



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Eacnamaíoch agus Shóisialta  
National Economic & Social Council

# Ireland's Well-Being Journey

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Conference Paper  
Towards Wellbeing for All  
Social Justice Ireland 35th  
Annual Policy Conference

16 November 2022

1. Introduction
2. Purpose
3. WBF in Action
4. Practicalities
5. Making a Difference
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# WHY DEVELOP A WBF?



“The progress of countries has typically been measured using GDP – a measure of the value of goods and services produced by a country. However, GDP has limitations even as an economic measure...”



## ADOPTING A WELL-BEING APPROACH INVOLVES:



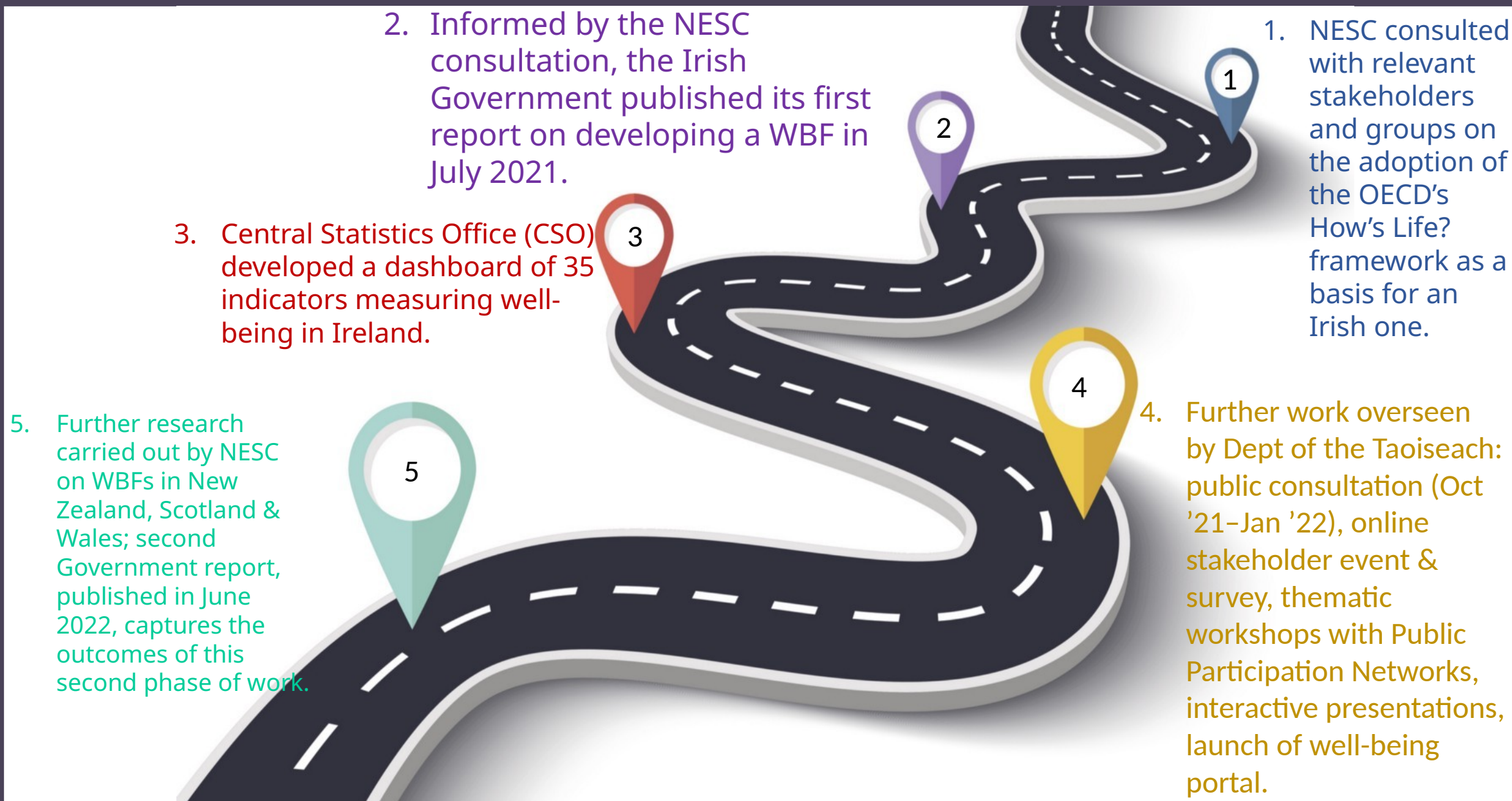




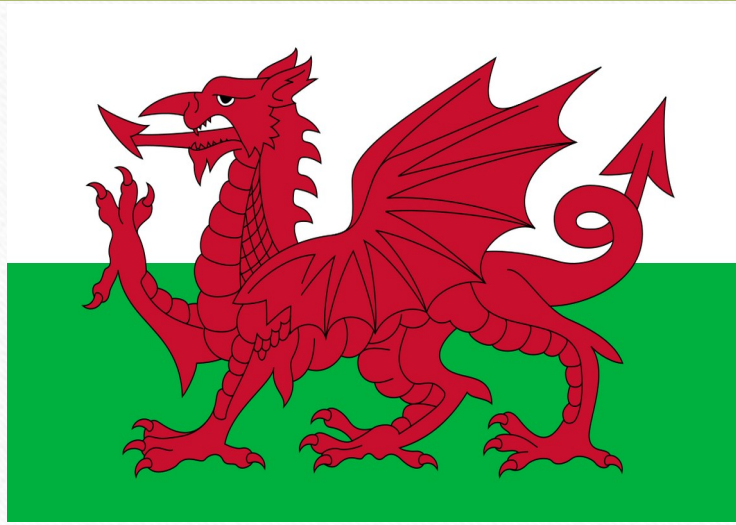
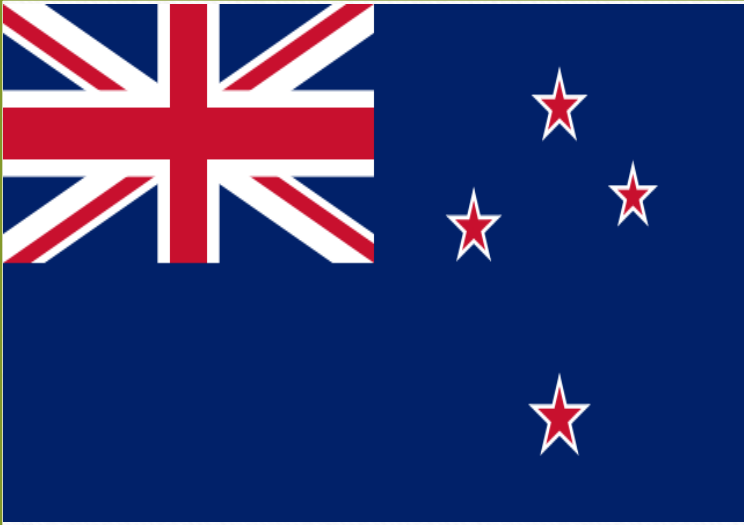
WBF IN ACTION

WHAT STEPS HAVE BEEN  
TAKEN?









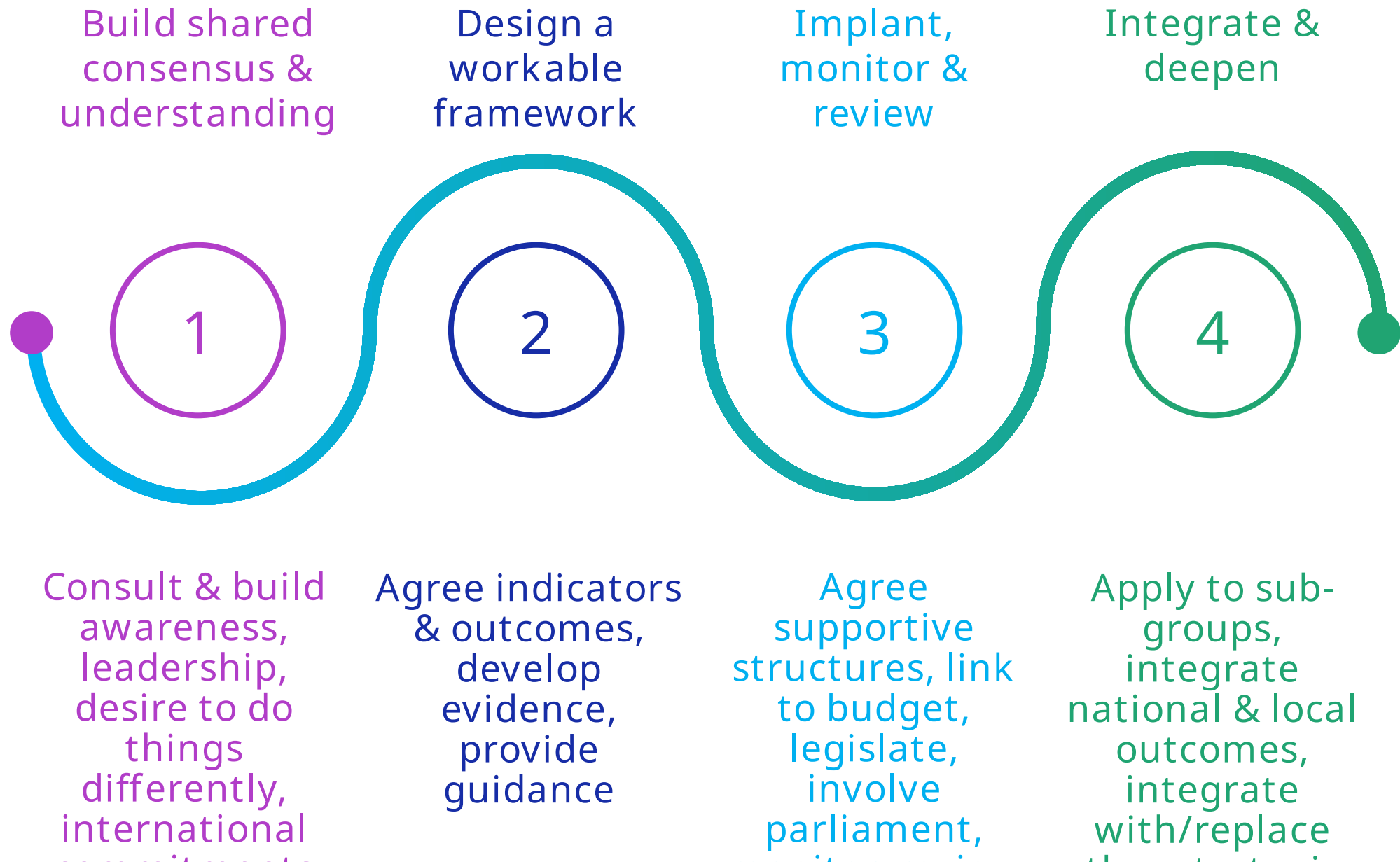
## Well-Being Approaches in New Zealand, Wales & Scotland –

### Key Highlights

- NZ Treasury uses two MBF Living Standards & He Ara Waiora Frameworks.
- Public Finance (Wellbeing) Amendment Act 2020 helps embed well-being objectives into the budgeting process.
- Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018 requires the Government to report each Budget Day on a set of child poverty measures.
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: Puts sustainable development at the centre of decision-making.
- Future Generations Framework for Projects published in order to provoke thought and discussion, ensure services are resilient.
- Welsh Government publishes annual reports on the progress towards meeting well-being objectives.
- National Performance Framework (2007) sets out an overall vision for Scotland; 'increased well-being' one of 11 broad National Outcomes.
- Public bodies legally required to take well-being approaches into account in their work under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- Auditor General for Scotland monitors extent to which a well-being approach is embedded.



# EMBEDDING A WELL-BEING APPROACH



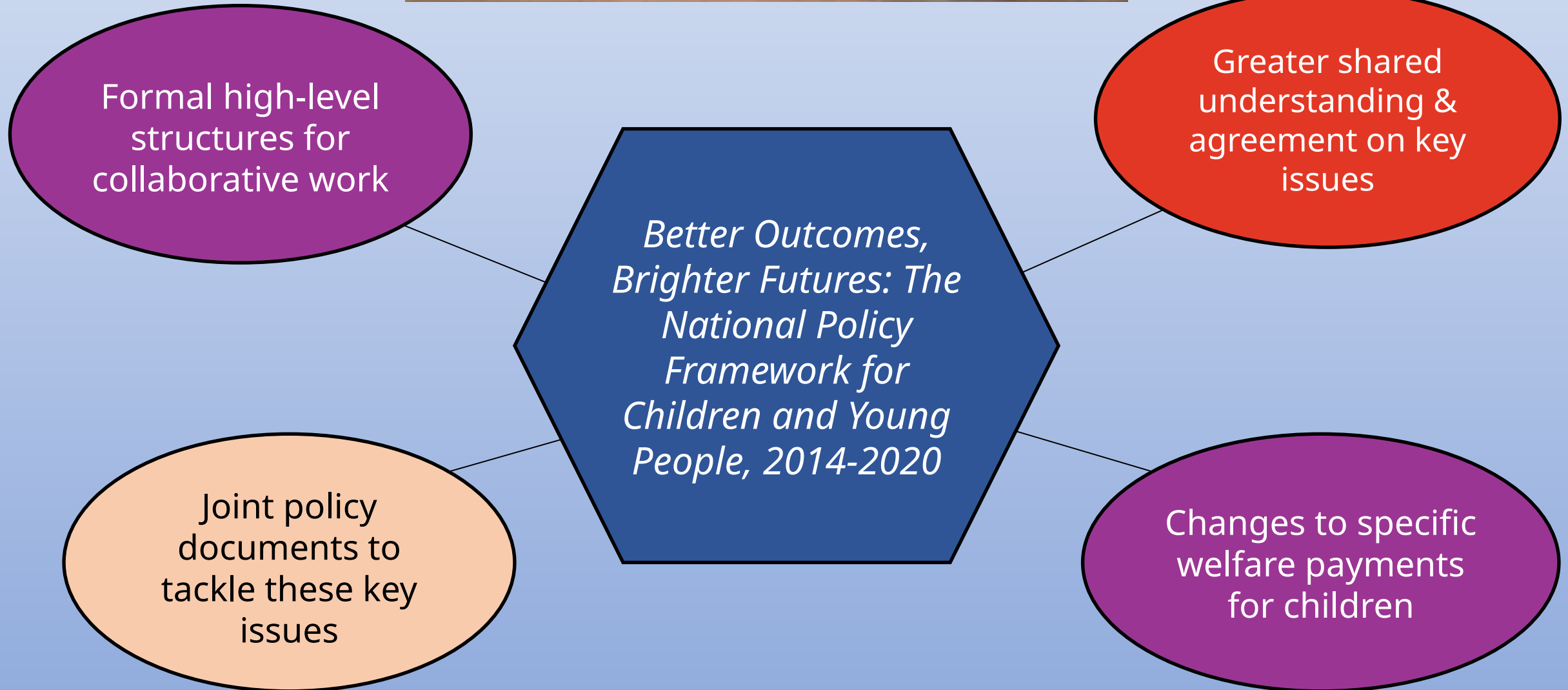


“...NESC’s research found that learning from each of these stages can help strengthen other stages.”

- It takes time to embed a well-being approach.
- It is challenging to develop good data.
- At all times we need leadership, dialogue, resources and review to further the Well-Being Framework.









“...the second Irish Government report outlines an approach for embedding a WBF into policy-making over time, which includes:





An aerial photograph of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, showing its iconic dome and surrounding urban environment. A large green arrow points from the left towards the cathedral. Three yellow ovals on the right side of the image contain text labels for budgeting approaches.

Cross-Governmental Approaches  
to Budgeting Connected to WBF

Performance-  
Based  
Budgeting

Equality  
Budgeting

Green  
Budgeting



*Spotlight on...*




# INEQUALITY IN IRELAND




A desire to focus on Inequality in Ireland is generated by the following:




The high degree of market income inequality (one of the highest in the EU)



Wealth inequality (twice the rate of income inequality)



The poverty rate of several groups, in particular the unemployed, lone parents and those with a disability or otherwise reliant on welfare payments



Unequal access to affordable reliable services



# HOW CHILD POVERTY WAS ADDRESSED IN SCOTLAND & NEW ZEALAND USING WELL-BEING FRAMEWORKS

## Scottish legislation:

- Requires action on specific groups
- Requires action not just on income, but also on education, housing, childcare, and physical and mental health
- Individuals affected by poverty, and their representative groups, must be consulted on delivery plan for meeting child poverty targets.

## New Zealand:

- Budget must outline how it will reduce child poverty
- New Families Package
  - tax credit NZ\$60 per week for first year
  - more paid parental leave
  - increased Accommodation Supplement
  - Winter Energy payments
- Schools in lower-income areas can receive NZ\$150 per student, per year, if they don't ask parents for voluntary



# WHERE TO NEXT...?



1. Optimising Consultation Processes

2. Enhance Data & Evidence Base

3. Integrating WBF with Policy System

4. Improving Governance of WBF

5. Linking WBF & Shared Island




# WHERE TO NEXT: ISSUES TO BEAR IN MIND...

"...ensuring the right balance between generating a vision and being able to assess outcomes."

"...the extent to which the WBF aims to impact on action across all policy areas compared with a stronger focus on one or two key issues, such as child poverty."





*For more on NESCC's well-being work, see  
[bit.ly/3USuT9j](https://bit.ly/3USuT9j)*

Thanks for  
listening.

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ANY QUESTIONS?