

Partnership between Örebro County Sports Federation and Örebro County Council

- Collaborative agreement for social sustainability and equal health

What is the background?

In 2003 was an agreement launched about a collaboration for local public health work. The purpose with the agreement in the county of Örebro, Sweden, is through sustainable collaboration between the parties promote a good and equal health in the population. The collaboration shall be based on health determinants and focus on measures for people's equivalent terms to health and quality of life. Follow-ups of the public health work showed the need for increased professionalism, sustainability and collaboration. The problem was that the municipalities could not meet the financial demands made by the county council, especially for smaller municipalities. Therefore should a public health agreement with shared goals and commitments promote collaboration, increased professionalism, continuity, management and governance.

The agreements of public health

Örebro County Council has a county agreement with four regions of the county which include all the municipalities. Beyond this there is a agreement between the region and Örebro County Sports Federation (ÖLIF) with SISU Sports Education and with Örebro County Educational Association. The health public agreements is based on a common model where Örebro County Council together with the county's municipalities allocate resources to develop the local public health work. The agreements means that the county's work for equal health, develop



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collaboration, promote sustainability, skill development, and continuity in the public health work, and are adopting common challenges. Starting points that are important in the agreements is to; collaborate for a good health development, affect the uneven distribution of health, in children and adolescents promote a good health, promote a healthy aging, and to strengthen the work considering health promotion and disease prevention. There are specific projections that vary between the regions in the county based on local policy documents, priorities and needs of interventions but the basis of the agreements are common to all regions in the county. Through financing of the common allocated funds has each region in the county strategic resource persons for the public health work (public health team). In addition, Örebro County Council allocates resources to develop public health interventions in healthcare, ÖLIF with SISU Sports Education and Örebro County Educational Association. In the agreement is ÖLIF committed to develop the health perspective in the 600 sport clubs with special focus on for example gender equality, activities for refugees, physical activity on prescription, ANDT, sports for disability, and children living in poverty. The mission is organized in a public health department at ÖLIF with 15 employees who has a degree in public health and sport.

How is the work followed up and evaluated?

Since 1993 have population surveys been implemented in the adult population in Örebro County. These has been given knowledge about health, living conditions and habits, and healthcare contacts. Through recurring surveys, has the results come to play a significant role. They are a unique basis for planning, governance, follow-up and reporting. The results in the surveys are presented in different forms and contexts, and are important working tools for the local public health work. Moreover, the including parties in the public health work develop together working methods, coordinates and initiates interventions and spreads knowledge for a good and equitable health development. By the use of welfare audits are the public health plans followed up to know that the county's public health work are on the right path. The welfare audits is the basis for decision makers' to choose interventions and should stimulate discussions on the county's public health goals and choices for a good and equitable health. The welfare audits are describing the county residents' living conditions, living habits and habitat through analyzes of changes, trends and threats to the public health and welfare development and presents good examples. The public health agreement have since the beginning 2003 been continuously followed up with evaluations, annual reports, presentations and financial statements. An intern rapport in 2015 concluded that the contracting parties was pleased that the public health agreements existed and they are perceived as favorable. Some states that they should not receive a good public health work without the agreements, and that the agreements is essential for the public health questions over time. Hence, an important success with the agreements is sustainability and that they are given opportunities to work across organizational boundaries and contribute to consensus. A new evaluation was performed in December 2016 which had the purpose for future work to capture the view of organization of the public health work, foundation in the public health agreements, collaboration, ownership and management, and if the agreements have had the ability to contribute to actions and benefits.

The future for the public health work

In 2013 did Örebro County Council arranged a conference with the aim to initiating a regional development work for equal health, and two years later was a commission for equal health established. The commissioners is politicians of the regional executive focus team of public health. The purpose was to identify and contribute with knowledge and guidance in the long-term work to reduce the differences in health in the county. The commission will analyze the health situation in the county/region on the basis of socio-economic, environmental-, gender-, diversity- and life-cycle perspectives and identify challenges and propose measures. A final report will be presented in autumn 2017 and the results from the evaluation and commission work will have a great impact on the agreements of public health in the future. While waiting for the results is the old agreements extended until April 2017.