People who have connection and interest in your project/service but are not co-designing it
- Co-Designers: People who are actively involved in designing your project/service or experience



This helps you:

1. Identify the people, groups, or organisations connected to your work.
2. Understand their roles, needs, and levels of influence.
3. Reflect on power dynamics—who has power and who needs more of it?

By engaging others, this helps ensure everyone connected to the work is identified, included, and heard. This helps to build trust, encourages collaboration, and leads to better results.

Example: Early Help and Support Services

In services that support families, mapping might show that decision-makers have a lot of power, while families have very little influence. This insight can help you:

- Focus on working directly with families to ensure their real-life experiences shape the service.
- Engage decision-makers to gain their support for more inclusive and effective solutions.

This tool creates space for everyone to be heard, leading to fairer and stronger outcomes.

[Access this and other design tools here.](#)

On the Radar

On 4 December 2024, Fiona Duncan, Independent Strategic Advisor - the promise, and Fraser McKinlay, Chief Executive of The Promise Scotland, were invited to give evidence to the Education, Children and Young People Committee in the Scottish Parliament. They gave evidence on staff recruitment and retention in relation to keeping the promise alongside Claire Burns, Director for CELCIS, and Professor Trish McCulloch, Professor of Social Work and Deputy Dean in the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Law at the University of Dundee. You can watch the session [here](#).

The Promise Scotland are continuing to work to inform the development of the upcoming Promise Bill, which the Scottish Government has committed to introducing by the end of this Parliament.

As part of the Scottish Government's work on the promise, two consultations on [Developing a universal definition of 'care experience'](#) and the [Future of foster care](#) are still open for submissions, with the first closing on 31 January, and the second on 6 February.



Members of The Promise Scotland team will be attending Scottish Labour's party conference in Glasgow in February. On Sunday 23 February at 8:30 am, we will be hosting a fringe event: 'Keeping the promise: reflecting on the past 5 years and looking forward to 2030' where attendees will hear from Martin Whitfield MSP, Fiona Duncan (Independent Strategic Advisor - the promise), Fraser McKinlay (Chief Executive, The Promise Scotland) and Jemma Kerr (Member of The Oversight Board) about the progress we have made in Scotland so far to keep the promise, and what changes are required to ensure it is kept by 2030.

► Upcoming Events and Resources

Community of Practice for Siblings

The calendar of events for 2025 is now fully bookable [here](#), and you can access the growing bank of Community resources [here](#). At the first gathering of the new year, the Community of Practice had an insightful session focussing on friendship and sibling-like relationships in the experience of care, and exploring how we can work together as a Community to build innovative approaches to keep the promise to siblings.

To get updates and invitations to future events, [sign up here](#) to receive the Community of Practice for Siblings Newsletter.

Co-design Café – 11 February

Join the Promise Design School and others working to keep the promise to share wins, learning, and challenges in your co-design journeys. This session will focus on the theme “Elevating Voice to Impact True Change”.

Young Women Care – 15 February

In February 2025, ProjectChange is collaborating with the Young Women’s Movement to host an art event in Edinburgh at Grassmarket Community Hub on 15 February from 11 am to 3 pm. It’s all about bringing people together to explore how care experience and gender intersect. Through creativity, we’ll celebrate diversity, spark ideas, and build stronger, more inclusive communities. [Sign up here](#).

Promise Online Session: Voice of the Infant – 19 February

This interactive online session will include inputs from CELCIS, NSPCC Scotland, Barnardo's Scotland, and other partners, on the need to better understand and incorporate infant voice across a range of systems, policy and practice areas.

[Promise Learning Collaborative: Family – 27 March](#)

The Promise Learning Collaboratives are a series of in-person events that will take place across Scotland providing a space to share learning and challenges around the five foundations of Plan 24-30. This session will be held in Livingston and focus on supporting families to live, learn, and thrive together.

[Passion4Fusion Survey](#)

Passion4Fusion are working to improve the way work to keep the promise supports Black and ethnically diverse families by addressing gaps in cultural understanding and anti-racist practices. Your feedback is vital to shaping more inclusive, equitable services. [Please take a few moments to share your experiences by filling out this two minute survey.](#)

Learn more about Passion4Fusion and other projects who have received funding from the Corra Foundation's Promise Partnership Keeping the Promise Fund [here](#).

**Looking for more opportunities?
You can access The Promise
Scotland's full events calendar [here](#).**



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