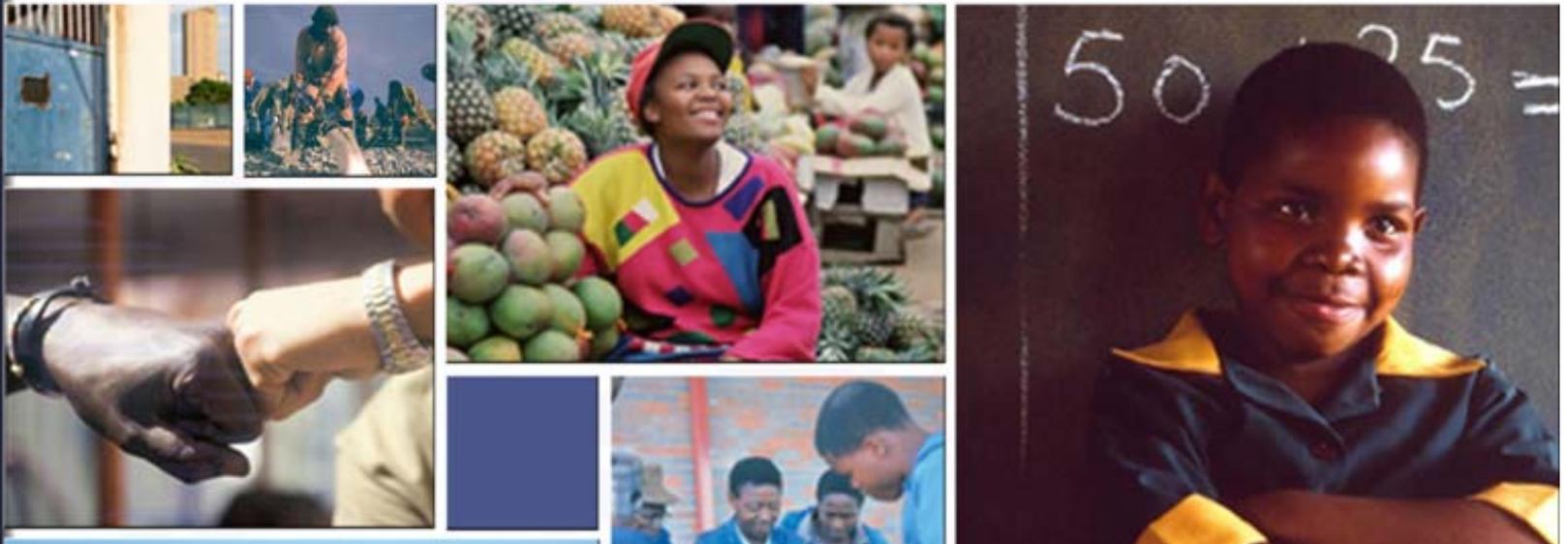


# How will we know the Children's Act is making a difference to the situation of children?

**A system for monitoring progress**  
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# Outline

- 1. The Children's Act: What do we have to monitor if we want to know whether or not it is making a difference?**
- 2. The role of indicators**
- 3. Developing a rights-based system to monitor the Act**
- 4. Indicators for tracking the Act**
- 5. Some examples**

## 1.1 Key Provisions of the Act

- **Partial Care (Ch 5)**
- **ECD (Ch 6)**
- **Child Protection (Ch 7)**
- **Prevention and Early Intervention (Ch 8)**
- **Children in Need of Care (Ch 9)**
- **Contribution Orders (Ch 10)**
- **Alternative Care (Ch 11)**
- **Foster Care (Ch 12)**
- **Child and Youth Care Centres (Ch 13)**
- **Drop-in Centres (Ch 14)**

## 1.2 What do we need to monitor?

### Monitoring Questions:

- Are the provisions of the Act being carried out by the relevant *duty bearers* (regulations, norms and standards that apply to the Act are being complied with);
- Is child well-being *improving* in areas that are addressed by the Act.

## 1.2 What do we need to monitor?

Child, Youth, Family and  
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**There are many things to monitor**

**Check the Act and Regulations for those that apply to your area of work**

**Some Examples**

## 1.3 E.G.: Provisions of the Act: ECD (Ch 6)

### Regulations, Norms and Standards:

- **The Child : Staff ratio must be: 1-18 months = 1:6; 18–36 months = 1:12; 3-4 years = 1:20;**
- **1.5 M<sup>2</sup> indoor play space per child;**
- **Applications for Registration must be decided by provincial government within 6 months of receipt (S 97.1);**
- **S 103: “The Minister may make regulations in terms of section 306 concerning the assessment and *compulsory monitoring* of early childhood development programmes”**

**Monitoring Questions: Is this the case?**

## **1.4 E.G.: Provisions of the Act: Child Protection (Ch 7)**

**S 104: Strategy concerning child protection:**

- **“(2) The MEC for social development must, within the national strategy ... provide for a provincial strategy aimed at a properly resourced, co-ordinated and managed child protection system”**

**Monitoring Questions: Is there a strategy?  
Is their provision for sufficient resources?**

## 1.3 E.G: Provisions of the Act: Child Protection (Ch 7)

**S113 a: The purpose of Part A of the Child Protection Register is stated as:**

- “(c) to use the information in the Register *in order to protect these children from further abuse or neglect;***
- (d) to *monitor cases and services* to such children;**
- (e) to share information between professionals that are part of the child protection team;**
- (f) to *determine patterns and trends of abuse* or deliberate neglect of children; and**
- (g) to use the information in the Register *for planning and budgetary purposes* to prevent the abuse and deliberate neglect of children and protect children on a national, provincial and municipal level.”**

**Monitoring Question: Is the Register working as specified?**

## **1.4 E.G: Provisions of the Act: Child Protection** **(Ch 7) Social Worker Case Loads**

- **IMC Young People at Risk Report (1996) stresses need for staffing norms for child protection workers;**
- **White Paper for Social Welfare (1997) states that Government must determine basic guidelines for norms and standards;**
- **The National Policy Framework for CAN (2004) recommends a Social Worker : Child caseload of 1:20 for acute active cases (investigation; court preparation; permanency planning);**
- **The DoSD Service Delivery Model (SDM) (2005) calls for norms to be established.**

**Despite the provisions of the Act, no case load norms are provided in the draft regulations.**

**Monitoring Question: What progress is being made in this regard?**

## **1.5 E.Gs.: Child well-being is improved in the areas addressed by the Act**

### **ECD Child outcomes:**

- **Increased *access* to ECD services by the target group (children in households that are eligible for subsidy);**
- **Improved *cognitive and language development* at age 5 in children attending Community ECD.**

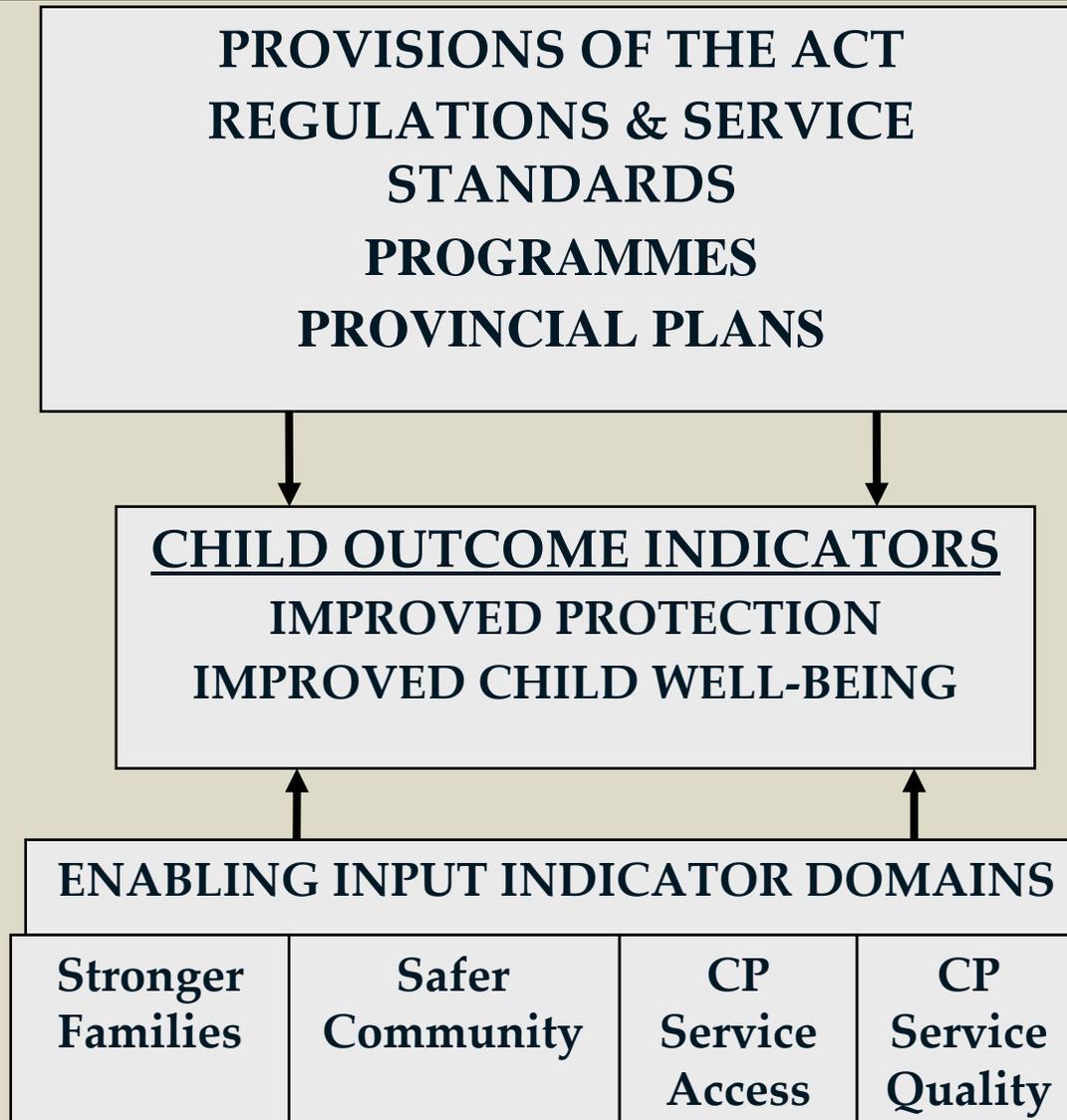
### **Child Protection outcomes:**

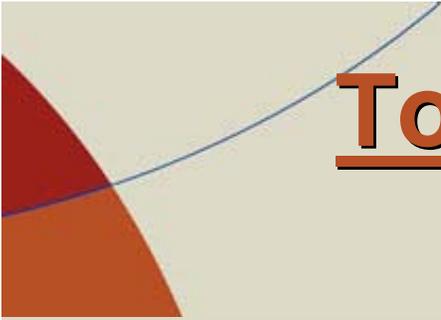
- ***Reduction* of % children in vulnerable families requiring statutory intervention for CAN;**
- ***Reduction* of HIV infection in children who have been raped.**



# A Rights-based Child Well-being Monitoring Framework

Child, Youth, Family and  
Social Development





# To monitor you need good indicators

Indicators provide information. They *point to something*: e.g. Children's risk of maltreatment.

Their primary purpose is:

- To provide decision-makers with *information* to influence policy development, programme implementation, resource allocation and services;
- To raise public *awareness* about people's needs and circumstances;
- To facilitate the *monitoring and evaluation* of social policies, services and programmes.

# Indicators

- Help us **compare** a phenomenon over time or place;
- Help us **understand**, what is happening as we implement a programme;
- Point to things that need to stay the same and those that may need to be **changed**.

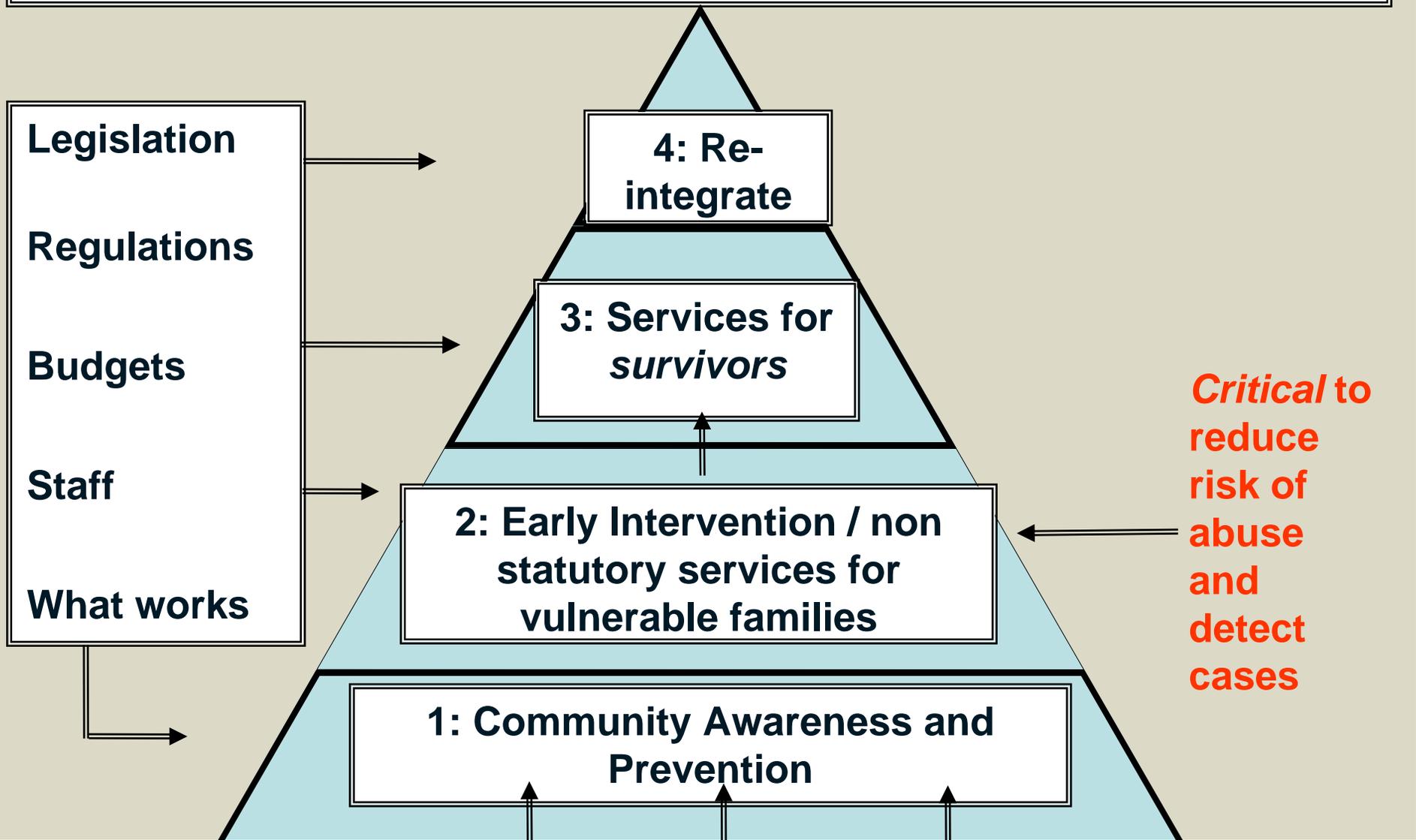
## E.G. Monitoring the Integrated Care and Protection Plan for Children in the Western Cape

*The Province claims it will:*

- generate good quality information;
- address the human and technical resource limitations;
- strengthen existing Provincial and District level support for local child protection services;
- improve the integration of child protective services to ensure holistic and inter-sectoral delivery (as laid out in the Protocol);
- progressively realise the Vision and Mission for child protection;
- ensure that the strategic objectives and outcomes for child protection are met;
- provide an integrated services system.

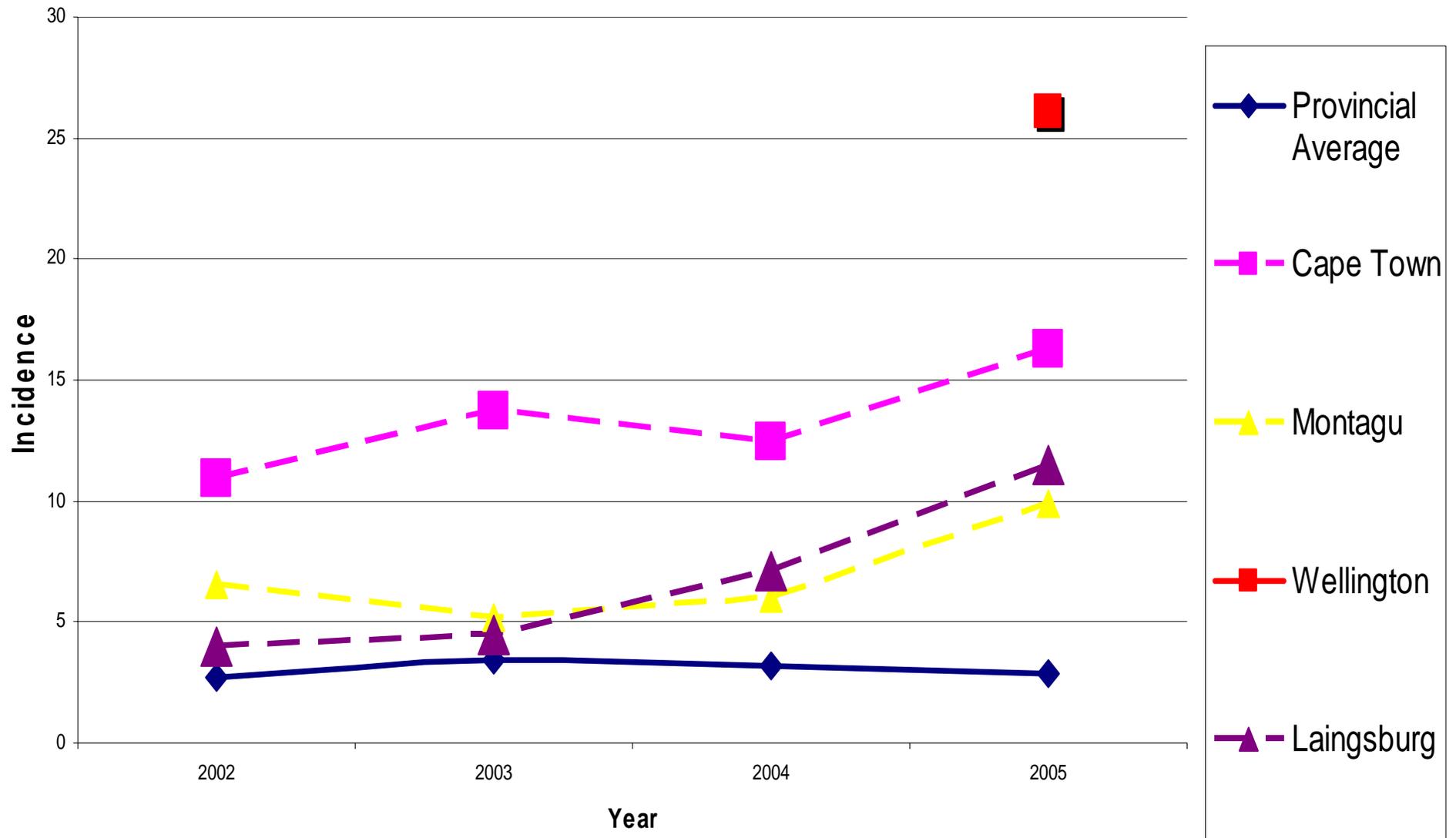
You can hold the Province to account by monitoring its delivery on these promises!

# Provincial Plan Levels of Intervention for Child Protection



***Educate; Advocate; Enforce Legislation; Child Rights Policies; Strengthen Families & Communities; improve social protection; Budget***

# E.G. Monitoring the effectiveness of the Plan: Incidence (per 1000) of Statutory matters in selected Magisterial Districts over time



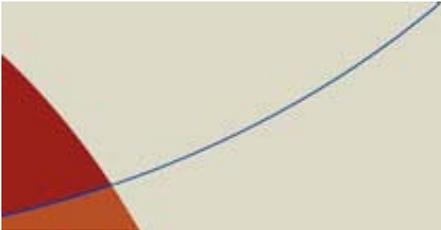
## How do we explain these patterns?

We need to get more detailed information about:

- what is being provided to deal with the problem (inputs);
- Whether the inputs are *enough* to cope with the scale of the problem;
- We need a way of describing a range of factors that affect the incidence of child maltreatment.

So we set up an indicator dashboard to assist us >>>>





# Into the Future

## **We track:**

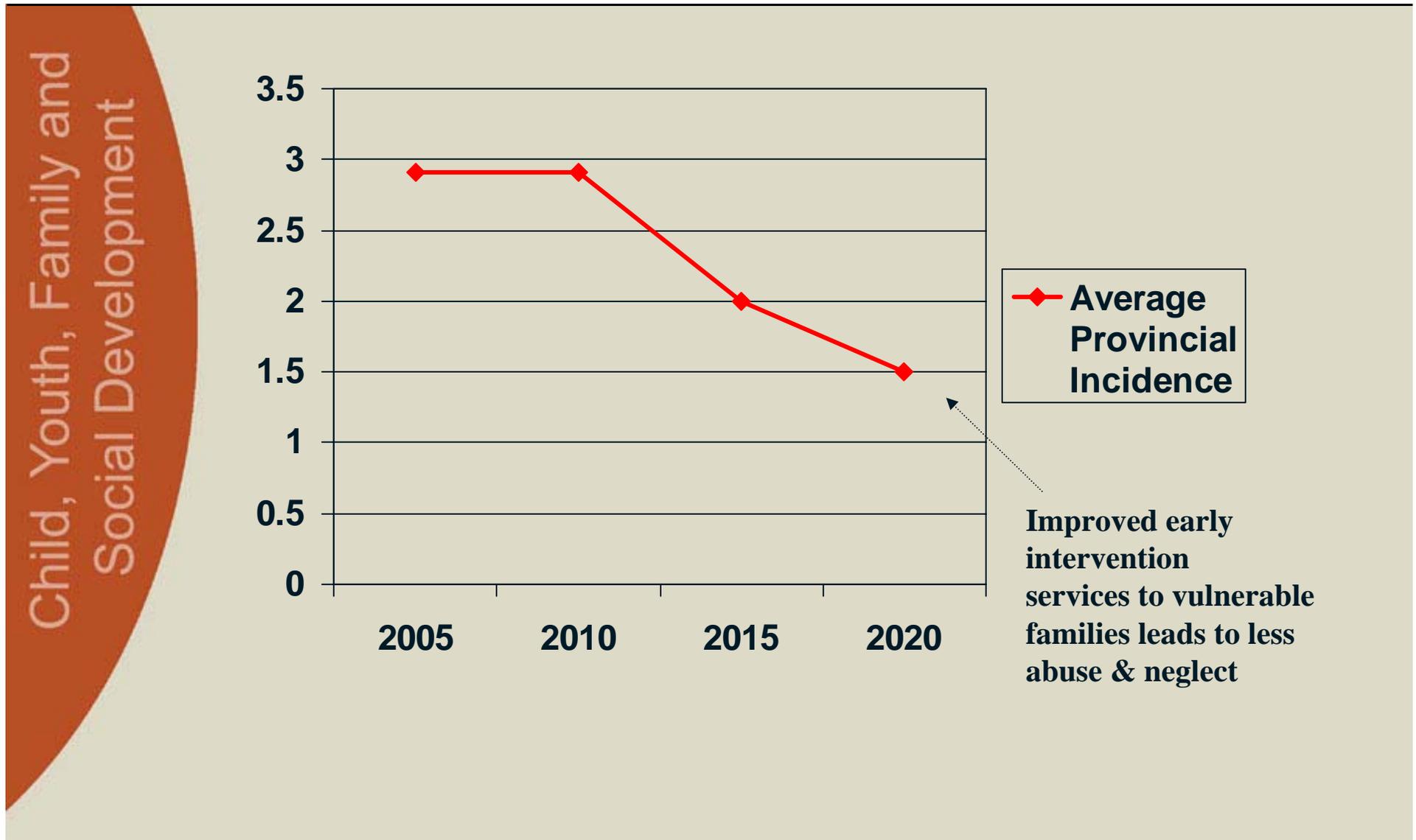
1. Are the draft Norms and Standards for the Act and the Regulations acceptable? Will they ensure service access and quality?
2. **Service Access:** Sexually abused children who have been raped receive Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV transmission within the prescribed period.
3. **Service Quality:** Social worker caseloads for early intervention and management of statutory matters are within the norm; Children's court reports meet the standard.
4. **Neighbourhood Outcomes:** Neighbourhood safety for children: incidence of violent assaults on children.
5. **Family Outcomes:** Substance abuse: incidence of substance abuse following social worker interventions.
6. **Child outcomes:** Incidence of intra-familial Physical Abuse in vulnerable families following social worker interventions.

# If the Act and the Protection Plan are working as intended:

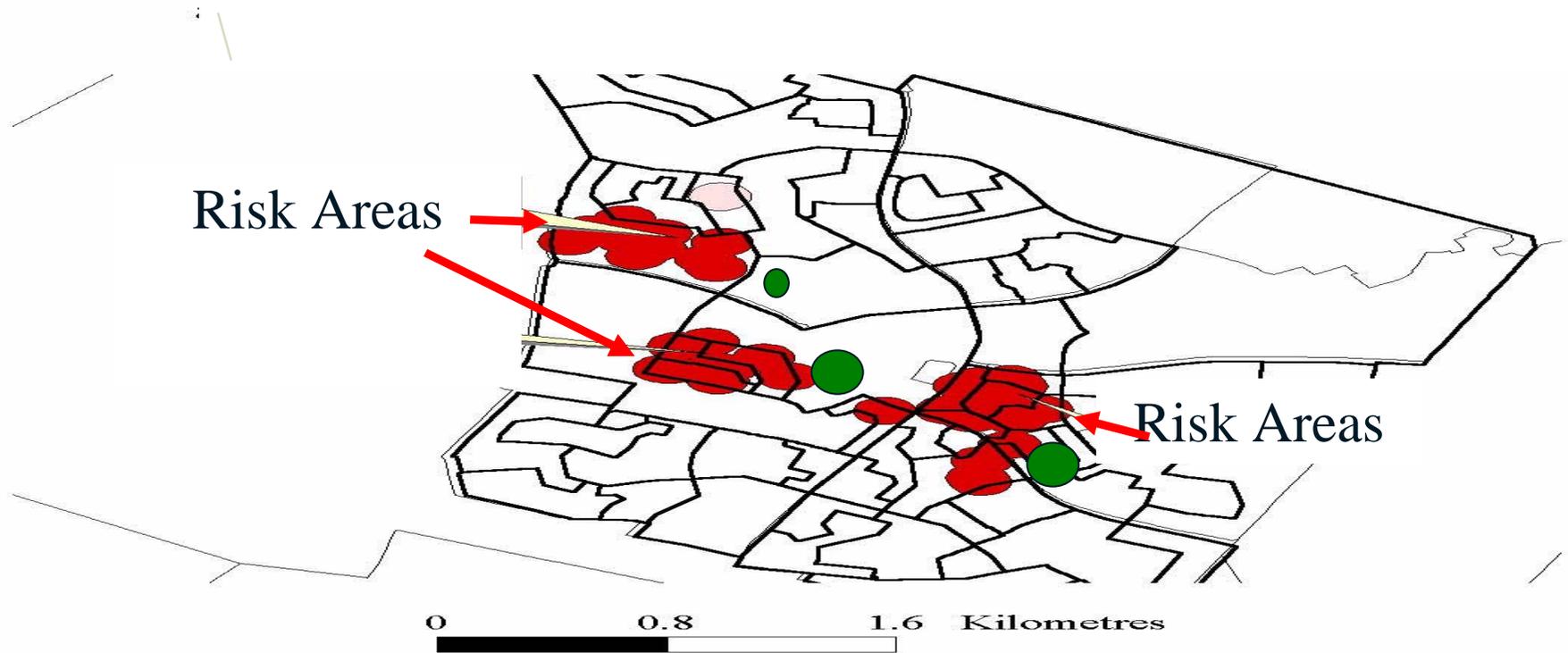
## We will see:

1. Increased resourcing for child protective services;
2. Compliance with Regulations, Norms and Standards;
3. Improved child protective service Access & Quality;
4. Safer Neighbourhoods;
5. Fewer Vulnerable Families;
6. Better Child outcomes: (a reduction in the incidence of Child Abuse & Neglect).

# Impact of the Act and the Provincial Protection Plan? Incidence of Statutory matters in the Province in Future

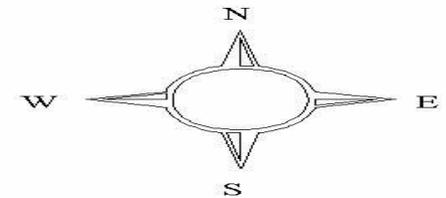


# Nest Steps: Using maltreatment data to plan Protective Services for children



Areas where young children are at most at risk ●

Locate Services Here ●





**Thank You**  
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