

Transnational Cooperation – Swedish Partners

Visit to Stockholm & Kristinehamn

5th September 2011 – 9th September 2011



Outside Lidingö City Hall – 6th September 2011

6th September 2011

The first meeting was held at Lidingo City Hall where we met with some of the Swedes who had visited Cornwall earlier in the year.

We all introduced ourselves and Andrea Gilbert gave a presentation and update on the overall aims of a work strategy for those who are 50+. Beverley Wilson gave a brief overview of some of the types of projects that are supported by Cornwall Works including the Surf Action Project showing how diverse projects can be in helping people back into work.

A presentation was also given by Carol & Debbie about their project within the Care sector in Cornwall giving a general overview.



Kirsten Sjosvard then updated us about the ArbetSam project which translates to Work Co-operation, this is an initiative after the successful SprakSam project. The target group are 800 employees throughout Sweden who are immigrants and Swedish is their second language.

A discussion followed but particular interest was shown by the Swedes who wanted to know more about Dementia Care Mapping.

After lunch we were introduced to our translator Lena Ungerstedt who works for Lidingo Stad. We were taken on a bus tour around Lidingo island, Lena gave us a brief history of the island.

We visited a Care Facility for people with disabilities, dementia and the elderly. Here we met 3 carers who had been involved with the SprakSam project, one of whom was going to participate on the ArbetSam project. They felt they had benefited from the project and had a greater knowledge of Swedish and the Swedish culture. This enabled

them to communicate better and have a better understanding of their clients. A session of questions took place which was informative.

7th September 2011

Stockholm Gerontology Research Centre

Our day started with a tour of this building and a brief description of the use of the research centre and the varying topics that had been researched. The ARC centre shares the premises and studies human aging from different perspectives with a goal to improve the health and care of elderly persons. Education is a major factor and two undergraduates from Stockholm University contribute to the work. There is also a collaboration with the Karolinska Institute and the government funds the work.

A presentation was given by Gunilla Nordburg from the Swedish Dementia Centre on the work they do, this was followed by a question and answer session. She was very interested in the Dementia Care Mapping and wanted more information a fact sheet was supplied by Carol.

They collect information from research that has been carried out and try to put it into easily understood language and to pass it on to the 'Grassroots' where it can be implemented for the benefit of the patients and the elderly. They also try to lobby the government for change in policy. I told them about Charitable organisations and community groups, such as the 50+ Forum who help share information through news letters.

A second presentation 'Senior Alert' was given by Anna Larson on how they are trying to collect information by introducing a national quality register for treatment and care. At present this form is being used on a voluntary basis but it is hoped that in the near future it will be obligatory. They particularly look at areas of bedsores, falls and malnutrition with a view to risk assessment of the person. Oral health will be included as of next month. We asked if podiatry was also included, but it was not.

We had lunch together with a question and answer session.

We made our own way to Lojtnantsgarden, a residential care home where we met Lena our translator. This home is run by the Church with a mix of elderly people in their own flats with varying needs. We were given a welcome and a presentation by the manager, we were then given a tour of the building. We met some residents, saw some of their flats and communal areas and met some staff. The ethos of care and well-being could be felt and seen in the people who lived there.

Some flats on the site are rented to young people and students, so there is an intergenerational mix in this mini community.

Our next visit after a train journey with Lena was to a facility on Lidingo like a day centre. To our surprise Lena had organised a wonderful Princess Cake as she wanted us to try this Swedish favourite.



This building is used to support the health and well-being needs of the elderly. We were given information on the type of partnership work undertaken, the challenges that face Sweden concerning the care of the elderly and the cost to the individual and the country.

8th September 2011



A two hour train journey took Andrea and I to Kristinehamn to visit a project, Jobbfokus 18. We were met by 3 people from this Project and taken to an employer who was participating. A car journey took us to a roadside service station 'Varmlands Rasta' where we were introduced to the manager Lis Aronsson. She told us about her experiences with the project and how successful it had been. We were introduced to a member of staff who had gone through the Project and who now had a full time job as a Caretaker. He answered questions through the manager who was the interpreter. There had been other individuals from the Project who had been given jobs in their catering section.

9th September 2011

A meeting with the two Training Coaches, Anders and Anna-Karin gave us an opportunity to discuss the project and the aims and objectives. Andrea talked about her role in Cornwall Works and I contributed in the discussions on types of job focused projects and the diversity in ways of getting people engaged (especially those who were 50+) and thinking about getting back to work.

We were then joined by two Social Workers who work with the Jobbfokus 18 Project. When people go to ask for financial benefits they select possible candidates, they interview them and offer them a place on the Project. We had an open discussion about similarities and differences in getting people ready and back into the workplace. They were interested in the information sharing and partnership working that was taking place in Cornwall. Andrea showed them the Cornwall Works website and explained about the Cornwall Works Hub.



This visit has been a learning curve about the cultural differences of our two countries.

The first 2 days focusing on the care and health of the elderly and those who care for them was fascinating. We can learn from some of the research into prevention and share that information using our amazing networks in Cornwall. The information or fact sheet on Driving & Dementia is information worth sharing in Cornwall.

Our Swedish partners have learnt about new ways of collecting information and how important our Charitable and community organisations are with Care in the Community.

The visit to the Jobbfokus18 Project was also informative, 3 months out of work or education is considered as long term unemployed for those who are 26 years of age or under. Intervention at that early stage means action takes place much more quickly than in Cornwall.

For those who are over 26 years, 300 days is considered as long term unemployed unless they have children under 18, then an additional 150 days is allowed in the calculation of long term.

Sharing time, experiences and information on this visit has been really worthwhile.

Helen Rodda

