

Office of the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Chair, Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Delivering on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy: update on implementation and next steps

Proposal

1. This paper outlines how the Government is delivering on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) and proposed next steps. It also seeks agreement to the release of the report *Monitoring of Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation: 1 July 2020-31 December 2020* (Appendix One).

Relation to government priorities

2. The Strategy's vision is to make New Zealand the best place in the world for children and young people. It therefore plays a critical role in contributing to the Government's priority of laying the foundations for the future. Within this priority we have committed to addressing long-term enduring issues, importantly this includes eliminating child poverty and improving child wellbeing. Through the Strategy, Government can drive and coordinate delivery in order to help achieve this priority.
3. Improving child wellbeing is also an area of cooperation under the Cooperation Agreement between The NZ Labour Party and The Green Party Of Aotearoa NZ¹.

Executive Summary

4. To ensure collective oversight and momentum, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC) directed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to report, via the Social Wellbeing Board, on a six-monthly basis on the Strategy's implementation [SWC-19-MIN-0085]. It also directed officials to report back on ongoing policy work to achieve the Strategy's outcomes.
5. Overall good progress has been made in implementing actions in the Strategy's Programme of Action as is shown in the *Monitoring of Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation: 1 July 2020-31 December 2020* report in Appendix One. Some actions have been delayed and others scaled up or refocused as a result of COVID-19. I seek agreement for the release of this report.
6. While Government has already taken key decisions and laid foundations for change, there is much more to do. We need to respect the voices of the more than 6,000 children and young people who told us what was needed for a good life. I expect Ministers and their agencies to strengthen their efforts to make the major strategic shifts required to fully deliver on the Strategy.
7. To that end I have established a new Ministerial Group on the Strategy to drive delivery and ensure that progress in key areas is accelerated where necessary, with responsibilities that include the close monitoring of key policies and actions underway.
8. I seek agreement for implementation reports to SWC to move to an annual cycle to align with the annual reporting cycle of achievement of the Strategy's outcomes and

¹ 31 October 2020

on the Child Poverty Related Indicators². The Ministerial Group will more closely monitor progress of key actions and policies, and reports to Cabinet will continue as and when policy decisions are needed. I also seek agreement to a change in approach to the first three-yearly review of the Strategy, which must be complete by August 2022.

Background

9. New Zealand's first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy was launched in August 2019, setting out a vision of New Zealand as the best place in the world for children and young people [SWC-19-MIN-0085].
10. While most New Zealand children and young people are doing well, the distressing reality is that many are not experiencing a good life. Though based on statistics that pre-date the Strategy, UNICEF's latest report card on child wellbeing rated New Zealand as one of the worst performing high income nations³. National data and other international comparisons show that New Zealand performs poorly on areas such as child poverty, child safety, bullying, teenage pregnancy, youth suicide, disparities in educational achievement and a sense of belonging for young people. We need to address these challenges in order for New Zealand to be the best place in the world for children and young people.
11. The Strategy is the first step to achieving our vision for children and young people. It was developed over many months, informed by wellbeing research and frameworks, and extensive public engagement, including insights from some 6,000 children and young people. The Strategy has since been lauded internationally as a world-leading approach.
12. It includes six outcomes that we are seeking to achieve, and 36 indicators that we will use to help measure progress towards the outcomes. The six outcomes are that children and young people:
 - are loved, safe and nurtured
 - have what they need
 - are happy and healthy
 - are learning and developing
 - are accepted, respected and connected
 - are involved and empowered.
13. As the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction, I have overall responsibility for the Strategy, with individual Ministers accountable for particular initiatives. The Social Wellbeing Board supports this work through governance and oversight of the implementation of the Strategy, with relevant chief executives responsible for the delivery of specific initiatives.
14. In August 2019 when Government adopted the Strategy, a Government Programme of Action of around 75 main actions and more than 40 supporting actions, from over 20 government agencies, was agreed to drive progress towards achieving the Strategy's outcomes.

² A child poverty related indicator is a measure of a cause, consequence, or correlate of child poverty. Five child poverty related indicators were established in September 2019 – housing affordability, housing quality, food insecurity, regular school attendance, and avoidable hospitalisations – and reported on in June 2020.

³ UNICEF Innocenti, *Innocenti Report Card 16: Worlds of Influence, Understanding What Shapes Child Wellbeing in Rich Countries*, September 2020

15. In order to maintain consistent and clear monitoring and evaluation, key legislative requirements include the following:
- Under the Children's Act 2014, I must provide, after consultation with children's Ministers, an annual report on progress in achieving the Strategy's outcomes
 - Under the Child Poverty Act 2018, I must provide an annual report on the child poverty related indicators
 - Under the Children's Act 2014, I must also complete a review of the Strategy, in consultation with the children's Ministers, within three years of its adoption (ie by August 2022).
16. SWC also asked DPMC officials to provide, via the Social Wellbeing Board, implementation reports on the Strategy every six months. [SWC-19-MIN-0085]. This was to have more regular oversight and accountability of how each of the actions under the Strategy were progressing.
17. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the planned report back to SWC in April 2020 was delayed. In August 2020, Ministers were provided with an update on progress and an implementation report of the Strategy covering the year to 30 June 2020. This included significant new child and youth related initiatives funded through Budget 2020 and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF). These reports were proactively released⁴.

Good progress has been made in delivering on the outcomes of the Strategy since its launch in 2019, however there is more to do

18. The report *Monitoring of Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation: 1 July 2020-31 December 2020* is provided in Appendix One. The report builds on the previous implementation report covering the year to 30 June 2020. I intend to release the report at the end of April 2021.
19. Good progress has been made during the six months to December 2020 on a wide range of activity. The Government's commitment to reducing child poverty and improving wellbeing during the pandemic also resulted in some actions being scaled up and a number of new Budget 2020 and COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF) investments. However, COVID-19 has had an unavoidable impact on the Strategy's implementation in other areas.
20. An update on progress in each of the outcome areas and key next steps is provided below.

Children and young people are loved, safe and nurtured

21. As indicated in the implementation report, significant work is underway to keep children safe and protect them from harm. Highlights from the six-month reporting period include:
- the launch of *Te Kei o Te Waka*, an iwi-led intensive intervention to prevent children from entering the care and protection and/or youth justice systems;
 - new contracts with four providers of the Whānau-Centred Facilitation Initiative responding to family violence and sexual violence;

⁴ <https://dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2020-09/child-youth-wellbeing-strategy-update-priority-policy.pdf>
<https://childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/about/news/monitoring-report-highlights-progress-strategys-implementation>

- the *Keep It Real* online safety advertisements reaching some 870,000 people by late July 2020⁵, and the launch of the mini-series *The Eggplant* in December.
22. Work is also underway to extend whānau-centred approaches, underpinned by the Government's commitment to supporting Whānau Ora and supporting other agencies to implement the whānau ora model to achieve better outcomes from Māori. Te Puni Kōkiri is leading work to strengthen whānau-centred approaches to policy development, design, service delivery and contracting practices across the public sector. Agencies also continue to implement a number of whānau-centred initiatives such as Ngā Tini Whetū⁶, providing early help for whānau who need extra support.
 23. There has been increased investment in family violence crisis response services and in greater support for caregivers, and key components of the new Oranga Tamariki operating model are now in place including National Care Standards, and transition support services.
 24. However, there has not yet been the wider strategic shifts to drive ongoing change to prevent harm and provide early support for those at risk of harm. In particular, there has been slower than expected progress in two key areas: the development of the National Strategy and Action Plan for eliminating family violence and sexual violence; and the completion of the new Oranga Tamariki Action Plan to better support children and young people who are at risk of harm, or currently or previously involved in the care and protection or youth justice systems. Achieving significant progress in these two areas is a priority so children and young people feel real change.
 25. The Oranga Tamariki Action Plan will support the Government's strategic direction for the children's system in line with the Labour manifesto commitment to ensure that Oranga Tamariki partners with iwi, hapū, and Māori organisations to find appropriate solutions for children in need.

Children and young people have what they need

26. A range of measures to reduce child poverty were introduced in our previous term of Government, and in the immediate response to COVID-19. The Government rolled out the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme that supported 1.9 million jobs. Additional income support was provided by increasing main benefits, doubling the Winter Energy Payment for 2020, and broadening eligibility for the In-Work Tax Credit. Post-lockdown, Budget 2020 and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund focused on employment and incomes, housing and food security.
27. Highlights from the six-month implementation report that will contribute to children and young people having what they need include:
 - *Here Toitū* going live which will support disabled people to find and stay in meaningful employment, in Auckland and Canterbury;
 - an extension of *Ka Ora, Ka Ako*, the Free and Healthy School Lunches programme, with 204 schools and kura delivering lunches to 42,280 students by December 2020;
 - an increase in transitional housing places secured for tenancing by a net of 722 to 3956 places, and a \$21.728 million investment in papakāinga.

⁵ The adverts stopped being broadcast on TV in July 2020 but remain accessible online (e.g. You Tube, social media)

⁶ *Ngā Tini Whetū* is supported by Te Puni Kōkiri, Oranga Tamariki and the Accident Compensation Corporation and in partnership with the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency.

28. We have made a great start on reducing child poverty, as we have seen in the Child Poverty Statistics released in February 2021 with all nine measures having gone down since 2017/18.
29. In order to reach our ten-year child poverty targets, we need to make further progress in supporting our lowest income families, particularly in lifting incomes and addressing housing affordability. Next steps for policy work to reduce child poverty and achieve this outcome include:
 - setting child poverty targets for the next three years (2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24)
 - a continued focus on income adequacy as part of the overhaul of the welfare system and the review of Working for Families
 - reducing child poverty as a key consideration for the large work programmes overseen by the Employment, Education and Training Ministers Group and work to increase the supply of affordable housing
30. I will also be leading cross-agency work to address debt, which will include the development of a coherent and consistent government approach to debt, which has stalled as a result of COVID-19.
31. s9(2)(f)(iv)

Children and young people are happy and healthy

32. Highlights from the six-month reporting period include:
 - the availability of new primary mental health and addiction services for close to 400,000 young people across 10 district health board areas around New Zealand;
 - the extension of school-based health services (nurses in schools) now available to around 96,700 students across 300 schools
 - the launch of the first of three Enhanced Well Child Tamariki Ora pilots by Lakes District Health Board.
33. A long-term programme of change is planned across the early years system with the transformation of Well Child Tamariki Ora (WCTO) to a whānau-centred system of integrated early years health and wellbeing services and support, and the implementation of the Maternity Action Plan. The WCTO review findings and next steps are currently being confirmed, including short-term changes to sustain current delivery of WCTO, and longer-term transformational changes, including new commissioning models. Three enhanced WCTO pilots, one of which has already launched, are testing models of more holistic support for parents, caregivers and whānau with greater needs.
34. I expect priority to be given to this work, and in particular, to addressing inequities of access and outcomes for young children, and their parents and whānau who are Māori, Pacific, are living with a disability, in State care or have high needs.
35. I am also concerned that the reprioritisation of health resources necessitated by COVID-19 appears to have further delayed improvements in two other key areas of health provision for children and young people: mental health services, and oral health. Mental wellbeing for children and young people is a critical area requiring further progress,

particularly given the negative impacts of COVID-19. There are promising initiatives underway, for example the national roll-out Mana Ake, a holistic mental health programme supporting primary and intermediate school children, over five years. Co-design of local services based on the current Mana Ake programme in Canterbury and Kaikōura will commence in the Northland, Counties Manukau, Lakes, Bay of Plenty and West Coast district health board areas from July 2021. I will also be looking to expedite work to improve access to oral health services for children and young people, including through the roll-out of free toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste to young children.

Children and young people are learning and developing

36. Since the launch of the Strategy, there have been significant changes made in the education sector, including at a structural level through major reviews such as ROVE (Reform of Vocational Education) and Tomorrow's Schools, the development of the new Early Learning Action Plan 2019-2029, and through improved support and opportunities, such as the code of pastoral care for domestic tertiary students, Support for Te Kōhanga Reo, and Toloa - Empowering Pacific participation in STEM.
37. In the latest six-month reporting period, highlights include:
 - a new statement of the National Educational Learning Priorities as a legal framework for early learning services, schools and kura;
 - expansion of Te Ahu o te Reo Māori as a nationwide initiative for up to 10,000 teachers, leaders and support staff who wish to strengthen their use of te reo Māori
 - the launch of the NCEA.education platform enabling access to high-quality NCEA resources, and product development of Māori Performing Arts NCEA levels 1, 2 and 3 (as part of the wider work on the NCEA change package);
 - the rolling out of free period products to schools, starting in the Waikato.
38. Work is underway to implement the Learning Support Action Plan. Under this initiative a range of actions to provide earlier support and strengthen an inclusive education system have been completed or are in development, including the roll out of Learning Support Coordinator roles and additional funding to support students with high and complex learning needs. High-level changes are also being made to ensure the needs of disadvantaged families and communities are prioritised (e.g. introducing the Equity Index) and to reduce barriers to services (e.g. extending school-based health services to all decile 5 schools).
39. Further work is now progressing on how to improve school attendance. Regular school attendance is important for student attainment and wellbeing both in the short and longer term. Sustained absence can lead to significantly diminished opportunities later in life.
40. I look forward to seeing the results of work underway to support young children in early learning services to develop capacities for self-regulation, resilience and social skills. There is strong evidence, including New Zealand research from Professor Richie Poulton's Dunedin Longitudinal Study, that developing self-control in the pre-school years is associated with positive life course outcomes. The pilot will begin in July 2021.

Children and young people are accepted, respected and connected

41. Racism, discrimination and stigma amplify the effects of disadvantage for many including children and young people who are Māori, Pacific, disabled, or from refugee, migrant and ethnic communities. Highlights from the six-month reporting period include:

- testing of New Zealand history curriculum content with 50 schools and six kura;
- the launch of Te Hurihanganui, in schools in Porirua and Tawa, to address racism in the education system and improve outcomes for Māori
- funding awarded to support over 200 community-based Pacific language initiatives.

42. Building on existing work in this policy area, and in response to the report from the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Masjidain, Cabinet has recently agreed to a range of actions to improve social cohesion. Together with continued work to prevent and respond to bullying, these combined efforts build a coherent picture of the forward work programme for this outcome area. In particular, next steps for policy work to achieve this outcome include:

- work led by the Minister of Justice, s9(2)(f)(iv) to inform the development of a national action plan against racism, s9(2)(f)(iv)
- work led by the Minister of Justice to advance legislation ending conversion practices and strengthening protections against the incitement of hatred.

Children and young people are involved and empowered

43. Children and young people feel more empowered and are more likely to get involved when they feel positive and comfortable with their own identity. Feeling a sense of value and belonging is a powerful motivator to contribute at home or in communities. Activities underway to support this outcome focus on youth voice and participation, and youth justice initiatives designed to build and support a sense of identity and community. Highlights from the six-month reporting period include:

- an additional nine community bail placements becoming available in the reporting period, and a further three community-based remand homes (in Tauranga, Waikato and Tairāwhiti) to provide home-like environments to support rehabilitation for young people;
- piloting of the *Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata*⁷ initiative in the Hawke's Bay, drawing on Whānau Ora, to support young Māori men in the corrections system.

44. Other initiatives in train include work by the Accident Compensation Corporation around healthy consensual relationships and implementation of the Youth Plan (led by the Minister for Youth) to drive equitable outcomes and prioritising four groups experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation: Māori, Pacific, rainbow and disabled young people.

45. The system shift I am expecting in this area is that all government agencies have robust mechanisms for ensuring that the interests, rights and needs of children and young people are taken into account in decisions that affect them, and that young

⁷ *Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata* is a collaboration between Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections, the Ministry of Social Development and Te Puni Kōkiri.

people feel supported and empowered to participate in civic life and have their voices heard.

The Ministerial Group on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy will strengthen accountability and drive progress in delivering the Strategy

46. As set out in the Cooperation Agreement between The NZ Labour Party and The Green Party of Aotearoa NZ, I have established a Ministerial Group on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.
47. The Ministerial Group comprises Children's Ministers⁸ and those Ministers whose portfolios are relevant to child poverty reduction and child and youth wellbeing. The role of the Group is to oversee and drive delivery of the Strategy, address areas where insufficient progress is being made, and set the forward work programme under the Strategy. The Ministerial Group has introduced a tracking regime to closely monitor policy work and actions that are key to reducing child poverty and improving child and youth wellbeing.
48. While I had previously directed officials to report, via the Social Wellbeing Board, on the Strategy's implementation on a six-monthly basis [SWC-19-MIN-0085], it is my view now that the establishment of the Ministerial Group provides for closer tracking of, and greater accountability for, the delivery of the Strategy. Therefore, I propose that implementation reporting to SWC on the Strategy be moved from six-monthly to annual, with the next implementation report prepared to align with the April 2022 annual report on achievement of the Strategy's outcomes.

Central government agency alignment to the Strategy

49. In addition to Ministerial leadership to achieve the outcomes of the Strategy, I have also asked that all central government agencies align their strategic and business planning documents and funding decisions with the Strategy by July 2021.
50. I will be looking to Ministers and the Social Wellbeing Board to ensure this happens. I will also be seeking a report back to the Ministerial Group from the Social Wellbeing Board by July 2021 on how agencies are planning to align their activities to the wellbeing outcomes set by the Strategy, at both a central and a regional level.
51. I also note that the Government Administration and Expenditure Committee will be considering a Cabinet report back in May this year on a model to improve alignment of public service in the regions. Regional Public Service Leads are currently developing regional priorities for public service, which strongly feature priorities to improve child and youth wellbeing. This is a significant opportunity for government agencies to use the Strategy as a framework to support joined-up locally-led activity with Iwi/Māori and community stakeholders to realise their aspirations for their children and young people.

I propose changes to the approach for the first three-yearly review of the Strategy

52. In addition to the legislative requirements in paragraph 15, I intend to publish a voluntary annual report on achievement of the Strategy's outcomes in April this year. It will include data on 21 indicators as baseline data for future annual reporting. Data collection for this first annual report has been significantly disrupted by COVID-19,

⁸ Children's ministers are the responsible Ministers for Oranga Tamariki, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and Police.

with 15 of the 36 Strategy's indicator measures⁹ dependent on the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey, externally branded as *whataboutme?*. The survey is now being carried out between March and September 2021 and will be reported back in the 2022 annual report.

53. The impact of COVID-19 on data collection for annual reporting of the Strategy's outcomes also means that we have less data available to support understanding of the impacts of the Strategy and Government Programme of Action. Understanding what policy interventions are, and are not, effective is essential in determining next steps for the Strategy.
54. I therefore propose a change to the approach to the review of the Strategy, which is required by legislation to be completed by August 2022. The published Strategy states an intention to review and also publicly engage on any changes to the Strategy all by August 2022. I propose to complete the review by August 2022. This will allow more time for the current Strategy to be implemented and embedded before the review and before undertaking public consultation on any changes in late 2022.
55. If any proposed changes arise from the review, decisions on these changes will be made after public consultation with a range of groups, including, at a minimum, children and representatives of iwi/Māori as required by the legislation. A new Strategy, if needed, could be finalised by early 2023.
56. The review itself will draw on information gathered for our implementation reports, annual reporting to Parliament, a process evaluation of the Strategy officials are undertaking this year (which will include insights from stakeholders closely involved in the Strategy development), and findings from a range of other recent and planned engagements by other agencies.

Consultation

57. The Ministries of Education, Health, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Social Development and Youth Development; the Ministries for Pacific Peoples and Women; the Accident Compensation Corporation, Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Corrections, Department of Internal Affairs, Inland Revenue, Oranga Tamariki, Police, Social Wellbeing Agency, Stats NZ, Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission, Te Puni Kōkiri and The Treasury have been consulted on this paper.

Financial Implications

58. Any financial implications arising from the contents of this paper are being met within existing baselines or considered in future Budget processes.

Legislative Implications

59. There are no legislative implications arising from the content of this paper.

Impact Analysis

60. Impact analysis is not required.

⁹ For each outcome set out in the Strategy, there is a set of indicators to help measure progress on the outcome. Information on indicators and measures is available on <https://childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/measuring-success/indicators>

Treaty of Waitangi Implications

61. The implementation of the Strategy is intended to give practical effect to the Treaty of Waitangi. The Strategy's principles reflect Māori interests as tangata whenua, recognise the Crown-Māori partnership is foundational, that children are taonga, and that whānau-centred policy and delivery is the way forward. There is also a legislated requirement to report on outcomes for tamariki Māori.
62. To give effect to the Strategy, agencies need to demonstrate an understanding of Māori needs and aspirations, co-design solutions with Māori where possible, support self-determination in the approach to improving wellbeing, and respond in ways that enable tamariki Māori and rangatahi Māori to have the same opportunities as others and to reach their full potential.
63. Ongoing work to implement the Strategy is guided by Te Arawhiti's framework and guidelines for public sector engagement with Māori, its Partnership Principles for building closer partnerships with Māori, and guidelines agreed by Cabinet for consideration of the Treaty in policy development and implementation [CO (19) 5].

Population Implications

64. The Strategy will only be successfully implemented when outcomes for tamariki Māori and rangatahi Māori improve significantly across the multiple areas of wellbeing. Currently, these groups of children and young people fare worse than others across almost every outcome area identified by the Strategy.
65. Pacific peoples have the youngest and fastest growing population in New Zealand, with a median age of 23 years. Over 60 per cent of the Pacific population in New Zealand were born here, which presents an evolving, complex set of Pacific identities for its children and young people. Work to address socio-economic challenges, including poverty, low incomes, and low quality or overcrowded housing is critical to improving the wellbeing of Pacific children and young peoples.
66. 24% (1.1m) of New Zealanders are disabled. Work is needed to address socio-economic challenges, including low incomes, accessible housing and access to services, for disabled people and children to improve wellbeing. For example, disabled children were more likely to live in a household with low-income and material hardship than non-disabled children. Children living in a household with at least one disabled person were over twice as likely to experience material hardship than children in a household with no disabled people.
67. The Strategy, particularly its work to address child poverty and improve services in the early years, are likely to have positive benefits for many women, as they are more likely to be the sole or primary caregiver of children and young people. Implications for mothers are being considered throughout the implementation of the Strategy.
68. The Strategy also recognises that fathers and other family members play important roles in the wellbeing of their children. Taking whānau-centred approaches to services through implementation of the Strategy can enable the needs of all parents and caregivers to be met in the context of their children's wellbeing. Work to achieve the Strategy's outcomes will help address disparities in outcomes in some areas experienced by sex, gender, or sexuality diverse children and young people; and disabled children, their parents and caregivers, and their families and whānau.

Human Rights

69. The implementation of the Strategy supports the fundamental freedoms of children and young people recognised in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, the Human Rights Act 1993, and in New Zealand's commitments to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Strategy recognises the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is a declaratory statement about human rights for indigenous peoples as individuals and as collectives. The Strategy also recognises New Zealand's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the New Zealand Disability Strategy.
70. As outlined in the Strategy's Programme of Action, the Human Rights Act is being reviewed in order to protect against the incitement of hatred.

Proactive Release

71. I intend to proactively release this paper subject to any redactions appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982. I also intend making the attached implementation report on the Strategy (1 July – 31 December 2020) available online.

Recommendations

The Minister for Child Poverty Reduction recommends that the Committee:

1. **note** that in July 2019 the Social Wellbeing Cabinet Committee directed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to monitor the implementation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) as an overarching framework for child and youth policies and services, and to report on a six-monthly basis to this Committee [SWC-19-MIN-0085];
2. **note** the six outcomes of the Strategy are based on insights from new research as well public engagement that included the voices of 6,000 children and young people, and that the outcomes are that children and young people:
 - 2.1. are loved, safe and nurtured
 - 2.2. have what they need
 - 2.3. are happy and healthy
 - 2.4. are learning and developing
 - 2.5. are accepted, respected and connected
 - 2.6. are involved and empowered.
3. **note** that, overall, agencies are making good progress on delivering specific actions under the Programme of Action agreed by Cabinet in July 2019, as well as those actions that were added from Budget 2020 and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, but some aspects of implementation were delayed by COVID-19;
4. **note** that fully implementing the Strategy requires Ministers and their agencies to increase their efforts to make the major strategic shifts required to reduce child poverty and improve child and youth wellbeing over the coming years;

IN CONFIDENCE

5. **agree** to the public release of the *Monitoring of Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation: 1 July 2020-31 December 2020* report, subject to minor amendments by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction;
6. **note** that I have convened a Ministerial Group on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy to drive progress in delivering on the Strategy, and strengthen accountability across agencies;
7. **note** that the Ministerial Group on the Strategy will be seeking a report back from the Social Wellbeing Board by July 2021 on central government agency alignment to the Strategy at both a central and regional level;
8. **agree** that the six-monthly implementation reports to this Committee move to an annual reporting cycle, to align with annual reporting requirements on progress on the Strategy's outcomes and on the Child Poverty Related Indicators;
9. **agree** that the first three-yearly review of the Strategy will be completed by August 2022 with public consultation on any possible changes to the Strategy to be undertaken in late 2022, as needed.

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction