## Children as Next of Kin in Health & Medical Care

Introducing a new legal provision in Sweden's healthcare system





## Statistics, Region Västra Götaland

- Almost 1,700,000 residents
- 49 municipalities
- 22 hospitals, including 4 hospital groups
- Just over 200 healthcare centres





# Section 7g, Sweden's Health and Medical Services Act (HSL)

Health and medical care providers must give special consideration to a child's need for **information**, **advice** and **support** if the child's parent or another adult with whom the child lives on a permanent basis:

- 1. suffers from a psychological disorder or psychological functional impairment;
- 2. suffers from a serious physical illness or injury, or;
- 3. is addicted to alcohol or another addictive substance.

The same applies when the child's parent or other adult with whom the child lives on a permanent basis dies suddenly.

## The Project's Aim

By the end of the project period, to have developed support for children as next of kin, so that well-known and long-term support structures exist within each of the region's healthcare institutions.

## Objectives

- Knowledge, competence, structures and models are to be developed within the project's framework.
- All healthcare institutions that come into contact with children must be given the opportunity to develop these structures.
- The uniformity of the support provided to children as next of kin in the region must be increased. This support must be part of normal operations.

# Implementation of Section 7g, HSL, in Region Västra Götaland

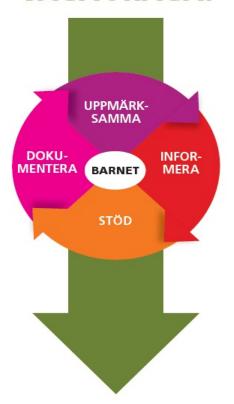
- Hearings
- Survey
- Process managers
- Support materials
- Training course for children's officers
- Online training course

## Support Materials

- Guidance
- Reminder strip
- A4 poster
- Brochure
- Children & Families Form
- Website



### **VÅGA FRÅGA!**



#### **INFORMERA**

om varför barnet behöver information, råd och stöd.

#### STÖD

patienten att själv informera barnet om situationen när så är lämpligt. Var beredd att hjälpa.

#### **DOKUMENTERA**

i patientens journal vad som är gjort och vad som återstår.

#### **KONTAKTA**

utsedd personal på din arbetsplats om barnet och familjen behöver mer hjälp och stöd.

2 g § hälso- och sjukvårdslagen säger att ett barn vars förälder har en allvarlig fysisk sjukdom, skada, psykisk störning eller psykisk funktionsnedsättning, ett missbruk eller beroende eller avlider har rätt till information, råd och stöd utifrån sitt och familjens behov.

## Online Training Course

Individual section
Group section

Create new procedures/review existing procedures

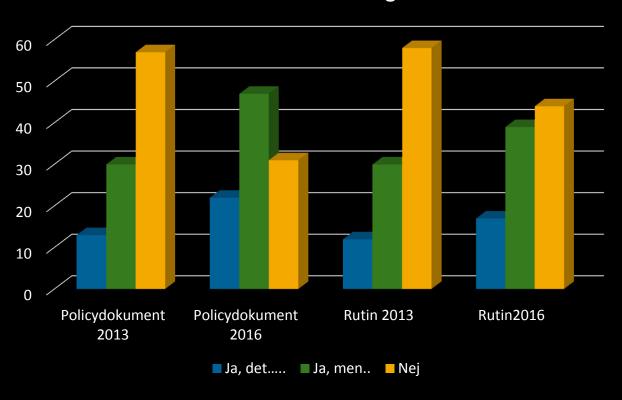


## RMR – Barn som Anhöriga

- Closely follows Section 7 g, HSL
- Broadened perspective
- Shared knowledge base
- Modified work practice



### Barn som anhöriga



## On-going Implementation

- Inventory of current work
- What is the next step?
- Network(s)
- Training course for children's officers
- Patience & perseverance

## Challenges

- Large region
- Communication difficulties
- Culture
- Low level of awareness

## **Success Factors**

- Needs inventory
- Cultivating internal support
- Application
- Maintenance

