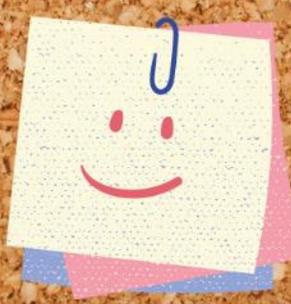


SOUTH AYRSHIRE'S

Parenting Promise

2021-2030

SUMMARY VERSION



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Foreword

In South Ayrshire we want the very best for all the children and young people in our care. We want them to know that they are important, loved and respected, we want them to feel happy, healthy and supported to be the very best they can be.

When a child comes into our care, we become their ‘corporate parent’ this means that we should know what is important to them, including understanding the relationships that matter most in their lives.

Now, more than ever, we have an opportunity to make the changes we need to make for our children and young people and their families. The work of [The Promise](#) and [Plan 21-24](#) tells us that children staying where they feel loved and are safe must become the standard, while the ways in which families are supported, and children are cared for, is changed.

All of those involved in developing this plan have committed to listening, collaborating and taking action. Collectively we have a critical role to play in achieving the changes we need to make across our communities. By nurturing the hopes and dreams of our children and their families we create a stronger South Ayrshire for us all.

Councillor Peter Henderson
Chair of South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership





What does South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise mean for you?

If you are care experienced South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise is for you. In this plan, we will let you know what you can expect of us as your corporate parents.

The plan will have an action plan which will show you all of the things we are doing in South Ayrshire to make sure that we:

- ♥ Look out for you
- ♥ Understand what's important to you and make sure others know this too
- ♥ Provide you with opportunities to take part in activities that help you feel good.
- ♥ Make sure you get the right support at the right time for you

'Care-experienced' refers to anyone who is currently in care, or anyone who is from a looked-after background or who has been in care at any stage in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked-after by a local authority
(Scottish Funding Council 2018).

Who are we?

It is important to us that South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise shows how committed we are in South Ayrshire to working together to **#KeepThePromise** to all the children and families that we work with and for.

We have brought together different corporate parents from across South Ayrshire to write the plan. They were also joined by some of our Champions Board representatives who have used their lived experience of care to help us understand what's working well in South Ayrshire and what we need to change.

Corporate parents are 'agencies and organisations of the state' who have statutory duties to collaborate with each other in upholding the rights and securing the wellbeing of 'looked after children'.

We are all real people working together and trying our very best to use the skills and experience we have to make South Ayrshire the best place it can be for children, young people and their families. It matters to us that you get the very best chance to grow up loved, safe, and respected to be the very best you can be.

The group who developed South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise was made up of lots of representatives from different services and organisations including Social Work, Education, Health, Housing, Employability and Skills, Champions Board,



Planning, Third Sector and Police Scotland. Many services make up South Ayrshire Council and Health and Social Care Partnership and everyone who works for these organisations is a corporate parent. We all have a responsibility to look out for you, understand what's important to you and make sure you can access the services that you need when you need them. We all need to know how to uphold your rights and help you feel secure and happy.



Why have we developed South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise?

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 made it our role to make sure that our attention and resources are focused on upholding your rights, safeguarding and promoting your wellbeing. The 2014 Act places six duties on us as Corporate Parents:

- ♥ Be alert to matters which might adversely affect the wellbeing of 'looked after children and young people'
- ♥ Assess the needs of 'looked after children and young people' for the services and support we provide
- ♥ Promote the interests of 'looked after children and young people'
- ♥ Provide opportunities for 'looked after children and young people' to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing
- ♥ Take appropriate action to ensure 'looked after children and young people' access these opportunities and make use of our services and support
- ♥ Take any other action appropriate to improve our functions to meet the needs of 'looked after children and young people.'



On 5 February 2020, the [Care Review published seven reports](#), with [‘The Promise’](#) narrating a vision for Scotland, built on five foundations:



Work to **#KeepThePromise** between 2021 and 2030 will be shaped by a series of three Plans, each lasting for three years and outlining the priorities and action across that period.

- [Plan 21-24](#) focuses on the period from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2024 and has five priority areas: a good childhood, whole family support, planning, supporting the workforce and building capacity.
- [Plan 21-24](#) is based on five fundamentals: what matters to children and families, listening, poverty, children’s rights and language. We will make sure we align with The Promise.

Our local plans prioritise support and love for you as care experienced young people. We collect lots of information about you, but we know it doesn’t tell us the full story about your experiences and how they make you feel. We will work to make that better.

What will South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise do?

South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise will focus on the five priority areas set out in The Promise’s [Plan 21-24](#):

A Good Childhood:

- ♥ Children who have been removed from their family of origin and live in and around the ‘care system’ will have a good, loving childhood.
- ♥ Ensuring that children in the ‘care system’ feel loved, their needs are met, and their rights are upheld is a priority for 2021-24.

Whole family support:

- ♥ All families need support at different times of their lives and family support is a crucial emphasis for 21-24.
- ♥ Supporting families is a children’s rights imperative. ‘Families’ means all families including families of origin, kinship, foster and adoptive families. Support will not be predicated on the setting of care.



Planning:

- ♥ There needs to be a different approach to investment and planning.
- ♥ Children and families live in local communities and use local services. It is important that their experiences and outcomes are not determined simply by which local community they live in or local service they use.

Supporting the workforce:

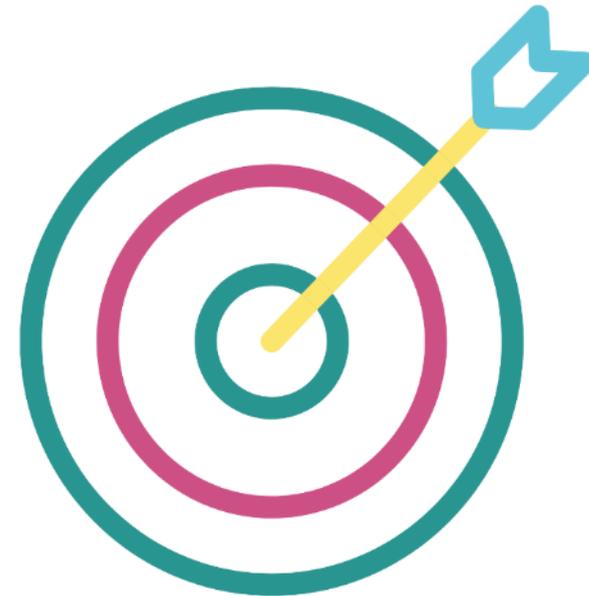
- ♥ Children experience the 'care system' through people. Over 2021-24, support for people who care and continue to care if times get tough, will improve. There will be consistency of approach, values and understanding across South Ayrshire's workforce.

Building capacity:

- ♥ Over the next 3 years, there will be a focus on work that ensures that the structural underpinning of the 'care system' is orientated to the needs of children and families.

Actions have been identified under each priority area for us to take forward and we will also make sure we embed the fundamentals of the Plan 21-24. This is really important as we need to make sure we are finding out what matters to you and your families by listening to what you tell us. We also need to work hard to reduce the impact of poverty for families in South Ayrshire. We need to make sure we are doing everything we can to promote your rights and we also need to change some of the language we use.

There is a detailed Action Plan which shows all the actions we will take to implement The Promise and Plan 21-24 in South Ayrshire. This will be updated and reviewed regularly to make sure we are on track.



How will we know this plan is making a difference?

We have set a number of actions and key performance indicators which will tell us if we are making progress to achieving our goals.

South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise cannot be delivered in isolation. Meaningful change will only be achieved if organisations and services work collaboratively and we are committed to doing that.

We will track and report our progress regularly making sure we are being held to account to deliver our actions and we continue to listen to you when you tell us what is working and what is not, updating our actions accordingly.



What will we do next?



We will work really hard to get your views on South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise. We will be speaking to lots of you over the summer of 2021 and we'll also be speaking to families, staff and other stakeholders to get their feedback on the Plan.

Once we have gathered all of this information, we will make sure the final version represents the views of people who gave feedback.

We will then present the final version of South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise to the Community Planning Partnership Board for approval.

Equalities Impact Assessment

A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been started and will be completed alongside the final version of South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise. This will ensure that we have considered how we will carry out the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) by advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations and eliminating discrimination in line with the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012. The Equalities Impact Assessment will also consider the impacts of the proposed actions in South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise on all protected characteristics and will highlight any mitigations that may be required.





Children's Rights Impact Assessment

A Children's Rights Impact Assessment will be carried out on the final version of South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise, in accordance to the [United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC).

The Assessment will consider how South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise:

- impacts on the rights of children and young people;
- promotes or inhibits the provisions of the UNCRC; and
- contributes to the achievement of national goals for children and young people.

