

P R O M I S E

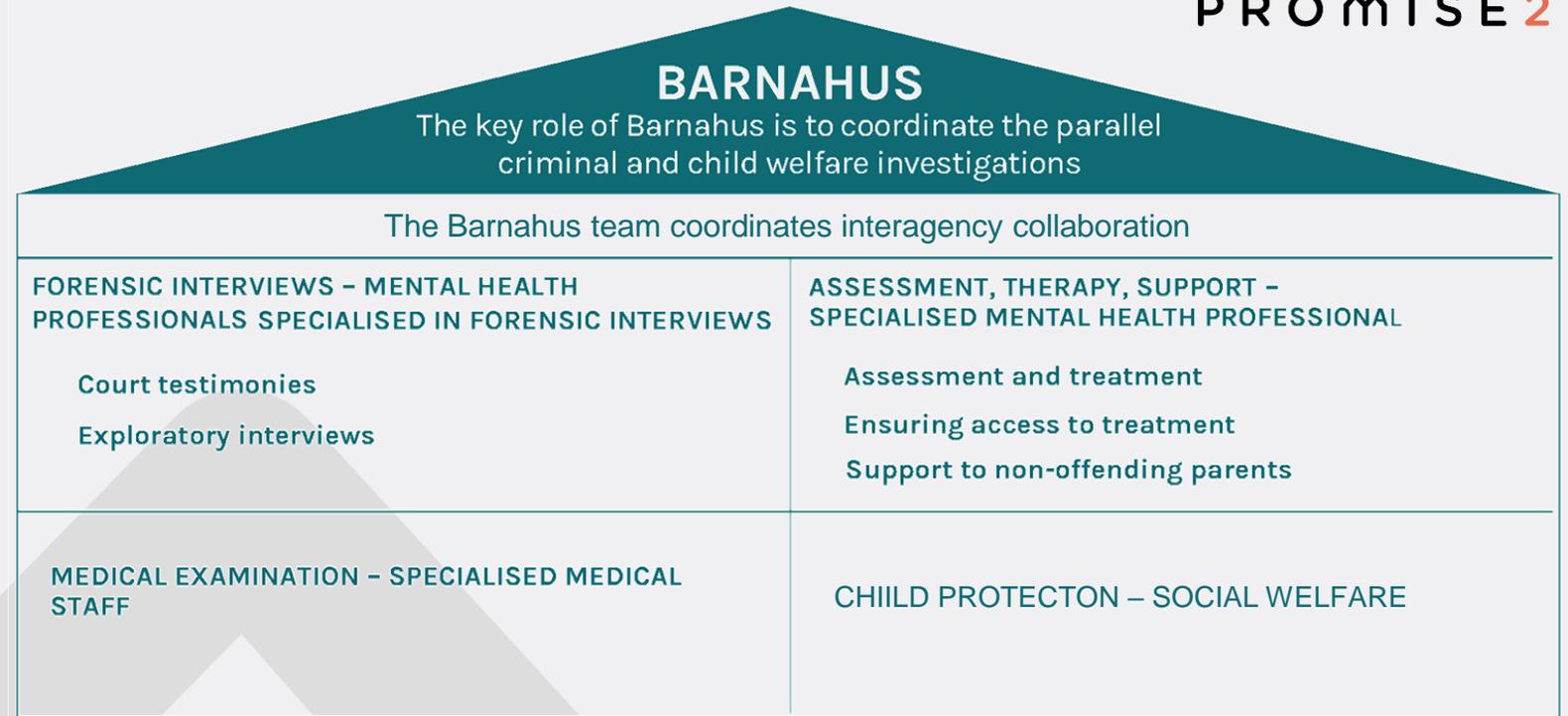
CHILD PARTICIPATION TOOL



CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



PROMISE: SUPPORTING THE BARNAHUS MODEL



NB: Based on Icelandic model, not necessarily representative of other established MD/IA services

The Barnahus model offers the child victim/witness of violence a **child-friendly, safe and professional environment to disclose** – which is fundamental to the criminal investigation, the judicial process and the follow up of the child. Interview is recorded and used as evidence in court.

Relevant disciplines and agencies are **gathered under one roof**, providing a multidisciplinary, including medical examination, mental health examination and treatment, response to each child.

The model is integrated into the national social welfare, health, and/or justice systems in most countries.

FROM 0 TO BARNAHUS

- PROMISE- promoting multidisciplinary and interagency services for child victims and witnesses of violence: Explored the criteria for Barnahus and similar models in depth and developed standard setting publications and focused on exchange, training and study visits with actors from across Europe
- PROMISE 2 *From 0 to Barnahus* focused on activities at national level activities to create an enabling environment and competent workforce, including training, round table drawing up national strategic documents and interagency agreements. Developed practical tools, including child participation tool and the template for drawing up interagency agreements. A legal briefing is on its way!
- Promise Barnahus Network will be launched in Helsinki in November
- Promise 3

POLL: DO YOU GATHER CHILDREN'S VIEWS ON YOUR SERVICES?

CHILD PARTICIPATION TOOL - BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Support to develop questionnaires and methodology for hearing the views of children on Barnahus for the purpose of informing:

- Reform of ways of working, delivering services and the interior of Barnahus
- The extent that the service works according to the Barnahus Quality Standards

Collects information from the journey to Barnahus, the experience in Barnahus and the immediate period after being in Barnahus

- Inspired by research and are informed by the work and expertise from professionals working in Barnahus or similar services across Europe.
- Draw on the Barnahus Quality Standards, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Council of Europe law and guidance, including Lanzarote Conventions, the Guidelines on Child Friendly Justice and the Guidelines on Participation of children and young people under the age of 18

BARNAHUS QUALITY STANDARD 1.2

Right to be heard and to receive information: Children's rights to express their views and to receive information are respected and fulfilled in Barnahus

Examples of indicators and/or evidence that the standard is being met:

- Staff receive training on how to communicate, listen and share information with children, adapted to their age and development;
- Forensic interviews are carried out in a manner that helps the child to exercise the right to be heard in judicial proceedings (also see Standard 6 on Forensic Interviews);
- Children and their non-offending parents/care-givers can influence the timing, location and set up of interventions such as treatment and therapy;
- Children are given opportunities to provide feedback on their experience at the service;
- Information is routinely and systematically made available to children and their caregivers, adapted to the age and development of the child;
- Children and caregivers receive information in a language they understand;
- Special efforts are made to ensure that children with special needs or disabilities have the same opportunities to receive information and to be heard.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS TO BE HEARD AND RECEIVE INFORMATION

Children's participation and testimony are core to the Barnahus process ensuring children's right to justice and care.

- Children's right to participate, be heard and receive information were new concepts in international law with the CRC in 1989
- It implied a totally new culture of listening to children, recognizing them as citizens, participants and contributors to society
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), CoE Conventions, Guidelines, Recommendations and Child Participation tool. EC 10 principles for integrated child protection systems
- Children's views to be included independent of age and status and throughout all stages of the legal and social process
- Meaningful participation in Barnahus is both a manifestation of resilience and a pathway towards recovery. Children can voice their concerns, get support and find new grounds to base their lives upon
- Participation means exercising influence over your life and having enough information to make informed decisions
- Participation is a right and leads to better decision-making, more engaged citizens and a more inclusive society
- Children's participation is still challenging - 30 years after the CRC. Empowering children in Barnahus a positive step.

CHILDREN'S REFLECTIONS ON BARNAHUS

Some Barnahus collect reflections from children - and children who have been through the Barnahus process have given views and recommendations:

- Children want to be informed from early age about different forms of abuse and where to report concerns (schools)
- Mandatory education and information to new parents about positive parenting and child participation
- Trust must be there for a child to tell about abuse. Too often children experience that adults don't listen properly or that adults share information with others without consulting the child
- Children stress the need to be given relevant information before Barnahus, about the forensic interview, after the interview about follow up and who to turn to for more information
- Children need to know who will listen to the forensic interview and how the recordings will be used
- Children need caring staff at Barnahus in general also when expressing hurt and pain. They may need more time to reveal..
- The child should not meet the accused - and If the child is to be present in court the judge should greet them in advance
- In short; Children need to feel involved, in control and safe – re-traumatisation to be avoided at all levels...

TO THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS

- Format
- Age Groups
- Type of Questions
- Timing and Location
- Length and number of questionnaires
- Ethical considerations and follow up
- Bias

POLL WHAT DO YOU THINK MIGHT BE THE CHALLENGES TO GATHER CHILDREN'S VIEWS ON THEIR EXPERIENCES IN YOUR SERVICE?

SHORT INTRODUCTION/RECRUITMENT SCRIPT FOR YOUTH

You have a right to express your opinions on things that concern you.

We want to do the best possible job for children and young people here at Barnahus. It would be good to know what you think, both good and bad. It will support us in doing a better job helping children and young people and make sure that everyone feels safe and comfortable in Barnahus. If you had a bad time here it is important that we know why so we can make things better.

If you want to participate, please circle the answer that best reflects your experience and feelings about our work and being at Barnahus.

The people who came with you to and from Barnahus and the people who you met in Barnahus will not see your answers, so you can be completely honest.

About you

You don't have to put your name on the questionnaire. If you feel like it, you can let us know your age and gender.

Age: _____ Gender: _____

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR YOUTH

- [General, welcome and venue](#)
- [Social services/Child Protection](#)
- [Forensic interview](#)
- [Medical Examination](#)
- [Therapeutic Assessment/Therapy](#)
- [Short Youth Satisfaction Questionnaire](#)

SHORT INTRODUCTION/RECRUITMENT SCRIPT FOR CHILDREN

Written Feedback

We are interested in how your time in Barnahus was for you. What you think is important to us, both good and bad. This could make us better in helping children that are about to come here. The people who came with you and the people who you met in Barnahus will not see your personal answers so you can be completely honest.

This paper has some questions and if you feel like it, you can tell us your answers by making a circle around the face that best explains how you feel. You can write or draw your answers in the boxes. If there is anything you don't understand, please ask the person who gave you this paper.

Oral interview

We are interested in how your time in Barnahus was for you. What you think is important to us, both good and bad. This could make us better in helping children that are about to come here. The people who came with you and the people who you met in Barnahus will not see your personal answers so you can be completely honest.

I will now ask you a few questions and if you feel like it, you can tell me your answer. If there is anything you don't understand, please ask me and I will try to explain.

QUESTIONNAIRES FOR CHILDREN

- General, welcome and venue
- Social services/Child Protection
- Forensic interview
- Medical Examination
- Therapeutic Assessment
- Short Child Questionnaire



P R O M I S E

THANK YOU!

Olivia Lind Haldorsson and Turid Heiberg

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER AT [BIT.LY/PROMISENEWSLETTER](https://bit.ly/promiseneWSletter)

FIND THE PUBLICATIONS AND MORE AT [WWW.CHILDRENATRISK.EU/PROMISE](http://www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise)

CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

