

Family policies and child welfare in the Nordic countries  
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Services for youngsters with ADHD and related disorders: Status and policy  
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### **Abstract**

The presentation concerns diagnosis and treatment for children aged about 5-18 who have symptoms of ADHD or related disorders. Clinical guidelines for diagnosis and management of ADHD are discussed in connection with the present situation in Iceland regarding these issues. Clinical guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of ADHD were first issued in Iceland by the Directorate of health in 2007 and revised in 2012. Last June a short revised version closely based on the British NICE guidelines was issued. The Centre for Child Development and Behaviour offers an extensive service for children with ADHD. It consists of multidisciplinary assessment, different parent training programmes, individual and group treatment for children as well as follow-up to schools and other local services. The service is in 2.-3. tier and is on a national level. In recent years referrals have grown steadily in number at the same time as staffing has remained the same. Because of this waitlists have increased each year and waiting time is far too long. In 2011 the UN Committee on the rights of the child remarked that there was not enough access to diagnostic services and that waitlists were too long. Since then the situation has worsened and it is vital to take action now. A realistic plan for implementation with clear aims is necessary where the size of the group that needs service is taken into account, as well as the UN recommendations, evidence based clinical guidelines.