

THE PROMISE

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on The Promise agenda and to note the way forward in relation to delivering on The Promise across Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Recommendations

Members of CSSaPP are asked to note:

- 2.1 our work in relation to Delivering on The Promise across Dumfries and Galloway will be progressed with the Promise Partnership as set out in **paragraph 4.1**
- 2.2 our Promise Partnership will work collaboratively with other partnerships and as agreed at Social Work Services Committee on 24 August 2022 will report on a 6 monthly basis to this committee
- 2.3 progress reports on a 6 monthly basis will be presented to CSSaPP.

3. Background

3.1 It has been two years since the Care Review published its conclusions and The Promise must be kept by 2030. The rapid changes that have taken place across Dumfries and Galloway over the last year, demonstrate that change can happen at pace, however given the ambition for change set out in the 10-year plan life to #Keep the Promise there is concern that the scale of ambition and change required may not be fully acknowledged.

3.2 The Promise Scotland published Plan 21-24 in March 2021 outlining the priorities for the next 3 years and to set out what must happen between now and 2024 to ensure Scotland stays on track to deliver on The Promise. It outlines Scotland's route map, providing us with key priorities and areas of focus which we will achieve. The required change over this period translates into the following five priority areas of change:

- 1. A Good Childhood
- 2. Whole Family Support
- 3. Supporting the Workforce
- 4. Building Capacity
- 5. Planning

3.3 In the past 2 years since the findings of the Independent Care Review was published, we have worked at pace with partners to implement a broad range of new measures which reflect the five foundations of The Promise, whilst continuing to navigate the many challenges of the pandemic and sustaining high levels of support. We recognise the demonstrable progress we have made with examples set out in **Appendix 1** and acknowledge we still have a way to go.

4. Our Approach

4.1 To ensure we get it right for not only our looked after children but our most vulnerable children, young people and families, that moving forward this work will be overseen and driven forward by the Promise Partnership, Terms of Reference set out in **Appendix 2**. This will allow us to expand on our approach across key partners, third sector organisations and communities so we improve all services at pace, with an emphasis on engagement and

participation taking a holistic approach, together with mirroring our Bright Spots Programme approach.

4.2 This approach will ensure that we not only target our 2% most vulnerable looked after children and young people across the Region but also the wider 20% of our children, young people and families living in poverty, taking a holistic view on the required shifts in policy, practice and culture and a generational opportunity to make sure every child and family across Dumfries and Galloway has what they need to thrive.

4.3 In adopting this holistic approach we will:

- Support our children, young people, adults, and families who are care experienced, recognising that experience of care has an effect on people throughout their lives and the lives of those around them.
- Support our children, young people, adults, and families who we know are at risk of being taken into care, recognising that the right support at the right times will help keep families together and avoid the need for care.
- Support all our children, young people, adults, and families, recognising that if we get the services that everyone uses right then the level of engagement with the care system will be reduced.

4.4 Our approach to this is reflective of 'the fundamentals' of change that The Promise Scotland set out in its Plan 21-24:

- To do what matters to children and families
- To listen and embed what we have heard from children and families
- To tackle poverty and the forces that push families into it
- To respect children's rights, and
- To improve our language

4.5 Our Promise Plan will be presented later this year to this Group, setting out how and what we will do to deliver on Our Promise, identifying key actions that we will undertake to help to ensure a Good Childhood; to adopt a Whole Family approach and build capacity to support this, listening to the voices and experiences of our children, young people and families to improve their lives. Priorities will be informed by the findings from engagement and participation activities, Plan 21-24 and the Change One Programme. This will also be driven by the opportunity for future investment in the Promise Partnership funding opportunities. Our Promise Plan will outline our commitment to a range of actions building on and accelerating how we have developed this support over the past two years, what our children, young people and families are telling us and aligned to current strategic plans.

4.6 The Promise Scotland Team will support the Promise Partnership delivering on our Transformation Journey together with the Promise Officer. The Promise Officer post is a funded post for 12 months, currently with Job Evaluation Team.

5 Consultation

5.1 Group members of the Promise Partnership have been consulted with the contents of this report.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - [The Promise-Report.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

Appendix 2 – The Promise Partnership Terms of Reference