

the promise



NEWSLETTER

The Promise team are now 15 months into post. Here's a quick update with some of the key pieces of work we have been involved in.

Quote from Chris

My role up till now has shown me that things can change. The promise has brought together people from different agencies all striving for change. this is what our young people need and deserve. It has been an amazing year so far and will be even more exciting with all the pieces of work in the pipeline!

Quote from Beth-Anne

The last 15 months have been a whirlwind of activity for our team. From bedding in and meeting our multi agency colleagues in the middle of a pandemic, to being able to do face to face meetings and participation sessions. The Promise Scotland is clear: What can change now should change now and we are working tirelessly to ensure change happens. I'm enjoying working with multi agency partners to bring to life The Promise and ensure we are doing our care community proud in everything we do.

Quote from Dylan

I'm excited to see what we're going to do next; the amount of work and change we have been able to influence has been amazing over the past year. I feel privileged to be part of a team that totally gets to achieve the promise that everyone plays a role across the authority. We're keen on being promise keepers and ask others to join us in that journey over the next year.

A wee progress update...

Within the last year during our roles, we have been leading the work on brothers and sisters as well participation and engagement.

During our work on the brothers and sisters guidance, We have done focus groups with staff and young people on sibling separation to gather information for North Lanarkshire Council and our partnership work with CELCIS.

Within the engagement and participation work, the group was tasked with looking at developing principles of engagement and participation as well as looking at positive and new ways to involve and gather young people's views. One of the tools being the mind of my own app. Mind of my own allows children and young people to input information into an app about what's important to them, their views, wants and wishes that goes directly to the trusted adults in the child's life. This helps inform relevant planning activity such as GIRFME and the child's plan.

We have also been involved in CAMHS engagement, the communication task group, North Lanarkshire council community hubs, North Lanarkshire Council leisure passes for care experience people.



Some of the other exciting work we've been involved in include the Contextual Safeguarding approach where one of the development workers is a member of the steering group. The development worker is also running a participation programme to aid this work.

We are also members of The Youth Justice Review (Reimagining Justice) where we have been working closely with multi agency partners and CYCJ to look at our approach and responses to young people in conflict with the law.

We have also ran participation sessions with young people on a varied range of topics including rights, youth justice, mental health and wellbeing, the promise 2 year anniversary and more!

One of our development workers is working closely with health colleagues to create a bespoke service/practitioner to better support young people accessing their healthcare needs.

One development worker has established and chairs a record keeping group looking at how we record information and how we can do this in a trauma responsive way by knitting together a narrative that people with Care-Experience will be able to look back on one day with fondness and memories.

Simultaneously, we are also working on training regarding subject access requests where people request the information held about them. This training is designed to allow practitioners to see the impact language has on people and how they can play a part in alleviating some of the stress that people with lived experience often feel when receiving their files.

We've been working with our local champs' board (TNT) to make sure what they say is listened to and acted upon, over the last year we've been building up good relationships and working together on a range of topics such as mental health support for young people within NLC. Working alongside TNT we've spent a lot of time rethinking what we say and how we say it, to have language which everyone can understand this includes our policies and processes which we're currently reviewing.

We're keen to promote brother and sister time, we've been working hard on the guidance from the new legislation to promote family time – recently we have reworked our family time guidance for staff to make it more understandable and practical.

We're continuing to work with our partners in the Police, Education, Health and Voluntary etc, as we cannot achieve the promise as a small team, we all need to work together across the partnership to hold each other to account and make North Lanarkshire the best place to grow up for all our children, young people and families.

A Tribute to Natalie...



In February 2022, we sadly lost one of our development workers Natalie Cullen. Natalie was a fierce advocate for people with lived experience of care and worked tirelessly in our team to ensure The Promise was kept. Natalie's death was sudden and unexpected and the team have felt this loss enormously. However, whilst we continue to work hard at ensuring the promise made to Scotland's children and their families is kept, we will do so with Natalie's vision in mind.

Natalie's smile and infectious laugh lit up the room and we will remember her for this in all that we do.

The team will continue to strive for excellence in all that we do and always holding Natalie in our hearts.

This is just a snapshot of some of the pieces of work we have been involved in. If you want to know more about our work or The Promise then please get in touch! You can find us at promise@northlan.gov.uk we'd be delighted to hear from you!