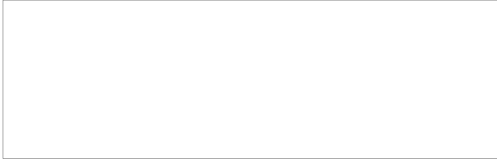




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

18 OCT 2016



Dear 

On 6 September 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A copy of Child, Youth, and Family Key Statistics: 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 sent to the Minister's office.*
- *Copies of all correspondence since January 2015 to Police National Headquarters (and received from Police National Headquarters) on the increase in police family violence referrals.*
- *Copies of all correspondence since January 2015 to Police National Headquarters (and received from Police National Headquarters) on the decrease of police family violence reports of concern.*
- *What results did the Hon Anne Tolley receive on Te Tai Tokerau that lead to her note them on the briefing Child Youth and Family key statistics: 1 July to 30 September 2015 that she received on 8 March 2016? Please provide all copies of results/documents that she received in relation to this.*

I am advised that the last part of your request was transferred to Minister Tolley for her response; her response will be with you at her earliest opportunity.

Enclosed is a copy of the report titled '*Child Youth and Family Key Statistics: 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016*', dated 25 August 2016. This report is provided to Hon Anne Tolley, Minister for Social Development, with Child, Youth and Family's official data for the 2016 fiscal year. The report compares the data to the previous fiscal year. You will be aware that the Ministry publishes this information on the Child, Youth and Family website each quarter and is available at: <http://www.cyf.govt.nz/about-us/key-statistics/>

Your request for copies of all correspondence between New Zealand Police and the Ministry regarding the increase and/or decrease of family violence referrals since January 2015, is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information does not exist. The Ministry has not corresponded with the New Zealand Police to discuss the increase and/or decrease of family violence referrals.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and attached documents available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Murray Edridge
Deputy Chief Executive, Child Youth and Family

Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Date: 25 August 2016

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Anne Tolley, Minister for Social Development

Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics: 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics report provides Child, Youth and Family's official data for the 2016 fiscal year (1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016). This report compares this data to the 2015 fiscal year.
- 2 The regional data attached to this report provides the same information broken down by the Child, Youth and Family regions and operational areas.

Executive Summary

- 3 Compared to the last financial year, the volumes of reports of concern requiring further action and of investigations and assessments completed have decreased slightly while total findings are unchanged. At the same time, the number of family group conferences, entries to care, and children in the custody of the Chief Executive and in out-of-home placements has increased. This suggests that we are not intervening unnecessarily as the focus at intake is on working only with families that need statutory care and protection services.
- 4 We anticipate that the number of children and young people involved in family group conferences and the number of family group conferences held will continue to increase due to legislative changes that came into effect on 1 July 2016.
- 5 There has been a significant increase in entries to care compared to the 2015 fiscal year. Children and young people come into our care as a last resort, mainly when they are not safe at home, have been harmed or are in danger of harm in their own family. The increase in children and young people entering care suggests we are working with more families who have serious and complex needs. We are closely monitoring this increase.
- 6 The increase in the number of children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive and in out-of-home placements is a result of more children and young people entering and less exiting care. Any increase in out-of-home placements has significant fiscal implications as they account for two thirds of expenditure in the care and protection system.

Statistics on total children and young people

- 7 Compared to the 2015 fiscal year, the 2016 fiscal year (1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016) shows that the total children and young people:
 - 7.1 with notifications decreased six percent (down 8,656), reflecting decreases in family violence referrals (down 9,013, or 13 percent).
 - 7.2 with reports of concern remained stable (up 357).
 - 7.3 with reports of concern that required further action decreased two percent (down 774).
 - 7.4 involved in completed investigations decreased three percent (down 1,422), reflecting a one percent decrease (down 117) in joint investigations with Police, and a four percent decrease (down 1,305) in Child and Family Assessments.
 - 7.5 with total substantiated findings of emotional abuse and neglect both increased, up two and one percent respectively.
 - 7.6 with total substantiated findings of sexual and physical abuse decreased, down eight and five percent respectively.
 - 7.7 involved in Care and Protection Family Group Conferences increased three percent (up 250).
 - 7.8 involved in informal family/whānau agreements decreased 15 percent (down 393).
 - 7.9 entering care increased 20 percent (up 346), while those exiting from care decreased four percent (down 69).

Statistics on distinct children and young people

- 8 Compared to the 2015 fiscal year, the 2016 fiscal year (1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016) shows distinct children and young people:
 - 8.1 with reports of concern increased one percent (up 892).
 - 8.2 with reports of concern requiring further action remained stable (down 130).
 - 8.3 involved in completed investigations decreased two percent (down 822). This was driven by a decrease in the number involved in Child and Family Assessments (down 820 or three percent), while the number involved in joint investigations with Police remained stable (down two).
 - 8.4 with substantiated findings of abuse or neglect decreased two percent (down 235), reflecting decreases in sexual abuse and physical abuse (down eight and five percent respectively).
 - 8.5 with substantiated findings of emotional abuse increased two percent (up 141)
 - 8.6 involved in Family Group Conferences increased two percent (up 88).
 - 8.7 involved in informal family/whānau agreements decreased 16 percent (down 383).
 - 8.8 entering care increased 19 percent (up 323).
 - 8.9 exiting care decreased four percent (down 65).
- 9 Compared to 30 June 2015, as at 30 June 2016 the number of children and young people in custody of the Chief Executive and in out-of-home placements both increased six percent (up 286 and 231 respectively).

Future quarterly reporting

- 10 The data contained in this report, plus breakdowns by region, site, and the demographics of age and ethnicity, will be available on Child, Youth and Family's website in early-September 2016. Data for previous fiscal years will also be available on the website.
- 11 The next Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics report will provide data for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016. It is due late-November 2016.

Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

1. note the attached Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics report for 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 and the regional data attached to this report
NOTED
2. note that the end of the 2016 fiscal year results suggest that the focus at intake is to ensure we are working only with families that need statutory intervention
NOTED
3. note that the increase in the number of children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive is a result of more children and young people entering and less exiting care which suggests we are working with more families with serious and complex needs
NOTED
4. note that the data for 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 will be released on the Child, Youth and Family website early-September 2016
NOTED
5. note that the next Child, Youth and Family Key Statistics report (1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016) is due late-November 2016
NOTED
6. agree to send a copy of the report to the Associate Minister for Social Development
AGREE / DISAGREE



Rob Hodgson
General Manager
Insights MSD

22/8/16

Date



Murray Edridge
Deputy Chief Executive
Child, Youth and Family

24/08/2016

Date

Hon Anne Tolley
Minister for Social Development

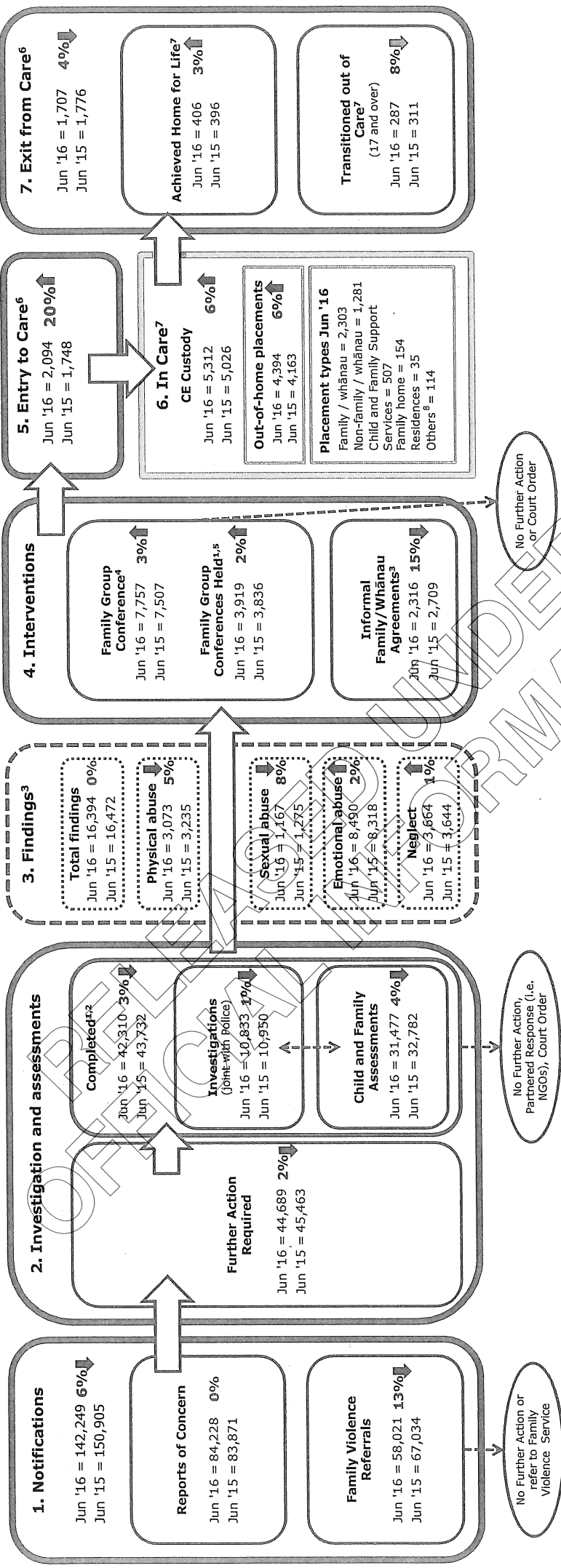
Date

Care and Protection – Total Children and Young People

July 2015 to June 2016 (Jun '16)

Jul '15 – Jun '16
(year-to-date)

As at end of Jun '16
(snapshot)



Commentary

The above illustrates the movement of total children and young people through care and protection services for the 2016 fiscal year (1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016), and compares it to the data for the 2015 fiscal year. For total children and young people there was:

- a decrease in notifications received (down 6%), driven by a decrease in family violence referrals (down 13%)
- a decrease in the number of completed investigations and assessments (down 3%), in line with the decrease in the number of reports of concern requiring further action (down 2%)
- a decrease in the number of Child and Family Assessments (down 4%), they however continue to be around 74% of completed investigations
- little change in total substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. The change in the type of findings is divided, with increases in findings of emotional abuse and neglect (up 2% and 1% respectively), while substantiated physical and sexual abuse are both decreasing (down 5% and 8% respectively)
- an increase in the number involved in a family group conference (up 3%), which is also reflected by the increase in the number of family group conferences held (up 2%)
- a decrease in informal family/whānau agreements signed (down 15%)
- an increase in the number entering care (up 346 or 20%), and a decrease in the number of exits from care (down 69 or 4%), which has resulted in an increase in the number of children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive (up 231 or 6%). Out-of-home placements account for two-thirds of expenditure in the care and protection system, so any increase has fiscal implications.

Compared to the last financial year, the volumes of reports of concern requiring further action and of investigations and assessments completed have decreased slightly, while total substantiated findings of abuse and neglect are unchanged. At the same time, the number of family group conferences, entries to care, and children in the custody of the Chief Executive and in out-of-home placements has increased. This suggests that we are not intervening unnecessarily as the focus at intake is on working only with families that need statutory care and protection services. There has been a significant increase in entries to care compared to the 2015 fiscal year. Children and young people come into our care as a last resort, mainly when they are not safe at home, have been harmed or are in danger of harm in their own family. The increase in children and young people entering care suggests we are working with more families who have serious and complex needs. We are closely monitoring this increase.

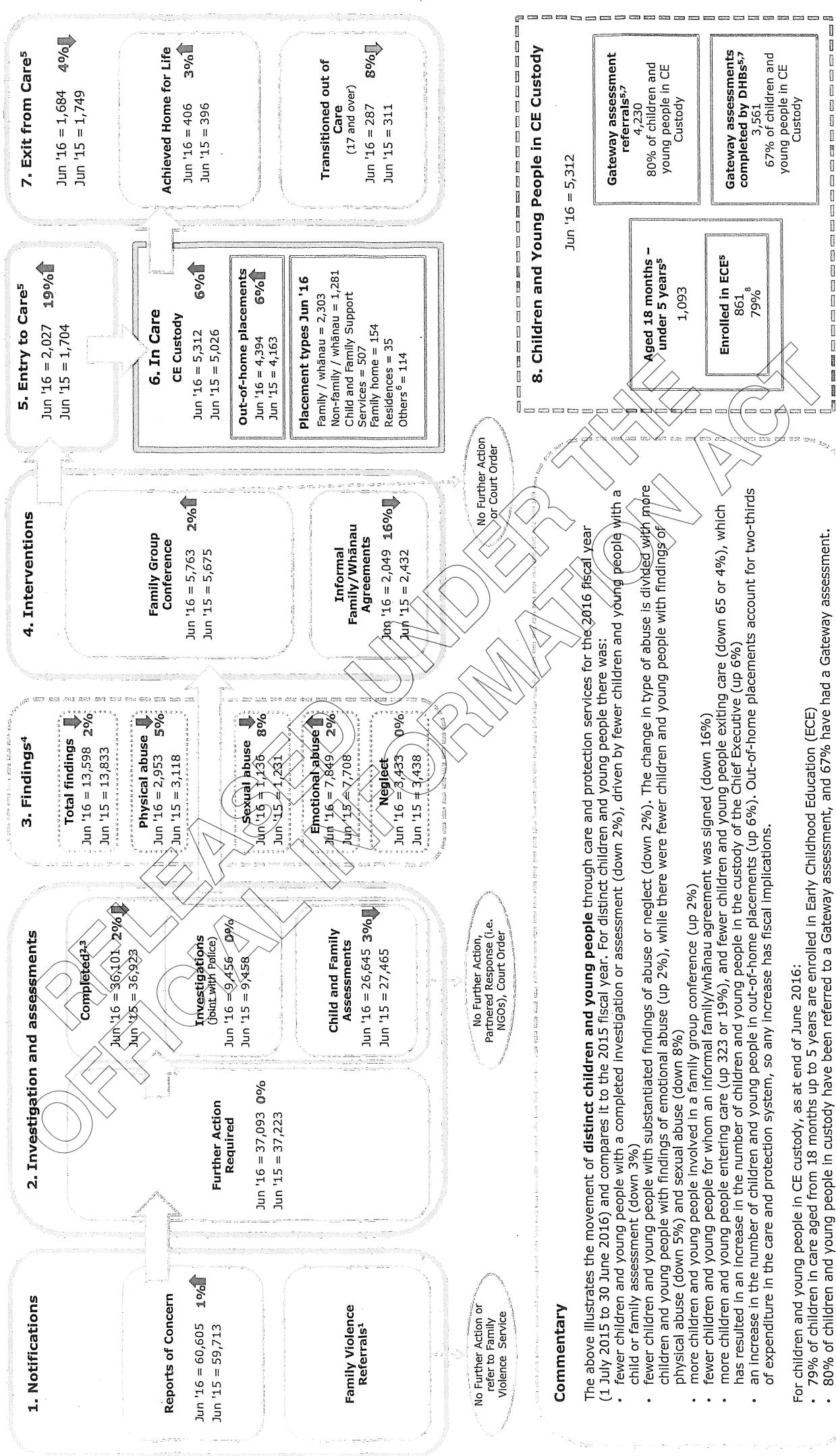
1. Numbers for Jun '15 differ to those previously released due to improvements in the reporting process. 2. A child or young person may have one or more investigations or assessments in the period. 3. A child or young person may have one or more findings as a result of an investigation or assessment. 4. A child or young person may be involved in one or more interventions. 5. Each FGC may include one or more children or young people. 6. Based on operational data and is subject to change. 7. This measures distinct children and young people. 8. Includes boarding schools and therapeutic residential services.



Care and Protection – Distinct Children and Young People July 2015 to June 2016 (Jun '16)

Jul '15 – Jun '16
(year-to-date)

As at end of Jun '16
(snapshot)



Commentary

The above illustrates the movement of **distinct children and young people** through care and protection services for the 2016 fiscal year (1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016) and compares it to the 2015 fiscal year. For distinct children and young people there was:

- fewer children and young people with a completed investigation or assessment (down 2%), driven by fewer children and young people with a child or family assessment (down 3%)
- fewer children and young people with substantiated findings of abuse or neglect (down 2%). The change in type of abuse is divided with more physical abuse (down 5%) and sexual abuse (down 8%)
- more children and young people involved in a family group conference (up 2%)
- fewer children and young people for whom an informal family/whānau agreement was signed (down 16%)
- more children and young people entering care (up 323 or 19%), and fewer children and young people exiting care (down 65 or 4%), which has resulted in an increase in the number of children and young people in the custody of the Chief Executive (up 6%)
- an increase in the number of children and young people in out-of-home placements (up 6%). Out-of-home placements account for two-thirds of expenditure in the care and protection system, so any increase has fiscal implications.

For children and young people in CE custody, as at end of June 2016:

- 79% of children in care aged from 18 months up to 5 years are enrolled in Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- 80% of children and young people in custody have been referred to a Gateway assessment, and 67% have had a Gateway assessment.