

Community of Practice for Siblings Newsletter

Keeping the Promise to Brothers and Sisters

Upcoming Meetings

- 22 April 2024 – in person, 10am – 3.30pm at Family Journeys - BOOK NOW
- 16 May 2024 – ONLINE, 10am – 12:30pm
- 25 June 2024 – in person, 10am – 3.30pm at STAR (Siblings Reunited)
- 20 August 2024 – ONLINE, 10am – 12:30pm
- 1 October 2024 – in person, 10am – 3:30pm at Rossie Young People's Trust
- 21 November 2024 – ONLINE, 10am -12:30pm

➔ National Siblings Day - April 10th

It is National Siblings Day on Wednesday 10 April. It is a global awareness day recognising brothers and sisters! The Community of Practice has created a visual for everyone to use on social media to show your support, along with #StandUpForSiblings. Please utilise the day to promote your work on social media and remember you can also share your news and resources with the Community of Practice.

Key Themes from Discussions on 1 February 2024

At the Community of Practice's recent webinar on Thursday 1 February, attendees heard from Ailsa Dinwoodie, Promise Lead Officer, about the work undertaken in West Dunbartonshire to collect and analyse data relating to sibling groups within the local authority.

This work has informed West Duns' plan to #KeepThePromise to Brothers and Sisters. Attendees went into two breakout discussions to consider some key questions relating to using data to support sibling relationships.

Significant themes arising from the discussion included the role of data collection and interpretation in understanding and meeting the needs of siblings, the importance of incorporating the views and knowledge of children and young people, the prominent role of kinship care, and the need to share best practice and raise awareness about this important part of the promise.

Points raised during the discussions and a more detailed summary of these thematic areas can be found on the Siblings Community of Practice page on the [Stand Up For Siblings website](#).



➔ Family Connection Assessment and Plan

Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership have been on a journey with their Family Connections Assessment and Plan (FCAP). The journey, which colleagues say has been undertaken over a lengthy period, continues to be a 'work in progress' and has involved a cultural shift and change in practice across the workforce within Children and Families.

The aim is for all care experienced children who have a brother or sister, to have a family connections assessment and plan as early in their care journey as possible and not just when permanence is being progressed. It is recognised that the completion of this assessment will be far less onerous if it is completed timeously and regularly reviewed. It is a living document and as such will require review however there is still a mindset this is a one-off piece of work and one of the necessary practice developments required is ensuring there is a consistent mechanism for review.

This change has led to many benefits to practice. Elaine Goudie and Roddy Ringland presented an update to AFKA Scotland's West of Scotland Consortia forum in January '24. A [detailed minute of this update](#) can be found on the Stand Up For Siblings website.

Poem - 'To Have You There By My Side'

In case you missed it, at the Community of Practice webinar on 1 February, Karen Morrison, founder and chair from STAR (Siblings Reunited) read out a poem written by a teenage girl who came to STAR with her older sister. ['To Have You There By My Side'](#) is a powerful reminder of the importance of siblings being able to always remain together.

➔ Resource Request - Supporting Parents

Melanie Thomson, Adoption Support Manager at St Andrew's Children's Society, is exploring how to better prepare and support foster carers and those adopting to parent siblings. She is working to develop a resource bank and a post-approval training session specifically on parenting siblings. If you have any relevant resources or would like to be involved in the development, please reach out at mthomson@standrews-children.org.uk.

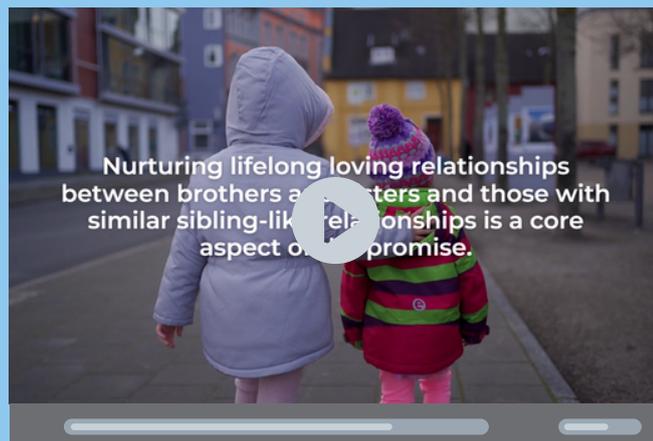
➔ Scottish Government Update

The Scottish Government has provided an update which you can read in full on the Stand Up For Siblings website. This update includes information about learning and development, data and advocacy.

Colleagues at the Scottish Government also plan to provide a short update in future Siblings Community of Practice newsletters, so watch this space for more information!

And finally...

If you want others in your organisation to find out more about our Community of Practice, you can encourage them to watch this fantastic short video.



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