**Argyll and Bute submission for Local Government’s Annual Report on The Promise**

The following si submitted to help to capture and tell the story about some of the work being undertaken by partner agencies to #KeepThePromise in the two years since The Promise was published.

**A good childhood,**

#### Argyll and Bute education services have made significant progress in enhancing the educational experiences and outcomes for care experienced children. We have reduced exclusion and increased attendance and are beginning to develop our nurturing and relationship based approach to ensuring care experienced children, and those on the edge of care, receive individualised trauma informed approaches to education support and planned transitions.

#### To achieve this

#### We appointed a Principal Teacher for Care Experienced Children and Young People who leads on improving educational outcomes and oversees their education

#### Established a team of health and wellbeing liaison officers in each local area to provide intensive support for care experienced children and their families

#### 50% of our schools have committed to the Rights Respecting Schools Approach and are following the framework for awards and 26% of our schools are involved in our Local Authority Nurture Strategy programme.

#### Our Principle Teacher and Health and Wellbeing Officers work with social workers parents and carers to help ensure that schools remain ambitious for their care experienced pupils and that all care experienced pupils who need it receive additional emotional and educational supports to thrive in school.

#### We closely track both attendance and attainment data for care experienced pupils and provide advice and support to ensure targeted early additional services where needed.

#### Exclusions of Care experienced pupils remain exceptionally rare and any exclusions are only for the shortest possible period and require the explicit approval of both the Head of Education Service and Head of Children and Families Social Work. All incidents are reported to Corporate Parenting Board

**Whole Family Support**

#### In response to the particular challenges of providing intensive whole family support in remote and island communities a partnership project overseen by the Child Protection Committee, Adult Protection Committee, our Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and Community mental health services to develop a trauma responsive model of intensive family support for children and families affected by poor parental mental health and/or substance misuse

**Supporting the workforce**

#### Argyll and Bute has been a national pilot area for the delivery of trauma training and has embedded this as a core approach to supporting care experienced children, their carers and families.

#### To date in excess of 95% of education and residential care workforce have undertaken Trauma Training. This training is available across the whole workforce, including those responsible for the care and support of care experienced children and care leavers.

#### We are implementing a strategy to establish Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) as a foundation to our trauma responsive therapeutic and support services for care experienced children and young people and their families with over 50 staff now trained in the approach.

#### All foster carers are offered trauma training, PACE training and a trauma responsive development programme.

#### Our Family Placement team, supporting foster, kinship and adoptive carers, are all DDP trained and embedding DDP based approaches to assessing and supporting our carers.

#### Our residential workforce has undertaken trauma training and PACE training and are working to implement Trauma responsive and relationship based approaches to the care and support of our care experienced children and young people

* Our education services and schools are implementing trauma responsive approach to improve support for all pupils, including those who are care experienced and this has helped ensure a trauma responsive culture within schools and has been a foundation to our support of pupils and of the workforce through Covid
* We are progressing partnership work on the island of Bute and the Cowal peninsular to develop a trauma responsive model of intensive family support for children an families on the edge of care and impacted by poor parental mental health and/or substance misuse for those living in island, remote and rural communities

**Planning**

Argyll and Bute have continued to further embed our well established implementation of the GIRFEC practice model and in particular the systematic implementation of Named Person and Lead Professional roles and a consistent approach to the use of Child’s Plan meetings to ensure effective information sharing and co ordinate planning, which is fully inclusive of families and carers, including those on the edge of care and those who are care experienced.

We are working with our care experienced participation groups to develop a new model of trauma responsive, inclusive and to be strengths and assets based reviews and planning meetings, improving how they feel for children, young people, and their families and to improve participation and co production of children’s plans.

Our care experienced participation groups are working with our care assessment and reviewing officers to co produce new consultation and engagement tools to better ensure their views are shared and considered at their meetings.

We have established effective leadership for information sharing and joint planning and resource allocation with close working between heath, education and social work operational mangers and formal senior management support through our Joint Resources Group and Joint Services Management Group.

**Building capacity**

* Argyll and Bute are using formal improvement methodologies in work with Children’s Hearing Scotland and care experienced children and young people to improve children and young people’s attendance at their Panels and to address issues of remoteness and rurality. This includes;
* Children and Young people accessing their hearing virtually from any educational establishment
* Creating & implementing Preparation for Hearing Guidance for SW to support children and young people to more effectively participate and contribute.
* Ensuring children and young people are able to access information about their Hearing easily in a format that is appropriate to their age/stage through creation of child-friendly, accessible, digital platform containing relevant information
* Work with children & young people with lived experience to assist in the finalisation and testing of the digital information platform

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