Outer Hebrides The Promise Update

**Voice**

*We have developed workshops for care experienced children and young people to attend from Barra up to Lewis. These workshops created an informal, relaxed, and safe space for young people to share their experiences and thoughts. It also offered opportunities for them to influence change within organisations, which would better the experience for them and those who experiencing care in the future. In the groups there was discussion about the promise and the 10 year rollout and ensured that they all children and young people received a copy of the Pinky Promise.*

*We also started the process of these young people feeding into the new corporate parenting plan. This is going to take a bit of work and we plan to follow up with the young people that attended whilst reaching out to more young people. The attendance in the southern isles was low so we moved the Lewis and Harris workshop to an evening session and this worked out better. This is what we plan to do when revisiting Barra and Uist.*

**Family**

*Promise keepers have been identified within Action for Children. Training for this role was delivered by the Programme Lead. Staff within Action for Children are familiar with and promote the Promise with the families and young people they support. More work needs to be done around family and supporting them to access the information on the promise*

**Care**

*The Programme Lead developed and delivered a presentation to promote and support the role out of the 21-25 plan. This was done alongside Action for Children, supporting them identify Promise Keepers within each base.*

*We have also delivered this to the ICSP, CYPPP and Care Experienced Subgroup. The Programme Lead has plans to do individual sessions within some of the organisations that attend these meetings, whilst focusing on ensuring that these organisations identify Promise Keepers within their staff teams. This should ensure that organisations have staff to help the Promise agenda be incorporated into every day work practices. Ensuring that the Care foundation is imbedded into organisations policies and support staff to meet this.*

**People**

*We have met with young people who have moved on from care and who have been out of the ‘system; for several years. This created a platform for them to feed back about their experiences and this allows us the benefit of learning from them. We have also met with our current young people who are care experienced, both on a 1:1 base and group sessions*

*One of the issues around the People Foundation is that the current resources for care experienced young people does not fully support what they feel they require. We would agree with this statement and therefore we need to build capacity in our Aftercare services.*

**Scaffolding**

*As discussed previously, we have worked with organisations to ensure that they identify Promise Keepers within their organisation. In partnership with different planning groups, we are currently working on the new Corporate Parenting Plan, using the feedback from the young people gave during the workshops and during 1:1 meetings. Working on promise proofing the Corporate Parenting plan, Child Protection Policy and the Integrated Child Services Plan. This should ensure that young people and their families are key contributors to the development of these policies allowing us to develop a strong scaffold around the promise and ensure capacity for the roll out of the next stages in the coming year. Over time, the voices of our children and young people have been given the platform through our Corporate Parenting workshop sessions.*

***Next steps***

*The post of Programme Lead is coming to an end on 21st May2022. There needs to be put in place a contingency plan to ensure that the work around the Promise continues and care experienced young people start experiencing for themselves all the changes that have come about as a result of the early work of keeping our promise.*

*We will continue to meet with young people on a one to one and doing work around awareness and influencing the CPP and ICSP.*

*Some of the questions that several young people asked during the workshops and the one to one sessions are… “Are they going to listen to us? Will it change anything? Will it make things better?”*

*As corporate parents we are determined that they will be heard. There is much work left to be done and having dedicated funding to realise our promise to care experienced young people has made early inroads and we want to build on this momentum going forward.*