

Cross Party Group on Children and Young People

Monday 14th February 13:00 – 14:30

Chair: Kaukab Stewart MSP

Topic: Learning from The Promise and Life Changes Trust Minute

Present

MSPs:

Kaukab Stewart MSP

Clare Adamson MSP

Invited guests

Carole Patrick, *Life Changes Trust*

Celeste Bertheau, *Life Changes Trust*

Morag Burnett, *The Promise*

Non-MSP Group Members

Aimee Thorpe, *Children in Scotland*

Brian Magee, *COSCA*

Chris, *Children in Scotland*

Claire Hunter, *Red Harbour*

Dana Vreeswijk, *Children in Scotland*

David MacKay, *Children in Scotland*

David Ashford

Dr. Mirjam Allik, *University of Glasgow*

Elaine Kerridge, *Children in Scotland*

Elizabeth Lumsden, *ROSPA*

Fiona O'Sullivan, *Royal Hospital for Children and Young People*

Greg Hiddleston, *SDS*

Jane Malcolm, *National Day Nurseries Association*

Joan Mowat, *University of Strathclyde*

Joyce Sweeney, *Quarriers*

Kelly Munro, *Carers Trust Scotland*

Laura Campbell, *The Spark*

Lizzie Thomson, *CELCIS*

Lyndsay Fraser Robertson, *Children in Scotland*

Lynne Gilmour, *University of Stirling*

Salena Begley, *Family Fund*

Sarah McClarey, *Salvesen Mindroom Centre*

Sarah Newton, *TNL Community Fund*

Sarah Paterson, *Youth Link Scotland*

Sharon Fairley, *SPNA*

Snow Curtis-Kolu, *Includem*

Susan Mitchell, *One Parent Families Scotland*

Shaun Horne

1. Welcome from Chair –Kaukab Stewart MSP

Kaukab Stewart MSP welcomed the members of the CPG to the third meeting of the new parliamentary term. Kaukab told members that the meeting would focus on policy, evidence and support relating to young people with experience of care.

She noted that this was a key time for the CPG to focus on the topic, in recognition of the second anniversary of the publication of *The Promise* and as the Life Changes Trust wraps up its work after 9 years of operation.

Kaukab introduced guest speakers:

- Morag Burnett, Governance Lead, *The Promise*
- Carole Patrick, Joint CEO/Head of Influencing and Evidence, Life Changes Trust

She added that the speakers would provide an update on their work, share learning, and also provide information about how organisations/the CPG can engage with them going forward.

Kaukab also noted that the agenda would also include an update on the Pandemic Impact Survey 2022.

Kaukab ran through a range of housekeeping measures and reminded all attendees that the chat function was available for questions and comments.

2. CPG Business – Kaukab Stewart MSP

a. Previous Minutes

Kaukab said that the secretariat had shared the previous minutes with members of the group. No issues had been raised in relation to the minutes. She members to confirm if they were happy to take these minutes as read.

This was approved by the membership and the minutes were ratified.

b. New members of the group

Kaukab asked whether the members of the group were happy with Scottish Private Nursery Association becoming new members of the group.

This was approved by the membership.

c. Previous Actions

Kaukab handed over to Chris Ross from Children in Scotland to run through the actions from the previous meeting. They were:

- The secretariat will prepare a survey for organisations working with children, young people and families based on the discussions during today's meeting. This will run from W/C 13th December into January.
- The CPG secretariat will continue engage in targeted work to expand the diversity of the CPG's membership.

Chris confirmed that both actions had been achieved. Chris will take an action to follow up with the new organisations that have been invited to join, as part of the CPG's work to expand the diversity of its membership, to ensure that work continues.

At the last meeting, Kaukab also took an action to raise a question in Parliament about what work the Scottish Government is doing to engage with BiPOC charities in COVID recovery discussions. Kaukab confirmed that she did raise this in Parliament and the Scottish Government confirmed that they were engaging with BEEMIS as their lead organisation on this work.

3. Pandemic Impact Survey – Update and Next Steps

Kaukab handed over to Sarah Paterson from YouthLink Scotland to update the membership on the Pandemic Impact Survey 2022. This report documents the findings of a survey ran with the sector from 16/12/21 to 21/1/22. This survey was developed based on the CPG's discussions as a group at the last meeting in December 2021.

The report was covered by a number of news organisations, including [Third Force News](#).

[Click here to access the Pandemic Impact Survey 2022 Report.](#)

4. The Promise 2 Years on – Morag Burnett, Governance Lead, The Promise

Kaukab introduced Morag Burnett, Governance Lead at The Promise, to update the group on what progress had been made and the work they are currently undertaking. Morag also outlined ways in which the group could support/engage with their work.

The Promise Scotland is responsible for driving the work of change demanded by the findings of the Independent Care Review.

It works with all kinds of organisations to support shifts in policy, practice and culture so Scotland can **#KeepThePromise** it made to care experienced infants, children, young people, adults and their families - that every child grows up loved, safe and respected, able to realise their full potential.

You can find out more here: <https://thepromise.scot/>

- **Click here to [read the Promise's presentation](#)**

5. Life Changes Trust – Learning and Legacy –

Carole Patrick, Joint CEO/Head of Influencing and Evidence, Life Changes Trust

Kaukab introduced Carole Patrick, Joint CEO/Head of Influencing and Evidence, Life Changes Trust. After 9 years, the Life Changes Trust are coming to an end. Carole explored key learning from the 9 years relating to young people with experience of care and update members of the group on the Trust's legacy work.

The Life Changes Trust is a charity that invests in and supports the empowerment and inclusion of three groups: young people with experience of being in care, people living with dementia and unpaid carers of those with dementia

She told the membership that the Life Changes Trust worked with young people aged 14-26 with all experiences of care and the most important thing they've learned is the need to listen deeply to those with care-experience. The Life Changes Trust have also worked with a philosophy that those with experience of care should lead their work and priorities and the importance of co-design.

The Life Changes Trust's goal was to be ambitious and show what was possible when young people are properly invested in. In addition to identifying barriers, their goal has been to invest in young people directly, either through grants, champions group or co-design. Over these 9 years, they have seen the power of positive relationships to support achievements.

Carole drew attention to the *My Choice, My Future Award*, which showcases some of the impact the Life Changes Trust have had:

- Click here to learn more about [My Choice, My Future Awards](#)

You can find out more about the Trust here: <https://www.lifechangestrust.org.uk/>

6. Group Discussions

Kaukab MSP informed the group that they would move to a series of discussion groups whereas a group members would discuss a series of questions relating to how organisations can engage with the work of the Life Changes Trust and the Promise, and discuss future steps.

The membership discussed the following questions:

- a. Do you feel like your organisations are well linked into the work that we heard about from our speakers?
- b. How could we use this meeting to develop this?

- c. How could we engage with this topic as a group going forward? Are there any speakers we should look to hear from or any activity we should be looking to undertake?

Key points from discussions included:

- For some members this had been a good opportunity to engage with the topic as they do not always have capacity to cover issues outside of their day to day work. For some this helped 'join the dots'.
- We need to focus on intersectionality relating to care experience. It is only one aspect of peoples lives. Need to also consider issues like poverty and ethnicity and how different areas of people's lives intersect. There was a desire to explore this going forward.
- There was a desire for the group to explore the topic again going forward, for example in discussing ongoing policy development such as the National Care Service.

The Secretariat will use the notes to facilitate ongoing relationships with The Promise and the Life Changes Trust's Legacy Organisations.

7. Actions Agreed

- Chris Ross, Children in Scotland will follow up with the new organisations that have recently got involved in the group to explore taking out membership of the group. This will be to continue to diversify the membership.
- The Convenors and Secretariat will continue to share the report with key stakeholders and explore the potential for a future meeting of the group on the findings.

8. Close of Meeting

Attendees were thanked for attending the meeting and informed a future date has not been set.