

# Staff Briefing



Jan 22

## Is this briefing for me?

Welcome to the fifth 'Promise' Briefing. The short answer is **YES**.

If you work for the local authority, Health, Police, Ayrshire College, Fire and Rescue and many more, you are a Corporate Parent to all those children and young people that are care experienced in North Ayrshire. Even if you don't regularly work with these children or their parents, your service may still have an impact on the lives of these families and individuals. You still have statutory duty to assess and support their needs, identify opportunities for them and help them access those opportunities.

This is a responsibility of all of us. The key questions are: What can I or my service do to help these children, young people and families to have opportunities to thrive? What barriers need to be overcome so they can enjoy the same opportunities as every other child or young person?

Below is a reminder of the five fundamentals that we must consider when making any decision regarding a CEYP.



## Change Programme One (update)

Priority 5 within the plan is **Building Capacity**

Over the course of the next Parliamentary term, there will be identifiable progress made towards ensuring Scotland's legislative framework around the breadth of the 'care system' is coherent and cohesive, upholds the conclusions of the Care Review and is compliant with the UNCRC.

Although The Scottish Government has primary responsibility for legislation, we must ensure collaboration and engagement from key organisations with statutory responsibility.

### Legislation:

- There are clear commitments to review the legislative underpinning of The Children's Hearings System.
- The Kinship Care Collaborative has remit to consider the legislative framework for kinship care.
- Scottish Government has set up a UNCRC Strategic Implementation Board which could be a useful space to consider legislative compliance.
- The GIRFEC refresh and national practice model will be core pillars that underpin all new legislation and guidance.

### Children's Hearing System :

- The Children's Hearings System will have gone through a redesign process.
- a multi-agency working group will be set up to produce collaborative proposals on legislative change, ready for the legislative process in 2024. That working group will be led by someone with substantial legal expertise and strong understanding of children's rights.
- The Promise Scotland will provide independent facilitation and secretariat support.
- Scoping meetings will take place in the summer with a full work plan and timeline will be produced in autumn. That workplan will demonstrate the sequencing of areas of inquiry and how relevant partners will be involved at various stages.
- Crucially, the workplan will also demonstrate how children and families with lived experience of the Children's Hearings System will be involved in the redesign work.

### Inspection and Regulation:

- A new, holistic framework for inspection and regulation that values what children and family's value, will be scoped and developed.
- It will understand the necessary legislative change required to focus on children's experiences and will be underpinned by the principles set out in the promise and give full effect to the secure care pathway and standards.

## The Fundamentals



What matters to children and families



Listening



Poverty



Children's Rights



Language

# Further Updates:

## The North Ayrshire Promise Operational Group (PrOG)

The PrOG met again in late January, and discussed their newly formed subgroups; Language & Communications and Alternative Care. It was decided that Rachel McKechnie would chair the Language group, supported by Rebecca Black, and Brian McCann would chair the alternative care group, supported by Laurissa Monaghan. The subgroups are due to meet in 4 weeks and decide on three changes, relating to The Promise, that they would like to see happen this year, and work towards achieving those changes



## The North Ayrshire Promise Oversight Board

The oversight board met the same week as PrOG. In this meeting, EAEC delivered a presentation on Framing Care Experience and the group reflected on where they were in terms of local progress.

Unfortunately due to restrictions, the planned Promise Conference, due to take place on February 14th was postponed. The team are working hard to get a new date for this event.

### Policy Coherence:

- There will be cohesive alignment in the policy initiatives and frameworks across Scotland. Policy development across Scotland will reflect the realities of people's lives and create a coherent policy environment. The focus of the 21-24 period will be on implementation and alignment not inquiries and reviews.

### Data Mapping and Collection:

- Scotland will have a cohesive central picture of all data on the processes and systems that directly and indirectly impact on children and their families, including wider socio-structural factors.
- The data picture will have been used to fully align data systems, collection and analysis methodologies to what matters to children and families, and the needs of those who take decisions on how best to support children and their families.

### Governance Structures:

- All public appointments to any of Scotland's Boards and Public Bodies which have an impact on the 'care system' will ensure that the values of the promise are embedded in recruitment frameworks.
- The governance landscape around the various Boards, networks and groups that sit around the 'care system' will be rationalised to enable effective and accountable shared working around the lives of children and families

## The Corporate Parenting Team

The Corporate Parenting Team have secured funding for two posts linked to the work around the Keeping Brothers and Sisters together. Posts will be advertised within the next couple of months. Although we had advertised for a Promise Lead, we were unable to appoint a candidate so Andrew Keir and Rebecca Black have instead carried that work forward.

We have now designed and received new Promise merchandise including lanyards, stress balls, pens, cups and badges. We would encourage all teams to get in touch with the CP team to claim yours!

We have now made contact to all the locality social workers around creating meaningful engagement with children and young people who are looked after at home, as per The Promise.

The team, in conjunction with Donna Anderson, gave away 40 tickets to Kinship families to go see Aladdin at the Palace Theatre. This event truly made some families' Christmas extra special. Thanks to all the teams that nominated families for the tickets.

## North Ayrshire Champions Board

The board of CEYP secured £1000 from the Youth PB funding and planned on delivering a Christmas Event, named 'Christmas by the champs'. The group hired Cafe Solace to make a three course meal for vulnerable families in North Ayrshire and arranged various themed activities. Unfortunately the event was cancelled due to restrictions however the board and Laurissa Monaghan are working on using the funds to hold an Easter fun day instead.

## How can you help?

If you have any comments, views or suggestions we need to hear from you, so please use the emails below to express these.

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