**East Ayrshire: information for COSLA annual report on the promise**

Five priority areas

* A Good Childhood
* Whole Family Support
* Supporting the Workforce
* Planning
* Building Capacity

Self-evaluation of the promise in East Ayrshire

We have recently commenced a self-evaluation to gauge where we are two years on from the publication of the promise. This is based upon the five key priority areas of the plan 21-24 with a critical and honest appraisal of where we are. This will help us identify our strengths and key areas for development. This has a multi-agency approach, with different agencies leading on each area to ensure a whole system and partnership approach. This will help support ownership across all areas to support and achieve change.

Family support

Within East Ayrshire, we have a well-embedded and extensive family support model accessed and provided by a range of partners. This operates from early intervention and prevention to intensive family support. Whilst we acknowledge the range and depth, in consultation with our families they told us access is not always as easy as it could be. To better understand and consider how we adapt this we have completed a mapping exercise to look at what we have and how it best meets the needs of our communities. This has also allowed us to consider workforce planning.

The timing of this coincides with our plans to do a soft launch of our changes to our delivery of children’s service to access early help and support. This model is called HEART (Help for Everyone At the Right Time). This promotes a multi-disciplinary team model for children’s services to access early help and support within the community people live in. This model has been developed around our secondary school clusters to promote community assets and supports stronger community connections. This will ensure families get help when they need it locally.

We have a strong family support model across the spectrum of need in East Ayrshire but are in the process of improving this further.

The Promise Participation Team

We have accessed funding to recruit an implementation lead to support our drive and ambition to implement the changes required to help us Keep The Promise. This provided us with an opportunity to consider how we created a stronger infrastructure and connection to drive forward change and strengthened the voice of our children and young people. This resulted in building what has become known as ‘The Promise Participation Team’. This included moving our children’s independent reviewing officers into the team and recruiting three participation leader posts. These have been funded through three different routes. One through the Scottish Attainment Challenge fund, another through the Young Person’s Guarantee Scheme and the third through the Mental Health and Wellbeing Pandemic Grant. Two of the Participation Leaders are care experienced, and have a focus in this area, and the third has a focus on emotional health and wellbeing of our children and young people. East Ayrshire Council also funded two modern apprentice posts to support participation. We believe this is a unique model in Scotland to target and strengthen the voice of our children and young people but also create stronger links with children’s planning.

Awareness raising with health visitors and school nursing service

Targeted development with health visiting and school nursing service to consider what the promise means for them, in particular supporting mothers who may be care experienced and how we ensure they have positive experiences of being a parent.

Enhanced Whole Systems approach to promote a stronger children’s rights focus

East Ayrshire has an incredibly strong WSA in place and is recognised nationally as being strong. We have been involved in supporting Secure Care Standards, ACR among many other consultations and events to consider how we ensure a stronger approach to children’s rights embedded across all practice. Our WSA model has excellent partner engagement, including our third sector partners.

Community (Corporate) Parenting Action Plan 2021-24

Please see attached our action plan which has the promise firmly embedded alongside our key priorities. This work is supported by a revised Corporate Parenting Strategic Group (CPSG) and associated priority workstreams that has multi-agency partner leads.

Best Value Service Review-Corporate Parenting

We have completed three BVSR: Kinship Care; Fostering & Adoption and: Children’s Houses. This has been done under a corporate parenting umbrella and the promise is embedded and threaded throughout these reviews and will strongly inform the improvement plans. The promise was at the heart of thee BVSRs and will drive forward change.

Bright Spots

We were successful in our bid for a pilot project in conjunction with Celcis and Corum Voices. This was to undertake a very well supported survey to hear the views of our care expereinced young people and care leavers. This collaboration was very well supported and is currently in the process of being analysed. This will provide us with high quality information, views and data from our children and young people to help us better understand their experiences and wishes and allow us to take action for change necessary

Trauma Advisory Board (TAB)

We have recently developed the TAB as a whole system community planning partner approach to developing, promoting and embedding trauma informed and responsive practice. The principles from the promise are embedded in this work but it is very much an inter-generational approach and links to all our strategic planning frameworks across an extensive. We have fabulous partner involvement in this work. We are in the process of mapping our trauma informed services and approaches, looking at workforce needs and development, and completing our action plan of priorities. This is an ambitious approach that will help develop our collective workforce, embed good practice more consistently and provide better evidence to demonstrate success. We are looking a different ways to hear the voice and contribution from those with lived experience as well as how we create trauma aware and informed communities.

Poverty Inclusion Project

Our financial inclusion team has developed an in school model to tackle issues of poverty in an easy and accessible way for families.

Permanency planning training & development model

We have a five day permanency course for qualified social workers which is we understand a fairly unique in house model. We are in the process of reviewing this model which will be underpinned by the promise.