



CASE: FAMILY WORK Savings from well-being clinics

The early 2000s was a busy period for the child welfare services of Imatra. The number of children and young people who needed support from open care and alternative care was remarkably higher than the national average.

At worst, the expenses would increase by almost a million euros each year. The city's stance was that something would have to be done. This meant improving the family support services to provide timely support for families. This would help prevent the aggravation of the families' problems and reduce the need for expensive services, such as alternative care, children's psychiatric inpatient care, and 24/7 housing services.

The family support services were improved by turning the maternity and child welfare clinic into a well-being clinic. The objective of this was to ensure that basic services could offer families enough support for parenting and help them organise their daily lives. Reaching this goal meant that the whole organisation had to change their practices and attitudes.

A decision was made to offer support to people in the places where people naturally meet with each other: at home and in day care centres and schools. The relationship between basic and special services was rethought so that most of the resources of the special services could be used to support the basic services.



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The One Life health project strives towards a healthier Finland. The Finnish Brain Association, the Finnish Diabetes Association, the Filha Finnish Lung Health Association, the Organisation for Respiratory Health, the Finnish Association for Mental Health, the Finnish Heart Association, and the Cancer Society of Finland have teamed up to promote people's health and welfare throughout their lives. Duodecim participates in the project as an expert organisation.

Costs

Around 200,000 euros were invested to recruit six new welfare clinic employees in the 2009 budget. After that, resources have been shifted from children's reception homes to family work.

Savings

In 2014, the child service costs of Imatra were around 2 million euros lower compared to a situation where the expenses would have continued growing in line with the trend of the early 2000s.

Please note:

The project in question was a municipal development project, not a scientific study.

No research was conducted in connection with the development operations. The results have been taken from the budget of the municipality. Individual development measures and the development of society have not been taken into consideration.

Sources:

- Säästöjä lapsiperheiden palveluremontilla [Savings from restructuring family services]. Liiteraportti: Kuntien kuvaukset lapsiperheiden palvelujen kehittämisestä / Lapsipolitiikan ja lapsipalvelujen uudistaminen Imatran kaupungissa [Supplementary report: Municipal descriptions of the development of family services / Improving child policies and child services in the city of Imatra]. Foundation for Municipal Development 2015.



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