

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY CORPORATE PARENTING PLAN 2021-2023



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Introduction

This is our refreshed Corporate Parenting Plan for 2021-2023. It builds on previous successes of our 2017-2020 plan and continues to address identified areas for further improvement.

How we developed this plan

This plan has been through an iterative development process in which our priorities have been shaped by all of the following:

- Our previous 2017-2020 plan – our successes in this plan and areas where we needed to continue to deliver improvement objectives.
- The findings of an evaluation of our 2017-2020 plan and of our entire approach to Corporate Parenting, reported to the Corporate Parenting Group in early 2020.
- Findings from engagement with our looked-after and care-experienced children and young people; and parents and carers.
- **The Promise** – findings of the programme of work led by the Care Review commissioned by our First Minister that involved listening carefully to over 5.5 thousand experiences with over half of those voices belonging to care experienced people.
- Data on our looked-after and care-experienced children and young people.
- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges and pressures that this has brought.

Our self-evaluation findings led to our identification of the following initial priority aims, listed in our 2020-2023 [Children's Services Plan](#):

- In Dumfries and Galloway, we fully understand and deliver our duties as corporate parents; and have high aspirations for our looked-after and care-experienced children and young people.
- Looked-after and care-experienced children and young people will have improved access to all the services they need.
- Care-experienced children and young people have improved educational attainment outcomes in line with Dumfries and Galloway expectations.
- Procedures, policies, strategy and services are shaped in line with the views of children and young people.

However, while identifying these initial priority aims, we were awaiting the findings of the [Independent Care Review](#) on its 3-year programme of listening to those with experience of living and working in and around the care system. The findings of the review were published in February 2020, with [The Promise](#) being one of the key outputs. The Promise reflects what the review was told by the children, young people and adults who took part in the review and is built on the following Five Foundations:

The Promise is built on Five Foundations

1. **Voice** – when children speak, adults must really listen to them. Adults must make sure that children are included in decisions about their lives.
2. **Family** – if children are living with their family and are safe and feel loved, they should stay there. Their family should be given all the help they need to stay together. If they need extra help when things get difficult, they should get it.
3. **Care** – if children cannot stay with the adults in their family, they will stay with their brothers and sisters. The home they live in together will be a place where they feel safe and loved. It should be their home for as long as they want and need it to be.
4. **People** – Relationships are important. Adults must make sure children are able to stay close to the people they want to and keep in contact with them. Adults must also help children make new relationships as they grow up. Sometimes adults need some help too. The adults who are close to children must get the help they need to make sure they can do their best for children.
5. **Scaffolding** – Help and support must be there for children and families whenever they need it. It must also be there for the adults who are close to children and families. It is important everyone knows where to go for help and that it is ready when it is asked for.

Following publication of The Promise, we reviewed and revised our priority aims and actions to ensure that the five foundations of The Promise are at the heart of this refreshed Corporate Parenting Plan. Our plan now has the following priorities, each one underpinned by a set of corporate parenting pledges:

- Housing and accommodation
- Interaction with young people
- Raising attainment
- Improving access to health

This has required us to consider how we reform our approach to corporate parenting. This involves looking at the potential for a redesign of current services, and the establishment of new services, based on meeting the needs of those we serve, rather than the needs of our systems. Service re-design and developments will be underpinned by a focus on early intervention and prevention, and by embedding a practice and culture change programme.

Our Corporate Parents and everyone involved have the commitment and vision ‘to give all children and young people – **who are the experts in their lives** – influence and shape the services which are being provided for them to make sure they get the right help at the right time’.

Being a corporate parent means providing secure, nurturing and positive experiences for children and young people in our care wherever they live. Where a child or young person cannot safely stay at home, it is up to us to provide them with the care, support and stability that they deserve.

As corporate parents, we have a shared responsibility to support our children and young people, and we should have the same aspirations for our looked-after children and young people as we would have for children of our own. Our partners have come together as a Corporate Parenting Group. This plan will be shared with Listen2Us youth advocacy group and has been endorsed by our Elected Member Young Peoples' Champion and the Youth Councils Care Experienced Youth Council and Co-Chair of the Champions Board. Listen2Us will have regular opportunities to contribute to the agenda and work of the Corporate Parenting Group throughout the period of this plan.

We all consider:

What if this were my child?

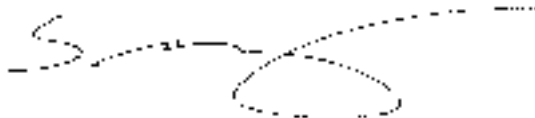
Each young person within our care is unique and will require support specifically to meet their needs and allow them to reach their full potential. It is important to recognise this individually and the need for tailored services.

In Dumfries and Galloway, we are committed to listening to the young people and children who are, or have been, in our care so that we can ensure that their needs are at the centre of everything that we do. It is important that we value the experiences of each young person within our care and so the actions outlined within our plans have been developed in consultation with our young people.

We will also work with parents and carers, not only helping them achieve but ensuring they grow, develop and contribute to our local communities.

This plan outlines our position and aims with regard to corporate parenting and includes our corporate parenting action plans. Our Corporate Parenting Plan sits within our Children's Services Plan under Priority 2 'We will improve the wellbeing and life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people'.

We will produce an annual report on this plan and provide clear information about our performance and progress on our action plans – what has been achieved and what we need to do to make more progress. Needs and circumstances change, we will provide a mid-term review of this plan to address this. We will take account of progress to date and feedback from our children, young people, families, parents and carers.



Stephen Morgan
Senior Manager, Corporate Parenting Group Chair
Children and Families Service
January, 2021

Dumfries and Galloway Corporate Parenting Pledges

All partners share a commitment to creating opportunities that ensure that our children and young people in our care are encouraged to reach their full potential by empowering them and promoting positive outcomes. This plan sets out how we plan to further improve the services offered within Dumfries and Galloway, both for the children currently in our care and for our care experienced young people.

This plan is underpinned by our Corporate Parenting Pledges that will steer the work of our Corporate Parenting Group –

Corporate Parenting Pledges – Housing and Accommodation

- **We will** be confident that our services are as effective as they can be when they are shaped by the voices of children, young people and care leavers.
- **We will** ensure that all transitions from birth to young adulthood will be well planned and children and care leavers will experience safe, secure and stable placements, with as few moves as possible and to avoid homelessness and prevent homeless presentations.
- **We will** work with all young people who require accommodation to access and sustain the accommodation they choose and is available to meet their needs when they need it most.
- **We will** work with Housing providers to ensure there is a range of safe and comfortable accommodation choices to meet the needs of all young people at a time when they need this most for as long as they need this.
- **We will** ensure that a range of housing options will be available to vulnerable young people to access permanent accommodation options, or temporary accommodation if permanent is not immediately available, to meet their individual needs when they need this most to enable them to make a successful transition when they are ready to do so.

Interaction with Young People

- **We will** ensure that our Looked After Children and Young People are given the same opportunities that any good parents would provide for their child, and that we have the same expectations and aspirations as we would for our own children.

Raising Attainment Improvement Focus

- **We will** develop and promote the role of Corporate Parents for raising academic attainment and promoting wider attainment and participation.
- **We will** contribute to Dumfries and Galloway's aspiration that young people will be in positive and sustained destination, and as part of the Young Person's Guarantee, support 100% of them to move into and sustain positive, meaningful destinations beyond school and be supported by appropriate training.
- **We will** improve the educational attainment of care experienced children by removing barriers to learning, improving tracking and monitoring, improving attendance, reducing exclusion and providing equal access to opportunities.
- **We will** develop, deliver and support intervention and prevention initiatives targeted at children and young people, aged between 0 – 26 to improve their wellbeing and attainment levels

Improving Access to Health

- **We will** be confident that all children and young people who are looked after are invited to a health assessment within 4 weeks of the initial request and have a clear understanding for the reasons of this assessment - what this will look and feel like to them.
- **We will** ensure that each individual health assessments meet the individual needs of all children and young people.
- **We will** increase the uptake of appointments by ensuring that children, young people and families understand the value for them as well as remove any barriers.

This document outlines our vision, priorities and actions that are in place to support our children and young people. It is high level overview of the various activities that are currently ongoing. This is supported by detailed progress reports that are regularly reported, monitored and scrutinised by the Corporate Parenting Group.

What do our looked after children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway say?

'I would like to have known more about my carers'

'I would have liked if people spoke to me about things. To have known what was okay / what wasn't okay'

'I didn't like that I was labelled under care'

'Having a worker you actually have a good relationship with makes a difference, you don't feel stupid for asking them questions and you know they'll tell you as much as they are allowed to. Having a worker you don't trust makes everything so much worse cause you don't trust that they care at all'

'It would be really good to get a profile or pack about where you're going before you go - some carers have really strong rules so it'd help for people to get ready and know what to expect'

'I went into care, but my cousins, brothers and sisters were allowed to stay at home... It made me feel like I was the person who had done something wrong when I hadn't'

'I was only 4 when I got taken into care so it wasn't ok to tell me what was happening at the time but no one has told me since. I was told I was going on holiday'

'I wish everyone had the experience I did, my social worker was there with me through everything and is someone I knew I could speak too'

'Wains taken into care as children should have someone speak to them when they're older rather than just not having answers. Care can make you feel alone'

Stigma and stereotypes can be good or bad. Like, I've never had someone treat me badly or assume I'm the reason I'm not at home but having teachers and people look at you all sad is horrible. It's fake either way. I think people just want to be treated normally, not having someone down their throat or someone who looks like they're going to cry cause they feel sorry for you.

I wish there was a way for people who left care straight away to change their minds. Some folk love it but I think I realised I wasn't ready and didn't really have a way to go back.

I'm 19 and really wanted to think things were different now for children and young people going into care but I don't think it's changed that much. We have all went into care years apart but we're all suggesting the same stuff as each other...I think it would be good to get the basics right. Cause you can only experience going into care properly once and if that's a bad experience then everything that comes after is tainted?

Me and my siblings were split up cause there were too many of us. We went from seeing each other every day, all the time to seeing each other once every 2 or 4 weeks in a council building that felt like the doctors waiting room. I'm glad I still got to see my siblings, but it's not the same as living with them. I was told we'd get 'regular contact' but i'm sorry, once or twice a month is nothing. If I told my social worker she could only see her kids twice a month she'd go mental. We were removed because bad things were happening at home to us, not because we did bad things to each other so it feels like you're being punished for something you've not done.

Corporate parenting is so weird to me. It's so awkward when folk act like your mum or dad when they don't know anything about you. I think for it to work, people need to be less corporate in how they actually speak to young people and just be a person - don't overpromise, be honest and actually have a laugh.

So, What is Happening Now?

Ongoing improvement work from our previous Corporate Parenting Plan

Our previous Plan delivered the following improvements in processes and service delivery

- Improvements in engagement - we ensured that there are structures in place for care-experienced children and young people to give their views in their own case-planning, and also about the services that they use.
- We improved the way in which we respond to the health needs of looked-after children and young people, ensuring that health screening takes place in a timely fashion.
- In seeking to remove barriers to participation, we improved access to leisure and cultural activities for looked-after and care-experienced children and young people through our redesign and relaunch of the DG Access scheme.
- We developed supported housing options for young care-leavers, and the Common Allocation Policy was implemented by Homes 4 D&G (partnership between Dumfries and Galloway Council, DGHP, Cunninghame Housing Association, Irvine Housing Association and Home Group). In addition to this, Loreburn Housing Association have their Choice Based Lettings allocation policy prioritising Looked After Children who are referred by Dumfries and Galloway Council.
- We established a bespoke Care-Experienced Raising Attainment Group and a dedicated team whose main focus is to build capacity of the system to support children and young people.
- We greatly reduced the number of exclusions of looked-after children and agreed to work towards a zero target of exclusions.
- Our local Employment and Skills Partnership has worked together to develop a coordinated approach to employability services across our region and deliver the DG Youth Guarantee for young people up to age 24.

While we achieved the improvements above, in our 2017-2020 Corporate Parenting Plan, there were areas where we needed to continue to deliver improvement objectives in our new plan:

In our previous plan, our actions regarding accommodation were focused on the point at which young people left care, and the housing options available to them then. However, we identified that in our new plan, we needed to take a wider approach to 'accommodation' that encompassed all the placement options that children and young people could experience, with the aim of ensuring that all children and young people live in safe, secure and stable settings.

While we had set up structures for children and young people to give their views, and had carried out a range of engagement activities, we recognised that we needed to improve our whole approach to how we interact with children and young people.

We had put teams, structures and targets in place within Education to drive improvement in the attainment of our children and young people, but our data showed that our activities were yet to result in higher attainment, and we needed to continue to prioritise this improvement work in our 2021-2023 plan.

Over the course of our previous plan, we had steadily increased the percentage of health assessments carried out within the target timeframe. However, we needed to do more work to develop a better understanding of the overall health issues of our children and young people. We also had a particularly high rate of non-attendance at health assessments and we needed to understand the reasons for this, and to support children, young people and families to understand the value of them.

Data on our children and young people

Each year, an Annual Report is submitted to the Corporate Parenting Group; and an analysis of this data supported our need to focus on the areas for improvement described above. In the Annual Report, data is provided on a set of key indicators, many of which are published annually by Scottish Government. These statistics allow us to review trend data over time; and they provide information on how we compare with Scotland as a whole, and with our 'comparator' authorities (Angus, Argyll and Bute, Highland, Moray, Scottish Borders).

From March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the lives of our children, young people and families; but this is not yet reflected in national published Social Work statistics. The following section contains some key messages from our data, with information where available, on how the pandemic is impacting on these.

Numbers and rates of looked-after children in Dumfries and Galloway

Since 2013 (when our current reporting framework was established), Dumfries and Galloway has had higher rates of looked-after children (as a rate per 1000 of our under 18 population) than our comparator authorities, and our rate has been closer to that for Scotland as a whole. On 31 July 2019 we had 395 looked-after children and young people. This equated to a rate of 1.5 per 1000 of our population aged 0-17. In comparison, the rate per 1000 for our comparator authorities was 1.1 and the rate for Scotland was 1.4. During the Covid-19 pandemic, referrals to Social Work have increased, but these have not necessarily translated into higher numbers of looked-after children.

The age profile of our looked-after children

In our most recent annual report with comparator data (for 2018-2019) our percentage of children aged under 5 had increased slightly over the previous year from 25% to 28%; and the percentage aged 16+ had fallen from 10% to 6% giving us a lower percentage of young people aged 16 and above than our comparators.

Where our children are looked after

Our reports show that since 2013, we have consistently had a higher proportion of children looked-after at home than our comparators and Scotland. In 2018-2019, 35% of our children and young people were looked after at home. In Scotland that year, 25% of children were looked after at home; and the average for our comparators was 26%. It is positive that children are looked after in a community setting, and all policy dictates that we should endeavour to keep children at home. However, Data from the Scottish Government shows that nationally, children looked after at home have lower educational attainment than those looked after away from home. We will address this through our continued prioritisation of educational attainment in our Raising Attainment action plan. Through our Housing and Accommodation action plan, we aim to ensure that fewer children and young people need to become looked-after; and that we have a range of different

placement options so that those who do need to become looked-after will have the most suitable placement to meet their needs.

Number of placements

We have succeeded in maintaining a low number of placement moves for children and young people. Data from 2019 shows that 6% of looked-after children had had 3 or more placements. This was the same as in 2018 and was in line with the national figure. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has put pressures on children, young people, families and on all aspects of the care system.

Primary school Looked After Children attendance

Prior to the pandemic, at primary stages there was no notable difference in attendance for looked-after pupils – 94.8% looked-after children compared with 95.1% non-looked after children in 2018-2019. Our latest data shows looked-after children's primary attendance at 94.42% in December 2020.

Secondary school Looked After Children attendance

At secondary stages, in 2018/2019 looked-after Children attendance was at 85.1% compared with 91.8% for non-looked after Children. Data from early 2020 showed a slight fall in attendance, and children looked-after at home with lower attendance than those looked-after away from home. Our latest data shows looked-after children's secondary attendance at 82.25% for the month of December 2020.

Exclusions - Primary

Prior to the pandemic, primary exclusions for looked after children had decreased significantly in 2018/2019. Latest data shows an exclusion rate of 12.42 for the month of December 2020.

Exclusions – Secondary

There had been a slight rise in the looked-after Children secondary exclusion rate in 2018/2019, however figures in early 2020 had shown a significant drop in the rate, with a particular reduction in the rate of exclusions for children looked-after at home. Latest data shows an exclusion rate of 26.5 for the month of December 2020.

Literacy and Numeracy – achievement of Level 4 Literacy and Numeracy on leaving school

Prior to the pandemic, our data for the year 2018-2019 showed that Dumfries and Galloway values for looked-after Children achieving Level 4 Literacy and Numeracy had improved on the previous 2 years – up to 52.4% in 2018-2019 - but were notably lower than comparator values. They were also significantly lower than the average value for all pupils in Dumfries and Galloway of 89.3%.

Attainment

In 2019, Dumfries and Galloway performed lower than our comparators and National Averages for looked-after Children leaving school by highest level of attainment at levels 3 to 7.

Secure Care

Very few of our children require Secure Care and numbers are too low to publish (fewer than 5 children and young people).

Positive destinations

The percentage of looked-after Children entering a positive destination in 2018/2019 fell to 66.67% (down from 82.35% in 2018). This is lower than that of our comparators and Scotland.

Health

The target for looked-after Children Health Assessments is that they should all be carried out within 28 days. In 2019, 80% were carried out within this 28-day timeframe. Latest data for January to December 2020 shows a slight fall to 77%. In seeking to achieve the target, a significant issue is the number of appointments that are not attended. The 'Did Not Attend' (DNA) rate for appointments has continued to be around 20% both prior to, and during the pandemic, even though the looked-after children's Health Team has tried to address this by using telephone and text reminders.

Homelessness

In 2019-2020 there were 20 homelessness applications from young people who had been looked-after by the local authority within the last 5 years.

Participation from our Young People

Dumfries and Galloway's Champions Board Project aims to provide personal development opportunities for young people aged 12-25 in their local communities, and a forum in which young people can advocate for and influence improved decision making by Corporate Parents with a goal for young people to become more confident, heard and connected. The project is managed by the Youth Work Service and young people's participation is voluntary. Key engagement figures from 2019/2020:

- 180+ weekly targeted youth work provisions were delivered in local communities (Newton Stewart, Stranraer, Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie, Sanquhar, Annan, Langholm, Lockerbie and Dumfries) and worked with 46 young people. These sessions included the delivery of informal youth work activities and workshops focussed on corporate parenting, rights and issues identified as relevant to those attending.
- 64 young people voted in the election for Dumfries and Galloway's Care Experienced Youth Councillor
- 14 young people attended and participated in 1 Champions Board Meeting
- 42 young people participated in the first #WeCare gathering which was co-designed with young people and delivered on site at Park Farm in the days leading up to Youth Beatz Festival. Young people from across Dumfries and Galloway attended to take part in the event which included workshops from the 1,000 Voices Team at Who Cares? Scotland, a partnership session with Police Scotland, Employability and Skills, Care Experienced Education Team and Youth Services; and a tour through the interactive youth led drama production, The Toon. Attendees included a combination of young people known and new to the project.
- 26 young people engaged with the Listen2Us advocacy project which led on the #WeCare planning, Individual Grants Scheme, Champions Board Meetings and Social Work student training. Listen2Us also worked alongside the Independent Care Review team to host an open day in Dumfries.

In 2018, Listen2Us led on a consultation which engaged with 98 Looked After young people and Care Leavers. The findings from this have since been used to inform the themes included within this Corporate Parenting Plan.

Corporate Parenting Group

We know all of our children and young people are unique, with individual needs and circumstances. Through our Corporate Parenting Group, our Young Peoples Champion Board and other young people's forums together with our Elected Members, we work closely with our young people to understand their needs and ensure that their voice is at the centre of everything we do.

The Five Foundations of The Promise will be at the heart of everything we do



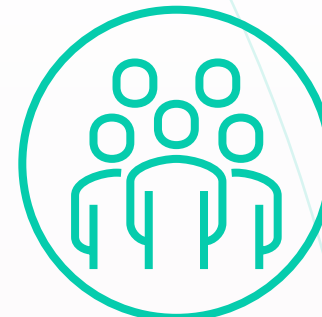
VOICE



FAMILY



CARE



PEOPLE



SCAFFOLDING

To uphold the rights and secure the wellbeing of all looked-after children, young people and care-leavers through the development, delivery and monitoring of a Corporate Parenting plan which aims to:

- Be aspirational and ambitious in driving better outcomes for looked after children, young people and care leavers
- Identify and remove barriers to the wellbeing of looked after children, young people and care leavers
- Provide looked after children, young people and care leavers with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing
- Track, assess and monitor the individual and collective needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers including parents and carers
- Through the delivery of agreed priority actions, improve the services and supports that are available and deliver on Our Pledges
- Ensure that there is pro-active engagement with looked after children, young people and care leavers in both individual care planning and strategic planning
- Monitor, evaluate and challenge the delivery of improved outcomes for looked after children, young people and care leavers to ensure continuous improvement.
- To take action continually to improve services and ensure it is responsive and meeting changing needs
- Ensure that all Elected Members are able to fulfil their role as corporate parents and consider training requirements / how all members can contribute to improving outcomes working collectively with our Young Persons Champion Board.

Governance Arrangements

The Corporate Parenting Group provides strategic direction and oversight and is accountable to the Children's Services Executive Group (CSEG).

For our Corporate Parenting Group, success will mean that we feel confident as Corporate Parents that we are working towards delivering on every Pledge within each action plan. It will also mean that we are able to evidence where we have taken into account the views, wishes and feelings of the young people in, and previously in, our care.

In addition to this Plan, the consultation and engagement with all children, young people and their families wherever possible in Dumfries and Galloway have the opportunity to actively participate and are supported to do so.

What We Will Do

This plan will be monitored at the Corporate Parenting Group Meetings. A performance report will be presented annually to provide the Group with data that informs on key areas together with comparison of Dumfries and Galloway data with that of comparator authorities and of Scotland. This annual report will also inform prioritisation of action-planning, redirection of resourcing, areas for further investigative work. Our Young Peoples Champion Board will be invited to attend meetings each year of the plan.

Appendix 1 sets out our actions plans, setting out how we will deliver on this plan and will be regularly monitored and updated through the Corporate Parenting Group. The action plans span across the lifetime of this plan – emerging priority areas / activities may be added.

Draft Plan	January, 2021
Approved by CSEG	February, 2021
Endorsed by Elected Members	February, 2021
Mid-Term Review	August, 2022

Appendix 1

HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION ACTION PLAN



This action plan is one of four that supports our Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2023 and provides the actions to be completed by Dumfries and Galloway Council and its key partners in their role as Corporate Parent during that period. The plan is in two parts – (1) Accommodation Priorities for Young People under 18 Years of Age; and (2) Accommodation Priorities for Young People over 16 Years of Age.

OUR PLEDGE

- **We will** be confident that our services are as effective as they can be when they are shaped by the voices of children, young people and care leavers.
- **We will** ensure that all transitions from birth to young adulthood will be well planned and children and care leavers will experience safe, secure and stable placements, with as few moves as possible and to avoid homelessness and prevent homeless presentations.
- **We will** work with all young people who require accommodation to access and sustain the accommodation they choose and is available to meet their needs when they need it most.
- **We will** work with Housing providers to ensure there is a range of safe and comfortable accommodation choices to meet the needs of all young people at a time when they need this most for as long as they need this.
- **We will** ensure that a range of housing options will be available to vulnerable young people to access permanent accommodation options, or temporary accommodation if permanent is not immediately available, to meet their individual needs when they need this most to enable them to make a successful transition when they are ready to do so.

When developing this action plan, the five foundations of The Promise have been identified, to ensure these are at the heart of what we do, based on meeting the needs of those we serve, rather than the needs of our systems.






Accommodation Priorities for Young People under 18 Years of Age






No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
1	Parents and carers are advised of their parental responsibilities to support children and young people throughout their childhood	<p>Parents assume their parental responsibilities.</p> <p>Dispel the myth that social work wishes to accommodate all children and young people in public care.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of young people who are accommodated in LA care.</p> <p>Reduction in the separation and trauma of being accommodated out with their family network.</p>	<p>Social Workers will have robust and honest discussions with parents and carers that they are the primary care giver for their children and young people and must be supported and encouraged to do this together with supporting families to develop their own support networks to allow children to remain at home and providing families with intensive support at an early stage of Social Work involvement so they have the help when they need it</p>		-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sarah McGarva and Alison Penman, Locality Managers, Children and Families Social Work Services		<p>Voice</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Care</p> <p>People</p> <p>Scaffolding</p>
			Parents and carers will be reminded of their parental responsibilities		-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services,		<p>Voice</p> <p>Family</p>





In Progress / On Track  Completed  Not yet progressed 




No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
		Reduction in the number of children in temporary accommodation.	to care for their own children and helped to understand the trauma of not being able to live at home with parents and siblings.					Children and Families Social Work Services		Care People Scaffolding
			Key stakeholders and partners encourage and support parents to care for their own children and young people in their own homes or withing their extended family relationships wherever possible.	▶	-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services / NHS / Police / Independent Provider	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
2	To ensure that robust searches for friends and family are considered prior to a child or young person being Looked After in Local Authority care.	Alternative family options for children and young people in times of crisis to allow them to live with family members as their first choice will be available.	Children and families are supported to remain living within their own family network wherever possible.	▶	-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sarah McGarva and Alison Penman, Locality Social Work Managers, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
		Reduction in the number of young people who require to live out with their family networks.	Area Team Social Workers to ensure that all children have a genogram completed to clearly identify their immediate and extended family network including friends and neighbours.	▶	-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sarah McGarva and Alison Penman, Locality Social Work Managers, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
		Reduction in the level of trauma to children placed in public care.	All children and young people should have a robust SOS safety Support network plan in place.	▶	-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sarah McGarva and Alison Penman, Locality Social Work Managers, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
			Support parents and carers to care for their own children via support	▶	-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sarah McGarva and Alison Penman, Locality Social Work Managers,		Voice Family

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
			being offered or via Self-directed support to help them do this.					Children and Families Social Work Services		Care People Scaffolding
			Parents and Carers to be offered a range of opportunities to help them improve their life chances including family support, attendance at parenting programmes, attendance at nursery, playgroup etc		-	For the duration of this Plan	Early Learning and Childcare Provision / Community Learning and Development / Looked After Children Health Team	Darren Little, Team Leader, Lifelong Learning, Community Planning and Development Partnership		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
3	To ensure that robust recruitment approaches are in place to offer a range of alternative accommodation options for children and young people who require to be Looked After	Children and young people will have the provision of safe, caring and loving families and supported lodgings providers who need this at a time when they need it most. Young people will be enabled to live as close to home as possible. Young people will be enabled to remain at their school wherever this is possible.	To actively seek to recruit foster families and supported lodgings providers to meet the needs of children and young people aged 0-18 years who cannot live at home. and for those young people who remain in continuing care placements until the age of 21 years.		-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
4	To develop and enhanced the skills of foster carers to care for those more challenging young people to allow them to continue to live within Dumfries and Galloway	We will have provision for safe and sustainable fostering households to care for challenging young people.	Robust assessment process in place for the assessment and approval of foster carers.		February 2021	July 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding


No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
		Our young people will feel cared for, valued, loved and supported.	Robust training programme to enhance the skills of foster carers and identify needs and requirements of our foster carers.		February 2021	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services	Potential budget required to meet the needs and requirements of current foster carers	Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
		Support network of foster carers to support and sustain fostering arrangements will be available.	A range of effective support to carers via supervision meetings, group support and peer support.		February 2021	July 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
		We will meet the needs and requirements of our foster carers in line with Scottish Government guidelines and benchmark favourably with other local authorities.	Foster care buddy system to develop a shared care or reciprocal overnight care in times of crisis and holiday periods for the carers and the young people.		February 2021	July 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
5	To recruit prospective adopters to offer permanent family options for children who cannot return to their families	Secure care in a loving family for the rest of their lives.	To recruit, assess and approve adoptive carers for children and families for those children who cannot return home.		February 2021	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
		Families will be sourced when it is needed by the child irrespective of where this is in the UK.	Access national resources for adoptive carers to enhance the choice for Children and Families Social Workers when planning for children's futures.		-	July 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People






No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
										Scaffolding
6	To recruit long term foster carers to offer permanent family options for young people who cannot return home to live but where adoption is not an option.	Provide a safe caring and loving home for a child for as long as they need it. Maintain and sustain good family and sibling contact throughout their care experience.	Recruit, assess and approve long term foster carers for children and families for those children who cannot return home.		February 2021	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
			Work in partnership with Independent Fostering Providers to increase capacity for children and young people who require to be Looked After.		February 2021	November 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
			Ensure that all efforts are made to ensure ongoing family and sibling contact throughout the young person's care journey.		-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
7	To ensure that wherever possible siblings will be cared for together to preserve their sibling relationship to ensure this is a lifelong strength for them.	Maintain and sustain siblings living together. Maintain and sustain the sibling bond for the remainder of their childhood.	To ensure that brothers and sisters can be cared for together wherever possible.		-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Sarah McGarva and Alison Penman, Locality Managers, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
			If separated there needs to be robust plans in place to maintain and sustain the sibling relationship throughout the duration of their care experience.		-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services	Reflected in the forthcoming legal changes in the Children (Scotland) Act 2020 which places a legal duty on Local Authorities to take steps to promote personal relations and direct contact between children looked after (S17	Voice Family Care People Scaffolding

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
									of 1995 Act) by the authority and their siblings – sibling defined as having at least one parent in common.	
8	To develop residential childcare services to ensure that the most challenging young people can continue to live within Dumfries and Galloway	Young people will move on when they are ready to do so.	To consider the development of satellite flats in the East and West of the region to enable young people to transition to semi-independent living in a stepped and phased approach.		March 2021	March 2022	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
		Young people will be supported to learn and develop the skills for independent living.	To work in partnership with independent providers of residential children to increase capacity for young people who present with challenging behaviour and who require to be Looked After.		March 2021	March 2022	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
		We will see a reduction in number of young people living out with Dumfries and Galloway.	To develop a robust framework for moving on from living in a Children's house to allow young people a safe environment to build and enhance their skills while being supported to do so.		March 2021	March 2022	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
9	To ensure that all children and young people aged 5 plus have access to an independent advocate to ensure their views and voices are heard in key decisions which are made in their lives	Children and young people's views are heard and recorded. Children and Young People feel listened to.	Children and Young People who are LAC are referred to the independent advocacy service.		February 2021	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
		Children and Young People feel valued. Children and Young People are able to understand why they cannot live at home and help them not to assume any of the guilt or responsibility for their care experience thereby assisting them to move on positively.	Each child or young person has a SOS words and picture explanation as to why they are accommodated in Local Authority care.		-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sarah McGarva and Alison Penman, Locality Managers, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
			Children and Young People are supported to undertake life story work to help them understand why they are LAC		-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
10	Early intervention and prevention of children moving into temporary accommodation		Reducing the current number and the period of time children moved into temporary accommodation		March, 2021	For the duration of this Plan	Housing Option and Homeless Services / Children and Families Social Work Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding





Accommodation Priorities for Young People over 16 years of age




No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
1	Develop homeless prevention protocols which address the needs of particular groups including Young People, Prisoners, Leaving Care, Hospital Discharge, Armed Forces Personnel, and persons with no recourse to public funds	Protocol and pathway established and in use which will reduce the number of young people presenting as homeless	Develop and implement a protocol for Young People including for Leaving Care		-	October, 2021	Housing Option and Homeless Services/Children and Families Social Work Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services	Consultation plan currently being developed	Scaffolding Voice

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
			Develop an integrated housing pathway for women and children experiencing domestic abuse, sexual abuse or coercive control		April, 2019	October, 2021	Housing Option and Homeless Services/Children and Families Social Work Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services	Work ongoing with a multi-agency group, Impact Assessment and staff training requirements need to be undertaken prior to roll-out. Remit widened to cover all those affected by Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control	Scaffolding Voice
			Develop policy and protocol for working with clients with no recourse to public funds		June, 2019	March, 2022	Housing Option and Homeless Services/Children and Families Social Work Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services	This is being discussed as part of the Domestic Abuse Protocol and awaiting guidance from the Scottish Government	Scaffolding Voice
2	Review the need for and potential effectiveness of mediation services in preventing homelessness	Mediation Service established and in use across the authority/we will see reduction in young people accessing homeless temporary accommodation	Review need for mediation in relation to family breakdowns involving young people and where this would best sit within the partnership		April, 2021	November, 2021	Housing Options and Homeless Service	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Homeless Forum Partners	Funding allocated to take this forward in Year 2 Previous consultation through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	Scaffolding Voice
			Desktop research of mediation services and other LA experiences of using and commissioning mediation services		April, 2021	November, 2021	Housing Options and Homeless Service	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Homeless Forum Partners	Funding allocated to take this forward in Year 2 – review of dates Previous consultation through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	Scaffolding Voice
			Develop business case and cost model for implementing a mediation service across the region linked into the Family Support Service		April, 2021	November, 2021	Housing Options and Homeless Service	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Sarah McGarva, Locality Manager, Children and Families Social Work Service / Homeless Forum Partners	Funding allocated to take this forward in Year 2 – review of dates Previous consultation through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	Scaffolding
			Commission and implement a 2 year fixed term contract for delivery of service	Not yet started	October, 2021	March, 2022	Housing Options and Homeless Service	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager -	Funding allocated to take this forward in Year 2 Previous consultation through the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	Scaffolding

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
								Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services / All Homeless Forum partners		
3	Work with RSLs and private sector landlords to identify and implement early intervention initiatives to improve tenancy sustainment and prevent homelessness.	Reduction in homelessness and increased sustainable housing.	Additional Temporary Housing Options and Homeless Officers (focussed on prevention and housing options work)	✔		30/4/2021	Housing Option and Homeless Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities		Scaffolding
			Introduction of a Housing Options and Homeless Education Programme	Not yet started	-	-	Housing Option and Homeless Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Loreburn Housing Association	This action will be reviewed in light of new ways of working required due to COVID-19	Scaffolding
			Introduction of start-up grants for our care experienced young people				Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		
		Joint early intervention activities will be in place and being used effectively to prevent homelessness	Increase training and awareness of early intervention activities and assistance across both the RSL and PSL sectors	▶	August, 2021	March, 2022	Housing Option and Homeless Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / individual RSL partner HMO and Private Sector Housing Team	New - post covid As part of the RRTP	Scaffolding
		Prevention of eviction and debt management	Work with RSL and PSL to identify those struggling financially due to COVID-19 at an early stage and agree mitigation actions to prevent eviction action	▶	Ongoing	March, 2022	Housing Option and Homeless Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Loreburn Housing, Cunninghame Housing, Home Scotland, Irvine Housing, HMO and Landlord Registration, DAGCAS, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway	New – post covid	Scaffolding
4	Work with partners to review temporary accommodation provision and models to ensure they match our future requirements for rapid rehousing.	Establish a clear service plan for the development of core and cluster hostel style provision for challenging and	Develop the business case and costings for a core and cluster hostel style provision for short-term placements	▶	Ongoing	April, 2022	Housing Option and Homeless Services / Children and Families Social Work Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager -		Scaffolding

In Progress / On Track ▶ Completed ✔ Not yet progressed ●

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
		chaotic young people	Work with Loreburn to review the use of Hope Place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear transition process in place - Review and planned closure of Hope Place in parallel with the development of new housing options for young people such as Housing First for Youth. 					Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		
5	Work with partners to review permanent accommodation provision and models to ensure they match our future requirements for rapid rehousing.	All major RSL signed up to framework and committed to providing stock within new build developments Permanent accommodation.	Plan the future housing needs of young people and care experienced young people are considered in the strategic development of new build developments across Dumfries and Galloway		-	March, 2022	Housing Option and Homeless Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager		Scaffolding
6	Work with DGHP to Review and evaluate Holm Park View to inform future planning of housing needs for young people.	A robust financial plan will be in place to ensure the sustainability of the project beyond 2022.	Create a business case and project plan for the ongoing sustainability of Holm Park View in partnership with third sector providers including the National Lottery		-	April, 2021	DGHP and Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services	Lottery funding ends 2022.	Scaffolding
7	To enhance the Number of Supported Lodgings Providers who can support young people aged 16-21 years	Increased availability of supported lodgings providers across the region.	Recruit Supported Lodgings providers across Dumfries and Galloway to be able to offer a range of supported accommodations options for young people who require additional support.		-	July, 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Scaffolding
8	To have identified accommodation in place for Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking young people.	A range of suitable accommodation identified to meet the needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers when they arrive in	Develop accommodation options for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People who arrive in D&G.		-	April, 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Scaffolding

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
		Dumfries and Galloway.								
9	Work in partnership with Loreburn Housing to support the creation of the Foyer Developments in the West of the region to support vulnerable young people	Foyer availability to support young people 16-21 to develop their skills to live, learn and or work independently as they transition into adulthood.	Development of an agreed service specification which will provide foyer access to a range of young people requiring additional housing support across Dumfries and Galloway.		-	31/03/21	Housing Option and Homelessness Services / Children and Families Social Work Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities / Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services		Restrictions on guidelines may mean we DGC cannot make referrals into the Foyer Development
10	Review all use of existing B&B accommodation to minimise the use of this in the future	Reduction of the use of unsuitable accommodation. Development of new services	Develop service agreements with local providers to consider the development and commissioning of community services		-	October, 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services	This action will take into account the forthcoming HMO licence changes	
12	Review and plan for the implementation of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order which will go live in January 2021	Compliance with the Unsuitable Accommodation Order	Review the existing use of B&B accommodation in accordance with new legislation.			December, 2020	Strategic Housing Housing Option and Homeless Services/Children and Families Social Work Services	Lorna Campbell, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Manager, Communities		Scaffolding

INTERACTION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE ACTION PLAN

The following tables set out progress on each action against theme as set out in the Champions Board Action Plan, all actions were identified by the Listen2Us group. This plan will also inform one of four action plan that supports our Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2023 and provides the actions to be completed by Dumfries and Galloway Council and its key partners in their role as Corporate Parent during that period. Where the operating context for proposals has changed this is noted in the narrative column and will be updated to Elected Members at Full Council later this year. The Themes are Family and Sibling Contact; Transport; Knowing Your Rights; Leaving Care; Going into Care; Stigma.




OUR PLEDGE –

- **We will ensure that our Looked After Children and Young People are given the same opportunities that any good parents would provide for their child, and that we have the same expectations and aspirations as we would for our own children.**


When developing this action plan, the five foundations of The Promise have been identified, to ensure these are at the heart of what we do, based on meeting the needs of those we serve, rather than the needs of our systems.

Actions will be undertaken by current resource. Those actions where a financial implication has been identified – where currently able to, an estimated breakdown of cost has been identified in the narrative.



THEME: FAMILY AND SIBLING CONTACT

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead Partnership/ Officer	Partnership Organisations	Narrative – update for Committee	The Promise – Foundation (s)
1	Conduct a review into spaces used for contact, specifically looking at their availability and suitability across the Region in line with current Scottish Government restrictions.	Families and Social Work staff will have a greater range of options across the Region, create consistency and continuity for contact which will enhance quality of contact	-Undertake review of spaces within LA owned buildings and non-owned buildings -Share and implement findings with Social Work Staff and other professional bodies -Signposting to all organisations with availability		January, 2021	February, 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sarah McGarva, Locality Manager, Children and Families Social Work Services / Third Sector Organisations	This will be a desktop review Some social work buildings will be fit for purpose for use of contact. Review will look at other council facilities; partners and third sector organisations facilities. Exploration of facilities at the New Family Centre developments	Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
2	Training held with staff having difficult conversations with young people surrounding contact to ensure they have the appropriate skills to communicate this effectively	The quality of interaction between staff and young people will be more open and honest, resulting in greater understanding for the young people on the social work processes and practice	-Identify young people to support the development of the training programme -Develop and implement training programme -Young People design and present and facilitate to third year social work students from the West of Scotland University prior to them going on final placements	 	November, 2020	June, 2021 For the duration of this Plan – on an annual basis	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sarah McGarva, Locality Manager, Children and Families Social Work services / Young People / Listen2Us	Training programme to be developed for all staff with young care experienced people part of the development team. This online training will be mandatory for all staff. In addition, to the above noted quick win, the long term training plan will include a period of practical experience in a residential child care setting for all children and families staff.	Voice Scaffolding

In Progress / On Track  Completed  Not yet progressed 




No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead Partnership/ Officer	Partnership Organisations	Narrative – update for Committee	The Promise – Foundation (s)
									Liaise with University Staff at the Crichton Campus to continue the listen2us input to final year social work students	
3	Looking at the longer-term impact on young people of being unable to have family contact to identify areas where we can improve practice				June, 2021	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services	Undertake a desktop review of existing LAC arrangements	Voice Family Care People Scaffolding

THEME: TRANSPORT




No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead Partnership/ Officer	Partnership Organisations	Narrative – update for Committee	The Promise – Foundation (s)
4	Treating care experienced young people as though you would your own children – fighting for them to have opportunities and ensuring that they are not alone	Remove stigma and afford our young people the same opportunities and experiences as their non care experienced peers and create the feeling of being valued by the corporate parents	-Refresh and approval of Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting Group		December, 2020	February, 2021	Corporate Parenting Group	Stephen Morgan, Senior Manager, Children and Families Social Work Services	To be endorsed by the whole council as a Corporate parenting responsibility – this will form part of the Corporate Parenting Groups Term of Reference and approved at the CSEG	Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
5	Every care experienced young person receives their provisional licence, is supported through their theory test should they wish to do this and should be supported / contribute to the practical test.	Afford our young people the same opportunities and experiences as their non care experienced peers and create the feeling of being valued by the corporate parents	-Identify confirmed numbers of eligible young people and undertake true costing -Approval by Elected Members -Develop programme and implement		June, 2021	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Social Work Manager - Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services	This should be a consideration in the pathway plan developed with all care experienced young people. The following costs are estimates based on current figures Cost – provisional licence £43 x 377 eligible = £16,211 Theory test £23 x 377 eligible = £8,671 Practical test £62 x 377 eligible = £23,374	Scaffolding

In Progress / On Track  Completed  Not yet progressed 




THEME: KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead Partnership/ Officer	Partnership Organisations	Narrative – update for Committee	The Promise – Foundation (s)
6	<p>Systems developed that make sure young people on an ongoing basis are educated about their rights under the UNCRC and Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014</p> <p>A place where young people can ask any and all questions, similar to Cool2Talk and someone will get back to them with appropriate links and contact details</p>	<p>Young people have the information at the right time to understand the decisions that are taken on their behalf and able to contribute to these decision and have the knowledge and confidence that allows them to contribute to their planning.</p>	<p>-Refresh LAC review process and procedures to incorporate and share with all staff</p> <p>-Develop and implement Communications plan for all children and families, and young people through various means including social media specifically targeted information. This will be included in the Children and Families SWS Participation and Involvement Strategy</p>		January, 2021	June, 2021	Children and Families Social Work	<p>Stephen Morgan, Senior Manager Children and Families Social Work Service; Sheila Clingan, Locality Team Manager Centralised Services, Social Work Services / Barnardo's / Young People</p>	<p>Adopt a rights-based approach for all LAC and endorsed via LAC reviews and pathway plans</p> <p>Development of Webpage and signposting</p>	<p>Voice</p> <p>Scaffolding</p>
7	<p>Corporate Parents making a statement and commitment to fully support care experienced young people within all policy and publicity documents</p>	<p>All young people have a feeling that their needs are being listened to and that they are actively consulted and contributing to policy which will make them feel valued by the corporate parents</p>	<p>-Refresh Corporate Parenting Plan and Terms of Reference</p> <p>-Re-launch of Corporate Parenting Web page</p>		November, 2020	March, 2021	Corporate Parenting Group	<p>Stephen Morgan, Senior Manager Children and Families Social Work Services</p>	<p>Council Launched the Care Leavers Covenant in 2016</p> <p>This will form part of the Corporate Parenting Groups Term of Reference</p>	<p>Scaffolding</p>
8	<p>Support requirements for under 19s on take up of free travel</p>	<p>Young people will have the independence to travel and access the community resources which will give them a feeling of equality</p>	<p>-legislation to underpin the free bus travel for people resident in Scotland aged under 19 is laid in Parliament</p> <p>-consultation setting out proposed arrangements for new scheme and options for how the scheme operates</p>		November, 2020	June, 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	<p>Stephen Morgan, Senior Manager Children and Families Social Work Services; Douglas Kirkpatrick, Lead Officer, Swestrans Partnership / Transportation Manager</p>		<p>Voice</p> <p>Scaffolding</p>




THEME: LEAVING CARE

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead Partnership/ Officer	Partnership Organisations	Narrative – update for Committee	The Promise – Foundation (s)
9	All young people, irrespective of their care placement should be referred through to the leaving care team around their 16 th birthday or when there is an identified remit for the leaving care service. This will ensure that young people are aware that there is someone to support their transition, whenever they are ready to begin this process	Seamless transition between children and families service and leaving care service and our young people will get to know their allocated leaving care worker prior to them formally transferred to the leaving care team	-Refresh practices to include referrals and internal transfer process		November, 2020	March, 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Team Manager Centralised Services, Social Work Services	This could be competed via LAC planning for children and the transition process, this does not mean an automatic transfer to leaving team and this will be dependent on the needs of the young person. Is currently being built into the current process and practices	Voice Scaffolding
10	Young people deserve to know who they are and be able to prove it. Passports and birth certificates should be provided for all young people upon their transition out of care	Young people are able to prove who they are and have a sense of active participation and not being disadvantaged when applying for future positive destinations	-Refresh processes to enable handover over of birth certificate upon transition our of care. Corporate Parents will ensure the commitment to getting children’s birth certificate at an early stage -Identify confirmed numbers of eligible young people and undertake true costing passport to all care leavers -Approval by Elected Members -Develop programme and implement		October, 2021	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Team Manager Centralised Services, Social Work Services	This should be a consideration in the pathway plan developed with all care experienced young people The following is estimates based on current figures Cost - £75 x 377 = £28,275	Voice Scaffolding
11	All young people communicated with on their birthday and at Christmas	Young people will feel valued by their corporate parents			June, 2021	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Team Manager Centralised Services, Social Work Services		Care Scaffolding

THEME: GOING INTO CARE

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead Partnership/ Officer	Partnership Organisations	Narrative – update for Committee	The Promise – Foundation (s)
12	Young people receiving information surrounding their circumstance	Young people will have a sense of their identity and belonging from family history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Development of Life story work with young people – Signs of Safety will support this via words and pictures -Incorporated in LAC procedures -Incorporate into Learning and Development Plan -Incorporate into Quality Assurance practices 		-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Team Manager Centralised Services, Social Work Services		<p>Voice</p> <p>Scaffolding</p>
13	Consistent workers where possible, or if there's a lot of staff changes, then this should be communicated to young people in real time	Allowing the young people to develop positive and meaningful relationships throughout their experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regular contact details of allocated social worker and senior social worker sent to children, families, young people, parents and carers 		-	For the duration of this Plan	Children and Families Social Work Services	Stephen Morgan, Senior Manager, Children and Families Social Work Service	This currently is in place. Additional procedures (issue of notification annually will be built into this)	<p>Voice</p> <p>Scaffolding</p>
14	All young people receiving a 'going into care' booklet and a contact card for a place they can call and get help, anytime	Reduce any anxieties that our young people have about being accommodated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All children and young people have access to the booklet with appropriate information including Out of Hours Team should they need it. -Safety Networks of relevant people are identified and used in the child's safety plan in accordance with the Signs Of Safety Approach 		March, 2021	September, 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Team Manager Centralised Services, Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead	<p>The booklet is in the process of being re-developed by the Listen2Us group and a drafted version will go to the Corporate Parenting Group.</p> <p>In addition to the booklet consideration of the development of an app</p>	<p>Voice</p> <p>Scaffolding</p>

THEME: STIGMA

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead Partnership/ Officer	Partnership Organisations	Narrative – update for Committee	The Promise – Foundation (s)
15	Create an app/YouTube and training workshop about what it is like to be in care that can be incorporated into existing trainings for professionals	Reduce any anxieties that our young people have about being accommodated	-All children and young people have access to the app/YouTube with appropriate information including Out of Hours Team should they need it. -Safety Networks of relevant people are identified and used in the child's safety plan in accordance with the Signs Of Safety Approach		March, 2021	October, 2021	Children and Families Social Work Services	Sheila Clingan, Locality Team Manager Centralised Services, Social Work Services Third Sector Organisations / Young People	.	Voice Scaffolding
16	Creating positive content about the achievements of children, young people and adults who are care experienced to be shared online, in schools and in communities	Young people will feel valued by their corporate parents and challenge stereotypes of looked after children and accommodated young people	Consultation carried out with Young People Sharing content on existing platforms in all schools and across our communities		January, 2021	July, 2021	Corporate Parent Group	Stephen Morgan, Senior Manager, Children and Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead	DVD will be available later this year -Booklet covering all information/signposting developed to all children and young people, with a roll out programme July 2021 – available for download and hardcopy	Voice Scaffolding
17	Young people who have experienced care to receive special protection and an automatic interview when applying for jobs with the council, NHS and other organisations with a Corporate Parenting Duty.	Young people are able to prove who they are and have a sense of active participation and not being disadvantaged when applying for future positive destinations			March, 2021	For the duration of this Plan	Employability and Skills	Lynne Burgess, Service Manager, Economy and Resources		Voice Scaffolding

RAISING ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT FOCUS FOR OUR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - ACTION PLAN





This action plan is one of four that supports our Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2023 and provides the actions to be completed by Dumfries and Galloway Council and its key partners in their role as Corporate Parent during that period.

OUR PLEDGE








- **We will** develop and promote the role of Corporate Parents for raising academic attainment and promoting wider attainment and participation
- **We will** contribute to Dumfries and Galloway's aspiration that young people will be in positive and sustained destination, and as part of the Young Person's Guarantee, support 100% of them to move into and sustain positive, meaningful destinations beyond school and be supported by appropriate training
- **We will** improve the educational attainment of care experienced children by removing barriers to learning, improving tracking and monitoring, improving attendance, reducing exclusion and providing equal access to opportunities
- **We will** develop, deliver and support intervention and prevention initiatives targeted at children and young people, aged between 0-26 to improve their wellbeing and attainment levels

When developing this action plan, each action has been aligned to the foundations of The Promise, to ensure these are at the heart of what we do, based on meeting the needs of those we serve, rather than the needs of our systems.




Actions will be undertaken by current resource (unless otherwise detailed).

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
1	Use looked after children data to monitor and review school performance and individual needs	Evaluation – relevant data will be readily accessible and will inform actions, planning, decision-making and resource allocation Two way feedback to schools	Production of 6 monthly LAC data reports per year – October/March		-	For the duration of this plan	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist / Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager		Scaffolding
			-consider/respond to monthly attendance/exclusions data -consider/respond to RAG monthly report		October 2020	For the duration of this plan	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist / Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager		Scaffolding
			Share data analysis with school staff, Supporting Learners teams and Education officers		October 2020	For the duration of this plan	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist / Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager		Scaffolding
			Standing item on LAC RA group and CPG		October 2020	For the duration of this plan	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist / Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager		Scaffolding







In progress / On track  Completed  Not yet progressed 

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
			Gather data on part-time timetables		October 2020	May 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist / Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager		Scaffolding
			Remit the monitoring and reporting of care experienced young people post school using the national data hub and participation measures to the young persons' guarantee partnership		February 2021	For the duration of this plan	Employability and Skills	Melanie McEwan, Employability and Skills Officer / Sylvia McDowall, SDS		Scaffolding
2	To reduce looked after children exclusions	Data will show that there are fewer children being excluded and fewer exclusions and improve the positive and sustainable destinations for our young people	Collate looked after children exclusion data using SEEMIS monthly reports		-	For the duration of this plan	Integration and Inclusion Service	Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager	Casework Priority for Ed.Psych	Scaffolding
			Engage with looked after children and young people to identify ways of reducing the risk of exclusion		June 2021	June 2022	Integration and Inclusion Service	Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager	Monitoring Exclusions Group will analyse Looked After Children specific data. Targeted support in place to identified schools and young people	Voice
			Identify patterns of exclusion and implement targeted interventions		March 2021	June 2022	Integration and Inclusion Service	Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager		Scaffolding
			Share data analysis with school staff, Looked After Children support team and Education officers		-	For the duration of this plan	Integration and Inclusion Service	Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager	Monthly reports to SLT and Monitoring Exclusions Group / twice annual reports completed using all data available including exclusions	Scaffolding
			For senior phase - LAC Officers, SDS together with DYW Coordination to consider range of options available in curriculum for each individual including work based learning to ensure curriculum is relevant, motivating and encourages young people to remain in school		March 2021	For the duration of this plan	Integration and Inclusion Service, Employability Skills and Development; Children and Families Social Work Services; SDS; Senior Phase Strategy Group and DYW Regional Group	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist / Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager / Senior Phase Strategy Group; Melanie McEwan, Employability		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding

In progress / On track  Completed  Not yet progressed 

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
								and Skills Officer / Graeme Galloway, DYW; Sylvia McDowall, SDS		
3	To improve Looked After Children attendance	To see an increase and improvement in the number of looked after children attendance and improve the positive and sustainable destinations for our young people	Collate LAC attendance data using SEEMIS monthly reports		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist; Sarah McGarva, Locality Manager Children and Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead	Casework Priority for Ed.Psych Monitoring Attendance Group wil analyse Looked After Children specific data. Targeted support in place to indentified schools and young people	Scaffolding
			Engage with LAC young people to identify barriers to attendance		June 2021	June 2022	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist; Sarah McGarva, Locality Manager Children and Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead		Voice Scaffolding
			Identify patterns of attendance and implement targeted interventions		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist; Sarah McGarva, Locality Manager Children and Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead		Scaffolding





In progress / On track  Completed  Not yet progressed 

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
			Share data analysis with school staff, LAC/Attendance support officers and Education officers		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist; Sarah McGarva, Locality Manager Children and Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead		Scaffolding
			For senior phase - LAC Officers, SDS together with DYW Coordination to consider range of options available in curriculum for each individual including work based learning to ensure curriculum is relevant, motivating and encourages young people to remain in school		March 2021	For the duration of this plan	Integration and Inclusion Service, Employability Skills and Development; Social Work Services, Dumfries and Galloway Council	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist / Steven Jewell, LAC Education Manager / Melanie McEwan, Employability and Skills Officer / Sylvia McDowall, SDS		Voice Family Care People Scaffolding
4	To improve tracking and monitoring of Looked After Children attainment		Review and revise format of tracking and monitoring returns from schools (P1-S6)		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist	Production and communication of a tracking and monitoring process with which all schools engage. Improvement in LAC literacy and numeracy attainment (BGE levels and SCQF 4)	Scaffolding
			Identify patterns of low attainment and implement/support targeted interventions		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Scaffolding
			Improve focus on senior phase pupils		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Scaffolding
			Measure the effectiveness of targeted interventions/support by Care Experienced Education Team		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Scaffolding




In progress / On track  Completed  Not yet progressed 

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
			Share data analysis with school staff, LAC support team and Education officers		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Scaffolding
5	To build capacity and develop the role of Looked After Children champions	Improvement in attendance, reduction in exclusions and an improvement in the number of young people moving into and sustaining meaningful destination post school	Set up an “advocates” group of senior education staff to support this improvement plan		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist	Support from senior education staff to improve LAC outcomes Production and communication of professional learning materials to build capacity of LAC champions Opportunities for LAC champions to meet and share good practice.	Scaffolding
			Conduct a needs analysis to identify gaps in skills and knowledge		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Scaffolding
			Engage with LAC young people to identify ways in which support can better meet their needs		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Voice
			Review emerging themes from individual plans/schools		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Scaffolding
			Develop professional learning materials		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Scaffolding
			Develop a group forum for LAC champions		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Voice
			Share information re role of LAC champion		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Voice
6	To build capacity and develop the role of the LAC support officers	Staff understand their role and are able to offer effective interventions to targeted young people. Improvement in attendance, reduction in exclusions and an improvement in the number of young people moving into and sustaining meaningful	Develop and communicate team processes, protocols and paperwork		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist	Ed Psych offer individual consultation with officers – Group Consultation Meetings set up. Child’s Plans – what are the key needs coming up for children? Consultations with staff in schools – what	Scaffolding
			Consultation with Ed.Psych Service.		January 2021	April 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Scaffolding
			Conduct a needs analysis to identify gaps in skills and knowledge		-	April 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Scaffolding
			Review emerging themes from individual plans		-	April 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal		Scaffolding





In progress / On track Completed Not yet progressed

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
		destination post school						Educational Psychologist	are the key themes in terms of pupil needs?	
			Develop professional learning materials		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologist		Scaffolding
7	To improve Looked After Children positive destinations	The positive destination rates for LAC are equal to other young people in Dumfries and Galloway and across Scotland	Provision of additional support from Care Experienced Education Team to targeted LAC not in full-time education, specifically in terms of literacy and numeracy		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologies; Sheila Clingan, Locality Manager Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead; Sylvia McDowall, SDS	Increased number of LAC young people will stay on at school/apply to college and university or move into employment, workbased learning opportunities such as apprenticeships. Looked after young people will have a sustainable positive destination which is comparable to other young people	Voice Family People Scaffolding
			Engage with LAC young people to identify ways in which support can better meet their needs		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologies; Sheila Clingan, Locality Manager Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead; Sylvia McDowall, SDS	Dumfries and Galloway and across Scotland.	Voice Scaffolding
			Review leaving care information shared with young people re accessing further education/entitlement		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologies; Sheila Clingan, Locality Manager Centralised Services, Children and		Scaffolding

In progress / On track  Completed  Not yet progressed 

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
								Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead; Sylvia McDowall, SDS		
			Collate LAC positive destinations data, including one year on for Initial School Leaver Destinations, Follow Up Destinations, Annual Participation Measure.		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologies; Sheila Clingan, Locality Manager Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead; Sylvia McDowall, SDS		Scaffolding
			Share data analysis		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologies; Sheila Clingan, Locality Manager Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead; Sylvia McDowall, SDS		Scaffolding
			Support School staff including the DWY Co-ordinators in Schools to raise awareness of options for LAC young people		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologies; Sheila Clingan, Locality Manager Centralised Services, Children and		Scaffolding

In progress / On track  Completed  Not yet progressed 

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
								Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead; Sylvia McDowall, SDS		
			SDS focus on S3 LAC pupils through an enhanced support programme		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologies; Sheila Clingan, Locality Manager Centralised Services, Children and Families Social Work Services; Regan Jackson, Youth Work Lead; Sylvia McDowall, SDS		Scaffolding
8	To support school staff to identify care experienced Young People	All young people will have the support they require when they require it	Identify mechanism to identify any young people who are currently or have been previously Looked After		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologies	Links with Senior Phase Strategy Group	Scaffolding
			Ensure SDS have up to date information re young people who are looked after		-	June 2021	Integration and Inclusion Service	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologies		Scaffolding
9	Identify and implement targeted intervention and prevention activity and projects to support our young people (up to the age of 26) to sustain meaningful positive destinations	To see an improvement in the number of care experienced young people and school leavers moving into positive destinations	Working with YPG partnership to use additional funding from Scottish Group to establish a Virtual Care Experienced Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessible for young people in school and post school - Provision of training, qualifications and formal volunteering - Paid opportunities for care experienced young people on the leadership / delivery team - Access and signposting to post school services for HWB by having named SDS Advisors, Employability and Skills Key Workers, Education and Social Workers linked to the 		February, 2021	For the duration of this plan	Integration and Inclusion Service; Children and Families Social Work Services; , Employability Skills and Development; SDS	Linda Biggar, Principal Educational Psychologies; Stephen Morgan Senior Manager Children and Families Social Work Services; Chair of Young People Guarantee Partnership; Melanie McEwan, Employability Skills and	The projects within this activity will evolve throughout the duration of this plan	Voice Family Care People Scaffolding

In progress / On track  Completed  Not yet progressed 

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
			Academy for referral and support					Development Lead; Sylvia McDowall, SDS Lead		

IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH FOR OUR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - ACTION PLAN


This action plan is one of four that supports our Corporate Parenting Plan 2021-2023 and provides the actions to be completed by Dumfries and Galloway Council and its key partners in their role as Corporate Parent during that period.






OUR PLEDGE

- **We will** be confident that all children and young people who are looked after are invited to a health assessment within 4 weeks of the initial request and have a clear understanding for the reasons of this assessment - what this will look and feel like to them.
- **We will** ensure that each individual health assessments meet the individual needs of all children and young people.
- **We will** increase the uptake of appointments by ensuring that children, young people and families understand the value for them as well as remove any barriers.

When developing this action plan, each action has been aligned to the foundations of The Promise, to ensure these are at the heart of what we do, based on meeting the needs of those we serve, rather than the needs of our systems.

Actions will be undertaken by current resource.

In progress / On track  Completed  Not yet progressed 

No.	Activity	Impact	Key Milestones	Status	Start Date	End Date	Lead(s) Partnership / Officer	Lead Officer	Narrative	The Promise – Foundation(s)
1	We will have a particular focus on children and young people who are care experienced at home who we know to be the most vulnerable in terms of health and wellbeing – rolling programme for the timely delivery of CEL 16 health assessments for all children and young people who become newly looked after in Dumfries and Galloway.	Children, young people and families will benefit from the early intervention and feedback that this assessment was of benefit to them. Improve on the number of children accessing both core and specialist health services as a result of attending CEL 16 new and return health appointments Meet the Scottish Government target that 90% of CEL 16 assessments will happen within 4 weeks of notification	-Identify and understand the 'As-Is' position -Identify data available from CEL 16 and gain an understanding of what this is telling us		August 2020	March 2021	Looked After Children's Health Team, NHS	Jennifer Halliday Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, D&G NHS	Specialist health and wellbeing services to develop system for capturing data	Scaffolding
			Meet with key stakeholders to understand current position on those children attending / not attending		August 2020	March 2021	Looked After Children's Health Team, NHS	Jennifer Halliday Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, D&G NHS	Resource required to support engagement sessions	Voice Scaffolding
			Create audit tool to analyse key health demographics		August 2020	March 2021	Looked After Children's Health Team, NHS	Ashley Johnstone, Looked After Children's Health Team, NHS		Scaffolding
			Undertake audit on key health demographics		August 2020	March 2021	Looked After Children's Health Team, NHS	Jennifer Halliday Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, D&G NHS		Scaffolding
			Stakeholder engagement – seek views of families, children, young people and other key stakeholders		August 2020	March 2021	Looked After Children's Health Team, NHS	Jennifer Halliday Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, D&G NHS	Resource required to support engagement sessions	Voice Scaffolding
			-Testing and developing a local test of change -Capture of health sub-set indicators for assurance on completed immunisation; dental registration; sexual health screening; substance misuse screening -Building Whole-Systems Readiness		April 2021 April 2021	September 2021 September 2021	Looked After Children's Health Team, NHS	Jennifer Halliday Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, D&G NHS	Children and Families Social Work Services will support testing and developing local test of change in readiness for whole-systems approach	Voice Family Care People Scaffolding

In progress / On track  Completed  Not yet progressed 

