TCRU
THOMAS CORAM RESEARCH UNIT

Developing and Supporting Foster Care in Denmark, France, Germany and Sweden

Pat Petrie
Centre for Understanding Social Pedagogy

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

European experience

- Shortages less acute than England
- Different packages
  - remuneration
  - employment status
  - support

France

- Shortages in inner cities
- Few professionally qualified carers but extensive training required
- Approved status
- Employed, salaried, unionised
- Part of children's services team

Denmark

- No shortage outside Copenhagen
- One third professionally qualified
- Part of a professional team
- Unionised
- Fees equal to pay for salaried work
- Recruitment mainly word of mouth

Sweden

- Serious shortage of younger applicants, but no crisis foreseen
- Fees variable, no employment benefits
- Move to independent providers
- Various recruitment strategies tried

Germany

- Shortages reported in former East Germany, otherwise no shortages
- Fees variable
- Training obligatory in some States, not others

Support package

- Feeling valued
- Professional support
- Peer support
- Respite
- Ongoing Training

Training: legislated requirements

- Compulsory in France
- Obligation in some German States
- Not required in Sweden or Denmark

Who provides training?

- France: Commissioned out to colleges, voluntary organisations, commercial providers
- Varied picture in Denmark, Sweden, Germany

How long is training?

- France: 240 hours over 18 months from Jan 2005
- Varied picture elsewhere
  - 0 – 80 hours for basic course

Place of Social Pedagogy

- A foundation concept across service
- An approach to practice, training and policy

TCRU
THOMAS CORAM RESEARCH UNIT

Social Services

Leisure

Qualified Pedagogues

Education

Health

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Social pedagogy

Where care and education meet …

Nurturance…

Socialisation…

Upbringing…

Supporting development…

Education-in-its-broadest-sense

Common approaches and values across settings based in

- Relationships
- A meeting of persons
- Reflective practice and team work

Social Pedagogy and foster care

- Policy often framed in pedagogic terms
- Pedagogic principles inform foster training and practice
- Employment of pedagogues in foster support services
- Some employment of pedagogues as foster carers

TCRU
THOMAS CORAM RESEARCH UNIT

Developing and Supporting Foster Care in Denmark, France, Germany and Sweden

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON