

COSLA is the voice of Local Government in Scotland. It is a Councillor led, cross-party organisation who champion councils' vital work to secure the resources and powers they need to deliver effectively. We work on councils' behalf to focus on the challenges and opportunities they face, and to engage positively with Governments and stakeholders on policy, funding and legislation.

Decision Making at COSLA

- **Policy Development and Delivery**
Decisions on specific services are the job of COSLA's four themed Boards, each chaired by a Spokesperson and include a representative from every member council. The four Boards are: Children and Young People; Health and Social Care; Community Wellbeing and Environment and Economy.
- **Key Political and Resource Issues**
Leaders meet a minimum of eight times a year to focus on delivery COSLA's priorities, and to debate and agree our approach.

The Promise Scotland is responsible for driving the work of change demanded by the findings of the Independent Care Review. It works with all kinds of organisations to support shifts in policy, practice and culture so Scotland can #KeepThePromise it made to care experienced infants, children, young people, adults and their families – that every child grows up loved, safe and respected, and able to reach their full potential.

The Promise Oversight Board is responsible for monitoring progress. Its role is to hold Scotland to account for its work to #keepthepromise in line with Plan 21-24. Fiona Duncan is the ministerially appointed Chair, and it operates with 20 members at least half of whom have lived experience of the 'care system.' The Promise Scotland has responsibility for supporting The Promise Oversight Board with its monitoring responsibility, providing an information flow and secretariat service.

The Promise Scotland Non-Executive Directors

The Chief Executive of COSLA, Sally Loudon is a non-executive director of The Promise Scotland. She does not represent COSLA in Directors' meetings. As a non-executive director, she acts only in the best interests of The Promise Scotland.

Partnership Working

To enable successful partnership working between organisations to support Local Government to Keep the Promise, **COSLA's** role is to:

- Support Council Leaders and Spokespeople to represent Local Government with Scottish Government Ministers and Scottish Parliament
- Keep Elected Members informed and engaged on national and local developments around The Promise through COSLA Boards, Leaders and regular communication
- Support Elected Members in policy design and decision making to ensure local needs and challenges are understood and met

- Engage with professional associations (including SOLACE, SOLAR, Social Work Scotland, Directors of Finance and others) in policy development and delivery ensuring that national decisions represent local need and views.

The Promise Scotland's role is:

- To support COSLA staff and Council Leaders to understand the work programmes that The Promise Scotland is responsible for, to facilitate their engagement and participation.
- To ensure relevant and sufficiently senior COSLA leaders are involved in policy direction that The Promise Scotland has responsibility for (e.g. Using the Money Differently, Hearing System Working Group)
- To facilitate effective COSLA engagement in the development of future Plans (e.g. Plan 25-27 etc)

Governance and Relationships

- **COSLA's Children and Young People Board, COSLA Leaders and The Promise Scotland**
As and when required, The Promise Scotland will work with COSLA's Boards and Leaders in decision-making around design and implementation of policies related to The Promise.
- **The Promise Local Government Programme Board and The Promise Oversight Board**
Develop a collegiate working relationship between Boards that allows for support and challenge as we progress work to Keep The Promise.
- **COSLA Officers and The Promise Scotland**
Officers will work together on a regular basis to develop and inform policy design and share information between organisations as and when required. Relevant information shall be shared between COSLA and The Promise Scotland's governance arrangements.
- **Local Authority Promise Leads Network and The Promise Scotland Communities of Interest.**
Build and maintain a relationship that is mutually supportive between The Local Authority Promise Leads Network and The Promise Scotland's Communities of Interest. Both aim to create positive places of change where partners can come together to share change and what is working. Both networks will have different remits and functions and The Promise Scotland and COSLA will ensure that cohesion and avoid duplication.

The actions we will take, in partnership and through collaboration are:

- **Profile Raising**
Both COSLA and The Promise Scotland have a role to play in raising the profile of work to Keep the Promise to both officials and Elected Members. Where this work involves Local Government, both organisations should collaborate at the earliest opportunity.

- **Project and Policy Development**

Throughout Plan 21 – 24 and beyond, significant policy and practice change will impact Local Government, across services and directorates. Engagement between and with COSLA and The Promise Scotland will be crucial. Both organisations commit to early and ongoing engagement through policy and project design and implementation and COSLA will support and enable relationships across Local Government, locally and nationally.

- **Communication**

Communication between organisations shall be timely with respect to COSLA and The Promise Scotland's governance structures. Officers will work collaboratively to ensure that both organisations are aware of policy and funding announcements, related to Local Government, where possible. Both organisations will facilitate meetings and communication between the Chair of The Promise Scotland, COSLA's Senior Management Team, The Promise Scotland Senior Leadership Team, COSLA Leaders and the Children and Young People Board.