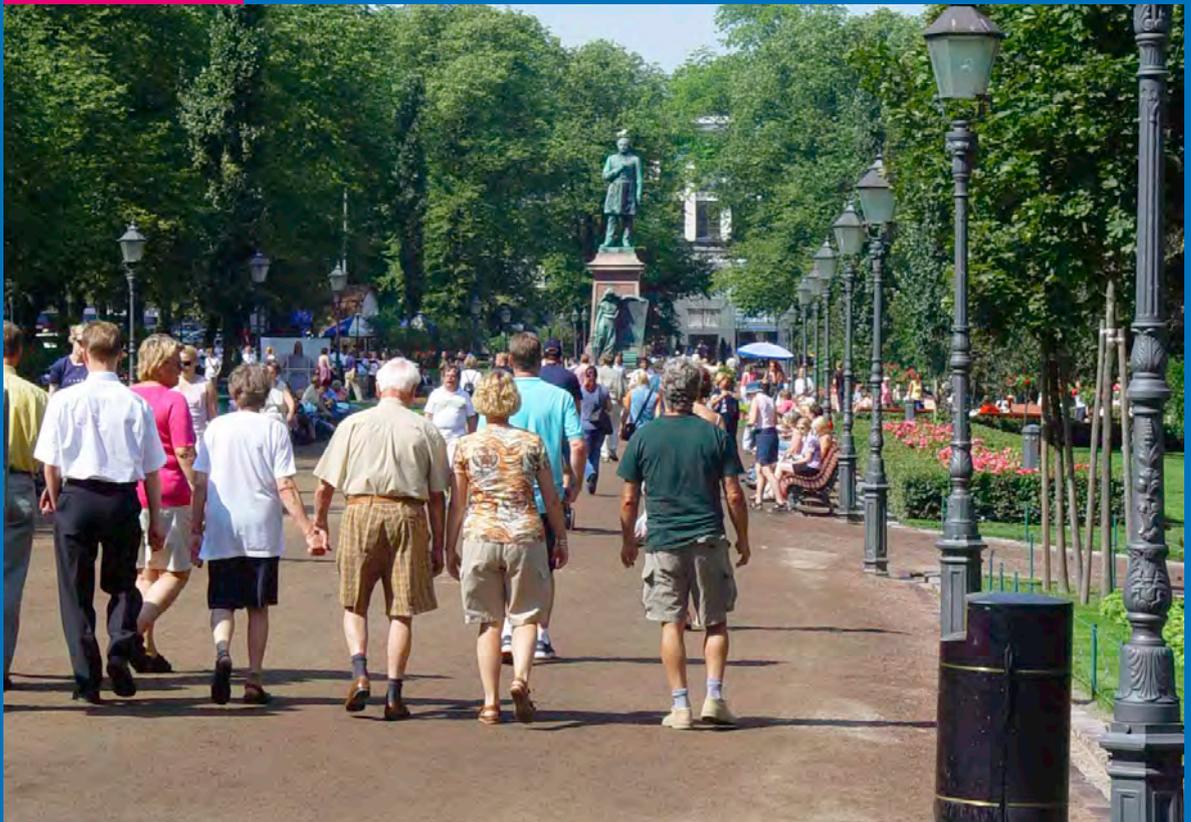


City of Helsinki

# The City of Helsinki Safety plan



summary

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## Safety plan

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# Safe Helsinki

Safety is one of the core values of the City of Helsinki, alongside resident orientation, ecological approach, fairness and equality, economy and enterprise-friendliness. A safe and enjoyable living environment and city centre are important both to the residents and to visitors to the city.

An essential tool of the safety work undertaken in the City of Helsinki is a safety plan on the city level. The aim of local safety planning is to prevent and stave off accidents, injuries, crime and disturbances and to improve people's feeling of safety. The plan, published in 2015, is the fourth safety plan of the City of Helsinki. The previous safety plan was drawn up for the years 2011–2014. The safety plan highlights things that affect the residents' experiences of safety, elaborates on what the city, the police and other actors do to improve things and presents the priority projects for working on the residents' safety and experiences of safety.



# Target areas

The target areas of the safety plan have been selected on the basis of the results from the citizen and network hearings arranged at the end of 2014. The target areas are closely linked to factors that have been commonly distinguished to contribute to feelings of insecurity among people.

## Health and well-being

Functioning basic services as well as prevention of marginalisation and poverty increase everyday safety and well-being and promote social cohesion. In the promotion of well-being and health, the responsibility is shared between all the departments of the City. The perspective of well-being and health must be considered in all decision-making within the City of Helsinki.

## Traffic safety

Traffic safety comprises the means of public transportation, cars, bicycles and the pedestrians of the city. Traffic safety questions are governed through a traffic safety development programme, drafted by the City Planning Department. The programme offers an examination of the entire transport and traffic entity on a city level as well as the guidelines for the traffic safety work of years to come. The main responsibility for public transportation safety lies with the Helsinki Region Transport joint local authority.

## Children and young people

The prevention of marginalisation and the promotion of health and well-being among children and young people are also a top priority from a safety point of view. The City of Helsinki Youth Department produces diverse culture and leisure time services in cooperation with the youth. The safety and preparedness of schools has been an area of improvement and in both youth work and school operation, measures have been taken to improve participatory practices for youth.

## Crime

It has been established that there is a strong link between crime and factors that diminish the well-being of people. Especially the prevention of marginalisation is an important part of crime prevention. Preventing and investigating crime and the consideration of charges are part of the basic tasks of the police. The police works to maintain safety in cooperation with other authorities, active communities and residents of the area.

## Surveillance, visibility and prevention

Traditionally, residents especially perceive increased visibility of police squads, improved guarding at public transport stations and use of guards in public transport vehicles as measures that increase the sense of safety and comfort. Trust in others is also a factor which creates safety.

The Helsinki Police Department is responsible for maintaining order and safety in the city. The basic premise for police operations is prevention. At the Helsinki Police Department, there is a separate preventive unit, whose task is to offer multi-professional intervention, prevent violent extremism as well as solve such phenomena and problems that endanger the safety of the residents. The work is done in cooperation with other authorities and citizens.

The City of Helsinki Rescue Department is responsible for the surveillance and control tasks in fire prevention, fire and rescue operations, medicinal rescue operations, i.e. first aid and emergency patient transport in the Helsinki area.

There are also a number of private security companies working alongside the traditional security and patrolling forces.



# Immigrants

More than a quarter of all the foreign-language speakers (27 %) in Finland live in Helsinki. It has been estimated that Finland needs 34,000 net immigrants annually to prevent the workforce from decreasing.

The prejudices against people who have moved to Finland from other countries can cause feelings of insecurity among native Finns. On the other hand, people who belong to different ethnic groups are also experiencing feelings of insecurity.

The Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration (30.12.2010/1386) requires that the municipality has a valid integration programme for immigrants. The City of Helsinki integration programme consists of the strategy programme approved by the City Council, the programme of measures approved by the City Board and the follow-up reports for economy and operations. The most important factors in the integration of immigrants are language, education and work.

# Comfort

Good street lighting and cleanliness are often perceived as factors that increase comfort. A comfortable and safe urban space is created on different levels in the city, both through city planning and land use as well as practical lighting, cleanliness and maintenance measures. Characteristics of the built environment influence the occurrence of accidents and injuries, crime and feelings of insecurity.

Differentiation within the city can weaken the sense of safety, especially if the differentiation leads to inequality between areas. The basis for the city housing policy has for a long time been about maintaining and promoting a model with a mixed structure of different forms of occupancy and financing. The goal is a socially mixed residential structure both in new and old housing areas.



# Monitoring the safety situation

The multiple meanings and definitions of safety poses challenges for monitoring the safety situation. Safety and insecurity are very subjective experiences. Even though the safety situation can be monitored using, for example, crime statistics, this does not necessarily convey how people experience the safety situation.

Systematic information on feelings of insecurity can be obtained only through enquiries. The safety experienced by residents in Helsinki is examined through safety studies conducted every third year. The latest study will be completed in 2016.

# Priority projects

## Safety indicators

Monitoring of the safety situation can be conducted using existing safety indicators. The challenge when constructing an overview of the real safety situation through the use of statistics is that they only describe a partial reality.

The Safety and Preparedness Unit and the City of Helsinki Urban Facts have discussed safety-themed monitoring methods and the development of these methods. Urban Facts produces a lot of information concerning the well-being and comfort of the residents, which could be utilised more effectively in the safety monitoring.

The Safety and Preparedness Unit works to establish ways in which the indicators for the monitoring of the safety situation can be developed.

**Areas of responsibility:** all target areas

**Authorities responsible:** City Executive Office, Urban Facts

## Shopping centres as a part of the city

“Shopping centres as a part of the city” is a multi-actor discussion forum on the city level, the aim of which is to ensure regular contacts between the departments of the city (for example, the



Rescue Department, Department of Social Services and Health Care, the City Planning Department and the Public Works Department), the police, the Regional State Administrative Agency's licensing authority, the Helsinki Neighbourhoods Association Helka ry, the representatives of the residents and shopping centre entrepreneurs. The discussion forums have started in the autumn of 2015.

**Areas of responsibility:** health and well-being, crime

**Authorities responsible:** City Executive Office, Helsinki Region Chamber of Commerce

## Pakka operations model

"Pakka" is a Finnish operations model for local substance-related harm prevention, where the emphasis is put on affecting the availability of alcohol, tobacco and gambling games. In Helsinki, the utilisation of the Pakka operations model started in 2014, to promote the roll-out of the City of Helsinki's programme of measures for responsible drinking. It has been decided that the model will initially be tested in a pilot project in one neighbourhood, Pohjois-Haaga.

**Areas of responsibility:** health and well-being

**Authorities responsible:** Department of Social Services and Health Care, Youth Department, City Executive Office

## Municipal participation in the automatic traffic surveillance

A way of improving the traffic safety that was written into the City of Helsinki traffic safety plan 2011–2014, a predecessor of this safety plan, is that Helsinki actively promotes the participation of municipalities in the traffic surveillance in their own areas. The project has not advanced during the last few years, however, Helsinki still sees the promotion of the project as an important question and continues to discuss it with the relevant ministries.

**Areas of responsibility:** traffic safety

**Authorities responsible:** City Planning Department, City Executive Office, Public Works Department

## Self-monitoring of security in residential buildings

The City of Helsinki Rescue Department has implemented self-monitoring of security in residential buildings since 2014. The aim of the self-monitoring is to reach the residential buildings more comprehensively, to increase the security awareness of the residents and to help residents observe risks and security deficiencies and fix them. The goal of the self-monitoring is to reach every residential building in Helsinki in 10 years. The property's attention is turned towards self-monitoring and security communications, rescue planning and structural and technological fire safety.

**Areas of responsibility:** surveillance, visibility and prevention

**Authorities responsible:** Rescue Department

## Yli Hyvä Juttu operations model

“Yli Hyvä Juttu” is an operations model, where Youth Department workers and social services actively offer contract fire brigade activities to 7–17-year-old children and youth in need of special support. The idea is to prevent marginalisation among children and youth by offering them a fun and affordable hobby. The junior fire fighter activities offers children and young people who run the risk of becoming marginalised an affordable hobby that teaches fire fighter skills but also many common skills, such as first aid and first-aid extinguishing. In Helsinki, the roll-out of the operations model started in December 2014.

The recognition of the model is furthered among the workers at the Department of Social Services and Health Care and the Youth Department.

**Areas of responsibility:** children and young people

**Authorities responsible:** Department of Social Services and Health Care, Youth Department (guidance of young people)

## Mediation in criminal cases involving young people

Mediation has been considered a good method to decrease recidivism especially among young offenders. Here, the City plays an important part as the complainant. A city-level policy concerning

mediation in criminal cases involving minors, where the city is the complainant, is being drafted at the Safety and Preparedness Unit of the City Executive Office on request of the General Counsel and the Chairman of HKL. The policy outlines that all criminal cases involving minors, where the city is the complainant, will be referred to mediation.

**Areas of responsibility:** children and young people, crime

**Authorities responsible:** drafting of policy: City Executive Office, implementation: all city departments

## Being Muslim Being Finnish Programme

IC thinking® is an intervention method, which has been developed at the University of Cambridge in England. The method is used to support people in broadening their views and looking at things from different perspectives, without having to lose their own identity and values. The method has been utilised in the development of the Being Muslim Being British (BMBB) programme, which will in turn work as an example in the development of a programme for Finnish circumstances and needs. At the preliminary stage the programme is being called Being Muslim Being Finnish (BMBF). The goal of the BMBF programme is to offer directed group work at youth clubs and in schools for young people from different ethnic backgrounds, to help strengthen their personal and religious identity as well as create dialogue and promote understanding between youth from different cultural backgrounds.

**Areas of responsibility:** children and young people, immigrants

**Authorities responsible:** City Executive Office, Youth Department, Education Department, Helsinki Police Department

## Different neighbour operations model

The Finnish Blue Ribbon Foundation runs a housing unit on Ruusu-lankatu in Töölö for long-term homeless youth. As part of the environment work, the foundation has implemented the "Eriäinen naapuri" (Different Neighbour) project for all 360 pupils of the Töölö comprehensive school on request of their parents. Since substance abusers and people suffering from mental problems are known to cause feelings of insecurity and prejudices in the residents of different areas, there is a demand for the "Different Neighbour" operations model in other parts of Helsinki as well. The possibilities of extending the use of the operation model to other comprehensive schools is being explored.

**Areas of responsibility:** health and well-being, children and young people

**Authorities responsible:** Education Department, The Finnish Blue Ribbon Foundation

## Cooperation between metropolitan area municipalities in the prevention of radicalisation

A multi-agency cooperation network for the prevention of violent extremism has been operational in Helsinki since 2013. A need to intensify the cooperation with other municipalities of the metropolitan area has been identified in the work of the network. The phenomenon appears to focus on the metropolitan area both on a personal level and in terms of incidents. People are also actively moving across municipal borders in the metropolitan area.

To improve information exchange, the integration of operations models and cooperation, it has been proposed that a cooperation network for the prevention of violent extremism should be established between the municipalities of the metropolitan area.

**Areas of responsibility:** health and well-being, children and young people, crime

**Authorities responsible:** City Executive Office and the Helsinki Police Department

## Low-threshold activity centre to western Helsinki

Currently, low-threshold activity centres have been focused mainly to eastern Helsinki. There is an acute demand for such operations especially in western Helsinki. As a result of the process that was initiated in the beginning of 2015, the Helsinki Deaconess Institute, the A-Clinic Foundation and Vailla vakinaista asuntoa ry have together participated in RAY's 2015 spring application period to apply for funding for the founding of a low-threshold activity centre in Kannelmäki. Besides the activity centre model, the aim is to expand the participation within the community. Many local actors and future clients of the centre have participated in the planning of the project. The City of Helsinki participates in the project by bringing its social welfare and health care services to the centre by developing its outreach work.

**Areas of responsibility:** health and well-being

**Authorities responsible:** Helsinki Deaconess Institute, A-Clinic Foundation, VVA ry

## Coordination of domestic and leisure time accident work

At the executive group meeting on 23 March 2011, the Mayor appointed an accident prevention group for the term 2011–2014. The prevention of domestic and leisure time accidents belongs to all City departments and requires interdepartmental cooperation. In its proposals for action, the accident working group noted that, to ensure that the prevention work is efficient and systematic, Helsinki ought to make a decision on how city level coordination is done and whose responsibility it is. Sufficient personnel and operational resources should also be allocated for the work. It was suggested that the responsible department is either the Department of Social Services and Health Care or the City Executive Office, or if the accident coordination would be spread over several departments, the City Executive Office, the Department of Social Services and Health Care, the Public Works Department and the Rescue Department.



**Areas of responsibility:** health and well-being

**Authorities responsible:** The City Executive Office defines

## Social street work

A considerable demand for visible social street work has been observed in different parts of Helsinki. The demand for street work has stood out especially from the perspective of everyday safety. Street work can be utilised to reduce residents' feelings of insecurity through increased visibility and presence of authorities. Through increased and strengthened social street work, it is also possible to help people with problems finding services to seek out the services they need, such as social- and health care services. Social street work also helps form a more accurate and realistic picture of the situation in different neighbourhoods of the city.

The Safety and Preparedness Unit of the City of Helsinki and the Helsinki Police Department have prepared a project for social street work. The initial plan was to apply for financing from the Internal Security Fund during the autumn of 2015. However, the target areas of the fund did not support these kinds of operations to the required extent. Thus, other financing opportunities are currently being explored.

**Areas of responsibility:** health and well-being, crime, children and young people, immigrants, visibility and prevention

**Authorities responsible:** The City of Helsinki and the Helsinki Police Department

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