

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Douglas Ross MSP  
Convenor Education, Children and Young People Committee

**Sent by email: [ecyp.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:ecyp.committee@parliament.scot)**

5 February 2025

Dear Convenor,

Today marks 5 years since the completion of the Independent Care Review and the publication of The Promise. Progress has been made and whilst there is a lot left to do there is opportunity to reflect on the positive change that has been introduced.

This is the halfway point and whilst a lot of good work is underway at both a national and local level, we must continue to push the pace and scale. Learning must be undertaken across portfolios to widen the understanding of what works, and we must continue to ensure that the voice of people with care experience remains at the heart of the work that we do.

Since 2022, we have invested over £110m in our Whole Family Wellbeing Funding activity. This includes our £96m (£32m pa) funding to Children's Services Planning Partnerships to transform family support in their local communities and despite the tight fiscal position, we have once again protected our £50m investment for 2025-26.

Today, I am writing to reaffirm the Scottish Governments commitment to transforming holistic family support in local communities through the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding Programme. To support this, we have agreed with COSLA that the funding for Children's Services Planning Partnerships, who are driving the transformational change at a local level, will increase from £32 million to £38.1 million in 2025-26 and 2026/27. This is of course subject to Parliamentary approval of the Scottish Budget.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

You will also want to note that The Promise Oversight Board will publish their third report of progress today and I welcome the positive challenge that this presents to the progress that is being made. I encourage all to consider the report and to take action from the observations and recommendations that are set out within it.

Your sincerely,

**Natalie Don-Innes**  
**Minister for Children, Young People and the Promise**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™**  
We invest in people Silver

