

***Edinburgh’s Children Loved, Safe and Respected***

**Edinburgh’s Promise**

Edinburgh have chosen to brand its response to the Promise by referring to it as Edinburgh’s Promise. Edinburgh’s Promise is governed through the Edinburgh Children’s Partnership, as all sectors of children’s services – voluntary, statutory and regulatory – will be required to review, consult and amend service provision. This matches the ambition of the Children’s Partnership to be as joined up as possible regarding children’s services.

Given the scope and scale of the Promise, a further layer of leadership between the Partnership and service redesign is required. This group will be the decision-making body of senior leaders to provide leadership, guidance, instruction, prioritisation, communication and championing of Edinburgh’s Promise to those designated with delivering the service redesign and remodelling required. This group will be known as the Edinburgh’s Promise Leadership Group and be responsible for taking forward this bold agenda of Children’s services reform.

The Edinburgh’s Promise Delivery Group in turn is taking forward the delivery aspects of Edinburgh’s Promise. There are 4 main working groups in place developing and undertaking the work required in Edinburgh. This work is also supplemented by key initiatives and developments in – trauma informed practice, children’s rights, participation and voice, and communication.

There will over the lifespan of Edinburgh’s Promise need to be linkages with several other governance and special interest groups i.e. Chief Officers Group, Child Protection Committee, Poverty Commission, Champion’s Board, Corporate Parenting Member Officers Group, etc.

FUNDING

In February 2022, from five Edinburgh’s Promise supported applications, two were successful in receiving Corra managed Promise funding:

* A CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING APPROACH TO CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW
* SPARROW PROJECT - TRAUMA SUPPORT FOR PARENTS WHO HAVE LOST THE CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN

Both projects received one-year, non-repeated funding to recruit a post holder in taking forward the project focus. Janine McGowan (Team Manager, Young People Service) is the lead for Contextual Safeguarding project. Shona Barcroft (Family Group Co-ordinator) is the lead for the Sparrow project.

Planning, activity and delivery on these projects will feature in future update reports.

PLAN DELIVERY

See appendix 1 which details the progress the four Working Groups, taking forward the 29 actions of the Edinburgh’s Promise plan.

The Working Groups have outlined their intention, activity to date, involvement of colleagues, as well as indicative timescales attached to each activity. This format of reporting will continue as the plan and its associated activities progresses. The four Working Groups have been establishing who needs to be involved, what the initial work to be undertaken is and how this work will be progressed in the two years left of this three-year planning cycle. For areas which have no or limited activity against them, these are still under consideration as to how best to take these areas forward. It is fully anticipated by the next report that all areas of the Edinburgh’s Promise plan will be underway with associated activity set against each.

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Three colleague engagement sessions have been planned and arranged. These have been advertised and promoted across all children’s services connected to Edinburgh Children’s Partnership as follows:

***“You are invited to the first in a series of staff engagement events about*** [***Edinburgh’s Promise***](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/edinburghspromise)***.*** *Come along to one of these interactive sessions to contribute to the discussion about how we ensure Edinburgh’s children are loved, safe and respected.   
These events will be the first in a series where we will consider how to take forward actions resulting from the Independent Care Review.*

***These events are for all professionals working with children or families in Edinburgh.*** *They will be of particular interest to social workers, community health practitioners, education & early years staff and third sector organisations.*

*Sessions will be held via Microsoft Teams. Please book ONE of the following dates via the links below:*

*Tues 8th March 10am – 12pm*

*Thurs 10th March 10am – 12pm*

*Mon 14th March 2 – 4pm*

*Please share widely among your networks. “*

The format of these sessions will be – an introduction from a member of the Leadership Group (colleagues involved are already identified and aware), a short video on what the Promise aspires to create, and then facilitated breakout rooms to generate discussion regarding what and how colleagues are already taking the Promise forward as well as their ideas on how we can better keep the Promise in Edinburgh.

The output of those discussions will be shared in future reports.

FRAMEWORK AND PRINCIPLES OF INVOLVEMENT AND VOICE

A short-life working group has been created to ensure that Edinburgh’s Promise has a clear framework for involving children’ young people, parents and carers. Such a framework is needed to ensure that when Edinburgh’s Promise activities reach the stage of development (beyond initial mapping and discovery work) that will require collaboration and involvement of children and young people that there is an agreed and consistent framework for such engagement. This work is connected to and working with colleagues already involved in Edinburgh Learns work already engaged in some of this activity.

As part of this is also the need to explore and develop Edinburgh’s use of voice. Voice is the collective experiences of children, young people, adult and carers, which are shared with colleagues in children’s services day in, day out. To date Edinburgh does not have a good mechanism of both capturing voice nor a way of responding to what such collective feedback and requests are. This group will also explore how Edinburgh’s services can maximise existing work to capture the experiences, views and outcomes that are part of voice.

CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

Legislation will be passed at some point in 2022 that enshrines into Scot’s Law the 54 articles that make up Children’s Rights. All activity will need to be ready for this, and ensuring Children’s Rights are understood, protected, respected and promoted is part of Edinburgh’s Promise. Work has begun, along with colleagues from Education who have rolled out such initiatives as Rights Respecting Schools, as to how we can bring into everyday life the 43 articles on the UNCRC that affect day to day life.

This work will be needed to ensure that Edinburgh is ready for this legislation and that colleagues across services will be equipped with the knowledge and language required to be confident and articulate in what it means to adhere to Children’s Rights as described in the UNCRC.

TRAUMA INFORMED

Since the last update report initial work has been undertaken to create a basic level strategy connected to Trauma Informed Practice, revolving around the **5 principles** of Trauma Informed Practice –

* Safety
* Trust
* Collaboration
* Choice
* Empowerment

This strategy is to be discussed at the Trauma Informed Services Advisory Panel (3 March) and following this it is envisaged that it will be taken up by the Children’s Partnership as being the Partnership’s first overarching strategy regarding practice.

WHOLE FAMILY SUPPORT

Work continues through the Connecting and Collaborating meetings to create and implement a whole family support strategy and approach to realising whole family support. Whole family support is part of Working Group 4, yet its scale, size and implications cannot be underestimated. The Promise advocates that all whole family support needs to meet the following 10 principles:

1. Holistic and relational
2. Therapeutic
3. Non-stigmatising
4. Patient and persistent
5. Underpinned by children’s rights
6. Community Based
7. Responsive and timely
8. Work with family assets
9. Empowerment and agency
10. Flexible

Although many of these principles will be well established, expected and normalised in what many services offer Edinburgh’s families. Many aspects – such as responsive and timely (being more than 9-5, Monday to Friday), patient and persistent (not being time limited to *X* number of weeks, or months or ended prematurely due to fear of creating a dependency), empowerment and agency (inclusive of peer support models and extended use of self-directed support) will take considerable planning to effectively implement the 10 principles in a consistent manner across Edinburgh.

NETWORKS OF PROMISE LEADS

The next network of Promise leads involving Edinburgh, West, Mid and East Lothian, Falkirk, Glasgow, Borders, North Ayrshire and Care Inspectorate colleagues takes place on bi-monthly basis. The sessions look at how these areas take forward pre-agreed themes from the promise.

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Appendix 1

**EDINBURGH’S PROMISE 2021-2024**

**Supporting the workforce**

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| **Promise call to action** | **Edinburgh actions required** | **Taken forward by** |
| **StW1** - Organisations that have responsibilities towards care experienced children and families and those on the edge of care will be able to demonstrate that they are embedding trauma informed practice across their work and within their workforce. | **Trauma Informed Awareness (NES Programme) to be offered to all colleagues**  **Trauma Informed Training to be essential training**  **Scope and scale (who has and who has not been trained)** | **Trauma Group**  **Trauma Group, L&D** |
| **StW2** - There will be no blanket policies or guidance that prevent the maintenance of relationships between young people and those who care for them. Settings of care will be able to facilitate the protection of relationships that are important to children and young people. | **Review existing policies for colleagues and foster carers offering care.**  **Establish or create an overarching policy regarding clarity on roles and extending a role beyond the immediate care of a child or young person** | **Working Group 2** |

**Good childhood**

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| **Promise call to action** | **Edinburgh actions required** | **Taken forward by** |
| **GC1** - Every child that is ‘in care’ in Scotland will have access to intensive support that ensures their educational and health needs are fully met. | **What is the level of unmet need in education or health from existing reviews?**  **What are the trends where intensive support is not offered?** | **Working Group 1** |
| **CG2** - Local Authorities and Health Boards will take active responsibility towards care experienced children and young people, whatever their setting of care, so they have what they need to thrive. | **Are there still issues for education and health support when a child or young person is placed outwith Edinburgh?**  **What are the thematic issues connected to gaps in support provision?** | **Working Group 1** |
| **GC3** - Care experienced children and young people will receive all they need to thrive at school. There will be no barriers to their engagement with education and schools will know and cherish their care experienced pupils. | **See GC1**  **Review by school-based colleagues regarding care experienced pupils and accessing everything they need for their support and opportunity to thrive.** | **Working Group 1** |
| **GC4** - School improvement plans will value and recognise the needs of their care experienced pupils with robust tracking of attendance and attainment so that support can be given early. | **Tracking and monitoring of attendance and attainment work underway between Virtual HT for care experienced children and young people and Practice Team Managers** | **Working Group 1** |
| **GC5** - Care experienced young people will be actively participating in all subjects and extra-curricular activities in schools. | **Active schools co-ordinators in Primary settings (Edinburgh schools) will already know**  **What resource to monitor in Secondary setting and outwith Edinburgh?**  **Any identified unmet need via Reviewing Team?** | **Working Group 1** |
| **GC6** - The formal and informal exclusion of care experienced children from education will end. | **Existing policy review – what does it say and how in line with this call to action is it? What happens to Edinburgh’s Children not placed in Edinburgh schools?** | **Working Group 1** |
| **GC7** - Schools will support and ensure care experienced young people go on to genuinely positive destinations, such as further education or employment. | **Existing provision via Hub for Success and TCAC team. Data on positive destinations already held.**  **SDS also actively working in Edinburgh with schools.** | **Working Group 1** |
| **GC8** - All children living in and around Scotland’s ‘care system’ will be maintaining safe, loving relationships that are important to them. | **Voice of the child, stating who is important to them (SCRA)**  **Shift in culture where focus is primary relationships with parents – all other relationships secondary to that.**  **How to formalise the informal?** | **Working Group 2** |
| **GC9** - There will be no barriers to ‘contact’ and children will be supported to have time with people they care about. | **Reviewing how we informalise care to be more like family life?**  **De-professionalise contacts and relationships for children and young people living in care.** | **Working Group 2** |
| **GC10** - Relationships between brothers and sisters will be cherished and protected across decision making and through the culture and values of the people who care for them. | **Work underway to have better data on the complexities of why brothers and sisters are placed apart.**  **Thematic analysis of issues**  **Maintenance of connections to be key focus of reviews** | **Working Group 2** |
| **GC11** - The disproportionate criminalisation of care experienced children and young people will end. | **Review where we are with this – data.**  **Understand the issues as they stand in Edinburgh. Work with both colleagues and young people on alternatives to criminalisation. Union involvement**  **Age of criminal responsibility affected this call to action** | **Working Group 2** |
| **GC12** - There will be sufficient community-based alternatives so that detention is a last resort | **Extensive alternatives to detention exist and are in place**  **Challenge exists regarding Remand and decision making connected to these circumstances** | **Working Group 2** |
| **GC13** - All care experienced children and their families will have access to independent advocacy at all stages of their experience of care. Advocacy provision will follow the principles set out in the promise. | **At what stages do we offer advocacy?**  **In what settings do we offer advocacy?**  **When and where do we offer family/parent advocacy?** | **Working Group 3** |
| **GC14** - Care experienced children and young people will be able to easily access child centred legal advice and representation. | **Review existing supports from CLAN, SCRA and other agencies.**  **Are these as well promoted as they could be?** | **Working Group 3** |
| **GC15** - Decisions about transitions for young care experienced people who move onto independent living or need to return to a caring environment, will be made based on individual need | **New process (Jan ’21) in place for transition between practice team and TCAC**  **Enhanced continuing care arrangements in place**  **Return to caring environment process to be reviewed/mapped.** | **Working Group 3** |
| **GC16** - Each young care experienced adult will experience their transition as consistent, caring, integrated and focussed on their needs, not on ‘age of services’ criteria. | **Larger numbers of care experienced young people remaining in care**  **Reporting arrangements to CPMOG** | **Working Group 3** |
| **GC17** - All care experienced children, wherever they live, will be protected from violence and experience the safeguard of equal protection legislation. | **Are Edinburgh’s Children safer in our system than when at home?**  **Benchmarking of this call to action?**  **Number of care experienced children experiencing issues - as described - whilst in care?** | **Working Group 3** |
| **GC18** - Restraint will always be pain free, will be used rarely, and only when required to keep a child safe. | **Critical analysis of the use of restraint and single separation at ESS underway**  **Restraint in foster care – what happens?**  **Role of critical debrief following restraint**  **Restraint notification of a significant event?**  **Use of restraint in education and health – scale and procedures/review** | **Working Group 3** |
| **GC19** - There will be well communicated and understood guidance in place that upholds children’s rights and reflects equal protection legislation. | **Learning and development work to be undertaken to ensure practice guidance is understood and in place across care settings** | **Working Group 3** |
| **GC20** - The workforce will feel supported to respond to behaviour in a trauma informed way that reflects a deep understanding of the children in their care | **See trauma informed in previous section;**  **further focus on care providing colleagues beyond basic level**  **Clearer trauma informed pathways and access to training for all colleagues working with care experienced children and their families** | **Trauma group**  **Trauma group** |

**Building capacity**

**No local actions from calls to action**

**Whole family support**

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| **Promise call to action** | **Edinburgh actions required** | **Taken forward by** |
| **WFS1** - The 10 principles of intensive family support will be embedded into the practice (planning, commissioning and delivery) of all organisations that support children and their families, directly or indirectly. | **Review of what we have, are there any gaps set against the 10 principles?** | **Working Group 4** |
| **WFS2** - Scotland’s family support services will feel and be experienced as integrated to those who use them. | **How do we measure integration at this level? How are services felt by families currently – baseline – what needs to change and how do we improve the integrated feeling?**  **Use of advocacy to guide families through services?**  **Services agreeing a basic level of language that is helpful to families?** | **Working Group 4** |
| **WFS3** - All families will have direct and clear access to family therapies and specific support across a range of issues, so that accessing support is seen as something that a range of families may need throughout life. | **Family therapy mapping – what exists, how is it accessed, demand versus capacity and identify gap.** | **Working Group 4** |

**Planning**

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| **Promise call to action** | **Edinburgh actions required** | **Taken forward by** |
| **P1** - Investment in the lives of children and families will be considered strategically and holistically in the context of their experiences. | **Where and how is money invested currently – across the Children’s Partnership – how does this align to this call to action? Does anything need to change?** | **Working Group 4** |
| **P2** - Organisations with responsibilities towards children and families will be confident about when, where, why and how to share information with partners. Information sharing will not be a barrier to supporting children and families | **Review information sharing arrangements – integral to this - GIRFEC** | **Working Group 4** |

**WORKING GROUPS**

The Edinburgh’s Promise plan and its associated activities will be taken forward by 4 working groups:

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| **Group** | **Lead** | **Co-lead** | **QA support** |
| **Group 1 - StW2-GC6** | Sharon McGhee | Lynn Paterson | Chris Martin |
| **Group 2 - GC7-GC12** | Andy McWhirter | Brenda-Anne Cochrane | Keith Dyer (pending QAO recruitment) |
| **Group 3 - GC13- GC19** | Steve Harte | Keith Fairbairn | Heather Smith |
| **Group 4 - WFS1-P2** | Oli Campbell | Mark Merrell | Pauline McKinnon |