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Childrenfirst Impact Study

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August/September 2006 a study was completed to collect information concerning the impact of the Childrenfirst programme. This comprised three overlapping elements

- Examination of national service statistics
- Expert assessment of a sample of Childrenfirst services
- Discussions with a sample of current users to ascertain their views

This report provides details of the study's methods and results together with comments on what can be done to build on the present achievements. The main report comprises the following sections:

- Introduction
- Scope and methodology
- National developments 2001-6
- Expert Assessments
- Consultation with users
- Comments on specific services
- Appendices: with detailed results by type of service.

National developments 2001-6

Phare Childrenfirst programmes have resulted in the closure of 91 placement centres for children in Romania, over the period 2001 to 2006, from which over 10,000 children have been deinstitutionalised.

As at March 2006 Romania had in place a wide range of modern childcare services,. Many of these were funded under the Childrenfirst programmes.

Type of Service	Romanian Total March-2006 ¹	Phare Total March 2006	% of Romanian Total Services Developed by Phare
Maternal Centre	65	14	22%
Day Care Centre	106	48	45%
Recuperation Centre	91	27	30%
Emergency Centre	14	10	71%
Family Type Units	806	581	72%
Beneficiaries of Maternal Assistance	18200	2400	13%

Expert quality assessment of a sample of Childrenfirst services

A total of 150 service sites were visited including 67 Family Type Homes, 20 Maternal Assistants, 6 Emergency Centres, 19 Recovery Centres, 21 Day Centres and 11 Maternal Centres. In addition 6 meetings with young people re-integrated into the community were arranged. Each visit involved expert assessment of the service from variety of perspectives, but predominantly the quality of care available for users.

¹ The March 2006 is the latest month for which statistics are available. The Phare 02 services that were developed after this date are added to the March total and the % of total services developed by Phare is shown as a % of these estimated numbers

This exercise indicated that all of the premises visited were ~~fit~~ for purpose+, although a small number would benefit from attention to decoration and the provision of equipment.

The quality of service observed was generally good and the conclusion reached that most services are making progress:

- towards delivering a child/family friendly service
- in recognising and responding to users' needs
- in helping users develop the skills needed for independence
- in helping users develop and maintain a good social network (family, friends etc)

Under these general headings services varied both in terms of individual units and some practice elements being more advanced than others: for example, most services are good at ensuring that the setting is a ~~war~~ warm and friendly place for users+, but fewer have the ability to buy food and clothing locally in order to provide users with an individualised type of service.

Drawing on the expert assessments it is felt that more work is needed with attention to:

- Allowing services and users (particularly where they live in the service unit) the scope to buy food and clothes locally rather through contract and centralised arrangements
- Where appropriate giving users the opportunity to be involved in everyday activities such cooking, menu selection, room decoration, use of personal money etc.
- Ensuring that users are fully involved in the care planning process, including having access to all relevant material
- Helping children to build and maintain family and community links

Discussions with a sample of current users to ascertain their views

A total of 509 users . young people, parents and young mothers - participated in focus groups and another 88 were interviewed individually in order to collect their views about the services available and the impact on their lives.

These consultations demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with what was being provided and . where this applied - the processes involved in transferring from old style services to what is now available. By example:

- 79% stated that their current situation is the best possible place for them to be?
- 82% said they were very happy with where they are living/attending
- 85% indicated that their placement is helping them to achieve their potential

Particularly satisfied were the parents of children attending recovery and day care centres.

- 98% stated that their child attending the centre is really important for the child
- 74% indicated that without the child attending the centre it would either not be possible for the child to be at home or harder for the family to stay together.

This satisfaction was also expressed through individual comments such as:

- *Here we can do a lot of thing alone. We learn new things to do. In the old PC the big children beat us. Now I can have a pet*" [young person in Family Type Home]
- *We feel more quiet, no fear; we have a better relationship between us (children). We can do many things here, instead of PC."* [young person in Family Type Home]
- *We learn to take care of the baby better then before and we learn how to cook*" [young mother in a maternal centre]
- *You can see the results every day: they can move their finger; before they could not speak but now the child say 100 words; by new the child could not keep a pencil in his hand; the child has self-confidence*" [parent of child attending a recovery centre]

Notwithstanding these high satisfaction levels some users still expressed concerns about services, such as: will the service continue? the space available and location of the service, user involvement in decision making and the help provided to develop/maintain family & community links. While the majority of replies indicated approval of what is being provided a significant minority choose to say that what is being provided is OK+, but could be improved upon.

Consultation with users leads to the following conclusions/recommendations:

- That services and placements require ongoing review (both generally and in respect to individual users) to ensure that they fully meet users' needs
- That many services are highly important for the children and families using them, thus making it vital that they remain available for current users
- That many of the users who rate services highly have continuing concerns and worries which need attention. This highlights the importance of holist assessment and additional inputs (e.g. social work) alongside the specific service
- Young people who have been re-integrated into the community and young mothers contemplating the future after a maternal centre stay are particularly in need of additional support
- That when users are involved in changes it is extremely important that they are involved in the decision making process, have a major say in where they go and with whom and are supported before, during and after any move.
- That when an out of home+placement is being considered it is vital that child/young person's perspective is taken into consideration. What may appear obviously beneficial to an outside observer may not be so clear-cut for the child/young person involved.
- That children using services . especially ones where they live away from their family . must have a say in how that service is run, including the small+day to days details of life if this is to feel like a genuine home for them.

A. INTRODUCTION

The last 5 years have witnessed major investment in children's services by the Romanian Government, the European Union and a range of other donors. Foremost amongst this investment has been Phare funding delivered through the three stages of the Childrenfirst programme. This has allowed the majority of Romanian counties² to close one or more of their old style placements centres, replacing the centre with modern alternatives. The Childrenfirst programme has also encouraged counties to re-think their approach to children in need through the promotion of prevention, multi-agency working and child and family-friendly practices.

With the end of the Childrenfirst programme approaching it was felt appropriate to undertake a survey of what had been achieved, with particular emphasis on collecting the opinions of the children and parents affected by the changes and assessing whether the services developed are operating in child and family-friendly ways. This report describes the work which was undertaken and the situation found.

The report has 5 further sections plus an Appendix:

B	Scope and methodology	Details of how the study was carried out: the scale of the study, the tools used and who carried it out.
C	National developments 2001-6	A brief introduction to the scale of service development over the 2001-06 periods, and the part played by Phare funding.
D	Expert Assessment: overall findings	Summary of the aggregated findings of the experts looking at visited services with particular reference to the quality of care being provided.
E	Consultation with users: overall findings	Summary of the aggregated results of the focus groups and individual interviews carried out
F	Comments on specific services	Summary of the expert assessments and focus group/interview results by each type of service.
G	Appendix	More detailed information concerning the expert assessments and focus group/interview results by each type of service.

² Judets and Bucharest Sectors

B. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The Study was undertaken during August/September 2006 and comprised three main elements:

1. Examination of national service statistics
2. Expert assessment of a sample of Childrenfirst services
3. Discussions with a sample of current users to ascertain their views

The latter element involved two parts:

- Discussion with groups of young people, parents and young mothers concerning the impact of new services on their lives and wellbeing
- Individual interviews with young people and mothers concerning their experiences of change and their feelings about the present and the future.

In total 150 sites were visited, 509 people participated in a focus group discussion and 88 individual interviews were completed. The numbers by type of service are shown below.

Services	Sites visited	Focus group participants³	Individual interviews⁴
Family Type Homes	67	222	46
Maternal Assistants	20	0	12
Emergency Centres	6	13	4
Recovery Centre	19	102	0
Day Centres	21	84	11
Maternal Centres	11	49	9
Re-integrations	6	39	6
Totals	150	509	88

All of the Counties and sectors that had projects under the Childrenfirst programme were visited with the exception of Arges, whose services were not yet open at the time of the study. Between 3 and 5 services were visited in each County. The study was national and the experts travelled by public transport or by car to make the visits.

The Study was undertaken by eight child welfare experts with experience in child welfare in the Childrenfirst projects or in other similar initiatives. The list of experts included Mandita Mirica and Irina Pascu, long term child welfare experts already engaged in the project. In addition six short term experts were engaged to implement the study by visiting the services selected: Maria Capriel and Lucian Polaxe, who had previously worked as long term child welfare experts in the Childrenfirst project until 2005, and Ema Seclaman, Ovidiu Haidu, Tina Daragian and Ana Radulescu.

The methodology for the study was developed by Dr Barry Wilson, Short Term International Expert for the project, in cooperation with the Local Experts who implemented the study. It consisted of a series of questionnaires developed in Microsoft XL format with a series of questions answered by choosing between 3 or 4

³ Young people except in Recovery Centres and Day Centres where parents participated and Maternal Centre where the participants were young mothers

⁴ Young people except in Maternal Centre where the interviewees were young mothers

alternatives (e.g. yes, sometimes, no). Relevant comments were provided next to the answers given.

The questionnaires were designed to assist the visiting experts to collect both quantitative and qualitative information. With regard to the expert assessment of service quality the experts were required to assign the site being assessed to one of a small number of responses for each quality feature under examination: for example:

Do staff do things, and encourage the children to do things, to make the unit a warm and friendly place?			
Experts to assess which response mostly closely matches the assessment they have made of practice in the service site being visited	Yes/always/the norm	In some cases/sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Expert chooses best response	?	?	?
Relevant information recorded by expert	?	?	?

In addition for each quality feature the experts were encouraged to note any significant information plus comments by users and others.

Similarly in the focus groups and interviews, experts had a set of questions to cover, each having a limited number of possible responses: plus space for user comments to be recorded: e.g.

Involvement in everyday decisions?			
Statements to be offered to focus group participants/interviewees	Their current situation is good at involving them in everyday decision making (food, clothes etc)	It's OK, but could be better	Their current situation is poor at involving them in everyday decision making (food, clothes etc)
Number of participants/interviewees agreeing with each statement	?	?	?
Any comments made by respondents linked to each statement	?	?	?

The questionnaires used were discussed and refined with the experts at a one day training session: the original English versions were translated into Romanian and checked for comprehension and ease of completion. Every effort was made to ensure that the experts shared a common understanding of the questions and possible responses. The experts were also encouraged to communicate with other to reinforce their understanding.

This approach has enabled statistical tables to be prepared showing what percentage of those interviewed answered the various options.

The XL questionnaires were transferred to a database constructed in ~~A~~Microsoft Access and consolidated reports were extracted from the database. (In retrospect this method of consolidating the information gave technically satisfactory results, but it turned out to be more time consuming than expected and more convenient methods would be sought in future studies where such a large amount of data in questionnaire form needs to be consolidated).

Most site visits lasted an average of two to two and half hours which meant that one or two were done each day depending on how much travel was required to reach the services

C. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS 2001-6

Phare Childrenfirst programmes have resulted in the closure of 91 placement centres for children in Romania, over the period 2001 to 2006, from which over 10,000 children have been deinstitutionalised. These children, together with those considered vulnerable in the nearby communities, formed the target group for the projects for which a number of alternative modern services were developed and funded under the Phare programmes as follows:

- Family Type Homes . residences placed in the community, houses or apartments, where small groups of children can live as a family unit.
- Foster-care network . a network of and support for maternal assistants
- Maternal Centre . temporary shelter for vulnerable young mothers and their children
- Emergency Reception and Assessment Centres . short-term residential units
- Day-care Centres . to provide day-care for children for families in difficulty
- Recuperation Centres . day-care centres that provide therapeutic and recuperation for children with special needs

In addition, the feasibility of reintegration to the natural family was investigated for each child and this option was chosen for close to 2000 children as the preferred option, following a period of evaluation. A further 3900 children were transferred to Family Type Homes and 2400 to maternal Assistants during the Childrenfirst programmes.

The following table shows the numbers of services developed during the 3 Childrenfirst Grant Schemes (Phare 99, 01, 02) during the period 2001 to 2006. The total numbers of services developed are shown as a percentage of the total number of such services in the public system in Romania.

Type of Service	Number of Units					% of Total Services Developed by Phare
	Romania Total	Romania Total	Developed By Phare Grant Schemes			
	Dec-01	March-2006 ⁵	Phare 99+01	Phare 02	Phare Total	
Maternal Centre		65	11	3	14	22%
Day Care Centre		106	42	6	48	45%
Recuperation Centre		91	23	4	27	30%
Emergency Centre		14	8	2	10	71%
Family Type Units		806	458	123	581	72%
Beneficiaries of Maternal Assistance		18200	1918	482	2400	13%

The table shows that for all of the services a significant proportion were developed and funded by the Phare Childrenfirst programmes.

One of the objectives of the Impact Study was to go beyond the numbers of beneficiaries and services developed and check on the perceived quality of care

⁵ The March 2006 is the latest month for which statistics are available. The Phare 02 services that were developed after this date are added to the March total and the % of total services developed by Phare is shown as a % of these estimated numbers

provided in the services by the final beneficiaries . the children, and others, who use the services and their families.

D. EXPERT ASSESSMENTS: OVERALL FINDINGS

D1. The Buildings

The experts visiting the 150 sites were asked to reach judgements about both the basics of the unit or service and the quality of service being provided. One area they assessed was the condition of the building with respect to structure, decoration and equipment. This resulted in the following outcomes:

Structure	Very good	Quite Good	Poor
FTHs	80%	20%	0%
Maternal Assistants	90%	10%	0%
Emergency Centres	100%	0%	0%
Recovery Centre	74%	26%	0%
Day Centres	81%	19%	0%
Maternal Centres	100%	0%	0%

Decoration	Very good	Quite Good	Poor
FTHs	59%	37%	3%
Maternal Assistants	65%	35%	0%
Emergency Centres	83%	17%	0%
Recovery Centre	68%	26%	5%
Day Centres	71%	29%	0%
Maternal Centres	64%	27%	0%

Equipment	Very good	Quite Good	Poor
FTHs	75%	22%	3%
Maternal Assistants	75%	25%	0%
Emergency Centres	100%	0%	6%
Recovery Centre	74%	21%	5%
Day Centres	67%	24%	5%
Maternal Centres	90%	9%	0%

This exercise confirms that most Childrenfirst funded buildings are of a good standard, especially with regard to structure. There are some case where decoration could be improved and a small number of issues where equipment was either missing or in a poor state. These are described in more detail in the individual service sections and appendices.

D2. Service quality

The experts were asked to assess the services being delivered to children and families from a number of perspectives including:

- Is care provided in a family type/domestic setting?
- Is everything possible done to recognise and understand users' individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised?
- Is everything possible done to help users develop the skills they will need to be well-functioning independent adults?
- Are users supported in developing and maintaining good links with the local community and where possible with family and friends?
- Are parents and carers involved and supported?
- Does the service have good links with other local services?
- Are child rights respected and applied?

More detailed information for each type of service is provided in later sections and in the appendices. In general terms, however, it is clear that considerable progress is being made with regard to meeting modern standards, although some areas still require further effort⁶.

In summary the Impact Study suggests that:

1. Most services are making progress towards delivering a child/family friendly service: the more and less frequently observed features at the present time are shown below.

<p>More Frequently seen</p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p>Less Frequently seen</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Setting decorated/furnished to normal Romanian standards <input type="checkbox"/> Efforts are made to make setting a warm & friendly place <input type="checkbox"/> There is a quiet space for children <input type="checkbox"/> Children are encouraged to personalise their bed space <input type="checkbox"/> Children can influence menu selection <input type="checkbox"/> Children have their own lockable space <input type="checkbox"/> Regular opportunities for children's view to influence daily life <input type="checkbox"/> Food can be bought locally
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2. Most services are making progress in recognising and responding to users' needs

<p>More Frequently seen</p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p>Less Frequently seen</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Children have current care plan <input type="checkbox"/> Children can decide how to use their free time <input type="checkbox"/> Special dietary needs are met <input type="checkbox"/> Special needs are met <input type="checkbox"/> Children with special needs mix with others <input type="checkbox"/> Children are helped to develop personal interests <input type="checkbox"/> Children are helped to maximise their skills <input type="checkbox"/> Children/parents have copy of Care Plan
--	--

3. Most services are making progress in helping users develop the skills needed for independence

<p>More Frequently seen</p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p> </p> <p>Less Frequently seen</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Children can choose the clothes to wear each day <input type="checkbox"/> Children are involved in buying their own clothes <input type="checkbox"/> Children are involved in food preparation <input type="checkbox"/> Children can make snacks for themselves <input type="checkbox"/> Children have personal money they can use as they want
--	--

⁶ The experts were asked to rate each service for quality elements using a third point scale incorporating 1. yes/always/the norm; 2. In some cases/sometimes/in limited circumstances and 3. No/this is not possible/does not happen. Hence the ratings have to be read as indicative rather than definitive, since a range of circumstances could evoke a similar rating.

4. Most services are making progress in helping users develop and maintain a good social network (family, friends etc)

<p>More Frequently seen</p> <p> </p> <p>Less Frequently seen</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Setting has private space for children to meet people</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> School age children attend local schools</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Children have friends from outside of their setting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Children are encouraged to have visitors in the setting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Children regularly use local community facilities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Children are helped to develop/maintain family contact</p>
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The expert assessments lead to the following conclusions/recommendations

Conclusions/Recommendations
<p>Drawing on these assessments some areas which would particularly benefit from continuing attention are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing services and users (particularly where they live in the service unit) the scope to buy food and clothes locally rather through contract and centralised arrangements • Where appropriate giving users the opportunity to be involved in everyday activities such cooking, menu selection, room decoration, use of personal money etc. • Ensuring that users are fully involved in the care planning process, including having access to all relevant material • Helping children to build and maintain family and community links.

E. CONSULTATION WITH USERS: **OVERALL FINDINGS**

A key element of the Impact Study concerned collecting user views on what happened to them and their satisfaction with their current situation. As indicated, this was achieved through a combination of focus group discussions and individual interviews.

Essentially this indicates a high level of satisfaction with what is now being provided.

From the focus groups:

Where they are now is the best place for them⁷			
Type of Service	Their current situation is the best possible place for them to be?	It's OK, but something else might be better	Their current situation is not good enough
Number	254	57	11
Percentage	79%	18%	3%

In addition, young people in Family Type Home were asked whether their current placement is better than what they had before. In reply 82% agreed that it was better.

Similarly 82% of young people re-integrated home or to an independent community setting agreed that the new arrangement was ~~the~~ better for them+.

From the individual interviews

How happy are they overall where they are living/attending?⁸				
Type of Service	A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
Number	72	13	3	0
Percentage	82%	15%	3%	0%

A similar picture is apparent when parents of children attending day or recovery centres are asked about the value of the service being provided.

The importance of attending the Centre?			
	Their child attending the centre is really important for the child	It's OK, but something else might be better	Their child attending the centre is not really helping the child or the family?
Number	199	4	0
Percentage	98%	2%	0%

Furthermore a significant number of parents felt that without their child attending a centre there would be a doubt over whether the child could/would be at home.

Without the Centre, the child would not be able to be at home?			
	If their children	If their children	If their children

⁷ this covers FTHs, Emergency Centres, Reintegrations & Maternal Centres

⁸ this covers FTHs, Maternal Assistants, Emergency Centres, Day Centres, Reintegrations & Maternal Centres

	were not attending the centre it would not be possible for them to be at home	were not attending the centre it would make it harder for us to stay together as a family	were not attending the centre it would not matter . they would make sure the family would all stay together
Number	61	90	52
Percentage	30%	44%	26%

In line with these results many young people and parents express a high degree of optimism about the future based on using the services, although some are unsure or have worries.

Feelings about the future? Users of FTH's, Emergency Centres, Maternal Centres and young people re-integrated.			
	Optimistic about the future?	A mixture of happy and worried about the future	Pessimistic about the future?
Number	169	138	15
Percentage	52%	43%	5%

Those saying that they are optimistic about the future does vary significantly by service type perhaps reflecting both their recent experiences and their understanding of what the future may hold.

Feelings about the future?	
Type of Service	Percentage saying they are %Optimistic about the future+
Emergency Centres	77%
FTHs	58%
Re-integrated	37%
Maternal Centres	35%

Parents of children attending recovery and day centres are generally very optimistic.

Feelings about the future?			
	Optimistic about the future?	A mixture of happy and worried about the future	Pessimistic about the future?
Number	171	25	7
Percentage	84%	12%	3%

Users were also asked their opinion about a range of other aspects of moving from placement centres and using new services and their overall responses are set out below.

In the focus groups:

Question	Percentage fully agreeing
Their placement is helping them to achieve their potential?	85%

(EC, reintegration & FTH)	
The help they receive from staff is good? (EC, MC & FTH)	81%
They are being helped to maintain/develop links with family & friends? (EC, MC, reintegration & FTH)	79%
All possible is being done to help them prepare for the future? (EC, MC & FTH)	78%
The way the Centre is run is based on them being adults who can take responsibility for themselves and their child (MC)	76%
They are well involved in everyday decision making in the home? (FTH & EC)	74%
Everything possible was done to get them home/keep them at home? (FTH & EC)	72%
The FTH feels like %home+? (FTH)	64%
The move/admission to the new service was handled very well? (EC, MC, reintegration & FTH)	63%

Young people who were re-integrated were positive about some aspects of how their move was handled, but not others

Question	Percentage fully agreeing
They knew enough about their family/home situation before the move	84%
They had a real choice about whether they returned home	55%
The support they received after they went home was good?	42%

In the individual interviews

Question	Percentage answering %a great deal+or %some+
Where they live now (the place, the people, the support services) is helping to achieve their full potential? (FTU, DC, RE, MC & EC)	96%
Where they live now (the place, the people, the support services) is helping to prepare them for independence (FTU, DC, RE, MC & EC)	95%
Where they live now is helping to maintain/develop important family & friends links (FTU, DC, RE, MC & EC)	91%
How well prepared were they for the move? (FTH,DC,MA, reintegration, MC & EC)	88%
How well supported were they during the move (FTH, reintegration & EC)	84%
Were they able to influence what happened to them? (FTH,DC,MA, reintegration, MC & EC)	72%
How much say did children have over who they moved with? (FTH)	59%

Overall these results can be read as indicating a high level of satisfaction with the services that young people, parents and young mothers are using, although all groups are clear that there is still potential for improvement. Both the satisfactions

and outstanding concerns come through powerfully in the comments presented in the individual services section of the report and in the Appendices.

This leads to the following conclusions/recommendations.

Conclusions/Recommendation
<p>Within the generally positive picture highlighted by the Impact Study there are areas which stand out as requiring continuing attention and work. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That services and placements require ongoing review (both generally and in respect to individual users) to ensure that they fully meet users' needs • That many services are highly important for the children and families using them, thus making it vital that they remain available for current users • That many of the users who rate services highly have continuing concerns and worries which need attention. This highlights the importance of holistic assessment and additional inputs (e.g. social work) alongside the specific service • Young people who have been re-integrated into the community and young mothers contemplating the future after a maternal centre stay are particularly in need of additional support • That when users are involved in changes it is extremely important that they are involved in the decision making process, have a major say in where they go and with whom and are supported before, during and after any move. • That when an out of home placement is being considered it is vital that child/young person's perspective is taken into consideration. What may appear obviously beneficial to an outside observer may not be so clear-cut for the child/young person involved. • That children using services, especially ones where they live away from their family, must have a say in how that service is run, including the small day to day details of life if this is to feel like a genuine home for them.

F. COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SERVICES

F1. Family Type Homes (FTHs)

67 FTHs were visited caring for a total of 509 children and young people . almost equally distributed between boys and girls. In terms of size 85% of the FTHs cater for between 5-12 residents. 247 (48%) were recorded as having a special need.

Under 5 residents	5-8 residents	9-12 residents	Over 12 residents
6	39	18	4
9%	58%	27%	6%

With regard to age 87% of residents were aged 10+, with 59% aged 16 years or older.

Under 5 years	5-9 years	10-15 years	16 years and over
20	48	143	298
4%	9%	28%	59%

Of the 67 FTHs 59% were apartments and 41 houses, with 85% located in urban areas. 81% were adapted/refurbished properties; the remainder new builds. 39% of the FTHs had a garden.

222 young people participated in focus groups and 46 individual interviews were completed.

Key findings:

1. The majority of FTHs are in a good physical condition: only relatively minor blemishes were found.

2. From the expert assessments it is possible to conclude that the quality of care being provided shows good progress. More and less frequently observed features⁹ are:

More frequently

- Homes are up to normal Romanian domestic quality (91%)
- Children have a care plan in place (91%)
- School-age children attend local schools? (88%)
- Children can choose which clothes to wear daily (82%)
- Children have friends outside of home? (75%)

Less frequently:

- Children have a lockable space (drawer, wardrobe etc) for their personal property (61%)
- Children are able to buy clothes from local shop (43%)
- Homes are able to buy food directly from a local shop? (30%)
- Children have copy of their own care plan (12%)

3. Consultation with children indicates that most are pleased with the current situation (the %s below are those answering either %a great deal+or %some+)

- 82% feel what they have now is better for them than past arrangements

⁹ in this, and all later section, where reference is made to %frequency+this means the percentage of sites where the visiting expert says that the named feature %always happens+or %a the norm+

- 77% say where they are now is the best place for them
- 76% indicate they are being involved in everyday decision making
- 89% say they are being helped to achieve their potential
- 80% answer that they are being helped to develop/maintain family & community links
- 78% say staff in the FTH are everything possible to help them

Some typical comments are:

- *Here we could do a lot of thing alone. We learn new things to do. In the old PC the big children beat us. Now I can have a pet*
- *We are free to come and go, the house is nice, the food is very good, we can invite our friends to visit us and we can have good relationship with other young people in the community*

But some do have some concerns including:

- 11% feel more could have been done to help them stay at home/get back home
- 7% feel the move to the FTH was handled very poorly
- 14% say that where they are now is not really a home for them: just a temporary situation
- 46% have some worries about what the future will hold for them: 40% a mixture of happy and worried and 3% are pessimistic.

Some typical comments are:

- *If my father would provide us more financial resources we were able to go back to our family*
- *We knew that we are going to be move but we did not have many option and we had no information*

Conclusions

These findings lead to the overall conclusion that it is important to build on current good progress to ensure that all residents get the maximum out of their FTH experience. Key here are:

- providing all possible opportunities for FTH residents to maximise their potential through involvement in daily and longer term planning and decision making
- the development of young people's skills and aptitudes and family and community links.

Particularly important for the young people is helping them to prepare for the future and the provision of support to make the transition to adulthood.

The findings very much support the view that the care being provided in and by FTHs is benefiting most residents and that the majority of children and young people understand and appreciate this.

Based on study findings counties should think about how they can:

- Ensure all children have a private lockable space (drawer, wardrobe etc) for their personal property
- Help all children be able to buy their own clothes from local shops and have a say in the choice and purchase of food
- Make sure all children (appropriate to age & ability) are involved and

knowledgeable in relation to their own care plan • Do everything possible to help all children develop good life skills • Provide the maximum support for all children to build or develop their family and network links • Respond to young people's anxieties and fears about the future: where they will live and how they will cope
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F2. Maternal Assistants (MAs)

The number of maternal assistants surveyed was deliberately kept low in recognition of the recent large-scale analysis undertaken within a European 'winning Light project'.

The study visited 20 MAs caring for a total of 27 children and young people. The age range of the children being cared for being:

Under 3 years	3-10 years	11-15 years	16 years and over
6	8	9	4
22%	30%	33%	15%

The majority of maternal assistants had 1 child: the number with 0, 1, 2, and 3 children are shown below:

0 children	1 child	2 children	3 children
1 maternal assistants	12 maternal assistants	6 maternal assistants	1 maternal assistant
5%	60%	30%	5%

10 of the 28 children had special needs . all of a mental/learning type.

85% of the maternal assistants lived in urban areas; 75% in residential areas. All close to other facilities. 60% of maternal assistants were located in apartments . 40% in houses. Only 30% had a garden.

12 individual interviews with children/young people living with a maternal assistant were completed.

Key findings:

1. All of the MA homes were assessed to be in good condition.

2. From the expert assessments it is possible to conclude that the quality of care being provided is showing good progress. More and less frequently observed features are:

More frequently:

- Children have a care plan in place (100%)
- Home is up to normal Romanian domestic quality (100%)
- Home provides level of security and stability appropriate to child's age (100%)
- All the child's health needs receiving appropriate attention (100%)
- All the child's educational needs receiving appropriate attention (100%)
- If school age, the child attends a local school?

- Child is made to feel ~~one~~ of the family+ (95%)

Less frequently:

- Maternal assistant knows how long child will be with him/her? (55%)
- Children's skills are maximised? (50%)
- Maternal assistant knows what the plan is for the child's longer term future? (47%)
- Children have personal money which they can use as they wish? (40%)
- Older children have copy of their own care plan? (10%)

3. Consultation with children indicates that most are pleased with the current situation (the %s below are those answering either ~~a~~ great deal+or ~~some~~+))

- 100% say they are happy living with a maternal assistant
- 100% that their current placement is helping them to achieve their potential, to become independent and to maintain/develop family & community links
- 91% indicated that they were well prepared for the move the maternal assistant
- 83% that everything possible was done to keep/get them home to their family

These are feelings supported by such comments as:

- *"It is a good place and the family is nice and treats me well"*
- *The lady is the best MA, better than other ones*
- *My mother (the maternal assistant) is helping me a lot*

But some do have some concerns including:

- *She was not told about rules in a family, about the way to address them, about respecting them*
- *I want to see my parents and my sister*
- *They can visit other children but they are not allowed to invite other children to visit them*

Conclusions

Overall the expert assessment and the children's interviews paint a very positive picture of the care that the maternal assistants are providing. The weakest areas appear to relate to how children and maternal assistants are involved with the care planning process.

Based on study findings counties should think about how they can:

- Make sure all children (appropriate to age & ability) are involved and knowledgeable in relation to their own care plan, including the part played by maternal assistants
- Do everything possible to help all children develop good life skills
- Provide the maximum support for all children to build or develop their family and network links

F3. Emergency Centres

6 ECs caring for a total of 97 children and young people were visited: The percentages of boys and girls was 51% and 49%. Since opening the ECs have admitted a total of 2,489 young people. 2,392 had been discharged, with the outcome for them being:

To Family	To Residential Care	To Maternal Assistant	To Other
627	1280	289	109
26%	54%	12%	8%

The sizes (current residents) of the units varied from large to small:

Less than 10	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 plus
3	1	0	1	1
50%	17%	0%	17%	17%

The age range of the children in the 6 ECs is:

Under 4 years	4-9 years	10-15 years	16 years and over
45	35	8	6
49%	36%	11%	6%

The reasons given for admission to the EC are:

Abuse	Practical (poverty etc)	Educational	Other
25	69	0	3
26%	71%	0%	3%

The 6 ECs currently employ 66 staff: 60 professionals (91%) and 6 support staff (9%). This amounts to an average of 11 staff per centre. Of these staff 32% previously worked in residential care.

All 6 ECs are located in adapted/refurbished buildings.

The previous use of the buildings adapted/refurbished was:

Child Protection unit	2	33%
Private House	3	50%
Educational Unit	1	17%

Five of the Centres are located in an urban area: 1 in a rural setting: all in residential areas and close to other facilities.

Key findings:

1. The majority of ECs are in a good physical condition: only relatively minor blemishes were found.

2. From the expert assessments it is possible to conclude that the quality of care being provided is showing good progress. More and less frequently observed features are:

More frequently:

- The unit is decorated, furnished, equipped to a reasonable Romanian standard (100%)
- Special dietary needs being met (100%)
- Do staff do things, and encourage the children to do things, to make the unit a warm and friendly place (83%)
- Do all children have a current care plan (83%)
- Everything possible is done to help children overcome their limitations/special needs (83%)
- There is somewhere in the home where can children talk with their friends/family in private? (83%)

Less frequently:

- School age children attend local schools (17%)
- If a child has particular skills is everything possible done to help that child maximise this (17%)
- Do children's likes and dislikes influence menu selection (17%)
- Can the unit buy food directly from a local shop (17%)
- Children have personal money which they can use as they wish (0%)
- Are children helped to go places, do things according to their personal interests (0%)
- Can the unit/children buy clothes directly from a local shop (0%)

3. Consultation with children indicates that most are pleased with the current situation (the %s below are those answering either %a great deal+or %some+)

13 children participated in focus groups and 4 were interviewed individually. This consultation indicates most of them feel:

- Their current situation is helping them to achieve their potential (100% agree)
- Their current situation is best possible place for them (85% agree)
- Staff in the Emergency Centre are doing everything possible to help them (85% agree)
- Their current situation is doing a good job of helping them prepare for the future (85% agree)
- Admission to the EC was handled well (62% agree)

Some typical comments are:

- *The staff help us. They talk with patience.*
- *We have time to go to zoo, park, trips*

But some do have some concerns including:

- Their current situation is poor at involving them in everyday decision making (food, clothes) (46% agree)
- The admission was handled very poorly (31%)

Some typical comments are:

- *The menu, the food, the clothes are provided by DGASPC.*
- *Parents come to visit, but not enough. They miss their brothers*

Conclusions

Overall the expert assessment and the children's consultation paint a positive picture of the care that emergency centres are providing . recognising that these centres are at the front-line+of children in need. The weakest areas appear to relate to how little children are involved in the care planning process and decision making in the centres.

Based on study findings counties should think about how they can:

- Make sure all children (appropriate to age & ability) are involved and knowledgeable in relation to their own care plan
- Do everything possible to help all children develop good life skills
- Encourage all children to develop their interests and abilities
- Make admission to emergency centres as painless an experience as possible for all children
- Provide the maximum support for all children to build or develop their family and network links

F4. Day Centres

21 DCCs were visited caring for a total of 512 children and young people . with marginally more girls than boys (52/48%). In terms of number of children attending individual DCCs the numbers ranged from 5-50.

Less than 20 children	20-39 children	40 plus children
8 centres	8 centres	5 centres
38%	38%	23%

Since opening the 21 DCCs have provided a service to 645 children: 103 (16%) of who previously lived in residential care. Age-wise a wide spread is found:

4 year and under	5-9 years	10-15 years	16 years and over
158	169	167	18
31%	33%	33%	4%

The primary reasons for the children attending day care are:

Abuse	Practical family problems (homelessness; poverty etc)	Educational reasons	Other
7	406	50	49
1%	79%	10%	10%

The 21 DCCs employed 252 staff, 67% of who were professional and 33% support staff (drivers, cleaners, cooks etc). This equates to an average of 12 per day centre. 55% of the total staff group had previously worked in residential care: the remainder were new.

4 of the centres were located in a rural setting; the other 17 in an urban area. 16 were in adapted/refurbished building; 20% were new constructions. All were located in residential areas close to other facilities.

Key Findings

1. All of the day centres were rated as good for structure and decoration . One was rated as poor for equipment because of a lack of basic household equipment such as washing machine and vacuum cleaner.

2. From the expert assessments it is possible to conclude that the quality of care being provided is showing good progress. More and less frequently observed features are:

More frequently:

- Unit has good links with other local services (doctors, school, DPC) (100%)
- Effort going into making the home a warm and friendly place (95%)
- Up to normal Romanian domestic quality (90%)
- Staff skills/experience available are relevant to children's needs (90%)
- Children have a care plan in place (86%)
- Have an appropriate range of services to meet child needs (86%)
- Services are reviewed and developed in light with child needs (86%)
- Any special dietary needs are met (81%)
- Care plans are regularly reviewed (80%)

Less frequently:

- Children's skills are maximised (52%)
- Centre has links with relevant NGOs (48%)
- Meeting where children's views can be expressed (48%)
- Centre has a parents group (or other opportunity for parents to meet and talk) (38%)
- Centre able to buy food directly from a local shop (38%)
- Children with special needs receive assistance they need (33%)

In each of the DCCs visited the opportunity was taken to meet with a group of parents to ask their opinion of the care being provided. A total of 84 parents participated, who between them had 147 children attending day care. Most had a single child attending, but some more;

No of children attending	No of parents	% of parents
1 child	65	64%
2 children	23	23%
3 children	12	12%
4 children	1	1%

The children varied with regard to the period they had been attending the day centre:

Less than 1 month	1-5 months	6-11 months	1-2 years	3 plus years
10	16	24	38	13
10%	16%	24%	38%	13%

3. Consultation with parents revealed a high level of satisfaction that their children were attending a centre.

- 98% agreed that their child attending the day centre is really important for the child.
- 79% stated that if the children was not at the day care it would not be possible for them to be at home or it would make it harder for the family to stay together
- 98% said that they were More optimistic about the future as a result of their child attending a centre

Comments supporting these findings include:

- *The children made great school progress, they are more receptive and they receive a better education.*
- *The staff is taking good care of them, of their education (studies), receive psychological guidance, parents can take better care of their home daily activities*
- *The staff is taking good care of them, of their education, they receive meals, parents can take better care of their home daily activities, the children have a regular programme, the staff is going to the school and get information related to their studies*

There were few negative comments about the service being provided: the issues raised by parents concerned how what the centre offers could be enhanced or developed to add to what is currently available:

- Better travel arrangements
- Additional staff skills
- Increased programme time
- A greater range of activities
- Less watching TV
- Further support for parents
- Weekend opening

Many expressed wider worries which need attention: by example

- *Because the daily problems and the financial problems, worried about the future of their children; they are thankful to all that bring the wellbeing of their children and the peaceful in their family; these gave them the hope that things will be better*

In addition, 11 individual interviews with children/young people attending a centre were completed. 82% were aged between 10-15, the remainder were 16+. 54% were female and 46% male. Just 2 of those interviewed had previously resided in a placement centre.

4. Consultation with children and young people indicates a high level of satisfaction with what the centre is providing

- Attending the centre is helping them to achieve their potential (100%), become more independent (100%) and develop/maintain their local links (100%)
- They were well prepared for attending the day centre (91%)
- Happy about attending a centre (91%)

Comments supporting these findings include:

- *People are kind, here she has things she lacks at home (games, computer) she learnt a lot of new things and she can go sunbathing with other children and the staff.*
- *They are like a family, they understand each other and they are helped with the homework because home is nobody to help them*

But some express some concerns including:

How much they could influence the decision they should attend a centre (27% said little or not at all)

- *The mother decided to bring the child in the centre; the child did not want in the beginning but then change his mind*
- *The FTU staff decided for her; she did not know about too many things*

Conclusions

Overall, the findings clearly indicate a high level of satisfaction with the day centres, both by the parents and the young people. The worries and concerns raised relate essentially to how day centre care can be maintained and further enhanced to make it even more useful and effective.

Based on study findings counties should think about how they can:

- Do everything possible to help all children develop good life skills
- Listen and respond to parents aspirations for their children and the centre
- Involve parents and children in centre activities and planning
- Develop and maintain the best possible links with other organisations working with children & families
- Give all children with special needs any assistance they need
- Encourage all children to develop their interests and abilities

F5 Recovery Centres

19 RCs caring for a total of 1,216 children and young people were visited. Since opening the 19 RCs have provided a service to 2,948 children.

When admitted the 2,948 children's living situation were:

With family	In residential care	With maternal assistant	Somewhere else
2308	402	145	93
78%	14%	5%	3%

The size of the RCs vary:

100+	80-89	60-79	40-59	20-39	<20
4	3	2	3	4	3
21%	16%	11%	16%	21%	16%

The age range of the children in the 19 RCs is:

Under 4 years	4-9 years	10-15 years	16 years and over
124	401	417	274
10%	33%	34%	23%

The primary needs of the children in the 19 RCs related to

Physical disability	Mental/Learning Disability	Autism	Other Disability
384	398	100	334
32%	33%	8%	27%

The 19 RCs currently employ 415 staff: 284 professionals (68%) and 131 support staff (32%). This amounts to an average of 22 staff per centre. Of these staff 53% previously worked in residential care.

17 RCs were located in adapted/refurbished buildings: two were new builds.

The previous use of the buildings adapted/refurbished was:

Placement Centre	59%
Health Unit (hospital etc)	12%
Private Property	18%
Educational Unit	6%
Not Known	6%

Fourteen of the Centres were located in an urban area: 5 in a rural setting.

Key findings

1. The majority of RCs are in a good physical condition, although some concerns were noted by the experts:

- The furniture is too old and in bad condition; the windows are in bad condition and the toilets are not adequate to the disabled children needs*
- There are not enough equipments for the children needs in the educational and comfort for relaxation*

2. From the expert assessments it is possible to conclude that the quality of care being provided is showing good progress. More and less frequently observed features are:

More frequently:

- Children have a current care plan (100%)
- Does the unit have good links with other local services (doctors, school, DPC) (89%)
- Does the centre see those attending as children with rights (89%)
- Is the centre well supported by DPC management (89%)
- Are parents/carers encouraged to visit and participate in the centre (84%)
- Are services reviewed and developed to meet children's needs (79%)
- Staff skills/experience are available relevant to children's needs (79%)

Less frequently:

- Is everything possible done to seek the views of children/involve them in what is happening in the centre (42%)
- Children's likes and dislikes influence menu selection (37%)
- Does the centre have group meeting (or something similar) where children who are able can express their views on how the unit is run (37%)
- Children/parents have a copy of their care plan (21%)
- The unit buys food directly from a local shop (11%)
- If a child has particular skills is everything possible done to help that child maximise this? (e.g. extra tuition, taken places) (47%)

102 parents participated in focus group discussions: 90 mothers and 12 fathers. 1 parent had 4 children in a RC, the remainder 1 child. Their children had been using the RC for varying lengths of time, but the majority for over a year. In the case of 34 parents their child had previously been in a placement centre.

Less than 1 month	1-5 months	6-11 months	1-2 years	3+ years
4%	9%	23%	44%	20%

3. Consultation with parents revealed a high level of satisfaction that their children were attending a centre.

- 100% said that their child attending the recovery centre is really important for the child
- 70% answered that without the recovery centre it would not be possible for the child to be at home or would make it harder for them to stay together as a family
- 90% indicated that their child attending the centre had made them more optimistic about the future?

Comments supporting these findings include:

- *It is important both for children and parents. When my child was 15 years old I had to give him to eat. I did not know the way to help my child and the therapy here help us a lot*
- *The RCC provide the opportunity to increase the number of people for social interaction with my son. They became more tolerable. He started to speak, without cards. He is not afraid by people.*
- *Would not be possible for children to be recovered without this service*

There were few negative comments about the service being provided: the issues raised by parents generally concerned how the centres services could be enhanced or developed to add to what is currently available:

- A longer programme: including day care
- Recuperation work in the community
- More space
- Staff stability (no changes)
- Additional staff skills (e.g a speech therapist/medical input)
- Better travel arrangements To have the possibility to have the doctors more time here.
- To have a playground outside and free access in the institution.
- To increase the age range of beneficiaries.
- Better equipment
- More support from the GDASPC,

Conclusions

Overall, the findings clearly indicate a high level of satisfaction with the recovery centres. The worries and concerns raised relate essentially to how recovery care can be maintained and further enhanced to make it even more useful and effective. For many parents the greatest worry is that the recovery centre will disappear. Now having it in place they cannot contemplate a future without it.

Based on study findings counties should think about how they can:

- Make sure all children (appropriate to age & ability) are involved and knowledgeable in relation to their own care plan and what the centre is able to do for them
- Listen and respond to parents aspirations for their children and the centre and reassure parents about the support the centre will provide in the future
- Involve parents and children in centre activities and planning
- Develop and maintain the best possible links with other organisations working with children & families

F6 Maternal Centres

11 MCs were visited. These care for a total of 74 mothers and their 92 children.

The mothers currently in the MCs range in age:

Under 16 years	16-19 years	20-24 years	25 years & over
3	11	36	24
4%	15%	49%	32%

Since opening the 11 MCs have provided a service to 608 mothers: The 534 who have left a MC have gone to:

To live with family	To home of their own	Other
334	69	131
63%	13%	25%

The 11 MCs employed 100 staff, 76% of who were professional and 24% support staff (drivers, cleaners, cooks etc). This equates to an average of 9 per centre. 58% of the total staff group had previously worked in residential care: the remainder were new.

All of the centres were located in an urban area. One was noted as being isolated. 5 are houses. 9 of the 11 properties were refurbished; 1 was new build.

Key Findings

- 1. All of the MCs were rated to be in good condition by the experts,**
- 2. From the expert assessments it is possible to conclude that the quality of care being provided is showing good progress. More and less frequently observed features are:**

More frequently: Mothers can wash, iron etc for themselves and their child (100%)

- Staff ask permission of mothers (e.g. knock on the door) before they enter personal space (e.g. bedrooms, bathrooms etc) (100%)
- Mothers are offered help to improve their employment situation (100%)
- Mothers (and their child) have their own bedroom (100%)
- Centre is up to normal Romanian domestic quality (91%)
- Mothers can cook for themselves and their child (91%)
- Mothers can come & go as they wish (91%)
- Mothers are encouraged to personalise their bedrooms (89%)
- Mothers are provided with help and advice needed to improve their chances of taking advantage of education, finding work, developing themselves (whatever is needed) (89%)

Less frequently:

- Are mothers helped to have contact with family & friends (e.g. provision of transport/money to travel/use of phone etc.) (73%)
- Overall, how good is the unit at supported in developing and maintaining good links with the local community and where possible with family and friends (73%)
- In a typical week do most mothers use local facilities (cinema, park, shops etc) (64%)
- Unit has any kind of programme to support mothers after they leave (27%)

In each of the MCs visited the opportunity was taken to meet with a group of mothers to ask their opinion of the service being provided. A total of 49 mothers participated. In terms of age they were:

Under 20 years	20-24 years	25 years & over
13	22	14
27%	29%	45%

3. Consultation with the young mothers revealed a high level of satisfaction with the maternal centres

96% agreed that their current situation is the best possible place for them to be at the moment?

94% said coming to live at the Centre was made really easy for me

94% agreed that staff in the Maternal Centre are doing everything possible to help them

90% stated that their current situation is really helping them to get ready for the future

Comments supporting these findings include:

- *Here we have the possibilities to help ourselves and out children; they took the children to the doctor and take care of us*
- *we feel all right here; we would not have better condition somewhere else*
- *They explain to us what we do not know but we are independent and make decision about our life*
- *We are in a safe place, we are not in the street; we help each other. This MC is very well organized*

There is only one area where a significant number of young mothers express some reservations about the service provided are:

24% said Sometimes we are treated as responsible adults: sometimes not

- *They have to tell where they are going and for how long. After 20.00h they have to be in the centre*

In addition quite a few mothers have mixed feelings about the future: 61% agreed that their feelings about the future are a mixture of happy & worried: 4% are pessimistic about the future.

9 individual interviews with mothers living in maternal centre were completed.

These generally complement the focus groups responses with further positive feedback about the service being provided:

- 100% felt they were they able to influence the admission to the Maternal Centre?
- 100% said they were happy (a great deal or some) with living in the maternal centre.
- 100% answered that living in the Maternal Centre (the place, the people, the support services) is helping them to develop the skills they will need in the future (a great deal or some) and similarly that they are helped to maintain or develop their community links

Comments supporting these findings include:

- *This was an alternative. She also received the possibility to give the child in the maternal assistant but she choose this possibility*
- *I have been informed from the beginning about the conditions here and the fact that I will learn how to take care of my baby. In the maternity I have been informed about it by the social worker*

Some mothers expressed some unease at the admissions process:

- *Was no previous visit to help the child to understand what is happening in centre*
- *At the beginning I knew nobody and it was hard. Then I got used to it and now I like it.*

Although most appear to have been happy with the admission and introduction arrangements.

Again, as in the focus groups, it is concern for the future and what will happen to them after they leave the maternal centre which appears to worry the young mothers the most.

Conclusions

Overall, the service provided by the maternal centres appears to be well regarded, both by the visiting experts and the young mothers using the service. There are some areas where further attention may be indicated - including admission arrangements, opportunities for mothers to develop independence and follow up support - but clearly the present service is well-appreciated.

Based on study findings counties should think about how they can:

- Help mothers to have contact with family & friends and develop and use links and facilities within the local community
- Provide support to mothers after they leave
- Give mothers the maximum opportunity to take responsibility for themselves and their child(ren)
- Make the admission and induction process as easy as possible for mothers
- Respond to mothers' anxieties and fears about the future: where they will live and how they will cope

F7 Re-integration to the community

38 young people who were re-integrated home attended one of 6 focus groups: 24% girls and 76% boys.

The young people's current ages are:

Under 10 years	10-15 years	16-19 years	20 years & over
1	17	11	9
3%	45%	29%	24%

Only 2 (5%) had been at home for less than 1 year: the remainder over a year.

Of those attending a focus group, 6 also completed individual interviews. Half were girls; half boys. In terms of age all were aged 13 years or older: 4 were 16 years plus

Key finding

3. From these consultations with young people it is possible to say the young people seen were generally glad to have left the placement centre, and to be where they are now, but not universally satisfied with the treatment they received.

- Most in the focus groups (82%) agreed that being at home/independent is better for them?
- A substantial majority in the focus groups (84%) felt they knew enough about what they were returning to.
- 67% of those interviewed felt that they were able to influence the decision to move
- 84% of those interviewed are happy with where they live now (a great deal or some)
- 84% of those interviewed believe that their current situation is helping them to achieve their potential and develop the skills they need for independence

Comments supporting these findings include:

- *It is much better here; not like there; there was like a prison*
- *Of course; they discussed with us. I never liked in the children house and that's way I wanted to come back home; long time ago I decided that; I use to keep in touch with my family; I use to go home in Holiday.*
- *I was in contact with my family during the time I have been in the PC*

However, some of the young people also had a less positive memory of what had happened to them.

- 37% in the focus groups agreed said they did not have a real choice about whether they returned home
- 64% focus group participants indicated that they were either pessimistic about the future (18%) or felt a mixture of happy and worried (45%) when they looked forward
- 47% in the focus groups felt the move could have been handled better: 13% thought it had been handled badly
- 55% focus group members indicated that the support provided was too little or could have been better
- 2 of the 6 interviewed felt that their current situations were not helping them achieve their potential, develop independence or develop or maintain their community and family links.

Some appear to have poor support networks

- *I do not know if I will manage my life in the future*
- *There is nobody to teach or advice her as her grandmother is not taking care of her and her father is absent and when he is there is behaving violent*

Some gave messages containing clear guidance about how future re-integrations should be managed:

- *To listen and to visit the children; to give the child the possibility to choose; to help the child with the house living conditions; and to keep their promises that they visit the child every 2 weeks*
- *Provide the child with as much information as possible related to its family- try to find its family and create a relation between it and its family- provide the child with more skills for independent life- try to find a job for it, since it is till in the PC- support it in finding a living place- provide it with more knowledge relate to how to find a job and a living place*

Conclusions

Overall while most of those spoken with indicate that they are glad to be away from the placement centre, and broadly satisfied with what they have now, re-integration does not appear to have been a complete success for all the young people seen. As such there are clear messages here for agencies undertaking similar initiatives in the future.

Based on study findings counties should think about how they can:

- Involve young people in decision making about leaving care
- Provide maximum support to young people leaving care
- Ensure that young people leaving care are able to realise their potential, become independence and develop or maintain their community and family links.

G. APPENDICES: DETAILED RESULTS
CONCERNING SPECIFIC SERVICE
AREAS

G1. Family type homes (FTHs)

Expert's assessments

The experts were asked to assess the condition of the FTHs in terms of structure, decoration and equipment. The results with the experts' comments (where available) if a quite good or poor assessment was made- were:

	Very good	Quite Good	Poor
Structure	80%	20%	0%
Decoration	59%	37%	3%
Quite good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the apartments have the same colour - white. There are no different decorations. The interior is standard 		
Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The apartment is very simple painted and the decorations are very old The FTU needs to be refurbish: the furniture needs to be fixed, the wall needs to be paint, the doors need to be fixed 		
Equipment	75%	22%	3%

The experts observed the FTHs for their quality of care under 4 headings

1. Does the home provide children with care in a family type/domestic setting?
2. Is everything possible done to recognise and understand children's individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised.?
3. Is everything possible done to help children develop the skills they will need to be well-functioning independent adults?
4. Are children supported in developing and maintaining good links with the local community and where possible with family and friends?

Overall the experts observed much good practice in terms of the 4 headings, although more could be done in some areas and needs discussing.

Does the home provide children with care in a family type/domestic setting?

Subject/question	Yes/always/the norm	In some cases/sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Home is up to normal Romanian domestic quality	61 91%	6 9%	0 0%
Effort going into making the home a warm and friendly place?	51 76%	13 19%	3 5%
Children can influence menu selection?	40 60%	15 22%	12 18%
Home able to buy food directly from a local shop?	20 30%	6 9%	41 61%
Children have lockable space?	41 61%	9 13%	17 25%
Children are encouraged to	45	16	6

personalise bed space?	67%	24%	9%
Quiet space for children to do homework etc?	45	18	4
	67%	27%	6%
Children able to buy clothes from local shop?	11	11	45
	16%	16%	67%
Meeting where children's views can be expressed?	33	21	13
	49%	31%	19%

2. Is everything possible done to recognise and understand children's individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised.?

Subject/question	Yes/always/the norm	In some cases/sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Children have a care plan in place	61	3	3
	91%	5%	5%
Children have copy of their own care plan?	8	8	51
	12%	12%	76%
Children can decide how to use their free time?	46	11	10
	69%	16%	15%
Children helped to develop their personal interests?	49	10	8
	73%	15%	12%
Any special dietary needs are met?	44	5	18
	66%	7%	27%
Children with special needs receive assistance they need?	43	15	9
	64%	22%	13%
Children with special needs able to mix with other children?	42	17	8
	63%	25%	12%
Children's skills are maximised?	35	20	12
	52%	30%	18%

3. Is everything possible done to help children develop the skills they will need to be well-functioning independent adults?

Subject/question	Yes/always/the norm	In some cases/sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Children can help with food preparation?	46	7	14
	69%	10%	21%
Children can make snacks when they want?	46	8	13
	69%	12%	19%
Children can choose which clothes to buy?	29	21	17
	43%	31%	25%
Children can choose which clothes to wear?	55	9	3
	82%	13%	5%
Children have personal money to	40	9	18

use as they wish?	60%	13%	27%
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4. Are children supported in developing and maintaining good links with the local community and where possible with family and friends?

Subject/question	Yes/always/the norm	In some cases/sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Somewhere in home where children can talk with their friends/family?	47 70%	16 24%	4 6%
Children are encouraged to have visitors in home?	49 73%	16 24%	2 3%
Children helped to have contact with family & friends?	33 49%	28 42%	6 9%
School-age children attend local schools?	59 88%	2 3%	6 9%
Children have friends outside of home?	50 75%	11 16%	6 9%
Children use local community resources?	45 67%	16 24%	6 9%

FOCUS GROUPS

In each of the FTHs visited the opportunity was taken to sit down with a group of children and young people to ask their opinion of the care being provided. A total of 222 young people participated. 56% were girls; 44 boys. 96% were aged 10 years or older - 8 were under 10 years. 62% of those in the focus group has lived in the FTH since it first opened. 38% had joined the group later. 76% had transferred to the FTH from a placement centre.

The key findings are:

Their current placement is better than what they had before		
What they had before was better for them?	No great difference	What they have now is better for them?
28	12	181
13%	6%	82%

Most of the comments show the children and young people as positive about the changes and what they have now: for example:

- *In the PC other girls were very violent with us, we could not understand each other*
- *Here we could do a lot of thing alone. We learn new things to do. In the old PC the big children beat us. Now I can have a pet*
- *We are free to come and go, the house is nice, the food is very good, we can invite our friends to visit us and we can have good relationship with other young people in the community*

- *We feel more quiet, no fear, we have a better relationship between us (children). We could do many things here, instead of PC.*

Only a few comments suggest regret of something lost: for example:

- *There were more children to play with*
- *Here they do not have a place for relaxation; they do not enough food and they have to put their own money to buy food; they cannot go out whenever they want*
- *In the PC they were more free, they did not have so many responsibilities; they could organize more parties*

Everything possible was done to get them home/keep them at home?		
Much more could have been done to either keep them at home or help them go home instead of moving to the FTH	Don't know/unsure/somewhere in between	Everything possible was done to either keep them at home or help them go home instead of moving to the FTH
24	34	164
11%	15%	74%

Most comments indicate an understanding that all possible was done to help them be at home, or that this was impossible: for example:

- *In their family they could not have the condition are here and they could not continue their school*
- *The staff of DGASPC try to let us in our family, but it cannot be happened.*
- *the staff tried but their families were not interested about them*
- *They do not want to go home because they do not have good conditions*
- *We like here more then in family*

But some thought more could/should be done: for example:

- *The direction staff could do more in finding their families*
- *The specialists could do more to be close to family*
- *If my father would provide us more financial resources we were able to go back to our family*

The move to the FTH was handled very well?		
The move was handled very well?	OK, but could have been handled better	The move was handled very poorly?
145	61	16
65%	27%	7%

Many comments suggest satisfaction with the way the move as handled: for example:

- *Everything was prepared and friendly; the staffs wait for them with the food on the table. They knew the staff because they visit the children before*
- *they visited the apartments and the staff talk to them about it*
- *We knew long time ago. We have seen the apartments, we clean up them. We have seen them when were empty. We have a lot of memories from that*

time. The neighbours welcome us. Some neighbours did not want us in their building

Others thought there were things which could be done better: for example:

- *Not enough information before moving into FTU*
- *she was used with the FTU house but the service have changed the beneficiaries target group*
- *the move was made in hurry and I was scared about what will happen*
- *We knew that we are going to be move but we did not have many option and we had no information*

Where they are now is the best place for them		
Their current situation is the best possible place for them to be?	It's OK, but something else might be better	Their current home is not good enough
172	42	8
77%	19%	4%

Many comments indicate satisfaction with their current situation

- *The condition here are very good and the staff is friendly*
- *they can do a lot of new things (paint, computer); the living conditions are very good, and they have a person to discuss their problems*
- *they fell all right and the condition here are very well, they can talk to staff*
- *this is the best place for them to develop themselves and to finish their education*
- *We are thankful to tae state for all the support but we like to administrate ourselves. This is the best place till we learn to live independent and then we will let the place for other children which are in a more difficult situation the us*
- *we have here everything we need to develop ourselves*

There are though some suggestions for improvements

- *The space is very small for us (11 children); the house is old and needs a lot of repairs. Would be better to be near to the city centre; here we do not have other young people to enjoy out time*
- *they have different complains: the schedule is strict, they have no money for transport in town, have to pay for some sanitary materials*

They are well involved in everyday decision making in the home?		
Their current situation is good at involving them in everyday decision making (food, clothes etc)	It's OK, but could be better	Their current situation is poor at involving them in everyday decision making (food, clothes etc)
169	53	0
76%	24%	0%

Many think that their current situation is good at involving them in everyday decision making (food, clothes, use of time etc): for example:

- *Daily we are involved to do different things (food preparation, cleaning etc)*

- *They are involved in daily activities, taking decisions together with the educators/coordinator*
- *we decided what we like to eat*
- *We were involved in decision making regarding this issues.*

There are though some suggestions for improvements: for example:

- *He wants to have much more freedom about how spend the free time*
- *In food, clothes decisions should be taken together and not by the Direction*
- *they do not participate to all activities in the house and cannot tell their opinion in many cases*
- *They have no money to go where they want (e.g. cinema). They can chose only for the clothes bought from they own money*
- *They were not asked regarding the school. Somebody else decided that. Regarding the clothes they can decide. Regarding the food, they can propose, but they are not allowed to buy*
- *would be great to be free to choose clothes more adequate to our age*

Their placement is helping them to achieve their potential?		
Their current situation is helping them to achieve their potential	It's OK, but could be better	Their current situation is NOT helping them to achieve their potential
197	25	0
89%	11%	0%

There are many comments reflecting belief that they are being helped: for example:

- *Here we can prepare for the school and do our homework. In the PC was not possible because we were 12 girls in a room. Here we have condition and we respect each other*
- *I have a feel of peace. I live without fear. Here I learn a lot of new things (cooking, cleaning, etc)*

But some think more could be done: for example:

- *They would need much more sportive activities, meeting with other children, much more contacts with the society, to be much more encouraged by the staff to go in the community because they spend too much time in the apartment*
- *We need more support in our relations with the world outside. The support focused more in the house activities as cooking, cleaning, but we need also to manage out life outside the apartment*

They are being helped to maintain/develop links with family & friends?		
Their current situation is helping them maintain/develop their links with family, friends & the local community	It's OK, but could be better	Their current situation is NOT helping them maintain/develop their links with family, friends & the local community
178	37	7
80%	17%	3%

Many comments indicate that support to maintain and develop links is available: for example:

- *I receive monthly visits from my parents. My sister visits me one at two weeks.*
- *Now, is easier to keep the contact with my parents and my relatives. We have a lot of friends; we could receive visits from outside. We could spend time with our friends outside until 11PM. Each of us has a mobile phone.*
- *Our colleagues visit us; they said that they do not have home the condition we have here. We can meet with all our friends, colleagues and families*

Some though comment that things could be improved: for example:

- *He likes to get in contacts with his mother who is now in Greece. But he cannot*
- *I do not receive any visits from my brother-sister (they are in other DGASPC centres)*
- *they cannot stay later than 22.00 o'clock with the friends; no money to visit or call relatives*

The help they receive from staff?		
Staff in the FTH are doing everything possible to help them	The staff are OK, but could be better	Staff in the FTH are NOT doing which is needed to help them
174	48	0
78%	22%	0%

Most comments indicate a belief that staff in the FTH are doing everything possible to help: for example:

- *The staff help me to do my homework. I talk with them about my personal problems. I learn a lot of things from them (cooking, washing my clothes).*
- *The staff take care of us; when we are sick they buy us medical treatment.*
- *We receive advices from them (personal problems). We receive support for our homework.*

Some though, have comments on how staff could help them better. For example:

- *For some is just a job. Some of them are much involved and love us*
- *Not all staff are interested in our problems,*

Does the FTH feel like "home"?		
Their current situation is their %HOME+	A sort of ±Homeq but not the same as being in their own family	Their current situation is just somewhere they are living temporarily . not really a ±HOMEq
141	50	31
64%	23%	14%

Some feel that the FTH is their %home± for example:

- *I feel like my home. I have 5 sisters. We are friends; we talk a lot like in a family.*
- *I feel like we are a family.*

- *This is what we say. Before we use to say that we go to centre, now we say we go home*
- *we feel like in family; we are like brothers; we help each other*

Others are not so sure: not the same as their own family - different to a real home: for example:

- *It is my "home" until my mother will return from prison and I will stay with her.*
- *They feel well, but it is a temporary place - it is a temporary home*
- *they wait to have their own family*
- *we have to leave this place after a while; nothing here is ours*

All possible is being done to help them prepare for the future?		
Their current situation is doing a good job of helping them prepare for the future?	It's OK, but more is needed	Their current situation is not really helping them prepare for the future?
167	54	1
75%	24%	0%

Many agree that their current situation is doing a good job of helping them prepare for the future: for example:

- *Here we learn a lot of things how to do in a family. We know how to deal with the challenges of life.*
- *Here we learn how to do things, to clean, to wash the dishes, to cook*
- *We learn to do useful things for our future life.*

Others are not so sure: for example:

- *There are still a lot of parts of our life where we are alone and we have to manage things by ourselves*
- *They think that in the last years before living by themselves they should be taught more how to get a job, a house and also to start doing it*
- *Taught more how to get a job, a house, to get more support in education field etc*
- *Need more to help him with a job and health situation*

How they feel about the future?		
Optimistic about the future?	A mixture of happy and worried about the future	Pessimistic about the future?
128	88	6
58%	40%	3%

Many comments indicate optimistic about the future: for example:

- *He does things that he likes and he feel all right here; he is confident that he will success to learn new things that will help him in the future*
- *I feel well about the future. I know I do myself a lot of things.*
- *I have good feelings about future.*

Others have mixed feelings or are worried: for example:

- *it will be difficult to find place to live and afford paying from their future salary*
- *We have worry about were we living after DGASPC support (after we will finished the school)*
- *Worried about finding jobs and place to live, happy to believe that they will be supported by the staff for this*
- *I do not know what will happen to me*

Individual interviews

46 individual interviews were completed. 56% were girls; 44% boys. 7 had some form of disability. In terms of age, 78% were aged 16 years or over.

The interviews reveal:

Were they able to influence what happened to them?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
28	7	6	5
61%	15%	13%	11%

Some comments indicate that the young person was in agreement with/involved in the decision making: for example:

- *I wanted really to be with my sister; therefore when they asked me to go to MA, I said no*
- *I was told about the possibility to leave the system and other options, but I wanted to come here*
- *The director understand me, he was listening me and helped me; I had a very good relation with the director*
- *He feels that it really belonged to him his decision*

Others suggest young people who were not sure about or keen on what happened: for example:

- *We have been forced to move; all the children moved from the PC. The list with the children includes with priority the siblings and then other children have been added.*
- *He has no alternative*
- *She doesn't know about other option in her case*

How well prepared were they for the move?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
24	17	2	3
52%	37%	4%	7%

Many comments suggest that young people felt well prepared for the move to the FTH: for example:

- *A lot of staff tell me about this apartment.*
- *I came here to clean up before the opening. I decorated the apartment*

- *In the school we received details about the FTU. On the Emergency Centre they inform me about this apartment and they told me about the condition here*
- *He knew a lot, but he does not remember well where from he got the information (staff or friends)*

Some though, were less sure: for example:

- *a situation confused; they has been moved in hurry*
- *She has been told about things, but still her feeling that it could have been done better, but she could not explain in what respect*
- *Nobody had asked them*

How much say did children have over who they moved with?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
24	3	9	10
52%	7%	20%	22%

Some comments indicate involvement in how groups were formed: for example:

- *He choose to move with one friend*
- *The first groups I did not want and finally I reached the group I like*
- *He really insisted to be with a good group, in a group were all are studying*

Others that involvement was not always total or successful: for example:

- *I asked to be with other friends, but they were established in other FTUs.*
- *the list was done at GDASPC*

How well supported were they during the move?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
20	20	6	0
43%	43%	13	0%

Many felt supported: for example:

- *The director offers him support; other people also note him. He is a very clever child and he gets support*
- *he was very close to the staff and use to discuss with them*
- *The FTU staff help me. When I came here, the girls were a little cold.*
- *The staff were near me. They tell me to be patient and to be confident about the future.*

Others suggest that more might have been done: for example:

- *Nobody discuss with them; they has been informed that they have to move*
- *The biggest suffer was that they had to move to another city and to change the school they attend*

Did they have a sibling or close fiend in care?	
Yes	No
29	17
63%	37%

Were those who had a sibling or a close friend in care were given choice of moving with them?	
Yes	No
21	8
72%	28%

Did they move together?	
Yes	No
16	13
55%	45%

How many are happy with where they now live?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
39	6	1	0
85%	13%	2%	0%

Most of the comments indicate satisfaction with current arrangements: for example

- *I am very happy. I see TV movies. I am very happy; I clean my rooms, do my homework and cook*
- *He is happy that he live in a nice house and have everything he need*
- *Here are not so many children. I like the educator and the children*
- *We are good friends (the children). We are like in a family: we plan the tasks and we done that.*

Some though raise worries: for example

- *I do not like that I stay with smaller children because they make a lot of noise. I would like to stay with girls on my age*
- *The staff need the professional training*

Where they live now (the place, the people, the support services) is helping to achieve their full potential?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
32	13	1	0
70%	28%	2%	0%

Many comments indicate satisfaction with what on offer/being done: for example

- *I learn to cook, to clean up, I develop my skills, I paint. I have to be ambitious. If you like something you have to persist and work to rich what you like*
- *Here I can learn and do things for life.*
- *I receive advices about what is good for me. Here I have done useful things for my future life.*
- *If I would be home would not be possible for me to continue my school, maybe I would not have so many friends and most probably I would not think the way I do now*

Some worries are though raised: for example

- *I think will be better to have a family*
- *The staff doesn't help him very much (15 % help him)*

- *He feels that the advises that he receives from the staff are good, but not enough; more education would be needed in order to be prepared according to the working market (special school is not doing much - is more destroying than building up).*
- *The handicap is a great problem for her to be professional integrated and . A PC is necessary to exercise and maybe to be hired*

Where they live now (the place, the people, the support services) is helping to prepare them for independence			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
34	11	1	0
74%	24%	2%	0%

Many comments indicate that help towards independence is being provided; for example

- *I learn a lot of new things. After I will leave this apartment, I will know to do a lot of things (cooking, washing, cleaning etc)*
- *It helps me to be here; before I did not know how to wash, to choock, to organize myself. We never been teach to do that*
- *She is helped also by her colleagues to access the common transport because the facilities for handicapped persons are no everywhere*

Others that more is needed: for example

- *They explain us but for many of us this is not enough. We should be afraid about what will be in the future with us*
- *I learned a lot of things I did not know very much in before, but I feel I need to learn more about life*
- *He still has 2 years to stay in the FTU, but already he is worried that he might not have enough knowledge to face life*

Where they live now is helping to maintain/develop important family & friends links			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
32	11	2	1
70%	24%	4%	2%

Some comments indicate help is being provided: for example

- *Her siblings are allowed to come here*
- *Here I receive or I can do more often visit to my parents or they came to me. I speak easier with others.*
- *She can see /visit colleagues from the former PC, neighbours. The family/relatives are not visiting her even are meeting her outside*
- *They have the support to travel to visit their family*

Others that there are problems and shortfalls: for example

- *But friends are not allowed to stay over night*
- *Don't have money to call her sister; her friend also has to call her*
- *I can visit my friend but I cannot make phone calls*

- *I had do find my mother by myself, as everybody kept telling me she is med, but she was not*
- *I lost my friends when I moved here from Turda*
- *He had to find his mother by himself; it looks like the inquiries the social assistants did (in the past) did not really investigate his mother situation*
- *the FTU phone is mostly for emergency cases*

Are there changes you would like to see made where you live which will help you?

Some changes suggested by the young people are:

- *I cannot bring my personal things from my home; it is not allowed*
- *I would like that Mrs. Educator will change her behaviour*
- *I would like to have brown furniture; the condition here are very good*
- *more freedom , one staff person to be fired ; more personalised approach from the staff*
- *she would like to have a computer*
- *the doors, the windows, the balcony, to go in trips outside the city*

Are there things which can be learnt from your experience which might assist other children?

- *I help her to have patient. I will explain to her what is the rules and how we deal with daily issues.*
- *I tell him what he must to do here. I help him to deal with this*
- *I was very lucky that I was a pretty girl, but the girls that look not so nice had a more difficult life*
- *sa invete sa comunice*
- *to be good and behave well so that the*
- *to be very careful about the people they trust and talk to*
- *to come and visit the apartments to see that is very well here*
- *to go to school*
- *to trust people*

Any other comments on what has happened to you in the past, your current situation and what the future holds?

The past

- *A bad life with staff from PC nr 13*
- *a painful memory*
- *all right*
- *could pass the past challenges*
- *did not want to say more*
- *I feel bad because i left PC no 3.*
- *Now, I feel good about my past.*
- *Sadness and hurting memories*
- *she and her sister and brother were living in PCs*
- *The mother death*
- *Very bad*
- *very difficult and too much violence*
- *was very sad*

Your current situation

- *Life is changed because the god help*
- *a hope which wait to be realised*
- *all right*
- *everything is all right*
- *did not want to say more*
- *easier*
- *Now, I am more quiet and I now I can do what I want to do.*
- *it is all right*
- *I am a confident person*
- *I am scared about what will happen to me*
- *a good solution, the best for her for the moment*
- *Happy she is here*
- *Hard because is difficult to find a proper job*
- *good*
- *all right*
- *since I stay in the house people look at me different. It is better*

The future

- *a nice dream that most probably will happen*
- *after the graduation will go in Italy to her sister to help with the child*
- *curioasa*
- *curios*
- *good*
- *He has some wishes. He wants to became artist*
- *hope that will be better*
- *hope to be all right*
- *I am just waiting to graduate and to have a family and to offer to my child everything needs. I would like first to have a career and then a family. To be able to be independent if is needed*
- *I do not know how it will be*
- *I think everything will be all right*
- *none*
- *not know*
- *She will manage*
- *she wish to have a family and to have a job*
- *The future*
- *The future*
- *we will see; will be difficult*

Asked to choose 3 words to reflect their feelings about the future, they chose a mixture of positives and negatives.

Feelings	No (of 46) choosing the word	% (of 46) choosing the word
Hopeful	24	52
Worried	23	50
Happy	18	39
Uncertain	17	37
Confident	15	33
Enthusiastic	12	26

Excited	7	15
Scary	7	15
Fearful	5	11
Depressed	2	4

G2. Maternal Assistants (MAs)

EXPERT'S ASSESSMENTS

The experts were asked to assess the condition of the MA's homes in terms of structure, decoration and equipment. The results were:

	Very good	Quite Good	Poor
Structure	90%	10%	0%
Decoration	65%	35%	0%
Equipment	75%	25%	0%

The experts observed the MAs for their quality of care under 5 headings

1. Does the maternal assistant provide children with care in a family type/domestic setting?
2. Is everything possible done to recognise and understand children's individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised?
3. Everything possible is done to help the child develop the skills he/she will need in the future
4. Are children supported in developing and maintaining good links with the local community and where possible with family and friends?

Overall the experts observed much good practice in terms of the 4 headings, although more could be done in some areas and needs discussing.

1. Does the maternal assistant provide children with care in a family type/domestic setting?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/ in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Home is up to normal Romanian domestic quality	20 100%	0 0%	0 0%
Effort going into making the home a warm and friendly place?	16 80%	4 20%	4 22%
Child has a lockable space (drawer, wardrobe etc)?	15 75%	4 20%	1 5%
Child encouraged to personalise the area around his/her bed	16 80%	3 15%	1 5%
Quiet space for children to do homework etc?	18 90%	1 5%	1 5%
Child is made to feel "one of the family"?	19 95%	1 5%	0 0%
Home provides level of security and stability appropriate to child's age	20 100%	0 0%	0 0%

2. Is everything possible done to recognise and understand children's individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstance s	No/this is not possible/doe s not happen
Children have a care plan is in place	20 100%	0 0%	0 0%
Older children have copy of their own care plan?	2 10%	1 5%	17 85%
Any special dietary needs are met?	14 70%	1 5%	5 25%
Children with special needs receive assistance they need?	14 70%	2 10%	4 20%
Children with special needs able to mix with other children?	10 50%	4 20%	6 30%
Children's skills are maximised?	10 50%	6 30%	4 20%
All the child's health needs receiving appropriate attention	20 100%	0 0%	0 0%
All the child's educational needs receiving appropriate attention	20 100%	0 0%	0 0%
All the child's cultural & religious needs receiving appropriate attention	19 95%	1 0%	1 5%
Maternal assistant has the skills & experience needed to understand an response appropriately to the child's needs	12 90%	2 10%	0 0%
Maternal assistant knows how long child will be with him/her?	11 55%	2 10%	7 35%
Maternal assistant knows what the plan is for the child's longer term future?	10 47%	3 12%	7 41%

3. Everything possible is done to help the child develop the skills he/she will need in the future

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/ in limited circumstance s	No/this is not possible/doe s not happen
Can children help with food preparation?	12 60%	5 25%	3 15%
Can older children decide themselves how to use their free time?	14 70%	4 20%	2 10%
Is the child helped to go places, do things according to their personal interests?	14 70%	6 30%	0 0%

Are children able to make snacks for themselves, when they want?	13	4	3
	65%	25%	15%
Can children choose what clothes to buy? (according to their age)	17	3	0
	85%	15%	0%
Are children allowed to choose what clothes they want to wear each day?	17	2	1
	85%	10%	5%
Do children have personal money which they can use as they wish?	8	6	6
	40%	30%	30%

4. Are children supported in developing and maintaining good links with the local community and where possible with family and friends?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Is there somewhere in the home where can child talk with their friends/family in private?	14	2	4
	70%	10%	29%
Is the child encouraged to have visitors?	12	7	1
	60%	35%	5%
Is the child helped to have contact with family & friends (e.g. provision of transport/money to travel/use of phone etc.)?	13	3	4
	65%	15%	20%
If school age, does the child attend a local school?	16	0	0
	100%	0%	0%
If under school age, does child mix with other young children	14	3	3
	70%	15%	15%
Does the child have friends from outside of the maternal assistant home?	15	4	1
	75%	20%	5%
In a typical week does child use local facilities (cinema, park, clubs etc)?	15	4	1
	75%	20%	5%

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

12 individual interviews with children/young people living with a maternal assistant were completed. 6 girls and 6 boys. 1 was under 10 years (7 years); 5 aged 10-15 years and 6 were aged 16 years and over.

The interviews reveal:

Avoiding a need for care with a maternal assistant?		
Everything possible was done to either keep them at home or help them go home instead of moving to the maternal assistant	Don't know/not sure about whether was done to either keep them at home or help them go home	Much more could have been done to either keep them at home or help them go home instead of moving to the MA?

	instead of moving to the maternal assistant	
7	3	2
58%	25%	17%

A small majority of those interviewed agreed that everything possible was done to either keep them at home or help them go home instead of moving to the maternal assistant, although one still had hopes for an alternative:

- *I like it here but I want to go home*
- Some were unsure, reflecting uncertainty about what had happened to them, and what the future might hold.
- *I want to see my parents and my sister*
- *she does not know what has been done and what has been discussed with her father; since she is the maternal assistance system she does not have good relationship with her father and relatives*
- *I do not know*

Those who did not think all had been done seem to be wanting greater contact with their family

- *I want to visit my parents and stay there.*
- *She is not sure about her possibility as only one time in 10 years she has visited them*

Were they able to influence the admission to the Maternal Assistant?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
3	5	4	0
25%	41%	33%	0%

Most children/young people felt they had some influence: either before or after the placement

- *I wanted to come here*
- *I was asked, after visiting if I want to stay in the family or to return in the PC*
- *I would have wanted to stay with my father, but I knew it is not possible; so I can say that in some respect it has been my decision*
- *Maybe not very much choice, but at present no regrets*

How well prepared were they for the move to the Maternal Assistant?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
10	1	1	0
83%	8%	8%	0%

Most comments suggest some preparatory work was undertaken: for example:

- *I met her many times before moving*
- *I was told about this and I visited the home, the family, the yard*
- *I was told about MA and what it means, about rules in a family, about the way to address them*
- *she know the MA family and she visited them before she moved here*

- *She was told about rules in a family, about the way to address them, about respecting them, she spent some weekends with them*

But not all: for example

- *She was not told about rules in a family, about the way to address them, about respecting them*

How happy are they overall with living with a Maternal Assistant			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
10	2	0	0
83%	17%	0%	0%

The comments unanimously reflect children feeling that live with a maternal assistant is good - and especially preferable to what they previously experienced: for example

- *I did not like it in the PC. Here I like the children; they do not beat me*
- *I have every think I want (food, no one bits me, I feel free here)*
- *Is very good here*
- *It is a good place and the family is nice and treats me well*
- *The lady is the best MA, better that other ones*
- *the MA treat her the same treat the own children; she has friends in the neighbourhood*

These are comments supported by the visiting experts observations:

- *Child is pleased to stay here but asks to see her relatives for the summer holiday*
- *The child looks happy, relaxed, when he is taking about the MA and his family*
- *The child looks happy, relaxed, when she is taking about the MA and her family, it is almost like talking about her grandparents*
- *The child looks happy, relaxed, when she is taking about the MA and her family, it is almost like talking about her own one*
- *The child looks happy, relaxed, when she is taking about the MA and her family; she considers herself lucky to live in such a family*
- *The children seem to be happy there*

Living with the Maternal Assistant (the place, the people, and the support services) is helping them to improve their future situation & achieve their full potential?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
11	1	0	0
92%	8%	0%	0%

Unanimously the comments indicate a belief that living with the Maternal Assistant is helping the young people: for example

- *Another environment, other type of life, being provided with life skills and education*
- *I did very well in the school; I took a prize (the 3 place) in the school for children with special needs. My mother told me if I have good result in the school, late on I would be able to work in the sweetshop*

- *If I want to do something, they tell me if it is good for me; they teach me a lot of things*
- *My mother (the maternal assistant) is helping me a lot*

Living with the Maternal Assistant (the place, the people, and the support services) is helping them to develop the skills they will need when they become independent?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
11	1	0	0
92%	8%	0%	0%

The comments show how the young people view learning new skills as important for their future: for example:

- *I help the family to all the work in the house and learn how to manage the money*
- *I want to become a dancer*
- *The child is doing everything is possible to get over his mental handicap limitation. The child is under a Kino-therapy program paid by the medical assurance house*
- *The family is helping me as much as they can and teach me a lot of things that could help me further on*
- *They teach me a lot, but I do not know if I will be capable to live alone*
- *They teach me the things I hear from by friends that they are taught by their parents*

Living with the Maternal Assistant (the place, the people, the support services) is helping them maintain or develop the links that are important to them (family, friends, local community contacts etc)			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
7	7	0	0
58%	32%	0%	0%

The comments reflect the young people enjoying a strong social network: or example

- *I am playing in the garden with other children; I am going with my mother in the city for shopping; my friends visit me. I have a lot of friends (he gave the expert a list of 10 names)*
- *They let me have contact with my friends and even advises me to get more friends*
- *hey let me have contact with my friends and even advises me to get more friends; as well when my father is coming, they are open and kind to him*
- *When I wanted to visit my family, they went with me*
- *I want to visit my brothers and stay there over the holiday. I know how I can go there alone*
- *Only with the friends in the neighbourhood and the colleagues. The relation with the father and relatives breached and does not know if anybody is doing anything to save this relation*

A view supported by the experts:

- *The MA is a open person that considers that is very important to have friends, to be surrounded by people*
- *The MA is a open person that considers that is very important to have friends, to be surrounded by people, to keep in touch with the family*
- *the MA is open to the contact with other people under condition those ones not to harm him*
- *Although there are still issues in this area for some of the children: for example*
- *they can visit other children but they are not allowed to invite other children to visit them*
- *Child is not sure about what she want: to stay there over the summer of for a longer period*
- *she is worried that her father will take here from here; she get used to be here and she likes here*

Are there changes you would like to see made where you live which will help you?	
•	<i>I do not like to go somewhere else. I like everything here. I love my mother. I know the rule in the house (not to play with the gas stove, to be polite)</i>
•	<i>I want to go dancing</i>
•	<i>no</i>
•	<i>Not. Everything is all right</i>
•	<i>she is happy with what she had</i>
•	<i>to have close relation with other children</i>

Asked to choose 3 words to reflect their feelings about the future, they generally chose positives more than negatives.

Feeling	No choosing (of 12)	Percentage choosing (of 12)
Happy	7	58%
Hopeful	7	58%
Confident	5	42%
Worried	5	42%
Uncertain	4	33%
Excited	2	17%
Enthusiastic	1	8%
Scary	1	8%

G3. Emergency Centres (ECs)

EXPERT'S ASSESSMENTS

The experts were asked to assess the condition of the ECs in terms of structure, decoration and equipment. The results were:

	Very good	Quite Good	Poor
Structure	100%	0%	0%
Decoration	83%	17%	0%
Equipment	100%	0%	0%

The experts observed the ECs for their quality of care under 6 headings

5. Does the home provide children with care in a child friendly setting?
6. Is everything possible done to recognise and understand children's individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised?
7. Services provided: are they relevant to meeting children's needs?
8. Are Parents And Carers Involved and Supported?
9. Centre has good Links with Other Local Services?
10. Are Child Rights Respected and Applied?

Overall the experts observed much good practice in terms of the 4 headings, although more could be done in some areas and needs discussing.

1. Does the home provide children with care in a child friendly setting?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Is the unit decorated, furnished, equipped to a reasonable Romanian standard?	6 100%	0 0%	0 0%
Do staff do things, and encourage the children to do things, to make the unit a warm and friendly place?	5 83%	1 17%	0 0%
Do children's likes and dislikes influence menu selection?	1 17%	2 33%	3 50%
Can the unit buy food directly from a local shop?	1 17%	5 83%	0 0%
Does each child have a lockable space (drawer, wardrobe etc)	3 50%	1 17%	2 33%
Are children encouraged to personalise the area around their bed?	2 33%	4 67%	0 0%
Does the unit have a quiet space where children can chose to be alone or do activity?	4 67%	2 33%	0 0%
Can the unit/children buy clothes directly from a local shop	0 0%	1 17%	5 83%

Does the home have group meeting (or something similar) where children who are able can express their views on how the unit is run?	2	2	2
	33%	33%	33%

2. Is everything possible done to recognise and understand children's individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstance s	No/this is not possible/doe s not happen
Do all children have a current care plan	1	1	0
	83%	17%	0%
Do children have a copy of their care plan?	3	0	3
	50%	0%	50%
Can children decide themselves how to use their free time?	1	4	1
	17%	67%	17%
Are children helped to go places, do things according to their personal interests?	0	5	1
	0%	83%	17%
Are any special dietary needs being met?	6	0	0
	100%	0%	0%
Is everything possible done to help children overcome their limitations/special needs? (e.g. assessment of need, provision of equipment, extra help)	5	1	0
	83%	17%	0%
Are children with special needs encouraged to mix with children without similar needs?	4	2	0
	67%	33%	0%
If a child has particular skills is everything possible done to help that child maximise this? (e.g. extra tuition, taken places)	1	3	2
	17%	50%	33%
Are all assessments that are needed to make plans for the child's future care completed on time (max. of 3 months)	4	2	0
	67%	33%	0%

3. Is everything possible done to help children develop the living skills they will need in the future?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstance s	No/this is not possible/doe s not happen
Can children help with food	2	1	3

preparation?	33%	17%	50%
Are children able to make snacks for themselves, when they want?	1	2	3
	17%	33%	50%
Can children choose which clothes to buy? (according to their age)	2	4	0
	33%	67%	0%
Are children allowed to choose what clothes they want to wear each day?	2	4	0
	33%	67%	0%
Do children have personal money which they can use as they wish?	0	1	5
	0%	17%	83%

4. Are children supported in developing and maintaining good links with the local community and where possible with family and friends?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Is there somewhere in the home where can children talk with their friends/family in private?	5	1	0
	83%	17%	0%
Are children encouraged to have visitors?	2	4	0
	33%	67%	0%
Are children helped to have contact with family & friends (e.g. provision of transport/money to travel/use of phone etc.)?	1	3	2
	17%	50%	33%
Do school age children attend local schools?	1	3	2
	17%	50%	33%
Do children have friends outside of the home?	1	4	1
	17%	67%	17%
In a typical week do most children use local facilities (cinema, park, clubs etc)?	4	2	0
	67%	33%	0%

FOCUS GROUPS

13 young people participated in focus group discussions: 5 girls and 9 boys. 5 under 10 years and 8 over ten.

This group of young people had spent varying periods of time in the EC: 7 for less than 1 month: 6 for between 1-3 months.

Going/staying home?		
Everything possible was done to either keep them at home or help them go home instead	Don't know/unsure	Much more could have been done to either keep them at home or help them go home

of moving to the EC?		instead of moving to the EC?
5	8	0
38%	62%	0%

The comments suggest the children knew little about the admission process:

- *I don't know very much about what was done and I don't really understand its situation*
- *no argument, only ...the staff know our situation and material reason*
- *Yes . They asked help from Police and Direction, because in family were neglected.*

Admission to the Emergency Centre?		
The admission was handled very well?	It was OK, but could have been handled better	The admission was handled very poorly?
8	1	4
62%	8%	31%

Again some of the children's comments reflect lack of understanding/ involvement/ choice in what was happening:

- *Maybe it could be better.*
- *They didn't know about it. The police brought him here and he wanted to bring his personal things too.*
- *Nobody tell us what is happening.*
- *He would have wanted to stay with his mother here.*

The experience of the Emergency Centre?		
Their current situation is the best possible place for them to be?	It's OK, but something else might be better	Their current situation is not good enough
11	2	0
85%	15%	0%

Some of the children's comments indicate a quite basic appreciation of the improvements being in the emergency centre means:

- *We have toys and bike. We have our own dormitory.*
- *The food it is ok.*
- *It's better than home.*

Involvement in everyday decisions?		
Their current situation is good at involving them in everyday decision making (food, clothes etc)	It's OK, but could be better	Their current situation is poor at involving them in everyday decision making (food, clothes etc)
5	2	6
38%	15%	46%

The comments reinforce that the children feel they have little control over everyday decisions:

- *"Ladies" decide for us*
- *The menu, the food, the clothes are provided by DGASPC.*

Helping them to achieve their potential?		
Their current situation is helping them to achieve their potential	It's OK, but could be better	Their current situation is NOT helping them to achieve their potential
13	0	0
100%	0%	0%

The children feel that they are being helped:

- *They learn lots of things. They have games.*
- *We have time to go to zoo, park, trips.*

Helping them with their social links?		
Their current situation is helping them maintain/develop their links with family, friends & the local community	It's OK, but could be better	Their current situation is NOT helping them maintain/develop their links with family, friends & the local community
7	6	0
54%	46%	0%

Maintaining family links is very important for some of the children:

- *Parents come to visit, but not enough. They miss their brothers.*
- *I receive one visit from my grandparent. They visit me time to time.*

But not for all:

- *They refuse the contact with their parents*

Staff are helping them?		
Staff in the Emergency Centre are doing everything possible to help then	The staff are OK, but could be better	Staff in the Emergency Centre are NOT doing what is needed to help then
11	2	0
85%	15%	0%

The children appreciate the staff help, but there are some things they miss:

- *The staff help us. They talk with patience.*
- *He would like to have his personal things, toys, clothes*

What is good about their current situation?
The children say:

- *The living conditions; the program is made with their opinion*
- *The quiet. The music. The playing activities.*
- *They have toys, games, they eat very well, and they go in the park, to the circus.*

What could be improved in their current situation? And how?

One child says:

- *To see their parents and brothers*

Preparation for the future?

Their current situation is doing a good job of helping them prepare for the future?	It's OK, but more is needed	Their current situation is not really helping them prepare for the future?
11	2	0
85%	15%	0%

The children's views are:

- *It is better than my home. Here is warm.*
- *They feel very well but they do not understand how much longer do they have to stay here.*
- *They want to be with their families.*

Feelings about the future

Feelings about the future?		
Optimistic about the future?	A mixture of happy and worried about the future	Pessimistic about the future?
10	3	0
77%	23%	0%

- *To be visited more often*
- *I believe in God. We understand well with the rest of children*
- *They feel very well but it's sad without their families*

Worries about the future?

- *The next placement*
- *Some time the discipline it is a problem.*

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

Only 4 individual interviews were completed. All were aged 10 plus years

Were you able to influence the decision to place you in an emergency centre?

A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
1	0	2	1
25%	0%	50%	25%

- *The decision wasn't hers*
- *He told Police that is neglect in family, the Police told the GDSACP*
- *The vice mayor take us and bring here, because we live alone.*

How well prepared were you for the move to the Emergency Centre?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
1	2	1	0
25%	50%	25%	0%

- *She was told that here it would be good for her.*
- *The staff tell us about the centre.*

How happy are you overall with where you are living now			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
3	1	0	0
75%	25%	0%	0%

- *The personnel is nice and they have toys.*
- *The daily program*

Do you think where live now (the place, the people, the support services) is helping you to improve your future situation?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
3	1	0	0
75%	25%	0%	0%

- *She is offered a better caring for her health status*

Do you think where live now (the place, the people, the support services) is helping you to develop the skills you will need when you become independent?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
3	0	1	0
75%	0%	25%	0%

Do you think where live now (the place, the people, the support services) is helping you maintain or develop the links that are important to you (family, friends, local community contacts etc)?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
2	0	2	0
50%	0%	50%	0%

- *She is not present when the personnel is talking with her family. Her father came to take her once but he wasn't allowed to. They do not know why.*

- *Only with friend; he rejected the relationship with adoptive parents*
- *The grand father visits me monthly.*

G4: Day Care Centres (DCCs)

EXPERT'S ASSESSMENTS

The experts were asked to assess the condition of the DCCs in terms of structure, decoration and equipment. The results were:

	Very good	Quite Good	Poor
Structure	81%	19%	0%
Decoration	71%	29%	0%
Equipment	67%	24%	5%

With regard to the poor equipment assessment this was linked to a lack of basic household equipment such as washing machine and vacuum cleaner.

The experts observed the DCCs for their quality of care under 5 headings

1. Does the centre provide children with care in a child friendly setting
2. Is everything possible done to recognise and understand children's individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised?
3. Services provided: are they relevant to meeting children's needs?
4. Involvement of and support to parents and carers
5. Centre's links with other local services

Overall the experts observed much good practice in terms of the 4 headings, although more could be done in some areas and needs discussing.

1. Does the centre provide children with care in a family type/domestic setting?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Home is up to normal Romanian domestic quality	19 90%	2 10%	0 0%
Effort going into making the home a warm and friendly place?	20 95%	1 5%	0 0%
Children can influence menu selection?	15 71%	3 14%	3 14%
Centre able to buy food directly from a local shop?	8 38%	2 10%	11 52%
Quiet space for children to do homework etc?	13 62%	4 19%	4 19%
Meeting where children's views can be expressed?	10 48%	7 33%	4 10%

2. Is everything possible done to recognise and understand children's individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised.?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/	No/this is not possible/doe
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		sometimes/in limited circumstances	s not happen
Children have a care plan in place	18 86%	1 5%	2 10%
Children have copy of their own care plan?	3 14%	5 24%	13 62%
Children helped to develop their personal interests?	14 67%	5 24%	2 10%
Any special dietary needs are met?	17 81%	4 19%	0 0%
Children with special needs receive assistance they need?	7 33%	10 48%	4 19%
Children with special needs able to mix with other children?	6 29%	8 38%	7 33%
Children's skills are maximised?	11 52%	7 33%	3 14%
Care plans are regularly reviewed?	17 80%	2 10%	2 10%

3. Services provided: are they relevant to meeting children's needs?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Centre has an appropriate range of services to meet child needs?	18 86%	3 14%	0 0%
Services are reviewed and developed in light with child needs?	19 86%	1 5%	1 5%
Centre demonstrates any "old fashioned" practices [e.g. children encouraged to have daily sleep]?	2 10%	8 38%	11 52%
Staff skills/experience available are relevant to children's needs?	19 90%	2 10%	0 0%

4. Involvement of and support to parents and carers

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Parents/carers are encouraged to visit and participate in the centre?	15 71%	6 29%	0 0%
Services are provided to help	14	6	1

parents & carers improve their own situation and that of their child?	67%	29%	5%
Centre has a parents group (or other opportunity for parents to meet and talk)	7	9	5
	33%	43%	24%

5. Centre's Links with Other Local Services

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Unit has good links with other local services (doctors, school, DPC)?	21	0	0
	100%	0%	0%
Unit does things to encourage other agencies/professionals to refer children in need?	16	4	1
	76%	19%	5%
Centre is well supported by DPC management?	15	1	5
	71%	5%	24%
Centre has links with relevant NGOs?	10	5	6
	48%	24%	29%

FOCUS GROUPS

The key findings are:

Attending the Day Centre is important for the children?		
Their children attending the day centre is really important for the children	It's OK, but something else might be better	Their children attending the day centre is not really helping the children or the family?
99	2	0
98%	2%	0%

There are many comments reflecting belief that attendance is important: for example

- *Here it is a specialised staff for the children. Here he receives proper food. Now I have more time for the second child.*
- *Progresses in the school, here they have thing that they cannot afford to give their children (good food, support in education/homework, school orientation), the children are more organized and peaceful*
- *The children made great school progress, they are more receptive and they receive a better education.*
- *The staff is taking good care of them, of their education (studies), receive psychological guidance, parents can take better care of their home daily activities*
- *The staff is taking good care of them, of their education, they receive meals, parents can take better care of their home daily activities, the children have a*

regular programme, the staff is going to the school and get information related to their studies

The only reservation voiced was:

- *Not all the staff members care the same way about the children. Children should be watched doing their homework. Attention and interest should be offered to them according to their needs.*

Without the Day Centre the children would/could not be at home?		
If their children were not attending the day centre it would not be possible for them to be at home	If their children were not attending the day centre it would make it harder for us to stay together as a family	If their children were not attending the day centre it would not matter . they would make sure the family would all stay together
32	47	22
32%	47%	22%

Many of the comments highlight the importance of the children attending a Day Centre

- *If the DCC doesn't exist, I will place the children in a former PC.*
- *It could be very hard for us like a family, but we will try to be together.*
- *the children will stay in the family but would not be possible for them to get support in their development and to get proper education or food*
- *They should find a solution for the child to be under somebody care because he is having behaviour disorder and the family could not take care of him*
- *They should have given up their jobs and that would have caused great difficulties for the future and for their situation.*

Even those parents who could not imagine their child being out of the family admitted that without day care life would be difficult: for example

- *They would have had to keep them home or to send them to a kindergarten but that is difficult*
- *They would have been together anyway but it would have been more difficult. They could have sent the child to a nursery but that would have been very difficult.*
- *Even if they had a handicap, I wouldn't give them up. Even if I don't have the possibilities, I wouldn't live without them. We wouldn't abandon our children.*

What do the children get out of attending the day centre?
<p>The parents are clear that they get a great deal: for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop their life skills and have a good education</i> • <i>get meals, children learn a lot, get education, have a meal, have a regular programme</i> • <i>Important progresses in the school, development of skills and abilities that they would not be able to develop in the family, they are more open and focused to different things around them and they became more <clever>; they are more organized and much mo</i> • <i>My daughter learns how to use the stick, the scissors. Here my son like to paint. She learns to be polite. She learns how to play.</i>

- *Now, my child know the number, poems. My daughter have develop the social skills (eg. communication, polite).*
- *Schedule for meals, homework. Now they are doing very well even home. They are constantly watched*
- *the child is much more quite; home he had no supervision, he could not make his homework; here he get support and a warm place*
- *the children are making their homework and are teached, they get psychological support, get medical evaluation; are getting individual, personalised care and intervention; children are not feeling stressed by the educational activities (as they are in school*
- *They are fed educated and they behave. They make school progress and they are helped with their homework.*
- *They are more educated , they have food, support and everything they need*
- *They are more receptive and more polite, school progress, tidy, developed a series of talents, more sociable, they have educational and free time activities which they wouldn't have had at home.*
- *They are safe and better looked after than at home. Now they are more sociable and they behave*
- *they learn new things, they have TV (access to information), have proper food and get support for doing their homework*
- *They will attend the mass education institutions*

What is the best thing for the children about attending the day centre?

In the parents' opinions the best things are:

- *children have education and receive food during day*
- *meals and education support*
- *The progress in the school and the improvement of the good behaviour ; increase of the self-image and self-confidence*
- *The polite rules like: please could you..., thank you, please do you let me The children make friends.*
- *He has new friends. She is happy. My child raises his weight, after he came here.*
- *They have central heating here and learning conditions*
- *he have food and good living condition including hitting; she lived in an apartment without hit*
- *the education support*
- *They are helped with their homework and they learn to use the computer.*
- *They are safe; they socialize and are more educated.*
- *School progress, education and independence.*
- *They are safe and better looked after*
- *they need a computer*
- *They are supervised and I can work on the field. They have maybe better results than in a kindergarten. During holidays it is very useful. We ca not take care of them.*

What about the day centre could be improved to benefit the children even more? And how?

Some parents identified changes which would benefit their children: others thought the service was already of a very high standard and meeting their needs.

- *Nothing could be improved, as everything is perfect.*
- *Much more focus on the sportive activities that would help children to develop in equilibrium and to be open to more perspective of their life.*
- *To built a kindergarten. To repair the exterior wall.*
- *More travel outside of city. The DCC to be open at 7,00 not 8,00. Too little staff.*
- *We need money for text-books. Neither I nor my husband work. For the elder students it should be a timetable after 3 p.m.*
- *to have the transport for the children and to have more activities for relaxation; and to have activities outside in the garden*
- *Nothing could be improved, as everything is perfect. What could be done, is to set up 1 more DCC, for the local existing needs, also maybe to organise trips*
- *To have the possibility to rest at the Centre when children are tired*
- *Extend up to more than 3 years old, put up a playground, have a longer daily programme.*
- *Stay lesser in front of the T.V. and more school activities and prepare those who don't have the possibility to go to kindergarten because they are poor.*
- *To have children medical assistance for free and to get medicines. They shouldn't have all the same doctor*
- *We don't think there is something better to be done. Children have everything: food, bedrooms, and clothes.*

What do the parents get from the day centre?

The benefits for the parents of the day centres are:

- *they can go to work without been worried about their children*
- *Psychological support, counselling, the work at home is easier for the parents, economical support (1 meal + 2 snacks)*
- *We are relax and sure about our children safety. Support in facing difficult situations; the development of the ability to solve the problems and we learn new things about the behaviour of our children*
- *I could work now. We did learn at parents meeting to be more carer with hygiene, no violence methods for discipline. I learn to be calm and not angry on my daughter. They go to sleep before 9PM.*
- *I have more time for my family task (especially for the second child). I have a better relationship with my child.*
- *It's much easier with the lessons, the education and the food.*
- *It is the confidence that the child is all right, he is supervised, is having good food and is in a warm place*
- *Psychological support, counselling, the work at home is easier for te parents, economical support (1 meal + 2 snacks), regular meetings with other parents, appreciate the way the staff is behaving with them (better than the schools staff)*
- *They know their children are safe and they can go to work.*
- *Parents can work and know their children are safe here.*
- *They are O.K because they know their children are safe and they are no more stressed about their children every day life.*
- *It's good that there is somebody to take care of the children and parents can go to work and are financially better*
- *they can work far from their home during day (agriculture) without worrying*

about their children

- *We can take care about our work and our houses. They help us with the education of our children.*

What is the best thing for the parents about their contact with the day centre?

For the parents the best things about the children attending a Day Centre are:

- *They can go to work know their children are under supervision and in receive good care*
- *New information on solving problems*
- *We have a schedule and we can work. We receive affordable services (we have not money for a kindergarten)*
- *I have time for work. He have better skills (use alone the toilet, eat alone, wear in the clothes alone).*
- *She is relaxed while the child is in the centre and she can take care of the other children and things.*
- *The economical support*
- *They have peace and safety*
- *Children are safe and make progress*
- *They are content about their children's' progresses.*
- *There is somebody to take care of the children and parents can go to work*

What about the day centre could be improved to benefit the parents even more? And how?

The parents suggestions for improvements are:

- *Nothing could be improved, as everything is perfect*
- *To offer more support to the parents to find a job*
- *The DCC schedule, in order to be open before 8,00.*
- *More often meeting with the parents (monthly preferable). Regularly visit on parents home. Supplementary medical staff.*
- *Money for school objects and a longer timetable.*
- *To offer to the child material support (clothes, shoos) because for her is very difficult to buy all these*
- *Nothing could be improved, as everything is perfect, but maybe it would be good to have activities, in community for the entire family*
- *To have the possibility to help the family and the Centre should work during weekends too.*
- *Organize more activities for parents so that the understand the needs of children.*
- *Providing transport for the children so that this be easier for the parents*
- *To ensure the transport for children and to extend to more than 4 years old*

Feelings about the future?

Optimistic about the future?	A mixture of happy and worried about the future	Pessimistic about the future?
78	22	0
78%	22%	0%

Many comments indicate optimism based on the service being provided: for example

- *I feel safe when I think about my daughter in DCC. My child has been developing a lot of new things. I like the staff.. Here I could celebrate my child birthday.*
- *They are convinced that the progress of their children will continue (including the school progress – from repeating the school year the children are one the best in the class); the family atmosphere, the children are self-confident*
- *We have hope. At the Centre they learn a lot of things. Many children couldn't even speak. They look after the children very well.*

The concerns parents have often focus on other areas of their lives: for example:

- *Content to have their children safe, not content because they don't have an appropriate place to stay*
- *she is pessimist because she is alone and she alone has to take care of the 2 children; but she hope that something good will happen in their life*
- *Because the daily problems and the financial problems, worried about the future of their children; they are thankful to all that bring the wellbeing of their children and the peaceful in their family; these gave them the hope that things will be better*

Help received from the Day Centre has made them?		
More optimistic about the future?	Not affected their overall outlook	More pessimistic about the future?
99	1	1
98%	1%	1%

Most comments indicate a belief that attending the DCC is making a big difference: for example

- *Children evolve very well, they receive affection, and this makes the parent happy and gives them tranquillity and confidence in the future*
- *Everything the Centre does will help them in the future*
- *It was avoided the situation in which the child spent all day playing on the streets being under the risk of doing things against the law; here he get the necessary education and support to learn a profession and to be able to take care of himself later*
- *They feel that authorities are taking a bit care of them, that somebody is interested in their situation*

Examples of their continuing worries are:

- *Concern about a nursery payment, uncertainty of their jobs, the location problem*
- *everyday challenges and the fact that I am alone*
- *Their children not having the possibility to continue the studies*
- *Their future is not sure. They don't have a good and permanent income.*
- *They are not sure about their income , about taxes and about their children's future.*
- *They are worried about the financial status and their jobs, they are afraid the Centre might be closed one day and they won't receive the support anymore.*
- *To increase the age range of the children*
- *We are interested in the school they will attend. Some children don't pass the exams. It would be better to be a special school because we don't have money for the residential school. It's difficult for them to travel each day they get sick and it's very difficult*

Other comments the parents would like to be transmitted to those responsible for children's services

- *Many thanks*
- *They get just the right support*
- *Thanks to the personnel.*
- *Thanks to the staff here*
- *For the authority, to pay much more attention to the allocation for children. For the staff, to pay much more attention to the special abilities and to the necessity of the development of the sportive activates which have beneficial effect on the children*
- *Supplementary staff is needed. Staff with tasks to help parents (especially for jobs).*
- *To have lots of Centres like this because many children need them*
- *Thanks to the personnel who look after the children*
- *Thanks to the people from the Day Care centre: They take continuous care about the children*
- *To short the period for medical analysis and to make free.*
- *We don't pretend too much for them We have very good teachers and we are content for the day centre's services.*

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

The interviews reveal:

Were they able to influence the admission to the Day Centre?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
8	0	1	2
73%	0%	9%	18%

Most responses indicate that the children were very positive about attending the Day Centre: for example

- *He tried to convince his parents to allow him to attend the DCC*
- *My mother was working for the principal, she asked him and I was accepted in the Centre.*
- *My parents explained me about it and when I came here, I liked it*
- *She thinks she wouldn't have been obliged to come if she hadn't wanted it, but she liked here and she decided to come.*

Some though were not convinced at first at least: for example:

- *He thinks he would have been sent out from the placement centre.*
- *The mother decided to bring the child in the centre; the child did not want in the beginning but then change his mind*
- *The FTU staff decided for her; she did not know about too many things*

How well prepared were they for attending the day centre?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
8	2	1	0
73%	18%	9%	0%

The children varied in how much they were prepared: Some had been told something about what would be involved:

- *He knew from friends about the program, the activates and the possibilities in DCC*
- *M. The Principal told us about the Centre and I was anxious to see it.*
- *She was told about the Centre, she came to visit it and she stayed*
- *.The mother explained that here will be other children and the child was curios about*
- *The staff told her few things about the centre but she could not understand for the moment*

But not all:

- *There was no previous visit to help the child to understand what is happening in centre*

How happy are they overall with attending the day centre			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
10	0	1	0
91%	0%	9%	0%

The comments suggest that most of those attending are very happy with what they are receiving: for example

- *He is very happy - especially because has access to TV news and programs; he does not have a TV home*
- *He likes to do his homework, to watch TV, to work on the computer; he likes that the educators are very understanding and do not rise the voice to the children*
- *I like my colleagues and what we do*
- *I like it very much. We play with the children.*
- *People are kind, here she has things she lacks at home (games, computer) she learnt a lot of new things and she can go sunbathing with other children and the staff.*
- *they are like a family, they understand each other and they are helped with the homework because home is nobody to help them*

Some though identify problems: for example

- *The other children are younger and he can not communicate with them*
- *They don't have common interests and he doesn't have an alternative.*

Is attending the day centre (the place, the people, the support services) helping them to improve their future situation & achieve their full potential?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
9	2	0	0
82%	18%	0%	0%

Unanimously the comments indicate a belief that the Day Centre is helping the young people: for example

- *She is much more self-confident that she will manage her life better in the future*
- *She learnt to use the computer she learnt new things and cleared up some others she hadn't understood.*
- *The staff in DCC is helping him with the homework and he hopes that soon the DCC will have a computer to learn how to use it*
- *The staff is helping us with the homework and I got better marks*
- *To do better in some subjects in the schools and to learn new things that is not possible to learn home (computer)*
- *We learn at school too. Then we come here and they help us with our homework. We learn songs, poems, stories.*

Is attending the day centre (the place, the people, the support services) helping them to develop the skills they will need when they become independent?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
5	6	0	0
45%	55%	0%	0%

Some comments identify learning new skills as important: for example:

- *He learns from other people life and other possibilities in this world (TV programs)*
- *I will get better marks and then I can continue school in Vaslui*
- *He learns to help his mother to make shopping and to cook; he learn how to take care not to get sick; to be polite in the relation with the adult and to be able to communicate better in order to solve the problems*
- *She learnt a lot of good things for her future but there still some others she can't do very well.*

Is attending the day centre (the place, the people, the support services) helping them maintain or develop the links that are important to them (family, friends, local community contacts etc)			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
10	1	0	0
91%	9%	0%	0%

Many comments indicate that the social aspect of attending the day centre is important: for example

- *He is here with friends and brothers*
- *the centre help him to have better relation with mother and sister*
- *The fact that she attends the Centre does not take the time she should spend with her family or her friends. She has more friends now that she comes here.*
- *There are still lots of things to do to solve the conflict with his father and his mistress*
- *The mother come very often to the centre to see the evolution of the child*

Asked to choose 3 words to reflect their feelings about the future, they generally chose positives more than negatives.

Feeling	No choosing	Percentage choosing
Hopeful	6	54%
Happy	5	45%
Confident	4	36%
Enthusiastic	4	36%

Uncertain	2	18%
Worried	1	9%
Excited	1	9%
Fearful	1	9%

G5 Recovery (Recuperation) Centres (RCs)

EXPERT'S ASSESSMENTS

The experts were asked to assess the condition of the RCs in terms of structure, decoration and equipment. The results were:

	Very good	Quite Good	Poor
Structure	74%	26%	0%
Decoration	68%	26%	5%
Equipment	74%	21%	5%

There were two assessments of poor: these were based on:

Decoration	the furniture is too old and in bad condition; the windows are in bad condition and the toilets are not adequate to the disabled children needs
Equipment	here are not enough equipments for the children needs in the educational and conform for relaxation

The experts observed the RCs for their quality of care under 6 headings

11. Does the home provide children with care in a child friendly setting?
12. Is everything possible done to recognise and understand children's individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised.?
13. Services provided: are they relevant to meeting children's needs?
14. Are Parents And Carers Involved and Supported?
15. Centre has good Links with Other Local Services?
16. Are Child Rights Respected and Applied?

Overall the experts observed much good practice in terms of the 4 headings, although more could be done in some areas and needs discussing.

1. Does the home provide children with care in a child friendly setting?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Is the unit decorated, furnished, equipped to a reasonable Romanian standard?	16	3	0
	84%	16%	0%
Do staff do things, and encourage the children to do things, to make the unit a warm and friendly place?	14	5	0
	74%	16%	0%
Do children's likes and dislikes influence menu selection?	7	3	9
	37%	16%	47%
Can the unit buy food directly from a	2	3	14

local shop?	11%	16%	74%
Does the unit have a quiet space where children can chose to be alone or do activity?	12	6	1
	63%	32%	5%
Does the centre have group meeting (or something similar) where children who are able can express their views on how the unit is run?	7	4	8
	37%	21%	42%

2. Is everything possible done to recognise and understand children's individual needs and to respond to them. To ensure that their potential is maximised?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstance s	No/this is not possible/doe s not happen
Do all children have a current care plan?	19	0	0
	100%	0%	0%
Do children/parents have a copy of their care plan?	4	7	8
	21%	37%	42%
Are children helped to go places, do things according to their personal interests?	11	6	2
	58%	32%	11%
Are any special dietary needs being met?	13	6	0
	68%	32%	0%
Is everything possible done to help children overcome their limitations? (e.g. assessment of need, provision of equipment, extra help)	12	7	0
	63%	37%	0%
Are children with special needs encouraged to mix with children without similar needs?	11	7	1
	58%	37%	5%
If a child has particular skills is everything possible done to help that child maximise this? (e.g. extra tuition, taken places)	9	6	4
	47%	32%	21%
Are the child's care plan needs reviewed regularly	14	5	0
	74%	26%	0%

3. Services Provided: are they relevant to meeting children's needs?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstance s	No/this is not possible/doe s not happen
Does the centre have an appropriate range of services to meet children's needs?	14	5	0
	74%	26%	0%
Are services reviewed and developed to meet children's needs?	15	3	1
	79%	16%	5%
Are the staff skills/experience available relevant to children's needs?	15	4	0
	79%	21%	0%
Does the centre have systems in place to ensure their skills and services are maintained and developed?	13	6	0
	68%	32%	25%

4. Are Parents And Carers Involved and Supported?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstance s	No/this is not possible/doe s not happen
Are parents/carers encouraged to visit and participate in the centre?	16	3	0
	84%	16%	0%
Are services provided to help parents & carers improve their own situation and that of their child?	14	5	0
	74%	26%	0%
Does the centre have a parents groups (or other opportunity for parents to meet and talk)	11	3	5
	58%	16%	26%

5. Centre has good Links with Other Local Services?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstance s	No/this is not possible/doe s not happen
Does the unit have good links with other local services (doctors, school, DPC)?	17	2	0
	89%	11%	0%
Does the unit do things to encourage other agencies/professionals to refer children in need?	15	4	0
	79%	21%	0%

Is the centre well supported by DPC management?	17	2	0
	89%	11%	0%
Does centre have any links with any relevant NGOs?	13	6	0
	68%	32%	0%

6. Are Child Rights Respected and Applied?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Does the centre see those attending as children with rights	17	2	0
	89%	11%	0%
Does the centre act as local force+ for improving the situation of children with special needs	10	8	1
	53%	42%	5%
Is everything possible done to seek the views of children/involve them in what is happening in the centre?	8	6	5
	42%	32%	26%

FOCUS GROUPS

The importance of attending the Recuperation Centre		
Their child attending the recuperation centre is really important for the child	It's OK, but something else might be better	Their child attending the recuperation centre is not really helping the child or the family?
100	2	0
98%	2%	0%

Parents have many positive comments to make about using the recuperation centres: for example

- *Till this service has been open I had to pay a lot of money to receive this kind of services*
- *Since he came, my child has improvements.*
- *It is important both for children and parents. When my child was 15 years old I had to give him to eat. I did not know the way to help my child and the therapy here help us a lot*
- *The child receive special attention from the staff to improve their recuperation*
- *The RCC provide the opportunity to increase the number of people for social interaction with my son. They became more tolerable. He started to speak, without cards. He is not afraid by people.*
- *Children are sprightly, they made very good progresses regarding vocabulary and their body function*

Although further improvements are also requested:

- *The services offered are very important for the children and have good effects in children development but it is necessary to be improved the situation of the transport for the children; it is very difficult for the parents to bring the child to the RC.*
- *It would be very good for the children to have more time for Kino therapy and to be more often scheduled for the recuperation therapy. Would be very useful for the children to do different procedures for recuperation*

Without Recuperation Centre, child would not be able to be at home?		
If their child were not attending the recuperation centre it would not be possible for them to be at home	If their child were not attending the recuperation centre it would make it harder for us to stay together as a family	If their child were not attending the recuperation centre it would not matter . they would make sure the family would all stay together
29	43	30
28%	42%	29%

A number of comments reflect the difficulties family and other carers would have in the absence of the service: for example

- *They should find another solution for the child because the family could not take care of the child*
- *Would not be possible for children to be recovered without this service*
- *not possible to think about this*
- *There was nobody home to take care of the child and they should find an institution to take care of the child in an institution to take care of him permanently*
- *They have need be in a specialised care*

Others emphasise the commitment of families to their children alongside the acknowledged importance of the centre: for example:

- *The child will stay home anyway, but is about his recuperation. There are things we do not know and the staff from the RC teach us; here also the children can socialize*
- *Since I came, I feel better about my grandson. The staff it is a support for me.*
- *I am a single parent and without RCC it could be very difficult to provide the stuff for my child and me.*
- *The children would stay anyway in the family but would be more difficult for them as parents, and home the children could not have professional assistance; they could not have what they have here*
- *Would not be possible for children to be recovered without this service*

What do the children get out of attending the recuperation centre?
<p>The parents identify a number of benefits for their children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A bit of education, life and education skills, improved their status, recovery therapies</i> • <i>Progress in the development of their body function to move and a better integration in the group</i>

- *Psychological benefits: self-confidence and peaceful mood; before some of the children were very aggressive. Now a child can walk better and start to speak. They learn a lot of exercises from the kino therapist*
- *The children come here with pleasure. The team from here is good and create a positive atmosphere*
- *The children received the right professional support that gave them the change to recover*
- *The kino therapy room is very crowded and the staff cannot take care of the child, as it should*
- *You can see the result every day: they can move their finger; before they could not speak but now the child say 100 words; by new the child could not keep a pencil in his hand; the child has self-confidence*

What is the best thing for the children about attending the recuperation centre?

The best things for the parents are:

- *Communication and occupation therapy*
- *The body function and get used to communicate with the people they met for the first time*
- *Self-confidence, optimism, physical recuperation*
- *Progress of children*
- *The received the appropriate assistance*
- *My daughter use to say bad words, but here she learn the vocabulary and she can make the difference between bad and good. Here they organize events with children like in a normal kindergarten*
- *Psychological: self-confidence, the walk, the sounds and talk*
- *Increase the self-confidence, skills development, better result in the school*
- *He eat alone. He start to talk and use communication cards. He learn to read. He start to have care one to other.*
- *My child has hydrocephaly. He was in a normal school but was marginalized. After 3 years she knew how to write. It was extraordinary. Home she cannot do anything. E do everything got her. The teacher comes home. The children learn how to eat, how to write*
- *He start to speak several words (before nothing).*
- *The children are together with other children; the children make progress;*
- *The important progresses are identified in the verbal communication skills; socialisation in the community (home they could not have that); visible progresses in the development of body function; they have a daily program which help them*
- *She start to walk alone (5meters) after several month of recovery. He is more quiet, more independence, sociability*

How can the recuperation centre be improved to benefit the children even more?

The parents have suggestions for improvements:

- *Longer programme, to have a day care part, not only therapies*

- *Recuperation through specialised activity, integration in community*
- *To have more often scheduled for recuperation; the involvement of the children in the play therapy*
- *The gym room needs to be bigger. It would be necessary that the staff will not change, as it is not easy for children to get use with new people. For example children are not very conformable with the new kinetotherapist*
- *An educational possibility (school) close to rc. A swimming pool for their children. Air conditioning in kineto-therapy room. There is need a playing place*
- *To have a speech therapist*
- *We would need a bus to travel to the rc. Now we have a speech therapist. We need specialist to cover the holiday time. There should be better salary for the staff to motivate them. To have the possibility to have the doctors more time here.*
- *The parents said that it is difficult for them to propose something else if they do not know what else is done in the field, so they cannot compare with something else. They are very happy with the services provided.*
- *to develop the structure and the equipment; to increase the number of the sportive activities that would help the child in the development and body function; and to support the children with special abilities*
- *To have a playground outside and free access in the institution.*
- *To increase the age range of beneficiaries.*
- *The children would need a Logo Ped; there are need more specialists*
- *To have better equipment in the body therapy room; to organise excursion and camping for children; to develop much more activities in the nature; to improve the transport of the children and the minibuses to be equipped for children with disabilities*
- *More support from the GDASPC, provide meals, more information in the community*

What do the parents get from the recuperation centre?

The parents are clear that there are many gains for them from their children attending a centre: for example;

- *Self-confidence*
- *Possibility of group meetings (experience exchange), counselling*
- *The staff, a specialist, his trust when coming here, the relationships with other children, the place for gymnastics*
- *Socialisation*
- *The children received presents and it is very well when you can read the happiness on their face*
- *Children's evolution*
- *He improve the socialisation. He ask for toilet.*
- *Professional support*
- *Visible progresses in the development of body function; socialisation in the community; they fell accepted and loved*
- *Reduce the stress, satisfaction for the children progress; the children are more peaceful*
- *Free time when the children are in the RC. They also have financial benefits, as they do not need to pay for that's services and to travel to Oradea. It is very good to have this service in the community*

- *They have trust that when children are here are safe and work with specialists; counselling*
- *We learn how to help our children in a way that that is the best for them*
- *To see our children how they develop and grow up really help us. And we can have no worries about when we are not with them. In the beginning we could not believe they will stay without us.*
 - **Support for children**

What is the best thing for the parents about their contact with the recuperation centre?

- *Possibility of communicating related to the interest issues*
- *It is very well. They have many activities. They go for walk, in excursion, in the zoo garden. It will be excellent to have a group for persona after 18 years old in order to be able to keep them at least at this level of development*
- *The increasing no of specialists-, the transport. There are many children that have need by this type of service*
- *I am very happy when i see the children progresses*
- *The recuperation centre is in the community*
- *The progress of child*
- *Children recuperation and advice*

Feelings about the future

Parents' feelings about the future?		
Optimistic about the future?	A mixture of happy and worried about the future	Pessimistic about the future?
72	24	6
71%	24%	6%

The reasons why parents feel more optimistic are:

- *Because of the progresses the children are doing they are very optimistic for the future; the children can became more independent*
- *Happy for the progresses on the development*
- *I feel ok when I see my child progress. The recuperation centre support is important for me.*
- *I hope things will be better. I have asked a teach school at home. I am optimistic. We would like our children to be able to take care of themselves. We would need a school for them where top have professional supervised. In may case the child is going well*
- *It is optimistic because can see the progresses the child made*
- *The child is at the beginning of the program and she attend progress in recuperation; a child recuperate and can now speak*
- *The progress of the child gives the parents hope for a better recuperation and motivation to move on*
- *Their child would have independent life skills*
- *We hope will be better in the future and we will get closer to the developed countries*
- *Since he came for recovery i feel better about future.*

- *Something started moving a bit better in the field of the disabled persons*
- *The children can be integrated easily in the education system; they can communicate easier and pass the situation generated by their disability (for example a child whose year and 7 finger has been eaten by the pig when he was few month after been born)*
- *They can get involved in the centre activities*
- *They accepted the situation*
- *They got courage to move on and they think there are good chances for their children*
- *We could say that we are optimistic as we made some steps behind. We look forward to do more steps*
- *They are happy with the children progresses and they thing the rc will provide them support in the future*
-

However, they also have concerns and worries:

- *Happy - a chance has been given to this children; worried - there are too many requests from the community and not enough places in RCC, therefore it might be needed the children to stop therapies although they need them for long periods of time; also what*
- *Not cancel the service*
- *Hope that the progress of the children will continue*
- *If there would be services for this children after they are 18*
- *Here it is a place for development of our children. We don't know what happened in the future (when they will be over 18 years old)*
- *For me is difficult. Now I am happy but there is no school in the country and I do not know what I am going to do. I am worried for that situation*
- *Thankful for the progresses of the child which has been obtained after long time, but worried about what will happen to this children in the future*
- *The child is small and the grandparent are helping the family*
- *Happy for the progresses of the children but worried about their future after they will be 18*
- *The society don't progress in the acceptance of the handicap persons, the lack of facilities for the children and the adults, lack of perspective, difficulties in obtaining the medical assistance, the transport facilities, the problems with the Complex*
- *Uncertain for what will happen to the child after they will be 18 and fear that the children have to go in an institution*
- *We are worried; the children grow up and the needs are also increasing. The doctors are very bad; they speak very badly about our children and they do not provide us any support. For a dentist intervention they sent us a long way away because they were afraid to get involved.*
- *For me is difficult. Now I am happy but there is no school in the country and I do not know what I am going to do. I am worried for that situation*
- *the children progress and the support is a very appreciated thing but the general situation in the community/society needs to be improved*

Has their child attending the recuperation centre changed their feelings?		
More optimistic about the future?	Not affected their overall outlook	More pessimistic about the future?
92	4	6
90%	4%	6%

If they have worries about the future? What are they?

The parents have a number of worries which concern them: for example,;

- *We do not have adequate medical services. None of the institution treats us with respect. The only place where the children are treated with respect is here in the centre. It is more difficult for the one coming from the country side. After the children*
- *Difficulties for the children in attending the right education, problems in child /adult to be fully integrated into community, to have support from the state*
- *In Brasov there isn't school with special classes.*
- *Possibility of the RC closing*
- *Not to close the Centre. It is needed even by those who are of the age.*
- *The education system doesn't accept them with positive attitude*
- *They are worried because they do not know what will happen with their children when they will be 18. Are they going to receive these services after they will be 18?*
- *They are worried thinking what will happen after they will be 18 years old*
- *They cannot offer to their children more time, to offer them the care they need*
- *They would like to continue as it start*
- *Transport (minibus is not enough); more specialist centres in local communities; the schools curricula to be adapted at the children needs*
- *We don't know what will happened after the children will be over 18 years old. It could be changed the age range of RCC? It could be a RCC for adults with autism syndrome?*
- *We would need more RC like this. There are more children with this kind of problems. We have to look for better services for our children, as the medical services do not provide the appropriate support*
- *What will be the situation of their children when they will be 18 and they will not receive the services of the RC; what will happen to the children when the parents will not be there for them*
- *Worried for the development of some medical problem of the child (obesity) concerned about the way the children will be integrated in the society*

Any other comments the group would like to be transmitted to those responsible for children's services

- *To show more interest (the authority for people with disability). The image it is promoted show that we have everything we need. They use our situation. We are happy with the condition here and the way they use the money. The living conditions we have are*
- *Thanks for developing this services and give a chance to their children*
- *More support from the authorities*
- *To offer the medical examination for people with severe disability. Facility for transportation. To create a school for deaf children. To have a recovery pool and a playground in garden.*
- *The improvement result can be reached in time but they are sure is happening. The parents are unhappy with the part they have to pass from the gate to the entrance of the RC.*
- *To go on looking after those children as they did so far. To keep the specialists and obtain the necessary funds.*

- *Thanks; To make easier the year evaluation procedure*
- *The parents are very happy with this service. They are also very happy that they participate to our discussion today because they consider that somebody is interested in the quality of this service.*
- *More RCC are needed and with a longer programme (DCC + RCC)*
- *Thanks to the staff. They suggested to develop the services of the RC as the services for free time for the parent (respite) and extension of the recuperation of the children*
- *Comments*
- *Thanks. The staff from education system to be trained to accept children with special need, to have professional attitude*
- *Help us to develop an house for adults with disabilities (locuinta protejata)*
- *To keep and to continue financing this kind of services. To assure continuity. Some children cannot be integrated in the normal school and they need support. The children need special treatment and services and we, as parents, need counselling. We will not*
- *For the staff in the RC a lot of thanks; for the local authority to think with their soul and to try to put themselves in the place of the parents*
- *To continue to do good things for the children*

G6: Maternal Centres (MCs)

EXPERT'S ASSESSMENTS

The experts were asked to assess the condition of the MCs in terms of structure, decoration and equipment. The results were:

	Very good	Quite Good	Poor
Structure	100%	0%	0%
Decoration	64%	27%	0%
Equipment	90%	9%	0%

The experts observed the MCs for their quality of care under 4 headings

1. Does the unit provide mothers and children with the opportunity to live in family-type setting and mothers maintain/develop their independence skills?
2. Is everything possible done to assist have the skills needed to care for themselves and their child?
3. Are mothers supported in developing and maintaining good links with the local community and where possible with family and friends?
4. Are mothers helped to find/develop the resources needed for an independent life?

Overall the experts observed much good practice in terms of the 4 headings, although more could be done in some areas and needs discussing.

1. Does the centre provide children with care in a family type/domestic setting?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Home is up to normal Romanian domestic quality	10 91%	1 9%	0 0%
Mothers can cook for themselves and their child?	10 91%	1 9%	0 0%
Mothers can wash, iron etc for themselves and their child?	11 100%	0 0%	0 0%
Mothers can come & go as they wish?	10 91%	1 9%	0 0%
Mothers (and their child) have their own bedroom	11 100%	0 0%	0 0%
There are staff on duty overnight	10 89%	1 11%	0 0%
Staff ask permission of mothers (e.g. knock on the door) before they enter personal space (e.g. bedrooms, bathrooms etc)	11 100%	0 0%	0 0%
Mothers are encouraged to personalise their bedrooms	10 89%	1 11%	0 0%

Overall, the unit is good at allowing mothers and children to live in a family type setting & mothers to maintain/develop their independence?	9	2	0
	82%	18%	0%

2. Is everything possible done to assist mothers develop/maintain the skills they need to care for themselves & their child

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Mothers are provided with help and advice needed to improve their chances of taking advantage of education, finding work, developing themselves (whatever is needed)?	10 89%	1 11%	0 0%
Mothers are helped to make links with other professionals and services able to help achieve their goals?	9 82%	1 9%	1 9%
Does the unit have any kind of programme to support mothers after they leave?	3 27%	5 45%	3 27%
Overall, how good is the unit at helping mothers with the skills needed to care for themselves and their child?	9 82%	2 27%	0 0%

3. Are mothers supported in developing and maintaining good links with the local community and where possible with family and friends?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Is there somewhere in the home where mothers can talk with their friends/family in private?	9 82%	2 27%	0 0%
Are mothers encouraged to have visitors?	9 82%	2 27%	0 0%
Are mothers helped to have contact with family & friends (e.g. provision of transport/money to travel/use of phone etc.)?	8 73%	3 27%	0 0%
In a typical week do most	7	4	0

mothers use local facilities (cinema, park, shops etc)?	64%	36%	0%
Overall, how good is the unit at supported in developing and maintaining good links with the local community and where possible with family and friends?	7	4	0
	64%	36%	0%

4. Are mothers helped to find/develop the resources needed for an independent life?

Subject/question	Yes/always/ the norm	In some cases/ sometimes/in limited circumstances	No/this is not possible/does not happen
Mothers are offered help to improve their educational situation	10	1	0
	89%	11%	0%
Mothers are offered help to improve their employment situation	9	2	0
	100%	0%	20%
Mothers are offered help to improve their housing situation	10	1	0
	89%	11%	0%

FOCUS GROUPS

The key findings are:

Admission to the Maternal Centre		
Coming to live at the Centre was made really easy for me	Coming to live at the Centre was OK, but something's could have been done better	Coming to live at the Centre was very difficult
46	3	0
94%	65	0%

There are many comments reflecting a high level of satisfaction with what they were receiving:

- *Here we have the possibilities to help ourselves and our children; they took the children to the doctor and take care of us*
- *In fact it is not about easy or difficult, but about the fact that it has been the best solution*
- *The children are safe, have good food, they are clean and the conditions are better*
- *We can stay here with our children.*

Although a number indicated that they felt they had little choice:

- *They do not have another solution; they had conflicts in their family; to come here was the best decision and solution for the time being*

- *This was the best solution as they have no place to live;*
- *There was no alternative*

Experience of their current situation		
Their current situation is the best possible place for them to be at the moment?	It's OK, but something else might be better	Their current situation is not good enough. Not the best possible place for them to be at the moment?
47	2	0
96%	4%	0%

Many of the comments highlight that the mothers find the service a positive experience

- *We feel all right here; we would not have better condition somewhere else*
- *We learn to take care of the baby better then before and we learn how to cook*
- *There was no other possibility for them, as long as they wanted to keep the children with them and they could not remain, for the moment, with their families*
- *They learn how to take care of their children, they are not so much under stress; here they have the proper living condition and they learn how to take care of the child*

Mothers treated as adults		
The way the Centre is run is based on them being adults who can take responsibility for themselves and their child	Sometimes we are treated as responsible adults: sometimes not	The way the Centre is run treats them as immature people who CANNOT take responsibility for themselves and their child
37	12	0
76%	24%	0%

Comments indicate that many mothers do feel that they are treated as adults, even though they accept they need help:

- *Sometime we need to be taught like children*
- *The educators make them feel real grownup persons, teaching them, supporting them, but giving them responsibilities and trusting their judgment*
- *They are encouraged to take care of their children and other mother children when they have to leave the mc*
- *They explain to us what we do not know but we are independent and make decision about our life*
- *They take care of the house and they get the support to learn things that they did it in a wrong way or they did nor know how to do it; they take care of the children and get support when need it (for instance they get support to contact the doctor*
- *We cook, clean, take care of our children*
- *We learn how to take care of our children.*

Some though are less sure:

- *They have to tell where they are going and for how long. After 20.00h they have to be in the centre*
- *As she is 16 years old, in some respect they are treating her as an adult (responsibilities related to her future child), but they still teach her how to behave, etc, as it is to be done with a child. She feels good about this situation*
- *Sometime they are not treated with trust; like they are not able to be responsible and not able to make decision for their children*

Preparing for the future?		
Their current situation is really helping them to get ready for the future	It's OK, but could be better	Their current situation is NOT really helping to get ready for the future
44	5	0
90%	10%	0%

Most comments reflect the mothers believing that the Centre is there to help them prepare for the future, and that this is happening:

- *That's way we decided to leave our home and to come here: to find support, a house, a job*
- *We can make some money while we stay here, for the future. We have counselling*
- *We look for a job. If we work we can earn some money and then we can pay our rent*
- *they are here like in a family; they learn how to do things and take care of themselves; and they are learn how to become independent (continue the school or find a job); and they has been supported to get in contact with some NGO that helps them*
- *They learn a lot of useful things for future and get skills, in order to take care properly of the children*
- *They search for workplaces so that we can rise our children. I can go to school(a student)*

Although some have doubts about the how this is done: for example:

- *The focus is much more on the housekeeping (clean, cook, care of the child) than on the relations outside the house*
- *they receive advice as a theory but more practical support it is needed*

Help provided by the staff		
Staff in the Maternal Centre are doing everything possible to help them	The staff are OK, but could be better	Staff in the Maternal Centre are NOT doing what is needed to help them
46	3	0
94%	6%	0%

The mothers' comments suggest a positive view of what staff are doing to help them: for example:

- *They are doing even more than their job demands them to.*
- *They are open persons, listening to the problems and trying their best to find the best solution together with the mothers*

- *Children get a better education here*
- *she received support for getting a job*
- *They get support; they get advice; they are understood*
- *They provide us support any time we ask and we need*
- *we go to the doctor and they help us to solve our problems*

The only comment made about where more help is needed refers to:

- *They want more support in mediating the relationship with the family*

What is good about their current situation?

What the mothers see as the positives in their current situation include:

- *That they have their own space, their belongings, they feel that they evaluated and improved their skills*
- *The mother here are happy with what they have here but they are not well prepared for the life after they will leave the MC*
- *There are good conditions here. We don't keep in touch with the fathers. There is a schedule for everything. We don't need to spend money here.*
- *They get support to find a job and in that way to be able to take care of their children in a better way*
- *they have very good condition to live and take care of their children and received support*
- *We are in a safe place, we are not in the street; we help each other. This MC is very well organized*
- *We have a place to stay; we can keep our children near us.*

What could be improved in their current situation? And how?

What the mothers believe could be improved include:

- *I would like to get a job otherwise I will end in the street - the person was crying*
- *I' m trying to get a social home and a job*
- *To develop better ways of communication with our families. Our parents to agree with the situation. Would be better for us to have our own house. We cannot ask for help even to our relatives*
- *to find a job and to be able to pay the rent; I would like to stay with my husband; the living condition here are very good; we get clothes, things we need for our children, good food; special in the winter we feel very safe here; I would never leave this*
- *They could help us find a home and a workplace.*
- *because the internal rules, the mother do not have enough time to rest; they need more time for solving the problem outside the MC*

Although some feel everything is as good as it can be:

- *From their point of view everything is perfect*

Feelings about the future

Optimistic about the	A mixture of happy and	Pessimistic about the
-----------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------

future?	worried about the future	future?
17	30	2
35%	61%	4%

Some mothers have an optimistic view of the future: for example:

- *if we find a job and will be able to pay the rent*
- *It will be tough, but they trust they will manage*
- *We hope everything will be better; we do not want to think negative. All mothers would like to have a house to live and take care of their children. If we take courses we will be able to do something good for our baby*

Some are less sure about what the future holds for them: for example:

- *Back to her family she have some problems related to her income. Her mother which is responsible for her because of her handicap is in Italy*
- *They are thankful that they have the child with them, and the children are healthy; they are worried that they do not have the possibility to find a job and for the life stile of the child father. They do not have self-confidence*
- *to find solution to concrete situation and to reintegrate into the community*
- *We hope it would be as we imagine it.*
- *she does not really know and, although she is over 20, is obvious that she has to act as her parents will decide after they will take her back home*

If they have worries about the future? What are they?

The mothers worries for the future include:

- *Financial problems are the important issues. There is one mother who want to give the child in maternal assistance*
- *I can be optimistic but it's hard to have a home, a job*
- *jobs and a place to stay*
- *no house; not enough income and the high cost to cover children needs*
- *the health of our children and the resources*
- *They are worried about finding a job that could secure the living*
- *to find a place to live; worried that the father of the child will not continue to offer support*

Any other comments the group would like to be transmitted to those responsible for children's services

Other comments the mothers want to make include:

- *We'll miss the centre. We have a lot of support here. Thank you! Projects of this type are very useful.*
- *they ask for more freedom. Also money and clothes for themselves . The food provided by the GDSACP isn't fresh but conserved/ tinned food*
- *We thank them for what they offer us. Mothers should be informed about the centres. I found out from a magazine and I called to Bucharest. They told me there was one in Rosiori too.*
- *very happy with this kind of service*
- *the relation between ANPDC, DGASPC and other local institution should be better in order to facilitate their access to social houses and access to jobs.*

<p><i>They felt they are not well treated because they are living in a MC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>we thank for all the support we got</i> <i>thanks and to offer them the possibility to stay here in the MC for a longer period of time</i>
--

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

9 individual interviews with mothers living in Maternal Centre were completed.

The interviews reveal:

Were they able to influence the admission to the Maternal Centre?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
9	0	0	0
100%	0%	0%	0%

Most responses indicate that the mothers were very positive about moving to the Maternal Centre: for example:

- This was an alternative. She also received the possibility to give the child in the maternal assistant but she chose this possibility*
- I came here for the protection. We have a bodyguard and I feel safe.*
- I did not want to give the children away (placement centre or maternal assistant) therefore the authorities found for me this solution*
- I solicited to be in care and ms...told me about this place*
- I talked to dad, I visited the centre and I decided by myself*
- She asked to stay here as she is having 2 children (one is 2 years old and one is 2 months)*
- the administration in Arad contacted DGASPC and they took me here by car. I decided to come here because I was afraid to stay in the neighbourhoods*
- Because she knew about the protection system she asked for support at the counselling centre*
- she is very happy with the child and that she can get support from this service*

In some cases, though, the mothers felt they had little alternative

- I had no choice; I have been in the risk to end it on the street*

How well prepared were they for attending the Maternal Centre?		
Very well	Quite well	Not very well
5	2	1
63%	25%	13%

Many mothers felt that they did have an idea of what life in the maternal centre would be like:

- They explained me what is about, for how long is it possible to benefit of it, what kind of activities are taking place*
- I have been informed from the beginning about the conditions here and the fact that I will learn how to take care of my baby. In the maternity I have been informed about it by the social worker*
- I was told about the place and the staff discuss with me*

- *The Headman in Arad told me that he will help me and he informs me about the condition in the MC*
- *she got information from one colleague and one staff from the MC*

Nevertheless some also found the move difficult: for example:

- *Was no previous visit to help the child to understand what is happening in centre*
- *At the beginning I knew nobody and it was hard. Then I got used to it and now I like it.*
- *She knew how is in a MC but she was not used to stay without the father of the child. She suffer because she had to break the relation with the father of the child*

How happy are they overall with living in the Maternal Centre			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
6	3	0	0
67%	33%	0%	0%

Many of the comments indicate satisfaction with what is being provided: for example:

- *I got all what it is needed for a decent life and educators are taking good care of us*
- *is a good place for me' without I didn't know what to do*
- *It was the best solution.*
- *the staff here offer me support*
- *she get support to face her situation*
- *she is affected because she cannot be in contact with the father of the child; he cannot come in the MC*
- *she is very well integrate, she is happy and she is focusing on the future*

Although many are also are keen to see things change for them:

- *Would be great to be home with my parents, because I am in my city*
- *she accept the situation as this is the best for the moment*
- *she is free like home but she is happy with this place being the only solution for a short period*

Is living in the Maternal Centre (the place, the people, the support services) helping them to improve their future situation & achieve their full potential?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
7	2	0	0
78%	22%	0%	0%

Unanimously the comments indicate a belief that the Maternal Centre is helping the mothers: for example:

- *I can go on with my school.*
- *I have to be able to help myself; but the staff and the condition here contribute to that*
- *It is about my future situation, for I will not continue my studies. For me it will be perfect if I can find a job, after the child will be at least 6 months*

- *The staffs talk to my parents. They influenced my father to accept my situation. Even my mother change her opinion a bit*
- *they help me to take care of my baby and now he is big enough to go home and let him with my mother*
- *to graduate the school and then to find a job be to able to take care of my child*
- *To stay in the street would be difficult for the child and the MC was a good choice.*

Is living in the Maternal Centre (the place, the people, the support services) helping them to develop the skills they will need in the future?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
5	4	0	0
56%	44%	0%	0%

Unanimously the comments indicate a belief that the Maternal Centre is helping the mothers: for example:

- *Consider that she is the only responsible for the future*
- *I know how to take care of me*
- *I learned a lot of things and now I am able to ask support from different services (to access the services) to solve my problems*
- *It helps me*
- *Ladies here are nice. They knew many cases and they give us advice.*
- *they teach me how to take care of the baby, better than I did it the first time*
- *To stay in the street would be difficult for the child and the MC was a good choice. But she had a lot of other problem and maybe the child will go to the MA*
- *We have sewing machines. I would like to become a designer.*
- *She consider that the support is very good for her future*
- *She want very much to be home at her mother 's house*
- *Some, in respect of the fact part of the skills she had them already (cooking, cleaning, budget administration, etc)*

Is attending the day centre ((the place, the people, the support services) helping them maintain or develop the links that are important to them (family, friends, local community contacts etc)			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
5	4	0	0
56%	44%	0%	0%

Many comments indicate that mothers living in the maternal centre are able to maintain and develop their social relationships: for example:

- *I can call my sister and my mother but they can't come so easy because of the distance. The local authorities will give me construction materials*
- *I can have visitor or to go in visits anytime*
- *In lasi I had a colleague who visits me. Here my parents visit me sometime, special my father; my mother visit me very rarely*
- *My dad visits me every day. We go for a walk with other mothers and children. I meet a good friend who is also my neighbour.*
- *My mother and my brothers are in Alexandria and I can visit them*

-
- *They agree with my visitors, but there is not so much what they could do about my family*
- *The staff contacted the local authorities for support*

Although relationships with males sometimes pose a problem:

- *she would like to get more support in the relation with the father of the child; to come here more often*

Other comments on their current situation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I do not understand my mother; why she gave up taking care of me. I think she has no excuse or explanation</i> • <i>I will not return there; I do not want to suffer again</i> • <i>I have very strong feeling related to the child and I am very happy with her</i> • <i>I will stay here to learn things</i> • <i>It is very good for me for staying but I want to go home</i> • <i>it is good for the child because he get the right care but is difficult for her</i> • <i>she consider the support from MC but she is looking for external support too</i>

Other comments on the future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I will have success</i> • <i>after I leave and I will have a job, I will bring my girl to DCC</i> • <i>I will manage</i> • <i>she likes to have the family together</i> • <i>she and her husband make efforts to be a family again; they want to rent a flat and to move there</i> • <i>I'm concerned about the children</i> • <i>To have a family. To keep in touch with the father of my child. I would like to live the child to the MA for one year, to go in other countries to work and to be able to offer to my child everything I never had, in order to assure him a better life.</i>

Asked to choose 3 words to reflect their feelings about the future, they chose a mixture of positives and negatives.

Feeling	No (of total of 9)	% (of total of 9)
Hopeful	6	67%
Worried	6	67%
Confident	3	33%
Uncertain	3	33%
Enthusiastic	2	22%
Fearful	2	22%
Depressed	1	11%
Happy	1	11%
Total	9	

G7: Re-integrations into the community

FOCUS GROUPS

The key findings are:

The past and the present		
Being at home/independent is better for them?	No great difference	Being in care (in the placement centre) was better for them?
31	6	3
82%	16%	3%

Most are positive about having left the placement centre

- *They are together with their family and now they have good living condition*
- *It is much better here; not like there; there was like a prison*

Some though have doubts or reservations

- *in the PC they got support for doing their homework, but home they do not have any support;*
- *in the PC they have more children to play together, but home they do not have*

The Re-integration Process		
They had a real choice about whether they returned home	Their views were listened to as part of the decision they should go home	They did not have a real choice about whether they returned home
21	3	14
55%	8%	37%

Most felt involved in the reintegration process:

- *They wish this reintegration. A child was happy that he is home. He says it and shows it by smiling. The children said that one girl did not want to go home because during the visit she was traumatized; the girl was crying when she has been informed that she will go home. So, the staff decided to send her to a MA*
- *Of course; they discussed with us. I never liked in the children house and that's way I wanted to come back home; long time ago I decided that; I use to keep in touch with my family; I use to go home in Holiday.*
- *I even left the PC and went home without informing the staff. I could choose between family and placement and I choose my family*

Not all though:

- *They were just informed by their educator, but they were not asked*
- *No one told them in before, they were not prepared for this process, the Direction did not help them in identifying a place to live or a job; they have been provided only with some money and clothes.*

- *they have been told that they have to go home*

How the move was handled		
The move home was handled very well?	The move was handled OK, but could have been better	The move home was handled very poorly?
20	13	5
53%	34%	13%

- *Most believed that the leaving of the placement centre was handled well:*
- *The director informed us that the decision to move home will be received soon. So, when we received the decision we just went home (we were in contact with our parents)*

Not all though:

- *No one monitored them after they left the institutions*
- *They did not know the day they will move. They knew that they go in holiday; they were not informed that they move forever. Everything were very confused*

Support at home		
The support they received after they went home was good?	The support was OK, but could have been better	The support they received after they went home was non-existent or too little?
16	20	2
42%	53%	5%

Most felt that some support had been available, but many not as much as was needed:

- *For some months they have been helped with groceries and food. They have been visited home by the staff*
- *We have received support: groceries, electronics for the house*
- *We received even the material support*

Knowledge of what they were going to?		
They knew enough about their family/home situation before the move	They knew some, but more would have been useful	They knew little/nothing about their family/home situation before the move
32	4	2
84%	11%	5%

The majority felt that they did know enough about what to expect:

- *We use to come home during holiday or weekend; we knew how is home*
- *They visit the families before. They knew the families because in holiday they use to go to visit them*
- *They knew that their parents went outside the country to work and to improve their life condition*
- *I was in contact with my family during the time I have been in the PC*
- *They've maintained the relation with their families on a monthly basis*

But not all:

- *No one told him anything till he left the PC; not even showed him his file; he does not know where to find his family*

If they were planning for a child to return home, what would they do which didn't happen in their case?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide the child with as much information as possible related to its family- try to find its family and create a relation between it and its family- provide the child with more skills for independent life- try to find a job for it, since it is till in the PC- support it in finding a living place- provide it with more knowledge relate to how to find a job and a living place</i> • <i>To listen and to visit the children; to give the child the possibility to choose; to help the child with the house living conditions; and to keep their promises that they visit the child every 2 weeks</i> • <i>Some children are bad and rebellious when you cannot help them. I would advice them to be obedient/listener/polite. If I would be in the place of the staff I would help children providing them some financial support and according to the possibilities I would find a house and a job for them</i>

Their opinion of where they are now?		
Their current situation is the best possible place for them	It's OK, but something else might be better	Their current situation is not good enough
24	11	3
63%	29%	8%

Most saw benefits in being where they are now:

- *Because is with family and now has good living conditions*
- *Comparing with the children house, I can tell you that being home is much better*
- *In the PC I had good condition but I missed my parents*

But some had doubts or concerns:

- *It is not free like was before*
- *He is in conflict with the mother's partner*
- *I would like to work but I cannot concentrate too much and I have nasal haemorrhage*

Is their current situation helping them to achieve their potential?		
Their current situation is helping them to achieve their potential	It's OK, but could be better	Their current situation is NOT helping them to achieve their potential
23	10	5
61%	26%	13%

What is good about their current situation?
<u>Items identified were:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>They can go to school; they are free to do what they want and they have better</i>

<p><i>living condition in their family</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Both have a long term job, so that they can earn their living, they have a place to live, have friends and got well integrated in the community</i> • <i>That we are home with our parents; the parents take care of us better. In the pc the staff do not take care of you</i> • <i>Sometime our parents help us; when we came from school; we use to play and then do our homework; home we can eat any time we want and the food is very good</i> • <i>They are free to move around in the village they live. They have siblings and friend in the village</i>
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What could be improved in their current situation? And how?

But they also identify areas where improvements are possible:

- *She has to travel to school and the parents cannot help her. She also likes to travel in other places, to meet other people. To be asked to work less then now*
- *They could get better jobs, by getting more skills/education. One of them wishes even to get in the army, in order to have a better and more secured life*
- *A house to live would be very good (different then the parents house)*
- *Financial benefits, to support me to travel to school, to support us when we have the admission in the high school and to organize courses for us. The staff have a lot of work with the other children and have no time for us living in the family now*
- *We would need money for us and our family to buy clothes shoos for school food and other things. To buy a tv, a radio, a car and animals (horses, cows)*
- *The FTH are better. Cast came from Turda and they liked the living condition there. The condition of our families are poor, the roads are deteriorated*

Feelings about the future		
Optimistic about the future?	A mixture of happy and worried about the future	Pessimistic about the future?
14	17	7
37%	45%	18%

If they have worries about the future? What are they?

- *To have a good health and to have a good life*
- *The income, the living condition*
- *Worried that will become like his father: alcoholic, prisoner. And worried that will not be able to be good in school*
- *Given the condition, we do not have hope for the future. We have very small income and is very difficult for us to manage our life; i cannot buy clothes*
- *To have a future you need to go to school*
- *2 of them are in searching a job, 1 is not in good relation with family*

Any other comments the group would like to be transmitted to those responsible for children's services

- *Health, happiness, and thanks to everybody help us; would be good if possible to provide us some financial resources*
- *To prepare better young people for social and professional integration*
- *The ftu are very good for children; to assist and support the families where children were reintegrated*
- *To offer much more support to the children*

- *To provide support especially to the children that really needs it. And to keep their promises; if you promise something, you should keep you promises (no example provided)*
- *To respect our rights*

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS

The interviews reveal:

Were they able to influence the decision to move home?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
4	0	1	1
67%	0%	17%	17%

Some felt that they did have influence:

- *cand eram la camin ma intelegeam mai bine cu ai mei Veneam doar in vacanta*
- *I wanted to go home. My cousin discussed that with the staff of the children house*
- *Yes, I want to come back home; my brothers want to stay there*
- *Copilul era sigur si bucuros*

Another that the decision was out of his or her hands:

- *the staff decided; she has not been asked*

How well prepared were they for the move home			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
3	1	1	1
50%	17%	17%	17%

Some had the chance to prepare:

- *Each Holiday I went home; I was always in contact with my family*

Others appeared to feel rushed or uncertain:

- *Needed more time to think about; she would like to say that she does not want to go back home; but she was not asked by the staff*
- *They gave me some information, but I could not understand it very well. I said that God will help me*

Did well supported were they during the period around the move home (including before & after)?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
2	2	1	1
33%	33%	17%	17%

A mixed picture:

- *They tried to enlighten me about the issues related with my return home*

- *They got some support, but the staff did not ask them if they are all right, how they feel or if they need support. The staffs never keep the promises they made to the children that they will visit them every 2 weeks*
- *Nobody visited us*
- *Never keep the promises they made to the children that they will visit them every 2 weeks*

Did their family receive any practical assistance to allow them to return home? (e.g. money, equipment, food etc)	
Yes	No
4	2
67%	33%

The type of help provided included:

- *They help us with carpet, washing machine*
- *gas stove range, washing machine, furniture, food stuff, clothes*
- *For 4 months I received groceries*

If yes, did the availability of this assistance made a significant difference to the success of the return home?	
Yes	No
3	1
75%	25%

- *I got some material support, but I am not sure this influenced the decision of our parents to take us home*
- *It was all right. I could have school stuff clothes, food (it was a important support but not major)*
- *The family was expected that we will be helped more to be able to attend the school because the family cannot afford that. If we would not have the material support the family would be not able to keep us home*

How happy are they overall with where they live now			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
4	1	1	0
67%	17%	17%	0%

Some children are happy at home and their comments reflect this:

- *I liked home; my step mother is good to me*
- *the most I like to be home; I get used to be home but now I have to live to my brother Spain*
- *I am very happy with what I do (she work as housekeeper in the neighbourhood)*

But some are clearly not happy:

- *The father is violent and alcoholic; and he asked her all the time to work; he makes scandals; all the time they have quarrels.*
- *The girl wants to leave the house*

Is where they live now (the place, the people, any support services) is helping them to achieve their full potential?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
4	0	1	1
75%	0%	17%	17%

Some comments indicate the young people feeling they are making progress:

- *I do my homework alone when I know; if not, my older brother is helping me; I have very good result (maximum marks)*
- *I work to plant short grass, I have friends. I am happy*
- *My aunts help me (she work in the village administration); she provide me with money, clothes and some work to do*

Others suggest they feel more help is needed:

- *No because they have permanent quarrel and there is nobody to gave her good advice*
- *I would need support to pay my travel cost to go to school (it is not a expensive)*
- *The family has poor material conditions. They need support*
- *She hope that if she can pass the exam she can stay in the boarding school and there will be better*

Is where they live now (the place, the people, any support services) helping them to develop the skills they will need when they become independent?			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
4	0	2	0
75%	0%	33%	0%

Some young people feel they are either already independent or have good prospects:

- *I walk alone in the city, I am working*
- *When I will grow up I will be a police officer and I would like to live in the city*

Others are unsure

- *I do not know if I will manage my life in the future*
- *there is nobody to teach or advice her as her grandmother is not taking care of her and her father is absent and when he is there is behaving violent*

Is where they live now (the place, the people, any support services) helping them to maintain or develop the links that are important to them (family, friends, local community contacts etc)			
A great deal	Some	Little	Not at all
4	0	2	0
60%	0%	33%	0%

Some describe good social links:

He has a brother

- *I play football with my neighbours; they come to my house or I go to their house. I use to do work home (working in the garden, I clean in the animals stable) and then I go out and drive my scooter; my brother from Italy sent me one*

Others a situation where social relationships are weak or poor:

- *I do not have friend. My aunt Irina said that maybe she will employ me. I can clean; I can take care of the house. I met once 2 colleagues from the PC. But I do not use to leave my home.*
- *she is not allowed to have visitors or to go in visit; she is asking only to work*

Are there changes they would like to see made where they live now which will help them?
--

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>to be home is the best; I can play, I am free; in the PC is like in the prison: I went out only if they allowed me</i>• <i>to have better relation with the family members and DGASPC to support them in this issue; the staff from DGASPC should visit them more often</i>• <i>The windows and the room are very big and during winter is cold (house with 6 rooms from which only 2 are arranged). We stay together with my grandmother</i>• <i>It would be better if would have a house</i>• <i>No</i>• <i>I am worried</i> |
|--|

Are there things which can be learnt from their experience of moving home which might assist other children in a similar situation?
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- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>they have good results in the school and to have the possibility to choose if they want or they can stay with the family</i>• <i>to be good and to visit each other</i>• <i>I do not wish somebody to be in my situation I am grown up and understand but a younger would suffer. Nowhere is better than home</i> |
|--|

Any other comments on what has happened to you in the past, your current situation and what the future holds?
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<u>The current situation</u>

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>I like home. My stepmother is good to me. We stay in the evening together in front of the TV. It is very good. My brothers are in the FTU because they want that</i>• <i>I hope there will be no bad educators in the PC (Casa de copii). The older children were asked to take care of us. They asked us to climb up on the wardrobe and to jump down and land on their knees. If we would not listen then they wrap us in the blankets</i>• <i>It was better in the past when her father was not drinking and he was behaving well</i> |
|---|

<u>The future</u>

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>I think everything will be all right</i> |
|---|

- *I am afraid my mother will get sick and I do not know what I will do*
- *I can come and go where I like only to take care of myself. I will go to work in Italy. I will do at list the high school and when I will come back I will be guardian*
- *It doesn't look very good; she does not know what will be with her father but she is having a hope that she will go to school and she will leave from house*

Asked to choose 3 words to reflect their feelings about the future, they chose a mixture of positives and negatives.

Feelings	No (of 6) choosing the word	% (of 6) choosing the word
Depressed	2	33%
Happy	2	33%
Hopeful	2	33%
Uncertain	2	33%
Worried	2	33%
Confident	1	17%
Enthusiastic	1	17%
Fearful	1	17%
Scary	1	17%