

**Scotland Policy Conferences keynote seminar:  
Next steps for the children's care system in Scotland and implementing The Promise**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



**SCOTLAND POLICY  
CONFERENCES**

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Miles Briggs MSP**, Member, Education, Children and Young People Committee
- 9.05 **Next steps for implementing the promise**  
**Fraser McKinlay**, Chief Executive, The Promise Scotland  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for reforming the children's care system in Scotland**  
*outcomes of The Promise Plan 21-24 | The Promise Plan 24-30 implementation | tracking progress and keeping plans active | investment for training for workers | the role of local government in care provision | sharing good practice and collaboration with local partners | assessing the affordability of implementing The Promise*  
**Ben Farrugia**, Director, Social Work Scotland  
**SallyAnn Kelly OBE**, Chief Executive, Aberlour Child Care Trust  
**Carol Wassell**, Director, Positive Outcomes, Children's Hearings Scotland  
Senior representative, local authority  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Key regulatory considerations for implementing the promise**  
Senior speaker confirmed from **the Care Inspectorate**  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Miles Briggs MSP**, Member, Education, Children and Young People Committee
- 10.40 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 **Strategies for improving care experience and outcomes**  
*strategies for improving education attainment for those in care | supporting and addressing mental health concerns | importance of working with families before and throughout care | reforms to children's hearing system | support for families on the edge of care*  
**Dr Mirjam Allik**, Research Lead, Children's Health in Care in Scotland, University of Glasgow  
**Nicole Mulheron**, Promise Development Worker, Inspire Scotland  
Senior representative, school  
Senior representative, foster care  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **'What does the Oversight Board Report three tell us about where Scotland is now'**  
**David Anderson**, Chair, Oversight Board for the Promise  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Priorities for preparation for care leavers and life after care**  
*provision of key areas of support | opportunities for further study and higher education | homelessness and access to adequate housing provision | moving into employment and apprenticeships | wellbeing through challenges and issues such as loneliness*  
**Katrina Gallacher**, Care and Justice Participation Lead, Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum  
Senior representative, housing  
Senior representative, employer  
Senior representative, education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **The vision for future policy for children in care in Scotland**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Scotland Policy Conferences