

YOUTH VOICES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE CARE IN CHILD WELFARE



LASTENSUOJELUN
KEHITTÄMISYHTEISÖ

Nuorten ääni lastensuojelun
sijaishuollon kehittämisessä



we believe
in you
so should
you

"We all need someone who believes in us."
"Don't think that you cannot."

*At the time of
the placement I did not
believe in myself.
So I needed someone
to believe in me.*

"You can do it!"

*"To be able to believe in yourself,
you need an adult who believes in you."*

CORE TASKS:

Strengthening the participation of young people in child welfare alternative care and increasing and embedding experiential expertise activities nationwide.

Lastensuojelun sijaishuollon asiakkaana olevien nuorten osallisuuden vahvistamiseen sekä kokemusasiantuntijatoiminnan lisäämiseen ja juurruttamiseen valtakunnallisesti.



I am
important
and
unique

*I can be
myself*

*"Adults should take care of children,
their health and safety."*

KEY FUNCTIONS:

1. Power of influence!

National network of youth and adults, who work together to promote the rights of children and youth in Finland in national policy making.

- Focus groups around Finland, our own youth group in Tampere.
- Around 200 young people overall.
- The network meets approximately once a month in a Teams meeting.
- The network forum meets once a year.



Voima vaikuttaa! -verkosto



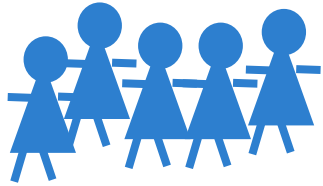
EXPERTISE BY EXPERIENCE



Youth forums



Focus groups around Finland



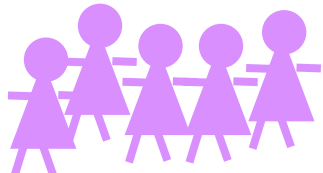
Peer mentors



Peer "assessors"

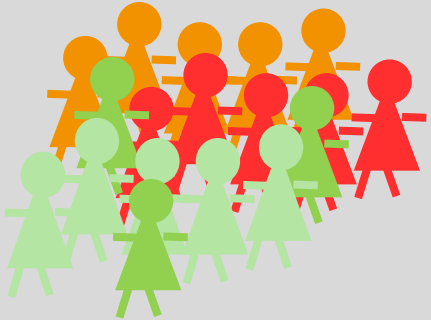


Trained experts by experience



Employees with experience

Children and young people in care



Detectives 6-12 years

Giraffes 3-5 years

POWER TO INFLUENCE!

-NETWORK

ALL ACTIVITIES BENEFIT THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CARE

KEY FUNCTIONS:

2. Meetings with young people

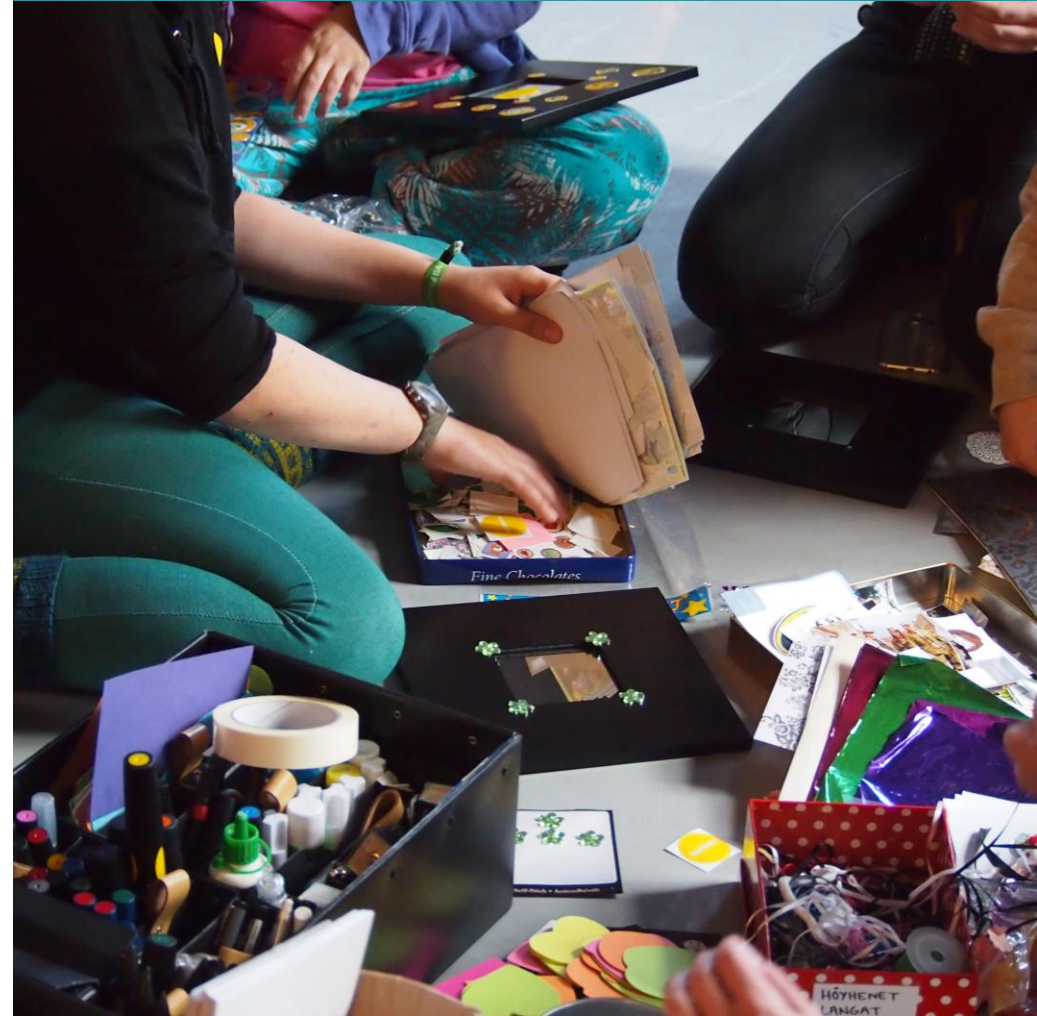
- Care Day is the world's biggest celebration of children and young people with care experience
- Youth forums
- Mini-forums for young people in foster care and residential care

3. Life story work

- Developing a model: *Life Story Forum for Young People* and a *Life Story Book* together with young people and adults



Sijaishuollossa olevien nuorten kohtaaminen
ja elämäntarinatyöskentely



WHAT IS THE YOUTH FORUMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

The peer support model by young people for young people



The forum offers space for

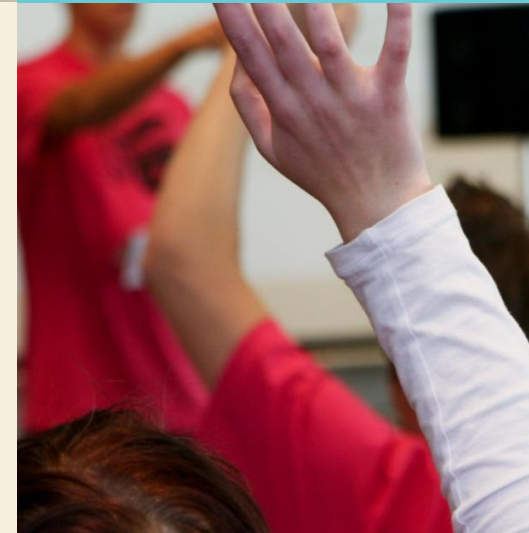
- peer experiences, feelings and thoughts
- sharing your life and everyday events



"Everybody has the right to dream!"



- Local and nationwide forums.
- The basic elements are permanent, but the themes and working methods differ depending on the people attending.
- The forums are well documented.
- The messages from young people are conveyed to adults and decision makers



The idea is to include young people in child care development.

KEY FUNCTIONS:

4. Topics for training and coaching

- Expertise by experience
- Working with young people
- Life Story Work
- Trauma awareness
- Understanding of violence



Kouluttaminen ja valmentaminen



who
do i talk to?

What can I tell about my background?

*Everybody's problems and sorrows
are important enough to be talked about.*

*"There's no shame to be involved
in child welfare services."*

KEY FUNCTIONS:

5. VALTTI – peer review

Peer review –model has been created by and with experts by experience alongside with professionals.

- Strengthens youth participation in their living environments.
- Develops new approaches to substitute care.
- Aims to prevent maltreatment in child protection settings.
- Offers peer support to young people living in care.

1. VALTTI-startti

- ▶ Henkilöstön sitouttaminen
- ▶ Prosessin kulku ja aikatauluista sopiminen
- ▶ Yhteiskehittämisen juurilla -valmennus

2. VALTTI-haastattelut

- ▶ Yhteinen aloitushetki
- ▶ Nuorten haastattelut
- ▶ Yhteinen reflektointi
- ▶ Palautekoonnin kirjoittaminen

3. VALTTI-foorumi

- ▶ Palautekoonnin yhteinen läpikäyminen
- ▶ Dialogin ja yhteisen kehittämisen käynnistäminen

4. VALTTI-vertais-arvioitu yksikkö

- ▶ Seurantakysely