Working together to improve family care support

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Swedish Family Care Competence Centre
Swedish midsummer
Swedish policy

- Post war era - traditionally a welfare model
- 1990s - the decade when the family was re-discovered
- 2000 -> several Family care initiatives to stimulate further development of family care support, focusing on:
  - increasing the quality of existing services
  - providing more individualised services
  - creating new and innovative forms of support
  - developing sustainable support services
- Increasingly, a partnership between the state and families
Family Care Support
- mainly municipalities - no legal obligation

- Family care support varies between municipalities
- Only a few municipalities do systematic assessments
- Lawyers can’t agree whether to document family care support or not
Current situation in Sweden

• A law is imminent in January 2009
  - which clearly states that municipalities shall give family care support
  - individual assessments
  - written documentation
  - resources for implementing the law

• A national competence centre was established in January 2008
Swedish Family Care Competence Centre

Partners

• Fokus R&D centre, The Regional Council in Kalmar County

• ÄldreVäst Sjuhärad R&D Centre & Swedish School of Library and Information Sciences, University College of Borås

• Carers Sweden

• The Swedish Handicap Institute

• Co-ordinators for family care support in Norrland, the North of Sweden

• University of Kalmar, the Department of Human Sciences & e-Health Institute

• Kalmar County Council
Goals

• Explore & collect existing research and development in the area
• disseminate research results and examples of best practice
• support development work within municipalities and voluntary organisations.
Target groups

- Carers and older people with chronic illness
- Practitioners working in health and social care for older people
- Decision makers – managers and politicians
Way of working

• To create and enable meetings to take place between people with different sources of knowledge and experiences, such as:

- first-hand experiences among carers, older people with chronic illnesses and their organisations
- practical experiences of practitioners within health and social care services for older people and their carers
- organisational and policy knowledge among decision makers
- scientific theory and methods of researchers.
Prioritised areas

- Individualisation, evaluation and development of family care support
- Co-operation and partnership working within family care support
- E-services and new technology for carers
- Working carers - combining work and care

Underlying themes: gender and ethnicity
Knowledge sharing & dissemination

• Sources of knowledge
  - literature reviews within the prioritised areas
  - database regarding R&D work and best practices
  - a specialist library within the area

• Conferences
  - National Family Care conference
  - Regional conferences
  - National Carer day

• Newsletter

• A user-friendly and easy accessible website

• Learning networks
Aims of the learning networks

• to learn from each other and to share knowledge and experiences

• develop educational material and practical guidelines for caring issues

• support each other to make use of relevant research within everyday practice/ work of organisations
Learning networks

Carers and older people with chronic illnesses

Practitioners, managers & politicians

Co-ordinating network

Partnership working

E-services

Working carers

Individuation, evaluation & development

Technical platform:
- website
- video phone

National learning networks for prioritised areas

Local learning networks

Co-ordinating network

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Swedish Family Care Competence Centre
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