

Health check for children in foster care

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Kommune

Why health check?



We were provoked and inspired – by professor Bo Vinnerlung

Provoked:

Are we truly ‘good parents’ for the children in foster care? – when Nordic tests show that, 40-50% of children in foster care should see a doctor, specialist or the like.

Inspired:

Research shows that, it is difficult to change how children in foster care are doing



**But here we can actually make a difference
– Through little effort**



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What's the cost of health check?

Average prices of foster care:

Average of the cheapest district – 416.000 dkr. per year

Average of the most expensive district– 1.142.000 dkr. per year

Average special needs class in MFK - approximately 265.000 dkr. per year



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Source: KL – De udsatte børn. Key figures

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The cost of birth control

Health check– 1.000 kr. annually

Birth control– 1.700 kr. annually



Source: Municipality of Mariagerfjord



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Health check objectives?

“That health related conditions that have an impact on a child or teenager’s well-being, will be discovered in time, so action can be taken against it and so it will not affect the child or teenager’s opportunity to realize their full potential”



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Health check in practice

- An annual health check by a health visitor
- The health check will take place either as a home visit at the foster family's home or at the institution
- Checklist of what to ask/focus on in regards to the child's/teenager's age
- Guidelines of the working procedure
- Cooperation with other health specialists, such as social workers.



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What we find at the health checks

- Lack of vaccinations
- Overweight/underweight, problems in relation to a healthy diet
- Issues concerning vision, hearing, height, weight
- Physical/psychological development issues, fx early puberty
- Asthma and allergies
- Bed-wetting
- Insomnia, they often sleep too little
- Headache
- Sexual health, birth control

In 35-40% of the health checks, the children/teenagers have issues that need to be taken care of



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Legislation

The Danish Health Act/Sundhedsloven

- §119-126 comprises the district's tasks in relation to children/teenagers. Both general and specific efforts.
- The announcement emphasizes that, the district should devote a particularly large effort to helping the weakest children.



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Legislation

The Danish Social Services Act/Lov om Social Service

- §52 comprises the opportunity to make a decision to make arrangements, if they have a significant meaning for the child/teenager's special needs for support. An overall view on the child should be established from a health specific point of view.



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Different perspectives on the children make the difference

What is the first thing that comes to our minds, if a child in foster care appears to be agitated and has learning disabilities???



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Other influences

What does low vision mean for a child's results in school?

How expensive is special needs teaching or support for a child that could have settled with glasses or medicine??

What are the personal costs for the child?



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Other influences

– A decreasing number of infants in foster care

An annual health check by a health visitor for children in foster care.

- Also for teenagers who need to talk about sexuality and boundaries.

A special effort in production colleges by the health visitors

All teenagers that ask for it or are recommended it, can have paid birth control without any questions.

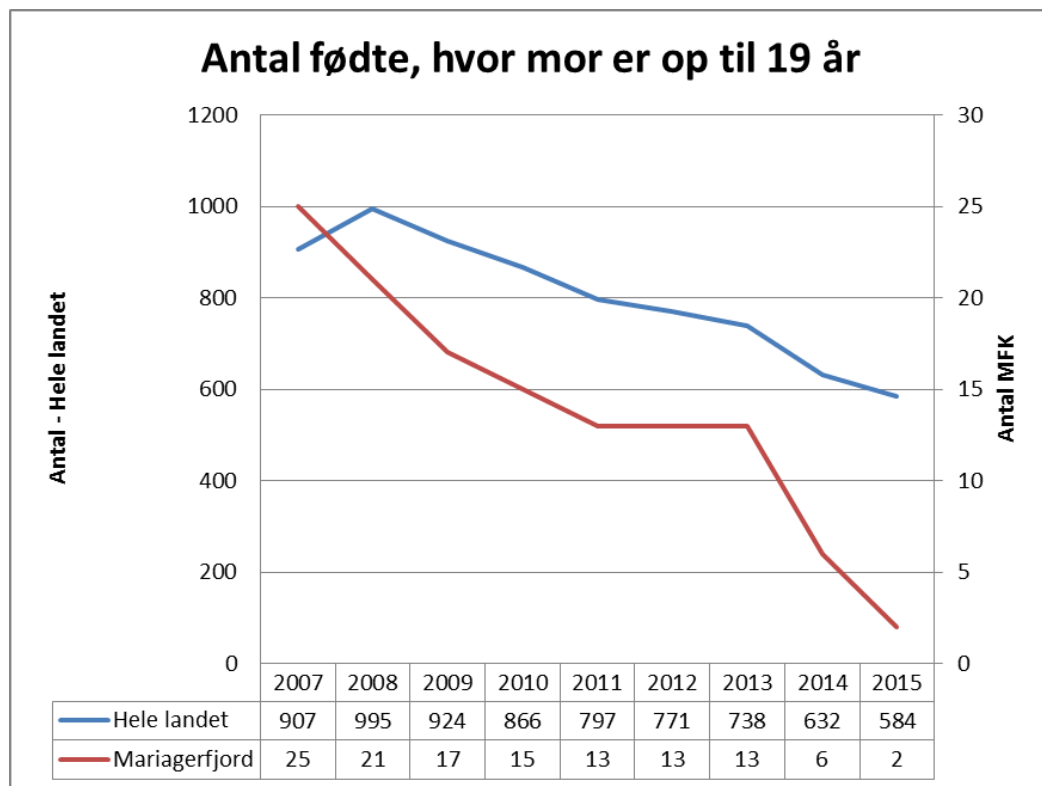


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We have focused on preventing that immature teenagers become parents



Number of newborns where mother is 19 years old or younger.



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Make a difference – also financially!

Average price for foster care:

Average price in the cheapest district– 416.000 dkr. per year

Average price in the most expensive district– 1.142.000 dkr. per year

Average special needs class in MFK - ca. 265.000. per year

Health check – 1.000 dkr. per year

Birth control – 1.700 dkr. per year



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