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Lessons Learned from Bulgaria's Journey through child care reform





Good policy framework but issues with implementation – quality, best interests, etc.

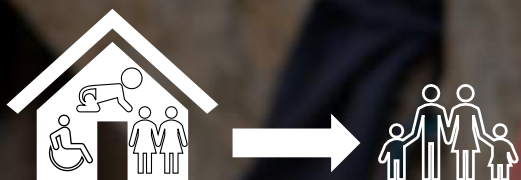


Significant shift of resources needed towards preventive services



Care reform not part of child protection system strengthening

Challenges



Deinstitutionalization



Major drivers, such as access to education, health, housing not addressed



Data Gaps | Out of Sight | Weak oversight mechanism | Vulnerable groups of children

Key lessons learned

- Investing in children but also parenting and family support.
- Addressing drivers and creating an enabling environment – accessible and affordable universal and ECEC services, housing, income strengthening, social norms, etc.
- Principles of best interests, necessity and suitability - not fully understood and applied – > support development of clear guidance/SOPs and effective oversight.
- Building a respected, competent and professional workforce requires a systemic approach.
- Need for a wider child protection concept focused on child rights, prevention and integration with other sectors and services.

