

Community of Practice for Siblings Newsletter

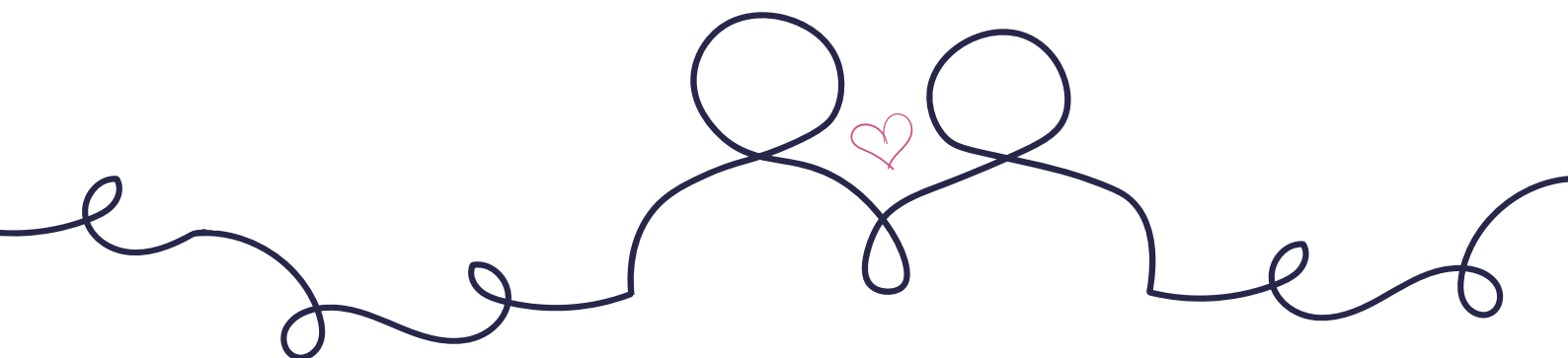
Keeping the Promise to Brothers and Sisters

➡ National Siblings Day - 10 April, 2025

Today is National Siblings Day, a day to celebrate sibling and sibling-like relationships of loving connection and friendship. Thank you for showing up for sibling and sibling-like relationships as a part of this Community of Practice. The aim is in the name; we strive to be a community who lifts each other up, collaborates and holds itself accountable when necessary, and we are working to make change in practice, translating ideas, experience, and hope into progress for children and young people across Scotland. None of that is possible without you, and all our members, coming together to do the hard work.

Today's event was a perfect example of this with a packed agenda full of exciting things happening, new ideas (look out for the New Horizons update below!), and determination to keep the promise to brothers, sisters, and all those with loving friendships in the context of care. If you weren't able to attend today, look out for an update on the Stand Up for Siblings website and more information on your next opportunity to get involved below. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

- The Community of Practice for Siblings Planning Group



New Horizons needs YOU!

The New Horizons initiative was launched at January's Community of Practice, and we've been delighted by the interest and enthusiasm. The three areas for collaborative, innovative work across interested Local Authority areas, national partners and the Community are:

1. Kinship Care and Housing (with a particular focus on quick, impactful responses to housing needs with adaptations/furniture/extensions);
2. Data (of all sorts) and Telling the Story of Change in our local areas;
3. Decision-Making Processes that nurture sibling and sibling-like relationships, from the earliest stages through to formal processes.

The work on the Data/Story theme has already kicked off, with 4 interested areas and key partners embarking on a collaborative co-design journey to better understand, evidence and share how we're doing by our care community and the relationships that matter most to them.

Decision-making was a focus at the National Siblings Day Community of Practice on 10 April. And we're very keen to get work on the Housing/Kinship theme started soon. We have a good range of folk signed up on both these themes, but are looking for two or three more Local Authority areas on each.

If you're interested and want to learn more, please get in touch with the Community Planning Group by contacting tom@thepromise.scot.



➡ Friendship as a Sibling-Like Relationship

Dr Autumn Roesch-Marsh from the University of Edinburgh and [The Binks Hub](#) joins the Community of Practice for Siblings in a guest blog discussing her presentation at our last event, insights gained from the discussions there, and upcoming research project *Transforming Friendship Focused Support*.

As a part of this project, the team are conducting interviews with practitioners across Scotland to capture their practice wisdom on supporting friendship and developing practice.



Please [fill out this online survey](#) if you are interested in sharing your knowledge with the project. [Read the full guest blog here!](#)

➡ Save the Date - Siblings Data Café

– Dr Katie Cebula and The Sibling Café Team (University of Edinburgh, including care leaver researchers; The Promise Scotland; Stand up for Siblings)

What do brothers and sisters mean to you? This May we are holding two 'Sibling Cafés' for care leavers (16-25 years) and their supporters (e.g. foster parents, residential carers).

The cafés will be a chance to chat about what is important to care experienced young people about their sibling relationships.

Care Leavers' Sibling Café

SAVE THE DATE!

We know that brothers and sisters are important to care experienced young people. These cafés are an opportunity for you to discuss what is important to you about sibling relationships. Your views will help to improve care and research in the future

Open to:

- Care leavers (16-25 years) in Scotland.
- Supporters of care leavers (e.g. foster parent, residential carer) in Scotland.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 24th May: Central Edinburgh
Friday 30th May: Online

More details and café sign-up coming soon...



We would also like to hear your views about how data and research can best be used to support the relationships of care experienced brothers and sisters. We hope that this will improve research and care for brothers and sisters in the future. Please join us to have a cuppa and chat about siblings.

An in-person café will be held on Saturday 24 May in central Edinburgh and an online café on Friday 30 May. More details to follow soon!

This project is funded by Research Data Scotland. [Find out more here.](#)

➡ **Family Connections in Glasgow Update**

Glasgow City HSCP's Family Connections Assessment and Plan, and associated guidance, has recently been updated following a period of evaluation. The original assessment was received positively and a number of children and young people now have stronger connections and have plans which will help maintain their connections in an enduring way.

The pilot did highlight a number of areas of improvement and the new versions have been adapted to incorporate this. Changes include:

- A two stage approach to allow a quick stage one assessment when children become looked after
- Inclusion of wider connections
- Inclusion of life story approaches in assessment and planning
- A section to include direct conversations with children about who is important to them
- A My Connections Plan to ensure we communicate the plan directly to children as well as those who look after them

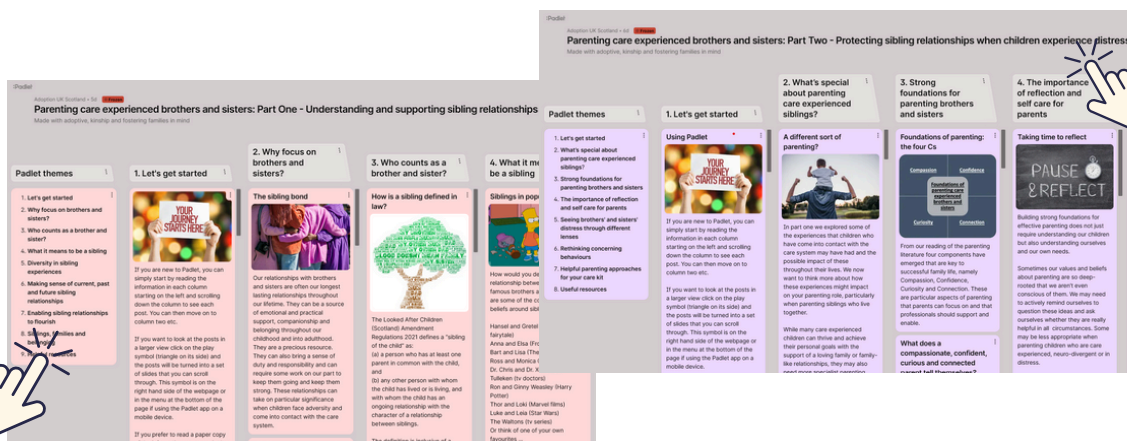
An update on the tool to support parenting care-experienced siblings

In our last newsletter, we included information on a new 'Padlet' resource tool to help understand and support sibling relationships. Since its launch, the team at Adoption UK have been busy raising awareness of the new resource amongst adoptive parents, foster carers and kinship carers and professionals supporting families. Online information sessions were run as part of Adoption Week Scotland in November 2024 and then in early 2025 in partnership with Scottish Adoption Register.

In February and March 2025, Adoption UK utilised the Padlet to design and deliver two workshops for adoptive parents, foster carers and kinship carers. One focused on practical steps parents/carers can take to support brothers and sisters who are living together and are experiencing distress and conflict in relationships. The second focused on promotion of sibling and sibling-like relationships when children live in separate households.

Adoption UK would love to hear from any families, individual practitioners or services that are making use of the Padlet resource so we can all learn from your experiences. Please send any thoughts or feedback to Chris Jones who led the project at christine.jones@adoptionuk.org.uk. Click below to access the resources.

Part 1



Part 2

➡ June: In-person at STAR, Sibling Reunited

We'll gather in the wonderful environment of STAR, joining the swallows, to share and learn from activity nationwide to keep the promise to sisters, brothers and all those with sibling-like relationships of loving connection.



We'll be exploring together how we shape imaginative approaches for young people to tell the story of the relationships that matter to them. We'll be engaging with some of the innovative work developing in different parts of the country, sharing news from across the Community, and hearing more about national and local activity.

There'll be lots of opportunity to connect in a very special environment, and we'll enjoy homemade soup for lunch, cakes, etc, of course. Sign up below.

Upcoming Events, Book Here

- **17 June 2025** – IN-PERSON at Siblings Reunited (STAR), 10.30am – 3.30pm
- **23 September 2025** – IN-PERSON at SCRA, Glasgow, 10.30am – 3.30pm
- **20 November 2025** – ONLINE, 10am – 12.30pm