

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 18 MAY 2021

INFORMATION REPORT
THE PROMISE PLAN 21-24 AND CORPORATE PARENTING IN ANGUS

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ABSTRACT

Following on from the publication of The Promise in February 2020, The Plan 2021-24 was published in early April 2021 and establishes five areas for change. The Promise and the Promise Plan set the direction for a national change programme that will be published at the end of May 2021. These ambitions, priorities and actions are significant and will influence and direct our strategic plans across both the Council and our related partnerships. This information report briefs members on the key areas in the Promise Plan and advises how this will influence our Corporate Parenting Plan for Angus from 2021-2024. Members are further advised that a separate paper on the Angus Corporate Parenting Report 2017 – 2021 and the draft Corporate Parenting Plan will be presented to Committee later in the year for consideration and approval. At which time, we will also seek support for an 'Angus Promise' and commitment to improve the lives of our care experienced children and young people.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Commencing in 2018, the Independent Care Review carried out a comprehensive review of the care of children in Scotland over a generation. The Independent Care Review was informed and directed by the experience of infants, children, young people and adults who have lived experience of our care systems and practices in Scotland, many of whom bare the trauma and impacts of their early life experiences. The Independent Care Review published [the Promise](#) and very recently ['The Plan 2021-24'](#).
- 1.2 The Plan outlines the first of a series of improvement actions over the next 10 years to bring systemic change for Scotland's children that will reduce the need for children to be separated from their families and recognise that when everything else is exhausted and children need to live away from home, they experience love, care, consistency and everything they need to thrive. This includes individuals, professionals and communities who care for them.
- 1.3 This is an important time for all sectors whose work directly, or indirectly, impacts children and families. The Plan 21-24 sets ambitious targets underpinned by clear foundations that must be built, strengthened and promoted – voice, family, care, people and scaffolding. The Promise has given Scotland a clear and simple starting point: where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together, to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties they encounter. The foundations have been translated into 5 areas for change;
 - The right to a childhood
 - Whole family support
 - Supporting the workforce
 - Planning
 - Building capacity
- 1.4 These areas for change are not specific to one agency, rather they are of direct relevance to all public bodies and third sector organisations across community planning partnerships.
- 1.5 Whilst the Promise and the Plan related to all of our children, there is clear recognition of continued corporate parenting responsibilities and a need to ensure that particular attention is paid to children who need care and ensuring that children in Scotland's 'care system' feel loved, their needs are met, and their rights are upheld. This change is urgent, it must be a focus for all organisations that have responsibility towards care experienced children and young people.

- 1.6 Language, respect and stigmatisation are referenced by the Promise as areas that need change.
- 1.7 Taking into account the Promise and the recently published 'Plan 21-24', we are further developing our Angus Corporate Parenting Plan for 2021-24 and are preparing to incorporate the Change Programme once this is published in May 2021.
- 1.8 The Promise Plan does heavily influence our Corporate Parenting Plan. At a future Committee, we will present for approval the summary report on progress against Corporate Parenting actions from 2017 – 2021 together with our local Corporate Parenting Plan 2021 – 2024.
- 1.9 We will seek support from members for an 'Angus Promise'; our commitments to care experienced children and young people over the life of the next plan.

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List of Appendices

The Promise Scotland: Plan 2021-2024 (<https://thepromise.scot/plan-21-24-pdf-spread.pdf>)
(<https://thepromise.scot/resources>)