



## Briefing Paper: The Promise

### What does The Promise mean for children in care who have additional support needs?

Early in 2020 the results of the Care Review's 'root and branch' review of the care system were published, creating The Promise – a commitment to Scotland's children affected by care to ensure they grow up 'loved, safe and respected.' They have now also published Plan 21-24, an ambitious 3 year programme that will work to get it right for children in care.

There are many children in care who have additional support needs like disability, autism, or mental health needs. They also deserve to feel loved, safe and respected, but can face extra barriers to their wellbeing because of their support needs. One quote from The Promise says: "There must be no barriers for children to have regular, positive childhood experiences." We definitely agree!

In Control Scotland sees so many of the principles of Self-Directed Support in The Promise: that children and families can name and claim their rights; that they have access to independent advocacy when they need it; and that they should get the support they need to have a good childhood.

Some of the findings from the Care Review echo people's experiences of Self-Directed Support, that the system is too complicated for people to navigate, and that support should be centred around children and families instead of policies or budgets.

While there is no specific mention so far of how things might change for children in care who have additional support needs we are looking forward to seeing how this work progresses. If you would like to work with us to #KeepThePromise for care experienced children with disabilities we'd love to hear from you, email [info@in-controlscotland.org.uk](mailto:info@in-controlscotland.org.uk)