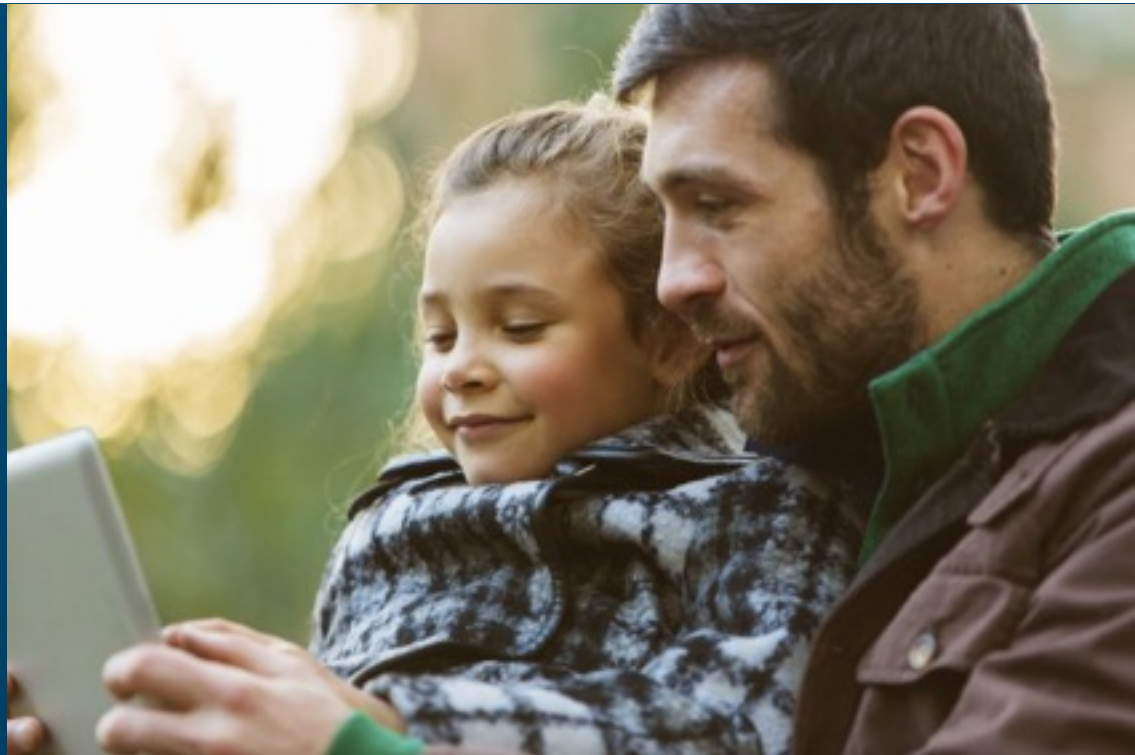


Investing in community-based services to support children at risk

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The European Social Network is
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About the European Social Network



- Knowledge exchange to improve policy and practice in services for children and adults
- Members plan, manage and deliver local public social services, regulatory and research organisations.
- Working at local, regional and national level, including research and regulatory organisations in 35 countries

Deinstitutionalisation and community care: our work



- 2011 report on **Developing Community Care**
 - **Desirable and achievable**
 - Human rights, service users' experience, social work values and value for money
- "Managing change" training programme
- 2016 report on **Investing in Children's services**
- Disability working group

Key issues from the study



- Starting point: Commission's Recommendation Investing in children;
- 3 pillars: access to resources, quality services, child participation
- Two-fold methodology
 - Questionnaire on 5 key services: ECEC, education, health, housing, alternative care
 - Peer review meetings
- **Our 2016 study**
14 country profiles: BE, BG, DE, ES, FR, HU, IE, IT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, UK



Caring communities and "eco-structures"



What type of environment do we want for children?

- Safe, happy and fulfilling places for children to grow up in
- Shared commitment to prevent abuse
- Investing in the early years and inclusive education
- **Building local communities of care** for children who cannot stay with their families.

How does it translate into practice?

- Integrated community planning for social and economic wellbeing
- Building local job creation and work-life balance
- Developing social spaces for all generations
- An inclusive community: housing, health, culture and transport
- A voice for children and families



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Community-based services: the role of public services



Local authorities have a **duty of care, protection** and support for vulnerable children and families, in the best interest of the child (Art. 3 UNCRC).

1. Prevention and holistic strategies
2. A wide range of child protection measures
3. Multidisciplinary teams and integrated services
4. Permanence and stability for children
5. Support transitioning into adulthood
6. Listening to children

Key factors



1. Prevention: working with families and professionals

- “Mother and Baby” programme for teenage mothers at risk (Bulgaria)
- Spaces to facilitate family relationships (FR, ES)
- PIPPI programme (IT)
- Holistic strategies: Childhood for all (BG), Child and Youth protection committees (PT)

Key factors



2. A wide range of child protection measures

- From prevention to emergency
- Urgent and specialised reception centres
- Strong guidance and protocols (HU, NL, PL, SE)
- Family placements
- Foster care: professionalisation, remuneration

Key factors



3. Multidisciplinary teams and integrated services

- Trust centres to prevent child abuse (BE)
- Multi-disciplinary teams in courts (PT)

4. Permanence and stability

- One Family, One Plan (NL)
- Scottish govt Stability Programme (UK)

5. Supporting the transition into adulthood

- Transition programmes
- Empowerment guardian (FR, PL)

Key factors



6. Involving and listening to children

- Training of professionals
- Legal requirement and representation
- Independent lawyers and social workers to represent children's interests
- Threefold involvement in decision-making (Scotland)



Key messages and conclusions



- Risk and safeguarding
- Family support
- Education/ECEC
- Workforce
- Decentralisation
- Integrated approaches
- Key role of local authorities to ensure implementation of child protection measures



Thank you!

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