

The Promise Partnership

Corra Foundation



Corra Foundation manages the Promise Partnership. This is a grant programme funding structural change work within Scotland's 'care system'. Significant progress has been made to Keep the Promise but there is more to do to ensure that children, young people, and their families receive the relational, rights-based support they need to thrive. This briefing provides:

1. An introduction to the Promise Partnership funds.
2. Stories of positive change from funded organisations and collaborations.
3. Opportunities to strengthen action to Keep the Promise.

About the Promise Partnership

The Promise Partnership, managed by Corra Foundation on behalf of the Scottish Government, was established to help realise the ambitions of The Promise, a national commitment to improving the lives of children, young people, and families in Scotland.

How much funding has been distributed?

As of November 2024, £20.56m has been allocated through 202 grants to organisations working to deliver The Promise. This funding includes £20m from the Scottish Government, £600,000 from STV Children's Appeal and £100,000 from Cattanach Trust. Funding has been distributed through seven funding rounds, each designed to support structural change across the 'care system'.

Full details of each funding round are available in Appendix 1.

How are decisions made?

Funding decisions are made by an independent decision makers panel. This panel is made up of people with a range of skills and expertise, all of whom have lived experience of Scotland's 'care system'. An independent Advisory Group also provides guidance and challenge on the parameters and criteria of Promise Partnership funds. This group brings a range of expertise along with lived experience of Scotland's 'care system'. The Promise Scotland team provides support and capacity building to Promise Partnership grant holders and works with Corra and others to share learning. The Promise Scotland does not have any role in decision-making about Promise Partnership funds.

[Further information on the governance of the Promise Partnership and partnership working with The Promise, can be found on our website.](#)

Which organisations received funding?

[Full details of all Promise Partnership grant holders can be found on Corra's website.](#) This includes a range of third sector and public sector organisations, with work supported funded across all 32 local authority areas in Scotland.

Stories of Positive Change

95% of grant holders are changing their systems and support for children and young people with care experience. There is increased partnership working, with 80% of grant holders reporting that partnerships were working well. Most importantly, the meaningful involvement of people with lived experience of Scotland's 'care system' is valued, with 80% of grant holders involving people in the design and delivery of their services.

We've included just a few examples of the changes happening through Promise Partnership funded work. You will find more [stories of change on the Corra website.](#)

Supporting the workforce

[Passion4Fusion](#) have developed a [Toolkit for the Social Care Workforce to support delivery on The Promise to African Diaspora children and families](#). This toolkit is for anyone who is part of the social care workforce who wants to deliver best practice to African Diaspora children and families. The resource is in response to feedback from the workforce that further knowledge and practice ideas would support them to deliver the Promise, particularly for Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic children and young people.

The King's (formerly Prince's) Trust are changing internal systems to improve their engagement with young people with care experience. As a result of co-production work alongside staff and young people, there is increased consideration within practice and discussion when thinking about young people with care experience. The Promise is now embedded across all their Scottish Hubs resulting in increased awareness and understanding of the Promise by staff.

Youth justice and rights

Young Scot and the Young People's Centre for Justice collaborated to produce a package of information and experiences for children and young people with care and justice experience. Co-production sessions alongside children and young people identified a lack of simple and clear information on the rights and entitlements held by young people with both care and justice experience. [The Promise Package](#) launched in July 2024, offering information, items and experiences for young people with care and justice experience. High demand for the package has resulted in a temporary pause to referrals.

Community Law Advice Network (CLAN) have delivered a range of work to ensure that children's rights are upheld, and that lawyers have the knowledge and skills to deliver The Promise. This has included work to ensure children have legal representation at Children's Hearings, having identified that only 25% of children have legal representation. Work is ongoing to secure change that would result in a higher proportion of young people having legal representation within the Children's Hearing System, supporting them to understand their rights and the implications of accepting offence grounds, and have their voices heard. CLAN have also worked alongside others to campaign for change which now allows brothers and sisters to obtain legal aid to participate effectively in their sibling's hearing. Currently, work is ongoing to develop a certified course for lawyers across Scotland supporting them to take a trauma-informed, child-centred approach to Keeping the Promise. This new partnership with the Law Society for Scotland means the training will be offered to every lawyer and solicitor in Scotland.

Opportunities to strengthen action to Keep the Promise

We know challenges remain for organisations working to Keep the Promise. Our work alongside funded organisations, and analysis of their reports, tells us there are opportunities to strengthen work to Keep the Promise. Many of these are system-wide challenges facing the third and public sectors.

Progressing anti-racism within the care sector would support organisations to Keep the Promise.

Insights from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic-led organisations working to Keep the Promise highlight a significant need, and opportunity, to take an anti-racist lens to Keep the Promise.

[Passion4Fusion](#) have developed a [Toolkit for the Social Care Workforce to support delivery on The Promise to African Diaspora children and families](#). [Project Esperanza](#) deliver [training for organisations on keeping the promise](#) for all of Scotland's children. This training explores bias in child protection policies, how to create a culturally sensitive care system, and shares first-hand the care experiences of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic children. We know, from conversations with grant holders, that there is more to do to mainstream anti-racist approaches across the sector including within the workforce.

Improving workforce wellbeing and remuneration levels would support organisations to Keep the Promise. 36% of organisations have experienced staffing challenges - a combination of burnout, and remuneration levels that may not reflect the complexity and demands of the role.

Providing longer term funding would support organisations to Keep the Promise. 39% of organisations told us time constraints and short-term funding cycles, alongside recruitment challenges mean that one or two years is sometimes insufficient to deliver innovative systems change work.

We know that important and meaningful change is happening across Scotland and funding has played a role in Keeping the Promise and improving the 'care system'. The third and public sectors

collectively face constraints of resources, finance and timeframes and addressing these will be vital to Keep the Promise to Scotland's children and young people.

Appendix 1 – Promise Partnership Funding Round Details

[The Good Childhood Fund](#) distributed £3.21m through 40 grants for work that prioritised relationships, moving on, support, and youth justice.

[The Round One Diagnostic Fund](#) distributed £940,000 through five grants for collaborations that would have national significance in Keeping the Promise. This included a grant to Inverclyde HSCP to improve partnership working with the third sector, and redesign children's services with the inclusion of a whole family support team.

[Getting it Right for Brothers and Sisters Fund](#) distributed £1.04m through eight grants for collaborations complementing the introduction of legislation and practice guidance to support siblings. This included a grant to Borders Council for partnership work with Children 1st to restore and maintain loving, safe, brother-and-sister relationships for care-experienced young people.

[Keep The Promise Fund](#) Round One distributed £5.02m through 29 grants delivering systems change in relation to the workforce, school structure, and youth justice and rights.

[Keep the Promise Fund Round 2](#) distributed £6.33m through 42 grants to organisations with a clear plan for moving to wider roll out and sustainability of changes beyond the funding period.

[The Round One Open Call Fund](#) distributed £2.99m through 67 grants for organisations to invest and change their infrastructure to implement the Promise.

[The Promise Partnership Youth-Led Grant Programme](#) distributed £750,000 through 10 grants. Each grant has a £50,000 grant fund pot to enable ideas developed by children and young people with care experience to become a reality.

About Corra Foundation

Corra Foundation exists to make a difference to the lives of people and communities. It works with others to encourage positive change, opportunity, fairness and growth of aspirations which improve quality of life. Corra wants to see a society in which people create positive change and enjoy fulfilling lives.

In 2020 Corra launched a ten-year strategy. It is long term because making a difference on the big challenges will take time. At its heart is the strong belief that when people find their voice, they unlock the power to make change happen.

Our ways of working

At Corra we have a set of principles that we strive to put into practice across our roles as an employer, independent funder, charity and partner, as well as in our influencing activity.

We will:

- Listen and respond to people, communities and organisations and amplify voices that are less well heard – their wisdom is at the heart of Corra's approach.
- Build relationships, always working alongside others on the basis of shared power, mutual trust and shared learning.
- Pursue diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), trying to challenge structural discrimination and contribute to radical shifts in the funding sector.
- Be an open, trusting and flexible grant maker.
- Ensure we contribute to tackling climate change, through our investments, operations and grant making and encouraging others to take action alongside us.
- Be bold, taking considered risks and supporting others to do the same.

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