

FOI Request - The Promise Reports in Moray – 101003461620

1. Can you provide evidence on what work your Local Authority has undertaken to reduce placement moves as outlined in page 20 of The Promise?

In Moray we have developed a placement oversight panel that meets to discuss every placement move within our Local Authority care, both internally and externally. The Placement Oversight meeting enables the team to review placements across Moray to help monitor and help reduce unnecessary placement moves in line with The Promise. This ensures that transitions are necessary, well planned and ensures all decisions are made from a well-informed basis. We have also commissioned Functional Family therapy to help provide intensive whole family support in a bid to reduce the risk of family breakdown.

In order to better understand the experiences of our children and young people and to learn from occasions where placement breakdowns occur, an unplanned endings oversight group has been set up to look at the circumstances and identify where lessons can be learned and any potential changes can be implemented to avoid any future reoccurrences.

As we have identified in our Children's Service Plan 23 – 26, reducing placement moves is a priority and we will continue to carry out self-evaluation in relation to placement transitions and make improvements where necessary.

2. Can you provide me with the guidance that you have given to council staff and external funded staff in relation to the use of branded cars and name badges when working with Care Experienced people and their families as set out on page 17 of the Pinky Promise?

Our practice guidance is that we do not use branded cars (we have our own hired pool cars), and our residential staff do not wear ID badges – they must have them with them on shift in case needed, but we do not wear them on our persons due to this being their home and trying to replicate as little institutionalisation as possible.

3. Since the 5/02/20, how many The Promise branded materials have you distributed to Local Authority staff?

Since being in post from Dec 21, our Promise Project Lead has distributed an estimate of over 200+ Promise branded material to the Promise Keepers Network which has 45 members, as well as the Children's Service Network Team which has 10 members and the Corporate Parenting Group which has 35 members, so a total of 90 people. Moray's Children's Services Plan is our Promise Plan and contains Promise branding, has been distributed widely across paid and unpaid workforce. Our care experienced young people and families have produced an easy read version with the branding of The Promise and has been circulated widely throughout Moray. Many staff also feature The Promise branding as part of their email signature.

4. Since 05/02/2020 can you provide the number of Care Experienced children and young people that have moved schools in each financial year?

Information from SEEMIS data in regards to the school moves made for pupil who were looked after or care experienced for Primary and Secondary.

PRIMARY LAC / CEYP - School Movement in the academic year

	No. LAC / CEYP	No. moved within year
2023/24*	122	10
2022/23	110	10
2021/22	129	12
2020/21	137	18
2019/20	127	13

1 pupil moved twice

All LAC/CEYP pupils who moved school or left Moray during the academic year only did so once, apart from one pupil in 2020/21 who moved twice in the year.

* As at 11/01/2024

SECONDARY LAC / CEYP - School Movement in the academic year

	No. LAC / CEYP	No. moved within year
2023/24*	160	0
2022/23	157	8
2021/22	144	10
2020/21	147	12
2019/20	133	8

* As at 11/01/2024

5. Since 05/02/2020 can you provide the average number of schools moves made by Care Experienced children and young people in each financial year?

PRIMARY LAC / CEYP - School Movement in the academic year

	No. LAC / CEYP	No. moved within year	No. moves on average
2023/24*	122	10	0.08
2022/23	110	10	0.09
2021/22	129	12	0.09
2020/21	137	18	0.13
2019/20	127	13	0.10

SECONDARY LAC / CEYP - School Movement in the academic year

	No. LAC / CEYP	No. moved within year	No. moves on average
2023/24*	160	0	0.00
2022/23	157	8	0.05
2021/22	144	10	0.07
2020/21	147	12	0.08
2019/20	133	8	0.06

6. Can you provide me with evidence of an increase in rehabilitation spaces or opportunities for families who are dealing with problematic substance use since 05/02/2020?

In November 2022 a family residential treatment facility was launched in Saltcoats, North Ayrshire. This facility is one of a few in the world to provide family residential treatment and is fully funded by Scottish Government, meaning that a family will be funded for placement with no cost to the Moray Alcohol and Drug Partnership. Prior to the launch of the family residential support service families were only and continue to be supported locally through our commissioned direct access alcohol and drug service, although we now have the option of residential treatment for families as well. Please see below link on the family drug treatment service in North Ayrshire.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-family-drugs-treatment-service/>

Locally our Arrows Service offers:

Easily accessible recovery pathways and support that guides individuals toward sustainable recovery through confidential in-house services and outreach initiatives. Arrows collaborates with organizations like Moray Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service (MIDAS) and Health and Social Work colleagues for psychosocial interventions, MAT standards support, harm reduction, and early interventions. Arrows is commissioned by the Moray Alcohol and Drug partnership and is the direct access substance use service in Moray.

Arrows offers a comprehensive range of Harm Reduction services, supported by NHS Grampian. Arrows services include Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) through walk-in and outreach options, Naloxone training, onsite blood-borne virus testing, and sexual health advice.

Arrows also hosts a Children and Family Recovery Team focused on working with family members, children, and significant others impacted by substance and alcohol use. Their intensive, family-inclusive approach is structured around trauma-informed practices, the Promise Scotland framework, and Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) principles to achieve sustainable recovery. Arrows also have a Corra funded project called My Promising Futures with offers intensive whole family support on top of the foundational whole family support they offer.

The 4 Key Areas of Support Offered:

Adult Family Support: This facet of the service is tailored to address the unique challenges and concerns faced by adults within families affected by drug and/or alcohol misuse. Through targeted interventions, counselling, and resource allocation, striving to empower and assist adults in navigating the complexities associated with substance use within their families.

Children & Young People: Recognising the distinct needs of younger members in families impacted by substance misuse, this service extends to children and young people. By offering age-appropriate support, counselling, and educational resources, the aim is to create a safe space for them to express themselves, understand their circumstances, and navigate the emotional challenges associated with family substance use.

Intensive / Whole Family Support: This comprehensive support category is designed to address the multifaceted dynamics of families grappling with substance use. Through an intensive and holistic approach, Arrows work collaboratively with all family members, employing tailored strategies and interventions to foster resilience, strengthen family bonds, and guide them toward sustainable recovery.

Group Work: Arrows group work initiatives are structured to provide a collective support framework for individuals facing similar challenges. Through facilitated group sessions, participants can share experiences, exchange insights, and access mutual support. This collaborative approach enhances the sense of community, fostering understanding and empowerment among individuals dealing with family substance use.

Please see attached latest family support data.

7. What guidance has your Local Authority provided since the publication of the promise on 05/02/2020 to families who experience domestic violence?

The Moray Violence against Women & Girls has provided comprehensive training to staff (see table below) to enable them to provide advice and guidance to families who experience domestic violence.

The following training to the regional workforce since 2022:

Subject	Number of Attendees (online or in-person)
Understanding Domestic Abuse & Coercive Control	84
Safe & Together CORE Practitioner Training	235
Safe & Together Overview	74
Safe & Together 1hr Briefing	104
Domestic Abuse & Housing Legislation	23
Coercive Control & Pregnancy	49
Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme Scotland	45
Trauma-Informed Practice & VAWG	31

The regional 'Moray Protects' Website for the entire Public Protection Unit will be live spring 2024 with information and support service details on Domestic Abuse & Child Protection.

8. The Promise outlines on page 68 that transitions must:

- "- Be limited: Scotland must limit the number of transitions for children. Support must wrap around families and the settings of care, so that carers and families are supported to 'stick with' children.
- Be relational: All transitions must take place with a trusted adult that the baby, infant, child or young person knows and feels safe with. Transitions, at any stage, must never be carried out by an unknown professional.
- Be planned: Transitions must not take place in a hurry and feel like an emergency. Children must never again take their belongings in bin bags and not have time to collect important personal items.
- Be informed: Everyone involved in a transition – the child, the family from which they are being removed and the family or safe, loving environment to which they are going – must have as much information as possible."

Can you provide evidence on how your local authority has met these aims?

In Moray we have developed a panel that assesses every move in care, either internally or externally. The Placement Oversight meeting enables the team to review placements across Moray to help monitor and help reduce unnecessary placement moves. This ensures that transitions are necessary, well planned and made from a robust and well-informed basis. Sometimes children are in an emergency situation, where they are at significant risk of serious harm and immediate swift action needs to be taken to protect and safeguard children. Where an emergency transition is necessary, we always endeavour to ensure the move is carried out in a trauma informed and conscientious manner. Where possible, children are transitioned with the support of their social worker, who they are familiar with and will provide detailed information to the carer. Where this is not possible, we always consider who has the best relationship with the child or young person to support their move and ensure that good, high quality, risk and need information is shared. When in transition, we always ensure that children have appropriate luggage to transport their personal items. Within 72 hours of the transition, a 'looked after child' review is held and the purpose of this is to share detailed information about the child's care plan with their family with other relevant professionals.

In Moray we have developed a 'nominated carer' process, where foster carers/kinship carers can nominate someone within their own network of family and friends who have an existing relationship with the child or young person, who can provide short breaks. This helps to support placement stability and ensure that the child or young person's care remains consistent and in a familiar setting. In Moray we also have a 'continuing care' policy that allows young people to continue in their placement when they transition into adulthood. This is also in line with our commitment to the 'maintaining relationships' project. We want young people to continue to feel cared for, supported and close to those who have provided them with love and care over the years.

We currently have a range of activity that focus on improving how we support children and young people with transitions. We are committed to the principles laid out in The Promise in relation to transitions and transition planning.

9. Can you provide your guidance or evidence that you are funding appropriate kinship placements instead of formal care arrangements?

When considering care arrangements, kinship care is always prioritised when exploring care arrangements for our children and young people. We provide funding for all approved kinship placements, which is supported through the care planning process and with oversight of the reviewing officers through the 'Looked after Child' process. Our kinship placements have been steadily increasing and we have increased the allowances for kinship and foster carers, as recommended by the Scottish government.

10. As set out in The Promise page 76 'Adopting parents should have access to the supports of the wider workforce if they require it. They should be able to be part of reflective practices, supervision and peer support.' Can you provide evidence of your local authority achieving these aims?

All adoptive parents are offered post adoption assessment and support as required and/or requested. The post adoption support plan provides help for adoptive carers which is tailored to their individual needs.

11. Can you provide your guidance for prospective foster carer recruitment relating to the values that they must have?

The carer recruitment campaign outlines that foster carers can come from a diverse range of background and life experiences. We ask that potential foster carers are committed to providing a

safe, caring and nurturing environment for our children and young people. As part of our recruitment process, all potential foster carers complete our 'Skills to foster' training. This comprehensive training offers lived experience insights into foster care and the attributes, values and understanding that foster carers should have prior to any placement.

12. How much funding from The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund has your organisation received and can you provide me with a breakdown of how it has been used?

Moray has received £1,091,000 of Whole Family Wellbeing Funding. To date it has been allocated to :-

- resource to coordinate the effective implementation of the fund in accordance with the principles of holistic family support

- the design of intensive family support

- investment in coordination, design and delivery multi- agency workforce development

- further developing the locality planning model within Children's Services (focus on holistic early intervention support for children, young people and their families)