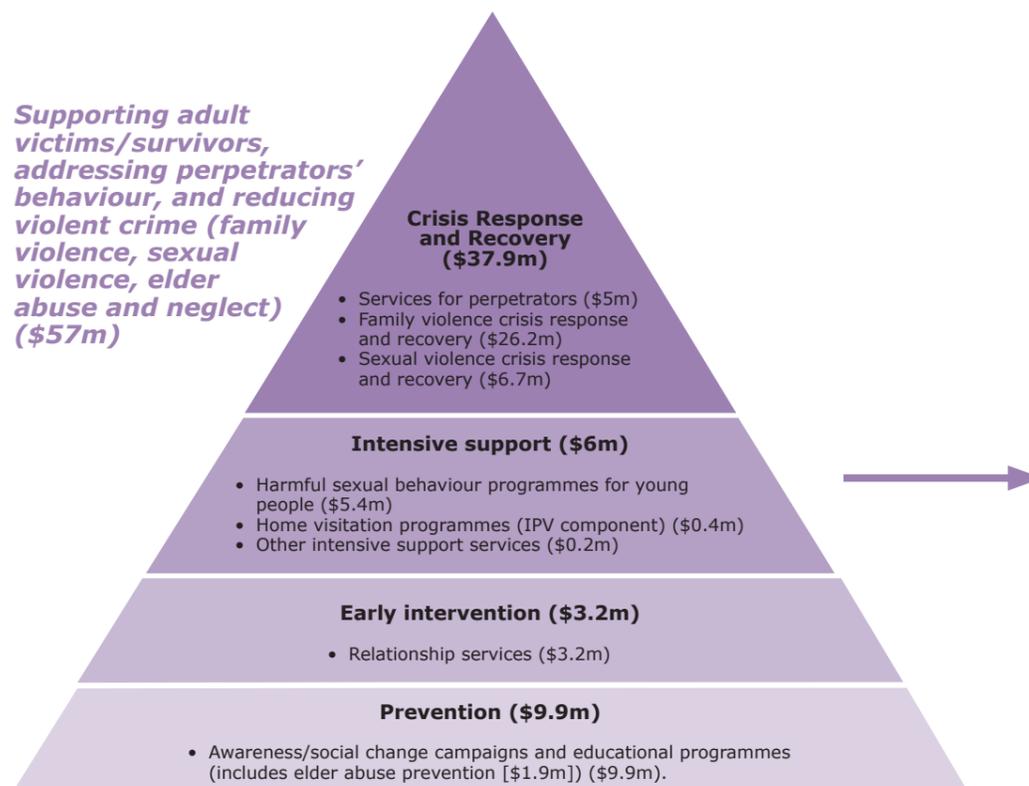
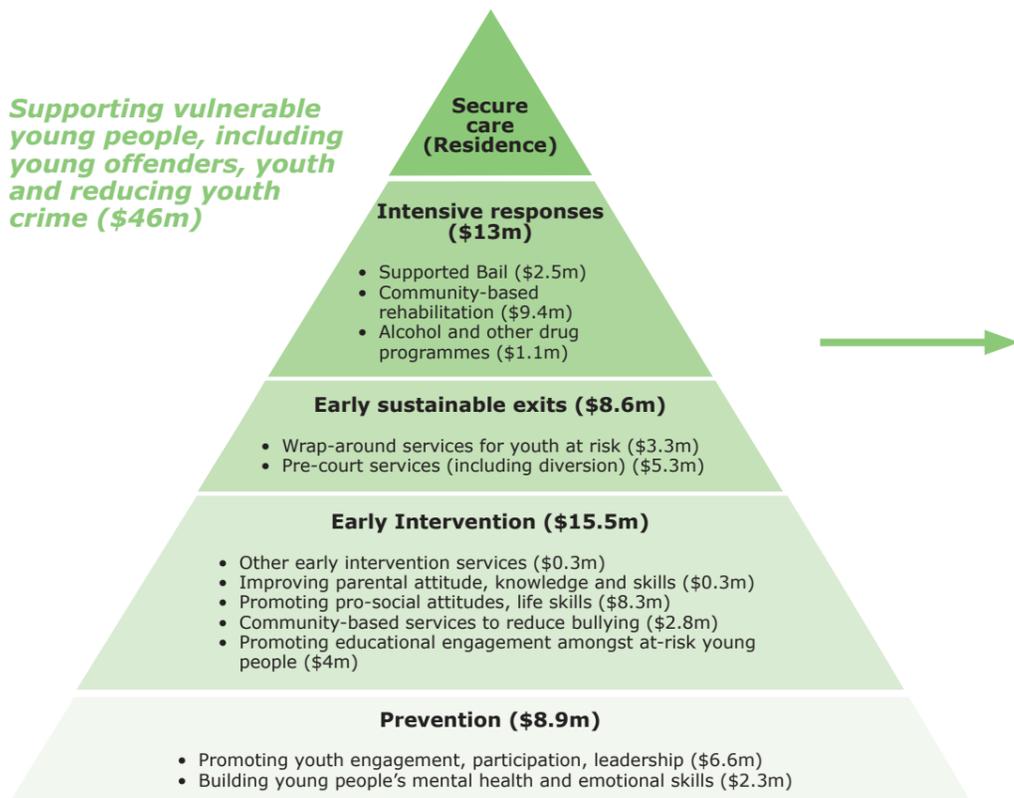
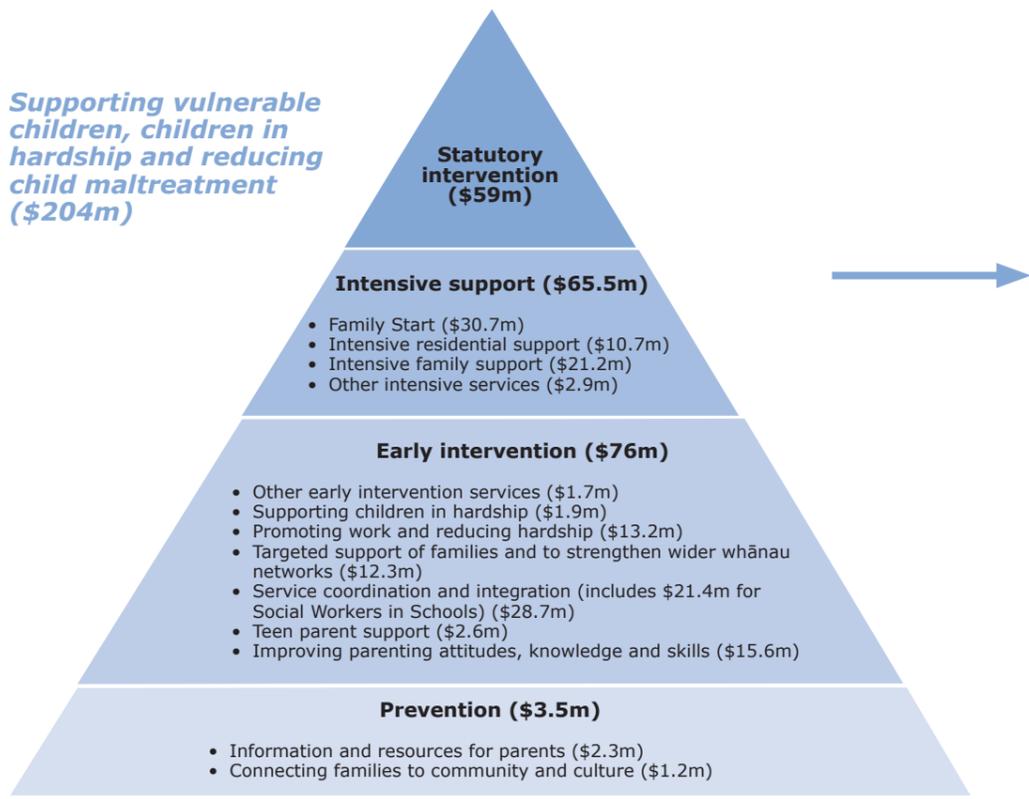


Community Investment Strategy

Direction of travel

Where we are now (2014/15); and where we are headed



Statutory intervention services will be considered from 2016/17.

There will be no significant change in purchased services for Child Youth and Family (CYF) until the Ministerial review of CYF is concluded.

Intensive support services, particularly through Children's Teams, is the priority.

The White Paper for Vulnerable Children and the Children's Action Plan set out the Government's broad direction to protect vulnerable children. At the heart of these reforms are Children's Teams, an inter-agency response targeted at children at risk of abuse or neglect who do not quite meet the criteria for CYF intervention. We are looking at Family Start, Social Workers in Schools (SWiS) and Strengthening Families as options to provide support to Children's Teams.

Overtime we will move to resources to enable CYF to focus more strongly on its core statutory role of high quality support for those most at risk. To achieve this, sufficient services below the statutory threshold to support children and families in need of intensive support is required.

Early intervention services are the focus of review.

A number of reviews are underway to ensure early intervention services are appropriately targeted, coordinated and providing the most effective response. This includes a review of parenting programmes, alignment of support for teen parents and their children, and policy and research work on social supports in schools.

Prevention services will not change significantly in the short term.

The prevention programmes we fund are predominantly information services. An initial evaluation of SKIP concluded it was integral to the Government's prevention approach to child maltreatment.

Supporting children in hardship is a continuing priority for the Government.

There are a range of priorities for investing in young people.

Priorities are increasing support for young people to engage in education, earlier intervention for young people who offend (e.g. in the pre-family group conference stage), and intensive community support services, rather than residential youth justice services.

Priorities in prevention services (especially those funded by the Ministry of Youth Development) include supporting young people to develop skills, increase self-esteem and resilience, engage and achieve in education and positively contribute to their communities.

Social Sector Trials have delivered positive change for children and young people in particular and will be continued for another 12 months.

An emerging priority is addressing the intergenerational impacts of association with gangs.

Key services will be reviewed to ensure they are effective and are achieving the desired results for young people.

This could include additional monitoring and evaluation of:

- supports provided in schools through the Multi Agency Social Services in Secondary Schools (MASSISS) and Youth Workers in Schools (YWiS) programmes
- the use and effectiveness of some Fresh Start programmes.

Modernising CYF may look at intensive response services, but this has not yet been determined.

Minimal change will occur to family violence and sexual violence funding at this stage, as there is significant work underway to develop an integrated strategic direction for these services.

MSD is leading a whole-of-government investment approach to addressing these issues that aims to prevent and respond to family violence more effectively. This will include a review of client needs and service provision.

The direction of funding of sexual violence services is also under review.

In addition, a Select Committee Inquiry is underway into the funding of specialist sexual violence social services. The Select Committee is expected to report back on its findings in the near future.

Given this work, MSD's priority is to improve understanding of the effectiveness of family violence and sexual violence services currently being funded.