

Reference: 20160256

15 September 2016



Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 13 July 2016. You requested:

*“...any Treasury advice given in respect of the Children’s Action Plan which has been in existence for the past three years, and implementation of the Vulnerable Children’s Act 2014.”*

On 3 August I extended the deadline time limit for deciding on your request by an additional 35 working days.

### Information Being Released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1.	25 June 2013	Treasury Report: Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee Wednesday 26 June	Release in part
2.	21 February 2014	Aide Memoire: Vote Social Development Budget 2014 Package	Release in part
3.	27 March 2014	Aide Memoire – Vulnerable Children Budget 2014 Initiatives – Cost Breakdown and Remaining Decisions	Release in full
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5.	28 July 2014	Pre-Cab Briefing – 28 July 2014	Release in part
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7.	17 April 2015	Aide Memoire: Budget 2015 – Final Changes to Recommendations	Release in part
8.	7 August 2015	Aide Memoire: Ministerial Oversight Group for Vulnerable Children Meeting 11 August 2015	Release in full
9.	16 September 2015	Treasury Report: Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee – Wednesday, 23 September 2015	Release in part
10.	27 November 2015	Treasury Report: Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee – Wednesday, 2 December 2015	Release in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people, and
- names and contact details of junior officials and certain sensitive advice, under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

### Information Publicly Available

The following information is also covered by your request and is publicly available on the Treasury's and Ministry of Social Development's websites:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
11.	1 March 2015	Cabinet Social Policy Committee Paper	<a href="http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b15-info/b15-3171889.pdf">http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b15-info/b15-3171889.pdf</a>
12.	13 March 2015	Treasury Report T2015/464: Social Sector Budget Package: Treasury Advice	<a href="http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b15-info/b15-3139448.pdf">http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b15-info/b15-3139448.pdf</a>
13.	23 March 2015	Cabinet Minute: CAB Min (15) 9/4A – Children's Action Plan: Progress Report	<a href="http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b15-info/b15-3149900.pdf">http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b15-info/b15-3149900.pdf</a>
14.	13 April 2015	Cabinet Minute: CAB Min (15) 12/2(28): 2015 Budget Package: Vote Social Development	<a href="http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b15-info/b15-3191814.pdf">http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b15-info/b15-3191814.pdf</a>

15.	13 April 2015	Aide Memoire Slides for Budget Ministers Meeting	<a href="http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b15-info/b15-3156633.pdf">http://www.treasury.govt.nz/downloads/pdfs/b15-info/b15-3156633.pdf</a>
16.	9 March 2016	RIS FOR PUBLICATION: Modernising CYF age settings	<a href="https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/regulatory-impact-statements/modernising-cyf-age-settings.docx">https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/regulatory-impact-statements/modernising-cyf-age-settings.docx</a>
17.	5 April 2016	RIS FOR PUBLICATION: Modernising Child Youth and Family Vulnerable children workforce settings	<a href="https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/regulatory-impact-statements/modernising-child-youth-and-family-vulnerable-children-workforce-settings.docx">https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/regulatory-impact-statements/modernising-child-youth-and-family-vulnerable-children-workforce-settings.docx</a>
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Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Some relevant information has been removed from documents listed in the above table and should continue to be withheld under the Official Information Act, on the grounds described in the documents.

### **Information to be Withheld**

There is one additional document covered by your request that I have decided to withhold in full under the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

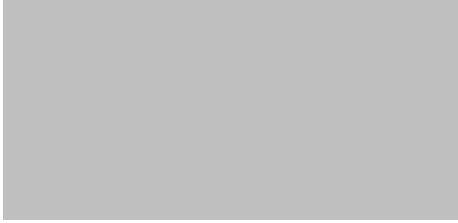
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Yours sincerely

Kristie Carter  
**Acting Team Leader, Labour Market and Welfare**

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Yours sincerely

Kristie Carter  
**Acting Team Leader, Labour Market and Welfare**



# OIA Information for Release 20160256

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1.	<a href="#"><u>Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee Wednesday 26 June</u></a>	1
2.	<a href="#"><u>Aide Memoire Vote Social Development Budget 2014 Package</u></a>	6
3.	<a href="#"><u>Aide Memoire Vulnerable Children Budget 2014 Initiatives - Cost Breakdown and Remaining Decisions</u></a>	9
4.	<a href="#"><u>Briefing for Cabinet Business Committee Monday, 31 March 2014</u></a>	14
5.	<a href="#"><u>Pre-Cab Briefing 28 July 2014</u></a>	18
6.	<a href="#"><u>Aide Memoire Children's Action Plan Suite of Papers for SOC 18 March 2015</u></a>	20
7.	<a href="#"><u>Aide Memoire Budget 2015 - Final Changes to Recommendations</u></a>	23
8.	<a href="#"><u>Aide Memoire Ministerial Oversight Group for Vulnerable Children Meeting 11 August 2015</u></a>	26
9.	<a href="#"><u>Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee Wednesday, 23 September 2015</u></a>	30
10.	<a href="#"><u>Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee Wednesday, 2 December 2015</u></a>	34

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**Treasury Report:** Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee Wednesday  
26 June

<b>Date:</b>	25 June 2013	<b>Report No:</b>	T2013/1694
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**Action Sought**

	<b>Action Sought</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English)	Read prior to SOC meeting	9.30 am, Wednesday, 26 June 2013
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Steven Joyce)	Read prior to SOC meeting	9.30 am, Wednesday, 26 June 2013
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman)	Read prior to SOC meeting	9.30 am, Wednesday, 26 June 2013

**Contact for Telephone Discussion** (if required)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>1st Contact</b>
Nic Blakeley	Manager, Labour Market and Welfare/Education and Skills	04 917 6896 (wk) s9(2)(a)	✓

**Actions for the Minister's Office Staff** (if required)

Return the signed report to Treasury.

**Enclosure:** No

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## Treasury Report: Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee

### Wednesday 26 June

#### Executive Summary

We are currently aware of six items on the Cabinet Social Policy Committee agenda for Wednesday 26 June 2013. The table below identifies any relevant fiscal impacts and / or provides Treasury's comments / recommendations on four of these. The remaining two papers which we are aware of, for which Treasury has no briefing or comment, are listed below the table for completeness.

Title	Pg	Recommend	Fiscal Implications (\$m GST excl.)					Treasury Comment
			12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	Out years	
Out of scope of request								
Vulnerable Children's Bill: Suite of Five Papers	6/7	support	<div>Operating</div> <div>-</div> <div>Capital</div> <div>-</div>					These papers seek agreement to a range of legislative changes for inclusion in the Vulnerable Children's Bill. Treasury does not have strong views on the proposals but notes that there will be boundary issues and trade-offs associated with some of the proposals.
Out of scope of request								

**IN-CONFIDENCE**

Title	Pg	Recommend	Fiscal Implications (\$m GST excl.)					Treasury Comment
			11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	Out years	
Out of scope of request								

- Out of scope of request

**Recommended Action**

We recommend that you **read** this report prior to the Cabinet Social Policy Committee meeting at 9.30 am on Wednesday, 26 June 2013.

Nic Blakeley  
**Manager**, Labour Markets & Welfare/Education and Skills

Hon Bill English  
**Minister of Finance**

Pages 4 & 5 out of scope

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**Vulnerable Children's Bill: Suite of Five Papers**

**Responsible Person:** Nic Blakeley, Manager, Labour Market and Welfare/Education and Skills s9(2)(a)

**First Contact Person:** Helen Anderson, Senior Analyst, Labour Market and Welfare s9(2)(a)

**Purpose**

10. This suite of papers seeks Ministers' agreement to detailed legislative proposals for inclusion in the Vulnerable Children's Bill. Proposals were agreed by the Ministerial Oversight Group on 12 June 2013.

**COMMENT**

11. No additional funding is sought for these proposals at this time. Costs are expected either to be met either within baselines or to be funded (in part or full) from Children's Action Plan Budget 2014 proposals. The approach will be determined as part of the assessment of the overall fiscal implications of the Children's Action Plan.
12. Many of the specific proposals have not been consulted on publicly. This will occur during the Select Committee process.
13. Treasury does not have strong views on the proposals in these papers. Key issues and trade-offs relating to the proposals are highlighted below.

***Paper A: Joint accountability and shared responsibility***

14. The proposed legislative requirements on Chief Executives aim to create a durable commitment to collective action to improve vulnerable children's wellbeing, while mitigating legal risk.
15. The key determinant of success will be the extent to which agencies work together collectively 'on the ground'. We see the legislative provisions as a useful signal and mechanism to achieve this, with manageable legal risk. Treasury will work with agencies to support implementation of these proposals.

***Paper B: Standard safety checks for the children's workforce***

16. The size of this problem is hard to measure. However, additional costs are not expected to be high, as the majority of the state sector already carries out vetting and screening of employees.
17. The recommended approach (option 2) is to frame the legislation so as to allow safety check requirements to be extended to employees and/or volunteers in the business or voluntary sectors if desired in the future, by Order-in-Council.
18. The key issue is the balance between the greater levels of assurance associated with a broader safety check regime, and the costs and impacts of a wider application.

***Paper C: Additional amendments to legislation to assist children in care***

19. Treasury notes that the financial benefits of early enrolment in KiwiSaver are unlikely to be capitalised until retirement, and so will not address the more immediate needs of children in care. This is reflected in the paper.

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***Paper D: Ensuring the safety of subsequent children***

20. The final paper is not yet available. These comments relate to the draft paper.
21. The key issue is the balance between the safety of subsequent children and the flow-on costs and risks of increased oversight. This includes the risk (noted in the paper) that pregnant women seek to avoid detection by not engaging with services.
22. The draft paper seeks agreement to authorise the Ministers of Justice and Social Development to make decisions on whether the scope of the proposed provisions should be expanded, subject to confirmation by Cabinet Legislation Committee. The broader scope could include cases where a child has died due to a parent's negligent or reckless act, but the parent has not been convicted of manslaughter, murder or infanticide. The Committee may wish to provide a steer to these Ministers on where the boundary of the provisions lies.
23. Costs are estimated at \$5.22m per annum. The draft paper notes that broadening the scope of the provisions may have significant financial implications.

***Children's Teams update***

24. These papers cover the policy aspects of the vulnerable children work. We see the implementation of Children's Teams as a critical element of the success of this work.
25. Progress on the Children's Teams has been slower than expected for a variety of reasons. Ministers have decided that there will be a 'soft go-live' in Rotorua on 1 July, meaning that systems will be in place and tested amongst professionals, but that the new approach will not be applied to children until the end of July. We will keep close to the service design and implementation as it proceeds.

**Treasury Recommendation**

26. We recommend that you **support** the recommendations in these papers.

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Reference: T2014/263

DH-3-2-3-9



Date: 21 February 2014

To: Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English)

Deadline: Prior to 3:00 pm, Monday 24 February

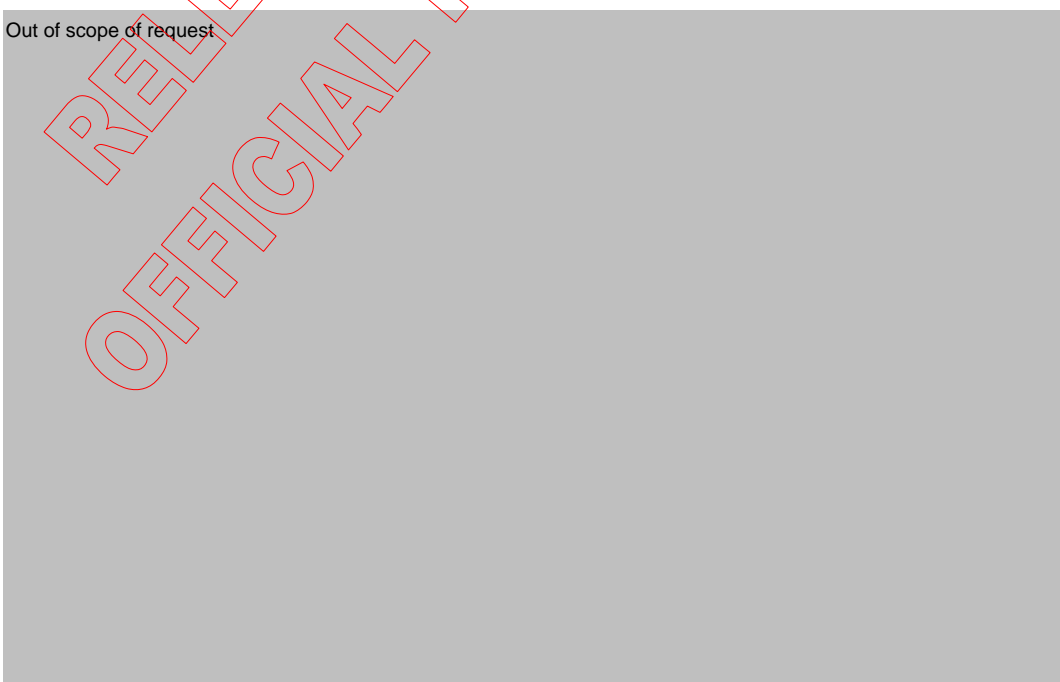
**Aide Memoire: Vote Social Development Budget 2014 Package**

You are meeting with the Minister for Social Development at 3:00 pm on Monday 24 February for a further discussion on two parts of her 2014 Budget package: the Investment Approach and Vulnerable Children.

Additional background information on these two Budget initiatives is available in the advice we gave you prior to your meeting with the Minister for Social Development on 4 February (T2014/143 refers).

A week after this meeting, on 3 March, the Social Sector Ministers will meet to discuss the priorities across the sector. This meeting is therefore an opportunity to build up a picture of how the Social Development Budget package contributes to the social sector story.

Out of scope of request



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Out of scope of request

**Vulnerable Children**

Minister Bennett may take the opportunity to take you through what the Vulnerable Children's Action Plan (CAP) Budget bid comprises, as this is the first time any level of detail has been provided. It comprises three elements: a contingency for costs associated with rolling out more Children's Teams, appropriating funds for the costs associated with the passage of the Vulnerable Children's Bill, and CYF's Strategy for Children in Care. Each of these areas is briefly elaborated on below.

The total quantum of funding sought in 2014/15 is approximately \$58 million operating and \$3 million capital.

**Children's Team Contingency**

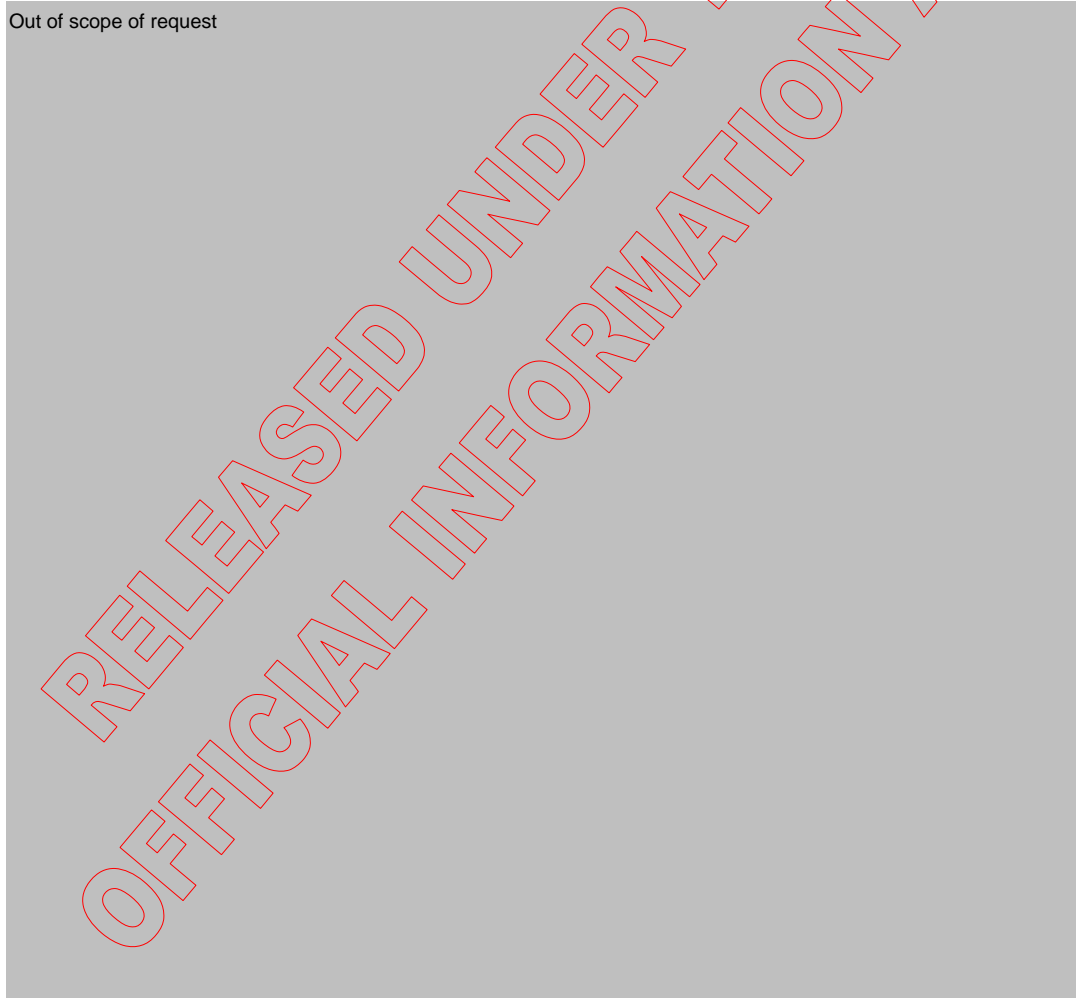


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\$21.3 million operating in 2014/15 is sought to fund the continuation of the current Children's Team sites in Rotorua and Whangarei, and roll out another eight teams in 2014/15. We note that the number of Children's Teams is entirely discretionary and, given the untested nature of the model, that rolling out more slowly could be considered.

The \$21.3 million funding is requested in contingency as there is not yet certainty around the Children's Teams' operating model. We have agreed with the CAP Directorate that they will develop a longer term funding plan ahead of Budget 2015.

Out of scope of request



s9(2)(g)(i)

**Fiona Carter-Giddings**, Manager, Labour Market & Welfare, 04 917 7021

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Out of scope of request

**BUDGET-SENSITIVE**

Reference: T2014/535

SH-3-2-4-11-2



Date: 27 March 2014

To: Minister of Finance  
(Hon Bill English)

Deadline: Budget Ministers Meeting, 31 March at 5.30pm

**Aide Memoire: Vulnerable Children Budget 2014 Initiatives - Cost Breakdown and Remaining Decisions**

**Purpose**

At Budget Ministers on 24 March, you indicated that you would like some further information about the breakdown of costs sought in the Vulnerable Children's Budget initiative. This information is provided in this aide memoire, along with some additional information around a couple of outstanding decisions required to finalise the Vulnerable Children's package. An annex summarising this note is included to support your discussion at Budget Ministers.

**Breakdown of Budget 2014 Costs Sought for the Vulnerable Children's Package**

This table shows the breakdown of costs according to the different high-level workstreams in \$m.

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Vulnerable Children Bill Implementation (Justice, Police and CYF)	3.194	11.672	14.165	13.318
Children's Action Plan – Future Operating Model (including CAP Directorate costs)	3.700	Outyear funding for these workstreams will be sought in Budget 2015		
Children's Teams (operational costs for two existing sites and eight new sites)	9.150			
Interim costs of workforce vetting, and child protection policies	3.500			
CYF Investment Strategy	13.819	16.016	15.009	20.427
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.363</b>	<b>27.688</b>	<b>29.174</b>	<b>33.745</b>

**Key messages regarding the funding bids**

The administrative costs (those that relate to the CAP Directorate) do not appear to have altered from the initial bid, with CAP's recommendations being to down-size the costs associated with the operational arm (that is, the Children's Teams). However, this is likely because the Children's Teams costs are more scalable due to flexibility regarding when and how many of them are set up. We therefore think the balance is

**BUDGET-SENSITIVE**

probably about right for now, however we will work throughout the year with the CAP directorate to look at these costs.

While CAP have reduced costs overall in line with Budget Ministers' request, they appear to have replaced some of the reduced Children's Team costs with renewed bids for funding within the CYF investment strategy.

Our advice is to not fund the CYF investment strategy in outyears, since the operating model is still being developed. We also think the ongoing legislative costs should be considered as part of the CAP Budget initiative in Budget 2015, however options around this are discussed further on page 3.

There are some discretionary costs within the CYF investment strategy (namely, the one-to-one therapeutic placements for high needs young people and the one-to-one targeted support for caregivers) that are not legislatively required. Although our advice is to only fund those initiatives that are required under the bill, we understand that these specific items are likely to be valuable, despite not strictly necessary. The total cost for the two initiatives is \$2.519m in 14/15.

- We suggest you discuss and decide with Budget Ministers **on whether you would like to fund the one-to-one therapeutic placements for high needs young people and the one-to-one targeted support for caregivers.**

#### Treasury Recommended Funding for Budget 2014

Based on our views, the following table shows the costs (in \$m) that we would recommend funding. In general, our advice is to fund costs that are necessary due to the operation of the bill in 14/15, the roll-out of Children's Teams and investment work on the CYF investment strategy. We would prefer not to fund outyears at this stage, and instead reconsider these bids at Budget 2015.

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Vulnerable Children Bill Implementation (Justice, Police and CYF)	3.194	0	0	0
Children's Action Plan – Future Operating Model (including CAP Directorate costs)	3.700	Outyear funding for these workstreams will be sought in Budget 2015		
Children's Teams (operational costs for two existing sites and eight new sites)	9.150			
Interim costs of workforce vetting, and child protection policies	3.500			
CYF Investment Strategy	13.659 <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.203</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Note that this figure includes the \$2.519m cost for the one-to-one therapeutic placements for high needs young people and the one-to-one targeted support for caregivers.

**BUDGET-SENSITIVE****Other decisions required to finalise the Vulnerable Children's Package**Out Years Funding for Legislative Elements of the Package

As well as a decision around funding for Vulnerable Children in 2014/15, Ministers may wish to consider out years funding for the legislative elements resulting from the Vulnerable Children's Bill ("the Bill"). It is expected that the Bill will be enacted by 1 July 2015 and agencies will therefore face the on-going costs associated with the Bill's requirements.

Some examples of the costs which agencies will face include on an on-going basis are:

- The requirement for increased vetting and screening of the children's workforce, such as costs for Police in terms of greater volumes of police checks being required, and
- the on-going requirement for Justice to implement the new "subsequent children" elements of the Bill which require much more stringent checks on people with previous conviction of seriously harming a child but who go on to have another child.

Our preference would be for all on-going costs to be considered as a whole CAP package as part of Budget 2015 when there is some greater certainty around what the costs will actually be. However, given that these are legislative requirements, we can see a case for on-going funding to be agreed as there is some risk for agencies around funding for one year only what will be an on-going requirement. If Ministers wish to provide agencies with a greater level of certainty, the overall funding profile would look like this (all figures are in \$million):

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Vulnerable Children Bill Implementation (Justice, Police and CYF)	3.194	11.381	13.472	12.619
Children's Action Plan – Future Operating Model (including CAP Directorate costs)	3.700	Outyear funding for these workstreams will be sought in Budget 2015		
Children's Teams (operational costs for two existing sites and eight new sites)	9.150			
Interim costs of workforce vetting, and child protection policies	3.500			
CYF Investment Strategy	13.659 <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.203</b>	<b>11.381</b>	<b>13.472</b>	<b>12.619</b>

There is also then a subsequent decision about whether Ministers are comfortable about appropriating out years funding upfront given the uncertainty around out years costs. If Ministers would prefer greater scrutiny over the out years funding, they could choose to put this funding in a contingency.

- We suggest you discuss and decide with Budget Ministers **on both whether to fund out years for legislative elements, and whether this funding is provided up front or put in a contingency.**

<sup>2</sup> Note that this figure includes the \$2.519m cost for the one-to-one therapeutic placements for high needs young people and the one-to-one targeted support for caregivers.

## BUDGET-SENSITIVE

We also note that Budget Ministers have decided not to fund the capital elements sought which include funding for:

- a range of bids from Police, Justice, and Child, Youth and Family to implement the legislative requirements of the Bill which will require IT system changes, and
- the Vulnerable Kids Information System (ViKI) which will allow agencies to share information about Vulnerable Children much more easily.

### Up-Front or Partial Contingency Funding for the CAP Funding

\$16.35 million in 2014/15 is sought to fund the CAP directorate, the existing Children's Teams and the roll-out of new Children's Teams. Given the uncertainty around the costs associated with, in particular, the roll-out of the new Children's Teams, we suggest that Ministers should consider whether appropriating all of the CAP operating model up-front is the best option.

Another option would be to agree a certain percentage (e.g. half) of the overall funding sought will be appropriated while the rest is held in contingency. The Vulnerable Children's Board can seek to draw down on this contingency subject to a report back to the Ministerial Oversight Group or Joint Ministers indicating progress on the roll-out of the Children's Teams and subject to cost verification.

- We suggest you discuss and decide with Budget Ministers what your **overall level of comfort is with appropriating all of the CAP funding** up-front. If you would like a greater level of oversight, we suggest you agree to **hold some of the CAP operating model funding in contingency.**

### **Next Steps**

You are meeting with Budget Ministers at 5.30pm on 31 March, we suggest you use the attached annex to discuss the areas outlined in the discussion section above.

**Julia Pearce**, Senior Analyst, Labour Market & Welfare, 04 917 6129  
**Tony Burton**, Principal Advisor, Labour Market & Welfare, 04 917 6053

## BUDGET-SENSITIVE

### **Annex: Vulnerable Children Key Points for Budget Ministers Meeting**

#### **Summary**

- Costs have been reduced in the operational areas including the Children's Teams, probably because these are more scalable than the central Children's Action Plan (CAP) Directorate costs.
- In general we suggest only funding the costs that are legislatively necessary. However, there are two items in the CYF investment strategy that you may consider valuable and that you may wish to fund.
- We suggest that you do not fund the outyears costs sought and instead reconsider them at Budget 15. However if you do choose to fund them now, you may want to consider doing this via a contingency.
- You also have the option to fully appropriate the costs for the CAP operating model (including the Children's Teams) for 14/15, or hold part of the funding sought in a contingency.

#### **Discussion points**

We suggest that you discuss and decide with Budget Ministers:

- Whether you would like to fund the one-to-one therapeutic placements for high needs young people and the one-to-one targeted support for caregivers.
- Whether to fund out years, and whether this funding is provided up front or put in a contingency.
- What your overall level of comfort is with appropriating all of the CAP operating model funding up-front is. If you would like a greater level of oversight, we suggest you agree to hold some of the CAP operating model funding in contingency.

#### **Vulnerable Children Recommended Package (\$million)**

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Vulnerable Children Bill Implementation (Justice, Police and CYF)	3.194	0 or 11.381	0 or 13.472	0 or 12.619
Children's Action Plan – Future Operating Model (including CAP Directorate costs)	3.700	Outyear funding for these workstreams will be sought in Budget 2015		
Children's Teams (operational costs for two existing sites and eight new sites)	9.150			
Interim costs of workforce vetting, and child protection policies	3.500			
CYF Investment Strategy	13.659 <sup>3</sup>	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.203</b>	<b>0 or 11.381</b>	<b>0 or 13.472</b>	<b>0 or 12.619</b>

<sup>3</sup> Note that this figure includes the \$2.519m cost for the one-to-one therapeutic placements for high needs young people and the one-to-one targeted support for caregivers which Ministers

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**Treasury Report:** Briefing for Cabinet Business Committee Monday, 31 March 2014

<b>Date:</b>	28 March 2014	<b>Report No:</b>	T2014/558
		<b>File Number:</b>	MS-5-2-CBC

**Action Sought**

	<b>Action Sought</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English)	Read prior to CBC meeting	1pm, Monday, 31 March 2014
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Steven Joyce)	Read prior to CBC meeting	1pm, Monday, 31 March 2014
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman)	Read prior to CBC meeting	1pm, Monday, 31 March 2014

**Contact for Telephone Discussion** (if required)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>1st Contact</b>
Melody Guy	Manager, Natural Resources	04 917 6059 (wk)	s9(2)(a) ✓
Alex Harrington	Senior Analyst, Tax Strategy	04 890 7239 (wk)	s9(2)(a)

**Actions for the Minister's Office Staff** (if required)

None
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**Enclosure:** No

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**Treasury Report:** Briefing for Cabinet Business Committee Monday,  
31 March 2014

**Executive Summary**

We are currently aware of nine items on the Cabinet Business Committee agenda for Monday 31 March 2014. The table below shows the fiscal impacts and provides Treasury's comments/recommendations on six of these. The remaining three papers are listed underneath the table for completeness. Treasury has no comments on these three, as they are minor or technical in nature and in the case of the regulations, we support the proposals in the paper without further comments.

Title	Pg	Recommend	Fiscal Implications (\$m GST excl.)					Treasury Comment
			13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	Out years	
Out of scope of request								
<div>RELEASED UNDER OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT</div>								
Children's Action Plan	7	Support	Operating					We are supportive of the policy direction in the Cabinet paper, but have slightly differing views on funding levels, as indicated in our aide memoire.
			-	33.363	27.688	29.174	33.745	
			Capital					
			-	-	-	-	-	



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Out of scope of request

- Out of scope of request

- 

- 

### **Recommended Action**

We recommend that you **read** this report prior to the Cabinet Business Committee meeting at 1pm on Monday, 31 March 2014.

Alex Harrington  
**Senior Analyst, Tax Strategy**

Hon Bill English  
**Minister of Finance**

Pages 4 - 6 out of scope

**IN-CONFIDENCE**

**Children's Action Plan**

**Responsible Person:** Julia Pearce, Senior Analyst, 917 6129

**First Contact Person:** Evealyn Whittington, Analyst, 890 7247

**Purpose**

1. The paper provides Cabinet with an update on the progress of the Children's Action Plan, as part of the Vulnerable Children's initiative, which was initiated with the release of a Green Paper for Vulnerable Children in July 2011.
2. Information about the Treasury advice on this paper is contained within Aide Memoire T2014/535, which was sent to the Minister of Finance's office on Thursday 27 March.

**Comment**

3. This paper only seeks Cabinet's agreement to the general policy direction. Specific recommendations regarding the funding will be put into the general Budget 2014 Cabinet paper.

**Treasury Recommendation**

4. We recommend that you **support** the recommendations in this paper.

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

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Pre-Cab Briefing – 28 July 2014

Notes:

- The Treasury will brief the Minister of Finance and Associate Ministers of Finance on Monday 28 July, 10:00am in the Executive Wing 7.6.
- We brief on **11 papers** on the Cabinet agenda. We are aware of **1** oral item that may be brought to Cabinet.
- We will also brief on final tax revenue forecasts for PREFU, options responding to PREFU indicators, and the terms of reference for the Productivity Commission's inquiry on skills and qualifications.

Papers for Cabinet Consideration

Item	Title		
Description and analysis		Fiscal implications	Treasury recommendation
Out of scope of request			

Pages 2 - 3 out of scope

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Out of scope of request

18	Children's Action Plan: Business Cases for Implementation of Vulnerable Children Legislation					Support
<p>Approval is sought for capital and capital-related opex costs associated with implementing changes in the Vulnerable Children's Act.</p> <p>Approval is also sought to draw down the operating contingency.</p> <p>The paper was referred as additional recommendations have been added to the paper to reflect Ministers' requests around ensuring links are made with the RealMe system.</p>	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	Out years	
	Operating (capital related)					
	-	1.277	1.277	1.277	1.277	
	Capital					
	4.557					
	Operating (from Budget 14 contingency)					
-	5.460	6.205	6.263	6.745		

Out of scope of request

IN-CONFIDENCE

Reference: T2015/509

SH-3-2-4-11-2



Date: 16 March 2015

To: Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English)  
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Steven Joyce)  
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Paula Bennett)

Deadline: 9.30am, 18 March 2015

**Aide Memoire: Children's Action Plan: Suite of Papers for SOC  
18 March 2015: Children's Action Plan – Suite of Papers for  
SOC 18 March 2015**

Minister Tolley has provided a suite of papers on the Children's Action Plan for discussion at Cabinet Social Policy Committee. This suite consists of:

- *Paper 1: Progress Report.* An update on the implementation of the Children's Action Plan (CAP), with associated funding decisions as part of Budget 2015
- *Paper 2: Sharing Information to Improve Outcomes for Vulnerable Children.* An update the of development of an Approved Information Sharing Agreement (AISA); and
- *Paper 3: Vulnerable Children Act 2014: Regulations to Implement Workforce Safety Checking.* Seeks agreement to issue drafting instructions to Parliamentary Counsel Office for regulations to prescribe the requirements for children's workforce safety checking.

Overall, Treasury supports the papers, but has provided a Treasury comment in Paper 1. Treasury considers a more phased approach to roll out of Children's Teams, stronger evaluation and further consideration of pooled funding would be appropriate. For Papers 1 and 2, Treasury's advice is below. Treasury recommends you support Paper 3.

A key point to raise at SOC would be to set expectations around having a framework in place for evaluating the impact of the Children's Action Plan, and Children's Team model.

**Paper 1: Progress Report**

The paper proposes, in addition to continuation of the four existing Children's teams, establishing a further six children's teams (approved by Cabinet) by December 2015 and establishing a further two Children's teams per year from 16/17, to a total of 20 teams.

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Treasury considers that there is currently insufficient evidence of the impact of the Children's Teams model on the outcomes for vulnerable children to justify a significant expansion. The Children's Team approach is one of many approaches being tried in the social sector which aim to provide cross-agency interventions for this target group. Other approaches, where target groups may cross over, include Social Sector Trials and Whanau Ora. There is currently no evaluation framework in place, and progress in developing one is slow.

Evaluating the effectiveness of the approach (beyond the anecdotal) will be essential for informing decisions about whether to continue expanding the approach. There is also a question about the system's capacity/capability to deliver a rapid expansion of CAP alongside other social sector change such as CYF Modernisation.

The paper proposes reprioritising NGO contracts within MSD's Community Investment spend to focus on Children's Teams. While this could be of value, as there is potentially overlap in the Community Investment and Children's Teams spends, there is insufficient detail to know what scale or scope this reprioritisation would have. It is unclear from the paper the level of oversight Ministers would have of this reprioritisation.

### *Vulnerable Kids Information System (ViKI) approach and business case*

The paper seeks Cabinet's in principle agreement to the Phase 1 ViKI business case (with funding decisions as part of Budget 15). This first phase of ViKI would test a case management tool for the Hamilton Children's Team. Treasury supports the phased approach to ViKI. Treasury's key concerns have been ensuring that there is a robust evaluation of the first phase of ViKI to inform the programme business case, and gaining a better understanding of the wider potential of ViKI to support CYF Modernisation or vulnerable children more generally (rather than as just a tool for Children's Teams).

Treasury notes that post-pilot decisions to roll out ViKI beyond the Hamilton site or expand ViKI functionality will have cost implications – for example, based on indicative licensing costs and potential user numbers, the potential ongoing cost of operating ViKI to support 10 Children's Teams could be \$4 million per annum (excluding establishment costs).

### *Funding model for CAP*

The papers conclude that centrally determined funding is the preferred mechanism. Treasury's view is that pooled funding is also appropriate, as the number of agencies involved is limited, and the amount of funding required relatively small. This could provide a much stronger accountability incentive on the contributing agencies than centrally determined funding. If Ministers consider centrally determined funding is the way forward, this is most appropriately sought from agency baselines in the first instance. Treasury suggests further consideration of options for funding CAP within existing departmental baselines is required.

### *Budget advice*

Treasury has recommended scaled funding for CAP, including operating funding to continue the CAP Directorate, the four existing Children's Teams, the addition of

**IN-CONFIDENCE**

Children's Teams in Hamilton and one other site, a scaled workforce amount and ViKI. We acknowledge that this undercuts previous Cabinet decisions about the timing of rolling out Children's Teams. Treasury's advice is to fund the operating component of this bid centrally, with the Capital component being a candidate for pooled funding (given the small quantum required \$2.3million). However, we acknowledge that pursuing pooled funding for the capex is likely to lead to further delay in delivery of ViKI, and providing capex centrally would cut through this.

**Paper 2: Sharing Information to Improve Outcomes for Vulnerable Children**

Treasury considers the proposal to test an AISA in the Hamilton site is a pragmatic way forward. At this stage, we do not support proposals seeking legislative change, which is unlikely to resolve issues relating to the cultural expectations and behaviour around information sharing.

**Kosal Kong**, Analyst, Labour Market & Welfare, 04 917 6308

**Fiona Carter-Giddings**, Manager, Labour Market & Welfare, 04 917 7021

**BUDGET-SENSITIVE**

Reference: T2015/782

BM-2-4-2015-1



Date: 17 April 2015

To: Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English)

Deadline: 20 April 2015

**Aide Memoire: Budget 2015 - Final Changes to Recommendations**

**Purpose**

Attached to this Aide Memoire are the alternative and additional recommendations that we recommend you table at Cabinet on Monday 20 April.

We are also aware that there are a number of Ministers who will be tabling alternative and/or additional recommendations. Where we are aware of Ministers tabling alternative and/or additional recommendations we have provided you with our advice on those proposed changes.

**Financial recommendations for you to table at Cabinet**

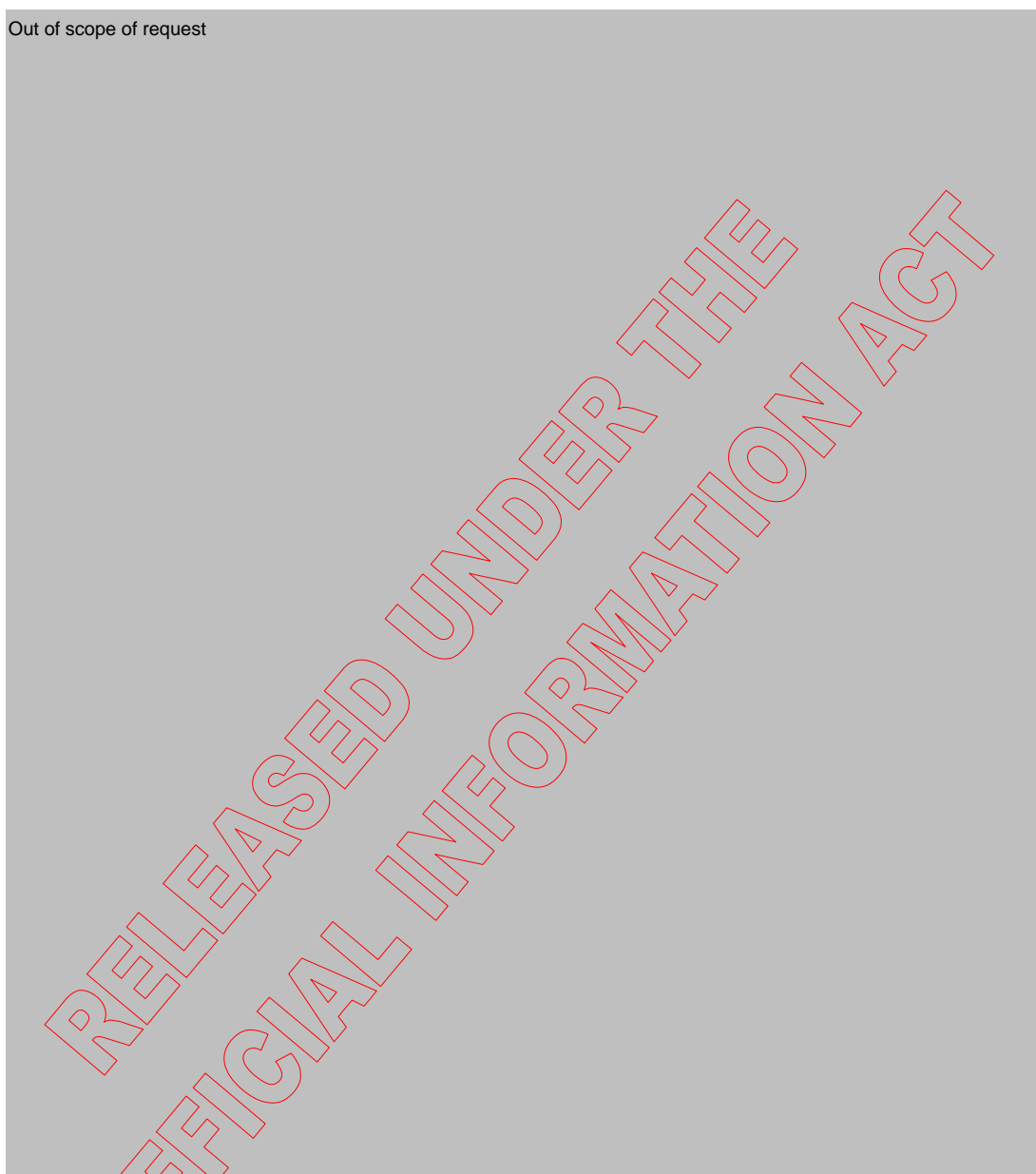
Out of scope of request





**BUDGET-SENSITIVE**

Out of scope of request



Vote Social Development

*Implementing the Children's Action Plan*

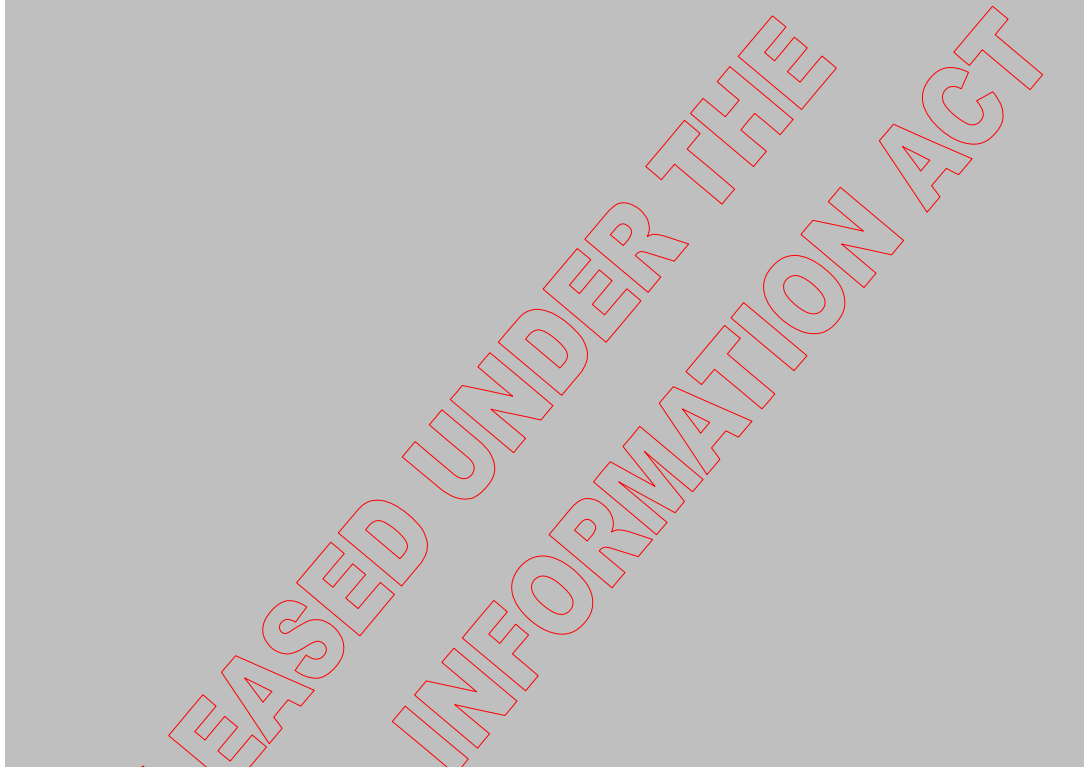
This may be tabled by Hon Tolley to seek agreement to transfer \$3.5 million of a \$5 million underspend in 2014/15 to 2015/16 to establish six new Children's teams by December 2015, as previously agreed in-principle by Cabinet, subject to Budget 2015.

Treasury does not support the transfer of CAP underspend. Treasury considers it is appropriate to slow down the roll out of Children's Teams, until there is a more clear evidence base for the positive impact of the model. Transferring the underspend to

**BUDGET-SENSITIVE**

establish further teams beyond the six teams with agreed ongoing funding would create a funding gap from 2016/17.

Out of scope of request



s9(2)(g)(i)

**Simon McLoughlin**, Team Leader, Fiscal and State Sector Management, 04 917 6011

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Reference: T2015/1781

SH-3-2-4-11-2

Date: 7 August 2015

To: Minister of Finance  
(Hon Bill English)

Deadline: 11 August 2015  
(if any)

**Aide Memoire: Ministerial Oversight Group for Vulnerable Children Meeting 11 August 2015**

**Purpose**

This aide memoire provides you with key points and questions that you may wish to consider ahead of the Ministerial Oversight Group (MoG) for Vulnerable Children on Tuesday 11 August 2015. The agenda and papers have been distributed by Minister Tolley's office.

**Comment**

The key issue you may wish to engage with is **progress on the cross-agency approach to Vulnerable Children (including BPS 4)**. You may wish to signal your expectation that the discussion on BPS 4 at the Social Sector Priorities Ministers' meeting on 17 August 2015 will demonstrate that Social Sector Agencies have a clear and joined-up strategy to deliver BPS Result 4. This should include a clear view of the gap for meeting Result 4 and actions (with timeframes) to develop concrete proposals to fill the gap. Treasury and SSC are working with social sector agencies to support their focus on achieving this result.

Treasury will also provide you with initial advice on the CYF External panel interim report and BPS 4 next week to inform the SSPM discussion.

The table below provides you with key points and questions for each of the agenda items.

1	Children's Action Plan (CAP)	The Children's Action Plan (CAP) and Children's Teams are one part of a system of support for Vulnerable Children (see appendix one). There is currently a lot of activity in the vulnerable children space, and it is not clear that strategic connections are being made. As an example of the lack of strategic focus in this space, an action plan for Vulnerable Children from the 5 responsible CEs should have been provided to Ministers in April 2015, but has been deferred.
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		<p>Instead an update to the current plan is due in November 2015. A new plan is due in April 2016, following decisions on the CYF Expert Panel process. While there is some merit in delaying work on the plan until the outcomes of the Expert Panel's work are clear, we consider the deferral of the plan is symptomatic of the sector's focus on the reactive and operational rather than the strategic. The SSPM meeting on 17 August 2015, focusing on Result 4 (Assaults on Children), provides a vehicle for Social Sector Agencies to demonstrate their joined up approach.</p> <p>Treasury will also provide you with initial advice on the CYF Expert Panel's interim report and BPS 4 next week to inform the SSPM discussion. You may wish to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ask when Ministers should expect to see evidence of the impact of Children's Teams on CYF's work (ie, the expected reduction of number of referrals) and a reduction in levels of Child Vulnerability generally.</li> <li>signal your interest in a strategic, cross-agency discussion at SSPM on BPS 4.</li> </ul>
2	Social Sector Trials (SSTs)	<p>A decision on the future of SSTs will need to be made shortly, as funding expires in June 2016. Further evaluative evidence on SSTs will be available from MSD by October 2015. The Cabinet paper on Social Sector Integration (due to SOC September/October 2015) will provide the opportunity to engage on these decisions.</p>
3	Child Protection Offender Register	<p>The Bill is awaiting introduction and the project is tracking to plan.</p>
4	Children's Teams	<p>Treasury recommendations regarding funding for Children's Teams in B15 were based on slowing down roll out, in order to absorb and incorporate lessons from implementation of the Hamilton Children's Team (as the first large metropolitan team) and pilots of the Hub and ViKI.</p> <p>Minister Tolley has directed CAP to undertake a faster implementation schedule. Treasury and SSC have concerns about the capability and capacity, both of the directorate and the sector in general, to roll out the teams by December.</p> <p>This will put pressure on the sector, and is likely to compromise the quality of the roll out. For example, in May 2015 only four referrals to Children's Teams were accepted across the four existing teams, because of lead professional capacity issues. Securing appropriate lead professionals is the most critical challenge for the success of the Children's Teams model. We are not seeing agency operating models adjusting to take the Children's Teams model into account; the lead professional role is seen by agencies as an add-on, rather</p>

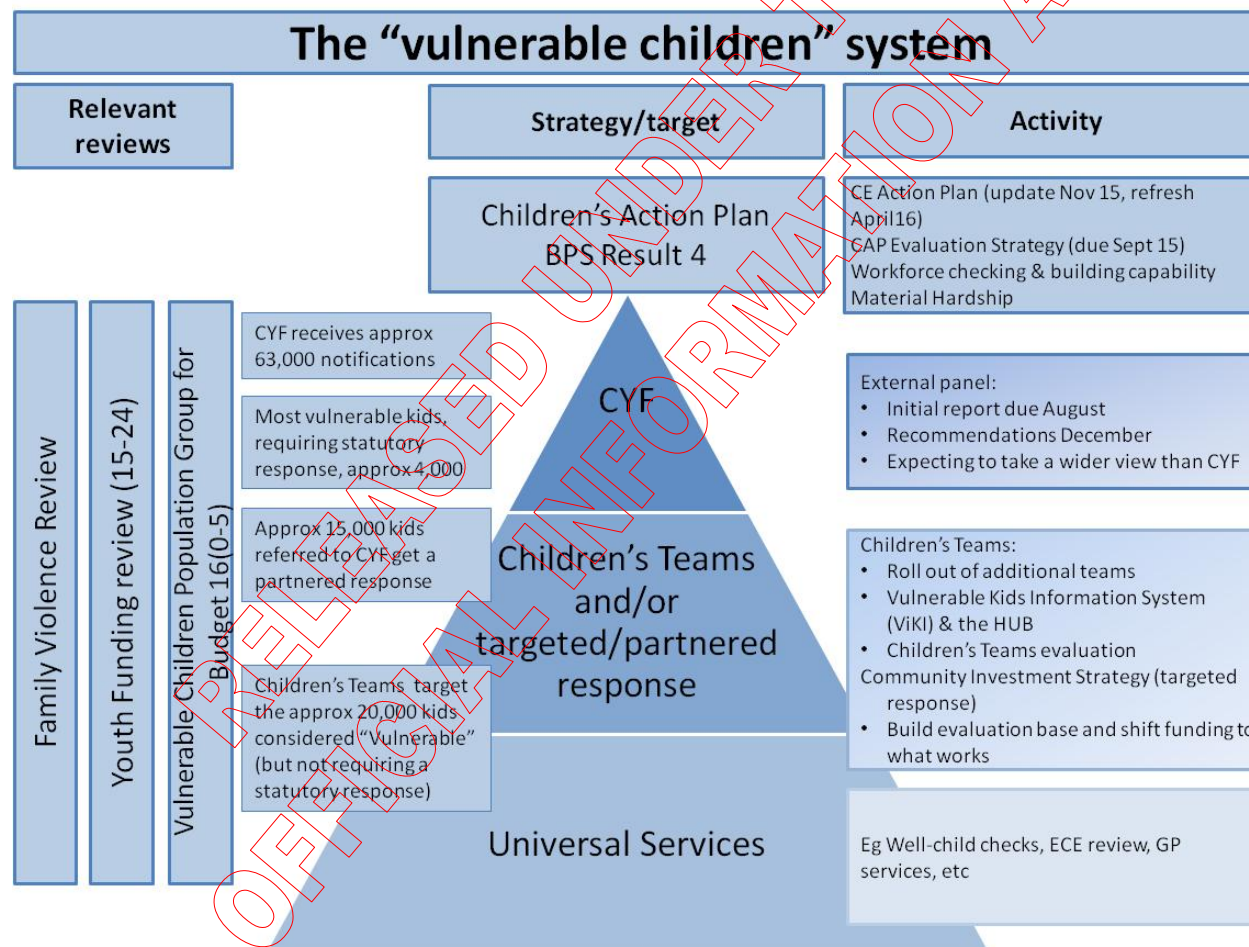
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		<p>than an integrated part of agency delivery.</p> <p>The demand for increased pace is also likely to undercut local buy-in, as the Directorate moves towards a more centrally driven approach to expedite progress.</p> <p>You may wish to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how are agencies' operating models changing to accommodate the Children's Team model?</li> <li>• how will CAP ensure local buy in from communities?</li> </ul>
5	Hamilton	Implementation of the Hamilton Children's Team is on track.
6	Vulnerable Kids Information System	<p>The wider ViKI programme is considered high risk because of the intent to link agency systems and data. To mitigate this, Cabinet approved taking a phased approach, and agreed funding ViKI Phase 1 as a low risk pilot to be trialled in one site (Hamilton).</p> <p>Minister Tolley is proposing to extend the ViKI system to two additional teams, Christchurch and South Auckland.</p> <p>Treasury's view is that as this is a significant change to what was approved by Cabinet, any decisions about rolling ViKI out beyond Hamilton should go back to Cabinet to ensure that there is appropriate consideration of the risks and potential impacts (including financial) of the proposal. Extending the service can be expected to put pressure on change management, communications, training &amp; user support.</p> <p>Taking into account the additional risks that the proposed extension attracts, Treasury and GCIO have also recommended that CAP undertakes an independent quality assurance (IQA) review on ViKI prior to its installation in September, as best practice.</p> <p>You may wish to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how can funding provided for a pilot in a single site be stretched to accommodate two additional sites?</li> <li>• what effect will this have on timeframes for delivering the Phase 2 Business case?</li> </ul>
7	CAP Budget	Treasury considers that any additional funding for CAP – and any further expansion of the model – should be contingent on being able to demonstrate the positive impact of CAP and the Children's Teams model (or at least having a plan to be able to do so). Additionally, any funding should be considered within the wider context of funding for the Vulnerable Children's system, including any baseline gaps in CYF.
8	Agency Initiatives: CAP and Corrections	You may wish to ask given the pressure on CAP directorate capacity due to pace children's teams rollout, is it the right time to start a new initiative?

**Kosal Kong**, Senior Analyst, Labour Market & Welfare, 04 917 6308  
**David Mackay**, Manager, Labour Market & Welfare, 04 917 6014

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Appendix one: the system of support for Vulnerable Children



Note, numbers are intended to be illustrative of scale.

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**Treasury Report:** Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee –  
Wednesday, 23 September 2015

<b>Date:</b>	18 September 2015	<b>Report No:</b>	T2015/2206
		<b>File Number:</b>	MS-9-1

**Action Sought**

	<b>Action Sought</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English)	Read prior to SOC meeting	9.30am, Wednesday, 23 September 2015
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Steven Joyce)	Read prior to SOC meeting	9.30am, Wednesday, 23 September 2015
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Paula Bennett)	Read prior to SOC meeting	9.30am, Wednesday, 23 September 2015

**Contact for Telephone Discussion** (if required)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>1st Contact</b>
s9(2)(g)(i)		s9(2)(a)	✓
Cheryl Barnes	Director, Budget & Public Services	04 890 7442 (wk)	s9(2)(a)

**Actions for the Minister's Office Staff** (if required)

Return the signed report to Treasury.

**Enclosure:** No



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**Treasury Report:** Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee –  
Wednesday, 23 September 2015

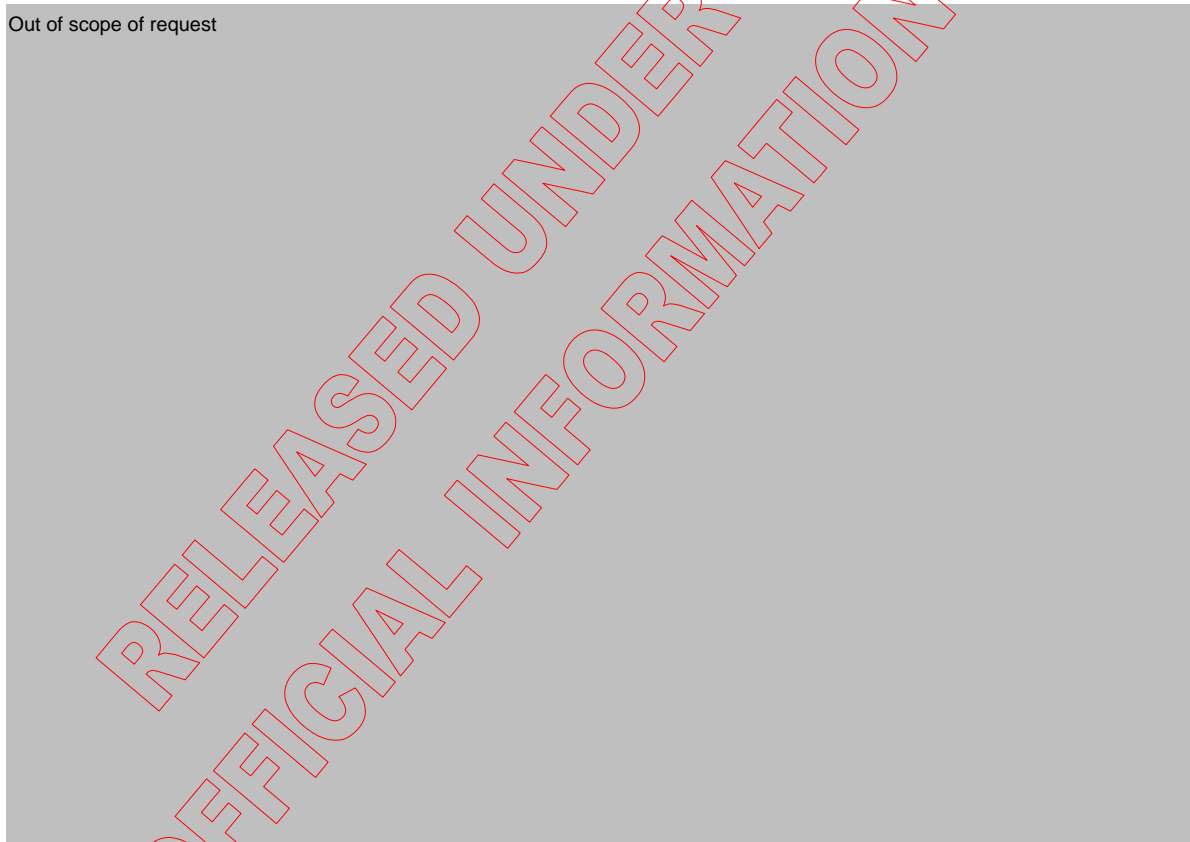
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**Executive Summary**

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We are currently aware of three items on the Cabinet Social Policy Committee agenda for Wednesday 23 September 2015. The table below identifies any relevant fiscal impacts and / or provides Treasury's comments / recommendations on two of these. The remaining paper which we are aware of, for which Treasury has no briefing or comment, is listed below the table for completeness.

Out of scope of request



- Out of scope of request
- 



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**Recommended Action**

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We recommend that you **read** this report prior to the Cabinet Social Policy Committee meeting at 9.30am on Wednesday, 23 September 2015.

Cheryl Barnes  
**Director, Budget & Public Services**

Hon Bill English  
**Minister of Finance**

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**Better Public Services: Reducing Assaults on Children – Update and Next Steps**

**Responsible Person:** David Mackay, Manager, Labour Market & Welfare – 917 6014

**First Contact Person:** Kosal Kong, Senior Analyst, Labour Market & Welfare – 917 6308

**Purpose**

1. This paper provides an update on BPS Result 4, and proposes next steps around the process for bringing together the range of work currently underway across the social sector focused on vulnerable children. There are no actions required as a result of this paper.

**Comment**

2. The report notes that since the BPS 4 target was set, there has been a flattening out of the forecast numbers of children expected to experience substantiated physical abuse. The report notes substantiated physical abuse numbers are driven by both the underlying level of abuse in society and how the care and protection system responds, and the change in trend may be due to a combination of factors, such as changes in social work practice.
3. The report notes that key pieces of work on focused on vulnerable children (eg CYF Expert Panel report, Children's Action Plan refresh, 0-5s B16 population focus) will be brought together into a dedicated plan to address BPS 4, which Minister Tolley intends to bring to Cabinet in December 2015.
4. Treasury considers that this plan, and the CEs plan for Vulnerable Children (due April 2016), will be critical for demonstrating and driving a cross-agency approach to supporting vulnerable children. Treasury's view is that there is merit in considering any Budget 16 implications arising from these separate strands of work as a package, to ensure any interdependencies are worked through.

**Treasury Recommendation**

5. We recommend that you **support** the recommendations in this paper.

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**Treasury Report:** Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee –  
Wednesday 2 December 2015

<b>Date:</b>	27 November 2015	<b>Report No:</b>	T2015/2821
		<b>File Number:</b>	MS-5-2-SOC

**Action Sought**

	<b>Action Sought</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Minister of Finance (Hon Bill English)	Read prior to SOC meeting	9.30am, Wednesday, 2 December 2015
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Steven Joyce)	Read prior to SOC meeting	9.30am, Wednesday, 2 December 2015
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Paula Bennett)	Read prior to SOC meeting	9.30am, Wednesday, 2 December 2015

**Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>1st Contact</b>
s9(2)(g)(i)		s9(2)(a)	✓
Cheryl Barnes	Director, Budget & Public Services	04 890 7442 (wk)	s9(2)(a)

**Actions for the Minister's Office Staff (if required)**

Return the signed report to Treasury.

Note any feedback on the quality of the report

**Enclosure:** No

## IN-CONFIDENCE

**Treasury Report:** Briefing for Cabinet Social Policy Committee –  
Wednesday, 2 December 2015**Executive Summary**

We are currently aware of sixteen items on the Cabinet Social Policy Committee agenda for Wednesday 2 December 2015. The table below identifies any relevant fiscal impacts and / or provides Treasury's comments / recommendations on twelve of these. The remaining four papers which we are aware of, for which Treasury has no briefing or comment, are listed below the table for completeness.

Title	Pg	Recommend	Fiscal Implications (\$m GST excl.)					Treasury Comment
			15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	Out years	
Out of scope of request								

**IN-CONFIDENCE**

- Out of scope of request

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### **Recommended Action**

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We recommend that you read this report prior to the Cabinet Social Policy Committee meeting at 9.30am on Wednesday, 2 December 2015.

Cheryl Barnes  
**Director, Budget & Public Services**

Hon Bill English  
**Minister of Finance**

Pages 5 - 7 out of scope

**IN-CONFIDENCE**

**Children's Action Plan: Evaluation of the Children's Teams**

**Responsible Person:** David Mackay, Manager, Labour Market and Welfare, 917 6014

**First Contact Person:** Kosal Kong, Senior Analyst, Labour Market and Welfare, 917 6308

**Purpose**

1. This paper provides asks Cabinet to agree:
  - in principle to an evaluation approach for the Children's Teams model, which aims to demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of the model
  - to extend the Vulnerable Kids Information System (ViKI) pilot, currently underway in the Hamilton Children's Team, to two additional sites (Christchurch and Counties Manakau).

**Comment**

2. Treasury considers the key next step for CAP and the Children's Teams is to move beyond reporting on activity and begin reporting on impacts, particularly demonstrating how the Teams are stemming the flow onto CYF and reducing levels of vulnerability generally. The paper notes the future ambition for data captured in ViKI to be able to feed into the IDI, which contains much of the linked up administrative data mentioned for use in the evaluation. Treasury notes the plan for evaluating children's actions teams makes no mention of the IDI.
3. Treasury supports robust evaluation of the Children's Teams and considers building the evidence base for the effectiveness of the Children's Teams approach is critical for informing decisions around further funding or expanding Children's Teams. As such, we would prioritise evaluation of the Children's Teams ahead of any expansion of the model.
4. Treasury notes that this paper seeks Cabinet's agreement to expand the ViKI pilot to two additional sites, beyond what was approved in the original single stage business case. Treasury notes the extension of the ViKI pilot will be funded from within the CAP baselines, but it is not clear what will be reprioritised to fund the pilot in the 16/17 year, and what the impact of this reprioritisation will be on the CAP baseline. Outyear funding for the continuation of ViKI beyond the Pilot stage will be considered as part of the Programme Business Case.
5. Treasury considers evaluation of ViKI Phase 1 is critical to inform the Programme Business Case, with particular focus on whether ViKI is delivering the data and reporting required to improve the practice of Children's Teams and demonstrate their impact. Treasury considers that any further expansion of ViKI (whether this is roll out to additional teams of the pilot product, or building additional functionality) must be subject to the approval of the Programme Business Case by Cabinet, to ensure links between the development of ViKI and broader data and social investment activity across the social sector.
6. There are no direct financial implications arising from this paper. The paper signals that there are additional costs associated with undertaking the full suite of evaluative activity proposed (\$0.9m), but that these will be considered by the Vulnerable Children's Board alongside any other financial implications from the CAP work programme, and considered as part of Budget 2016.

**IN-CONFIDENCE**

**Treasury Recommendation**

7. We recommend that you **support** the recommendations in this paper.

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Pages 10 - 16 out of scope