



Stiftelsen
Allmänna Barnhuset

The importance of support and treatment for all children that are victims of violence

A national development project in cooperation with
several Barnahus in Sweden



“Does it not matter
anymore? Just because a
year has gone by. After all,
it still happened...”

Foreword

Today, the organization we have in Sweden means that many children who have been subjected to violence or sexual abuse do not receive the support and treatment to which they are entitled. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has criticized Sweden for this on several occasions, and recommends that Sweden strengthen its knowledge and training programs in order to raise awareness of violence and sexual abuse among the general public, as well as school staff, healthcare professionals, social workers and others who work with children. All children who are victims or witnesses of violent crime should be given the opportunity for support, recovery and reintegration in a timely manner (CRC/C/SWE/CO/6-7, para. 26). This applies regardless of where in the country the child lives and the Barnahus model is now internationally regarded as best practice, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

For four years, the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden was tasked by the government with surveying the situation. In light of the results of the survey and the cumulative knowledge that exists today, we can conclude that the Barnahus is undoubtedly the arena with the greatest potential to improve this area.

We see this project as a key step towards achieving our goal of ensuring that all children who have been victims of violence or sexual abuse receive the support and treatment to which they are entitled.

Cecilia Sjölander
Secretary General
Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden

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Döbelngatan 50
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Introduction

Violence against children is a major public health problem, with significant consequences for the child, their family and society as a whole. Children who have experienced violence are at increased risk of a wide range of behavioral, physical and mental health problems, both immediately after the incident and throughout childhood and adulthood. Children who are victims of violence are also at increased risk of victimizing others.

In Sweden, 57.4 percent of children have experienced some type of child abuse, including physical violence by adults, psychological violence by adults, neglect, violence between adults in the family, sexual abuse, bullying and intimate partner violence.¹

Violence that leads to reports or convictions is only a small proportion of all the violence that occurs. Anonymous surveys provide a more accurate picture of the problem, although the actual prevalence may be higher as vulnerable groups such as younger children or children with disabilities are less likely to report what they have experienced.

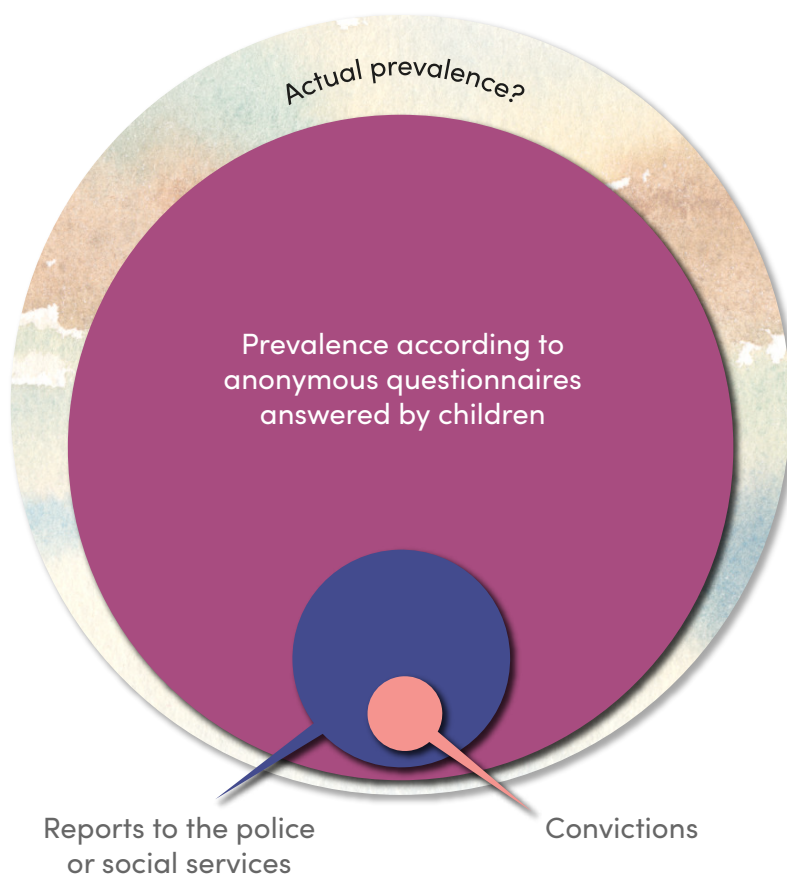


FIGURE 1. Prevalence of violence against children. A schematic diagram.

1. Jernbro, Landberg & Thulin (2022). *Väld mot barn 2022. En nationell kartläggning [Violence against Children in Sweden 2022]*. Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset.

Research on support and treatment

More than half of all children who have experienced physical violence, violence between adults in the family or sexual abuse tell someone, usually a peer. Only 17.1 percent of children who experienced physical violence or violence between adults in the family and 10.5 percent of those who experienced sexual abuse told a professional from social services, the healthcare services, the police, their school or their youth clinic.²

When a child is a victim of violence, both the child and the family need information, support and, in some cases, treatment. Nevertheless, research shows that there is unequal access to support and information on how to access support³.

A study from Örebro University highlights three criteria for vulnerable young people to receive support⁴:

1. There must be support available.
2. Those who need the support must know that it is available.
3. The victim must want the intervention.



2. Jernbro, Landberg & Thulin (2022). *Väld mot barn 2022. En nationell kartläggning [Violence against Children in Sweden 2022]*. Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset.

3. Thulin & Jernbro (2023). *När ett barn varit utsatt för våld. Föräldrar berättelser om våldets konsekvenser och vägen till stödinsats*. Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden: Stockholm.

4. Cater, Andershed & Andershed (2016). Victimized as a child or youth. *International Review of Victimology*, 22(2), 179–194.



Researcher's comments

Johanna Thulin, senior lecturer at Linnaeus University's Department of Social Work, conducted a study involving interviews with parents of children who have experienced violence.⁵

What are the consequences of violence for the children affected?

- All 14 parents in the study reported that their children had been affected by the violent events, but to varying degrees. The violence had also had very different impacts on the children, with some suffering from anxiety attacks, sleep difficulties, self-harm, eating disorders and difficulties coping with school. Some parents in the study had also been forced to make changes to their daily lives, such as changing their working hours or even quitting their jobs. Many were obviously worried about their children and the parents' well-being was largely linked to that of their children.

What support was available?

- The available support widely varied. In many cases, the differences were regional. The children who received support mainly obtained it via the child and adolescent psychiatry service (BUP) and social services, sometimes through a Barnahus collaboration. There were Barnahus advocacy centers that offered both support for the child and someone for the parent to talk to. The support from Barnahus was described as being of expert quality and the child usually had access to trauma therapy. The parents of children supported through Barnahus were happy with the way their children and they themselves were treated, and highlighted the importance of receiving holistic support. Several parents raised the importance of support that also included them, so they could be helped to meet the children's needs, but also to process their feelings in relation to what their child had experienced.

Did the parents know how their child could get support?

- The first professional the parent met was often crucial for the path to support. If parents were guided from the beginning in supporting their child, they were more likely to feel cared for and seen in the chaos that often prevails. Several parents expressed a lack of knowledge about what support was available for them and their child, finding it difficult to navigate and to know who to turn to. Most stated that they thought BUP should be their first port of call, with few knowing about what social services or Barnahus could offer. This study shows that there is more work to be done on getting information out there.

5. Thulin & Jernbro (2023). *När ett barn varit utsatt för våld. Föräldrar berättelser om våldets konsekvenser och vägen till stödinsats*. Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset.

The results of the interview study highlight the importance of collaboration between different agencies, a coherent care chain, and organizations and professionals who can meet and help families to find the right support, based on their needs. The parents' experiences support the Fourth Room model and its focus on Barnahus as knowledge centers with responsibility for coordination and collaboration around available support and treatment resources.

“And I still feel like, I’ve been a pretty driven mom, I’ve contacted the school, I’ve chased psychologists, you know, I’ve fought really hard, and I can’t help thinking about those who may not know the language, who may not understand what rights we have in society. No... They’re screwed. I’m so sorry to have to say it, but there is no social safety net to catch us.”

Quote from parent in the study



Help and support after violence against children

Violence is preventable and the consequences of violence can be stopped or mitigated through support and treatment for victims. This is highlighted in the Swedish government report “En uppväxt fri från våld” (A childhood free from violence), which sets out a long-term goal for children to receive the protection, support and treatment to which they are entitled.⁶ In its latest recommendations, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child calls on Sweden to strengthen and expand access to information, support and treatment for children who have been subjected to violence and abuse. This applies regardless of where in the country they live.⁷

Students in Year 9 who have been physically abused by adults and have experienced violence between parents were asked whether they sought help or support because of it. A majority, 69 percent, state that they did not need any help and 16 percent say that they sought help, while 15 percent state that they needed help but did not seek any (figure 2).⁸ The students who sought support were asked how satisfied they were with the support they received. Depending on which agency they turned to, between 58.6 percent and 39.2 percent were satisfied with the support provided. The number of students seeking support from the different agencies was relatively small, so the results need to be interpreted with caution, but students were most satisfied with the support they received from the police and private psychologists/psychotherapists, and least satisfied with the support they received from social services.

Students who had been sexually abused were also asked whether this prompted them to seek help or support. A majority, 83 percent, responded that they did need any help and 5 percent said they sought help, while 12 percent stated that they needed help

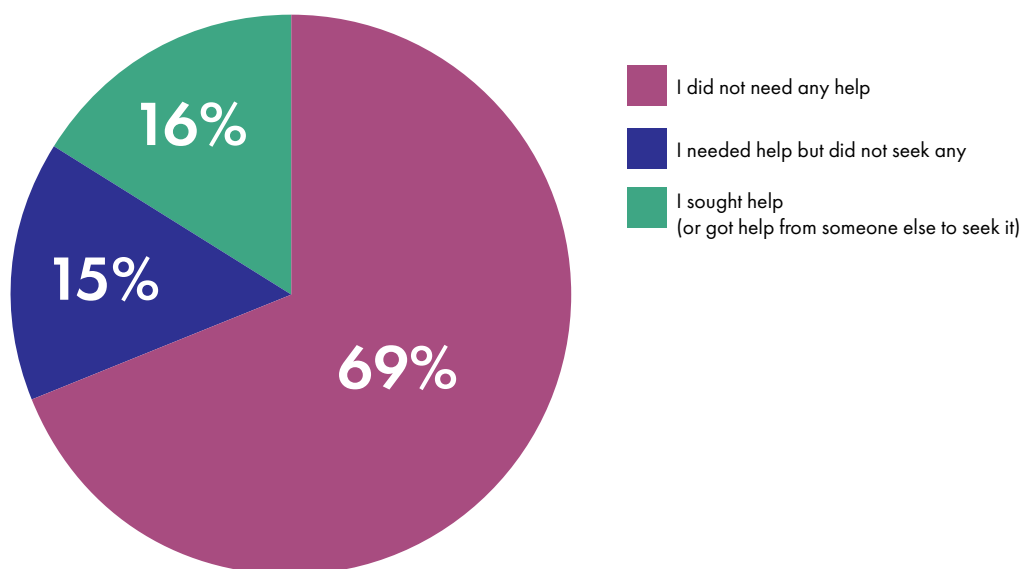


FIGURE 2. Proportion of students who experienced physical violence by an adult and violence between parents, and who sought support and help (n=606).

6. Statens offentliga utredningar (2022). *Betänkande av utredningen En uppväxt fri från våld*. SOU 2022:70.

7. Committee on the Rights of the Child (2023). *Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Sweden*. CRC/C/SWE/CO/6-7.

8-9. Jernbro, Landberg & Thulin (2022). *Väld mot barn 2022. En nationell kartläggning [Violence against Children in Sweden 2022]*. Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset.

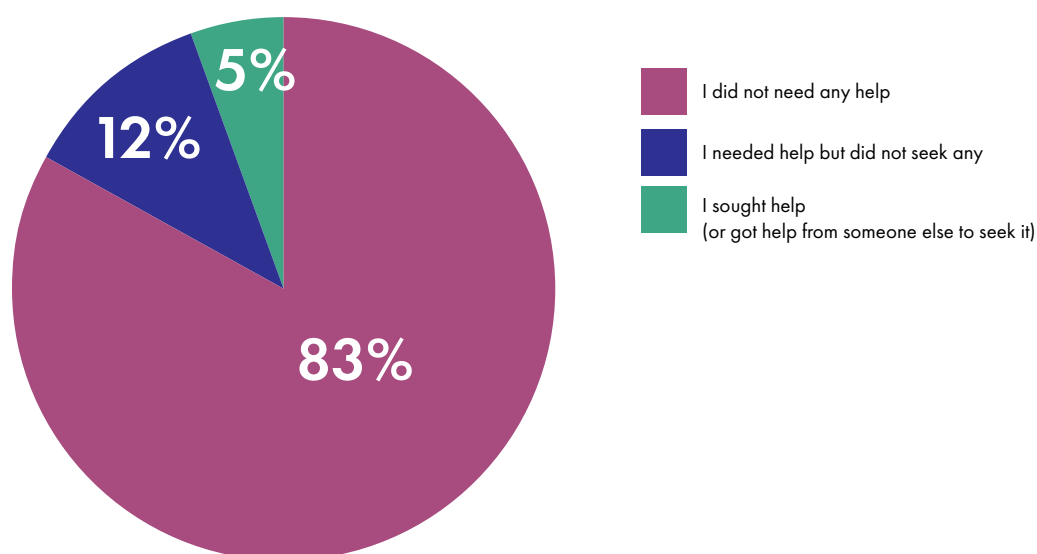


FIGURE 3. Proportion of students who were sexually abused and who sought support and help (n=1515).

but did not seek any (figure 3).⁹ Few of the students who sought support after sexual abuse chose to state where they sought support from and how satisfied they were with the support.

These figures suggest that there is a need for information, support and treatment that is not currently being met.

Sweden's Barnahus

Barnahus is a collaboration of authorities brought together under one roof to coordinate investigations and interventions when there are suspicions of crimes against children. This way, children can come to a safe and child-friendly place instead of being shuffled between different authorities. In 2019, 222 of Sweden's 290 municipalities were linked to one of the 31 Barnahus that existed in the country at that time. This means that around 85 percent of the country's population lives in an area with a Barnahus.¹⁰ However, access to support and rehabilitation for children and their families varies between Barnahus offices.

One way of describing a Barnahus is that it has four rooms¹¹, containing criminal investigation, protection, physical health and mental health. In Sweden, different authorities have primary responsibility for the different rooms.

The main focus of the Barnahus is often on the investigation phase. The 'fourth room', containing information, support and treatment, is often less well developed.

10. Barnafriid – Nationellt Centrum för kunskap om våld mot barn (2019). *Slutrapport Utvärdering av Barnahus*.

11. Landberg & Svedin (2013). *Inuti ett Barnahus – en kvalitetsgranskning av 23 verksamheter*. Save the Children Sweden.

The Fourth Room model

Background

In 2016–2019, the Children’s Welfare Foundation Sweden ran a project focused on developing a model for the support and treatment of children who had been subjected to physical violence or sexual abuse.¹² The project was prompted by the fact that several different agencies in Sweden were working to provide support and treatment, but they each had different missions, organizations and responsible authorities, and no one had overall responsibility for every child who had been subjected to violence and abuse.

The project covered five geographical areas in Sweden. Over time, it became apparent that a clear division of responsibilities and overarching coordination of the available resources were crucial for successfully making support and treatment available to children who experience violence.

The result of the project was a model that came to be known as the Fourth Room. The model tasks the Barnahus offices with ensuring that all children in the area have access to support and treatment, by concentrating and coordinating resources for children exposed to violence, their families and other key adults. According to the model, the Barnahus should act as a hub for knowledge and information on violence and child abuse in the region or municipality.

The project showed that it is possible to improve access to support and treatment for children who are victims of violence or sexual abuse, but that it requires a collaborative pooling of resources between authorities and civil society. The project also showed that there are major variations between municipalities in terms of assessment, collaboration and provision of interventions for children exposed to violence and their families.

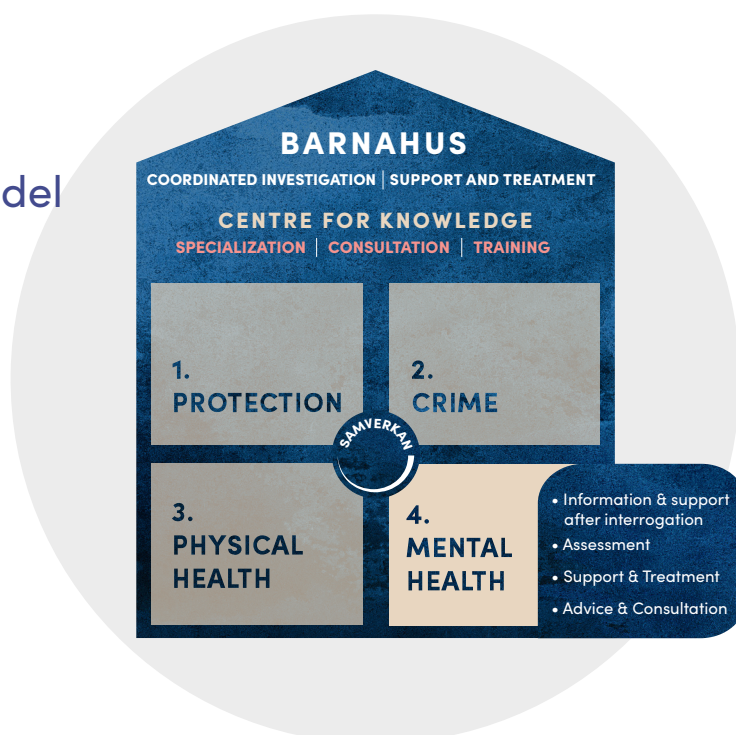
Barnahus in the center of the model

Aggregated knowledge on violence against children

Evident child perspective

Child friendly and safe environment

Responsible for updated and relevant information in the region



12. Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset [Children’s Welfare Foundation Sweden] (2019). *Stöd och behandling för barn som utsatts för våld och sexuella övergrepp. Projekttrapp och förslag till en modell*. Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset.

Work from 2022 onwards

At the end of 2022, the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden launched an implementation project aimed at spreading and developing work on support and treatment, based on the Fourth Room model. The work was intensified in 2023, when several Barnahus expressed an interest in joining the project. By April 2024, 14 Barnahus were involved in the project (these will be referred to as project areas from now on).

Each project area has its own local project goals based on its particular conditions, resources and challenges. What the local goals and activities all have in common, however, is that they are linked to support and treatment of children who have been victims of violence and abuse.

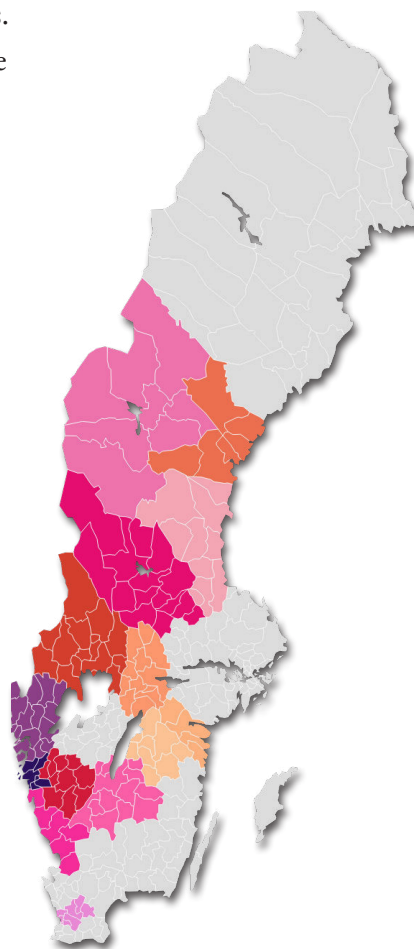
Currently, over 40 percent of Sweden's Barnahus participate in the project to improve their support and treatment work and thus ensure that the overall vision of the project is fulfilled – that all children who are victims of violence receive the support and help to which they are entitled.

The different project areas have chosen to focus, among other things, on:

- Children with sexual behavior problems.
- Children with disabilities.
- Cooperation with regional service providers.
- The role of the Barnahus as a gateway to the right kind of crisis support and treatment.

14 Barnahus participating in the project

- Each project area consists of a Barnahus that collaborates with other service providers in the municipalities and regions.
- The project areas are supported in accordance with a process management and implementation model developed for the project (more on this on p. 13).
- Each area sets local targets for its sub-project, which are evaluated according to a set timetable.
- Twice-yearly network meetings provide opportunities for project areas to share knowledge, gain inspiration from each other and develop their work on information, support and treatment.





Marit Äng & Beatrice Bergqvist,
coordinators at Barnahus Örebro County

What are the benefits of working with the Fourth Room in practice?

- The project has helped us to work in a more focused and goal-oriented way on the ideas for improvements that we have had in the past but never really taken any further before. For example, we have made several advances in developing the presence of child psychiatry in children's hospitals and how this can best benefit children. Within the framework of this development work, we have also managed to forge links with the child and youth rehabilitation service, which we hope might lead to improvements for children with neuropsychiatric disorders when they come into contact with a Barnahus.

What are the challenges?

- A major challenge for us has been finding the right partners in the different areas. The focus areas for development straddle the responsibilities of multiple organizations (e.g. the different parts of the region and different municipalities), which of course remain the ultimate authorities in their field. It has been challenging but also exciting and very educational. Another challenge has, of course, been finding enough time for development work in amongst the regular day-to-day work of the Barnahus.

How has working with the Fourth Room affected what you do?

- We feel that participating in the project has helped us to put more focus on a child's right to information, support and treatment after experiencing criminal actions. As coordinators, we have learned a lot about the field itself, and the collaborative work on this issue has helped us to build bridges that can be usefully employed in other issues affecting the children who come to our Barnahus.

Working according to the Fourth Room model

The Fourth Room model includes six phases:

1



MAPPING

The purpose of the mapping process is to assess which resources are available in the area and how those resources are coordinated. Potential obstacles and access to resources are mapped.

2



PLANNING

During the next phase changes that are needed to increase access to support and treatment for children who have been victims of violence and abuse are planned. This phase can be time-consuming and needs to involve all stakeholders to facilitate collaboration and shared views on the division of labour and responsibility.

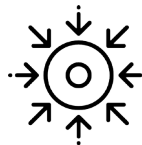
3



ANCHORING

During the third phase the planning that was conducted in the second phase is established amongst the stakeholders and relevant and necessary changes of the proposed plan is carried out.

4



REORGANIZATION AND COLLOCATION

The aim of the fourth phase is to coordinate and potentially centralize support and treatment resources to one or several Barnahus within the area.

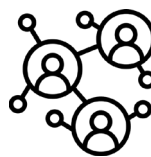
5



TRAINING

The purpose of the fifth phase is to ensure that professionals working with support and treatment gain access to the training that they need to fulfil the needs of the children and families in their care. During this phase, project partners can participate in training provided by Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden.

6



MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT & NETWORKING

The sixth and final phase is a continuous phase with the focus to maintain knowledge and develop procedures through training, networking, and exchange with other Barnahus, which is the basis for successful implementation of the model.

Two models for support and treatment

As part of the development within the Fourth Room project, the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden is able to offer training in the crisis support model After the Child Forensic Interview [Efter barnförhöret] and the treatment model Combined Parent-Child Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, CPC-CBT [Kognitiv Integrerad Behandling vid Barnmisshandel, KIBB].

After the Child Forensic Interview

Immediate crisis support in parallel with the investigation into the violence is a key component of the Fourth Room model. After the Child Forensic Interview is a model for providing children and parents with the information and support to which they are entitled when suspected child abuse is reported and investigated. Most commonly, there are no grounds for placing the child in care or detaining the perpetrator. The model is designed for the large group of children who are interviewed about suspected child abuse and who are then deemed able to return home to the parents who are suspects. They have often been left to fend for themselves without any support outside the family. In the After the Child Forensic Interview model, the child and the parents receive information and support immediately, in parallel with the investigation, each from their own separate case officers. The child is supported in their own right and the parents are supported to maintain a focus on their child's best interests, despite often being in crisis themselves.

In addition, our experience indicates that municipalities that invest in crisis support become involved in developing the entire system of support and treatment for children exposed to violence. Since 2017, the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden has trained staff in the After the Child Forensic Interview model in a large number of municipalities across Sweden.

Combined Parent-Child Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CPC-CBT)

CPC-CBT is a manual-based CBT treatment for families in which physical child abuse has occurred and where parents and children have been assessed as being able to maintain contact. The treatment is based on families in outpatient care, individually or in groups, receiving treatment in at least 16 weekly sessions. The children and parents can participate both separately and as a family. Each treatment session ends with them coming together for the integration and practice of new skills and strategies.

The treatment is based on various themes that research has shown to be important in working with the target group. The KIBB method has spread across the country and training is much in demand, thus increasing knowledge about the support and treatment needs of vulnerable children. It has also exposed the difficulty of getting the right help to children who have experienced violence, and the fact that the children's needs are overshadowed by the nature of the parents' problems. The growing expertise in recognizing and talking about violence, and the gap between reporting concerns (about violence) and treatment, provide a good basis for being willing and able to implement the Fourth Room.



Jennie Hägglund & Katarina Ingers,
coordinators at Barnahus Dalarna

What are the benefits of working with the Fourth Room in practice?

- The more we focus on the Fourth Room, the more we see things that need to be improved. We are also able to see more clearly how things are interlinked! In addition, we are currently taking a child rights strategist training course, which has given us further tools and insights to apply to our development work, not least child impact assessments.

What are the challenges?

- The biggest challenge has been building consensus among our partners. This can range from values and how they see children, to views on different levels of care.

How has working with the Fourth Room affected what you do?

- Over the course of the project, we have, for example, mapped out the existing resources in the county, which has then enabled us to create channels to underused partners. At our Barnahus, we have chosen to also include the Third Room, regarding physical health, in the project. This has given us a more holistic view of the child's health, placing more emphasis on physical health in the Barnahus process, such that health examinations may be an option even when a forensic examination or medical examination is not needed for placement in care.



Mikael Nilsson, Head of Supported Accommodation
Halmstad Municipality & Barnahus Halland

Why has Halland chosen to join the project?

- As a relatively new Barnahus, it was important to cover everything, i.e. every aspect of being a Barnahus. When starting up, it is easy to focus on consultations, procedures, hearings and the legal process.

Has the Fourth Room changed the working practices or working environment at the Barnahus in any way?

- It creates a different level of questioning, and deeper discussions. It also creates a better working environment, with an emphasis on laying the foundations for good support from our Barnahus. One of the most important factors in a good working environment, in my opinion, is feeling that you are making a difference.

What benefits do you see in the long term?

- A holistic perspective and greater consensus among the various actors and in the different parts regarding the running of the Barnahus.

More voices from the project

The Barnahus participating in the project tell us that they find it valuable to receive help in starting up their work on developing support and treatment. They have also found it valuable to receive guidance in setting and following up goals and planning activities at the regular meetings with project staff from the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden.

"We feel our work with the Fourth Room has become clearer and we have been able to crystallize out different areas of work and activities that we need to work more towards. We have certainly made progress on some fronts."

The networking meetings carried out in the project are much appreciated and create opportunities to share experiences and ideas with other Barnahus. The fact that project staff from the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden have a helicopter view of all the project areas' goals and activities creates opportunities for collaboration between Barnahus offices working on the same issues. These contacts and collaboration meetings with other Barnahus have been seen as positive and inspiring.

"We have been able to share our experience of things we have been working on for longer. And we have appreciated having contact with other Barnahus, not least those in our own region. We have certainly received ideas and tips from the other Barnahus, and I have also been able to let go of ideas that aren't working."

The Barnahus offices report that the support and guidance from the project management has made it possible to establish a dialog with other services, such as healthcare. Several Barnahus describe getting to explain how working on the mental health of children exposed to violence is important and needs to be prioritized. Feedback from other bodies, such as social services and the health service, has generally been positive.

"Crisis support and the crime of children witnessing violence have received more focus in both social services and the justice system. We have now had more in-depth discussions both internally and with our partners on the needs of children following disclosures of violence."



The way forward

Voices from two authorities



Mikael Thörn, Unit Head, Swedish Gender Equality Agency

- I see it as vital and positive that work on the national coordination project is continuing, and that several regions are now expanding the activities of the Barnahus with the objective of making them knowledge centers on violence for everyone who has contact with children, and tasking them with coordinating and concentrating support for all children exposed to violence.

It is essential that information, support, protection and treatment services are improved and made more accessible to all children who experience violence. There are currently major shortcomings and differences across the municipalities and regions when it comes to information for children and young people, making violence visible and, above all, accessing support, protection and treatment. There is also a need for better coordination between the various authorities in both the short and long term, with a focus on the needs of children and young people.

The shortcomings are evident in research and reports from us and other authorities, as well as in the proposal for a national strategy to prevent and combat violence against children (SOU 2022:70 En uppväxt fri från våld).

Hopefully, the knowledge and methodology provided by this work/project will help to strengthen children's rights and meet the need for support and treatment within these Barnahus, as well as being implemented at more Barnahus offices (regions/municipalities) in the future. All children and young people who have been subjected to violence or abuse should of course be offered the best available support and treatment, based on their rights and needs, regardless of where in Sweden they live.



Juno Blom, Ombudsman for Children in Sweden

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child is clear: all children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence, including physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence and honor-based violence and oppression. Nevertheless, we know that children are subjected to violence every day in Sweden. For many children, home is a crime scene rather than the place of safety that it should be. Violence has serious consequences and harms the child in both the short and long term.

Children who are victims of violence must receive protection, support and treatment. At the moment, the support children receive and whether they have access to it in the first place varies greatly across the country; Barnahus offices are not available everywhere in the country. Not all children who are victims of violence are offered support at a Barnahus either. Prevention and early detection of violence against children must be improved.

The Barnahus is a good example of an activity tailored to children who are victims of violence. The methods employed by Barnahus are firmly rooted in the needs of the child, not least when it comes to interviewing children who have experienced or witnessed violence. It is essential that those working with children exposed to violence have the right skills and the ability to understand these children, that they are suited to dealing with children and that the interventions provided are based on each child's particular needs. Children who are victims of violence must be protected immediately and the interventions must begin without delay. In our conversations with children, it is clear that we adults need to do more to prevent violence, but also to spot and pick up on signals.

Violence against children is a serious social problem, and the work of the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden to stop violence, and their regular surveys clearly highlighting the reality of vulnerable children, are invaluable.



What needs to be done?

Bring together a range of professionals at the Barnahus offices to ensure that they have the necessary expertise on children exposed to violence. Building on their role as knowledge centers and tasking them with coordinating the resources available are important steps that need to be taken to ensure that children exposed to violence and their families receive the support they need and to which they are entitled under the CRC.

The Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden is assuming the role of national coordinator in order to drive the implementation, development and evaluation of the Fourth Room model. The success of the project shows that it is possible to improve the situation for children exposed to violence in Sweden in a short time and with few resources.

In order for the project's overall objective to be met, more regions and Barnahus in Sweden need to work actively on the regional coordination of support and treatment for children exposed to violence. The work on the Fourth Room shows that collaboration between the Barnahus offices is an appreciated method for such work.

Ensuring equal access to support and treatment and full-scale implementation of all elements of the Fourth Room model also requires:

- Legislation that ensures equal access to information, support and treatment for children exposed to violence and their families.
- Legislative changes that allow for monitoring of children's complete journey through Barnahus and the interventions provided. Such privacy changes would have a major impact in ensuring that children do not fall through the cracks and risk being left without help.
- Adoption of the national strategy *En uppväxt fri från våld* (SOU 2022:70) and an action plan that includes the Fourth Room would lead to major positive change for child victims of violence¹³.

13. Statens offentliga utredningar (2022). Betänkande av utredningen En uppväxt fri från våld. SOU 2022:70.



Frequently asked questions about the Fourth Room project

What resources and time are required?

The Barnahus participating in the project have to a very large extent carried out their work without additional resources. The time required is determined by the goals set by each project area, based on its local conditions and resources. Barnahus managers and managers of other key players need to be invested in the work on developing the Fourth Room. A shared understanding of the need to work on these issues is also important in order to move forward. In our experience, it is possible to achieve a great deal with a committed group of staff, consensus among the agencies involved and a willingness from managers to work to ensure that all children exposed to violence have access to information, support and treatment!

What if we are interested in joining the project?

You can read more about the project at allmannabarnhuset.se, where you will find contact details for the project manager. Feel free to contact us if you are interested in finding out more.

How can I find more information on support and treatment for children who are victims of violence?

The project is currently developing a knowledge bank tailored to different professional groups. The aim is to meet their professional requirements for knowledge about the needs of children exposed to violence and their families, focusing on information, support and treatment. The knowledge bank is available at allmannabarnhuset.se and will be further developed in 2024.

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The Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden is a governmental foundation with a mission to support the development of methods and knowledge that will support children and young people in socially vulnerable situations. Our work is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and focuses on increasing the competence of professionals who work with children, by developing and disseminating knowledge from research and practice. We provide funding for child and youth research, run our own development projects, organize training courses, conferences and seminars, and publish reports and books on issues of topical interest.

Read more about us at allmannabarnhuset.se

The importance of support and treatment for all child victims of violence

A national development project in cooperation with several Barnahus in Sweden

Children who have been victims of violence do not always receive the support or treatment they need and to which they are entitled. Important information is also often lacking for children, their families and other loved ones. To fill these gaps in the social structure, the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden has developed a model called 'The Fourth Room', which is rooted in Sweden's network of Barnahus offices.

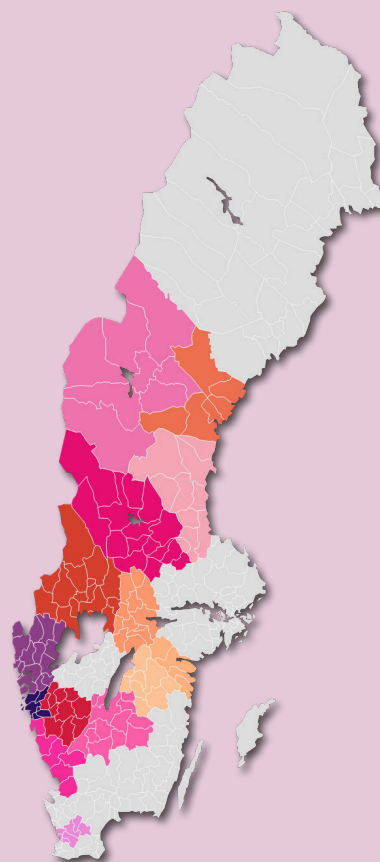
An implementation project based on the Fourth Room model has been running since 2022. One of the project's objectives is to enable Barnahus in Sweden to take on the role of regional knowledge centers on violence and child abuse. The aim is also to ensure that support, treatment and information can be offered and channeled through them.

Preventing and combating violence against children requires political will, resources, knowledge and commitment. We see this project as a major step in the right direction.

The development of this project has been made possible with the support of the Swedish Crime Victims Fund (Brottsofferfonden).

14 Barnahus participating in the project

- Each project area consists of a Barnahus that collaborates with other service providers in the municipalities and regions.
- The project areas are supported in accordance with a process management and implementation model developed for the project.
- Each area sets local targets for its sub-project, which are evaluated according to a set timetable.
- Twice-yearly network meetings provide opportunities for project areas to share knowledge, gain inspiration from each other and develop their work on information, support and treatment.



Children's
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