National competence centre for family care issues in Sweden

Eurocarers meeting, Prague November 30th 2007

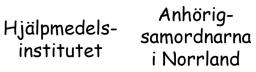
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Process

- Hard lobbying by Åke and Lennarth Johansson along with others over a nine year period!
- In April 2007 the National Board of Health and Welfare Sweden invited applications to establish a competence centre for family care issues.
- Together with representatives from seven partner organisations we submitted an application for the August 15th deadline. There were 10 submissions in total.
- We were short listed with two other finalists to present our application to the Board and to members of the external review panel.
- On October 16th it was formally announced that we were successful with our application!
- The centre officially starts from January 1st 2008 with funding of approximately 5 million Swedish crowns (535,000 Euros) over an initial two year period.

Official confirmation

 In their official letter the Board explained their rationale for their decision as follows:

'The applicants fulfil all the conditions laid out in the application. Furthermore, the applicants have experience of work at a national level, proven ways of working to implement results and a formal co-operation with family care associations'.

National partners

- •FOKUS (a well- established research and development centre based in Kalmar with recognised national competence in the field of care for older people),
- ·ÄldreVäst Sjuhärad, University College of Borås (a research and development centre known for user involvement in the field of care for older people and family care support).
- ·Carers Sweden (the national umbrella voluntary organisation for family carers),
- •The Handicap Institute (a well-established competence centre in the field of disability),
- •Regional co-ordinators for family care support in Norrland (all the regions in the north of Sweden),
- •The University of Kalmar Human Sciences Department (recgonised for its work with family focused care) & eHealth Institute,
- The Health Care Region Kalmar

The competence centre will be located in FOKUS in Kalmar in the south east of Sweden

Target groups

- · Family carers and older people
- Health and social care practitioners
- · Decision makers



Overall aims of the centre

The competence centre shall contribute towards longterm knowledge development regarding issues that affect family carers' situation and how support can best be given to family carers. The work of the centre shall lead to a higher quality and effectiveness of care of older people in the entire country with a focus on issues that affect family carers' situation via:

- collecting and disseminating knowledge and experiences in the field of family care support
- stimulating and supporting practice development work and knowledge transfer in the area.

Ways of working together with the target groups

- Learning networks
- IT virtual 'meeting places', website & electronic forum with news reports
- Eucational materials, best practice guidelines,
 'State of the art' reviews
- · Conferences
- Newsletter

International Advisory Board

- Mike Nolan, Professor in Gerontology and Family care Issues, Sheffield Institute for Studies on Ageing (SISA), University of Sheffield, England
- •Francine Ducharme, Professor in Gerontology and Family care Issues, the University of Montreal, Québec, Canada
- ·Henk Nies, Vice President Research, Eurocarers and Research Director of the Dutch Expertise Centre for Family Care, Netherlands
- ·Joan Hughes, President of Carers Australia
- A representative from a Swedish voluntary association with Muslim culture with strong interest in older people and family care issues

Their role is to provide strategic advice and contribute with current, relevant international experiences & research results in the area