

## **Rights in the Transition Process – Support and Participation of Care Leavers**

**International Expert Workshop, September 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Berlin**



**Documentation**

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## **International Expert Workshop, September, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2015**

### **Rights in the Transition Process – Support and Participation of Care Leavers**

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The workshop will take place at Berliner Stadtmission, Jugendgästehaus, Lehrter Str. 68, 10557 Berlin (<http://www.tagen-in-berlin.de/>). This location is very close to the main station (Hauptbahnhof) of Berlin.

#### **Programme**

##### **Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Informal photo exhibition in the foyer:

Each participant is asked to bring along two photographs: The first one should be a self-portrait accompanied by a statement (one sentence) highlighting / describing how he/she relates to the issue of leaving care. The second is supposed to symbolically illustrate the situation of care leavers.

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Welcome, General Information, Introductory Round<br>Chair: Britta Sievers, Maren Zeller, Robin Loh   |
| 16:30 – 16:50 | Situation of Care Leavers in Germany – key issues and problems<br>“Rights in the transition process – Support and participation of Care Leavers”<br>Presentation by Britta Sievers<br>The German self-organization Care Leaver e.V.<br>Presentation by Robin Loh |
| 16:50 – 17:10 | Learning from other countries:<br>Presentation by Martine Tobé and Bas Rodijk (The Netherlands)  |
| 17:10 – 17:30 | Presentation by Maja Hagström and Chenour Mohammed Amin (Sweden)   |
| 17:30 – 17:50 | Coffee Break   |
| 17:50 – 18:10 | Presentation by Saana Pukkio, Yontale Gebrenegus and Vilma Vähämaa (Finland)   |
| 18:10 – 18:30 | Presentation by Brenda Kneafsey and Jade McGlinchey (Ireland)  |
| 18:30         | Wrap up: German Team   |
| 18:45         | End of 1st Workshop Day<br>Dinner at Jugendgästehaus   |
| 20:30         | Social Event   |

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

9:00	Welcome to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Workshop day
	Learning from other countries:
9:10 – 9:30	Presentation by Zacharie Duncalf (Scotland)
9:30 – 9:50	Presentation by Mike Stein (England)
9:50 – 10:10	Presentation by Kiaras Gharabaghi (Canada)
10:10 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 10:50	Presentation by Yoav Appelboim (Israel)
10:50 – 11:10	Presentation by Anita Burgund (Serbia)
11:10 – 11:30	Presentation by Almandina Guma (Albania, SOS International)
11:30 – 11:50	Coffee Break
11:50 – 13:00	Working Groups “Thinking the future” In working groups we will discuss possible next steps to improve the care leavers’ situation in Germany. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Self-organization / Networking of and for care leavers</li><li>2. Good information for care leavers</li><li>3. Lobbying, Advocacy, Ombudsmanship</li></ol> Every group is invited to prepare a flipchart and to give a short presentation in the afternoon session. Key questions: What kind of support do care leavers need? How can we empower care leavers? How can we better support care leavers to enforce their rights? How can we push the issue forward and how can we support care leavers in pushing the issue forward (e.g. on a policy level)?
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Presentation and discussion of the working group’s results Key ideas and issues for improving the situation in Germany
15:15 – 15:30	Wrap up: German Team
15:30	End of Workshop: Good-bye

**German team:**

- Wolfgang Schröer and Severine Thomas, University of Hildesheim
- Josef Koch and Britta Sievers, IGFH/FICE Germany
- Kristin Teuber, SOS Children's Villages
- Dirk Nuesken, Protestant University of Applied Sciences, Bochum
- Maren Zeller, University of Trier

**Guests:**

- Yoav Appelboim, Ahave Children and Youth Village, Israel
- Anita Burgund, PhD student of Faculty of Political sciences in Belgrade, Serbia
- Zacharie Duncalf, University of Central Lancashire, Care Leaver, UK
- Anne Erhard, Care Leaver, Germany
- Claudia Frank, SOS Children's Villages, Munich, Germany
- Yontale Gebrenegus, Care Leaver, Finland
- Kiaras Gharabaghi, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada
- Miriana Giraldi, SOS Children's Villages International, Vienna, Austria
- Almandina Guma, SOS Children's Villages International, Tirane, Albania
- Maja Hagström, Sollentuna Kommun, Sweden
- Brenda Kneafsey, EPIC's Aftercare Advocacy and Support Network, Ireland
- Beatrice Knecht-Krüger, Stiftung Zürcher Kinder und Jugendheime, Switzerland
- Robin Loh, Care Leaver, Germany
- Chenour Mohammed Amin, Sollentuna Kommun, Sweden
- Jade McGlinchey, Care Leaver, Ireland
- Saana Pukkio, Central Union of Child Welfare, Helsinki, Finland
- Bas Rodijk, Youth Welfare Forum, Care Leaver, The Netherlands
- Mike Stein, University of York, England
- Norbert Struck, Der Paritätische Gesamtverband, Berlin, Germany
- Martine Tobé, Stichting Kinderperspectief, The Netherlands
- Eric van Santen, Deutsches Jugendinstitut (DJI), German Youth Institute, Germany
- Vähämaa, Vilma, Care Leaver, Finland

**Address of Hotel:**

Motel One (<http://www.motel-one.com/de/hotels/berlin/hotel-berlin-hauptbahnhof/>)

Invalidenstraße 54

10557 Berlin

Tel. : +49/30/ 364 10 05 - 0

Fax : +49/30/ 364 10 05 - 10

E-Mail: berlin-hauptbahnhof@motel-one.com



# Welcome to the International Expert Workshop

## Rights in the Transition Process Support and Participation of Care Leavers

Berlin, September, 18th-19th 2015



18th September 2015



Maren Zeller, University of Trier



# The German Team

- Wolfgang Schröer** (University of Hildesheim)
- Severine Thomas** (University of Hildesheim)
- Josef Koch** (FICE Germany/IGfH)
- Britta Sievers** (FICE Germany/IGfH)
- Dirk Nuesken** (Protestant University of Applied Sciences Bochum)
- Maren Zeller** (University of Trier)
- Robin Loh** (careleaver e.V.)
- Kristin Teuber** (SOS Children's Villages)



18th September 2015



Maren Zeller, University of Trier



## Britta Sievers (Germany)

**International Expert Workshop**

**Rights in the Transition Process – Support and Participation of Care Leavers**

**Situation of Care Leavers in Germany – key issues and problems**

Britta Sievers, [britta.sievers@igfh.de](mailto:britta.sievers@igfh.de)  
Severine Thomas, [severine.thomas@uni-hildesheim.de](mailto:severine.thomas@uni-hildesheim.de)  
Robin Loh, [robinloh@gmx.de](mailto:robinloh@gmx.de)



**Care Leaver Projects**

**IGfH (Fice Germany)/University of Hildesheim**



■ **Project „What happens after out of home care?“ (Jan. 2012 to March 2014)**

- Analysis of the transition and situation of care leavers in Germany (legal framework, statistical data, transition to other social systems)
- Focus on professional approaches to supporting the transition of care leavers
- Research of examples of good practice in Germany and abroad

■ **Project „Rights in the Transition Process - support and participation of Care Leavers “ (June 2014 to May 2016)**

- Focus on Care Leavers' perspectives
- Interviews and workshops with care leavers, hearing with policy makers
- Development of a homepage and information brochure for care leavers (and professionals supporting them) with participation of care leavers

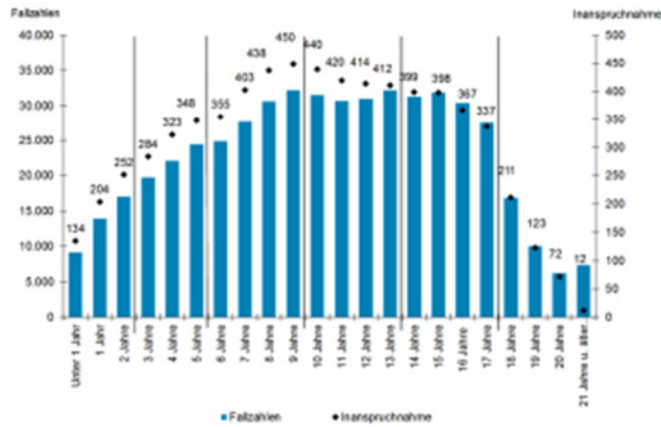


**Provided Care:**

Young people receiving child and youth care services in Germany 2013, by age group.

Cases total (blue line) and assistance rate per 10,000 population of the same age (incl. out-patient care)

Altersverteilung in den Hilfen zur Erziehung (Deutschland; 2013; andauernde Hilfen, Angaben absolut und pro 10.000 der altersgleichen Bevölkerung)



Quelle: Statistisches Bundesamt, Statistiken der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe – Hilfe zur Erziehung, Eingliederungshilfe, Hilfe für junge Volljährige, 2013; eigene Berechnungen

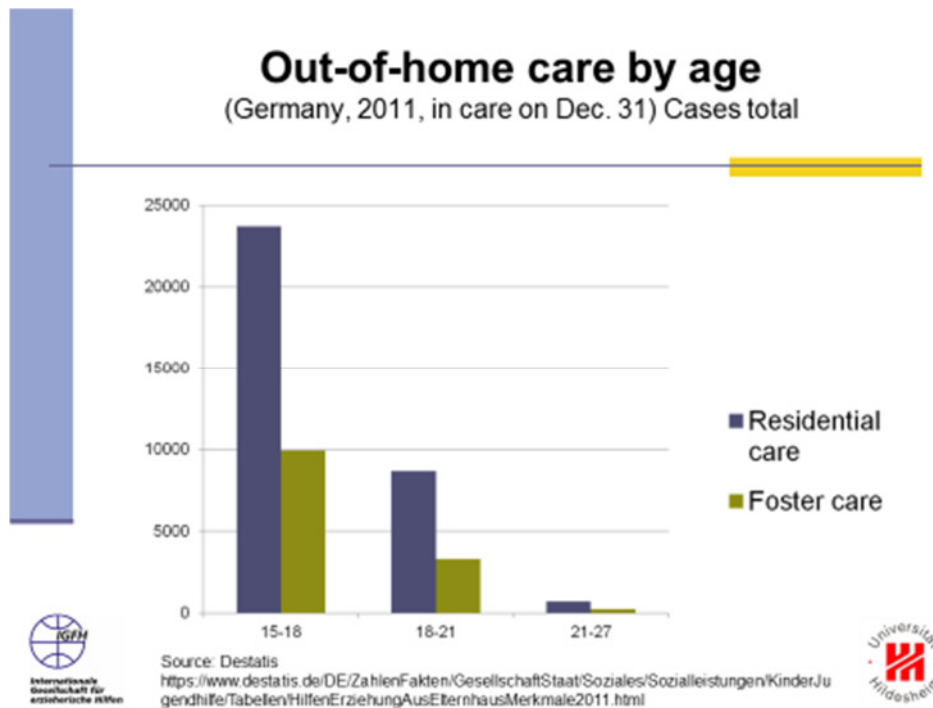


## Residential and foster care in Germany selected data

Cases (total all ages Dec. 31)					
	1995	2000	2005	2010	2013
Foster care (§ 33 SGB VIII)	48,021	48,993	50,364	60,451	67,812
Residential care in institutions (§ 34 SGB VIII)	69,969	69,723	61,806	63,191	69,203

Source: Destatis  
<https://www.destatis.de/DE/ZahlenFakten/GesellschaftStaat/Soziales/Sozialleistungen/KinderJugendhilfe/Tafelnen/HilfenErziehungAusElternhaus.html>





### Supporting the transition from care to adulthood in Germany

#### Professional approaches

- The prevailing type of support in transition from residential care to adulthood is assisted housing, e.g.:
  - "training flat" in the residential care facility
  - social work support in an apartment that has been rented by or for the care leaver
- Skills trainings focus strongly on functional, practical skills covering a range of issues such as finances, household, managing a budget, health, contact with authorities (labour office, police etc.)
- There is less focus on social skills like the ability to form and maintain relationships



## Leaving Care – and alone?

- After termination (or the dropping-out) of care it is mainly up to the individual young person to manage and cope with the transition process.
- Social policy, grant systems and the employment administration do neither perceive nor consider the typical disadvantage of coming of age without family support.
- Young people who grew up in care in Germany are disproportionately disadvantaged in terms of educational outcomes:  
„double discrimination“ on the labour market due to their biographical background and the lower level of qualification (social & formal discrimination)



## The care leavers' perspective

- Many care leavers do not feel well prepared for living independently
- Even care leavers who are doing well sometimes feel left alone or rejected in the process of transition
- Care Leavers experience a feeling of extreme change or even disruption when leaving the tightly controlled setting of residential care to live on their own
- The experience of detachment and farewell from foster parents and care workers has little room
- Emotional aspects regarding the ending of care are not adequately addressed by professionals
- Continuity in their relations, scope / freedom and economical security are described as key factors in the transition process



# Thank You !

[www.igfh.de](http://www.igfh.de) under „Projekte“  
und [www.uni-hildesheim.de/careleaver](http://www.uni-hildesheim.de/careleaver)

Contact:  
[britta.sievers@igfh.de](mailto:britta.sievers@igfh.de)  
[severine.thomas@uni-hildesheim.de](mailto:severine.thomas@uni-hildesheim.de)



Robin Loh (Careleaver e.V., Germany)

# CARELEAVER

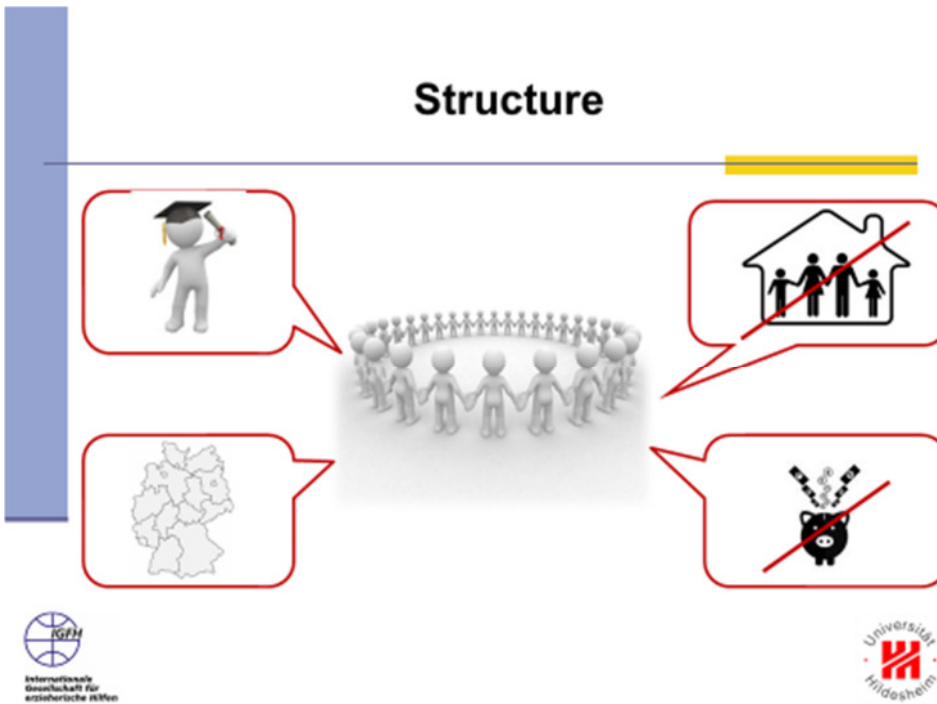
**Careleaver e. V.**  
A German network that represents the interests of German care leavers

[www.careleaver.de](http://www.careleaver.de)



**CARELEAVER**

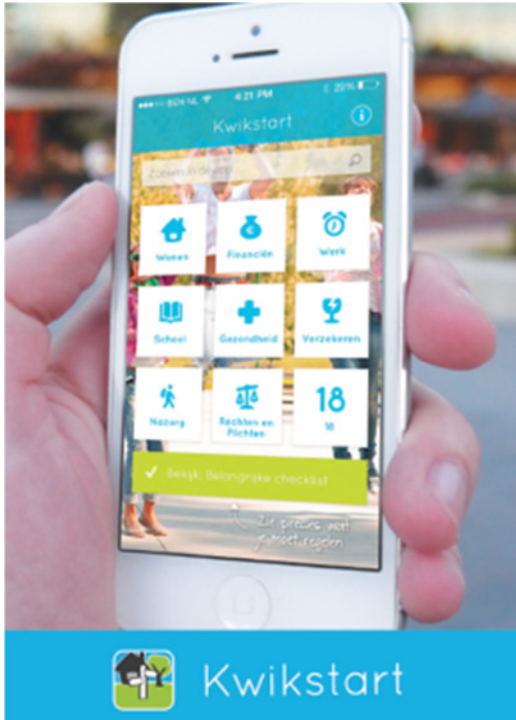
## Structure



## Our Aims

- 
- Informing about the rights of care leavers
  - Representing the interests of care leavers
  - Making an exchange between care leavers possible
  - Supporting care leavers in their everyday life
  - Getting in contact with different institutions
  - Offering workshops

Bas Rodijk, Martine Tobé (The Netherlands)



- Bas Rodijk  
[bas@jeugdwelzijnsberaad.nl](mailto:bas@jeugdwelzijnsberaad.nl)
- Martine Tobe  
[mtobe@kinderperspectief.nl](mailto:mtobe@kinderperspectief.nl)





## Kwikstart - app

- Idea
- Development
- Future





ZINGEVING  
 CARELEAVING  
 VRIJWILLIGE BETROKKENHEID  
 INTERNATIONALE KENNISDELING



## Kwikstart - application

### Budget

No.	What	Budget
1	Technical and graphic part of the application Kinderperspectief developed two applications (Android & iPhone), a website and a mobile website. A professional writer corrected all texts.	20.000 euro
2	Project group (careleavers) Budget for brainstomorrow (pizza & travel costs) Expense allowance for voluntary work of careleavers	500 euro
3	PR campaign (photoshoot, flyers, posters)	1.200 euro

**Do's**

- Start a closed facebookgroup for the project team. It is an easy and free way to consult your team members (about design, themes, content, publications etc).
- Easy language. Ask one or two youngsters to write with you.
- Easy language. Ask youngsters to check all texts. Do they understand everything?
- Make an attractive and interactive presentation which you can give on different locations
- Kinderperspectief made the choice to offer the app for free – when youngsters need to pay for it, they won't use it.

**Don'ts**

- Don't develop the application/website alone (like a professional) behind your working desk.
- Do not choose a name or symbol for the app which is connected to care. Youngsters don't like to show off that they have care experiences.






# Ben jij er klaar voor?!



- Idea
- Development
- Future

ZINGEVING

CARELEAVING

VRIJWILLIGE BETROKKENHEID

INTERNATIONALE KENNISDELING



# BEN JIJ ER KLAAR VOOR?!

## TRAINERSHANDLEIDING

Een training voor en door jongeren op weg naar zelfstandigheid

"Alles wat ik nu heb geleerd is nu mijn schat."





## Peer to peer training



ZINGEVING  
CARELEAVING  
VRIJWILLIGE BETROKKENHEID  
INTERNATIONALE KENNISDELING



## Youth Welfare Forum

<https://youtu.be/HoFaZWqKHA>



RETWEETS 7 FAVORIETEN 3

03:29 - 10 sep. 2015 Details

WPS Teletekst 100

**Bezorgdheid over hulp aan jongeren**

Alle wethouders die over zorg gaan, krijgen een brandbrief over de zorg aan jongeren van 18 jaar en ouder. Daarmee roepen jongerenorganisaties op om het gat tussen jeugdzorg en volwassenenzorg te dichten.



**KINDER  
PERSPECTIEF**

# Youth Welfare Forum

Bas Rodijk [bas@jeugdwelzijnsberaad.nl](mailto:bas@jeugdwelzijnsberaad.nl)  
Martine Tobe [mtobe@kinderperspectief.nl](mailto:mtobe@kinderperspectief.nl)


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## Maja Hagström (Sweden)

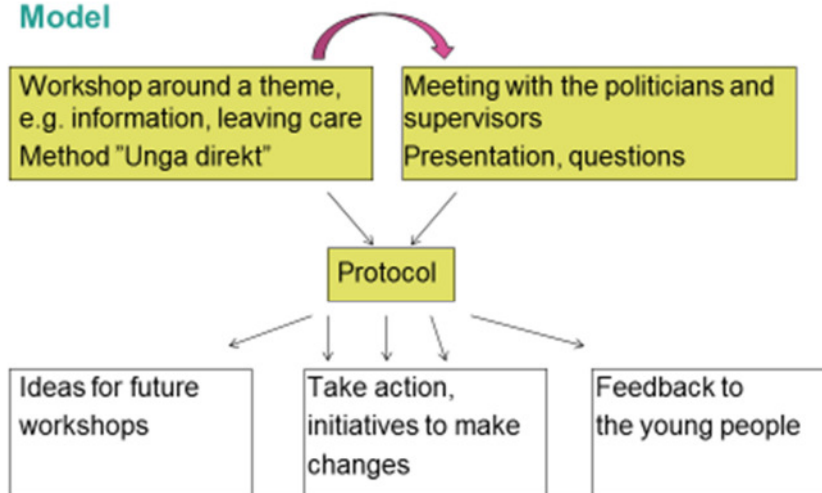
Unga röster i soc  
Participation, influence and networking



SÖLLENTUNA KOMMUN  
Placeringsenheten

www.sollentuna.se

### Model



## Information – What has been bad?

"Not knowing where to turn for information... when I was in an acute situation I looked for information on Sollentuna's homepage but could not find what I needed"

Results so far: started project to develop social services' information for children and y.p's.



SOLLENTUNA KOMMUN  
Placeringsenheten

[www.sollentuna.se](http://www.sollentuna.se)

## This is important to know for everyone working within the social services – short movies



SOLLENTUNA KOMMUN  
Placeringsenheten

[www.sollentuna.se](http://www.sollentuna.se)

Thank you!

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions

[maja.hagstrom@sollentuna.se](mailto:maja.hagstrom@sollentuna.se)

[chenour.mohammad-amin@sollentuna.se](mailto:chenour.mohammad-amin@sollentuna.se)

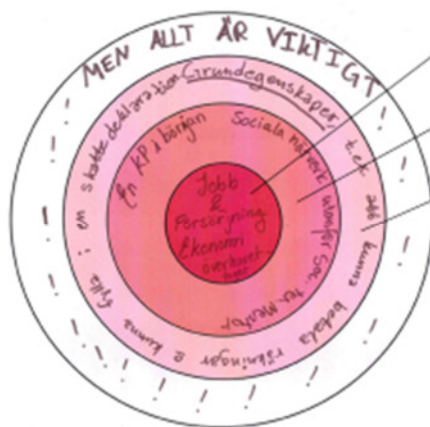


SOLLENTUNA KOMMUN

Placeringsenheten

[www.sollentuna.se](http://www.sollentuna.se)

### Leaving care, what kind of support is most important to become independent?



1. Work & providing for myself.  
Learning about economy.
2. A person who can give you support, a mentor. Help creating social networks.
3. Being able to pay a bill and fill out forms.

Results so far: changes in regulations to enable better conditions and support for care leavers.



SOLLENTUNA KOMMUN

Placeringsenheten

[www.sollentuna.se](http://www.sollentuna.se)

## Information – What has been good?

"I had my contact person who I could turn to for information"



SOLLENTUNA KOMMUN  
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[www.sollentuna.se](http://www.sollentuna.se)

## Checklist for social workers – important information

<input type="checkbox"/> BERÄTTA OM UPDATERINGAR KRING SITUATIONEN SOM RESPEKTIVE PERSON/FRAMTIDA PLANER	✓ Update what is going on and about future plans
<input type="checkbox"/> KOLLA OM PERSONEN VET DENNS RÄTTIGHETER NÄR DEN ÄR EN VISS ÅLDER	✓ Do the y.p. know its rights in a certain age?
<input type="checkbox"/> KOLLA UNGDOMENS ÅSIKT (UTAN NÅGON I NÄRHETEN)	✓ What do the y.p. think?
<input type="checkbox"/> KOLLA ATT HEN VET VART DEN STÄR	✓ Do the y.p. know where he/she stands?



SOLLENTUNA KOMMUN  
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[www.sollentuna.se](http://www.sollentuna.se)

## **Change of social workers**

"How often should you have to experience a change of social worker?"

Result: employment of four more social workers within the department for children and young people.



Saana Pukkio, Yontale Gebrenegus, Vilma Vähämaa (Finland)



## "Rights in the Transition Process - support and participation of Care Leavers" – International workshop

Saana Pukkio  
CUCW, Finland



### Central Union for Child Welfare (CUCW)

- The CUCW was founded in 1937 to promote and develop cooperation between NGOs, municipalities and state authorities in the area of child welfare.
- The key tasks of the CUCW are to promote the best interests of the child, to lobby in decision-making regarding children, and to bring together the child welfare expertise of various parties.
- The CUCW's members comprise 96 NGOs and 36 municipalities.
- Some of CUCW's members work actively with and for care leavers.
- CUCW currently updates the guidebook concerning after care in Finland.



## Some new and interesting projects in leaving care and after care

- **"On their own" –project (The Federation of Special Welfare Organisations EHJÄ ry) recruits and trains voluntary support persons to help and support young persons during and after the transition from residential care to independent living. The support relationship starts while care leavers are still in residential care (16-17 yrs old) and continues until the after care ends. The support person meets the care leaver 1-3 times/month.**
- **"Veturointi" –project (Auta lasta ry) recruits and trains voluntary experience advisors for young persons (16-21 yrs) to offer support and encouragement during residential care and after care. In addition to personal mentoring, the project also arranges group activities to offer peer support.**

Brenda Kneafsey, Jade McGlinchey (Ireland)

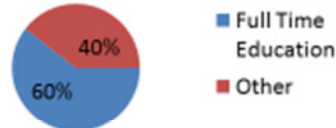


## Advocating for Young People in Aftercare

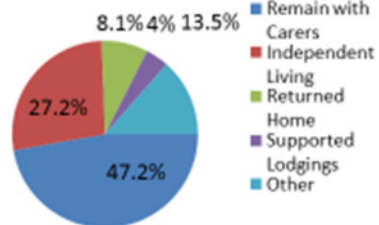
empowering people in care

- 2015 - 6,393 Children in Care in Ireland
- Approx. 500 go into aftercare each year
- Currently 1539 18-23yr olds in receipt of aftercare
- National Leaving and Aftercare Policy 2012
  - Minimum 2 years care experience
  - Referral 15 ½ years
  - Allocation of Aftercare Worker
  - Aftercare Needs assessment
  - Aftercare Steering Committee
  - Aftercare Plans

### Education



### Accommodation



## Advocating for Young People in Aftercare

empowering people in care

EPIC

Advocate



### Supporting Young People

- To have a Voice
- To be Heard
- To make a Difference

### Meaningful Participation

Fora's, Youth Boards, Advisory Groups, Policy Subcommittees, and Consultation

### Jades Experience of Advocacy

- Entered Care at 13 years
- 12 moves up to 18 years foster care and residential care
- Got advocate at 18
- Support at child in care reviews, access reviews, meetings with solicitor and court
- Need less advocacy support
- Joined TAG
- Confidence, treated differently by social workers now



## Mike Stein (England)

### Self-organisation: the rights movement of young people in care in England

**Activity** – Mike Stein, Social Policy Research Unit, York University

- I was an 'adult mentor' for the rights movement in England for 30 years - from its beginning in the 1970's until the setting up of *A National Voice*, the current organisation representing young people in care in England

#### **What worked well?**

- Young people from care coming together in local groups (*Leeds Ad-Lib*) to talk about care and share their experiences - many young people grew in confidence through participating in local groups
- Educating others locally, outside the care system about life in care – through publicity (*Ad-Lib Mag*), meetings and giving talks, began to change attitudes
- Coming together at a national level from 1975 -1979 (*Who Cares?*) – highlighted problems of young people in residential care, introduced the idea of 'rights in care', a narrative shift from 'professionally defined needs'
- Setting up their own organisation in 1979 – *The National Association of Young People in Care* – 4 aims: to improve conditions; to make information and advice available; to promote young people's views, and to develop local groups

### Self organisation: the rights movement of young people in care in England

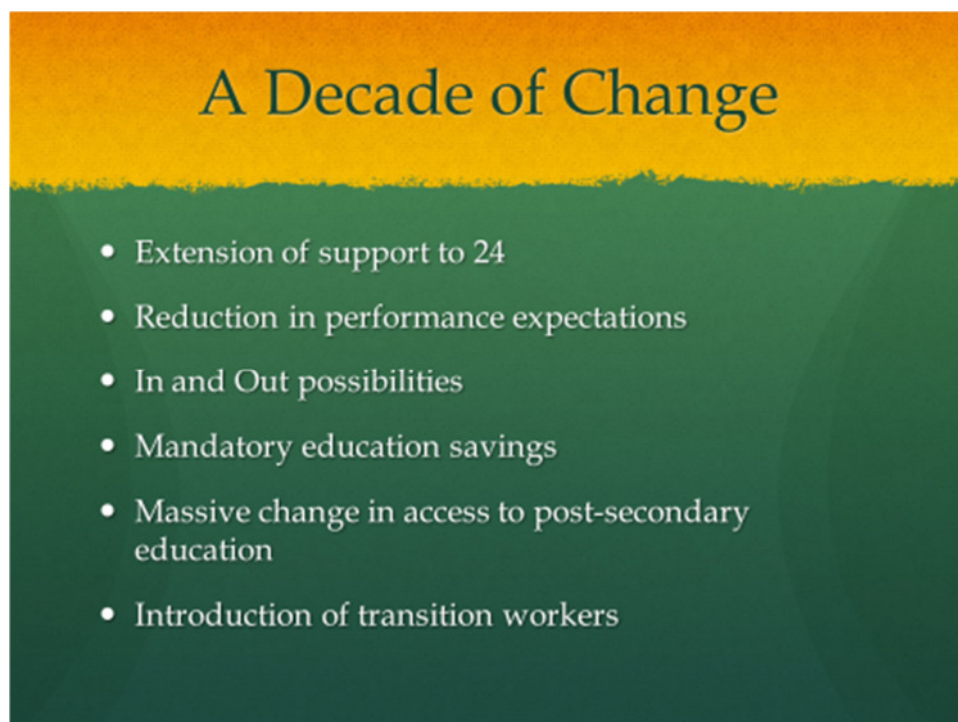
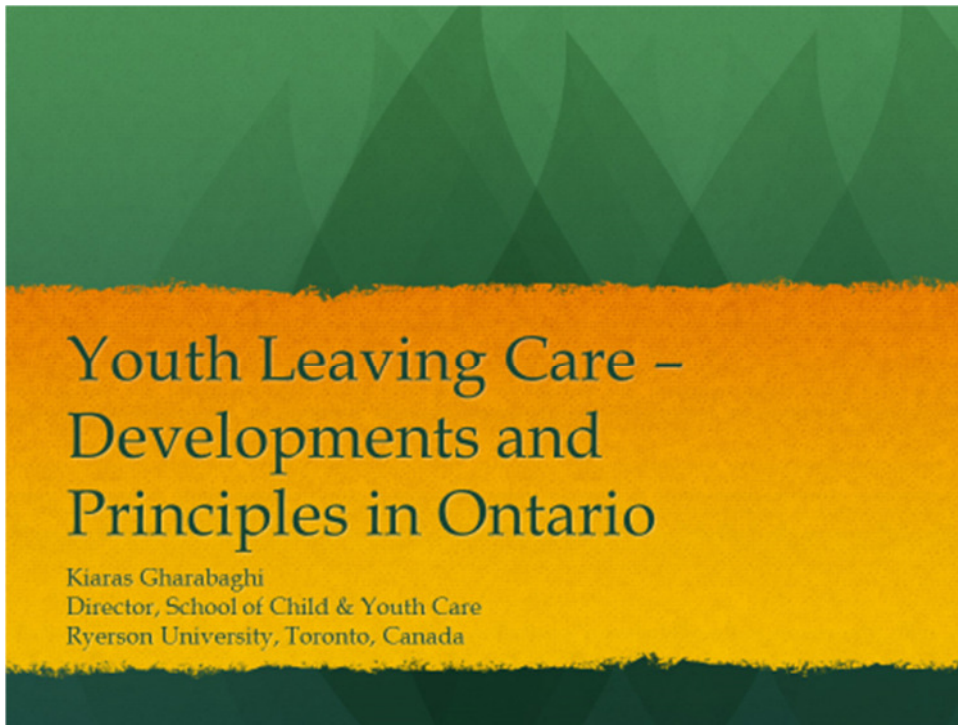
#### **What worked well?**

- *Black and In Care* – problems facing black and mixed heritage young people
- Carrying out surveys of practice, publishing reports, giving evidence to Parliament and Government committees – and challenging injustices - different from professional concern
- This led to changes in the law – complaints procedures, leaving care, 'ethnicity', greater participation
- Setting-up *A National Voice* from 1999 – to continue the work

#### **Don'ts – pitfalls to avoid – what can help**

- Don't let full-time staff do all the work – need a balance between national activity and local groups, and a democratic structure to make this happen
- Don't expect young people from care to do all organisational tasks
- Have a strong management committee with skills that will benefit the organisation – e.g. media, public relations, finance
- Ensure that young people who work for the organisation are well supported - e.g. by adults and mentors, including young adults who have been in care

**Kiaras Gharabaghi (Canada)**



## Principles of Change

- Youth engagement and participation (written into funding, both public and private)
- Go big or go home
- Public and broad communication strategies
- Independent political office (Provincial Advocate)

## Key Learnings

- Reflections on youth participation issues: who represents, who is chronically excluded, partnership versus patronage
- A sign of maturity: Well-paid youth (youth amplifiers, honoraria, etc.)
- The key partners: Media, Politicians, Corporate Sector

## Yoav Appelboim (Israel)



## ISRAEL POLICY

### Until 2010

- o No answers or policy from the government to the problem of after-care without family background
- o Private volunteer organization developed solutions and look for answers
- o Young people didn't have an address with all their rights, questions or basic help.



### These days

- o Influenced by the volunteer work in the last few years, the issue of after –care is part of the welfare policy discussion.
- o More answers to young's needs as general.

## TARGET POPULATION

- o Emerging adults ages 18- 25, gradulators of therapeutic and rehabilitative residential centers.
- o Youngsters without family backing (lack a functioning family or family that can't support them in life).
- o Most arrive from Israel's socio-geographical periphery, and a many come from families coping with economic difficulties, and/or immigrants.



## NEEDS

**A place to leave**

**Someone to listen and assist**

**To be expose to the rights, duties and options as an adult**

**To success out of the distress circle**



## ANSWERS

**Yeladim – Fair Chance for Children** is a volunteer association devoted to activities that provide these children with Similar opportunities to those afforded children who grow up in their family homes.



**The Public Forum** is a philanthropic and Professional partnership that was established to make a meaningful contribution to promoting Israel's youth villages and boarding schools.



**Lamerhav** acts to promote social change through intensive and multidimensional intervention in the lives of young adults without family backing, designed to transform them into social change agents.



The Children and Youth Village "**AHAVA**" is professional NPO, operating for over 90 years, providing care and educational solutions for children and youth at risk.



## ANSWERS

### Warm homes

Place to live, Individual support, group support, social help, professional counseling and guidance.

### Website

rights, links, who can help, options.

### Influencing policy

### Developing resources and partnerships

### Developing professional capabilities among the public managements, village directors and staff

### Individual support – professional & academic development



## **DILEMMAS**

- **Government budget**  
after care solutions have political budget, based on donations.
- **25?**  
Until what age should we escort and assist?
- **Working together**  
one main roof organization
- **Develop Professional training centers**



**Anita Burgund (Serbia)**

# Service provision for youth leaving Care in Serbia and region

MA Anita Burgund  
Serbia

## Content

- Youth on alternative Care in Serbia
- Preparation for leaving alternative care in Serbia and region
- Services for youth in transition to independence in Serbia and region
- Directions for further development of services for youth in process of emancipation
- Challenges



## Youth on alternative Care in Serbia

- Serbia is a country that is aging demographically - 17,5%.share of children
- While the number of children in the population decreases in the system of social protection is growing (in the last three years increased by 19.7%)
- Total number of children beneficiaries of care is 6.042(2014.)

## Youth on alternative Care in Serbia

- **Planing issues**
- in 2011 and 2012 for 80% of children and youth in care individual service plan was made, in 2013 almost all children and young people in care had plans service and in 2014 dropped to 71% due to new regulations

## Preparation for leaving alternative care

- According to the bylaws in Serbia, case manager in CSW should make a Plan for independent living and emancipation.
- In reality, this practices have not been implemented regularay, and bearly around 1/3 of documentation is in order with proposed standards and on time done (Zegarac, Burgund,2014) .
- Emancipation plan is least timed document (it has been done on time for 9.1% children on care older than 14years)
- Case managers mainly work on discharge planning, which is not enough for youth to adequatly prepare for living care.

## Preparation for leaving alternative care

- In Montenegro reforms of social welfare started in 2011, one of the goal is deinstitutionalizaion
- Reserch about leaving residential care has been conducted this year. However no information about foster care
- In Bosnia a lots of work on leaving care has been done by projects of sos villages lead by Duch organization

## Services for youth in transition to independence

- After mapping needs assessment and planing has been introduced
- Workshops for youth in Care has been delivered to all youth
- **Chalange** not every type of Care needs the same workshop

## Services for youth in transition to independence

- Services at the state and city level (halfway houses, beneficiary hausing, programs for self-reliance in homes for children, financial support of corporations)
- Projects in the Ministry's cooperation and NGO sectors
- Services of NGO sector
- Research of young people leaving care

## Services at the state and city level

- Halfway houses as a service center, unevenly represented
- **challenges:** mentors are case managers, overburdened-
  - not implementing individual plans for young people who use this service;
  - after services no information on young people;
  - young people often become beneficiaries of welfare as adults (**revolving door syndrome**)

## Services at the state and city level

- Support is being delivered through assessment in following area:
  - Self-care / hygiene,
  - budget management and use of money,
  - housing,
  - health and dental care,
  - personal security and coping with emergencies,
  - nutrition and food preparation,
  - purchase supplies,
  - family planning and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases,
  - identity emotions and behavior
  - parenting skills for young people who have or are expecting a child,
  - employment,
  - education planning and occupational
  - skills of problem solving and decision-making,
  - use of community resources,
  - awareness of legal rights

**Paradox: only assesment, but not provisions for following areas**

## Projects in the Ministry's cooperation and NGO sectors

- Rarely represented with short duration
- an example : "*media support in employment of young people without parental care*"  
aim at popularization, promotion and exchange of information on employment and employability of young people who leave welfare system, continue their lives independently, without real possibilities to support the family.

**Challenge- these projects should be continued**

## Services of NGO sector

- Youth clubs
- Discussion groups with parents;
- Advisory work with young people and parents;
- supervisory support clubs;
- professional support in the creation of programs independence;
- Research in the field of youth independence;
- Database of tracing youth who left care; has not been made yet
- experiences in developing a local network of support to become independent;
- Support of project management
- Peer counseling.

**Challenge: services depend on funding and are tied to larger cities, are not equally accessible to all young people and young people are not informed about their existence**

## Research of young people leaving care

- Research on a small scale sample and very rare for this population
- Adult Life Entry Network - Alen, 'Activation and Empowerment of Young People in Disadvantaged Situations')
- Project was conducted Serbia, Hungary, Croatia and the Republic of Austria
- objective is to contribute to the development of innovative services of social inclusion and independence of young people, through the creation and testing of new approaches and mutual learning

## Research of young people leaving care

*Funds must follow the user and not a service to enable respect of rights and is equal to the availability of different services to children regardless of the change of residence;*

## Conclusion

- Missing information about a group of youth leaving care
- It is necessary to make a database, and to educate caretakers
- to create a network of services and to provide information about them to youth
- Useful toolkit is application for i phone, ipeds..like in Holland



## Almandina Guma (SOS International, Albania)

### Engaging and Supporting Care Leavers



Almandina Guma  
SOS Children's Villages  
Regional Office CEE/CIS



### Empowering young people from peer to peer work methods

The peer research methodology on leaving care was applied by SOS Children's Villages in Albania, Poland and Czech Republic and Finland (2011-2012), supported by EU funds and in cooperation with National Care Advisory Service/UK

A total of more than 100 young people were involved as peer researchers and more than 800 young people involved as interviewees



The methodology is recognized as *action research* where subjects are interviewed from their peers from the same context of care

Topics defined by young people: Life skills, preparation for independent living, ties with families of origin, level of support, after care services

Young people from different forms of care were recruited and trained for conduction of the interviews



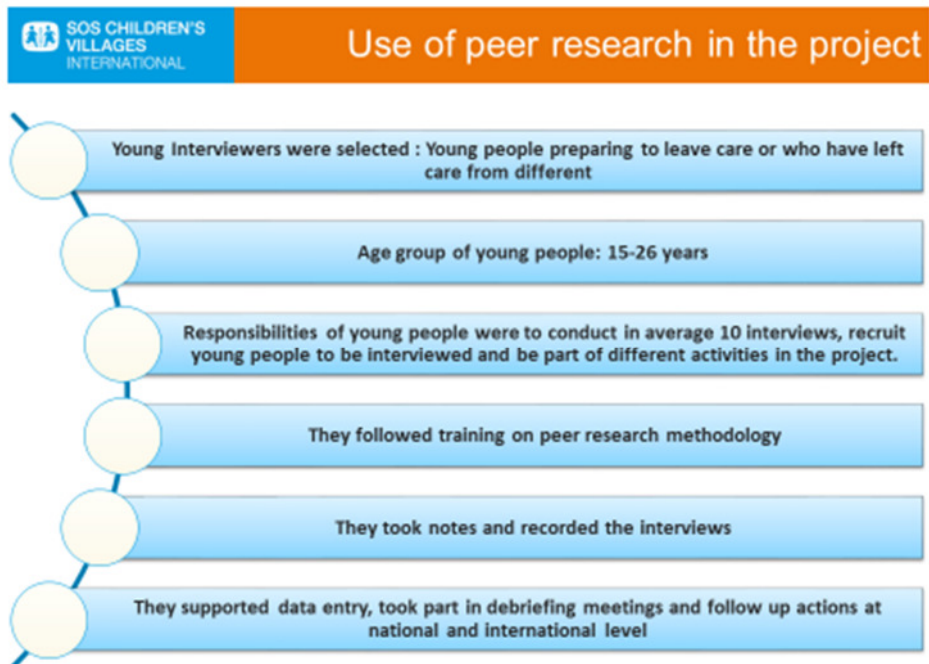


- It addresses power relations
- Uses the power of empathy
- Allows a greater depth and insight into the research subject
- Opportunities to learn research and life skills
- Supports advocacy for, with and by children and young people/beneficiaries

## Why "peer to peer" is empowering?


- It makes them responsible and motivates them to ACT!
- It is more reliable for those young people that got interviewed, because they rely better on young people and on how they use the results
- Advocacy has better results if it is done and addressed by those affected by the issues.
- It was also about working and enjoying!

*"The more research I did, the less restraint I felt and the research itself turned into an interesting conversation. Interviewees were eagerly answering the questions I asked, as these questions dealt with their own life and experience. I got involved with conducting research, I obtain a lot of knowledge and I grew richer both as a pedagogue and as human being."*



**SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL** Using results!!

- ✓ Youth Exchanges and Forums
- ✓ Youth organizations
- ✓ Youth Networks and Clubs
- ✓ Legislative changes – policy level
- ✓ International Youth Council
- ✓ Training Manuals on Leaving Care with involvement of young people in training of care professionals
- ✓ Resource centers for care leavers – Employment, Education, Access to Services
- ✓ Peer research methodology – replicated by young people
- ✓ Peer education and mentoring
- ✓ Application for App on Employment Opportunities





*Increasing debate at EU Level*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBuR20JjfN0>



*Youth friendly written alternative reports and presentation to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva*

## **Working group 1: Self-organization / Networking of and for care leavers**

### Do:

- Always speak with youngster, never without them!
- Get in contact personally in order to mobilize young people (are there other ways of access?)
- Plan the motive of the group together
- Knowledge / experience
- Share information about care leaving
- Find ways to make all voices heard
- Try your best to involve also those kids who are not so verbal and self-conscious  
→ find new and different ways to participate (non-verbal?) and activate
- Network – learn from the experiences from the (other) care leavers
- Talking about experiences and seeking / giving advice
- Take them serious
- structure

### Don't:

- Do not make it complicated in the beginning and do not start without young people
- If there is a problem: never think your solution is the best, there is always a better one, the sky is the limit.
- Do not make decisions for care leavers
- Don't forget to respect the anonymity
- Be part of the regular system
- Don't just let care leavers give their opinions without giving back (feedback etc.)
- Don't let them only work
- Don't let inter-organizational "feuds" / fights undermine the networking and the common goal

### **Working group 3: Lobbying, Advocacy, Ombudsmanship**

- Definitions:
  - Lobbying → Politicians
  - Advocacy, two levels: 1: → individual, 2: policies / broad system
  - Ombudsman → looks at what is there and what needs to change
- Ireland: strong role of ombudsman, work a lot with briefing papers = research based legal type of documents to underline care leavers' perspectives
- Problem of project funding
- Involve politicians → face to face contact with care leavers
- How can the state be a good parent? "Corporate Parent" → Save money for education!
- Put the issue of leaving care in a broad focus:
  - Journalists /media
  - Business people
  - High profile people of any kind
- What is the right approach to influence policies in your country? What works?
- Find influential people!
- Media training with care leavers
- Learn the language of governments
- Don't talk about money in the first place (or only how to save money)
- NGO Working group on the issue of Care leavers → shout together
- "investment in young people" → let it be sustainable
- You need facts (statistics, numbers) and stories → overcome the invisibility of care leavers
- Find a famous person! The media will come
- Identify organisations that have influence → work together, coalitions
- Support care leavers' networks to make their voice heard
- Give feedback to the care leavers what happens with their complaint, experience. Etc
- Approach politicians with the idea of a solution → key objectives, not too broad
- German problem regional differences → stress equality
- Offer to governments to test out the effects of law → analyse the implementation in 3 different areas (in order to gain data)
- Start Pilot projects to initiate broad change
- Use programmes to place the issue, e.g. "Youth friendly municipality"
  - Use elections
  - Engage care leavers to interact with local politicians
- Example: care leavers give scores (like school marks) to the services provided in different areas (Media)
- Start with the care leavers, ask them: "If we ever went to government – what would you want to change?"
- No aftercare → many costs in other social systems (data), in prison, homeless
- Interdepartmental approach → discuss the issue with different ministries
- Open discussion for issues that need to change in care to better prepare young people
- Involve young people from the start → let them make the issue. Be fair and sincere!
- Negative media attention (scandals) can also make things start