

**To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board**

**On: 12 March 2020**

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**Report by: Director of Children's Services**

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**Heading: Publication of Scotland's Independent Care Review findings**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. In October 2016, following extensive lobbying by care experienced people and the organisations which advocate for them, Scotland's First Minister announced, an independent, root and branch review of Scotland's care system.
  - 1.2. The independent Care Review began its work in February 2017 and looked at the underpinning legislation, practices, culture and ethos of the Care System. It was agreed that the Care Review would take up to three years to conclude. The Independent care review was published on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and makes significant recommendations about the future of Scotland's Care system and the changes required to improve this.
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## **2. Recommendations**

Elected members are asked to;

- a) note the publication of the reports produced by the Independent Care Review
  - b) note that Children's Services required to further analyse the recommendations to understand what it means for our current practice.
  - c) Note that a further report will be brought back to Board which will update members on implications for policy and practice in Renfrewshire.
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### 3. Background

3.1. The independent Care Review was established as an independent root and branch review of the care system, covering legislation, practice, culture and ethos. It gathered evidence from a wide range of sources, with the voices of around care experienced people central to the evidence gathering. The findings of the review were published on 5 February 2020.

3.2. In addition to listening to care experienced people the care review listened to the paid and unpaid workforce who deliver Children's Social Care in Scotland. In total the review engaged with over 5500 people. Over half of these were children, young people and adults with experience of the "care system"

3.3. There are 5 main reports of the care review.

- **The Promise** (and a **Pinky Promise** for younger readers): tells Scotland what it must do to make sure its most vulnerable children feel loved and experience the childhood they deserve.
- **The Plan**: explains how this change must happen.
- **The Money** and **Follow the Money**: explain how Scotland can invest better in its children and families.
- **The Rules**: demonstrates the legislative framework and how it must change to achieve the promise.
- **Thank You**: a thank you to those who have contributed to the Care Review.

### 3.4. Key Findings

3.5. The findings are framed around five "foundations" – voice, family, care, people and scaffolding. These refer to the key principles about the child's voice in decision making, the importance of families in caring, the services which form the 'care system, the workforce and the legislative and policy guidance which governs the system.

3.6. Central the findings are the recognition that more universal family and parenting support services are needed, and that children and families should always be supported to remain together where it is safe, with targeted and intensive support available to help them overcome challenges.

3.7. The review calls for more use of kinship and foster care and greater wraparound support for these carers. It recommends equivalency of payments to both types of carer.

3.8. It is proposed that young people should have a right to return to care after the age of 18 where they feel they need additional support.

3.9. The review emphasises the importance of values and qualities over qualifications in the workforce and stresses the need for relationship building.

## **4. Voice and Rights**

- 4.1 Central to the findings is the recognition that the voice of the child, and the voice of the family, is not always sufficiently reflected in decision-making. Agencies need to improve the way in which children and families are included in decisions and be able to evidence this. This should include the voice of the siblings, and the report states that there needs to be a greater effort to understand and act upon quieter voices (for example, infants, non-verbal children, children with a learning disability). The voice of workers with the closest relationship to the child need to be heard strongly, regardless of professional hierarchies.
- 4.2 The review calls for a “decluttering” of the legislative landscape and a greater emphasis on promoting the rights of the child.

## **5. Universal Services**

- 5.1 The impact of poverty on family life is highlighted in the findings, which reflect the wider societal issues at play. It refers to evidence that financial assistance can contribute to a reduction in child abuse and neglect.
- 5.2 The review calls for more universal services delivering family and parenting support; this would not only support an early intervention agenda but would de-stigmatise support. It proposes ten principles which should underpin an intensive family support service. It also proposes a universal offer of attachment-based parenting education to sit alongside existing antenatal care, and places for parents of babies and infants to go to access general support as well as meet other parents. It is stressed that the local authority is not necessarily the agency which would provide this.
- 5.3 The review found that schools are not always sufficiently ambitious for pupils in the care system. Given the place of schools within their local communities, it also suggests that schools could be resourced to provide some of the family support being advocated.
- 5.4 There should be more support for care-experienced young people to pursue further and higher education, at whatever age they choose. The review proposes that this should be available without that person incurring significant financial hardship.

## **6. Children in the care system**

- 6.1 The review is clear that the default position for the care of children should always be the family home in circumstances where a child is safe and feels loved. The family should be supported to overcome their difficulties. If children have to be removed from their home, support should still be provided to the family.
- 6.2 Where it is not possible for a child to safely remain in the family home, the emphasis must be on family settings and on siblings remaining together (unless this is not safe). The review calls for the presumption of siblings remaining together needs to be fully implemented and closely monitored. Prior to the launch of the report, work had already begun in Renfrewshire to progress this issue.

- 6.3 The report reflects that kinship care is not always actively pursued and opportunities for care by the wider family are therefore being missed. Work is also underway in Renfrewshire to address this issue. The review recommends that kinship carers are paid at the same rate as foster carers.
- 6.4 The challenges of having enough foster care able to meet a wide range of needs, including offering homes for sibling groups, are considered. Foster care needs to provide a safe and loving environment where fostered children are part of family life in a meaningful way. Decision-making should not be driven by placement availability.
- 6.5 Intensive family support services should not just be available for a birth family. Kinship and foster carers and adoptive parents also need to be able to wraparound support when required and this should mirror the principles of intensive family support set out by the review.
- 6.6 The review recognises that residential and secure care will still be required but calls for many more community alternatives to secure care. It also calls for an end to 16- and 17-year olds being placed in Young Offender Institutions and to young people being automatically transferred from secure to YOIs when they reach their 18th birthday. Secure care needs to be provided as a therapeutic and trauma-informed intervention.
- 6.7 There is evidence that care experienced children are more likely to be criminalised for activity that would be dealt with within the family in a non-care context. The principles that children committing offences need support, care and protection needs to be restated.
- 6.8 The review proposes a right to return to care post 18 if additional support is needed. The importance of greater access to advocacy and legal support for care-experienced young adults is also highlighted.
- 6.9 One of the most challenging recommendations is focused on crisis intervention services; essentially, the review states that these should be phased out as earlier intervention and different models of family support and care are rolled out.

## **7. Workforce and Culture**

- 7.1 Findings relating to the workforce (which for the purposes of this report includes foster carers) focus on the importance of values and relationships, and of workers being supported to be able to continue to care. Within universal services, it recommends all workers who come into contact need to focus on positive relationships and values.
- 7.2 The review points to the language used in relation to the care system as something which can stigmatise, as can the way workers dress (e.g. uniforms or lanyards) or the way in which meetings are conducted and the settings in which these meetings take place. It recommends that carers and workers must act, speak and behave like a family.

## **8. Other agencies**

- 8.1 The report questions whether the current way in which Children’s Hearings operate, and whether the practice of having volunteers as panel members needs to be reconsidered. It suggests that panel members need to have sufficient expertise in trauma, child development, neurodiversity and the rights of the child in order to make a balanced decision.
- 8.2 The report also finds that mental health services for children are not sufficient, with a lack of timely and appropriate support available.

## **9. Local Approaches**

- 9.1 Recent service developments in Children’s Services align with the approaches set out by the review. The new children’s house which opened in 2019 is designed to prevent admissions to secure care by offering intensive support. The service has explored the possibility of a Family Group Decision Making model and has already trained some senior managers in this approach, with further training planned.
- 9.2 The right to continuing care was a cornerstone of social work practice in Renfrewshire prior to changes in legislation which expanded the right to people up to the age of 21.

## **10. Next Steps**

- 10.1 In addition to ‘The Promise’ which presents the main findings, the review has produced supplementary documents outlining how the findings will be delivered and providing some financial context.
- 10.2 The review will now progress the production of ‘The Plan’, which will establish models of service and measures of progress over a ten-year period. This includes an expectation that the majority of crisis services will be obsolete by the end of the ten year programme.
- 10.3 The review expects that a new model of service design will generate significant savings for the public sector in Scotland by preventing future costs generated by care-experienced adults who have negative childhood experiences. In the supplementary documents ‘The Money’ and ‘Follow the Money’, the costs of care and of system failure are outlined, and an argument made for longer-term thinking and investment.
- 10.4 A programme of legislation is likely to follow; this will be intended to simplify the landscape but is also expected to introduce new duties for corporate parents.

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## **Implications of this report**

1. **Financial**  
Unknown as yet.
2. **HR and Organisational Development**  
Unknown as yet

### **3. Community/Council Planning**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Building strong, safe and resilient communities     | - | Providing families and children with support to remain together will ensure our communities are supportive places for children to grow up in.                                  |
| Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all | - | Providing families and children with the help they need at the earliest point possible will ensure our communities are inclusive for all.                                      |
| Working together to improve outcomes                | - | Providing good quality care is central to ensuring that the most vulnerable children and families in Renfrewshire are provided with an opportunity to achieve their potential. |

### **4. Legal**

Unknown at this time, it is likely that legislation will follow.

### **5. Property/Assets**

None.

### **6. Information Technology**

None.

### **7. Equality and Human Rights**

*(Please select the statement applicable to the recommendations contained within this board report and delete remaining statements)*

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website. (Report author to arrange this).

### **8. Health and Safety**

None.

### **9. Procurement**

None.

### **10. Risk**

None.

### **11. Privacy Impact**

None.

**12. Cosla Policy Position**

None.

**13. Climate Risk**

None.

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**List of Background Papers**

(a) Background Paper 1:) Independent Care Review Summary Document.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within children's services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Michelle McCargo Children's Services Manager 0141 618 6836

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**Children's Services**

MMcC/KO 28/02/20

**Author:** John Trainer Head of Service Child Care and Criminal Justice.





# FOUNDATION – VOICE

**P** Everything detailed here, that Scotland must do, is accompanied by important narrative in The Promise. For more detail, please refer to the relevant page numbers in The Promise.

## THE PROMISE

**Children must be listened to and meaningfully and appropriately involved in decision-making about their care, with all those involved properly listening and responding to what children want and need. There must be a compassionate, caring decision-making culture focussed on children and those they trust.**

**Listening** P13  
Active listening and engagement must be fundamental to the way Scotland makes decisions and supports children and families. There is no simple formula or standardised approach that will suit all.

**Listening to Children** P31  
Care experienced children and young adults must have ownership over their own stories and personal data so that they can understand and influence how their stories are shared.

**The Children's Hearing System** P41  
To support parents and ensure Local Authorities are fulfilling their obligations to children and families, Scotland must test the extension of the enforcement and compulsion powers to ensure both families and those with statutory responsibility are compelled to attend and comply with the orders of the Children's Hearing.

**The Children's Hearing System** P41  
Whilst working to prevent the criminalisation of children, Scotland must develop a more progressive, rights based youth justice approach that builds on the Kilbrandon principles and makes them a reality for all.

**The Children's Hearing System** P42  
Everyone involved in The Children's Hearing System must be properly trained in the impact of trauma, childhood development, neuro-diversity and children's rights. That training must be comprehensive and regularly reviewed. Those training requirements must also be required for all the different and various professionals who appear at Hearings, including legal representatives.

**The Children's Hearing System** P44  
Whilst retaining the commitment to the Kilbrandon principles, Scotland must comprehensively assess and consider the role of volunteers in the decision making structure of Hearings.

**The Children's Hearing System** P41  
There must be an approach to care and support that is based on early intervention and prevention. In the long term, The Children's Hearing System must plan to shrink and to specialise. Full and proper consideration of implications for the operating model, including the dependency on volunteers, must be integral to this planning.

**Digital Tools** P35  
Scotland must be committed to the development of digital tools that incorporate the principle of information ownership. These digital tools must operate at a scale that allows care experienced children and young adults to have control over their information and how it is shared.

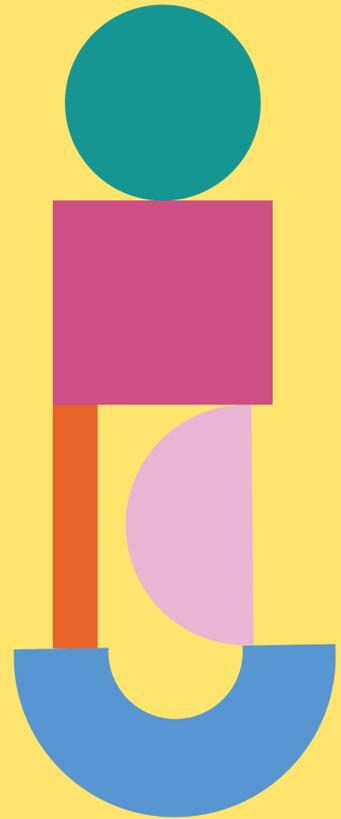
**Decision Making** P14  
Scotland must ensure decision making is based, first and foremost, on what the child needs and wants.

**Decision Making** P14  
Scotland must support a culture change in key institutions responsible for decision making.

**Information and Decisions** P30  
Scotland must ensure that the right information is shared at the right time and that those close to children are heard. The starting point for any decision must be how to best protect relationships that are important to children.

**Sharing Information** P36  
Scotland must acknowledge that it is the culture surrounding information sharing that has the biggest impact on protecting children.

**Structural and System Listening** P37  
Scotland must listen to care experienced children and young adults in the delivery, inspection and continuous improvement of services and of care. Scotland must never again have to commission a review or a judicial inquiry on this scale because participation and listening must form part of everything within Scotland's system of care.





# FOUNDATION – FAMILY

**P** Everything detailed here, that Scotland must do, is accompanied by important narrative in The Promise. For more detail, please refer to the relevant page numbers in The Promise.

**THE PROMISE**

Where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together, to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties which get in the way.

**Risk and Safety** P16

Scotland must broaden its understanding of risk. This is not about tolerating more risk, or becoming more risk enabling. It means ensuring Scotland has a more holistic understanding of risk that includes the risk to the child of removing them from the family. There must be a shift in focus from the risk of possible harm to the risk of not having stable, long term loving relationships.

**Supporting Families** P17

When children talk about wanting to be safe, they talk about having relationships that are real, loving and consistent. That must be the starting point. Scotland must prioritise that message from children over rules that have too often failed to keep them safe.

**Poverty** P18

There must be significant, ongoing and persistent commitment to ending poverty and mitigating its impacts for Scotland's children, families and communities.

**Mental Health Services** P51

Scotland must ensure that timely, trauma informed and thoughtful support therapies act as a cushion to all those that require it, regardless of diagnosis.

**Beginning Parenthood** P48

Scotland must support a broad understanding of the importance of the early years of parenting.

**Pre School** P49

Scotland must ensure that there are places in every community for parents of young children to go for support and advice, to meet other local parents and to stay and play with their children.

**Universal Family Support** P46

Scotland's commitment to early intervention and prevention must be realised through proper, holistic support for families. There must be a significant upscale in universal family support services.

**Intensive Family Support** P52

Scotland must do all it can to keep children with their families.

**Intensive Family Support** P52

Scotland must support all families caring for disabled children and those with additional support needs. If families require intensive support they must get it and not be required to fight for it.

**Intensive Family Support** P52

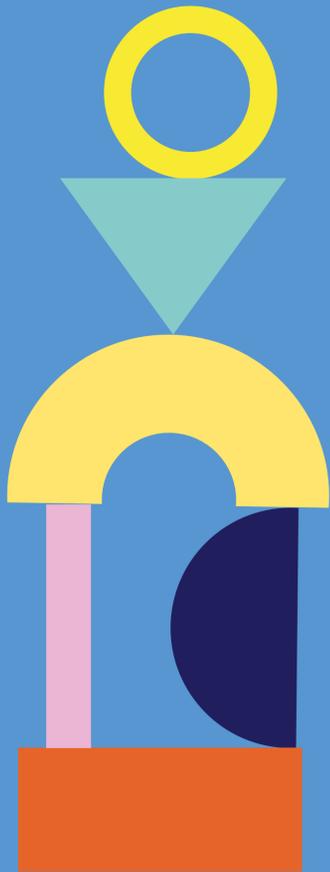
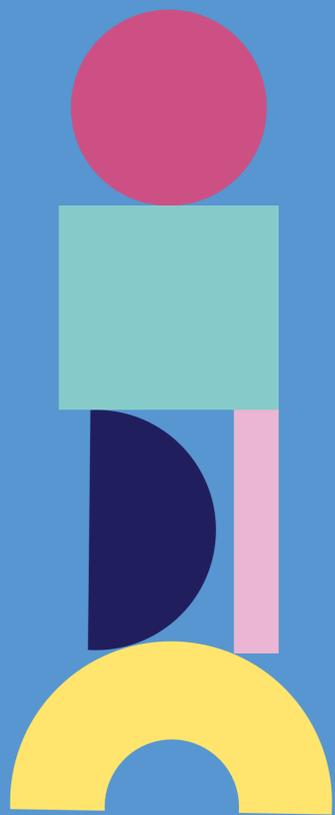
Scotland must recognise that there are some families experiencing particular issues who are much more likely to come into contact with the 'care system'.

**Intensive Family Support** P55 to P58

Whatever issues families face, Scotland must ensure that intensive family support is available, proactive and characterised by the 10 family support principles.

**Intensive Family Support** P15

Nurturing and supporting families to stay together will take far more than what Scotland currently provides.





# FOUNDATION – CARE

Everything detailed here, that Scotland must do, is accompanied by important narrative in The Promise. For more detail, please refer to the relevant page numbers in The Promise.

**Upholding Children's Rights** P61  
If Scotland removes children from their families, their rights must be upheld as a basic minimum standard for their care. That must mean a clear commitment to creating the right culture of care where the whole of the workforce respects, upholds, champions and defends the rights of children for whom they are responsible.

**Relationships that are important to the child** P63  
All children must be supported to continue relationships that are important to them, where it is safe to do so.

**Support for families who have had their children removed** P63  
If children are removed from the care of their parents, Scotland must not abandon those families. Families must continue to be provided with therapeutic support, advocacy and engagement in line with principles of intensive family support.

**Stability** P67  
Scotland must limit the number of moves that children experience and support carers to continue to care.

**Kinship Care** P74  
Whatever the mode of arrangement, Scotland must ensure that children living in kinship care get the support they need to thrive. Kinship must be actively explored as a positive place for children to be cared for.

**Brothers and Sisters** P62  
Scotland already has a presumption that children will stay together with their brothers and sisters. That presumption must be fully implemented and closely monitored.

**Schools** P71  
Schools in Scotland must be ambitious for care experienced children and ensure they have all they need to thrive, recognising that they may experience difficulties associated with their life story.

**Schools** P72  
The formal and informal exclusion of care experienced children from school must end.

**Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children** P65  
Children who are unaccompanied and seeking asylum in Scotland must be placed in caring, supportive settings and given the same rights as children who are looked after.

**Secure Care** P80  
There must be absolute clarity that the underlying principle of Secure Care is the provision of therapeutic, trauma informed support.

**Transitions** P68  
Any transition in care experienced child or young person's life must be limited, relational, planned and informed.

**Life Stories** P69  
Scotland must understand that 'language creates realities'. Those with care experience must hold and own the narrative of their stories and lives; simple, caring language must be used in the writing of care files.

**THE PROMISE**  
Where living with their family is not possible, children must stay with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so, and belong to a loving home, staying there for as long as needed.

**Attachment and Co-regulation** P72  
Secure attachments, based on loving, consistent relationships, must be the bedrock of every decision made about children.

**Secure Care** P84  
Children must not be held in Secure Care because there are inadequate options for them within the community.

**Adoption Support** P75  
Adopting parents must have access to support at any point during the life of their child if they require it. That support must be available even if it was not initially required and must mirror the principles of intensive family support.

**Foster Care** P77  
Scotland must better support its foster carers to be the best parents. Foster carers must feel valued, cared for and supported to care.

**Secure Care** P81  
There must be far more alternatives for community based support and monitoring.

**Use of Secure Care** P82  
The planning and provision of Secure Care must reflect the needs of children in Scotland to ensure there are sufficient places for those that need them.

**Residential Children's Homes and Residential School** P79  
The quality of relationships that children experience in residential settings must be the priority.

**Health** P89  
The workforce and in particular family carers must know that they have a particular role in supporting children to have good overall health across dental, physical, mental and sexual. That must be done through caring, nurturing relationships that model good habits and a healthy approach to life.

**Restraint** P85  
Scotland must strive to become a nation that does not restrain its children.

**Criminalisation** P65  
Young Offenders Institutions are not appropriate places for children and only serve to perpetuate the pain that many of them have experienced. There are times where it is right for children to have their liberty restricted, but that must only be done when other options have been fully explored and for the shortest time possible and in small, secure, safe, trauma informed environments that uphold the totality of their rights.

**Adult Life** P93  
Parenting does not stop at 18, Scotland must continue to consider how to create greater equity and opportunity for care experienced young adults. That consideration must include how to increase opportunity for care experienced people to access employment, training, stable housing and support.

**Upholding Children's Rights in Secure Care** P83  
Secure Care must uphold children's rights. Children must have access to all they need for health, education and participation. They must be supported to maintain good contact with their family if safe to do so.

**Respite** P88  
Scotland must stop using the word 'respite' and rethink the nature of short breaks.

**Long Term Hospital Stays** P84  
Scotland must ensure that there is timely access to mental health support before crisis point, so that children can avoid hospitalisation.

**Restraint** P86  
Scotland must reflect on the impact of the equal protection legislation that removes the defence of 'justifiable assault' to ensure that all children wherever they live, are protected from all forms of violence.

**Secure Care** P81  
Children must not be placed in prison like settings.

**Language of Care** P87  
Scotland must change the language of care. Language must be easily understood, be positive and must not create or compound stigma.

**Childhood experiences** P88  
In all care settings, Scotland must provide and promote positive, regular experiences for children.

**Section 3: Normalisation of Care Experience** P87  
Scotland should be a good parent to the children it has responsibility for. That means carers and workers must act, speak and behave like a family so that Scotland can be the best parent it can be. Scotland must stop stigmatising the children it cares for.

**Criminalisation** P91  
Scotland must stop the criminalisation of care experienced children by supporting the workforce to behave and treat children in a way that is relational rather than procedural and process driven.

**Adult Life** P93  
Older care experienced people must have a right to access to supportive, caring services for as long as they require them. Those services and the people who work in them must have a primary focus on the development and maintenance of supportive relationships that help people to access what they need to thrive.

**Adult Life** P92  
Young adults for whom Scotland has taken on parenting responsibility must have a right to return to care and have access to services and supportive people to nurture them



# FOUNDATION – PEOPLE

**P** Everything detailed here, that Scotland must do, is accompanied by important narrative in The Promise. For more detail, please refer to the relevant page numbers in The Promise.

**THE PROMISE**

The children that Scotland cares for must be actively supported to develop relationships with people in the workforce and wider community, who in turn must be supported to listen and to be compassionate in their decision-making and care.

**Structure and Definition** **P97**

Scotland's understanding of the workforce must primarily be about their role in terms of the degree of closeness of relationships they have with children, rather than their status as paid/unpaid or in terms of professional/voluntary.

**Nurturing Scotland's Workforce** **P96**

The workforce must be nurtured. They must be supported at all stages of their caring journey. That support must enable them to facilitate a sense of home, family, friends, community and belonging in which children feel loved and can flourish.

**Nurturing Scotland's Workforce** **P100**

Supporting the workforce to care must be at the heart of Scotland's service planning. Supervision and reflective practice is essential for all practitioners, regardless of their professional discipline or role, who are working with children.

**Learning and Development** **P108**

Learning must support the interaction between Family Carers and other professionals. It should nurture equal partnerships and encourage joint learning, with informal learning, mentoring, coaching and support networks, and opportunities for joint reflective practice. Feedback must be a routine component of development.

**Personal Identity, Love and Relationships** **P101**

Children who have been harmed through relationships, must have supportive relationships in order to heal. Scotland must support and encourage the workforce to bring their whole selves to their work, and to act in a way that feels natural and not impeded by a professional construct.

**Personal Identity, Love and Relationships** **P23**

The purpose of the workforce must be to be caring above anything else.

**Learning and Development** **P107**

There must be a rethinking of learning and training in Scotland to create a well-supported workforce that can operate across disciplines.

**Personal Identity, Love and Relationships** **P24**

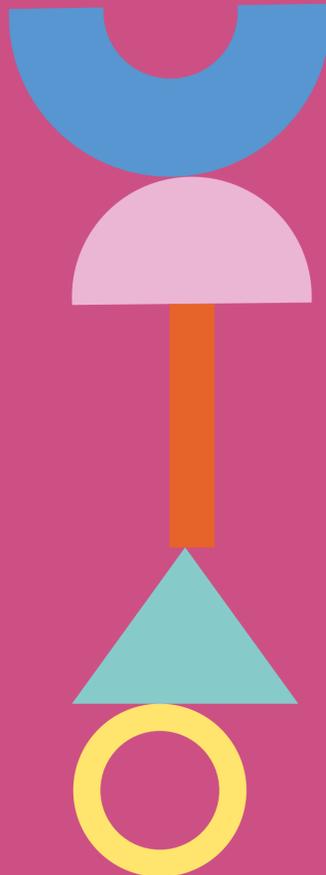
Rather than detach, the workforce must be encouraged not to step back but to step in.

**People and Risk** **P22**

There must be no barriers for children to have regular, positive childhood experiences.

**People and Risk** **P104**

Scotland must support the workforce to contribute to a broader understanding of risk. Scotland must understand, through its people and structures, the risk of children not having loving supportive relationships and regular childhood and teenage experiences.





# FOUNDATION – SCAFFOLDING

**P** Everything detailed here, that Scotland must do, is accompanied by important narrative in The Promise. For more detail, please refer to the relevant page numbers in The Promise.

**THE PROMISE**  
Children, families and the workforce must be supported by a system that is there when it is needed. The scaffolding of help, support and accountability must be ready and responsive when it is required.

**P25**  
Scotland must create an approach to care where maintaining, sustaining and protecting loving relationships is possible and much more probable.

**P111**  
**Structure, Commissioning, Funding and Standards**  
Scotland must avoid the monetisation of the care of children and prevent the marketization of care.

**P111**  
**Structure, Commissioning, Funding and Standards**  
The standards of care must be consistent across providers and these must continue to be subject to independent scrutiny and accreditation that values what children and families value.

**P110**  
**Structure, Commissioning, Funding and Standards**  
Scotland must declutter the landscape of how it cares. Services and provision must be designed on the basis of need and with clear data, rather than on an acceptance of how the system has always operated.

**P110**  
**Structure, Commissioning, Funding and Standards**  
Scotland must stop selling care placements to Local Authorities outside of Scotland.

**P111**  
**Structure, Commissioning, Funding and Standards**  
Scotland must make sure that its most vulnerable children are not profited from.

**P27**  
**Inspection and Regulation**  
There must be a complete overhaul of regulation and scrutiny that centres on listening to children about how they are cared for, their ability to flourish and thrive and that measures the things that matter to them.

**P112**  
**Legislative Environment**  
Scotland must create a clear legislative, enabling environment that supports families to stay together and protects and allows relationships to flourish.

**P119**  
**Inspection and Regulation**  
The Care Inspectorate and the SSSC must come together with other regulators to create a new, holistic framework that values what children and families value. That framework must apply to the totality of care experience and include aftercare and advocacy services. A new framework must be totally focused on children's experience and their ability to find and sustain safe and nurturing relationships.

**P26**  
**Rights**  
Scotland must respect, uphold, champion and defend the rights of children and recognise that their rights are most often realised through relationships with loving, attentive caregivers. Scotland must fully incorporate and uphold the UNCRC.

**P27**  
**Inspection and Regulation**  
Scotland must re-orientate its system of scrutiny to uphold relationships so children feel loved, safe and respected.

**P114**  
**Data Collection**  
Scotland must improve the quality and completeness of its data and consider the potential of data linkage to improve accountability for outcomes rather than inputs alone.

**P112**  
**Parenting**  
All of Scotland's institutions, organisations, national bodies and Local Authorities who have responsibilities towards care experienced children and young adults, must be aware of, understand and fully implement all their parenting responsibilities.

**P26**  
**Rights**  
Scotland must implement the rights of the child in a way that does not reinforce a focus on policy, process and procedure but supports the ability of children and those around them to connect and develop relationships and cultures that uphold their rights as a matter of course.

**P116**  
**Legal Representation**  
Scotland must consider the creation of an accredited legal specialism to set standards for legal professionals representing children.

**P115**  
**Advocacy**  
Care experienced children and adults must have the right and access to independent advocacy, at all stages of their experience of care and beyond.

**P118**  
**Definitions**  
Scotland must ensure that current definitions that act as the access point for rights and entitlements are inclusive enough to benefit all young people for whom Scotland has had parenting responsibility.

