

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Strategic Planning Advisory Group	
Held on	15 June 2021	
Agenda Item:	9	
Title:	South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise	
Summary:		
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of developing the new South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise covering the period 2021 to 2030.</p>		
Author:	Danielle Rae – Planning and Performance Coordinator	
<p>It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Notes the progress made in developing the new South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise 2021-2030; and ii. Considers the governance arrangements for South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise 2021-2030 be aligned to the Community Planning Partnership. 		
Route to meeting:		
<p>Progress reports have been presented to the Integration Joint Board in October 2020, Leadership Panel in October 2020 and January 2021. A progress report was presented to SPAG in April 2021.</p>		
Directions:		Implications:
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 covering the period 2021 to 2030.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Strategic Planning Advisory Group:

- i. Notes the progress made in developing the new South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise 2021-2030.; and**
- ii. Considers the governance arrangements for South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise 2021-2030 be aligned to the Community Planning Partnership.**

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 To demonstrate we are taking the fundamentals of The Promise seriously, we have decided to name our plan ‘South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise.’ This reflects the plan’s close alignment with The Promise and the messages from children and young people on using more meaningful language.
- 4.3 The Writing Group has reviewed the current Plan, reviewed and shared the data their service holds on corporate parenting, shared ideas on layout, content and format and have had a strong focus on how to engage with stakeholders to create a strategic document which people can identify with and feel a sense of ownership.
- 4.4 The Writing Group also carried out a self-evaluation exercise on the foundations of The Promise: Care, Voice, Family, People and Scaffolding. The findings from the self-evaluation highlighted improvement actions required to implement the ‘calls to action’ within The Promise.
- 4.5 The Writing Group has now finalised the draft document. The document is written directly to young people and families in softer language and includes a ‘key points’ box at the end of each section to make it as accessible as possible. The final version of the document will be designed, and various versions will be available including an Easy Read version, an animation and an infographic summary.
- 4.6 Importantly, while basing the Plan on the needs of our local population, we have incorporated [‘The Promise’](#) and the recently published [Plan 21-24](#). South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise aligns with the timeline of The Promise setting actions across short (2021-24), medium (2025-27) and long-term (2028-30) and will be reviewed every 3 years as set out in legislation with a clear emphasis on the actions aligned to the [Plan 21-24](#).

Next steps

- 4.7 Following agreement by the Corporate Parenting Executive Group, the final draft will go out for formal consultation. Planning for the engagement exercise has begun and is being led by the expertise of the Champions Board. The methods we use to engage with people depends largely on when and how lockdown restrictions are eased but a variety of methods will be used to encourage as much participation as possible. Our partners are also supporting the engagement namely Employability and Skills, Community Learning and Development, the Virtual School Team and

VASA. Engaging with children and young people with experience of care, families and carers will be at the forefront of the consultation. Engagement on the draft document is likely to last over the summer with the final version being approved after recess.

- 4.8 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 we 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).
- 4.9 All feedback from the consultation will be analysed and considered when finalising the Corporate Parenting Plan. A key consideration for SPAG is the governance of South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise. As Children's Services Planning is an integrated strategic delivery partnership under Community Planning governance structures, it seems appropriate for South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise to be approved and monitored through Community Planning Structures. Progress reports for noting would be presented to IJB.

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 the new Corporate Parenting Plan 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.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

[The Promise, Independent Care Review \(2020\)](#)

[Plan 21-24, The Promise](#)

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

June 2021