**Local Coalition/Action Plan Carinthia/Villach**

**Intro/Introduction**

Within the framework of the AWH project in Carinthia, action is being taken at several levels to prepare young adults for the tasks of adult life, to make the transition from accommodation to self-employment more constructive and sustainable and, as a result, to minimise the number of homelessness among young adults. Therefore, a wide-ranging cooperation network is being set up, which currently consists of the following areas:

* Further assistance systems that extend beyond child and youth welfare or beyond the age of 21
* Preventive contact and counselling centres for adult help
* Support networks from the psychiatric department or from the department of people with disabilities
* City of Villach

The offers of the cooperation partners must be suitable for the Careleaver target group.

On the other hand, in accordance with the After Care Protocol developed at the University of AP, an attempt is made to take strategic measures to promote a strength-oriented attitude among social pedagogues from the field and to sensitise young adults who have grown up in institutions to their position and starting position. In addition, various research projects and scientific work are promoted by establishing contacts with careleavers and accompanying them to interviews, etc. in order to create a better theoretical and scientific basis. A better theoretical understanding can be a supportive working basis in social pedagogical everyday life.

The activities of the AWH in Carinthia/Villach are mainly located in the following areas:

* Local network Villach
* Setting of strategic measures in Carinthia/Villach

The contents, objectives and procedures of these two levels are described in more detail below.

**Local network Villach**

(Cooperation with different contact points, which can be supportive for the target group of careleavers in different starting situations)

In the last few months, contacts have been established with institutions in the following areas:

* Work and financial security

Cooperation with various institutions that can support and accompany young adults who have not completed their education or are difficult to integrate into the labour market, offering alternatives for special situations, skills and prerequisites.

Goal: Better basic provision through suitable employment opportunities and thus regular income - daily structure, the possibility to be part of society and to finance livelihoods as well as the possibility of "living".

In Villach, the following institutions are particularly involved:

* AMS Villach (raising awareness of the CL target group and its need for support)
* Autark Villach (offering various projects and support services for young adults up to 25 - has already been implemented and used by careleavers)
* Jugend am Werk Villach
* Saluto Villach -therapeutic daily structure for young adults (up to 27 years old) with psychiatric problems, also acts as a follow-up, duration up to three years - goal - within the care time to find a suitable niche in society in which the young adults can live well and find employment or work.
* Dept. for Social Welfare Villach - Raising awareness of the CL target group, so that applications for minimum security can be granted and a financial basis for survival can be secured.
* Corporate network "Show responsibility" - merger of various companies from all sectors, provision of internships and possibly apprenticeships

- Habitation

Here, too, cooperation with various institutions will be stepped up to offer forms of housing that are suitable for the target group and can provide support in the search for housing, financing and official channels.

Goal: To search for or create offers of different forms of housing or to be accompanied completely independently, matching the abilities, possibilities and wishes of the young adults as well as the support there, or to be able to maintain this in the long term.

In Villach this is especially the case:

* Youth Emergency Sleep Centre or Project *Housing first* - Youth Emergency Sleep Centre accommodates youths and young adults up to 21 years of age for a total of three months per year. Regular networking takes place - within the framework of the AWH project the AWH tries to support the young adults in getting better support possibilities, which make it easier to release them into their own flat after their stay in the JUNO - currently project Housing first, which makes it possible to accompany the young adults into their own flat and also to support them there (currently financed by donations, wish is to submit this via a concept and get it approved).
* Autark Wohnverbund Villach - various forms of housing for people with support needs, e.g. also for young adults with reduced intelligence, integration into the specialist area of people with disabilities, offering various levels of support services and independence.
* City of Villach - Wohnungsvergabeamt - Cooperation in order to be able to make specific housing applications
* BAWO - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Wohnungslosenhilfe - Cooperation with the working group (e.g. symposium Villach 2018).
* JUSE Spittal - this contact point is not within the pilot region Villach, but offers support services in different areas of life for young adults up to 25 (e.g. housing search, official ways, job search etc.). The service is financed by the city of Spittal and has been in existence for about eight years - possibly this can also be stimulated in cooperation with the city of Villach and the youth councils.

- Health

In this area, preventive counselling centres on the one hand, but also help systems for active support in different life situations on the other are addressed.

Aim: Sufficient preventive and active support services to be able to positively accompany health restrictions, psychological stress reactions or addictions.

In Villach, the following contact points and working groups have been and are currently being worked with:

* "Network Prevention" - working group with about 20-25 involved parties from the health service of the region Villach, invitation of representatives of the AWH project has taken place, the project and the contents can be presented, possible cooperation partnerships which could develop from it are still open.
* "Round Table" AVS - with representatives of institutions from the child and youth welfare sector - also here it is possible to present the AWH project in the working group, to raise awareness and to develop cooperation partnerships.
* Early help AVS - Preventive and active support services for mothers seeking help (e.g. dealing with the new life situation, bonding with the infant or mother-child relationship, cooperation with the Youth Welfare Office to organise further support measures if necessary).
* Addiction counselling Diakonie de la Tour - help in the area of alcohol addiction, gambling addiction etc., offer of free counselling units as well as group therapies or preventive talks.
* AVS PPD - free psychotherapy in Villach.

- Education

Cooperation with projects, institutions or offers in the field of education that can support young adults in ensuring access to a wide range of educational measures.

Objective: In this area, the aim is to compensate to some extent for the disadvantages in terms of educational opportunities for careleavers through cooperation with targeted support programmes. Access to education and further training should be facilitated and the barrier to graduating from high school or university should be minimised.

In the pilot region Villach, the following institutions are particularly involved:

* Alpe Adria University Klagenfurt - Mentoring project for first generation students, also suitable for the target group of careleavers. Support will be provided by volunteers at the beginning of their studies, emotional support will be offered and also help with all important applications, planning and coordination of all other necessary steps.
* Wifi-Villach - a wide range of continuing education programmes that can create additional skills.
* Alumni Academy SOS Children's Village - still in the planning stage

**Strategic measures**

According to Guideline 6, Aftercareprotocol of the University of AP

As already mentioned in the introduction, in addition to the cooperation network, various strategic measures are taken, guided and supported at various levels to ensure better aftercare in the long term. The following steps and areas are currently in focus in the Villach pilot region, and the following measures have already been implemented and applied:

* Support of research and creation of scientific basis for the target group Careleaver and all related topics. Through the AWH project, research can be supported in such a way that educational institutions are given access to careleavers, meetings are organised and coordinated, young adults are brought there and supported. In addition, social pedagogues from grassroots work with young adults at the transition are mobilized, who can also make their knowledge and experience available.

Aim: To be able to better train future social workers and social pedagogues in this special field, to be able to draw attention to the life situations of the target group and thus also to be able to create scientific foundations for the positive and sustainable design of transitions.

Therefor, the following steps were taken in Carinthia/Villach:

Cooperation in research projects, seminar papers and master theses with the following educational institutions:

* Alpen Adria University Klagenfurt - in particular with Dr. Stephan Sting, who has already completed a research study on the educational opportunities of careleavers and is now planning or carrying out a study on careleavers and the family.
* Fachhochschule für Soziale Arbeit Feldkirchen - Evaluation of the supervised outdoor living in Carinthia (supervisors and residents)
* Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz - Support of the master thesis on the topic "Leap into the lack of support - when a return to youth welfare is no longer possible! The design of the transition process and the aftercare of Careleaver".

- Development of quality standards

Aim: Participatory process of grassroots social pedagogues and careleavers in order to be able to harmonise quality standards throughout Austria.

* Cooperation with FICE - support in a cross-organisational process of developing quality standards for socio-educational housing groups - coordinated by FICE Austria. In December a meeting took place with Careleaver, Social Pedagogues and Mrs. Lengauer from FICE, where important points were discussed, reflected and evaluated. The meeting was planned, coordinated and organised within the framework of the AWH.

- Wishes to politics

To change or adapt the legal framework for young adults in youth welfare or at transition and beyond.

The following wishes have been formulated by Careleavers and have already been expressed to decision-makers:

**"For our development we need:**

* More time - youth welfare until at least 24
* Less pressure - youth welfare not tied to training
* More support - the possibility of a second chance in education or to complete a school-leaving examination or a course of study
* More leeway - it must be possible to return to youth welfare after 18 years of age
* A fixed point of contact for the institutions concerned that is - unbureaucratic, free of charge and accessible to all careleavers at all times up to a ripe old age.
* More "family" - aftercare at the beginning of self-employment
* More support for our performance - lifelong free access to psychotherapy for careleavers

"WE BELONG TO SOCIETY AND WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SHAPING IT! WE HAVE SPENT OUR CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH IN SYSTEMS. THESE SYSTEMS WE USE AS ACCESSIVE AS A YOUNG GROWTH AND GROWTH THAT SYSTEMS ARE AND SHOULD NEVER BE OUR FAMILY RATE" (contents taken from original)

These points will also be represented by the AWH project and will be displayed on appropriate occasions.

- Development of network for Supported Volunteering and Mentoring

Working group on the subject of voluntary work and mentoring - a network for supported voluntary work and mentoring is to be set up in Carinthia for the target group of careleavers. This point is also included in the Aftercare Protocol of the University of AP.

Objective: The Aftercare Protocol states that there are many positive outcomes in terms of mentoring or volunteering - such as improving social skills, increasing trust and well-being in relationships, less stress and more satisfaction in life. It can also create a stable component during and after the transition that can be a resource even after the end of support.

Procedure in Carinthia:

Working group to develop and define content, duration, target group and necessary framework conditions as well as support services, etc. Together with the children's and youth advocate's office, "Klagenfurt wants to help", "Show responsibility", Diakonie de la Tour (within the framework of the AWH), Caritas Carinthia, representatives from already existing voluntary activities such as tutoring. The first meeting took place in April 2019, others are planned for 2019.

- Promotion of early-stage aftercare

According to the aftercare protocol of the University of AP, functioning aftercare has to start very early, which is why we try to cooperate with WG´s and institutions in the Villach area that not only look after young people shortly before the transition, but also younger children. In the supervised outdoor living or in the final phase of preparation for the transition, there is often very little time to prepare them sufficiently for the transition and to be able to adequately accompany current learning fields at the same time. It is therefore very important to know the guidelines in the aftercare protocol very early on and to be able to take them into account in the supervision. Examples for possible steps in early support were written down and presented and discussed in team meetings.

Goal: Adaptation or creation of a very early aftercare by considering the guidelines of the aftercare protocol of the University of AP, as well as the early promotion of the factors/life areas according to the power model of Rapp & Goscha (Driessens), already in residential groups with younger children and adolescents. The focus here is on a strength-oriented approach according to the AWH model, which offers and promotes different (optional) options, adaptation of group rules (which rules serve the development of the child and which serve the system?) and early promotion of social contacts outside the institution. The process and is very individual, depending on the status quo and the wishes of the group.

Procedure in the pilot region Villach:

Discussion and presentation of the contents with social pedagogues from the grassroots in joint team meetings. Appointments were arranged on request. The next step will be a joint meeting with children from the group (possibly also Careleaver present for a direct exchange of information).

- Creation of Careleaver aftercare centres in Carinthia

Careleavers want "a fixed point of contact for the institutions concerned that is accessible - unbureaucratically, free of charge and for all careleavers at all times up to a ripe old age".

Objective: To set up a follow-up care centre especially for careleavers. Offering individual case help if needed, group workshops on important topics, comprehensive activities with careleavers and future careleavers. The counselling centre should also already work together with the assisted external residents. In this way, a relationship can be established in advance so that the hurdle to visiting the counselling centre if necessary is no longer too great.

In cooperation with various institutions, a concept for an after-care centre is to be developed and submitted in 2019. The centre will not be financed by donations, but will be an integral part of the child and youth welfare service.

- Workshop on cultural diversity

Following Guideline 1 - Consideration of Ethnicity, a workshop on cultural diversity will be organised in Carinthia.

Objective: To create positive role models for young adults with a migration background. Provide a platform for exchange among "like-minded people" to reflect together on problems and opportunities. Ingration of origin and support in the formation of ethnic identity.

Guided by adult people with a migration background, offered to young adults of ethnic origin who belong to the minority in Carinthia. This is to be organised jointly by various child and youth welfare institutions (Pro Mente, Diakonie de la Tour, B3).

- Cooperation with Careleavers and offering support services for Careleavers within the framework of the AWH project.

In addition to strategic work, the AWH also supports careleavers and organises group meetings.

Goal: Identification of current topics and necessary forms of support. Possibility to evaluate, adapt or expand the cooperation network. At the same time the support of the Careleaver in research projects etc. - they are always available e.g. for interviews for research or public relations if they are accompanied.

If the young adults actively ask for support, this is guaranteed within the framework of the AWH. It is mainly short-term, smaller interventions that can avert larger problems. Often the contact to other help systems is established.

In addition, group meetings are offered two to three times a year in which different topics can be worked on (e.g. in December together with the FICE, development of quality standards).

The listed points can be extended, changed or adapted at any time. The results and findings from the ongoing process are decisive for the initiation and planning of the necessary steps.

The current status of the approach has resulted on the one hand from the active support of careleavers - through their feedback and also through their need for support, certain areas have been included in the action plan. On the other hand, the consideration of the guidelines from the aftercare protocol of the University of AP, as well as the promotion of the factors from the power model according to Rapp and Goscha or Driessens have also played an important role in the planning of the activities in the pilot region Villach.