



Towards child and family-oriented services

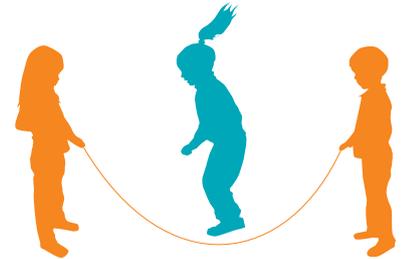


MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH



Appropriate support at the right time

- **The Programme to address child and family services (LAPE)** is one of the 26 key projects of Prime Minister Juha Sipilä's Government.
- The reform is carried out
 - to promote child and family-oriented services and
 - to create an operating culture strengthening children's rights and a knowledge-based approach.
- The goal is to strengthen the wellbeing and resources of children, young people and families. An important premise is to increase participation among children, young people and families in planning their own services.
- Support for parenting and low-threshold services are strengthened. Timely support increases the effectiveness of services. Cost savings are achieved when the need for remedial services, such as taking children into care and institutional care, is reduced.
- The financing reserved for the key project in the years 2016–2018 totals EUR 40 million. Most of the financing is allocated to reform work in counties and municipalities.
- The reform is carried out in cooperation between central government, municipalities, organisations, parishes and other actors. The operating environment of future municipalities and counties is taken into account in the reform work.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is responsible for the reform programme. Work is done together with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Justice and other ministries, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, the Finnish National Board of Education, the National Institute for Health and Welfare, the Church Council and many organisations in the sector.



From project overload to comprehensive change

Services, activities and clients' needs do not meet. Services are dispersed between many sectors and many offices. Their provision is mainly based on branches of administration and organisations. Client data are spread among numerous documents and registers.

Thus, the programme strives to reform services as follows:

- **from services based on branches of administration to child and family-oriented services;**
- **from dispersed to coordinated services;**
- **from bureaucratic to needs-based and tailored services;**
- **from “putting out fires” to timely services;**
- **from remedial to preventive services.**

Without the reform, services cannot respond to major health and wellbeing challenges, such as inequality among children and young people, more severe mental health problems, the rising need for child protection, and increased disputes over custody.

What services are we talking about now?

- health services for children, young people and families
- social services for families with children, such as home help, family work, and family counselling clinics
- early childhood education
- school and the services provided by the school nurse, doctor, social worker and psychologist
- children's and young people's interests and other activities pursued together
- youth work, library and cultural services
- support to children, young people and parents for solving, for instance, health, alcohol, violence or money problems
- services when parents are divorcing
- child protection



Principles guiding the reform programme

The child's rights and
the child's interest

Strengthening the
resources of children,
young people and families

Focus on children,
young people
and families

Diversity of families

Project goals

When the project ends, the goal is that

- decision-makers and professionals can encounter children and young people better than at present;
- decision-makers and professionals are increasingly aware of children's rights;
- professionals cooperate better than at present;
- adults take the opinions of children and young people into account in early childhood education, school, youth work, health services, child protection and in other social services;
- decision-makers determine the impacts of their decisions on children before decisions are made;
- more services are available online than at present.

How is the reform carried out?

Reform entity I

An operating culture strengthening children's rights and a knowledge-based approach

- Municipalities, counties and State authorities receive tools for decision-making based on knowledge and children's rights and for promoting the operating culture.
- National steering, legislation and management are revised to support the reform focused on children, young people and families and carried out in cooperation among various ministries.
- Professionals working with children, young people and families receive training and tools to support the reform.



How is the reform carried out?

Reform entity 2

Child and family-oriented services

- In each county and in the municipalities within its area, all services for children, young people and families are coordinated into a child and family-oriented entity of services.
- Timely access to services is improved when the focus of support is shifted from remedial services to preventive services common to all, and to early support and care. Cost savings are achieved by shifting the focus.
- At the county and municipal levels, well-functioning structures and agreement practices are created for cooperation with organisations and parishes. The support forms produced by these actors for children, young people and families will become part of the service entity.



Structure of reorganised child and family services

Low-threshold services

Family centre model

- maternity and child health clinics, family work
- early childhood education
- digital service possibilities
- services provided by organisations, parishes and peer support
- support to parenting and couple relationships
- divorce services

School supporting children's and young people's wellbeing

- student welfare services:
 - school and student healthcare
 - psychologists and school social workers
- peer student and tutor schemes
- KiVa School antibullying programme

Specialised services

Child protection Specialised healthcare Services for people with disabilities



Demanding services

Demanding specialised services in child protection

Demanding psychiatric services for children and young people

Services for people within the scope of criminal sanctions

Demanding services for immigrants and asylum seekers

Demanding services for intoxicant abusers

Examples of services

Results expected of the programme

For costs in 2019

- When the need for remedial services and custody disputes decrease, considerable cost savings are achieved.
- When activities are more cost-effective, diminishing budgets stretch further.

For the wellbeing of children, young people and families in 2025

- Parity among children, young people and families has increased, inequality has decreased, and people have learnt to take differences and diversity into consideration.
- The resources and life management skills of children, young people and families have improved and their experiences of receiving help, being engaged and being encountered have strengthened.



MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH
Meritullinkatu 8, PO Box 33, FI-00023 Government, FINLAND
www.stm.fi

