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Minutes of the second stakeholders´ meeting

Opening Barnahus in Southern Estonia

Tartu, Riia 69

12.09.2018

14.00 – 17.00

Anna Frank-Viron:

Children's house is

- An interdisciplinary service offered to help children who are sexually abused or suspected to be.
- The children's house is located in Tallinn and Tartu.
- The first children's house was opened on 2 January 2017.
- As of August, 132 children have been assisted.
- To inform a child in need of help or a distressed child, contact the child protection worker of the local government, 112 or child helpline 11 6111.

12.09 A children's house is opened in Tartu, which has been planned for years and is designed to help children who have been sexually abused. The premises of the center are selected according to the Standard of the European Children's House and are planned to allow all the necessary steps to be heard from the hearing of the child until the later supporting activities.

2016 the birth of the new Child Protection Act was an important step towards the well-being of children. Now 2018 we can say that every day continues its development and cooperation is the key word in that house service for children indispensable.

„We haven't had to talk very much about opening a house in Tartu. We were immediately found out“

The Children's House mostly cooperates with the police, but foster care facilities and some local governments have already turned to them. "Fortunately, we are increasingly being found by schools. And the kids call the child helpline"

In the South Estonian Children's House, two specialists are hired to work with children who are sexually abused or suspected of having such a suspicion. When a child arrives in this new, warm and light-colored house, he gets all-round help and it is important to have one in one place. This means that if necessary, a police officer, a psychologist, a forensic physician, a gynecologist or someone else is invited to the children's house , and running a child in an already fragile state will be eliminated.

Egon Veermäe, Director General of Social Insurance Board :

"We have over 500 children, who fall into a variety of such tragic incidents as the victim. Last year, our North, Tallinn Children's House service attended over 130 children, and when you look at this year's statistics, this year already at this stage is the same number of children (in September). One of the problems has been the availability of the service, it has only been in northern Estonia and consequently there is a need to bring it to southern Estonia, Tartu,

Last week (07.09), the child protection network network got together in the children's house and shared their sincere joy that after years of planning, the children's house has reached this area.

The interest of local governments and other partners is great because the service as such is necessary. This is also reflected in the number of people registered for open days of our new Barnahus. In fact, the children's house has already been cooperating with Police and Border Guard Board and local governments in various cases in the summer.

Sometimes good co-operation remains behind the money, but we see that in the case of the childcare service there is not so much money, but the will to think about the best interests of the child. Different systems already work for the well-being of children, now they only need to be under one roof and put the systems together.

We invite you to turn to the local children 's house and establish and maintain good partnerships in the interests of children in need.

Kaia Iva, Minister of Social Affairs :

At the beginning of my term of office (end of 2016 - ed) the creation of children's homes was just a beautiful dream. Now there are two. Where to go?

First of all, it is important that all children in Estonia know to turn to the North or South Children 's House . But from there - we should look to Ida-Viru County. Problems are everywhere, but there is a slightly different community that should be addressed slightly differently. There are also a few specialists,

such as psychologists, and there is a need for a separate team to deal with their children.

What should be done to better find the children in need?

It is very important to have a child helpline number. Schools should tell where to turn in such cases. Often, the children themselves interact with each other to see that the friend is concerned and they turn to the person who can help.

Child protection workers have said that if there is more talk about the needy children in the media, they are more in touch. Parents must also be educated. Family relationships and their quality are very important for the child not to move in the direction of a relationship that may lead to disaster.

The Children's House project is quite unique in the world, but in Estonia there are already several changes because of that.

Since it is possible to deal with the problem in one place and in a way that the child is not afraid to give testimony, there are many more. There is no more reason for them to be more explosive, but because people know that they are getting help. This positive trail already exists in society.

Kairi Kaldoja , leading prosecutor from Southern Prosecutor's Office

According to Kairi Kaldoja , chief prosecutor of the Southern District Prosecutor 's Office, trust in the legal system can be counted among the growing number of abused children.

"This large number does not mean a tremendously bad situation. This means that children dare to talk more about trusting the country. And when the number of abused children increases at some point, it actually shows confidence in the legal system," Kaldoja explained.

It is often more important for a child to just be listened to. For this purpose, there is a separate room in the children's room with soft armchairs and a small table called the hearing room. "There we talk to the child, let him play and just be calm."

Includes a camera and another backup camera, which can be tracked from the side room. There is also a small switch on the wall lamp of the hearing room to turn on the microphone when there is a need to record the child's talk.

There is also a room in the Southern Children's House for medical examination and therapeutic activities.

The mission of the Children's House and its partners is that the evidence gathered there would be acceptable to the court and that the victim of abuse should not talk about the experience many times.

"We really shouldn't have any people, even fewer children, whose future professionals have an important role to play in shaping their future, forcing them to experience the suffering again," said Kairi Kaldoja.

According to Kaldoja , the Prosecutor's Office is convinced that the Children's House contributes to more efficient, faster and more victim-friendly criminal proceedings. «No one has the right to ruin the future of a small person. Those who do so must be held accountable for their actions, so every criminal offense that has arisen in the children's home starts criminal proceedings, »the prosecutor said.