



Swedish Family
Care Competence
Centre

Working together to improve care for older people and their families

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Länssamordnarna
för anhörigstöd
i Norrland



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Spring celebrations in Sweden



Photo: Marie Andersson





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Social care
municipalities (290)
The Social Services Act

Family Care Support
SSA 5 c. § 10
HA §2c

Health care
County Councils (21)
The Health Act



Family care support varies widely across the country
and between municipalities and health care regions

Key goals



- explore & collect existing research and development in the area
- disseminate research results and examples of best practice
- support development work within municipalities, health care sector and voluntary organisations.

Target groups

- carers and older people with chronic illnesses and their organisations
- practitioners working in health and social care for older people
- decision makers – managers and politicians



Way of working

- To create and enable meetings to take place between people with different sources of knowledge and experiences, such as:
 - first-hand experiences of carers, older people with chronic illnesses and their organisations
 - practical experiences of practitioners within health and social care services for older people and their carers
 - organisational and policy knowledge among decision makers
 - scientific knowledge, theory and methods of researchers.





Prioritised areas



- individualisation, evaluation and development of family care support
- co-operation and partnership working within family care support
- e-services and new technology for carers
- working carers – combining work and care
- promoting & maintaining the health of carers

Underlying themes: gender and ethnicity

Knowledge sharing & dissemination



- Sources of knowledge
 - literature reviews within the prioritised areas
 - database regarding R&D work and best practices
 - a specialist library within the area
- Newsletter
- A user-friendly website

Knowledge sharing & dissemination continued

- Conferences
 - National Family Care conference
 - Regional conferences
 - National Carer day
- Blended learning networks



Aims of the blended learning networks

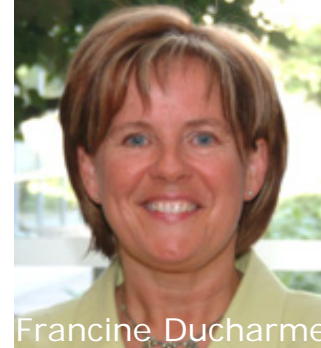
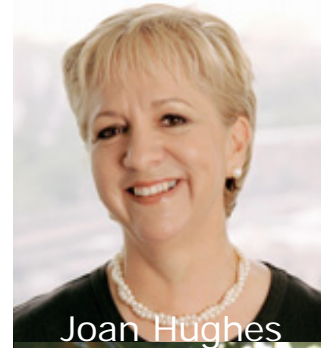


- to learn from each other and to share knowledge and experiences
- develop educational material and practical guidelines for caring issues
- support each other to make use of relevant research within everyday practice/ work of organisations



An international perspective

- Wide variations internationally & within Europe regarding family care:
 - Sweden: increasing expectations & increased formal recognition
- In many countries, family care isn't formally on the political agenda
- Within the UK there are legal rights for carers & a ten year strategy
 - However, having a law & ensuring it works as it should are not the same thing.



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