

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 January 2021
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Independent Care Review's Findings and the Promise of Transformational Change
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide brief overview of the work of the Independent Care Review
- ◆ update Social Work Resources Committee on findings contained within the Promise and what we are doing across South Lanarkshire to support the vision of the Promise

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the content of the report is noted; and
- (2) that Social Work Resources continue to support any future national and local implementation of the Promise arising from the Independent Care Review.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Scottish Government launched a root and branch review of the care system in 2017 to look at the underpinning legislation, practices, culture and ethos. The aim of the Independent Care Review was to identify and deliver lasting change in Scotland's care system and leave a legacy that will transform the wellbeing of infants, children and young people.
- 3.2. The Independent Care Review reached its final stage at the end of February 2020. The review produced seven key reports: The Promise; the Plan; The Money and Follow the Money; the Rules and finally The Thank You.
- 3.3. The Promise provides an overall vision of what the new approach should be. It reports that the 'care system' is currently a "complex, fragmented, multi-purpose and multifaceted entity" underpinned by 44 pieces of legislation, 19 pieces of secondary legislation and three international conventions and straddles six out of nine Scottish policy areas. As a result, it says, this is not a "care system" but a labyrinth of legislation, policy and practice which does not reflect the needs of Scotland's children, makes "cohesive operation impossible" and "creates disconnects into which children, young adults and their families can fall".
- 3.4. The "Promise" promotes the foundations of voice; family; care; people and scaffolding being at the heart of how Scotland thinks, plans and priorities for its children and families. It outlines a number of areas where organisations and institutions must "radically rethink" their underlying purpose and operating structures,

including the Children's Hearings system, foster care, residential care, secure care, children in the youth justice system, keeping children with their families where it is safe to do so, and continue to support models of Kinship Care and above all value the importance of relationships. The report outlines that Government must, therefore, create a clear legislative, environment that supports families to stay together and protects and allows relationships to flourish across the system.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1. The Plan briefly outlines that in order for The Promise to be realised, implementation of change would take up to 10 years. There will be one plan which will lay out the sequencing of change in alignment with national and local priorities. An independent oversight body/implementation team is currently being established. The National Oversight Group will establish a fit of purpose governance structure to ensure accountability from those responsible for making the change with a report being submitted annually to the Scottish Parliament. The Implementation Team have been in a process of engagement with organisations across Scotland and this process will directly form the basis of the Plan.
- 4.2. South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) Social Work Resources (SWR) has been engaged with the Independent Care Review team throughout the last three years. We agreed to be a host authority for a deprivation mapping exercise and maintained representation with various work streams (Edges of Care) and facilitated visits between the review team to showcase areas of good practice across South Lanarkshire.
- 4.3. We have recently met with a member of the implementation team to discuss opportunities and challenges with aligning the vision of the Promise into our Children's Services Plan and Corporate Parenting Plan. Our revised Corporate Parenting governance and structure and newly incorporated Champions Board will act as our strategic drivers in supporting the change which is aligned with the Promise.
- 4.4. Children and Justice SWR are currently undergoing a system wide change project with the emphasis on building capacity to support children and young people to remain within their families by developing an enhanced and co-ordinated family support model. This includes developments in widening the support offer to Kinship Carers both financially and emotionally.
- 4.5. We are currently engaged with key partners to strengthen our offer of support and accommodation pathways to care experienced young people post 16 and above in line with the vision of the Promise, co-designing with our care experienced young people a model of support and accommodation that meets young people's needs.
- 4.6. Children and Justice Social Work have started a process of "decluttering" Social Work processes to create the right conditions for our workforce to be able to practice in a relationship based/trauma informed manner and have a vision of promoting a culture that values the centrality of relationships between the workforce and children and their families.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There will be financial implications in relation to delivering Transformational Change over the period of The Plan, it has been recognised that there will need to be significant initial investment. The exact financial implications will be more explicit on completion of The Plan.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability and environmental implications in terms of the information contained in this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no risk implications associated with this report.
- 8.2. There are no sustainable development issues associated with this report.
- 8.3. There are no other issues associated with this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy function or strategy, nor does it recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy, therefore, no impact assessment is required

Val de Souza
Director, Health and Social Care

13 November 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Get it right for children and young people
- ◆ Deliver better health social care outcomes for all
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ none

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Aine McCrea, Service Manager, Children & Justice Service

Ext: 3943 (Phone: 01698 453943)

Email: aine.mccrea@southlanarkshire.gov.uk