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18 September 2024

Dear Sue

In March 2022 the Scottish Government published The Promise Implementation Plan. This sets out the actions and commitments across Government to keep The Promise.

I am writing to you in your role as Convener of the Education, Children and Young People Committee, to inform you that the Scottish Government Promise Implementation Plan Update 2024 will be published on the gov.scot website on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September. I have attached an embargoed copy alongside this letter which we would ask you not to share more widely before publication.

The Scottish Government remains strongly committed to keeping The Promise and the Implementation Plan represents this cross Portfolio call to action. Detailed progress reports have been provided against each of the original actions and commitments and where appropriate next stages of activity have been identified.

The Implementation Plan Update also contains the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) Investment Approach, the publication of which was a commitment set out in the 2023-24 Programme for Government. The Investment Approach reaffirms our commitment to the WFWF Programme and sets out:

- Our decision to elongate the WFWF programme beyond the original timescale of 2025-26. This includes our commitment to extend the funding for Children Services Planning Partnerships into 2026-27, taking an evidence based approach to spending decisions.
- Our plans for expanding our national support offer for CSPPs and to explore options for additional funding to support local transformational change.
- Sets out an intention to connect work across portfolios, including the alignment of funding streams in the medium to long term with a focus on holistic family support, prevention and providing the opportunity to set this in the context of Verity House and cross-portfolio place-based public service reform.

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Over the last 18 months in my role as Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise I have been privileged to engage with care experienced children, young people and adults and to witness the broad range of projects and programmes across Scotland that are driving change. I have been buoyed also by the energy and commitment across organisations as they focus their attentions as both corporate parents and delivery agents to ensure that progress continues to be made.

There is of course no room for complacency and as we approach the five year anniversary of The Promise I am keen to ensure the energy not only continues but further accelerates. We must work together to improve the lives of our care experienced population and I welcome the role that the Committee plays in providing the guidance and scrutiny to help achieve this.

A key contributor to change will be the Promise Bill that we will bring forward by the end of the Parliamentary term. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the potential that this legislative opportunity provides. If you would welcome this I would be delighted to set up an early conversation.

**NATALIE DON-INNES**

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