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TOGETHER FOR YOUTH WELL-BEING
MENHELP VYTE

‘Match Day’

Originally, Match Day was intended to be a day divided into two themes: a collaboration theme with partners in the project and a match theme with the young people. Due to logistical challenges, we had to divide the two themes into two half-days – one for the partners (called the ‘partnership meeting’) and one for the young people (called ‘match day’).

Partnership meeting

Background

The partnership meeting brought together AAB Vejle, the job centre, FGU and the public health department with the aim of creating a common understanding of the project's purpose, status and challenges. The aim was to strengthen cooperation across stakeholders and discuss how best to support young people without jobs or education. The meeting provided an overall status of the project's learning and challenges, particularly the recruitment of young people.

The partnership meeting took place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on 3 June.

1. Intention of the meeting

The idea behind the partnership meeting was to bring together the key stakeholders involved in the project to create a shared understanding of its objectives, progress and challenges. The goal was to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation and discuss how the parties can best contribute to supporting young people who are not in employment or education. The meeting was also intended to provide insight into the project's learning to date and create a common basis for further efforts.

2. Programme and content

The meeting was opened by Uffe Breum, who welcomed the participants. Jannie Knudsen then presented the status of the project and its expected effects, including increased well-being, fewer young people without jobs or education, and a contribution to ensuring a skilled workforce. She also reviewed the lessons learned so far, including experiences from Romania, where there is now an increasing focus on young people with special needs, the importance of teachers with experience from the business world, opportunities for transport subsidies and interest-free loans, and companies' increasing investments in young people through, for example, scholarships.



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At the same time, it was explained that recruiting young people has been a challenge and that several actors have therefore been called upon, including AAB's mentors and community workers, the job centre, Ungeuniverset and Helhedsplanen.

After the presentation, the public health sector's motivation for participating was discussed. It was emphasised that the sector wants to contribute to things actually happening in practice and that welfare should not be understood as a service to a passive recipient, but as something that is created jointly.

The job centre's motivation was then reviewed, followed by the housing association's perspectives. AAB Vejle emphasised their social responsibility, their strategic focus on communities and health, and their belief that employees can and will make a difference.

There was broad agreement that partnerships provide an opportunity to support even more young people. This was followed by a discussion of the contributions that the other parties can bring to the project.

3. Results

The meeting resulted in a common understanding of the direction and challenges of the project, as well as a heightened awareness of how each of the parties can contribute. It was made clear that recruiting young people still requires a coordinated effort and that relationships, visibility and cooperation are crucial. There was agreement that young people should be met by adults who voluntarily engage with them and that mentors should have access to sparring and support from the other actors. New opportunities were also identified, including the use of AI as a support function, the job lift approach in collaboration with suppliers, and the possibility of involving other residents as mentors. A key learning point was that the system must dare to let go and give young people more responsibility and opportunities for action.

Match Day

Background

Match Day was intended as a meeting between mentors and potential mentees, with the hope of establishing specific matches between individuals.



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Match Day took place from 13:30 to 15:30 on 26 August.



1. Intention of the event

The purpose of the meeting was:

- To introduce the young people to the mentors associated with the project
- To create an informal setting where young people could hear about the mentoring programme, ask questions and share wishes and ideas
- To motivate young people to enter into a mentoring programme that can support them in their further development
- To give mentors the opportunity to introduce themselves and make initial contact with young people

From the young people's perspective, the motivation was:

- To hear what the project and the mentoring programme are all about
- To meet employees and mentors on equal terms
- To have the opportunity to share thoughts and needs
- To participate in an informal event with free pizza and soft drinks



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2. Programme for the meeting

The event began with a short welcome and introduction by Jannie Knudsen, who presented the background of the project and AAB's desire to improve the well-being of residents. She explained that AAB employees had been asked if they wanted to be mentors and that there was no requirement to decide on the day. After the introduction, Yasmina gave a presentation about her experiences of having a mentor, describing how mentors should be proactive and curious and engage in ordinary, informal conversations with young people. She emphasised that mentors should not take it personally if a young person chooses another mentor and that the relationship typically starts with the young person asking for contact details. She also pointed out that mentors are welcome to share personal experiences when it is relevant and natural to do so. After the presentation, the mentors introduced themselves, which led to a more relaxed and informal conversation between the young people and the mentors.

3. Results and learning

Although attendance was lower than expected, with only three young people participating, they stayed for the entire programme and actively participated in the dialogue. The informal atmosphere made it possible to talk more in depth with each young person, and out of these 'casual' conversations, a concrete match between a young person and a mentor emerged on the day. The other young people made initial contact and expressed interest in hearing more about the scheme.

The low turnout was a challenge, but at the same time it provided an opportunity for more intimate conversations and stronger relational contact than a larger event might have allowed. Overall, the event provided valuable insight into both the needs of the young people and the opportunities for mentors. Experience shows that relationships are best formed in informal conversations and safe environments.