

# CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM IN ICELAND AND PRIDE IMPLEMENTATION

PRIDE conference  
in Prague  
7 – 9 september 2017

# STATISTICS IN ICELAND 2016

Population – 332.529

Children – 79.555

Reports to Child Protection – 9.345 (5.476 children)

Child Protection Cases – 5.316

Children in Foster Care – 406

Placement in Foster Care – 113

Application from Foster Parents - 76

# STATE

## Ministry of Welfare

**The Appeal Committee**

### The Government Agency for Child Protection

- Coordination and strengthening
- Consultation and education
- Monitoring
- Gatekeeping
- Contracts supervision
- Research and Development

**The Judicial system**

**Childrens House**

**MST**

**State Treatment Centre for Adolescents**

**Residential Treatment Homes**

**Special Projects**

**Foster Parents**

# LOCAL AUTHORITIES

## Child Protection Committees (27)

Initial process and treatment of CP-cases: beginning, investigation, evaluation, arrangements & conclusion

**General Social Services**

**Local Authorities (74)**

**Departments of Social Services**

**Cooperation school, health care authorities, police a.o.**

# MANDATORY REPORTING

- Any person who has reason to believe that a child is living in unacceptable circumstances of upbringing, is subject to harassment or violence or is placing his/her health and development at risk, is under an obligation to notify the child protection committee.
- And any person should notify the child protection committee of any incident which may be regarded as falling within the committee's ambit. (art. 16)
- Any person who, due to his/her position and work, is involved in matters concerning children, and in his/her work becomes aware that a child is living in unacceptable conditions of upbringing, is subject to harassment or violence, or is endangering his/her health and development, has a duty to notify the child protection committee.
- Pre-school heads and teachers, child-minders, school heads, teachers, clergy, physicians, dentists, midwives, nurses, psychologists, social workers, developmental therapists and those providing social services or counselling are under an especial obligation to monitor the behaviour, upbringing and conditions of children as far as possible, and to inform the child protection committee if the child's circumstances appear to be of the nature described in para. 1.
- The duty of notification provided in this article takes precedence over provisions in law or codes of ethics on confidentiality within the relevant professions. (art. 17)

# THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR CHILD PROTECTION (GACP)



## **13 staff members**

Director - 1

Counselling and education - 2

Treatment and fostercare - 4

Legal field - 3

Reception, filekeeping, human resource  
and finance - 3

# THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR CHILD PROTECTION (GACP)

Main role: To coordinate and enhance child protection at local level and nationally which means to:

Counsel and support CPC

Monitor the work of CPC by collecting and analysing data from the local CPC

Provide services for the CPC to ensure needs for children (fosterhomes, treatment, MST, Barnahus, PMTO etc.)

Supervise and monitor treatment homes operated by the government and gatekeeping role with regard to out of home placement.

Recruiting and training prospective fosterparents and counselling with regard to placement in fostercare

Research and development CP

Provide education, training and instruction in CP in general work procedures

# THE ROLE OF GACP CONCERNING FOSTERCARE

GACP shall seek to have skilled fosterparents ready to foster children

Candidates apply to GACP and send in all information that are demanded by law and regulations

GACP gets reference from the CPC where the candidates live – local authority

GACP trains, prepares and evaluates the skills of the fosterparents by using Foster Pride Pre-service Training

# THE ROLE OF THE CPC IN FOSTERCARE

Decides about fostering a child

Consults with an application to GACP to get suggestions of what fosterhome would suit the child

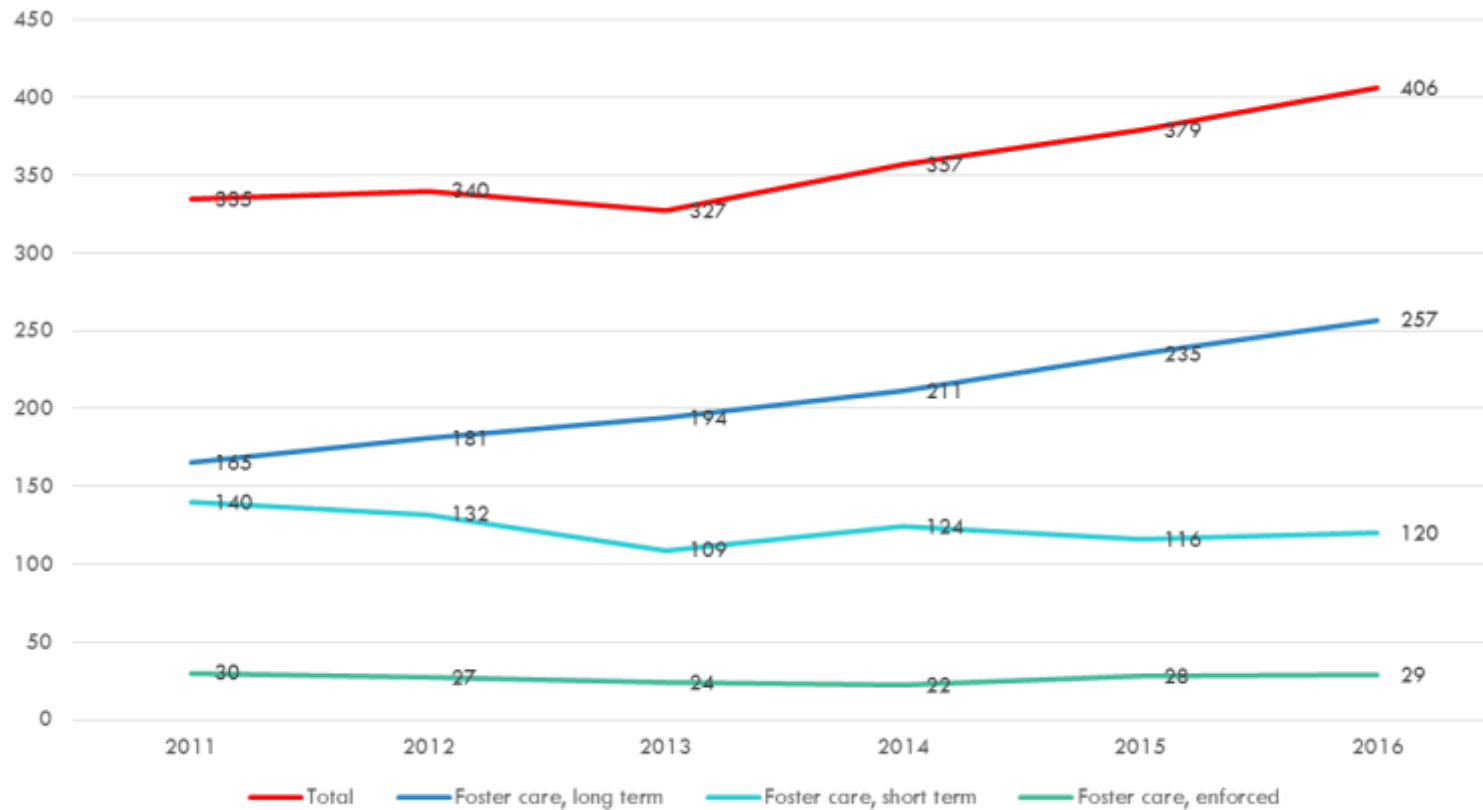
Makes plan with goals and how to reach the goals, concerning support, contacts, visits etc.

Prepares the child, its family and the fosterparents – giving information

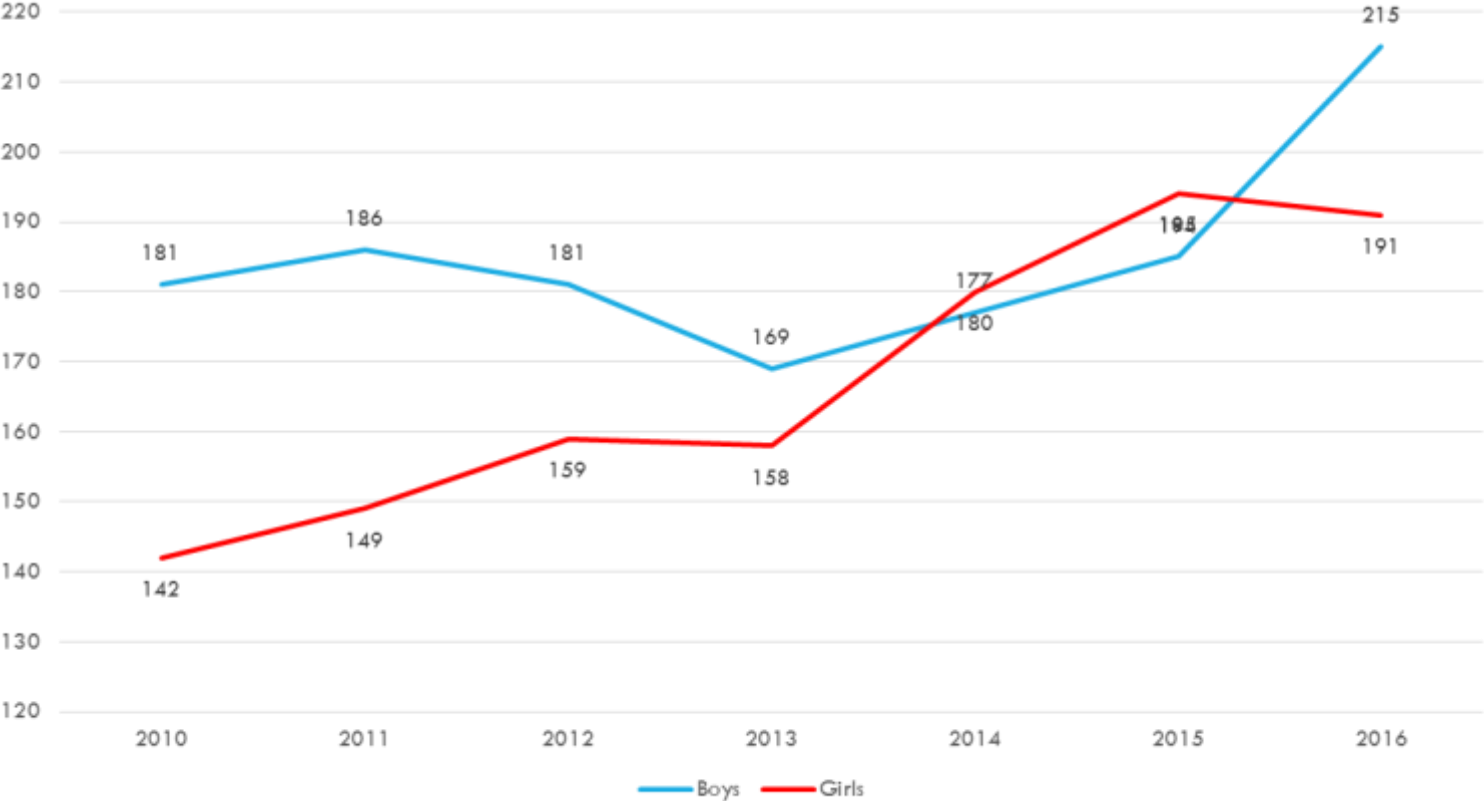
Monitors – looks after and is responsible for the child wellbeing while it is in the fosterhome in accordance to the goals



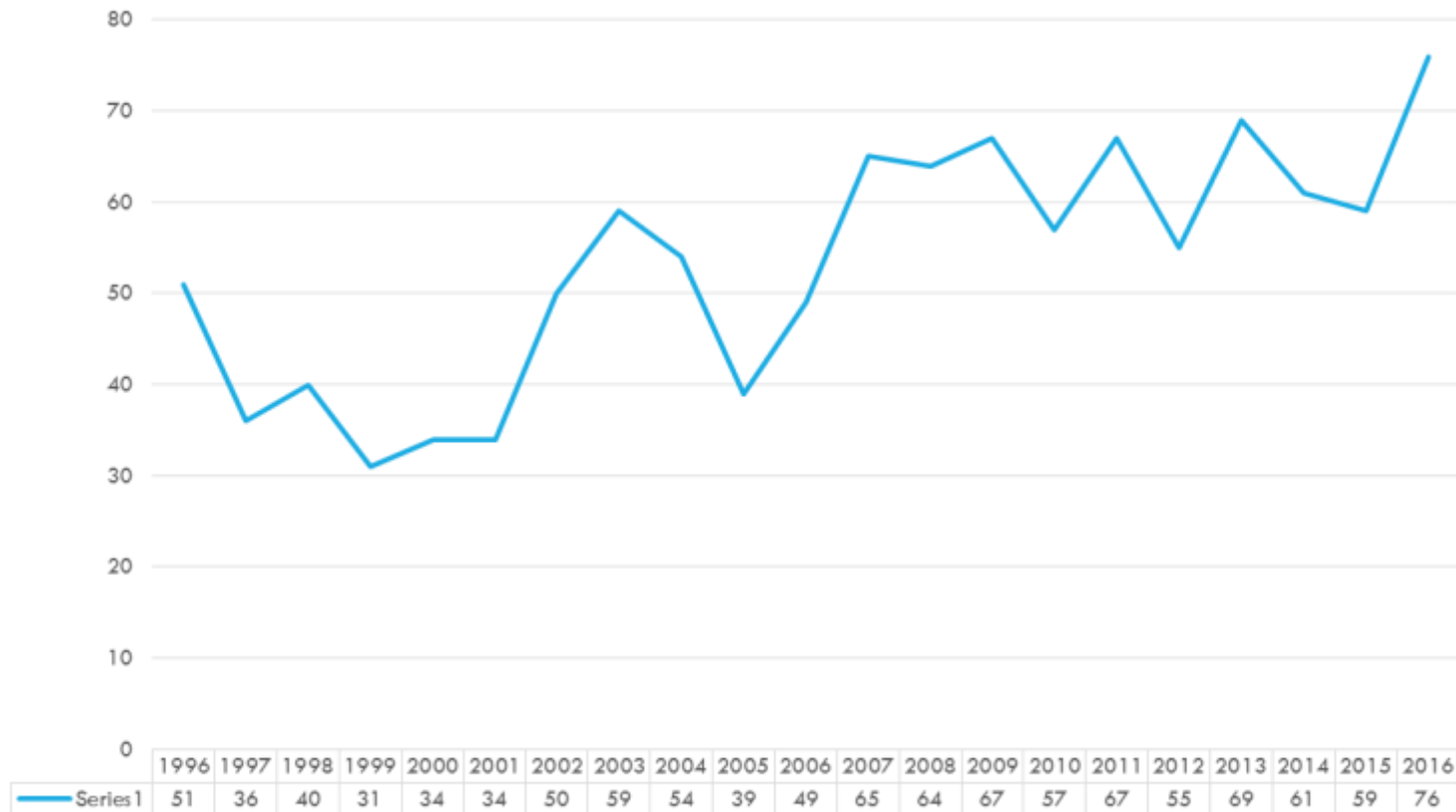
# CHILDREN IN FOSTERCARE



# CHILDREN IN FOSTERCARE BOYS AND GIRLS



# NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS TO BECOME A FOSTERPARENT





## FOSTER PRIDE TRAINING IN ICELAND - ARRANGMENT

- ▶ Ten sessions – 3 hours each session
- ▶ Two weekends plus one friday – one month between
- ▶ Two groups a year
- ▶ About 20 participants in every group

## FOSTER PRIDE TRAINING IN ICELAND - NUMBERS

Number of participants in Foster Pride training 2004 – 2017:

**total: 474**

Number of applicants to become fosterparents 2004 – 2017:

**total: 837**

Questionnaire and interviews show contentment in the end of each course

# MA — RESEARCH 2012

SILJA RÓS GUÐJÓNSDÓTTIR (2012)

49 members of the fosterparents association took part in the research

80 % of those who went through Foster Pride training thought it was very useful

20% were neutral

95% thought it was necessary to go through training

▶ Still they thought they were not enough prepared to foster the child, but the Foster Pride training helped the most.

# MA — RESEARCH 2016

KRISTÍN ÓMARSÐÓTTIR (2016)

7 members of the fosterparents association took part in the research

2 of this 7 participants went through Foster Pride training before they become foster parents, 1 had not gone through FP training and 4 had gone through FP training after they became foster parents.

They all thought the Foster Pride training was very useful but some thought it took too much time

2 of this 7 participants was offered to take part in PMTO training, one of them thought it was helpful but the other thought this method were not helpful.

Most of the participants thought that there were need for more training after the child comes into the home.

► They thought the Foster Pride training were helpful but more training were needed especially after the child comes into the home.