# **Background**

Following a self-evaluation process across South Ayrshire Council, Health and Social Care Partnership and commissioned services, 55 calls to action (2020-2030) have been developed for South Ayrshire. (As outlined in document embedded blow)



We are now focussing on the first 10 promise improvement areas 2021-24 (document embedded below). These improvement areas and the associated actions listed constitute the main bulk of our promise activity moving forward.



All the 10 promise improvement areas and associated actions have been incorporated into **South Ayrshires Parenting Promise** action plan (see p3) and will be monitored and evaluated quarterly and reported back through South Ayrshires Community Planning Partnership and H&SCP.

Promise leads Mark Inglis (strategic lead) and Dawn Parker (operational lead) are currently working with South Ayrshires change team to embed South Ayrshires promise improvement actions 2021-24 into change activity across South Ayrshire council and Health and Social Care partnership to help us measure the impact of the changes.

In September 2021 three new Promise posts were appointed for 1 year from £50k secured from The Promise Partnership. All three posts were situated in South Ayrshires Champions Board team. Two posts were ringfenced for applicants with care experience and from November 2020 have worked with Champions for Change South Ayrshires Champions Board to use their lived experience of care and desire to drive change to design and deliver Promise inputs to 527 participants including elected members colleagues in education, health, housing, community groups, voluntary sector health and social care. The posts have contributed to campaigns such as care day <https://www.facebook.com/southayrshirechamps/> and have worked with each and every child ([Each & Every Child | Help reframe the system. (eachandeverychild.co.uk)](https://eachandeverychild.co.uk/#:~:text=Each%20and%20Every%20Child%20is%20a%20new%20initiative,chances%20of%20children%2C%20young%20people%20and%20their%20families.) to develop a fresh new narrative and reframe the language used around care. A webinar for South Ayrshire employees and partners was delivered on 25 November 2021 and was attended by 64 participants with follow up sessions scheduled.

The promise workers support a participation network of over 60 children and young people with care experience and have been instrumental in consulting with young people on the refreshed GIRFEC materials (national consultation), short breaks, local consultation with brothers and sisters to inform South Ayrshires commissioning framework. The Promise workers have also contributed to the review of family support across South Ayrshire (see P2).

The head of service and corporate parenting lead attended the promise national design school training throughout September 2021

In addition to the work noted above the following examples illustrate how we have started to make the changes we need to embed the recommendations of the Promise across South Ayrshire

# **A Good Childhood**

## **Example 1. Signs of Safety**

South Ayrshire has adopted a **Signs of Safety approach** -a strengths-based model which aligns closely to the promise. The full implementation of the model requires a whole system commitment from all leaders within the Council and Partnership to build upon community and family assets. It supports the establishment of a common value base and common language for how services and systems work collaboratively to support Children and Families. The words and pictures example below illustrates how the approach has helped to use simple, caring language when working with families and focus on strengths.



# **Whole Family Support**

## **Example 1. Review of family support in South Ayrshire**

In South Ayrshire we are currently reviewing our whole family support service to better align with the recommendations of the promise. The voices of families have been crucial to recommending how the service should look and feel. See example in report embedded below.



## **Example 2. Embedding the ten principles of intensive family support into South Ayrshires commissioning frameworks**

Our local improvement action 6 focuses on embedding the 10 principles of intensive family support into the practice (planning, commissioning, and delivery) across all of South Ayrshire’s directorates and commissioned services

We have started this process by incorporating the 10 principles of intensive family support into our Corporate Parenting Plan Parenting Promise (see p3)

The 10 principles of intensive family support have also been incorporated into the commissioning and evaluation of support provided for children and their families through South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnerships commissioning and monitoring frameworks for children’s services. ‘Quality of relationships’ are now a standardised part of SAHSCP commissioning of children’s services.

# **Supporting the Workforce**

South Ayrshire has become a Trauma informed Council and a Trauma Informed Practice Officer has been appointed to build on the work outlined in the case study (link below). The post will also develop an approach which will support our workforce to understand trauma and mitigate the impacts of trauma through practice which is compassionate nurturing and strengths based.

<http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/3309/south-ayrshire-council-trauma-informed-approaches-in-housing-understanding-aces.pdf>

The Trauma Informed Practice Officer has joined the promise team to lead on improvement action 4 which focuses on expanding existing nurture and trauma informed training as part of a rights-based package and include training around care-based language.

# **Planning**

## **Planning Example 1. Co-producing Strategy**

* **South Ayrshires Parenting Promise**
* **Leaning Disabilities Strategy**

To demonstrate the fundamentals of [‘The Promise’](https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/The-Promise.pdf) and reflect the views of children and young people, we chose to name our new Corporate Parenting plan ‘**South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise.**’ This reflects the plan’s close alignment with The Promise and the challenge from children and young people on using language which is clear and relatable. South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise aligns with the timeline of The Promise setting actions across short (2021-24), medium (2025-27) and long-term (2028-30) and is underpinned by the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](https://www.gov.scot/policies/human-rights/childrens-rights/) (UNCRC). **South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise** was written collaboratively and the writing group included representatives from South Ayrshires Champions Board who have used their care experience to shape and share the plan. Our champs board has also supported wider participation from young people with care experience.

**South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise and short animation embedded below**

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| We have now followed this co production approach in the development of our Learning Disabilities Strategy. See outline of the process in presentation below and link to the consultation. <https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/LDStrategy>   **Planning Example 2. National Data for children collaborative**  South Ayrshire Council and Health and Social Care Partnership are the only organisations taking part in The Promise National Data for Children Collaborative Project which focuses on data that matters to children, young people, and their families. See flash report embedded for additional information on the data mapping process. |

# **Building Capacity**

## **Example 1**. **Deferral’s project CHS**

We are working closely with CHS panel members, SCRA and our social work teams to better understand the reasons behind when there are deferrals of some hearings in South Ayrshire. This work has been undertaken as part of corporate parenting activity and is led by CHS. The experiences of young people and the workforce are key to making the changes needed to reduce deferrals

## Example 2. Inspection and Regulation Children’s Houses and relationship-based practice

Our children’s Health Care and Justice services have been working alongside housing services on a project which links tenancies for young people leaving our local Childrens House. This work will enable residential workers to provide support for young people to live in their first house and most importantly continue the relationships they have developed with young people. This work has required our Childrens houses to change their registration with the care inspectorate and for residential workers to be identified as throughcare workers too. We believe this is the right thing to do to enable the continuation of meaningful relationships and support between young people and the residential workforce and mitigate the cliff edge of ‘leaving care’.