Youth leaving care
Pathways into adulthood
OCMW GENT
Legal context in Flanders

- Law on child protection (1965)
  - basics
- Special Child care (Dec 1990)
  - Families with multiple problems
  - Optional or obligatory help
    - 7 categories including institutions, day centres, semi-independent living and foster care...
- Integral child care (Dec 2002)
  - Inter-sectoral
Situation in Ghent

- Local municipality

  - Right to social assistance and social integration
  - Social services include income support, social activation, housing, legal advice, psychological help,
  - Tailored made services for 18 - 25
Problems registered by OCMW Gent

- Problems with justice: 18%
- Homelessness: 20%
- Addictions: 33%
- Psychological problems: 35%
- Own children in care: 43%
- Indebtment: 70%
- Early school leavers: 75%
- Unemployment: 90%

...
Project Pathways into adulthood

• **What?**
  Answer to the gap between child care and adult care

• **Why?**
  A shared concern by 4 partners

• **Who?**
  Child care
  Care for people with disabilities
  General health care/welfare
  Local governance

• **How?**
  Funded by Integral child care (inter-sectoral)
Pathways into adulthood

• 5 goals between partners
  ◦ Common information folder
  ◦ Face to face recognition
  ◦ Guidelines for professionals on « friendly transferral » of users
  ◦ Creation of an outreaching care
  ◦ Research on transition to adult care
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**Actions** between partners

- Professionals getting to know each others
- Creation of a common information folder
- Sharing good practices amongst the 4 partners
- Workshop for professionals on transferral
Pathways into adulthood

Challenges for our services

- Different settings
- Definition of the best help?
- Measurement of results?
- Participation of youth leaving care?
- Dependence on the young
- The trust-issue
Conclusions of the project based on the evaluation

- Higher knowledge and trust
- Continual sharing of best practices
- Common information folder
- Early, friendly, personal transferral
Pathways into adulthood

- Recommendations
  - Inter-sectoral work is requisite
  - Don’t forget the social context of the youngsters
  - Participation of local government is recommended
Contacts

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