



23 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating for email correspondence about the UK Child Poverty Act and child poverty in the UK

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 27 May 2018. You requested:

- "1. All emails sent or received by individuals in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet which reference the UK Child Poverty Act.*
- 2. All emails sent or received by individuals in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet which reference child poverty in the UK."*

On 21 June 2018 I wrote to you extending the time limit for response by 20 working days, to Monday 23 July 2018. The additional time was needed to complete consultations before a final decision was made on your request. I am now in a position to respond.

Please find enclosed the email correspondence identified as relevant to your request, including relevant attachments to those emails. I have interpreted your request to be for information in email correspondence (including attachments to those emails) sent or received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) staff that references or is about either the UK Child Poverty Act or child poverty in the UK. I have assumed your request was not for information about other matters that may have been in the same documents. Where this is the case, it has been marked as not relevant to your request.

In addition to the information not relevant to your request, some names and contact details have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act as withholding the information is necessary "to protect the privacy of natural persons" (as marked in the released to you).

The information released to you is set out in the table below:

Doc No	Date	Subject or Title	Description
1	19 Apr 2018	Information for Minister Martin visit to the UK	DPMC email correspondence (to official in Oranga Tamariki) – draft briefing for Minister for Children.
2	19 Apr 2018	UK child strategies: Background information for Minister Martin	Attachment to email correspondence above (Doc 1) – draft briefing for Ministers.
3	17 Apr 2018	4043955_Scottish Child Poverty Strategy and	DPMC internal email correspondence – Scottish child poverty strategy and

Doc No	Date	Subject or Title	Description
		Legislation.nrl	legislation.
4	17 Apr 2018	Scottish Child Poverty Strategy and Legislation	Attachment to email correspondence above (Doc 3) – summary of Scottish child poverty strategy and legislation.
5	17 Apr 2018	RE: Aide Memoire on international strategy	DPMC internal email correspondence – draft briefing for Minister for Children.
6	16 Apr 2018	Aide Memoire – Overseas strategies	Attachment to original email above (Doc 5) from DPMC (Child Wellbeing Unit) – early draft of briefing.
7	17 Apr 2018	RE: Every Child Matters	DPMC email correspondence with Oranga Tamariki – draft briefing for Minister for Children.
8	27 Feb 2018	You should check these out	Internal DPMC email circulating link to UK information.

Some of the attachments to the email correspondence released to you are already publicly available. To the extent that these attachments are relevant to your request, they are withheld under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis “*that the information requested is ... publicly available.*” These can be found on the DPMC website at: <https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/child-poverty-reduction-bill-documents>.

In addition, there were a small number of emails identified that were not in themselves relevant to the request but had attached copies of documents that had some relevant information. The information is in the final documents which are publicly available on the DPMC website. To the extent these are in scope of your request, it is declined under section 18(d) on the basis that the information is already publicly available.

There is some email correspondence for drafting a briefing that is currently under active consideration by officials identified as relevant to your request. This information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) as withholding the information is necessary to “*maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials*”.
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) as withholding the information is necessary to “*maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty*”.

The only other information identified as relevant to your request was some email correspondence for the drafting of responses to Written Parliamentary Questions. Advice including draft replies for responding to Parliamentary Questions is tendered in confidence. To the extent this email correspondence is relevant to your request it is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) as withholding the information is necessary to “*maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials*”.
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) as withholding the information is necessary to “*maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty*”.

I note the final responses for Parliamentary Questions are publicly available on the Parliament website. The links to the relevant questions are given below:

- 11302 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (28 May 2018):
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_11302_2018/11302-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction
- 11301 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (28 May 2018):
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_11301_2018/11301-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction
- 11300 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (28 May 2018):
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_11300_2018/11300-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction
- 11299 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (28 May 2018):
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_11299_2018/11299-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction
- 10308 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (11 May 2018):
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_10308_2018/10308-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction
- 10307 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (11 May 2018):
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_10307_2018/10307-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction
- 10306 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (11 May 2018):
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_10306_2018/10306-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction
- 10305 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (11 May 2018):
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_10305_2018/10305-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction
- 10304 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (11 May 2018):

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_10304_2018/10304-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction

- 10303 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (11 May 2018):
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_10303_2018/10303-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction
- 10302 (2018). David Seymour to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (11 May 2018):
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_10302_2018/10302-2018-david-seymour-to-the-child-poverty-reduction

No public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email (info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Anneliese Parkin
Deputy Chief Executive, Policy

From: [Lauren Keenan \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [amy.dolden](#) s9(2)(a) [Oranga Tamariki]
Cc: [Maree Brown \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: Information for Minister Martin visit to the UK
Date: Thursday, 19 April 2018 4:09:00 p.m.
Attachments: [4044366_Aide Memoire_Minister Martin brief for UK trip April 2018.DOCX](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

IN-CONFIDENCE

Hi Amy

Thanks for making the time to talk to me about this yesterday.

As promised, please find our briefing attached. Don't hesitate to be in contact if you require any further information.

Regards,

Lauren

Lauren Keenan
Senior Analyst, Child Wellbeing Unit

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)

E s9(2)(a)



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UK child strategies: Background information for Minister Martin

Key points

- As you know, DPMC is currently leading work on developing a Child Wellbeing Strategy. This has included initial analysis of relevant overseas examples, including:
 - o the United Kingdom's *Every Child Matters* strategy (2003-2010); and
 - o the 2014-2017 Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland.
- As part of your UK programme, you will meet with Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children and Families. You will also meet with senior Local Authority representatives at both Hackney and Leeds Children's Services. Your meeting with Isabelle Trowler, as well as the calls on Local Authorities, present an opportunity to learn more about the *Every Child Matters* (ECM) strategy; in particular:
 - o its design and implementation;
 - o what worked well and what did not;
 - o how success was measured;
 - o the key lessons learned; and
 - o what positive impacts or lasting legacy has it had on outcomes for children.
- As part of your programme you will also visit Scotland, where you will meet with representatives from the national voluntary organisation Who Cares Scotland. If the opportunity arises, it would be interesting to seek their views on the effectiveness of the Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland and the introduction of the Child Poverty Act 2017.
- Further information on each of these strategies is provided below.

'Every Child Matters' Strategy, 2003-2010 (United Kingdom)

1. This comprehensive UK government strategy was based on an outcomes framework with five domains: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic wellbeing. The Children's Act 2004 was subsequently passed, which required local authorities to make cooperative arrangements with partners for improving the wellbeing of children in their areas. This resulted in greater inter-agency collaboration in the delivery of children services, led by local authorities. This Act was later replaced by the Child Poverty Act 2010.
2. As well as core social policy areas, the Strategy covered areas like bullying and discrimination, recreation, engaging in decision-making, living in sustainable communities, and access to transport. The Strategy set ten key goals to achieve by 2020, e.g. 'Child health improved, with the proportion of obese and overweight children reduced to 2000 levels', and 'Employers satisfied with young people's work readiness'. It linked to work across government, including getting more

children and young people involved in sport; building more cohesive, empowered and active communities; and narrowing gaps in educational achievement.

3. The peak of the *Every Child Matters* (ECM) work was 2008, when a newly-named 'Department of Children, Schools and Families' took responsibility for developing a new 'Children's Plan' for England, which set out the range of government policies and programmes intended to deliver the five ECM outcomes. This national plan was replicated by statutory local Children and Young People Plans in every local authority, overseen by 'Children and Young People's Trust Boards', chaired by the local Director of Children's Services and including colleagues from health, education, police and local NGOs. In addition, the independent inspectorate (Ofsted) used the five ECM domains as a framework for assessing both local children's services and all schools. The development of a 'children's workforce' was supported by a central Children's Workforce Development Council focused on core competencies needed from a range of professions working with children.

2009 Review of the Child Protection elements of Every Child Matters

4. In 2009, an independent report was commissioned by the then Government into *Every Child Matters* in direct response to the death of one-year-old Peter Connelly. The report was accepted in full by the then Government.
5. This report noted some of the Strategy's strengths. Benefits included the interagency guidance developed alongside the Strategy that provided a sound framework for all professionals, the new models for early intervention that included closer working between professionals who might be involved with the same child and more coherent planning of service delivery, and the establishment of a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children and Young People.
6. The report, however, noted a number of shortfalls, a fundamental shortcoming being the challenges in translating legislation and policy into day-to-day practice. Other specific criticisms included:
 - a. An over-emphasis on process and targets, resulting in a "loss of confidence" among social workers, who were overstretched and undertrained;
 - b. Progress being "hampered" by the lack of a centralised computer system and an "over-complicated... tick-box assessment and recording system";
 - c. A lack of communication or joined-up working between agencies;
 - d. Police being under-resourced and inadequate training for social workers impacting on the Strategy's success;
 - e. Healthcare professionals requiring more assistance and skills to engage in child protection; and

- f. Lack of funding to properly implement the Strategy.
7. The *Every Child Matters* strategy is no longer formally operating. The incoming 2010 Coalition Government (Conservative and Liberal Democrat) dismantled much of the every child matters approach – effectively ending the national Children’s Plan; removing the need for local plans and local trust board meetings; and returning the central Ministry to a ‘Department for Education’. The Department does not seek to lead or coordinate all elements of policy for children across Government, but instead focuses on driving up performance in its two core public service areas – education and children’s social care, with distinct reform agendas in each.
8. Key aspects of the 2004 legislation remain in place, however, including the statutory role of the Director of Children’s Services in each local area.

2014-2017 Child Poverty Strategy and the introduction of the Child Poverty Act 2017 (Scotland)

9. The 2014-2017 Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland builds on the 2011 strategy of the same name. Both strategies were required under the UK Child Poverty Act 2010, which also set out targets to be met by the UK government by 2020. These targets were subsequently withdrawn in 2016, and, alongside other changes, the UK Act was retitled the “Life Chances Act”, signalling a shift in emphasis away from direct poverty alleviation towards addressing the underlying causes of poverty.
10. The Scottish Government did not follow the UK government approach. In 2017 it passed the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act to re-establish income-based targets that more or less mirror those in the 2010 Act. The Scottish Act also requires Ministers to publish delivery plans that set out the actions being taken to meet the targets (and report annually on progress), and local authorities and health boards to jointly produce an annual local child poverty action plan. The latter is intended to address one of the criticisms of the lack of connection between high-level policies and targets and delivery at the local level. The Scottish Government has also established a Poverty and Inequality Commission to provide independent advice to Ministers, and assist in the development of the first delivery plan.
11. The 2014-2017 Strategy sets out three high level outcomes:
 - a. **Maximising household resources (‘Pockets’):** This includes reducing income poverty and material deprivation by maximising financial entitlements; maximising potential for parents to increase family income through good quality employment; reducing pressure on household budgets; and promoting financial capability and inclusion.
 - b. **Improving children’s wellbeing and life chances (‘Prospects’):** Breaking inter-generational poverty and deprivation by tackling the underlying social and economic determinants of poverty; and improving the circumstances in which children grow up.

- c. **Children from low-income households live in well-designed sustainable places ('Places')**: Address area-based factors which exacerbate the effects of individual poverty by improving the physical, social and economic environments in local areas.

12. Of note, under the UK Child Poverty Act, the 2014-2017 Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland could only refer to actions using devolved powers, and not UK government policy settings. This limited the scope of the Strategy in that it excludes matters relating to taxes, welfare settings and benefits, wage levels, and childcare.

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From: [Barbara Annesley \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Lauren Keenan \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [@Child Poverty Unit](#); [@Child Wellbeing Unit](#)
Subject: 4043955_Scottish Child Poverty Strategy and Legislation.nrl
Date: Tuesday, 17 April 2018 10:29:06 a.m.
Attachments: [4043955_Scottish Child Poverty Strategy and Legislation.nrl](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

IN-CONFIDENCE

Hi Lauren

Here's a summary of the current legislative framework and strategy for child poverty and wellbeing in Scotland.

I think the aide memoire for Minister Martin would also benefit from some information on the legislative context for the UK and Irish wellbeing / poverty strategies.

Barbara

Barbara Annesley
Principal Analyst, Child Poverty Unit

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

P s9(2)(a)

M s9(2)(a)

E s9(2)(a)



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Scotland: 2014-2017 Child Poverty Strategy and the introduction of the Child Poverty Act (Scotland) 2017

The 2014-2017 Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland builds on the 2011 strategy of the same name. Both Strategies were required under the UK Child Poverty Act 2010, which also set out targets to be met by the UK government by 2020. These targets were subsequently withdrawn in 2016, and alongside other changes, the Act was retitled the Life Chances Act, signalling a shift in emphasis away from direct poverty alleviation towards addressing the underlying causes of poverty.

The Scottish Government disagreed with the UK government approach and in 2017 passed the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act, to re-establish income-based targets that more or less mirror those in the 2010 Act. The Scottish Act also requires Ministers to publish delivery plans that set out the actions being taken to meet the targets (and report annually on progress), and local authorities and health boards to jointly produce an annual local child poverty action plan. The latter is intended to address one of the criticisms of the lack of connection between high level policies and targets and delivery at the local level. The Scottish Government has also established a Poverty and Inequality Commission to provide independent advice to Ministers, and assist in the development of the first delivery plan.

The 2014-2017 Strategy sets out three high level outcomes:

- **Maximising household resources ('Pockets')**: Reducing income poverty and material deprivation by maximising financial entitlements, maximising potential for parents to increase family income through good quality employment; reducing pressure on household budgets; and promoting financial capability and inclusion
- **Improving children's wellbeing and life chances ('Prospects')**: Breaking inter-generational poverty and deprivation by tackling the underlying social and economic determinants of poverty and improving the circumstances in which children grow up
- **Children from low income households live in well-designed sustainable places ('Places')**: Address area-based factors which exacerbate the effects of individual poverty, by improving the physical, social and economic environments in local areas.

It's worth noting that under the UK Child Poverty Act, the 2014-2017 Child Poverty strategy for Scotland could only refer to actions using devolved powers, and not UK government policy settings. This limited the scope of the Strategy in that it excludes matters relating to taxes, welfare settings and benefits, wage levels, and childcare.

From: [Kristie Carter \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Lauren Keenan \[DPMC\]](#); [@Child Poverty Unit](#)
Cc: [@Child Wellbeing Unit](#)
Subject: RE: Aide Memoire on international strategy
Date: Tuesday, 17 April 2018 8:56:23 a.m.
Attachments: [image002.gif](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

Kia ora Lauren,

Thanks for this.

Not relevant to your request

We would be happy to pull together some notes on the Scottish Child poverty strategy (2014-2017) and the new Scottish Child Poverty Act.

Scotland child poverty bill/Act 2017

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/103404.aspx>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2017/6/contents/enacted>

Scottish child poverty strategy 2014-2017

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0044/00445863.pdf>

Cheers

Kristie

Kristie Carter
Director, Child Poverty Unit

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

P s9(2)(a)

M s9(2)(a)

E s9(2)(a)



From: Lauren Keenan [DPMC]

Sent: Monday, 16 April 2018 4:18 PM

To: @Child Poverty Unit s9(2)(a)

Cc: @Child Wellbeing Unit s9(2)(a)

Subject: Aide Memoire on international strategy

IN-CONFIDENCE

Kia ora CPU

I've drafted an aide-memoire on international strategies, and am interested in your views

Not relevant to your request

Grateful

for any feedback by end of tomorrow if reasonably practicable.

Happy to discuss further if required, and thank you.

Lauren

Lauren Keenan
Senior Analyst, Child Wel being Unit

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)

E s9(2)(a)



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Aide Memoire – Overseas strategies

1. As we develop the Child Wellbeing strategy, we have done some analysis of relevant overseas examples. In particular:

Not relevant to your request

- b. The United Kingdom's 'Every Child Matters' (2003);

Not relevant to your request

- d. Wales' 'Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015).

2. The following comments on the apparent strengths and weaknesses of the approaches taken in each strategy is based on publicly available reports, Not relevant to your request

'Every Child Matters' (United Kingdom)

Background

3. This comprehensive government strategy is no longer formally operating. It was based on an outcomes framework with five domains: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic wellbeing.
4. As well as core social policy areas, the Strategy covered areas like bullying and discrimination, recreation, engaging in decision-making, living in sustainable communities, and access to transport. The Strategy set ten key goals to achieve by 2020, e.g. 'Child health improved, with the proportion of obese and overweight children reduced to 2000 levels', and 'Employers satisfied with young people's work readiness'. It linked to work across government, including getting more children and young people involved in sport; building more cohesive, empowered and active communities; and narrowing gaps in educational achievement.
5. The Strategy foreshadowed the Children's Act 2004, which led to greater inter-agency collaboration in the delivery of children services, led by Local Authorities. This Act was later replaced by the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Key findings

6. In 2009, an independent report was commissioned by the then-Government into the Every Child Matters policy in direct response to the death of one-year old Peter Connelly. The report noted a number of shortcomings in the Every Child Matters policy, and was accepted in full by Government.
7. This report noted some of the Strategy's strengths. The benefits of the Strategy included the interagency guidance that provided a sound framework for all professionals, the new models for early intervention that included closer working between professionals who might be

involved with the same child and more coherent planning of service delivery, and the establishment of a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children and Young People.

8. The report, however, noted a number of shortfalls, a fundamental shortcoming being the inability to translate policy and legislation into day-to-day practice. Other specific criticisms included:
 - a. An over-emphasis on process and targets, resulting in a "loss of confidence" among social workers, who were overstretched and undertrained;
 - b. Progress being "hampered" by the lack of a centralised computer system and an "over-complicated... tick-box assessment and recording system";
 - c. A lack of communication and joined-up working between agencies
 - d. Police being under-resourced and inadequate training for social workers impacting on the Strategy's success;
 - e. Healthcare professionals requiring more assistance and skills to engage in child protection; and
 - f. Lack of funding to properly implement the Strategy.

2. Minister Martin will be travelling to the UK on [insert details].

Not relevant to your request

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Not relevant to your request

Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (Wales)

15. This is ambitious in scope, and appoints a 'Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' to act as a guardian of the work and to report on progress. The Act goes further than child wellbeing, rather looks at the wellbeing of all of the Welsh people. This is reflected in the seven wellbeing goals: a prosperous Wales; a resilient Wales; a healthier Wales; a more equal Wales; a Wales of cohesive communities; a Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language; and a globally responsible Wales.
16. The Act is closely linked to sustainable development and has identified five ways of working to reach the goals: long-term, integration, involvement, collaboration and prevention. The Act is accompanied by an infographic 'Guide for young people' to understand the Act and what it means for them.

17. We have not yet seen any reporting on this, but will discuss it further with the British High Commission in due course.

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From: [Paul Kissack](#)
To: [Lauren Keenan \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [Jane Mountfort \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: RE: Every Child Matters
Date: Tuesday, 17 April 2018 8:02:51 a.m.
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)

Lauren

Thanks for this. My memory is a bit hazy! But...

I think 1 and 2 are probably right.

3 isn't right. the Child Poverty Act didn't replace the 2004 Act as they do quite different things. Much of the legislation from 2004 – e.g. the requirement to have a Director of Children's Services in every Local Authority – is still in force. The Child Poverty Act focused on the specifics of poverty measurement – and in any case the 2010 legislation has been largely repealed or altered since 2010. (So I would remove the reference to the Child Poverty Act which is a bit of a red herring here).

The bit I would add into point 3 is something like the following. *"The peak of the Every Child Matters work was around 2008, when a newly named 'Department of Children, Schools and Families' took responsibility for developing a new 'Children's Plan' for England which set out the range of Government policies and programmes intended to deliver the five ECM outcomes. This national plan was replicated by statutory local Children and Young People Plans in every local authority, overseen by 'Children and Young People's Trust Boards', chaired by the local Director of Children's Services and including colleagues from health, education, police and local NGOs. In addition, the independent inspectorate (Ofsted) used the five ECM domains as a framework for assessing both local children's services and all schools. The development of a 'children's workforce' was supported by a central Children's Workforce Development Council focused on core competencies needed from a range of professions working with children."*

Then, to complete the story, you might say:

4. The incoming 2010 Coalition Government (Conservative and Liberal Democrat) dismantled much of the Every Child Matters approach – effectively ending the national Children's Plan; removing the need for local plans and local trust board meetings; and returning the central Ministry to the 'Department for Education'. The Department did not seek to lead or coordinate all elements of policy for children across Government, but instead focused on driving up performance in its two core public service areas – education and children's social care (the latter based on an independent review of the child protection system by Professor Eileen Munro) – with distinct reform agendas in each. Key aspects of the 2004 legislation remain in place, however, including the statutory role of the Director of Children's Services in each local area.

I'm not familiar with the 2009 independent report – could you possibly send me the link so I can work out what it is?

Paul

From: Lauren Keenan [DPMC]s9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 16 April 2018 4:10 p.m.
To: Paul Kissack
Cc: Jane Mountfort [DPMC]
Subject: Every Child Matters

IN-CONFIDENCE

Dear Paul

By way of introduction I'm Lauren Keenan, a Senior Advisor in DPMC's Wellbeing Unit.

I am currently preparing a document for Ministers on various overseas strategies, including Every Child Matters, which I understand you have a good knowledge of. I was wondering therefore if you were please able to review the below text and let me know if you have any proposed amendments or additions? If you'd prefer, I'd also be happy to come and discuss this with you in more detail.

Regards,

Lauren

'Every Child Matters' (United Kingdom)

1. This comprehensive government strategy is no longer formally operating. It was based on an outcomes framework with five domains: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic wellbeing.
2. As well as core social policy areas, the Strategy covered areas like bullying and discrimination, recreation, engaging in decision-making, living in sustainable communities, and access to transport. The Strategy set ten key goals to achieve by 2020, e.g. 'Child health improved, with the proportion of obese and overweight children reduced to 2000 levels', and 'Employers satisfied with young people's work readiness'. It linked to work across government, including getting more children and young people involved in sport; building more cohesive, empowered and active communities; and narrowing gaps in educational achievement.
3. The Strategy foreshadowed the Children's Act 2004, which led to greater inter-agency collaboration in the delivery of children's services, led by Local Authorities. This Act was later replaced by the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Key findings

4. In 2009, an independent report was commissioned by the then-Government into the Every Child Matters policy in direct response to the death of one-year old Peter Connelly. The report noted a number of shortcomings in the Every Child Matters policy, and was accepted in full by Government.
5. This report noted some of the Strategy's strengths. The benefits of the Strategy included the interagency guidance that provided a sound framework for all professionals, the new models for early intervention that included closer working between professionals who might be involved with the same child and more coherent planning of service delivery, and the establishment of a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children and Young People.
6. The report, however, noted a number of shortfalls, a fundamental shortcoming being the inability to translate policy and legislation into day-to-day practice. Other specific criticisms included:

- a. An over-emphasis on process and targets, resulting in a "loss of confidence" among social workers, who were overstretched and undertrained;
- b. Progress being "hampered" by the lack of a centralised computer system and an "over-complicated... tick-box assessment and recording system";
- c. A lack of communication and joined-up working between agencies;
- d. Police being under-resourced and inadequate training for social workers impacting on the Strategy's success;
- e. Healthcare professionals requiring more assistance and skills to engage in child protection; and
- f. Lack of funding to properly implement the Strategy.

Lauren Keenan
Senior Analyst, Child Wellbeing Unit

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)

E s9(2)(a)



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From: [Timothy Garlick \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Barbara Annesley \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: You should check these out
Date: Tuesday, 27 February 2018 2:23:08 p.m.
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

IN-CONFIDENCE

I reckon they're quite cool.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/365765/State of Nation 2014 Main Report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/365765/State_of_Nation_2014_Main_Report.pdf)

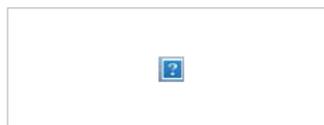
Tim Garlick
Principal Analyst, Child Poverty Unit

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

P s9(2)(a)

M s9(2)(a)

E s9(2)(a)



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