

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Performance & Audit Committee
Held on:	6th August 2024
Agenda Item:	5
Title:	South Ayrshires Parenting Promise – end of plan 21-24 Progress Report
Summary:	
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the performance and Audit Committee on South Ayrshires Parenting Promise covering the period 2021 to 2024. The Parenting Promise is South Ayrshire’s Corporate Parenting Plan which forms the basis of our Corporate Parenting commitments until 2030, as we implement ‘The Promise’.</p>	
Author:	Dawn Parker, Corporate Parenting Lead Officer
Recommendations:	
<p>It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the progress of South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise and action plan 21-24. ii. Receive a verbal update from officers on progress. 	
Route to meeting:	
<p>South Ayrshires Parenting Promise was presented to SA Community Planning Partnership and IJB on 16th February 2022. Subsequent updates have been presented to the performance and audit committee since August 2022.</p> <p>We are now at the end of plan 21-24 and have evaluated our Local Improvement Actions ready to embark on developing a local response to plan24-30.</p>	
Implications:	
Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>
HR	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>

SOUTH AYRSHIRES PARENTING PROMISE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Performance and Audit Committee on [South Ayrshires Parenting Promise](#). The Parenting Promise is South Ayrshire's Corporate Parenting Plan which forms the basis of our Corporate Parenting commitments until 2030, as we implement '[The Promise](#)'.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee

- i. Note the progress of South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise action plan 2021-24.**
- ii. Receive a verbal update on progress for the period 2021-2024.**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Corporate Parenting represents the principles and duties on which improvements can be made for children in care. The term refers to an organisation's performance in taking actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a child in care or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social, and educational development is promoted, from infancy through to adulthood. It is a role which should complement and support the actions of parents, families, and carers, working with key adults to deliver positive change for some of our most under supported children.
- 3.2 In 2021 South Ayrshire chose to name our new Corporate Parenting plan 'South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise.' This reflects the plan's close alignment with the National Care Reviews '[The Promise](#)' and in response to the challenge from children and young people to use language which is 'clear and relatable'.
- 3.3 In 2021 the Strategic Planning Advisory group (SPAG) agreed that our Parenting Promise 2021-2030 should be aligned to the Community Planning Partnership. This decision was made on the basis that Corporate Parenting activity aligns with Children's Services Planning which is an integrated strategic delivery partnership under Community Planning governance structures. It was agreed that progress reports for noting will be presented to the IJB and performance and audit committee.
- 3.4 South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise aligns with the timeline of '[The Promise](#)' setting actions initially from 2021-24, followed by 2024-30. Our Parenting Promise will be reviewed every 3 years to meet our statutory duty to produce a "Corporate Parenting Plan" every three years. This report concludes our local Promise activities 21-24 and our delivery on South Ayrshire Corporate Parenting Plan, being South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 [‘The Promise’](#) challenges us to deliver long term improvements across South Ayrshire to bring about lasting change. We have identified ten South Ayrshire Promise improvement areas with **thirty-one actions** (as outlined in appendix 1). And **forty-seven benefits** (measurable improvements) for which baseline information has been established to allow us to measure the impact of our Promise activity. The process of benefit tracking allows us to clearly identify how each benefit will be measured, as well as the data and collection method required to do so.
- 4.2 The creation of detailed project plans for each of our forty-seven benefits allows us to report on impact rather than output alone. This is a notable change in our approach and one which has allowed us to begin to better understand the impact of implementing the Promise in terms of measurable improvements.
- 4.3 Of the thirty-one actions identified 2021-24. Fourteen are now complete a further fourteen are on target and will be carried onto plan 24-30. One action has been superseded by a new action and two actions require an extension to the due date to accurately measure their impact. Of the forty-seven measurable improvements (benefits) identified Twenty-two benefits have been realised a further twenty-two benefits are progressing (amber), and three benefits are red. All amber and red benefits will be carried forward to improvement actions 24-30. More detail including written narrative on the actions and associated benefits and can be found in appendix 1.
- 4.4 Key improvements are summarised in our [roadmap](#) and include amplifying the voices of those with care experience to shape communication and engagement that is rooted in the voice of lived experience.
- 4.5 *What a powerful session, I will never forget what you’ve told me about the difference between how things looked on paper and how they were for you in reality. I’m going to think long and hard about this and how I write files.*
(Language creates realities workshop participant)
- 4.6 *I’ve learned so much since I started doing this job, I feel that by being a working mum I’m a good role model for my children. I have delivered presentations, contributed to planning new services, shared my experience of services through film and used my story to speak to elected members and shape training such as permanency training. The bit I love most about my job is that I get to be the adult for young people that I needed when I was younger.*
(Tonie Participation Assistant South Ayrshire Champions Board)

4.7 *At last, you listened! I hated everything about the name 'LAC' especially LAC Reviews now you've change it and it's just my meeting. This feels much more normal.*

(Young person discussing the change of LAC reviews to [name of young person's] meeting)

4.8 To view Our promise roadmap [click here](#) to access other co-produced promise resources [click here](#)

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 Supporting our care experienced young people and implementing our corporate parenting duties are vital to driving our strategic objectives and improving outcomes for the community. The IJB Strategic Plan outlines seven key objectives and the Parenting Promise aligns clearly with these.

5.2 Corporate parenting is given the utmost importance in South Ayrshire. A focus on corporate parenting and supporting care experienced children and young people is given strategic priority across our key plans and strategies, for example: In 2023 the Promise was agreed as a local priority area of South Ayrshire community planning partnerships local outcome improvement plan LOIP 2024-29 [Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2029](#) and in the same year our Children's Service Planning Partnership identified the Promise as one of 6 priority areas of [South Ayrshires Children and Young Peoples Services Plan-2023-2026](#)

5.3 *'Our pledge [is] that South Ayrshire's children and young people with care experience will have a good loving childhood, where their needs are met, and outcomes are improved. Their voice will continue to drive our commitment to Keep the Promise.'* (SACSP 23-26 P7)

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 There ultimately will be significant financial implications of the Parenting Promise and these implications will be brought to the Community Planning Executive IJB and Performance and Audit Committee as appropriate.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 There are no HR implications to noting this progress report.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no legal implications to noting this progress report.

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 A full equality impact assessment and children's rights impact assessment has been undertaken on the Parenting Promise.

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 There are no sustainability implications to noting this progress report.

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 The views of those with lived experience, professional groups and corporate parents have been taken into consideration in the development of the Parenting Promise and associated actions.

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 A public consultation took place August– December 2021 on the actions included in South Ayrshire Parenting Promise Action Plan, as part of the wider consultation activity around the Parenting Promise. A series of workshops took place including two sessions which were co-facilitated in partnership with Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) aimed at third sector, private sector, and community partners. 96% of workshop participants identified that the actions held in the action plan were the right ones.

7.2 It is impossible to implement The Promise without working hand in hand with infants, children, young people, families, and the wider workforce. Since 2021 a series of workforce events have taken place across South Ayrshire under the branding ‘promising times ahead’. These events have included webinars and workshops on language where 98% of all participants recognised the importance of developing local guidance on care-based language.

7.3 Between January – March 2023 43 young people with care experience responded to a questionnaire and told us their preference was to change LAC reviews to **[name of young person’s] meeting**. For example, ‘**Jacks Meeting**’ A focus group of twelve young people with care experience which took place in April 2023 echoed the findings of the survey.

7.4 All of our local materials accessible on our website [South-Ayrshire Parenting Promise Resources](#) have been co-produced with children and young people with care experience and workshop materials delivered by people with lived experience.

7.5 The Promise remains a standing agenda item on quarterly Champions Board meetings where people with care experience meet with South Ayrshires key decision makers to influence positive change in local policy and practice.

7.6 Children, young people, and the wider workforce will be consulted on Promise improvement actions 24-30.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 There is no risk associated with noting this progress report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – South Ayrshire Parenting Promise 2021 – 2030

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The promise in South Ayrshire 55 calls to action.
[calls to action](#)

South Ayrshire Parenting Promise
<https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/38472/South-Ayrshire-s-Parenting-Promise-2021-2030>

The Promise, Independent Care Review (2020)
<https://www.carereview.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/The-Promise.pdf>

Plan 21-24, The Promise
<https://thepromise.scot/plan-21-24-pdf-standard.pdf>

Plan 24-30, The Promise
[plan24-30](#)

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
<https://www.gov.scot/policies/human-rights/childrens-rights/>

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