

**MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENT BRIEFING:
KATE FORBES, CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND THE ECONOMY
Briefing for meeting with Fiona Duncan, Chair of The Promise Scotland**

What	Meeting to discuss the Scottish Governments role in delivering The Promise. The meeting also provides an opportunity to give your commitment as Finance Secretary to #KeepThePromise.
Where	Online via Teams – link is provided in the calendar request sent by Private Office
When	Thursday 16 th September 13:15 - 14:15
Key Message(s)	<p>General message - The Scottish Government’s ambition is for Scotland to be the best place to grow up where children are loved, safe and respected so that they can reach their full potential. In 2020 the Scottish Government committed to #KeepThePromise by 2030.</p> <p>Specific message – We are committed to exploring options with The Promise Scotland to align budgets and spend collaboratively across portfolios in order to achieve better outcomes.</p>
Who	<p>Fiona Duncan, Chair of The Promise Scotland Claire Stuart, Head of Data and Evidence, The Promise Scotland Fraser McKinley, Former Director in Audit Scotland and currently contracted to The Promise Scotland to look at ‘The Money’</p>
Why	Fiona Duncan attended the Public Services Ministerial Working Group on 24 August, at the meeting Ms Forbes offered a follow up meeting with Fiona to discuss pooling budgets in more detail..
Expected outcome	A commitment to work together to implement The Promise
Supporting official	<p>Gavin Henderson, Deputy Director, Keeping The Promise Team, REDACTED REDACTED, Policy and Engagement Lead, Keeping The Promise Team, REDACTED</p>
Briefing contents	<p>Annex A: Summary Page Annex B: Top Lines – Keeping The Promise Annex C: Budget 2022-23 and resource spend</p>
Media Handling	No comms required

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SUMMARY PAGE

ANNEX A

Background

- Fiona Duncan attended the PSMG meeting on 24 August to provide Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers with more information about The Promise and to better understand the Scottish Government's role in delivering The Promise. During the meeting Ms Forbes offered a follow up meeting with Fiona to have further discussions on finance/budgets.
- On 30th August 2021 Fraser McKinley met with Andrew Watson, Director of Budget and Public Spend, Dougie McLaren and Nuala Gormley (DD's in Andrew's Directorate). There was an agreement in that meeting to continue to work together on the budget process, including to ensure that analysis from work on The Promise about areas for disinvestment or targeting resources differently could be used to help portfolios identify options for the Budget and Spending Review.
- Since then, the Scottish Government has committed to investing at least £500m in this Parliament in a Whole Family Wellbeing Fund – something that was identified by Fiona Duncan as required to Keep The Promise.
- Michael Chalmers, Director of Children and Families, has asked Fraser McKinley to support the Children and Families Directorate and Family Support Delivery Group – who will lead on the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund – to look across portfolios at how to better align and spend budgets through a preventative lens reducing the need for crisis spend and having better long term outcomes.

Purpose

- A general discussion about the 'spend to save; approach and the policy alignment process that may be required to do so.
- Discuss the new Whole Family Wellbeing Fund £500m over the course of this Parliamentary term and our ambition, from 2030, to invest at least 5% of all community-based health and social care spend in preventative whole family support measures. Specifically Fiona Duncan will ask about where the money for the fund is coming from, is this new money, is this money being taken from other areas in children and families or is this money from other portfolio areas (for example Health).
- Fiona Duncan has asked for the following point to be discussed in the meeting:

“The work to establish a process within Scottish Government still to be determined. The Promise Scotland would very much welcome being involved in shaping this, drawing on the insights gained during its work over the last year with Scottish Government and others to devise Plan 21-24 and Change Programme ONE - and proposes that the Scottish Government commissions Fraser McKinlay to do support this. Whilst Fraser was Audit Scotland's Director of Performance Audit and Best

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Value, he was very involved in the Independent Care Review's Human and Economic Cost Model (HECM) work that led to [Follow the Money](#) and [The Money](#), and is currently retained by The Promise Scotland to operationalise HECM working with a number of local authorities to make this happen."

Questions/Discussion points Ms Forbes may wish to ask/update The Promise Scotland about

- Ask Fraser McKinley about his work with Local Authorities on budgets and how that approach is being received
- You may wish to note that you have proposed to the Finance Committee that the Budget 2022-23 will be published on 16 December – that gives a timeframe within which portfolio Cabinet Secretaries will be asked to finalise their spending plans, within the overall budget envelope that will be confirmed by the UK Spending Review and UK Budget on 27 October
- Those plans will need to demonstrate progress towards The Promise – are there areas that Fiona Duncan or Fraser McKinley feel are most ripe for disinvestment at this stage?
- Very happy to use initial proposals from Fiona or Fraser as a constructive provocation for budget holders within Government to invite Fiona Duncan (and Fraser and Claire) to attend a future Economy Ministerial Working Group or another Ministerial group (with no decision making authority, as discussed in pre meet), and to give these a budget as well as a policy focus
- Also envisage regular engagement with individual Cabinet Secretaries over the Autumn on the whole range of budget issues – are there specific options and opportunities around The Promise that
- The overall fiscal position is very challenging – decisions about additional investment or better targeted investment can only come about if options are identified to reduce spending elsewhere – this is where further challenge but also support from The Promise work may be useful.

Other issues The Promise Scotland might raise

- The National Care Service and the inclusions of children and justice services. Fiona has told us she will raise this in her meeting with Mr Yousaf. Lines to take for this are
 - The National Care Service is currently out for consultation. I know you are meeting with the Health Secretary on the 4th of October and wish to discuss the issue with him during that meeting.

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TOP LINES - KEEPING THE PROMISE

ANNEX B

The Scottish Government's ambition is for Scotland to be the best place to grow up where children are loved, safe and respected so that they can reach their full potential.

- In 2020, we made a promise to thousands of care experience children and adults. To #KeepThePromise, we must now progress our responsibilities in Change Programme ONE urgently.
- The Programme for Government sets out further work which will be undertaken this year and over the course of this Parliament to accelerate the change that is needed to Keep The Promise, and make Scotland the best place to grow up.
- Keeping the promise is fundamentally rooted in providing better support to families. We want to focus on all supporting families to be resilient and strong.
- The Promise included, 'where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties which get in the way'.
- This requires a shift in investment to prevent families reaching crisis point, and that's why we are committed to investing at least £500m over the life of this Parliament to create a Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.
- The Fund will enable the building of universal, holistic support services, available in communities across Scotland, giving families access to the help they need, where and when they need it.
- This measure alone will not #KeepThePromise and other changes will be required. But only through this radical change, and the policy and financial alignment it will drive, will we shift the balance of investment in families towards prevention.
- Our ambition is that, from 2030, we will be investing at least 5% of all community-based health and social care spend in preventative whole family support measures that will enable us to continue to #KeepThePromise and create a Scotland where more children will only know care, compassion and love, and not a 'care system'
- We know implementing the Promise is a huge challenge but we also know that this work will transform lives and help build a Scotland which places love and people at its core.
- By working together and cohesively we will bridge the gap of progressive intent with our policy ambitions ensuring improvements are felt day to day in the lives of the children and families they are intended for.
- Everyone in Scotland has a role in keeping The Promise.
- The Scottish Government has already identified, and is working on over 40 policy and legislative strands of work as part of our contribution to The Promise Scotland's Change Programme One and is committed to working with all our partners to both draw the strategic coherence across this work and close the delivery gaps.
- The Promise requires system wide change, both in Scottish Government and wider Scottish society. We recognise the Scottish Government must remove

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barriers as well as put in place support. Public services will need to be reformed and designed for the people in which they service and our Covid recovery strategy must have the principles of The Promise weaved throughout.

WHOLE FAMILY WELLBEING FUND

- **We are committed to investing at least £500m over the life of this Parliament to create a Whole Family Wellbeing Fund**
- Enable the building of universal, holistic support services, available in communities across Scotland, giving families access to the help they need, where and when they need it.
- Help reduce the need for crisis intervention and contribute to improving people's lives across a wide range of different areas, including but not limited to, child and adolescent mental health, child poverty, alcohol and drugs misuse and educational attainment.
- Aim to significantly reduce the number of children and young people who are living away from their families by 2030.
- In addition, our ambition is that **from 2030, we will be investing at least 5% of all community-based health and social care spend in preventative whole family support measures** that will enable us to create a Scotland where more children will only know care, compassion and love, and not a 'care system'
- We will work closely with The Promise Scotland and partners in local government and third sector to develop the Wellbeing Fund, in line with the outcomes from the forthcoming Spending Review.
- We want to ensure that every family that needs support gets the right support at the right time, for as long as it is needed. We are working in partnership with our partners in the third sector, statutory services and across government to deliver an ambitious programme to improve the way we support families.
- The Promise clearly highlighted the importance of un-stigmatised access to effective universal and intensive family support with early intervention and prevention at its core.
- We have a clear, collective vision about what good family support looks like and the key features that characterise it, underpinned by the principles in The Promise.
- The Family Support Delivery Group (FSDG) are overseeing an ambitious programme seeking to drive whole system change to improve the way we support families and to ensure that families are able to access sustainable, non-stigmatising, holistic and needs-based support as soon as they need it and for as long as they need it.
- The FSDG is made up of a range of partners from national and local government, third sector and statutory services.
- The FSDG have identified key priorities to progress this work:
 - Testing funding changes and scaling up of services
 - Testing whole system change
 - Improving Quality and consistency of family support
 - Improving Commissioning and Procurement

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Other PfG Commitments

- We will introduce a new Care experience Grant, a £200 annual payment over 10 years to young people with care experience between the age of 16 and 26.
- We will work with The Promise Scotland to undertake a redesign of the Children's Hearings System.
- We have started work this year to ensure access to a "Bairns' Hoose" by 2025: a child-friendly environment providing trauma informed recovery, improving children's experience of the criminal justice system, and preventing them from being re-traumatised.
- We will work with local authorities to introduce a minimum national allowance for foster and kinship care, to improve consistency and transparency for children, their families and their carers.
- We will also continue our work with the Kinship Care Collaborative to deliver national and local improvements to better support children living in kinship care.
- Many other actions set out in the Programme for Government will also support our work to Keep The Promise.

The Promise Scotland

- We have already supported the set-up of The Promise Scotland with £2 million per year and committed to continuing the £4 million per year Promise Partnership Fund up to financial year 2024-25.

Promise Partnership Fund

- The £4m Promise Partnership Fund launched in 2021, established to help organisations with early intervention and to deliver changes to better support children, young people and families in or on the edges of care.
- Funding has been confirmed to continue until 2024-25.
- Future criteria and purpose of the fund are being developed alongside The Promise Scotland to ensure alignment with The Plan 21-24.
- Over 70 organisations have received funding through The Promise Partnership Fund to date.

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ANNEX C

BUDGET 2022-23 AND RESOURCE SPENDING REVIEW

- The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy is writing this week to the Finance and Public Administration Committee to propose the Scottish Budget 2022-23 will be published on 16 December.
- The UK Government confirmed last week that it will publish the UK Budget and the outcomes of the UK Spending Review on 27 October. The UK SR will cover the next 3 financial years, setting Resource and Capital budget envelopes for the period.
- The implications for the devolved administrations are uncertain, although HM Treasury are managing expectations about the extent to which funding increases will be made available outside of funding for health and social care and existing UK Government manifesto commitments.
- Although Health and Social Care programmes will have an important contribution to make to The Promise, the scale of projected cost pressures in the sector coupled with the squeeze on other budgets means that difficult choices about prioritisation will be needed in the Budget.
- The Promise offers a potentially helpful driver of informed public debate on the impact that public expenditure achieves on key outcomes. Decisions about the timing and content of the Scottish Government's own resource spending review are still being finalized, but a multi-year budgeting approach can align powerfully with the approach set out in The Promise – one issue to consider further is how best to hold portfolios and public bodies to account for disinvesting in lower VFM interventions as the benefits of the preventative spending recommended through The Promise are realized.