

Social services are an important part of the system of social assistance. The object of social services is to help citizens in unfavourable social situations regarding their health, age, handicap or other serious grounds, if they can not solve their situation themselves. The services aim to maintain the highest possible quality and dignity for their clients. Social services provide meals, accommodation, assistance with bridging unfavourable social situations, care for people with a limited ability in the area of personal and home care, assistance with bringing up a children and also social counselling.

The providing of social services was regulated by the social services act number 108/2006 Sb. This act shows actual trends that are similar in the whole Europe and brings a new approach to social services. Organization and control over this area of work belongs to the ministry of labour and social affairs in cooperation with regions and municipalities.

This thesis focuses on the position of providers of social services after the adoption of the above social services act. The social services can be provided by for example organizations created by regional or local authorities, organisations such as citizen association, churches and citizens.

The social services act put emphasis on the quality of social services and on the individual rights of users. It leads to a new view of the social service user as a partner to the providers, so that providing of services is based on agreement between user and provider and with accordance with individual targets of user. Providing of social services shall be in accordance with the quality standards, that are contained in the implementing decree of the social services act.

The act also brings the necessity of registration for providers of services. It is important for the control over social service providers and gives equality among them as well as the same access to finance.

The system of financing social services assumes funding from more resources, mainly payments from users and the subsidies from public budgets. According to the social services act the users receive the benefit of care which they then pass on to their chosen provider of social services.

Although the social services act is a step forward, it contains quite a lot of shortcomings which are expressed in this thesis.

Common problem are complicated control over compliance quality standards in centres of social services, and also control over the use of benefit of care by of social services clients.

The problem for providers is that every year there is a need to request a grant from state budgets.