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# The Promise Scotland

SUPPORTING CHANGE FOR CHILDREN,  
FAMILIES & CARE EXPERIENCED ADULTS



**Thank you for your commitment to keeping the promise.**

This newsletter is here to give you updates on our work, work happening to keep the promise across Scotland, and opportunities to get involved. If you have any questions or feedback, please reach out to [hello@thepromise.scot](mailto:hello@thepromise.scot).

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**“We remain committed to keep the promise so by 2030 all children grow up loved, safe, and respected and realise their full potential.”**



35 organisations have joined us in calling for all parties running in the Scottish election to include in their manifestos a commitment to keeping the promise by 2030. The call was made in a [joint letter](#) sent to all parties ahead of the next Scottish elections.

Alongside the letter, we sent out our election publication - **Ensuring Scotland’s children grow up loved, safe and respected: How the next Scottish Government and Parliament can make sure that Scotland keeps the promise.**

The election publication covers the areas which must be prioritised after the next election and helps to support discussions and guide decisions. Find out the specific asks and actions of the next Government and all political parties to keep the promise by clicking below.

[Learn more here](#)

This December, we will be  
updating Plan 24-30's  
**25 Route Maps**

The logo for Plan 24-30, featuring the text 'Plan 24-30' in a bold, sans-serif font. The numbers '24' and '30' are stylized with a multi-colored gradient (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) that also forms a circular shape behind the '0'.

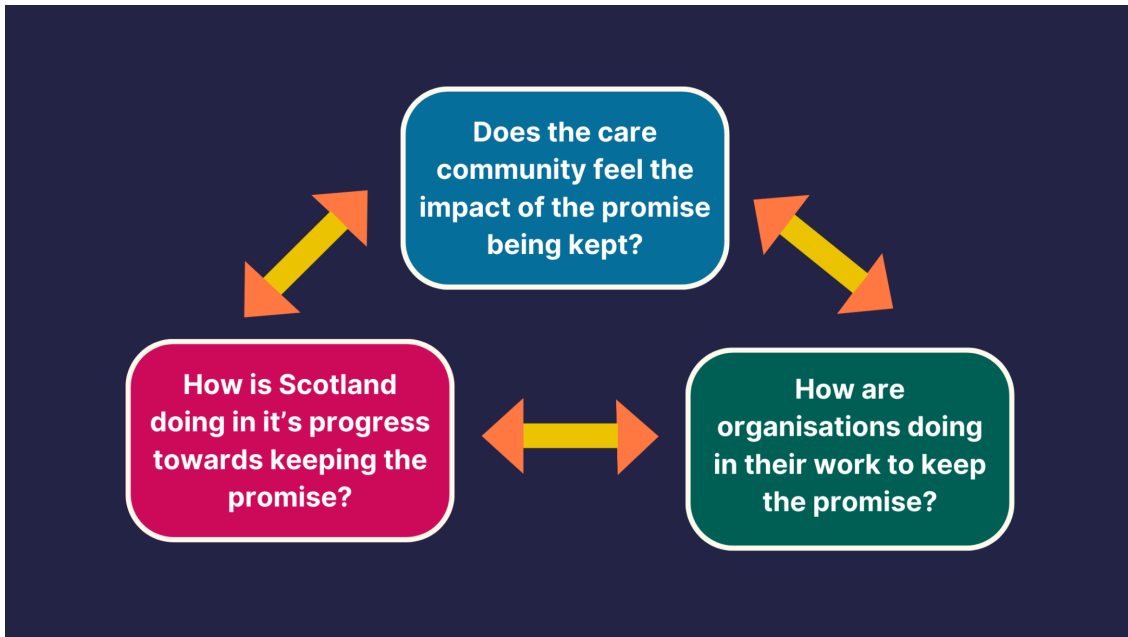
The Promise Scotland has been leading the work to update the 25 route maps on the Plan 24-30 website. Taken together, the route maps will provide the shared planning framework for Scotland to keep the promise.

By 19 December, each of the 25 will outline the commitments already made and work underway in each area, and the milestones that need to be reached over the coming years. They will identify who needs to take action by when and begin to surface the dependencies that exist between route maps. Work is also underway to make the website easier to use and navigate in response to feedback.

The Promise Scotland is working collaboratively with partners to develop and take forward this work with a focus on 'what needs to happen' in each route map rather than simply on what the current system is able or willing to accommodate. Once the updates currently underway have been uploaded, work will begin on supporting organisations to translate the national route maps into local delivery.

The work to update the route maps is just the start – as progress is made and more organisations get involved, the route maps will need to continue to be updated to remain useful and support the shared journey to keep the promise.

We need you and everyone working to keep the promise to ensure these route maps give us the best way forward possible. Early next year, you can help us by reviewing the route maps and providing feedback to [plan2430@thepromise.scot](mailto:plan2430@thepromise.scot). More information will be coming your way so stay tuned.

[Learn more here](#)

## The Promise Story of Progress – what’s happening and what’s to come

Understanding progress across the breadth and depth of the promise requires very different types of data, collected and analysed at different levels, at different frequencies, and in different ways. That means three questions need to be answered for Scotland to say it understands progress.

When taken together, the answers to these three questions are collectively referred to as **The Promise Story of Progress**. It is not possible to tell the overall story of progress without focusing on all three questions. By blending different types and levels of data and information together to answer these questions, The Promise Story of Progress seeks to address the disconnect between [what matters to children, young people and families](#) and the recorded data to tell a more rounded story of the progress being made towards the promise. The information is set out under 10 vision statements. These are taken directly from The Promise Report and set out the vision for where Scotland must be in 2030.

The Promise Progress Framework is the method to answer the question of how Scotland is doing. Launched in 2024 as a PDF, and in September 2025 as an [online dashboard](#), on 17 December 2025 all indicators will be updated to reflect most up to date data, and in 2026 will be updated on a rolling basis.

As [committed to](#), the first versions of the approaches required to answer the organisational and care experienced community level questions in The Promise Story of Progress are being developed by Scottish Government, COSLA, and The Promise Scotland, and will also be available on 17 December 2025. The learning developed, insights gathered and feedback received will inform how these develop in 2026 and beyond.

[Click here to learn more](#)



We have published two new episodes of our podcast – Episode 5: The Community of Practice for Siblings and Episode 6: Designing Services that Work for Families.

You can [watch them on our YouTube](#) and [listen online](#) or across podcast platforms ([Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Amazon Music](#)). Tune in and subscribe to be the first to hear new episodes!

## On our Radar

The Education, Children and Young People Committee have been taking evidence on both the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill and the Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill. There has been a range of evidence sessions held by the Committee which you can catch up on [here](#).

This month, Natalie Don-Innes MSP, joined by colleagues in Scottish Government, gave evidence on the Children (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning) (Scotland) Bill. You can watch [here](#). Parliament have agreed that Stage 1 of the Bill must be complete by 16 January 2026.

Daniel Johnson MSP gave evidence to the Education, Children and Young People Committee on his Restraint and Seclusion in Schools (Scotland) Bill, which you can watch [here](#). Parliament have agreed that Stage 1 of the Bill must be complete by 30 January 2026.

## Upcoming Events



**Co-Design Essentials**

Planning

21 January  
Online

A key component to keeping the promise is co-designing services with children, young people and families.

Our Co-Design Essentials series aims to provide facilitators with the skills, tools and confidence they need for successful co-design journeys. Join the first session in 2026 and find out more about the series below.

[Sign up](#)



**Promise Design School Lite**

A series of short, engaging sessions designed help you think differently about how to address challenges related to the promise in your setting.



Are you working to keep the promise? Do you have a problem you are working to solve? Design Lite could be right for you!

Join us this February 2026 for a series of short, engaging sessions designed to introduce you to service design and co-design principles. Find out more below.

[Sign up](#)

## Resources and Opportunities

*"The inspiration was to express our feeling and experiences to the school staff to think about how when they get it right it is massive but when they get it wrong it hurts and damages us."*

- Falkirk Champions Board members



### [Falkirk Dear Education](#)

This story highlights the 'Dear Education' video co-produced by the Falkirk Champions Board to help teachers and school staff to better connect and understand the young people they work with and how their personal experiences can impact their school lives.

### [Care Inspectorate: Creating route maps](#)

This story highlights the Care Inspectorate and the significant changes they have made to the way they work to align with the promise and the positive changes they've seen in the services they regulate.

### [Imagine Care: Bravery and attunement in care](#)

This story highlights Imagine Care's Lochend house and how they use an emphasis on attunement and enablement to create a safe, stable, and nurturing home for the young people and those caring for them.

### [Update from David Anderson, Chair of The Oversight Board](#)

Find out what The Oversight Board have been doing over the summer and early Autumn

### [Promises: easy to make, harder to keep](#)

Independent Strategic Advisor - the promise, Fiona Duncan has published her work programme, and written a blog to explain what she will be focussing on.

## **Seeing beyond the surface: What children and young people wish all adults knew**

Our Hearings, Our Voice have launched a new guide "Seeing beyond the surface: What children and young people wish all adults knew" which explores six key themes, brought to life by the voices and creative expressions of children and young people with lived experience.

This guide is an impactful and important resource for anyone in and around the lives of care experienced children, young people, adults and their families.

## **Moving On Change Programme Outputs**

In 2023, Staf (Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum) and The Promise Scotland began working in partnership on the 'Moving On' Change Programme which aimed to create a shared set of standards and principles that support Scotland to ensure all children moving on from care into adulthood have a transition that is safe, loving and respectful, and they reach their full potential.

In the years since, Staf has carried out 3 phases of work to listen and develop these standards and principles as well as a test of change to provide clear, accessible information about young people's rights and entitlements when leaving care. All of the resources from each phase of the Moving On Change Programme are available now.

## **Help for young people leaving care: Scottish Government Guide**

The Scottish Government has launched a new guide to support access to information for young people leaving care including advice and links to supports on areas such as rights, money and benefits, housing, education, training and jobs, and health and wellbeing.

## **Transforming Friendship Focused Support project resources**

Staf, in partnership with a team of care experienced researchers, throughcare and aftercare workers, and staff from the Universities of Edinburgh and Stirling, undertook the Transforming Friendship Focused Support research project with the aim to find better ways of supporting the friendships of people with care experience.



Our Connections Matter - brothers, sisters and sibling-like relationships video created by The Fostering Network and the Perth and Kinross Champions Board.



# The Promise Scotland

SUPPORTING CHANGE FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & CARE EXPERIENCED ADULTS

You may have noticed from the top of this newsletter that we have updated our logo to help give more clarity over who The Promise Scotland is, and what the difference is between ourselves and the promise.

You can read more about this update below.

[Click here](#)

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, you can unsubscribe or change your preferences at the links below.

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