

<b>Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership</b>	<b>Strategic Planning Advisory Group</b>	
<b>Held on</b>	<b>31 August 2021</b>	
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	<b>South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise</b>	
<b>Summary:</b>		
The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of developing the new South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise.		
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Danielle Rae – Planning and Performance Coordinator</b>	
<b>It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i. Notes the progress made in developing South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise.</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Route to meeting:</b>		
Progress reports have been presented to the Integration Joint Board in October 2020, Leadership Panel in October 2020 and January 2021, SPAG in April and June 2021.		
<b>Directions:</b>		<b>Implications:</b>
1. No Directions Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Financial <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran <input type="checkbox"/>		HR <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council <input type="checkbox"/>		Legal <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS <input type="checkbox"/>		Equalities <input type="checkbox"/>
		Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/>
		Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		ICT <input type="checkbox"/>

## South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of developing the new South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

**2.1 It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:**

- i. Notes the progress made in developing South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise**

### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 South Ayrshire first developed a Corporate Parenting Strategy in 2009 which was refreshed for 2013-15. Then, from 2015, corporate parenting was considered in a Strategy for Looked After Children that linked to South Ayrshire's Integrated Children's Services Plan.

3.2 The current [Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-21](#) was approved by the Integration Joint Board at its meeting on 12th December 2018 and contains an Implementation Plan designed to take forward the Plan's actions as defined through its Strategic Objectives.

3.3 Corporate parenting is given the utmost importance in South Ayrshire. A focus on corporate parenting and supporting care experienced young people is given strategic priority across our key plans and strategies, for example:

- A strategic priority of the [Children's Services Plan 2020-2023](#) is to 'Love and Support our Care Experienced Young People and Young Carers';
- The [Council Plan 2018-2022](#) also identifies working 'closely with partners to support looked after children and young people and young carers to reach their potential' as a priority; and
- South Ayrshire's [Local Outcomes Improvement Plan](#) identifies 'improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers' as a key priority of the Community Planning Partnership.

3.4 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 secure 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 vulnerable children.

#### 4. REPORT

- 4.1 South Ayrshire HSCP has made good progress on delivering the current Corporate Parenting Plan (reported to the Performance and Audit Committee). With the publication of the [Independent Care Review](#) findings and the incorporation of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC) into domestic law, it is a particularly relevant time to refresh the Corporate Parenting Plan with both [‘The Promise’](#) and the UNCRC underpinning the new Plan. This follows the publication of the IJB Strategic Plan, allowing for alignment to the HSCP’s overall strategic objectives.
- 4.2 [South Ayrshires Parenting Promise](#) has now gone out to public consultation. A full document, a summary version and an easy read version are available. The survey has been promoted through local networks and on social media. The online consultation will remain open throughout August. Separate consultation workshops have been held with young people with care experience and a session with our voluntary sector partners is scheduled for September and our foster and kinship carers have been specifically targeted as key partners.



- 4.3 The following information has been gathered from the online survey so far:
- 98% of those who have participated to date either agree or strongly agree that South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise explains what corporate parenting is
  - 95% either agree or strongly agree that South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise explains what The Promise is
  - 92% think South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise is clear and easy to understand
  - 78% felt that South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise reflects the needs of all care experienced young people
  - 92% agree that the actions identified in the parenting promise are the right ones
  - 95% think South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise describes the importance of corporate parents working together

4.4 Some of the comments received so far include:

*I liked the different formats of the plan however I felt the easy-read version was more directed to disability. I feel if this was picked up by a care experienced child/young person without a disability, they wouldn't think this applied to them. It would be good to see more clarity/specific examples around how therapeutic family supports will apply to children in foster care and the foster families.*

*Will the financial element of continued care be reviewed or phased in as it is recognised that young people should be able to remain within their foster families into young adulthood where they wish to do so, but sometimes the financial implications of this prevent foster carers from feeling able to provide continuing care?*

*The Promise summary is very personal and great to hear various colleagues' comments.*

*I think this is a refreshing move away from strategy documents of old.*

Implementing the Promise in South Ayrshire

4.5 The [Change Programme ONE](#) follows on from Plan 21-24, which mapped and sequenced the 80+ calls to action in the Independent Care Review's conclusions and identified the five priority actions for the next three years.

4.6 Change Programme ONE outlines what is happening now, what is happening next and what needs to happen. It also assesses whether what is happening is good and fast enough to **#KeepThePromise**. The Change Programme is live and dynamic and will be updated so it is always in the best shape to drive Scotland forward to **#KeepThePromise**.

4.7 Within South Ayrshire, we have our own local improvement actions based on the following:

1. South Ayrshires workforce and commissioned services will have a **comprehensive understanding of the promise** including how to embed the promise **values** in their approach
2. Services and provision will be **designed on the basis of need** and with **clear data**, rather than on an acceptance of how the system has always operated
3. Decisions made across South Ayrshire are underpinned by **Children's rights** and there will be well communicated and understood guidance in place that upholds children's rights and reflects equal protection legislation
4. **Trauma informed** and **nurture** approaches are standard and widespread practice across South Ayrshire

5. South Ayrshire recognises that ‘language creates realities’ those with care experience must hold and own the narrative of their own lives
6. 10 principles of **intensive family support** are embedded into the practice (planning, commissioning and delivery) across all of South Ayrshire’s directorates and commissioned services
7. There must be **significant, ongoing and persistent** commitment to **ending poverty** and mitigating its impacts for South Ayrshires children, families and communities.
8. South Ayrshire must support the workforce to contribute to a **broader understanding of risk**. South Ayrshire must understand, through its **people and structures**, the risk of children not having loving supportive relationships and regular childhood and teenage experiences.
9. A **framework of support** will be in place to ensure people involved in the care of care experienced children and young people **feel valued, encouraged** and have **supportive relationships for reflection** with high **quality supervision and environmental conditions**.
10. Care experienced children and young people will receive **all they need to thrive at school**. There will be **no barriers to their engagement** with education and schools will **know and cherish their care experienced pupils**.

#### Additional activity

- 4.8 Awareness raising Workshops continue including an IJB briefing session 18/8/21 and workshop session with the Community Planning Partnership Board 26/8/21.
- 4.9 Young people from South Ayrshires Champions Board, Head of Service Children’s Health, Care and Justice Services and South Ayrshires Corporate Parenting Lead Officer have all been accepted to take part in The Promise National Design School throughout September 2021.
- 4.10 South Ayrshires Champions board have a scheduled network event with [Each and Every Child](#) to develop a fresh new narrative and reframe the language used around care.
- 4.11 South Ayrshire is a key partner in the Promise Data for Children Collaborative.
- 4.12 Three new Promise posts have been created for 1 year from money secured from The Promise Partnership and two of these posts are for people with care experience.

#### Next steps

4.13 All feedback from the consultation will be analysed and considered when finalising the Corporate Parenting Plan. The final Plan will then be presented to IJB and Leadership Panel for approval.

4.14 It will be important to know how well the implementation of the plan is progressing. Therefore, the implementation plan will include detail on measurable performance indicators and outcomes, agreed responsibilities with timescales, a clear reporting process, a feedback loop process that ensures the HSCP and partners learn along the way and enables it to change course when needed, and a plan for people with care experience and other stakeholders to continue to influence the plan (engagement is not just for the strategy development phase).

4.15 Monitoring and review will be undertaken between the IJB and its sub-committees (SPAG and Performance and Audit as appropriate).

## 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 Corporate Parenting Plan aligns clearly with these.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

### 6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 There ultimately will be significant financial implications of South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise but these implications will be brought to the IJB as appropriate.

### 6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 There are no HR implications to agreeing this report.

### 6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no legal implications to agreeing this report.

### 6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken on the strategy.

### 6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 There are no sustainability implications to agreeing this report.

### 6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 The views of professional groups will be taken into close consideration as the strategy is developed.

## 7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 Proposals for consultation and a partnership approach are set out above and will be further developed.

## 8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 There is no risk associated with agreeing this report.

### **REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT**

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**August 2021**