

Final Roundtable: Moving Forward

The Future of Community Care



Crina Moisa

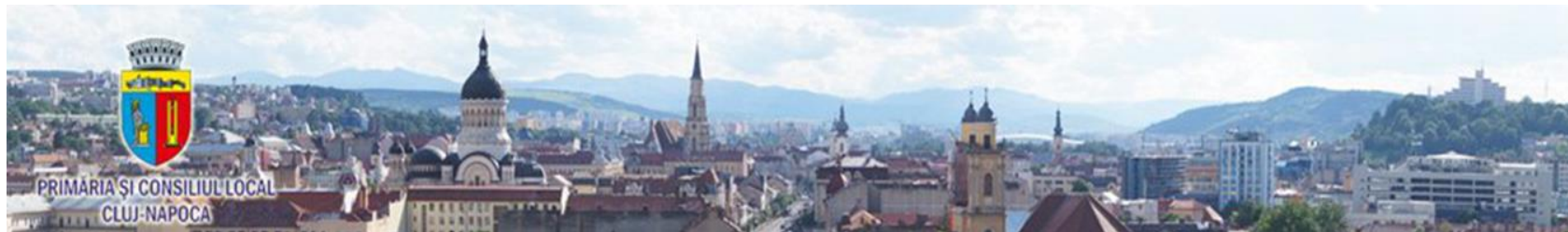
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“We are here for you
(youngsters, children)!”

THE SOCIAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES
DIRECTORATE

THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA



Crina MOISĂ, Policy Officer



Child protection transitioning to adulthood in Romania

Young adults (aged 16-25) in state care/have left state care:

Problems:

- poor development of independent living skills
- emotional and behavioural problems
- lack of skills and vocational qualifications needed for labour market
- unemployment
- financial difficulties
- homelessness

The needs

- stability
- reference persons to relate to
- learn how to live independently, manage financial/personal assets
- independent housing
- (vocational) training
- employment;
- social skills
- health education
- psychological support to overcome trauma
- to be understood and accepted by specialists
- stronger self esteem and personal autonomy

"We are here for you (youngsters, children)!"

Project: “We are here for you (youngsters, children)!”

Addressing difficulties that young people have in adapting to every-day life when they leave the child protection system.

Solution

EU-funded project - Developing integrated services for children/young people who are to leave/ have left the institutionalised child protection system, to prepare their transition from the institutionalised system to community care.

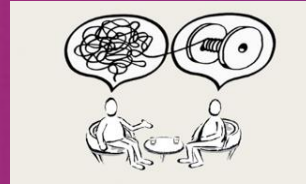
Target group

52 children and young people who have left or are about to leave the child protection system.
North Western Region

Services at community level for children/youngsters leaving institutionalized system:



financial support
(rent and
maintenance)



social/
psychological
counselling



legal advice



financial
counselling



labour market
insertion



vocational
training and
incentives



life skills for living
independently



support to
manage
household



mentoring

Results

- ✓ established new target group within our institution: young people leaving the child protection system
 - ✓ a good practice guide- including results, successes achieved, difficulties, lessons learned, testimonials of beneficiaries
 - ✓ a new support procedure for youngsters/children leaving care has been established: tailored integrated dedicated services to youngsters leaving the child protection system
 - ✓ new services provided within the institution: mentoring services

The story of D.I

Initial context:

- young girl who left the special child protection system
- not cooperative and had an undesirable behaviour (suspicion of theft, prostitution etc).
- unemployed
- no stable housing situation

Services provided:

- Social skills, psychological and vocational counselling, independent living skills and was prepared to manage the household to receive a rented apartment within the project, received employment support

Results

- ✓ D.I. found a job, received a rented apartment and attended a "Hairdresser" qualification training programme, which she successfully completed
- ✓ she started a relationship with a young man and became pregnant, got married
- ✓ received parenting skills, newborn care
- ✓ D.I gave birth to a healthy baby girl and she benefits from paid leave for childcare
- ✓ she is now living a normal life together with her husband and child

How will we integrate the services?

- ✓ provide rent support for youngsters leaving care – local legislation issued by our City Hall
 - ✓ contracts with mentors, also future department which will be dedicated to mentoring
 - ✓ all social services within one building – The Social Inclusion Centre
 - ✓ multidisciplinary team (social workers, psychologist, legal advisor, mentor) – to facilitate their access to services tailored to their specific needs
 - ✓ develop network lines between different institutional structures and professionals involved – creation of institutional collaboration habits and shortcuts

Transferability of results

- ✓ The integrated services provided to youngsters leaving the child protection system will be included in the practice of the Social Inclusion Centre of our institution
- ✓ The beneficiaries of the project will continue to be supported, will acquire skills to be able to provide themselves with decent living conditions, financial resources, maintain jobs, cope with the realities of everyday life, etc
 - ✓ The methodology developed in the project will be transferred to other social professionals/services working in urban and rural areas
 - ✓ The good practice guide will be disseminated to specialists in the social field from public and private organizations at local/regional/national level
 - ✓ Integrated support for the transition to adult life is crucial for young people leaving state care.



THANK YOU!

THE SOCIAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

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