

# Challenges for Group Homes in Sweden: Frontline Practice Leadership and Ethical Dilemmas

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**Introduction** The disability services sector constitutes one of the largest occupational sectors in Sweden, with more than 100,000 employees and about 73,000 people receiving support according to LSS. LSS is an entitlement law that offers supplementary support for persons with significant and long-term functional disabilities. To maintain quality in the disability services, the competence of the employees is paramount. The National Board of Health and Welfare emphasises the importance of leadership and identifies managers who work closely with disability services as an essential factor for good quality.

**Aim** Frontline Practice Leadership (FLPL) has been developed by the Living with Disability Research Centre at La Trobe University, Australia. The aim for our project has been to study the implementation of FLPL in a disability services sector in Sweden. The goal with FLPL is to enhance Quality of Life for service users.

**Method** During Autumn 2022 the FLPL model has been implemented in a disability services sector in Sweden. Various empirical collections have been made, such as individual interviews, focus group interviews, observations, and surveys.

**What our study indicates** (1) Implementation of FLPL can strengthen the role of managers who work closely with disability services. (2) FLPL can resolve some of the ethical dilemmas at the disability services sector. (3) FLPL can contribute to create opportunities for residents to be more active and participate in society.

**Discussion** To ensure long-term sustainable quality, well-functioning connections between management and practitioners are required in disability services. These organisations also need a clear distribution of responsibilities, not least when it comes to who are responsible to lead the work close to the service users. A professional role that is dedicated to leading the work, that is, an employee who can convey knowledge about various disabilities, regulations, and pedagogical methods, is central. FLPL can be an important part in this work.

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