



## A Good Childhood Action Plan 2025-2026 (incorporating the Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Plan 2025-2026)

The Good Childhood Network is part of the Children and Young People's Planning Partnership (CYPPP) and has been tasked with supporting the development and further implementation of The Promise, the UNCRC and GIRFEC across Scottish Borders. This will be achieved through the development, monitoring and review of a Network plan informed by the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan, the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the Community Plan.

	The Promise & Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-28	Action	Sub Action	Responsible	Review Date	Outcomes / Data
1.	Care experienced children and adults must have the right and access to independent advocacy, at all	Commission an Independent Advocacy Service for children and young people in the Scottish Borders.	Finalise length of initial contract.  Provider Expressions of interest (PIN) process to be undertaken in line with	HH & GS  HH		<b>Completed.</b>  <b>Completed (25/07/2025).</b>

	stages of their experience of care and beyond.		Procurement requirements.  Appoint provider for Independent Advocacy Service.  Deliver Independent Advocacy Service.		January 2026  April 2026	
2.	Schools in Scotland must be ambitious for care experienced children and ensure they have all they need to thrive, recognising that they may experience difficulties associated with their life story.	Improve attendance and attainment and reduce exclusions from education for all care experienced children and young people in the Scottish Borders.		SW	August 2026	
3.	Scotland must continue to consider how to create greater equity and opportunity for care experienced young adults. That consideration must include how to increase opportunity for care experienced people to access employment, training,	Improve numbers of care experienced young people moving to sustained positive destinations after leaving school.		SW	August 2026	

	stable housing and support.					
4.	Scotland must ensure decision making is based, first and foremost, on what the child needs and wants.	Implement the findings from the Bright Spots surveys and Action Plan.		HH & SW	April 2026	
5.	Scotland needs to do more to prevent the criminalisation of all children. The impact of early criminalisation is life long and can make it profoundly difficult for young people to access future opportunities.	Youth Justice Delivery Plan <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Children's Rights and Participation</li> <li>2. Prevention and Early Intervention</li> <li>3. Children's Hearing System, Court and Judicial Proceedings</li> <li>4. Collation of evidence for trends and outcomes for children in conflict with the law</li> <li>5. Improve transitions</li> </ol>		SS	Review April 2026	

		<p>between justice services</p> <p>6. Support for Victims / Restorative justice</p>				
6.	There must be criteria free, community-based access to therapies that do not stigmatise but help and support children and young adults to work through difficulties they are facing.	Mental Health and Wellbeing		CB & JS		
<b>Updates:</b>						
7.	Children have the right to the highest attainable standard of health, that is guaranteed not only in the provision of services but in attuned, nurturing carers who notice changes in health and access assessment and support as required.	<p>Improve health provision and outcomes for care experienced young people who are no longer looked after.</p> <p>Support carers to effectively manage health issues</p>		RP & JG	Review April 2026	

		experienced by the children they care for.				
<b>Updates:</b>						
8.	Scotland must limit the number of moves that children experience and support carers to continue to care.	Improve placement choice and stability for children and young people looked after in foster care.		GS	Review April 2026	<p>Increase foster carer numbers by 10% over 2025. Benchmark – 01/01/2025 - 61 foster carers (34 households).</p> <p>Decrease percentage of children with 3 foster placements of more. Benchmark – 01/01/2025 – 3/56 = 5.3%</p> <p>Decrease percentage of children currently looked after with 3 or more placements Benchmark – 01/01/2025 – 33/187 = 17.6%</p>
9.	Secure attachments, based on loving, consistent relationships, must be the bedrock of every	Develop approaches to relationship-based practice across Children's Services		AP	Review 2026	

	decision made about children.					
10.	<p>Section 59, Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014</p> <p>A corporate parent must prepare a plan for how it proposes to exercise its corporate parenting responsibilities and keep its plan under review. Before preparing or revising a plan, a corporate parent must consult such other corporate parents, and such other persons, as it considers appropriate.</p>	Co-produce the Scottish Borders Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025-28 with young people.		GS	July 2025	
11.	Older care experienced people must have a right to access to supportive, caring services for as long as they require them.	<p>Develop tenancy support options for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People and young people in Transitions.</p> <p>Respond to feedback and learning from</p>		<p>SS</p> <p>SS</p>	October 2025	

		<p>Bright Spots and the Promise Blue Printing exercise.</p> <p>Undertake a test of change related to use of language in recording – ‘Writing To, Not About’.</p> <p>Strengthen / improve access to health services for older care experienced people.</p>	<p>Work with IRISS in developing approach to first person recording.</p> <p>Further explore what is required to better ensure young people can easily access universal health services.</p>	<p>GL</p> <p>RP &amp; JG</p>		
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