
Report To:	Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel	Date:	29 August 2023
Report By:	Kate Rocks Chief Officer Inverclyde HSCP	Report No:	SWSCSP/29/2023/JH
Contact Officer:	Jonathan Hinds Head of Children's Services Inverclyde HSCP	Contact No:	01475 715020
Subject:	I-Promise Plan		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel on Inverclyde's Promise plan and Inverclyde's progress within the national landscape of The Promise with associated indicators for reporting.
- 1.3 The local I-Promise Proposal November 2020 set out the plan for a small, dedicated team to work across the partnership in Inverclyde and with children, young people and their families to deliver the vision of The Promise.
- 1.4 A number of national reports have followed the Independent Care Review and establishment of the Promise which continue to guide the direction of Inverclyde's I-Promise activity. These are: Plan 21-24, Promise Oversight Report one and two, Promise Implementation plan and Change Programme One¹.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel note the update on I-Promise progress locally in keeping the Promise and the commitment to measuring progress against the national 80+calls to action indicators.

Kate Rocks
Chief Officer
Inverclyde HSCP

¹ [Home - The Promise](#)

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The national context

- 3.1 The current plan relating to The Promise for Scotland is the three year 'Plan 21-24' which mapped and sequenced the 80+ calls to action in The Promise and identified the five priority areas between 2021 and 2024 (Appendix 1):
- a good childhood
 - whole family support
 - planning
 - supporting the workforce
 - planning and building capacity.
- 3.2 The Promise Scotland has produced a mapping tool to help local areas track data around the progress of these areas. Locally, a tracker has been developed to measure progress in each of these areas.
- 3.3 Nationally, the Improvement Service reviewed how local government is planning for The Promise, looking at key strategic plans from each local authority and identification of key performance measures aligned to Plan 21 – 24.
- 3.4 The Promise Scotland Oversight Board published their second report in June 2023 which focussed on brothers and sisters, education and homelessness. It recognised the progress achieved as well as highlighting where further work is required, whilst acknowledging the impact of Covid-19, the cost-of-living crisis and public funding on capacity for progress.
- 3.5 The report however acknowledged that the Board does not consider that the original aims of Plan 21 – 24 can be delivered within timescales, however the time remaining to 2030 provides the opportunity to Keep the Promise.
- 3.6 It has subsequently been proposed that a core set of indicators be developed to measure progress towards Keeping the Promise, alongside 'stretch targets' for each core indicator to drive local delivery.

The Promise in Inverclyde

- 3.7 **I-Promise team:** the team has developed to include a Programme Manager, Engagement/Development worker, a Coaching & Modelling practitioner and a Modern Apprentice with care experience. Inverclyde's plan has followed the national route map using the Scottish Approach to Service Design which promotes active participation of citizens. Locally, this method had already been used to implement the Champions Board, Birth/Family Ties group and the Kinship/Foster support group.
- 3.8 **Proud2Care group:** this participation group includes care experienced children and young people to influence and drive positive change. All care experienced children and young people in Inverclyde have been invited to share their views about their experiences of being looked after in Inverclyde, to enhance our learning locally; parents/carers were also consulted.
- 3.9 One key development was the creation of a 'Language Matters' film to challenge depersonalisation of children and young people's experiences of care. Guidance for the workforce, partner agencies and third sector organisations accompanied the film, which was launched at an event last year, attended by Clare Haughey MSP, Minister for Children and Young People. In partnership with Council Education colleagues, this continues to be delivered to all primary and secondary schools in Inverclyde.

- 3.10 **I-Promise Board:** the oversight body of I-Promise is co-chaired by two care experienced young people and the Council Chief Executive. The group meets quarterly and representation includes Council Corporate Directors, HSCP Chief Officer and service managers for health, Community Learning and Development, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland, Barnardo's, Your Voice, CVS, Action for Children, Children 1st, the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and Children's Hearings Scotland. As part of its governance role, updates are provided to the Board on progress against Plan 21-24's 80+ calls to action to measure local progress.
- 3.11 **I-Promise Practitioner Forum:** this multi-agency group supports operational development and delivery against actions under the five local priority areas within our 'Stop/Go pledge':
- Help me by helping my family;
 - Nothing about me without me;
 - Try to keep me where I am and support me for as long as needed;
 - Help me to understand what's happening and why;
 - Help people to understand me and my experiences.
- 3.12 **Inverclyde Promise Keepers:** recruitment of I-Promise Keepers from across the community will be drawn from multi-agency partners as local champions for the Promise in their role. This will include awareness-raising within their service, ensuring children and young people are listened to and reviewing the language used in their service. I-Promise Keepers will receive training and development as part of a wider network to encourage collaboration and partnership working across services in Inverclyde.
- 3.13 **I-Promise in Hearings:** this steering group developed from the earlier Better Hearings workstream and includes staff from Social Work, Health, Children's Reporter, the Family Nurse Partnership and Education. The work plan is informed by data to improve how panels are run, the uptake of advocacy services and the experience of children, young people and families from their participation in Hearings, which have also been reflected in a film produced by our care experienced young people.
- 3.14 **Public awareness:** social media is a key part of raising wider awareness of the Promise across Inverclyde. Local events, including during Care Experience Week, culminating in an event with Proud 2b active which was attended by over 350 people from the local community.
- 3.15 **Practice changes:** a number of changes have been, or are being taken forward, including:
- updated HSCP Wellbeing Assessment templates, co-designed by children and young people to make them more accessible, with greater emphasis on reflecting the views of the child or young person.
 - the 'Mind of My Own' app, supported by HSCP Transformation Board funding, to gather the views of children and young people who are looked after, with training for 99 staff.
 - 'hug kits', developed by young people, for children moving to live in our children's houses or with foster carers.
- 3.16 Other activity underway includes a funding bid as part of a family time improvement plan to enhance spaces for children who are looked after and their parents when they spend time together, where young people could also develop life skills towards independent living.
- 3.17 A partnership approach is also being developed in conjunction with the HSCP Transformation Fund and an external partner to create small funding opportunities for ideas from staff or young people which are co-designed, build capacity and support wider culture change for children, young people and families.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 The I-Promise team continues to lead local operational developments to keep The Promise for children and young people in Inverclyde. A priority is the development of the local Promise delivery plan where local priorities are focussed around a good childhood, whole family support and supporting the workforce. This will be presented to a future meeting of the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

4.2 Further strategic and practice priorities include:

- Supporting the development of the Whole Family Wellbeing Hub.
- Contribute to strategic developments including Children’s Services Planning Partnership, Whole Family Support Hub, GIRFEC sub-group and Child Poverty Action Group.
- Review of the corporate parenting plan with young people and corporate parents.
- Develop policies in partnership to improve local practice including brothers and sisters staying together where it is safe to do so, moving on support for young people and a participation strategy including the Youth Collective.
- Develop the family time improvement plan.
- Workforce resilience programme.
- Further develop methods, including digital platforms, to hear the views of children and young people including those with additional support or communication needs.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 **Legal/Risk**

N/A

5.4 **Human Resources**

N/A

5.5 **Strategic**

This report helps deliver the following outcomes within the Children’s Services Partnership Plan:

- Outcome 1: children, young people and families are listened to, and their views are instrumental in designing and delivering services.
- Outcome 2: children and young people’s health and wellbeing is promoted and improved.
- Outcome 3: children and young people feel safe and loved and are supported to stay in their families
- Outcome 4: children, young people, families and services work together to reduce inequalities.

5.6 **Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People**

N/A

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision: -

Has there been active consideration of how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts, positive or negative, which relate to this report.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

N/A

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation is ongoing with our children, young people and families. Corporate parents, including senior managers and members of the I-Promise Board are consulted as part of the development and review of delivery plans.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Appendix 1: Plan 21-24 Priority areas

