Use of the Housing First model in tackling Homelessness in Finland

A summary of the Local Government and Communities Committee Fact-Finding Visit to Finland
Introduction

1. The Committee began its inquiry into homelessness in February 2017. In the initial stages, it held fact-finding visits to Streetwork in Edinburgh, the Simon Community and Legal Services Agency in Glasgow and Churches Action for the Homeless in Perth where it met with homeless people and those who provide services for homeless people. The Committee then held two information gathering evidence sessions to frame the remit and focus of its inquiry.

2. During this period, many highlighted a housing first ethos as a viable solution to addressing homelessness. The Housing First approach is where people are provided with a tenancy as soon as presenting as homeless and then offered the relevant support to help them maintain their tenancy.

3. There have been small-scale pilots of this approach in Scotland, which have shown some success. There have been calls to upscale this model in Scotland given this evidence.

4. During its early work, the Committee heard that Finland had used a national model based on the housing first model to tackle homelessness and that Finland has been the only country in Europe which had reduced homelessness. The Committee therefore agreed to visit Finland to meet with some of the key organisations in rolling out this policy as a national approach.

5. This report provides a summary of the Committee’s discussions with those it meeting with in Helsinki, Finland. The Committee wishes to extend its thanks to all those that took the time to share their knowledge with members of the Committee.
6. The Ministry of the Environment in Finland is responsible for communities, the built environment, housing, biodiversity, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection. The Ministry of the Environment's administrative branch includes the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA). The Ministry is led by the Minister for Housing, Energy and the Environment Kimmo Tillikainen.

7. The Director General is responsible for policy implementation and Mrs Säteri and colleagues provided a general overview of the wider housing situation in Finland and the state’s role in relation to social housing.

Housing overview

8. There are around 2.9 million dwellings in Finland and it has a relatively new housing stock, with 2/3 of the stock built after 1970. The reason cited for this was a combination of two wars and the increase of house building in the 1970s to accommodate the baby boomer generation.
9. Around 2/3 of the housing is owner occupied, with the majority of the other 1/3 being private rental or rent controlled state housing. Those with higher incomes are more likely to own their own homes and there is more state owned housing in less affluent areas.

10. Compared to Finland as a whole, in the larger city areas such as Helsinki where the use of the private rental accommodation has increased, there is an increased burden on those with lower incomes in relation to housing expenditure compared to disposable income.

11. The State’s role in the housing market is to bring forward housing legislation and undertake strategic planning of housing policy.

12. The State provides subsidies for housing for owner-occupiers and renters and it provides housing allowances for low income groups, including students, pensioners and generally low income households.

13. Tax subsidies are provided by the State to allow owner-occupiers to sell their home tax free after 2 years. 13.5 % of the interest payments on housing loans are deductible for income tax (limits on maximum) in 2017, the level of this deduction has been reduced since 2012. Over the years interest rates have decreased and the terms of loans have changed from 10-20 years to make it more viable for people to buy their own homes.

14. Urbanisation is a key driver in people moving to bigger university cities, Helsinki in particular, and this is predicted to continue to rise. It is estimated that by 2040, there will be very few people living in remote and rural areas.

15. The pace of earnings has generally kept pace with the price of houses in Finland, apart from in Helsinki where the pace of house prices has steadily risen higher than the pace of earnings. House prices are most expensive in Helsinki, at 4000 Euros per square metre. With the next big cities Espoo and Vantaa being the next most expensive areas, at 3300 and 2600 euros per square metre respectively.

16. Rental prices have generally kept pace with inflation throughout Finland. In Helsinki, state subsidised rent has generally kept pace with earnings, however there is more of a reliance on the private rental market, increasing the rent to earnings ratio for that market. Therefore, there is a requirement for more social housing in Helsinki.

17. Again, Espoo and Vantaa have a similar if not quite as stark an issue. In smaller areas, there is less of a contrast between free rental and state subsidised rental prices.

The State’s role in relation to Social Housing

18. In Finland, the ambition for people is to own their own homes. The status of social housing peaked in the 70s and 80s during recessions when it was more economic to rent a home from the State. The State is therefore trying to enhance the status of renting apartments by highlighting the benefits, including the ease of moving should it be required for one’s career. The process of selling can take time.
19. In addition to trying to enhance the status of renting, the State provides interest rate subsidies for the construction of social housing.

20. Financing for social housing production is provided by the Housing Fund of Finland which operates outside state budget and is worth around 6 billion Euros. To aid with increasing construction of social housing, the state provides interest subsidies for loans from financial institutions which cover a certain proportion of interest payments over 3.4 % (1.7 % for rental until end of 2019) and are paid for 23 years. The subsidy is the highest at the beginning and declines in time.

21. The State guarantees for interest subsidised loans which have a high Loan-to-Value rate of up to 90–95 % for new construction of social housing. It also compensates the eventual losses of the lending institution after realisation of the securities.

22. Grants are provided for special groups in four categories. The maximum grant varies from 10 % to 50 % of the investment and they are connected to an interest subsidy loan.

23. ARAVA-loans (loans granted from the Housing Fund) used to be the main source of finance for social housing. These had subsidised interests and high Loan-to-Value ratios, however, these are no longer granted and have been replaced by interest subsidy loans.

24. In order to preserve social housing stock, some restrictions are placed on social housing production, these include:

- For 40 years the building is for rental use only and cannot be sold to open markets
- Tenant priority is to be given to homeless applicants and other applicants in urgent need of housing, as well as applicant households with the least means and lowest income.
- Subsidies of construction are directed to tenants and rents are adjustable between housing units
- Limited profit to owners (limited-profit companies) – a yield of 4 % to original investment in company only. The developers are usually municipalities or limited (non-profit) companies.

Challenges

25. The Ministry highlighted some of the challenges facing housing in Finland.

26. Urban Spread - because there is a concentration on the centre of Helsinki as a key area for workers, the commuter belt is spreading out to other municipalities. There is therefore a need for infrastructure and planning to ensure good transport links and schools in commuter municipalities alongside adequate supply of land.

27. In order to encourage more joint working the State provides Agreements (letters of intent) between it and municipalities in biggest growth centres (especially Helsinki region) to take joint responsibility of regional development of land use, housing and transportation. Money from the state can be provided as an incentive.
28. There is a requirement to increase housing production in growth centres and there is a target to provide 60,000 units over 3 years. The budget for achieving this is around 20 million Euros per year, which equates to approximately 10,000 Euros per dwelling. 15 million Euros has also been allocated for infrastructure, particularly on roads to new housing and rail.

29. The current planning process can take 1-2 years from application to construction, so there are moves to deregulate the planning process to speed it up and restrict appeals.

**Mr Jan Vapaavuori, the Mayor of Helsinki**

30. The current Mayor of Helsinki, Mr Jan Vapaavuori, was the Minister for the Environment when the Housing First approach to tackling was put in place and he was credited as a key driver for its implementation. He met with the Committee at the City Hall in Helsinki to talk about some of the challenges in implementing the policy.

31. He confirmed that in the initial stages, they started small with around 625 homeless people in the ten biggest cities. The main aim of the policy was to do away with the silo approach of temporary hostel style accommodation.

32. Implementation of the policy required creative thinking and a systematic approach and the initial approach focussed on those with complex needs who had
systematically been homeless. As well as being a social issue, it was also viewed as being an economic issue, a security issue and a safety issue. It was also felt that this shift would have an impact on the social and health care system.

33. Initially it was difficult to find places to build homes, as there was resistance to this type of housing by local residents in some areas. Resistance was least evident in city centres. It was also determined easier to coordinate the other services required to support the housing units in city centres and it was easier for the police to attend any incidents should this be required.

34. In order to gain political consensus, the approach taken was to discuss the issue with the public and get strong public support and through this encourage politicians to be supportive.

35. Mr Vapaavuori said in his book (2016)—

“We changed our mind setting: starting point in Housing First –principal is that first of all you have to provide for a person with many problems a permanent apartment, home, which brings better opportunities to solve other problems.

We took also a strong operative attitude in implementing the programme. We made contract with biggest cities on several thousand new flats, integrated housing and social and health care services in the same complex, we were determined to make a big transformation and we were quick in intervening in slips”
Meeting with members of the Environment Committee

• Chair Mrs Satu Hassi (Green League)
• Vice Chair Silvia Modig (Left Alliance)
• Member Riitta Myller (Social Democrat Party)

36. **Eduskunta**, the unicameral parliament has 200 members. The latest election to the Parliament took place on April 19, 2015. The Parliament has 15 permanent special committees and the Grand Committee, which focuses mainly on EU affairs. The special committees prepare Government bills, legislative initiatives, Government reports and other matters for handling in plenary session.

37. It is the **Environment Committee in Finland** which deals with matters pertaining to housing, planning, construction, environmental protection and nature conservation, waste management and water legislation. The Committee therefore met with the Committee over a working lunch to share their experience of scrutinising housing matters, including issues relating to homelessness.
38. The **Helsinki Deaconess Institute**, founded in 1867, is a public utility foundation and a social enterprise group with several subsidiaries. The group provides wide-ranging social welfare, health care and education services. The proceeds from the group's operations and assets are used to promote health and well-being and to build a more just society. The group employs approximately 1,600 people.

39. They provide round-the-clock supported housing, scattered housing with integrated support and sheltered housing for men and women under the age of 65, in various life situations. Their backgrounds are often characterised by long-term homelessness, substance abuse, mental health problems and difficulties in social relationships.

40. Their housing services are founded on respect for human dignity and operate under the 'Housing First' principle, where housing is viewed as a basic right that does not need to be earned. They believe that housing creates the foundation for rehabilitation. The residents are not required to reduce substance abuse and do not need to commit to rehabilitation. Housing units, do however, seek to create a climate that supports recovery and resists institutionalization and the domination of a substance abuse centred lifestyle.

41. The Committee met with the Director of Housing Services, Mrs Heli Alkila, alongside a support worker and a tenant at one of their purpose-built housing first
blocks of flats in Helsinki. Aurora House has 125 individual flats with 37 support staff.

42. The Helsinki Deaconess Institute (HDI) was very influential in setting the model for the Finnish policy of Housing First. Back in 1993, 25 men came to live in purpose built homes at the institute and they decided how they wanted to live. Many of them were heavy drinkers, but no conditions were put on their tenancy to stop drinking. However, HDI noticed that when given a home the men were given a sense of purpose and the heavy drinking naturally became less and they did not go back to homelessness.

43. In 2005, there was still a homeless shelter in Helsinki. Residents had their own room, but no rent contract. The HDI created the first housing unit where they were given rent contracts. Then in 2007 there was the national Housing First programme. The model is based on a principal of trust and the theory is that if people are given a chance, they won’t go back to being homeless. It was highlighted that the last four years, 98.9 per cent of those who were given a housing first tenancy were still living there.

44. In terms of the rules of the rental contract, HDI started out with more rules, but found out that having less rules led to better chances of rehabilitation. Each tenant has a service plan with individual aims and rules and a named worker to assist them with their plan. It was highlighted that aims would start off with small steps leading towards a goal. For example, an aim for a tenant might be to live life without losing their key and support would be provided to help with this aim. A Salvation Army housing first unit similar to this unit is also in the same vicinity.

45. The Committee were introduced to a tenant at Aurora House. The tenant highlighted that his service plan was based around his desire to get a real job. It therefore featured rehabilitation for getting real work. He wanted to learn as much as possible, get into education and live a normal life. He had had a lot of social problems in his life and the support he got from the HDI helped much more than he expected.

46. The tenant became homeless and sought the advice of a social worker who told of the HDI and how it could get his life back on track. He went into temporary accommodation in Espoo before an apartment at HDI became available. The HDI was allowing him to do some maintenance and repair work to get some experience.

47. The work experience offered has a low threshold and tenants are not forced or pressurised into doing things. If they are having difficulties with something then there is no problem with them not continuing with that duty and a nurturing environment is provided to allow workers to have a go at it again the next time. Tenants get paid 2 Euros for 1 hours work and there are no terms or contract. There is a condition though that they must be sober and be able to communicate and behave in a normal way.

48. Tenants can get experience of cleaning, yard work, building and repair work. There are 30 people participating and it was highlighted that the approach of providing the house, the support and the work experience aids in the rehabilitation of those who use alcohol and drugs. The meaning and purpose it brings reduces the need for
these substances and having activities to undertake during the day discourages people from staying up all night. The tenant the Committee met with had reduced his drinking considerably.

49. The tenant highlighted that he can earn up to 60 Euros a week without it affecting his other benefits. Benefit wise, Tenants get 485 Euros from Helsinki Social and the Government pays the rent which is £500.

50. It is for couples and singles only, children under 18 are not permitted to stay in the apartments. Some may have children, but it is more likely they will be in care. People with children get homed.

51. There is a waiting list as there are not enough housing first apartments in Helsinki. When a person presents as homeless to the Municipality they will see a social worker and are accommodated into a hostel with their own room. The tenant informed the Committee that he was in temporary accommodation for 2 years and 4 months, however, this was partly due to the fact that he was waiting for a flat in a specific development – Aurora House and his transfer was delayed further due to flood damage caused by faulty sprinklers.

52. There is a housing unit specifically for women, but it tends to be more for people with mental health issues. Women are more likely to have a stronger network when they become homeless, staying with family or a partner. Some women do want to come there to escape domestic abuse or controlling behaviour from a partner. Domestic abuse is an issue in Finland linked mainly to alcohol abuse.

53. It was highlighted that there are some difficulties moving out of Housing First, as there is a shortage of small studio apartments with decent rents to allow people to live independently. Some people do manage to move straight into scattered housing using housing first, but more of this type of housing is required.

54. There can be problems with alcohol and drugs and which can be difficult to tackle when there is a number of people abusing these substances in the community and it happens within apartments. There are moves in place to try and change the street culture of alcohol and drugs abuse. In the flats, there can sometimes be difficult situations, particularly violence. Even when such situations arise, people are not instantly evicted as it is hoped that the behaviour will change given the chance to guide people in the right direction. Where necessary, the police can attend quickly when there are issues.

55. For those who are sent to prison, they can have their rent paid by the Municipality for 3 months. If offenders go to prison for 1 year, then there is an agreement that they will get back into the development after the year, but the flat will not be kept empty during that time. The Municipality can look after belongings if necessary, but in many cases, people who have been homeless have very little belongings.

56. It was highlighted that there are larger upfront costs when using the model, however it was suggested that savings in the long run could be as much as 40,000 Euros.
57. The tenant the Committee met with provided a metaphor for the housing first model in relation to building with Lego.

58. If you try to build a Lego tower in the air, then it will fall and shatter into many pieces. You will then pick up all the pieces together to start again and he compared using a table to build the tower as representing Housing First. It provides a stable bottom to build the Lego tower and therefore it will not fall over, so you won’t have to pick up all the pieces again. You can build it as high as you want and you can take out the bad Lego bricks out of your tower in your own time.
The Y-Foundation (Y-Säätiö) is a non-profit social housing provider. It was founded in 1985 by the five largest cities in Finland, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Finnish Red Cross, the Finnish Association for Mental Health, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Confederation of Finnish Construction Industries RT, The
Finnish Construction Trade Union. Around 100+ staff are employed by the Y-Foundation.

60. The Y–Foundation is actively involved as a developer of the Housing First Principle and co-ordinates Finnish organisations in the European umbrella organisation FEANTSA. In addition to the Y-Foundation, other Finnish members of the organisation include the Helsinki Deaconess Institute, Vailla vakinaista asuntoa ry (No Fixed Abode NGO), The Association of Tenants and Homeowners in Finland, and Nuorisoasuntoliitto (FYHA).

61. The Y-Foundation owns almost 17,000 apartments and operates in over 50 cities and municipalities. It owns 6,700 “Y-Homes” (apartments for people with special needs), the majority of which are leased to municipalities. Support for the “Y-homes” is also provided by the municipalities. The other 10,000 apartments owned by the Y-Foundation are leased through the M2-Kodit landlord which offers affordable state subsidized rental housing for people looking for a home. The company, known as M2 for short is also owned by Y-Foundation. The accommodation is funded entirely by the profit made from leasing the apartments.

62. It was highlighted how with the increase in Y-Foundation apartments between 1985 and 2016, the rate of homelessness in single people had decreased, however there is still an urgent need for more affordable homes. Other organisations are buying from private markets to make more flats available.

63. The housing first model targets those with the most intensive needs, such as those with alcohol and drug problems who have been sleeping rough or in temporary accommodation. He highlighted that since between 2008 – 2015, long term homelessness had decreased by 1345 people, around 35 per cent. The housing retention rate was 82 per cent, which meant that only 18 per cent returned to being homeless.

64. It is mostly single people who require this support, as municipalities have a duty to take care of the housing needs of families who have children.

65. Finland is currently on its third national homelessness programme. The first two programmes, (PAAVO I 2008-2011 and PAAVO II 2012-2015) focussed on ending long term homelessness. The current programme (AUNE 2016-2019) is to take a more preventative approach to homelessness. There are new cases of homelessness and a preventative approach takes good communication and timing. There are 1800 evictions in Finland from social housing. Differences can be seen in those with housing advisory services.

66. The funding comes from: State authorities, cities, The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, ARA, STEA, The Funding Centre for Social and Welfare Organizations (earlier known as RAY, The Slot Machine Association). Slot machines in Finland are state run and all profits are used for public spending. The budget in total is around 300 million Euros.

67. When the Finnish model was initially created, they were unaware that the housing first model already existed. The initial pilot of the model focussed on elderly homeless men. Grant funding was provided by the State to run the initial pilot which
ran for 4 years, following the pilot, the municipalities were responsible for the costs. There is a 100 per cent guarantee that the property will be rented and it is in everyone’s interest that each apartment is occupied.

**How the Y Foundation understands Housing First**

68. The Y Foundation theorised that there were not only direct cost-savings associated with using the model, but also cost savings associated with other parts of spending, for example there is also an impact on the individual’s health and therefore cost savings for the health services. There is also a positive impact on an individual’s health and well-being and also their life expectancy.

69. The Y Foundation confirmed that according to their model, there is no precondition to getting a house and a tenancy, including the rehabilitation of drug and alcohol problems. They, however, highlighted the impact of getting a home on people’s drug and alcohol habits. Sometimes there was an increase in substance abuse in the initial stages, however this generally subsided and people tended to gradually change their ways.

70. There was a focus on reducing the use of conventional shelters and changing them into supported, rented accommodation housing units in normal surroundings. Tenants are provided with their own independent rental apartment either in scattered housing or in a supported housing units. They are also provided with their own rental contract (normally for unlimited time). There is separation of housing and services and intensive support is provided at a ratio of 5 support workers to 10 inhabitants in service housing support and 1 to 10 in scattered housing. Not all are obliged to take on the support.

71. The model doesn’t always suit those with complex needs, with 18 per cent returning back to homelessness. To address this, more supported housing for those with intensive needs is required. Where anti-social behaviour continues, in order to address the impact in the wider community the housing advisor will initially try rehabilitation through increased support and it has been found that situations can usually be settled. Where this does not address the problem, the individual may have to be convinced to give up their tenancy, however this would not prevent them from trying again. It is also important not to put too many challenging tenants in one building.

72. It was also highlighted that there is a tendency for neighbours to blame a Y-Foundation tenant for any anti-social behaviour which takes place in a building. The benefits of those who have managed to turn their life around, get jobs and sustain their tenancies staying in the building were also highlighted, given that it was important to have a number of professional tenants in the building to avoid segregation.

**Shelter renovation**

73. The Y-Foundation confirmed that there was a move to get rid of shelters and hostels due to their sinister history. Most were initially set up in bomb shelters following World War II. Their view was that hostels fuel homelessness as they sustain a culture of irresponsibility, they provide little privacy and limited professional help for problems. In 2008 there were 600 bed places in hostels and shelters. Since they were all refurbished into housing first flats, there remains one
service centre in Helsinki with 52 beds for emergency use, as hostels should always be a temporary solution.

**Strategies to reduce homelessness – Peter Fredriksson, Former Senior Adviser, Ministry of the Environment**

74. During its visit to the Y Foundation, Peter Fredrikson, a former senior adviser to the Ministry of the Environment talked through some of Finland’s strategies to end homelessness.

75. His presentation providing some background on homelessness policy in Finland can be accessed here:

   [http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S5_Local_Gov/Inquiries/PeterKevat2017Presentation.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S5_Local_Gov/Inquiries/PeterKevat2017Presentation.pdf)

76. The Minister Vapaavuori (now the Mayor of Helsinki) was instrumental in the upscaling of the Housing First Model as a national policy. He had many voters and whilst indicating that it was a cost-effective method it would protect and take care of the people.

77. Mr Fredikson outlined some of the background and challenges in implementing the policy.

78. Long Term homelessness has gone down, but requires an ongoing commitment to the issue and it was a very long term project of 25 years. Because of this strong political consensus was required. Key dates:

   - Y Foundation founded in 1985
   - No fixed abode campaign in 1986
   - Ring-fenced funding for homelessness in the 1980s.
   - In the 1980s it was seen that welfare was not just enough and more active support was required.

79. Juha Kaakinen of the Y-Foundation was instrumental in the invention of the type of supported homes used in Housing First model.

**Prisoners**

80. The difficulties that prisoners face was highlighted such that a release plan is required to manage the process. There are difficulties in getting ex-prisoners apartments as they are the most challenging and excluded groups. There is an NGO which manages the release of prisoners back into the community and the Y Foundation work with them to manage the process. Prisoners may have violent backgrounds and there may be resistance by neighbours to their moving into their area. They may also require more demanding support due to their difficult backgrounds.

**Waiting times**

81. Committee members highlighted the experience of the tenant they had met at the HDI, who had waited over two years for an apartment. It was confirmed that whilst
there are no formal waiting times and the aim is to provide a house instantly, some people might have to wait if they have specific requirements. The situation is more complicated in bigger cities like Helsinki as most will have an urgent need for accommodation, but there is less housing. If people are willing to accept what is offered straight away though, they may have little or no wait.

Credit availability
82. Many looking for housing may be blacklisted and be unable to get credit to rent homes. This is where cities are starting to include debt counselling alongside housing advice. Further funding is to be provided to municipalities to tackle this problem.

Availability of scattered housing
83. More single apartments in scattered housing is required to allow people to move into other pathways. It is difficult to purchase these from the private sector as they are popular for investors wishing to privately let the flats. Tax breaks are also not given on these properties. That said, 15-20 per cent of people change their apartments, due to life changes such as marriage or work moves. Some move into social housing and some can buy from new housing complexes.
Visit to Väinölä, a supported housing facility for long-term homeless people in Espoo

Director Mrs Pilvi Cole with staff and tenants
84. The Committee travelled to Espoo to visit Väinölä which is a supported housing unit in a more rural setting built by the Y-Foundation. It is a relatively small unit with 35 flats and approximately 11 staff. Each tenant has been homeless or was at risk of being homeless and may have had drug and alcohol problems or other social problems. Each tenant gets their own flat and a named worker, there is also a communal area where tenants can meet up for social activities. Work experience is also provided in the communal area. Whilst it is in a more rural location, it is close to a local shop and has good transport links to the city centre in Espoo.

85. Whilst it is normally not a condition of housing first to people to address their drink and alcohol habits before being housed, this particular unit is for those looking to change their habits. Tenants are expected to tackle their abuse issues and no one is to use substances or be under the influence in the social area. They highlighted that a drug and alcohol misuse culture is a bigger problem in the larger units in Helsinki as there are more people with the same issues. Client satisfaction in this unit is high and people generally feel safe here. They argued that a smaller unit with more support aids someone’s rehabilitation and makes them feel like they belong.

86. At Väinölä, should tenants persistently cause problems such as violence or rent arrears, there is the opportunity to evict should people. However, that there had been only 4 evictions in 3.5 years. Tenants also have community committee meetings about problematic tenants, however it is normally found that bringing the issue to the meeting and helping the person as part of the community is the best way forward rather than eviction.

87. They argued that the problem of drug and alcohol abuse exists in scattered housing in that sometimes people feel more isolated, particularly given the attitudes of others and feel less able to get help.

88. It was highlighted that rough sleeping did still happen in Finland, however it was less visible as people tended to live in tents in the forests, under bridges and by the sea.

89. Whilst they had not recorded data on people’s pathways when they left Väinölä, many who had gone on to other accommodation still kept in touch, particularly given that they mostly move to Y-Foundation accommodation.

90. During the visit, the Committee met with a tenant who had been staying in Väinölä for 3-4 months. He moved to Finland from Chile 24 years ago. He had been a musician and had worked for many years, but in later life he had alcohol problems which led him to being homeless.

91. The tenant presented to a social worker and was put into a temporary shelter for a short time before coming to Väinölä. He highlighted that in Finland, you need a qualification to undertake any kind of work. The move to Väinölä had allowed him to sign up to a cookery school and he was now successfully on his way to getting a qualification which would allow him to get a job.
Väinölä supported housing
Y-Foundation/Salvation Army
• 35 apartments
• personnel 11