



**European Expert Group Meeting
“Confronting family poverty and social exclusion;
ensuring work-family balance;
advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity
in Europe”**

Convened as part of preparations for the
Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014
(Cfr. Report of the Secretary-General ,
Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the
International Year of the Family in 2014,
A/67/61-E/2012/3)

6-8 June 2011

1. Project Barnablick

Official name of the Organization

Stockholm City Mission (Stockholm Stadsmissionen).

Website of the Organization

<http://www.stadsmissionen.se/UngaStation> (in Swedish).

Name of the practice

Project Barnablick (Barnablick is a Swedish word that means “through the eyes of the child”).

Aim of the practice

The purpose of this project was to broaden the definition of child advocacy. To correctly carry a child’s voice into an adult world, to demand change and act as an important complement to what the state is offering to vulnerable children, requires a trusted relationship between child and worker, a relationship built over time with mutual honesty and open communication about expectations.

Target group of the practice

Hard to reach children and families.

Name of the person who will make the presentation

Martin Broby.

Position in the Organization

Project Manager/ Social Worker.

Projekt Barnablick

**– redefining child advocacy within
a non-for-profit organisation**

Martin Broby

**STOCKHOLMS
STADSMISSION**



Child Poverty in Sweden

248,000 children lived in relative poverty in Sweden in 2009.

Poverty affects every part of a child's everyday life.

Most significant environments are home and school.

A working definition of child poverty

Children living in poverty [are those who] experience deprivation of the material, spiritual and emotional resources needed to survive, develop and thrive, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, achieve their full potential or participate as full and equal members of society.

Aim and Target Group

The aim of the project is to develop a work model that, based on a child perspective, provides practical support for children on children's conditions.

The target group is children aged from 8 to 15 years of age, and their networks, who live at the margin in terms of their living conditions.

The families we meet...

The families we meet are often isolated, segregated, have language difficulties and generally are economically poor.

More than 80% are single mothers with a non-swedish background, often a non european/western background.

Parents often have traumatic experiences and/or suffer from psychological weaknesses.

Most children and families make the initial contact via open activities.

How do we 'reach' children and their families?

Focus on HOW - a relation building effort

'Come as You are'

'You are unique'

Time

Children in focus

Open activities and supportive activities under the
same roof

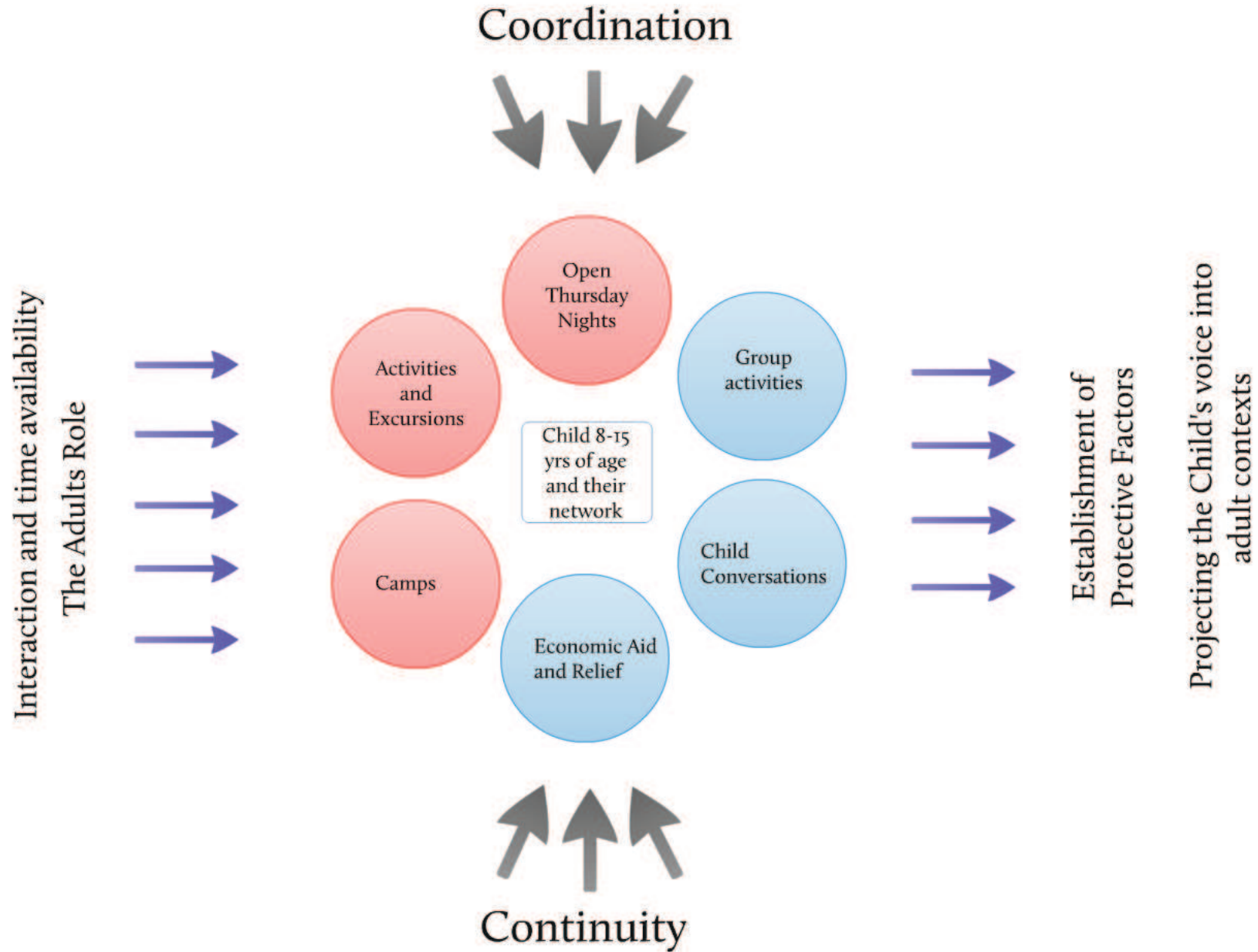
Redefining Child Advocacy

A broader focus on childrens rights than just 'legal rights'.

According to CRC a child has the right:

- to rest and to play
- to be listened to
- freedom of expression
- freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- adequate standard of living

Advocacy with a child perspective



Number Crunching 2011

Open Thursday Night

41 occasions, 456 people of which 162 children

Excursions

13 occasions, 405 people of which 244 children

Child Conversations

30 cases (30 families with 1 or more children involved)

"Despite reaching out to so many children and families, the project has only reached a small percentage of children and families that are in need of such a service. This is a genuine dilemma for Barnablick and it is not yet clear how to address this issue in the future." (Bengt Börjeson, 2010)

Qualitative Results (so far)

External qualitative analysis shows that the project's work is primarily risk prevention.

Risk factors that have a significant impact on a child's development such as isolation, economic poverty and consequent psycho-social problems within the child's family have been identified. Through interaction with the project's work, families have created protective factors to counter these.

Children feel that meeting the worker and participating in the various services is meaningful and provides momentary freedom from daily worries.

Parents find motivation in seeing their children interact with other children in a positive manner.

Both child and parent feel confident in turning to the worker in times of need.

The future of the project

A complete overview and analysis of the projects work and future questions will be presented 1 October 2012 at the International Childrens Day in Stockholm, Sweden.

Health professionals working with preventative services need to focus and methodize on HOW to reach children and families at risk in the first place.

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