Using technology to create communities of support

5th International Carers Conference,
Royal Armouries, Leeds, UK
8th-11th July 2010

Elizabeth Hanson, Lennart Magnusson
Swedish National Family Care Competence Centre, Sweden

Swedish National
Family Care
Competence Centre

Bridging psychological distances through technologies

Inclusive design

Group education

Ongoing support

Bridging geographical distances

- Home education
- Facilitating informal support networks
- Lobbying for 100 % broadband coverage

Challenges regarding technical infrastructure

Malå municipality

- 3 300 citizens
- 23,5% 65+
- 6,8% 80+
- 1 600 km2

No broadband access outside the five villages

Challenges in using new technologies

- Organisational complexity
- Staff attitudes
- Creating a critical mass of users
- Policy

Is it worth investing in?

- Is it effective?
- Is it cost effective?
- Our research findings reveal that it:
  - helps to increase everyday quality of life of family carers
  - reduces the care costs for the municipalities.
- Several small-scale studies since this:
  - all reveal impact on quality of life for carer but cost effects are equivocable.
- This reflects the 'state of the art' in the field.
- Everyone in the field is working on this issue of evidence – creating suitable studies and outcome measures.

Thank you!

Contact details:

Elizabeth Hanson

- e-mail: elizabeth.hanson@anhoriga.se
- telephone: +46(0)480418022

Lennart Magnusson

- e-mail: lennart.magnusson@anhoriga.se
- telephone: +46(0)480418021

www.anhoriga.se

Swedish National
Family Care
Competence Centre