

Minutes from the Kids Care Working Group

6 Jun 2015

Participants

Ilian Rizov [IR] – director of “Sauchastie” - Varna
Nadejda Doneva [ND] – Foster Care Manager at “Sauchastie” – Varna
Desislava Gencheva [DG] – social worker at “Samaritans” – Stara Zagora
Snejana Dimitrova [SD] – psychologist at “Samaritans” – Stara Zagora
Ivaylo Yabalkarov [IY] – Foster Care Manager at “Samaritans” – Stara Zagora
Desislava Lambina [DL] – director of “Kids Care Charity”
Julia Arabajieva [JA] – treasurer at “Kids Care Charity”
Yordan Dulov [YD] – volunteer at “Kids Care Charity”
Petko Petkov [PP] - volunteer at “Kids Care Charity”
Daniela Sarasakalova [DS] - volunteer at “Kids Care Charity”

Review of last 3 months

1. We have taken up a new contract with foster care provider “Samaritans” in the city of Stara Zagora, Bulgaria. The contract can be found on our page:
<http://www.kidscarecharity.co.uk/documents>
2. We increased the salaries in Varna to 680BGN before tax.
3. The government funding for the Social Services project has been extended till 30 Oct 2015. It is likely that funding will be granted for further 2y after that – TBC. This project supports 30 families in Aksakovo, which “Sauchastie” – Varna coordinated.
4. Kids Care received an offer for free online training with Fair Start Global, which was passed onto our partners.
5. Videos of famous people supporting Kids Care – we have 13 videos so far, thanks to YD

Meeting with our partners in Bulgaria

1. **Foster care provider “Sauchastie” – Varna**
 - a. Current families – 29
 - b. Total children supported by Kids Care to date – **49**, of whom:
 - i. Adopted – 11
 - ii. Reintegrated – 5
 - iii. Moved to another foster care provider or back to institution – 2
 - iv. In foster care currently – 31, of which:
 1. Registered for adoption - 17
 2. Working to reintegrate – 7
 3. Children who will stay in foster care permanently or where the parents have not yet decided if they’re willing to take them back - 7
 - c. Training of new foster care applicants – 10 new applicants are undergoing training with Government funding [supported by ND]
 - d. Additional funding of 234 BGN was provided for medical care and transport. 100 BGN expensed YTD.

- e. Walker needed for Melanie, who suffers from cerebral palsy.
- f. 10 of the families in Aksakovo have moved to “Sauchastie”
- g. DL offered free online training with Fair Start Global, which the team were keen to try. JA will send details to “Sauchastie”.
- h. There is no agreed national financial standard for foster care in Bulgaria. A report was written in 2014, which did not account for the lack of administrative resource at the council to support foster care, as well as other factors (such as travel for the child to meet their biological family, etc).

2. Foster care provider “Samaritans” - Stara Zagora

- a. First meeting with our new partners:
 - i. Desislava Gencheva has worked at “Samaritans” for 8y as a social worker and supports 12 families.
 - ii. Snejana Dimitrova has worked at “Samaritans” for 8y as a psychologist and supports 15 families.
 - iii. Ivaylo Yabalkarov has worked at “Samaritans” for 7y as a coordinator and manager of Foster Care and supports 9 families, which are not funded by Kids Care at present.
- b. “Samaritans” carries out fund-raising activities to supply additional needs for transport, nappies, cosmetics for the children, etc
- c. Current families - **27**
- d. Current children - 29
 - i. Registered for adoption – 26, but likely to stay in foster care permanently
 - ii. Working to reintegrate – 3 (who were reintegrated unsuccessfully before)
- e. Training of new foster care applicants – 4
- f. There are 11 “family-like” homes, where the tendency is for the public social workers not refer them to foster care, so instead of them being temporary placements as they intended to be, they become permanent, thus the children remain institutionalised and the individual care in foster families is hindered.
- g. DL offered distant adoption (sponsors will send fixed monthly payments for a chosen family via “Samaritans” and will receive reports, photos and other materials showing the progress of the family), potentially in 3 areas:
 - i. Supporting prevention of abandonment;
 - ii. Supporting a foster family to take children with special needs or babies;
 - iii. Supporting the biological family to receive their child back from an institution or foster family (reintegration).

Q3 plans

- 1. Distant adoption
 - a. Biological families to facilitate reintegration
 - b. Prevention from abandonment
 - c. Foster family – to meet special medical and learning needs of the child and to afford fostering new born babies (babies go to institutions, because foster families don’t have enough support to take them)

2. London loop – every other weekend walk around London:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/790650424336944/>
3. The Grand Auction – 29th July 2015, Home House, arrive from 6pm, start of auction 7:30pm.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/849097768508988/>

Actions

1. IR to send me the extension of our new contract till EOY.
2. IR to provide financial report on the additional funding from Kids Care.
3. IR to provide a cost estimate of the special needs of our children, including speech therapist, physiotherapist, specialised teacher to work with children with learning difficulties, by child, by specialist needed, by frequency of sessions needed.
4. IR to send a signed copy of the renewal of the contract with Kids Care for funding until end of 2015.
5. NN to combine the famous people videos and send the film to media
6. We need someone to keep leaflets, T-shirts and business cards and supply them to volunteers as and when needed
7. JA to prepare a short powerpoint with introduction to the charity for new volunteers, including the working process graph and contacts.
8. JA to research opportunities for a walker for Melanie.
9. DL to request a function hall at HSBC for the next event, focusing on