



Poster 7 – 2018 Nordic Implementation Conference

Creating a welfare plan for organizing social and health care services for one region in Finland

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Background

In Finland, a welfare plan is mandatory under the Health Care Act. In the province of Satakunta, the up-date of the plan is scheduled to take place at a time when Finland has extensive national social and health care reform (SOTE). The reform emphasizes the complexity of customer services, operating service chains, and integration between special and primary health care.

Project aim

The aim of the project is to update a welfare plan based on legislative requirements, national recommendations and the health situation and services of the population of Satakunta. The emphasis is on strengthening links between politics and science by providing political decision makers with comparative information on the situation of wellbeing in various parts of Satakunta to support decision-making.

Project methods

The health monitoring data and service needs of the population in the region were primarily determined on the basis of register material from the registers of the National Institute for Health and Welfare, Statistics Finland and indicators of OECD. The statistics related to the living conditions of the population, the welfare and health status, the need for and access to the service and care, equality in services, the functioning, quality and safety of social and health services, costs and resources, effectiveness and participation. Statistics were graphically visualized and tabulated.

Project results

The areas of the plan are reception services, centralized special care, emergency care, oral health care, children, young people and families, prosperity and health, elderly care, disabled, substance abuse and mental health, adult social work and support services. Initially, each service sector is presented with objectives and measures based on guidelines drawn up on the basis of statistics and legislation. Each service sector is divided into home, neighbourhood and centralized services. The plan prepared by team has been commented by the experts, management and political decision-makers.

Preliminary or final conclusions/discussion

The welfare plan does not comment on administrative models, contract management or financial management, but is included in the operational and financial plan. Statistics are never ready but they must be continually updated to keep up-to-date. In the future, the province maintains an online service providing information on centres, dental care, and customer service providers and personal budget services. The online service also provides information on the availability and quality of services.