

Minutes from the Kids Care Working Group

2 Apr 2016

Participants

Ilian Rizov [IR] – director of “Sauchastie” – Varna
Sabina Sabeva [SS] – director of “International Social Services”
Desislava Lambina [DL] – director of “Kids Care Charity”
Todor Lambin [TL] - director of “Kids Care Charity”
Julia Arabajieva [JA] – director at “Kids Care Charity”
Yordan Dulov [YD] - volunteer at “Kids Care Charity”
Petya Nikolova [PN] - volunteer at “Kids Care Charity”

Meeting summary:

- Johan Strauss applied to work for Kids Care full time. She is a therapy life coach, worked in social services and child care, currently at Ministry of Justice. Her application was discussed and the directors estimated that we can support her full time in Bulgaria on the field.
- Reviewed actions from the previous meeting
- Finalised promotional leaflets for 2016
- Set events for 2016
 - - Darina cake sale in Barking in Apr
 - - Desi Grand Auction at Home House in June
 - - Desi family event at the Embassy in Oct
 - - Desi present at the “ABC Communications Group” on 19 May
 - - Petya photo sessions in May
- Material donations, clothes, shoes, linen, toys, cosmetics, nappies, etc, can be delivered to one of our **storage partners**:

152-154 Merton Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1EH, www.dostavka-anglia.com

76 London Industrial Park, E6 6LS, www.top-removals.co.uk

- For details of all activities by month, see our newsletter here:
<http://www.kidscarecharity.co.uk/newsletter>

Partners meetings

1. Foster care provider “Sauchastie” – Varna

- We signed a new contract for prevention of abandonment with "Sauchastie" on 1 Mar 2016 for 9000 BGN for 6 months. The contract covers mainly food and medicines for families in extreme poverty, where the children are at high risk
- 41 children are currently in foster care
- We have 34 foster families

- We support 2 new high risk families for prevention of abandonment (total 20 now)
- 5 new families are being trained for foster care, who are ready to take children with disabilities. The training will complete by end of April.
- 5 children with disabilities were identified in the orphanage in Varna, who can be fostered
- "Sauchastie" created a union of the foster families in Varna, working in cooperation with the National Agency for Foster Care
- 150 more houses to be destroyed in the Roma ghetto Maxuda
- "Sauchastie" focuses the efforts in working with the Roma community to enable them to help and support each other and reduce the dependency.

2. "International Social Services" (ISS)

- The families, which moved to the council social care will return to the Community Care Centres within 3 months
- ISS manages 4 family-like centres (FLC) with capacity 14 children, where children are placed usually temporarily while they're found foster or adoptive families, but the children with disabilities and those over 10y of age tend to remain in these centres till the age of 18 as they are not being adopted.
- A new policy for the support of risk families is being devised by several associations, NGOs and government bodies, highlighting the reform needed in the Law related to the care for children and assessing the effectiveness of the Law
- A new plan is being devised for the implementation of the strategy of the care for the abandoned children and children at risk. It is due to be completed by end of Apr, including
 - the strategy to close down the institutions for children 0-3y;
 - Foster care standards
 - Strategy for prevention
- ISS operates in the following municipalities with the respective institutions
- Pleven
 - care home for children 0-3y with 80 children currently residing there
 - care home for children 3-7y which is being used largely as a weekly nursery and the children return to relatives for the weekend
 - 6 FLCs: 2 for children with disabilities; 2 for older children without disabilities, 2 for children 3-7y which were created when the large care home started to close down
- Targovishte
 - there's no large care home
 - FLCs - 2 for children with disabilities, 1 for older children without disabilities, 4 in the town of Popovo (2 with disabilities and 2 without)
- Smolian
 - the care home will close down by June
 - FLCs - 1 in Chepelare, 3 in Smolian (1 with disabilities, 2 without)
- Sevlievo
 - the care home with 14 children 7-18y will close down by end of the year and a new FLC is being created to replace the children without disabilities
 - 2 FLCs - 1 with disabilities, 1 without
- Tarnovo

- the care home with 10 children 7-18y will close down by end of the year
- the care home with children 0-3y has 50 children
- 7 FLCs

Actions

1. DL to create a Just Giving page for a risk family.
2. DL to translate and update the stories of the children on the website.
3. IR to send the cases of the remaining 9 families we support to prevent abandonment by 17 Apr
4. DL to set a date for the Grand Auction with Duccio and Paul
5. YD to compile the videos of the celebrities
6. DL to speak with Barulov to cover the Grand Auction for Nova TV
7. IR to make statistics on how many of the cases we work with to prevent abandonment are successful and how long on average the families need support in order to become independent
8. JA to prepare and sign the renewal of the Foster Care contract with "Sauchastie"
9. SS to send the first quarter updates
10. SS to make statistics on how many of the cases we work with to prevent abandonment are successful and how long on average the families need support in order to become independent
11. DL to request an event at the Embassy - family day
12. DL to prepare donation box, leaflets and notices for the Grand Auction, which YD will promote on 22 Apr
13. PN to organise photo sessions
14. DL to arrange a sale with Darina for 7 May at PN's event 2-4pm