**The Promise across East Dunbartonshire Council and Health and Social Care Partnership**

In the last 2 years, the way in which services were delivered to our children, young people and families had to change and adapt; with services using innovative approaches to the planning and delivery of support. The following contains examples under each priority heading outlined in The Promise Plan 21-24:

**Good Childhood**

*House Project*

In collaboration with care experienced young people, East Dunbartonshire HSCP made a pitch to the Life Changes Trust for funding to start our local House Project. Since February 2021, the House Project has;

* Supported 9 care experienced young people into their own homes. A further 10 care experienced young people are currently working towards the same.
* Had East Dunbartonshire young people representation at the care leavers’ national movement meeting along with care leavers across the UK to campaign for change.
* Taken part in a peer evaluation of other House Projects and produced a report with actions for change.
* Held over 40 group sessions with care experienced young people (virtual and face to face).
* Had over 30 meals prepared by young people.
* Supported young people to prepare a pitch and present this to the Resources Manager for funding to undertake activities to promote mental health and wellbeing.
* Held a networking event (virtual).
* Supported care experienced young people to undertake an activity to benefit their community by providing care packages to East Dunbartonshire Women’s Aid.
* Supported young people to gain digital devices through Connecting Scotland & funded 12 months access to Wi-Fi.
* Had monthly consultation sessions with a Clinical Psychologist to ensure the House Project remains trauma informed.
* Supported young people to create a short stop frame animated film on their House Project journey.

The House Project has supported our care experienced young people to create not just houses but homes, build lasting relationships and have a platform for their voices to be heard. Our young people have said;

I think everyone in care should get the chance to be part of the house project

They really listen to what we have to say and we know our voice can make a difference

We all help each other in the house project so I don’t feel alone

The project has given me a sense of belief in myself

East Dunbartonshire was awarded in February 2022 following a successful bid to the Promise Partnership’s Good Childhood Fund, with the proposal being to implement Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). FGDM not being offered within East Dunbartonshire is a gap identified as part of the process of considering what needs to change and improve in order that we can progress Plan 21-24. The procurement process is underway and it is envisaged that FGDM will be offered in the forthcoming months.

**Whole Family Support**

*Winter Support Fund*

Last year, East Dunbartonshire Children’s Services introduced a Self Directed Support test of change. This enabled families affected by poverty, low income and inequality to access a grant; the only criteria attached was that the grant must be spent on the child/children. Parents and carers could decide for themselves how to use the grant funding to achieve the best outcomes. Examples included;

* Caravan Holiday
* Annual pass to the Safari Park
* Garden Equipment (i.e. slide, swing)
* Hobby Equipment
* Upgrading bedroom decor

Two young children experienced the very sudden loss of their father in 2021. In order to support the children, their mother and the wider family during a subsequent period of crisis, funding was used to provide after school activities for both children for a six week period. The family had identified this as an immediate need to support the period of crisis that they could not have met without financial support.

**Planning**

East Dunbartonshire’s commitment to improvement and transformational change has remained a firm priority over the last two years, and our Delivering for Children and Young People (DCYPP) met online to agree our Integrated Services Plan 2020-2023. Various work streams were established to ensure our priorities were delivered. Example outcomes include;

*Authority Level Nurture Strategy*

* Led by Educational Psychology
* Focus on whole school nurture
* Implementation Plan supported by a multi-agency steering group (including Health, Social Work & Education)
* 12 primary schools across the Local Authority have now established nurture groups
* In March 2022 the Nurture Intervention is mid-way through completion.
* Measures have been taken pre which include Stirling Wellbeing Scale, Ferre Laevers and Boxall Profiles. These will be re-taken in June and a report will be available in July 2022 with full results in terms of impact, process and outcomes.
* 67 children have been supported though the nurture intervention and others through local interventions such as legotherapy, resilience and relationship building groups.
* As part of the Nurture Intervention, Family Learning Assistants have received training from the Educational Psychology Service to enable them to work effectively as part of nurture.

*Care Experience Attainment Fund*

* Care experienced children have been supported by an Outreach Teacher who provided literacy activities across three schools. Feedback includes improved confidence and class engagement for all pupils supported.
* One secondary school has recruited a Principle Teacher for Care Experienced Pupils and a Family Link Worker.
* The fund also supported the roll out of digital equipment for care experienced children in schools; leading to improved access to and engagement with online learning.
* Our secondary schools have adapted their proposals for the Care Experienced funds by responding to the pandemic and directing funds where they were most needed.

*Mind of My Own (MOMO)*

* MOMO is an app we commissioned in order to improve our engagement and consultation with children and young people in East Dunbartonshire.
* MOMO aims to allow children and young people to have a voice when sometimes they can find it hard to talk and be heard by the people around them.
* Views and feelings can be recorded at any time and from a personal device. A form is generated that can be used to ensure voices of children and young people are heard and reported to their care planning meetings.
* In summer 2021, procurement processes finalised and MOMO was implemented across children’s services.

**Supporting the Workforce**

*East Dunbartonshire ACEs and Trauma Collaborative (EDATC)*

EDATC is the multi-agency group responsible for taking forward the long term strategic vision to create an ACE aware and Trauma informed East Dunbartonshire. To achieve this EDATC aims to implement the NES Psychology Framework and National Trauma Training Programme (NTTP).

* The Collaborative includes Corporate Parents.
* Currently meeting online bi-monthly.
* Overseeing three sub-groups; People & Training, Environment, Policies & Systems
* Scottish Trauma Informed Leaders Training (STILT) scheduled for 26th April 2022.
* Funding secured for Trauma Coordinator Post in East Dunbartonshire. Currently going through job evaluation.

*Remit;*

* *To better inform how to create nurturing practice, teams and environments.*
* *To use key trauma informed and ACEs principles to align services and build resilience.*
* *To connect together agencies to share best practice, research and approaches.*
* *To act as a coordination point for ACEs/ Trauma informed practice development to ensure that there is consistency.*
* *To promote collaboration between agencies to promote a clearer understanding of the ACEs/ Trauma informed approach and the potential impact.*
* *To share information about the developments in the agenda across agencies.*

The Collaborative has a Knowledge Hub for professionals in East Dunbartonshire to better inform how to create nurturing practice, teams and environments and use key trauma informed and ACEs principles to align services and build resilience. It also provides a safe space for members to connect to each other and share information, learning and resources.

**Building Capacity**

*Care Leavers Champions Board, Promise Steering Group & Young Persons Sub Group*

In 2020, our Champion’s Board was established and began to meet on a weekly basis online. The group had an average of four young people attend from a pool of ten. There were positive outcomes from the group and opportunities including;

* Sharing experiences of care and highlighting some of the difficulties and challenges they faced.
* A number of Corporate Parents attended the meetings; introducing themselves, sharing information about services and, at times, discussed issues identified by the champions.
* Young people were invited to work with Children’s Hearing Scotland and share their experiences at a panel member training event.
* Individual supports and links were also made as the pandemic progressed.

East Dunbartonshire was successful in a funding application made to The Promise Partnership to establish an Implementation Lead role for The Promise. Our Local Authority realised an implementation lead was crucial in order to create and maintain the shift in culture and operations that is needed. Our Implementation Lead commenced the role in August 2021. Initial priorities have included promoting awareness of The Promise and the potential impact of its findings, and networking across East Dunbartonshire Council and Scotland. A Steering Group has been established, and fourteen partner agencies have committed to being part of this. A Care Experienced Sub Group has also now been established in conjunction with our Champions Board.

Two care experienced young people recently designed a leaflet promoting an initial open evening, with the aim of building on our Champions Group and Care Experienced Sub Group (see attached PDF). The open evening was a success and the group is now made up of 14 care experienced young people aged from 15 - 25 with a diverse range of experiences and current circumstances.

The Sub Group has already identified themes for focus of change including:

‘How might we better support young people and staff to maintain important relationships after care?’