

Project for Youth Social Inclusion

Summary

Statistics show that young people's well-being has become polarised: some are doing well, while others are unwell and at risk of exclusion. Although a great deal of work has gone into preventing social exclusion, the problem has not been solved. Social exclusion is often the result of accumulated setbacks and poor prospects. The young person's risks end up growing into a vicious tangle, making it difficult to determine the underlying cause. As such, it is extremely important for children and young people to have factors that protect against social exclusion in their lives.

Well-being should be supported even before problems arise, and any signals that appear during childhood should be reacted to before the onset of severe symptoms. When it comes to preventing social exclusion, it is important that measures are precisely targeted, correctly timed and aimed at strengthening the operating conditions of factors and growth environments that support and protect well-being. The aim of the programme is to shift the focus of efforts to prevent social exclusion towards proactive prevention.

The programme aims at creating systematic change, which will result in the reduction of the social exclusion of children and young people, the inheritance of cross-generational social exclusion and regional divisions in Helsinki. Based on existing research, information received from the authorities and experiences collected from young people, the following have been prioritised as the root causes of social exclusion: loneliness and feelings of being an outsider, unsafe childhood, not continuing studies past basic education and childhood poverty. These root causes were used to define objectives, which form four sets of measures.

The programme's measures are targeted at areas in which factors that predict disadvantage have been determined to accumulate. The area selection also enables the piloting of new measures and more precise assessment of their impact. The key operating areas prioritised in the programme are Mellunmäki, Kontula, Meri-Rastila, Malmi, Kannelmäki and Malminkartano.



Set of measures 1

Every child and young person has **social relationships** and a sense of belonging.

(10 measures)



Set of measures 2

Every child and young person has at least **one safe adult**.

(9 measures)



Set of measures 3

Every young person is guaranteed an **education beyond basic education**.

(6 measures)



Set of measures 4

Childhood poverty shall not define one's future and prospects to an excessive degree.

(7 measures)