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Mr Mateo Estreme

Chair

Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Swedish Contribution to the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Many thanks for the opportunity to contribute to the sixth session of the Working Group. In response to Your letter of March 6 we hereby would like to present the following initiatives as examples of concrete proposals, practical measures, best practices and lessons learned that will contribute to promoting and protection the rights and dignity of older persons:

Measures to improve quality in health and social care for elderly people

An incentive grant of over SEK 1 billion (EUR 106 700 000) was allocated in 2014 to support municipalities and county councils in their efforts to improve the quality of health and social care for elderly people. The incentive grant has helped to give groups of health and social care staff more knowledge about patient-centred care, rehabilitative practices, medication for the elderly, diet and nutrition as well as the importance of social content in the daily life of the elderly. The incentive grant has also made team-based work possible in several municipalities and county councils.

Welfare technology

In 2015, the Government is investing SEK 15 million (EUR 1 607 000) in support and information related to the use and implementation of welfare technology in the municipalities. Welfare technology has a great potential to contribute to security, independence, social activity, participation and self-determination. The initiative comprises a government assignment to the Agency for Participation (MFD) to draft and disseminate information as well as to provide support and information for the use and implementation of welfare technology in the municipalities.

Action plan to prevent and avoid coercive and control measures

The National Board of Health and Welfare has been commissioned by the Government to follow up the development of health and social care for adults with reduced decision-making capacity and support to their close relatives. In February 2015, the National Board of Health and Welfare reported a positive trend in the field and stated that a majority of the municipalities see a gradual decrease in the use of control and coercive measures. The positive trend has been facilitated by a patient-centred approach, providing opportunities for preventive efforts.

Investing in the LTC workforce

The Government intends to set aside SEK 1 billion (EUR 106 700 000) in 2015 for an initiative to increase staffing levels in elderly care aimed to improve security and the level of quality for the individual. Increased staffing levels can create opportunities for staff to spend more time with individuals, but can also allow more time for staff to develop their professional activities together. Higher staffing levels can also be expected to improve the work environment and thereby increase the attractiveness of elderly care professions.

Educational and training initiatives

The Boost for Carers is a four-year training initiative for elderly care professionals which ended in 2014. The purpose has been to enhance both basic and specialised skills among elderly care staff. Since its launch, some 17 000 people have begun training within the framework of the Boost for Carers. Also, more than 54 000 people have undergone web-based training on patient-centred care for people with dementia.

A leadership training programme at higher education level for managers in elderly care, worth approximately SEK 1 billion (EUR 106 700 000), is under way during 2013-2015. The aim is to increase skills and the status of elderly care managers. The National Board of Health and Welfare has been tasked with administering and following up the training. By late 2014, some 1075 elderly care managers had participated in the training.

The Swedish Dementia Centre (SDC) is a non-profit organisation, established in February 2008 who collects structures and disseminates knowledge about dementia and dementia care. The Centre also compile evaluations and research results and develops more practically orientated knowledge being a link between research, practice and decision makers.

Yours sincerely

Anna Gralberg