

Experience of working with children and youth at risk

EEA and Norway Grants 2009-2014

Possibilities for cooperation for Estonia, Iceland and Norway on local level -Conference in Pärnu Estonia March 15, 2013

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Child protection in Iceland

- The Ministry of Welfare is Ultimate authority in matters of child protection.
- Day-to-day administration of child protection services is in charge of The Government Agency for Child Protection
- The basic unit for child protection is in the municipalities, the child protection committees which are responsible for child protection services at the local level.





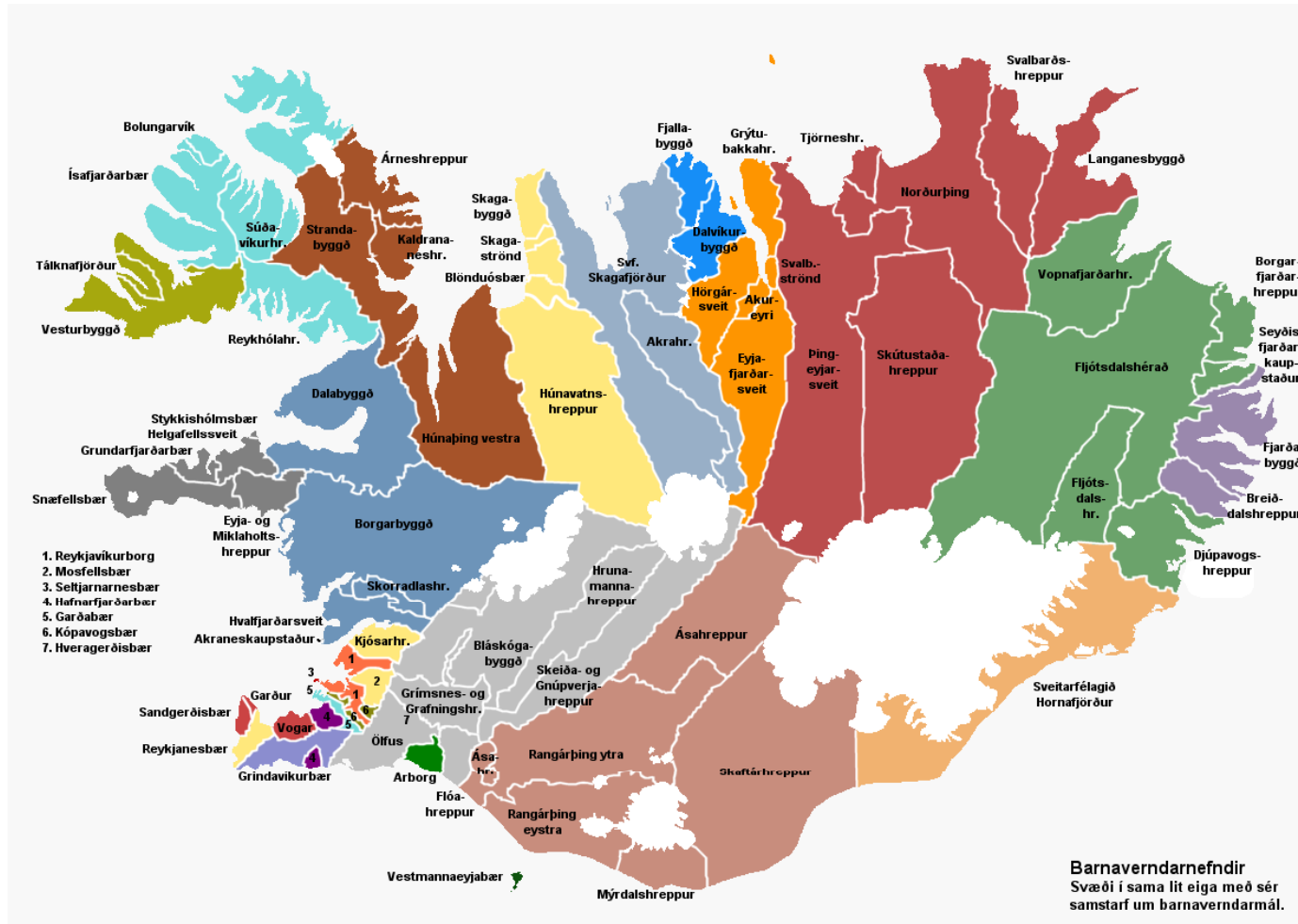
Parents duty and child care

- Parents duty is to care for their child under the age of 18 and *provide it with consideration and to observe their duties of upbringing and custodianship as to best suit their child's interests and needs.* Act in Respect of Children, no. 76/2003
 - ◦
- Child protection services works under the Child Protection Act, no. 80/2002
 - Applies to individuals under the age of 18
- Focus on the families and their child-raising role

Year 2009- 30 Child Protection Committees



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Inhabitants – Number and age

January 2012

Mosfellsbær		Reykjavík	Iceland
Total	8.854	118.814	319.575
0-17	30%	23%	25%
67+	7%	11%	11%

Expenses to social services 2013: 21% of tax revenue.



Cooperation with a neighbour municipality



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- Mosfellsbær is in cooperation with Kjós, a small neighbor municipality (220 inhab.), taking care of most of its social services through a contract
- A suitable arrangement – working well
- There are many such parallels in Iceland





Principles in the protection work, ex

- The best for the child
- Children´s views and wishes,
- Stability during childhood
- Good collaboration and respect
- Consistency and equity in all decision-making
- General measures to support the family before other measures are taken
- Apply the minimum measures to achieve the desired results



Mosfellsbær- cooperation - key partners



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- Official partners
 - Schools, basic (6-16 years) and kindergarten (2-5 years)
 - Primary health care
 - Police
 - Psychiatric clinics (child and adult)
 - Local sport center, youth center and the summer youth work
- Others
 - Parents associations
 - Leisure and sport organizations
 - Read cross
 - Church
 - Others in individual projects, banks and affairs in Mosfellsbær



Form of cooperation

- Individual cases
 - with accept of the parents and child, in accord to its age and maturity
- Round tables and consulting
 - Theams, theory and working routins
- Information
 - Legislation, rules and rutin
- Seminars and conferaces



- The primary role is to co-ordinate and strengthen child protection work
- By law it is required to:
 - offer instruction and council to Child Protection Committees at the local level with regard to family welfare and the management of child protection cases,
 - monitor the work of Child Protection Committees, through the review of annual reports and other means to be determined,





Government Agency for Child Protection

- supervise and monitor institutions and homes operated or supported by the government for children and youth,
- assist Child Protection Committees in finding suitable foster parents,
- support research and development work in the area of child protection,
- provide education and instruction concerning child protection

Is also responsible for the operation of **specialized services** in child protection. There are two principal services in operation: a center for investigation of child sexual abuse cases and treatment facilities for children and youth.

Ecempels



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The New Child project

Akureyri municipality - started 1998



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- Interdisciplinary programs for parents of young children within public health and social services
- The aim is to prevent health and life risks already in infancy through an integrated set of support forms:
 - psycho-social, medical, guidance and education to promote the right conditions for the development of the child
- The idea is to get to know the closest relatives, understand their situation and problems, education and motivation.



The New Child

- General examination of health and skills:
 - physical, psychical, social, psychological -including how genuine is the attachment and sharing of feelings, work and finances, and lifestyles
- Crucial to have mutual trust and close co-operation with the “significant others”, especially parents
- Evaluations have been conducted with over 400 families with a satisfaction rate of 70% to 80%
- The project has been acknowledged by the WHO

Government Agency for Child Protection Children's House



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- Started operation in November 1998, is lokatet in Reykjavík
- Main goals
 - To create a forum for the cooperation and intergration of agencies responsible for the investigation and handling of cases involving sexualabuse of children: The Court Judges, the Prosecution, The Police and the Child Protection Servises





Children´s House-goals

- To prevent subjecting children to repeated interviews by many agencies in different locations
- To ensure professional competence, experience and knowledge for conducting investigative interviews of children
- To establish professional work procedures in dealing with cases involving sexual abuse
- To strengthen expertise on sexual abuse of children and disseminate that expertise to both professionals and the general public
- To ensure a child-friendly environment, meeting the needs of children for investigative interviews, medical examination and treatment



Childrens house- services

- Testimonies for court judges
- Exploratory interviews
- Assessment of the child
- Treatment
- Medical examination
- Counseling and education

<http://www.bvs.is/media/barnahus/childrens-house-brocure.pdf>

Government Agency for Child Protection Treatment facilities for children and youth



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- Provides diagnosis and short term treatment for youth
- Five institutions and treatment homes for children with behavioural and emotional problems, delinquency (acting out, criminality) and substance abuse
 - a. Youth returns to the family -post care services
 - b. Out of home placement in a long term treatment facility
- Long term treatment in household settings (4)
 - a. professionals live with no more than six children in pleasant rural surroundings or on farms



Government Agency for Child Protection

MST-Multisystemic Therapy



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- Started 2008, is an intensive family- and community-based treatment program that focuses on addressing all environmental systems that impact chronic and violent juvenile offenders -- their homes and families, schools and teachers, neighborhoods and friends
- MST recognizes that each system plays a critical role in a youth's world and each system requires attention when effective change is needed to improve the quality of life for youth and their families
- MST works with children in the ages 12 through 17 who have a very long problem history



Government Agency for Child Protection and the Municipalities Domestic violence –Group Therapy Project for children



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- Started 1.1. 2010
- Social worker is arriving with the police when intervened in domestic violence. The social workers role is to talk directly to child
- The child can get support from the social worker
- In cases it is followed with the Government Agency for Child Protection group therapy (10 weeks) for children 6 -17 year lived in the circumstances of domestic violence





Youth Job Training-Project in Mosfellsbær

- Education is compulsory up to the age of 16
- It intervenes in the lives of young people at the age 16-18 who for some reasons, i.e. drugs, criminal offense or mental health problems, can't handle daily life. Accompanied by instability in daily life and poor attendance to high school
- Cooperation with other institutions in Mosfellsbær such as preschools and the local sport center





Benefits of the job training

- The job training is nine hours pr. week and salary is paid by the Child Protection Committees
- The young people
 - become socially active
 - gain daily routine
 - enjoy their job training in supportive and healthy surroundings
- Child Protection Committees social workers follow these individuals with monthly interviews

Fjölsmiðjan-practical training and education center



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- Non-profit practical training and education center for drop-out young people
- Founded 2002 by the Icelandic Ministry of Welfare, Directorate of Labor, municipalities in the capital region and the Red-cross
- The primary goal is to develop opportunities of young people (16 to 24 years)
- The center's projects are varied
<http://www.fjolsmidjan.is/>



Convention on the Rights children's participation in all areas of policy-making



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- Youth Council in Mosfellsbær -Operating since 2008
- Three representatives from each secondary school and three from each upper secondary school
- Forum for discussion and cooperation between young people aged 13-20 years
- Ensures that the voice of young people is heard by the administration of the municipality and the town council
 - Issues discussed are leisure, sports, education, transport, planning and environmental issues directly affecting young people
- Strengthens ties between pupils/students and the town authorities
- Educates young people about voting and representation in a democracy

Thank you



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- Further information:

<http://eng.velferdarraduneyti.is/>

http://eng.velferdarraduneyti.is/media/acrobat-enskar_sidur/Child_Protection_Act_No_80_2002.pdf

<http://www.bvs.is/media/barnahus/childrens-house-brocure.pdf>

<http://www.bvs.is/english>

