

Young Health Programme in Sweden

In Sweden there has been a decline in mental health in young people. Despite this, it remains an under-funded and under-researched area. Whilst there is a lot of information available on how the teenage brain functions, the challenge is to spread this knowledge into communities, to enable young people and those who support them, including their families and schools, to understand mental health development, mental health conditions and solutions to mental health issues.

The Swedish Young Health Programme is focused on improving mental health and emotional well-being among young people through partnership with non-profit organisations.



AstraZeneca 

Young Health Programme

A global community investment initiative

in partnership with

M Mentor

/Volontärbyrån/

BRIS

BARNENS RÄTT I SAMHÄLLET



What do we want to achieve through the Programme?

- Through communication, raise awareness around mental health amongst young people, their parents and professionals that work with them
- Provide direct support through volunteering
- Be part of the dialogue on mental health within society

What activities are taking place locally?

- Developing a film about the teenage brain which is being distributed to schools and can be downloaded from a website by teachers and parents
- Enabling AstraZeneca employees to engage in voluntary work to help non-profit organisations targeting young people
- Collaborating with different non-profit organisations focused on young mental health

What has been achieved so far?

'Teenage Brain' film: The film series is based on the following themes; the sleeping brain, the social brain, the passionate and sensitive brain, the rewarding brain and the learning brain.

The parents of teenagers and teachers are the primary audience but it is also targeted at the teenagers themselves. Support materials are also available for schools to help with questions that teenagers may have after watching the films. More than 7000 copies of the film have been distributed to local partner schools.

Volunteering: This year there will be 6-8 group volunteer assignments in addition to individual assignments. The total number of volunteers to date is 267 employees representing over 5% of the workforce in Sweden.

Follow this link to see the English version of the Teenage brain:

<http://vimeo.com/groups/mindyourteens/sort:alphabetical/format:detail>

Listening to adolescents: 'See the whole of me!' :This study was a three year collaboration between the NGO BRIS, and AstraZeneca's Young Health Programme in Sweden. It was a qualitative study involving 1,530 anonymous participants communicating via email and social media. The purpose of the study was to understand the problems of mental illness from the perspective of children: what they themselves have to say about mental illness, its causes, the symptoms, how they seek help and what they felt would best help them. It also looked at aspects such as gender differences. The report was published and circulated to professionals working with children and teenagers, as well as presented in various lectures and seminars. It was also accompanied by a series of short films based on the youth sound bites from the study.

Local Partners

Mentor

Mentor Sweden is a non-profit organisation whose purpose is to prevent violence and drug use among adolescents. The organisation not only gives young people an adult mentor for a year, but also works with schools, helping to inspire and motivate students. Mentor Sweden co-operates with the international organisation, Mentor Foundation, which has offices in seven countries.

Volontärbyrån

- The Swedish Volunteer Bureau

The Volunteer Bureau is a non-profit organisation that connects business and private individuals with organisations that need help. The Volunteer Bureau started in 2002 and provides training and expertise in volunteer management to the voluntary sector.

BRIS

BRIS is a non-profit organisation founded in 1971 working for the rights of young people, supporting them in distress and providing a link between youths, adults and the community. The goal of BRIS' support services, such as the Children Helpline, is to strengthen the rights of children and young people and improve their living conditions, which is done with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as a guide.