

New Zealand's vulnerable children

- Abuse physical, sexual, emotional.
- Chronic neglect and inter-generational issues.
- 60,000 notifications to CYF per year. 6/10 notifications are for children already known.
- Re-victimisation and abuse while in care.
- 2/10 children who return home are reabused.
- Children who experience CYF intervention have dramatically worse outcomes as young adults than the rest of the population.



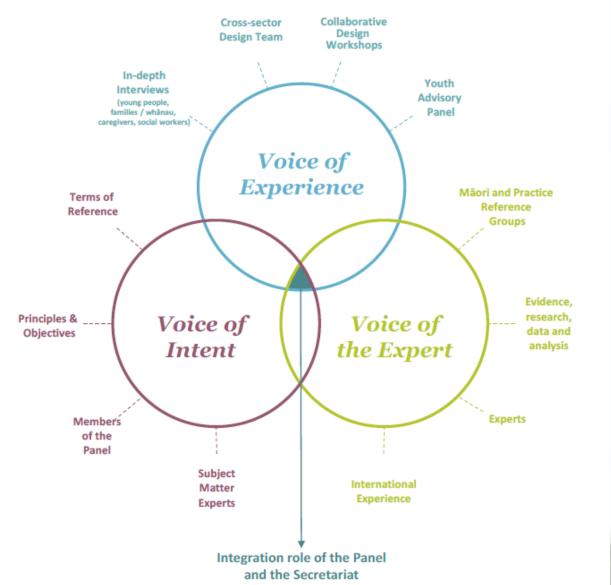
The current system settings are clearly not delivering the outcomes we need

- Low aspirations for children in care.
- System is fragmented, lacks clear accountability.
- System doesn't place child at centre.
- Not focused on helping families and whānau to care for their Children.
- Lack of alignment across health, education, care.
- Culturally appropriate models not in place.





Methodology



The voice of the child

Nurture and love

Help to make sense of what has happened

A say in what happens next

Connection to their birth family

A sense of identity and belonging



The voice of families

Birth families: connection despite circumstance

Whānau: extended connection and care

Caregivers: caring through challenges

Staff: social workers' perspectives



The voice of intent

Opportunities all kiwi kids should have:

A family who love and support them

A positive vision for their future

Space to be a child

To grow into flourishing adults

Good parents

Strong and resilient

Financially stable

Health and wellbeing



The voice of expertise

International experts

Child development paradigms

Trauma informed practice

Who Cares? Scotland experiences

Expert presentations from across sectors

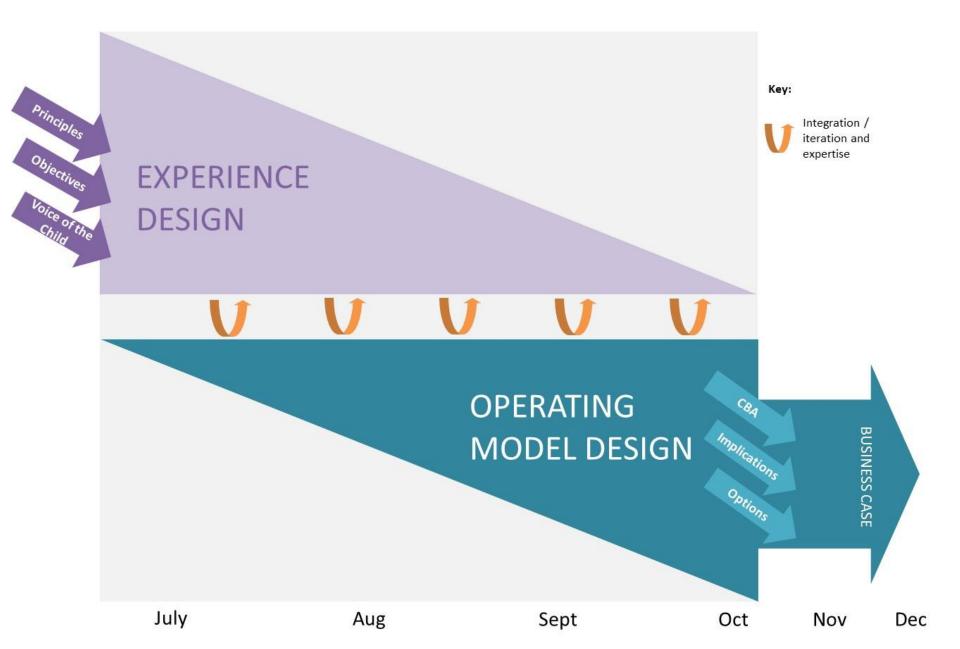
Research and academic papers

Policy frameworks

Data and analysis of the current state



From experience design to operating model design



Bold changes

- A single clear point of accountability and a common purpose – loving and stable families
- A child-centred system
- Focus on high aspirations for Maori children
- Adopting a formal social investment approach.
- Redesign of five core services to deliver a child centred experience
- Professional practice framework.
- Broaden caregiver pool and caregiver support.
- Youth advocacy service.
- Funding follows the child, including the direct purchase of services.
- Strategic partnering
- Engaging all New Zealanders



Lessons learnt

- Building a high performance team
- Working with the Expert Advisory Panel
- Cross-agency collaboration
- Personal journey







What can we do?

Know what care means.

Support children in your care to heal, recover and thrive.

Contribute through a full range of parenting dimensions.

Act to support vulnerable children and young people in your daily life.

Provide access to safe, loving and stable families where you can.

Champion the role of children, young people and families.

Demand media that delivers informed, positive news articles about care.

Often kids who need love the most ask for it in the most unloving ways



