

National competence centre for family care issues in Sweden

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Hjälpmiddels-
institutet

Anhörig-
samordnarna
i Norrland



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 (recognised 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 long-term 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
- Educational 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