

Support services for children with disabilities

KVPS

The Service Foundation for People with an Intellectual Disability (KVPS) is a non-governmental organisation aiming to find individual solutions and to create **high-quality services** to support **people with intellectual disabilities** or special support needs and their families.

The organisation promotes a **person-centred approach** towards individuals with disabilities, advocates for their rights, lobbies with decision-makers and legislators and carries out EU-funded projects.

Beneficiaries of the service

Children with disabilities, multiple diagnoses, neuropsychiatric needs, and their families. Services are developed and provided based on individual support needs.

The staff

Carers, nurses and professional family carers. KVPS is a training and expertise dissemination centre. It organises training sessions and peer-to-peer groups for the personal and professional development. The trainings focus on identifying value-based ways of working and collaborating with families, and strategies to overcome challenging situations.

The approach

- 1 Each Municipality and its social workers assess family needs and develop a customer service plan.
- 2 The family with KVPS develop an individualised assessment and service plan, in cooperation with the Municipality.



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The model

KVPS offers 4 types of services to support children with disabilities and their families, organised in 123 Municipalities across Finland:



Home carer

The **child with disability lives with the family** and the **home carer** visits the family once or twice every two weeks, depending on the needs and wishes of the family. Home carers support the children **enhance their relationships with their families.**



The Personal support circle.

It is a **circle of nurses** supporting the family at their home on a **24/7 basis**. This service is for children with **very high support needs**. The nurses follow a rotation schedule making sure there is always a member of KVPS staff in every home.



Professional family carer

The **carer supports children from families at risk**. It can offer short- or long-term support, depending on the family's needs. It is a type of **foster care service**, since the child lives in the house of the carer for several days per month or for a few years. This service is also provided when the child has no parents or other family members to take care of him/her.



Residential services

This service is provided to **children** (aged between 4 and 16) **with very high support needs**. KVPS has one unit, where each child has their own room and bathroom. Thirteen **permanent staff members** offer 24hour support. The children are close to their families, as the unit is located in the centre of the community. **Families can visit the child at any time.**



Strengths

- Person-centred support based on needs and preferences
- Skillful and professional staff.



Weaknesses

- Administrative workload for families
- Risk of fragmentation, different offer in different municipalities
- High costs for municipalities
- Constant presence of externals in personal support circle
- Difficult to recruit professional family carers