

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE

1. Title of the practice

Early and Coordinated Support for Children and Youth

2. Organisation responsible for the practice

National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen), Sweden

3. Contact person(s)

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4. Summary of the practice

The project 'Early and coordinated support for children and youth' was launched by the Swedish government to promote early-intervention and integrated approaches for supporting children at local level, enabling a more preventative approach which can avoid situations where children are taken into care.

The government project is led jointly by the Swedish National Agency for Education and the National Board of Health and Welfare (Socialstyrelsen).

The project started with an initial study, before identifying relevant projects already being implemented at local level if they met the criteria of involving three agencies (social, health and education services). There were 40 eligible projects identified.

They are supported by the setting-up of five networks across Sweden for establishing connections between the local projects, enabling the professionals involved in the projects to meet in regional conferences to share their knowledge and experiences.

Other support was provided, including a digital platform for sharing knowledge between the different projects.

Of the 40 projects, 16 were selected for specific measures to enhance their projects. This included an educational programme for the staff involved who attended a course set-up by a university that enables them to learn and discuss factors that can improve more integrated and preventative approaches in support for children.

5. National/regional/local context of the practice

The project was commissioned by the Swedish government, with the responsibility assigned to the Swedish National Agency for Education, and Socialstyrelsen for implementation.

They have set-up networks for different projects being implemented locally between social, health and education services to come together and share their experiences.

6. Staff involved					
Staff from the Swedish National Agency for Education and Socialstyrelsen managed the project.					
7. Target group					
Professionals working in projects locally that emphasise integrated approaches for children aged 0-18					
8. Aims of the practice					
Promote more integrated and preventative practices for children locally through networks that bring together those implementing projects.					
9. Issues for social services					
Service Integration/ Cooperation across services	X	Service Planning		Contracting	
Technology	X	Skills development (of the workforce)	X	Quality of services	X
Others: _____					
ANALYSIS OF THE PRACTICE					
10. Status					
Pilot project (ongoing)		Project (ongoing)	X	Implemented practice (restricted areas)	
Pilot project (terminated)		Project (terminated)		Widely spread practice/rolled out	
11. Scope of the practice					
<i>Describe the setting of the practice, considering the following criteria:</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Micro level practice:</i> practice that involves individuals at local level • <i>Meso level practice:</i> practice that involves organisations or communities • <i>Macro level practice:</i> practice that involves large population groups 					
Meso: The project focuses on coordination between different organisations (health, education, and social services) with the involvement of national organisations to steer the work.					
12. Leadership and management of the practice					
<i>Description of the leadership of the practice, considering the following criteria:</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Collaborative management:</i> shared between large partnerships, often of central, regional and local representation • <i>Organisational management:</i> by one organisation • <i>Professional management:</i> managed by a single person • <i>Shared management:</i> shared with no defined leadership 					
Collaborative: The project is managed by the Swedish National Agency for Education, the National Board of Health and Welfare, and Socialstyrelsen.					

Each local project is managed by representatives from health, education and social services. This means fostering bottom-up approaches with coordination at national level.

13. Engaging stakeholders in the practice

Description of the engagement of stakeholders, considering the following criteria:

- *Individual practice:* individuals have sought practice change
- *Network approach:* one or more organisations develop a network
- *Collaborative approach:* large collaboration with relevant stakeholders

Network approach: The project supports the creation of networks between different projects at local level.

14. Involvement of service users and their families

Description of the involvement of service users, considering the following criteria:

- *Team involvement:* service users and carers were part of the practice team
- *Consultative:* a consultative body of users was set up for an on-going dialogue and feedback
- *Involvement in care:* person-centred approaches to care/support

Representatives of children and families will be involved in the evaluation of the project in 2020, whilst the local projects often emphasise a child-centred approach, where their perspective is made the priority.

15. Costs and resources needed for implementation

Description of how the practice is financed, considering the following criteria:

- *Within existing resources:* staff time and other resources are provided 'in-house'
- *Staffing costs:* costs for staff investment
- *Joint/Pooled budgets:* two or more agencies pool budgets to fund services
- *Funded project:* external investment

N/A

16. Evaluation approaches

Description of the evaluation method of the practice, considering the following criteria:

- *Multi-method:* use of both a qualitative and a quantitative approach
- *Single method:* qualitative or quantitative approach
- *Audit:* looks at data sources such as existing medical records, and/or other routinely collected service data.
- *Informal:* refers to in-house service evaluation using locally designed tools and/or collecting opportunistic feedback
- *No evaluation*
- *An evaluation is planned*

External consultants will be contacted to conduct the evaluation at the end of 2020. In addition Socialstyrelsen and the National Agency for Education will support all of the 40 local projects to set measurable goals for recording results.

17. Measurable effects of the practice and what it has achieved for...

Service users	
Formal care givers	

Informal carers	
Organisations	Creation of five regional networks for sharing knowledge on integrated working. A digital platform to encourage discussions between the people involved in the projects.
Other	
18. Anticipated or 'aspirational' effects of the practice and what it has achieved for... <i>This category can include outcomes which are not documented, quantified or properly evaluated. They can include such elements as improved knowledge, quality, workforce, etc.</i>	
Service users	
Formal care givers	
Informal carers	
Organisations	The project has been welcomed by local authorities who recognise the value of more preventative and integrated approaches to overcome silos and improve outcomes for children.
Other	
19. How the practice has changed the way the service is provided (lessons learned)	
<p>More information will be available in 2020 with results from the national evaluation and by gathering information from the local projects.</p>	
20. Sustainability of the practice <i>Description of whether the practice is sustainable, considering the following criteria:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potential for sustainability:</i> practice was newly started or is on-going/not yet mainstreamed. How could the practice be sustained (in terms of resources)? • <i>Organic sustainability:</i> service users have been empowered to take the practice forward • <i>Established:</i> the project has been operational for several years 	
<p>The project will run between 2018-2020.</p> <p>However it is hoped that the project will be able to leave a lasting legacy, with the networks established continuing to function as platforms for sharing knowledge, and the digital system for sharing knowledge continuing to be used.</p>	
21. Transferability of the practice <i>Description of whether the practice has been transferred, considering the following criteria:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transferred:</i> transfer to other regions, countries, service user groups, etc. • <i>Potential for transferability:</i> there is interest from the outside; elements of the practice have been taken up and used elsewhere; material for transferability (for ex. training material) has been developed 	
<p>The methodology of the practice could be transferred elsewhere, as could the digital platform developed for knowledge sharing.</p>	