PROMISE 2

LAW AS ONE ENABLING FACTOR FOR THE BARNAHUS

CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
The Barnahus model refers to multi-disciplinary and interagency interventions for child victims and witnesses of violence.

One-stop, child-friendly setting which fulfills a number of criteria.

PROMISE 1 explored these criteria in depth and developed standard setting publications.

Select professionals from around Europe were invited.

From 0 to Barnahus is an open invitation to join the discussions within the European Barnahus Movement.

Key principles, standards, and challenges to consider when opening and operating a multi-disciplinary and interagency collaboration for child victims and witnesses of violence.

Read more about the principles, criteria, goals and challenges for the Barnahus in the PROMISE Vision:

www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/vision
PROMISED AND DELIVERED …

- PROMISE 2015-2017 invited pilot countries to receive support for the establishment of Barnahus.
- Participated in exchanges and trainings, and gave important feedback to the PROMISE publications.
- Now in phase 2, they are facilitating their own exchanges and trainings, and supporting the European Barnahus Movement with their own learnings.

- In 2015 - only 6 or so countries with a Barnahus or similar setup.
- By the end of 2019 we anticipate more than 20 countries around Europe will be operational, with another 6 countries actively working towards launching services.

- Most have inspired, contributed to, and are now basing their work on the Barnahus Quality Standards and on other valuable learnings from PROMISE. [www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/standards](http://www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/standards) (available in several languages)
WEBINAR:
LAW AS ONE ENABLING FACTOR FOR THE BARNAHUS

- Anne-Lise Farstad, Executive Director at Statens barnehus Kristiansand, Norway
- Kim Risom Rasmussen, Head of Børnehus Sjælland, Denmark
- Merete Bonde Jørgensen, Special consultant at the National Board of Social Services, Denmark
- Moderator: Shawnna von Blixen, Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat
Enabling legislation: Implications of law on the work of Barnahus in Norway

-Lise Farstad
Statens barnehus Kristiansand, Norway
History

• The first Barnahus in Norway was established in November 2007

• Today: 11 Barnahus

• Geographically spread from north to south
History, cont’d

• The Norwegian Barnahus is based on the Icelandic model.

• Both are based on the American model, CAC (Children`s Advocacy Center).
Target group

• Children, and mentally disabled adults, when there is concern that they may have been subjected to sexual abuse or violence or have been exposed to domestic violence

• Primarily children aged 3 to 16
Responsibility


• Barnahus in Norway are organized by the local police.
Poll: If the Barnahus in your country should be government initiated, what would be the best organizational platform?
Legal obligations related to the use of Barnahus – law, regulations and guidelines

• 2015: New legislation that makes use of Barnahus as a main rule.
• This implies that forensic interviews will be carried out in the Barnahus
• Barnahus shall assist in determining whether or not there is an exemption and if the interview should be held elsewhere
• The decision should be based on the terms of the law, which states that the best interests of the child are decisive
The impact of this legislation

• The police are obliged to use Barnahus
• Involves closer cooperation between police and Barnahus, both prior to, during and after forensic interview
• The role of the Barnahus becomes clearer
• The task of Barnahus in connection with forensic interviews are described in the law
Task related to the legislation

- Coordination prior, during and after the forensic interview. This entails:
  - Consultation meeting before the forensic interviews
  - Participation in meeting before and after the forensic interview
  - Representative from Barnahus must receive and attend the child
  - Representative from Barnahus shall follow the forensic interview
  - Facilitate the completion of forensic medical and dental examinations in Barnahus
  - Coordination of interdisciplinary interaction
Poll: What do you think is important for getting a well functioning Barnahus in your country?
Requirements for employees

• Employees shall have childcare competence and competence on mentally disabled adults and others with disabilities.
• They shall help to provide witnesses who are questioned on the field-based follow-up and treatment
• They shall help the prosecutor to have good basis for his/her decisions.
Work process

- Report to Police
- Decision from Prosecutor
- Booking time for interviews in Barnahus
- Consultant meeting
- Pre-meeting
- Forensic facilitated Interview
- After-meeting
- Medical Examination
- Follow-up by Barnahus
Contents of the consulting meeting

- Participation: Police, Childrens welfare and Barnehus

- Exchange information about the child
- Plan how the child should be obtained
- Does the child have special needs, diagnoses etc.?
- Risk assessment?
- Consider other emergency and acute treatment agencies?
Contents of the meeting, cont`d

- Plan if placement outside the home would become necessary
- Limit visitation rights / restraining?
- How and by whom the child shall be prepared?
Synergistic effect of the legislation

• Positive impact on the quality of forensic interviews
• Improved the police skills within childcare
• The police has improved understanding of the consequences of trauma
Challenges

• Some of the children must travel far to be accommodated by a Barnahus

• It is only the role of Barnahus in relation to the forensic interviews that are governed by law enforcement. This implies that tasks related to Barnahus`s other activities such as follow-up and treatment do not receive the same priority.
Thank you for your attention 😊

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Webinar – PROMISE

Merete Bonde Jørgensen, The National Board of Social Services, Denmark
Kim Risom Rasmussen, Børnehus Sjælland, Denmark

September 2018

Knowledge for mutual benefit
Coordinated measures to protect children against abuse

**Background**

- Individual cases with serious failure by the municipalities
- Investigation of individual cases
- 39 recommendations from The Expert Panel to strengthen the effort to prevent and avoid abuses of children

**Political decision by the Danish Government**

- The initiative consists of both legislation and initiatives to support the implementation of the new legislation.
- Budget: 268 mio. dkk. (36 million euros)
Strengthens in the model of The Danish children’s houses

• Legislation

• The National Board of Social Services national support

• Collecting of data
Poll: What would be important in your country to ensure that every child would have equal access to get help in a child-friendly environment in a Barnahus?
The National Board of Social Services professional support

Counseling and instructions

- Professional and administrative questions
- The intersectorial co-operation model
- Assistance to clarification of questions about the legislation

Facilitation of meeting forums

- National Network meetings
- Children’s Houses management meetings
- Experience exchange meetings
  - Social workers/psychologists
  - Administrative staff
- Common competence development seminars
- Co-operations meetings with municipalities, police districts and Children’s Houses
Poll: Do you think that centralized support for Barnahus and networks across the different Barnahus in your country will ...
Products who support a national uniformity with high professional standards

- Professional descriptions
  - Common professional descriptions of the efforts offered in the Danish Children’s Houses

- Documentation
  - Common instructions for the registration of professional content in BIT
Experiences from the implementation

- Legislative focus
- Intersectorial co-operation
- Equal efforts
- Focus on all sectors and all levels
- Central support
Thank you for listening!

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Please tell us a few words about how the presentation has inspired you to continue developing Barnahus in your country?
Thank you for your attention.

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Co-funded by the European Union.
FROM 0 TO BARNAHUS – SAVE THE DATES FOR THE UPCOMING WEBINARS

11 Oct 2018 – Facility dogs 101: when furry friends help children to tell their stories
18 Oct 2018 – Medical evaluation at the Barnahus – A deeper look into Barnahus Quality Standard #7