Implementing a holistic approach

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A Holistic approach

...a comprehensive solution to the different (connected) problems of (vulnerable) citizens... not viewing a single issue (as for example drug use) in isolation

Engagement of citizens

Inter-sektoriel cooperation
Two interventions

**Prison based intervention**
A custody prison-based pre-treatment program aimed at creating and improving inmates’ motivation to continue drug treatment.

**Community based intervention**
A community-based social program with a focus on vulnerable citizens with a broad range of challenges, including young people with drug use experiences and offending behavior.
DATA

- Policies, formal descriptions (web pages, evaluation reports, accreditation reports, project descriptions).

- 5 qualitative, in-depth interviews with professionals (3 from prison based intervention / 2 from community based intervention).

- Explorative group interviews (1 from prison based intervention / 1 from community based intervention).
Two interventions – same understandings of:

Problems:
Young people with complex problems, that one welfare intervention have difficulties to accommodate

Solution to the problems:
A holistic approach to these complex problems. Focus on inter-sectorial cooperation.

The welfare system:
It is complex, and hard to navigate/find ones way within.
Intersectorial efforts: Prison based Intervention

... create pathways / make connections to other services
“Everytime a client is transferred, I contact the drug treatment intervention – either in another prison or in the community. In the community, it is more difficult. We give the contact details to the participant and often call and see whether he showed up. Occasionally we also help set up a meeting. But in the end it is up to the young person to get in contact with the particular service if he wants to continue in drug treatment”

(Professional 2, Prison based intervention)
Intersectorial efforts: Community based Intervention

Mentors / scaffolders / co-navigators
Inter-Sectorial Efforts – Community Intervention

“We help the citizens to walk the steps, make the phone calls, and set up a meeting with the social worker or the doctor, or set up a network meeting with relevant professionals from different systems. Get a good operation going, and help our participant to get on from there. We don’t do it for them, but walk the steps together with them. One day they will be able to do it themselves”.

(Professional 1, community based intervention).
Two ways of enacting intersectorial cooperation

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<td>Professionals work on <em>behalf</em> of the young persons</td>
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<td>Make connections for the young person to other welfare systems</td>
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Welfare institutional research (1):

Welfare services are not neutral problem solvers – they construct institutional identities.
Construction of subject position:

- ‘Apprentices’ that needs support and time to learn (Community based intervention)

- ‘Twofaced subjects’: deprived/without agency in the prison system/with/expected to have agency on release (Prison based intervention)
Welfare institutional research (2):

- Welfare services are (most often) set up to handle one problem, not complex problems.
- Welfare services do not necessarily agree on ‘solutions’ to problems

Hierarchy (not equality) between services in inter-sectorial cooperation.
Dilemmas in intersectorial cooperation

“They are tough in the Prison Service. He is on parole with an electronic tag. He got a chance to serve this sentence on milder conditions. But this means no drugs and negative urine tests. If not, he will be sent back to prison. But they don’t ask why he uses drugs [as is the case in drug treatment]. They don’t focus on co-operating with us, for example, or with the drug treatment services. When he got the electronic tag off, he was back on drugs. So, we see it as our job to facilitate cooperation between drug treatment services, the Prison Service and the young person”

(Professional 1, Community based intervention)
Concluding remarks

- A holistic approach is enacted differently in different institutional contexts and set-ups.

- Different kinds of enactments of a holistic approach construct different kinds of client subject positions.

- Inter-sectorial cooperation is often based on a hierarchical relation between services, where one set of rules takes precedence over others.

- These conditions (as well as others) have implication for prevention

https://doi.org/10.1108/DAT-12-2018-0071
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Co-funded by the Health Programme of the European Union