

SUMMARY

This book describes the change in services for homeless people since the 19th century and the developments in first aid shelters during a two year project conducted in the Helsinki metropolitan area between 2007 and 2008. The project was an extension of another project entitled “Development Centre for Services of Homeless People” conducted between 2006 and 2008.

The writers of the book have worked in both projects: project manager Sanna Sunikka, developing social worker Elisabet Erkkilä, doctor Agnes Stenius-Ayoade, senior social instructor Johanna Pitkälä, director Tuulia Hokkanen, practical nurse, social instructor Katri Joutsalainen, practical nurse Karro Katavisto, nurse Tarja Korpela, social instructor Kaisa Kuuva, social instructor Anna-Liisa Raamat, social instructor Hannu Suvanto, senior social instructor Marja-Liisa Tikka and project worker Kaijus Varjonen.

The first article describes, in short, the development in services for homeless people and societal tendencies, since the beginning of the 19th century. In the following four articles the writers describe the history and function of first aid shelters (Herttoniemi and Pääskylänrinne in Helsinki, Koisonranta in Vantaa and Olarinluoma in Espoo) and look at the visions for the future. These are followed by two articles on the development work done in these first aid shelters. At the end of the book there is an article reviewing the past years and discussing the future of the services for the homeless.

The authors describe every day practices and development work, with practical examples, throwing light on the client’s point of view. A common thread throughout the book is the emphasis on the development of practices, encouraging of clients to active working culture as well as focusing on unique relationship between the homeless person and the worker.

Homelessness, services for the homeless, first aid shelters for homeless people