

PLACEMENT REPORT

(VANTAAN NICEHEARTS RY)

Ewa Przybojewska

Practical Placement Report, Spring 2010

Diakonia University of Applied Sciences,

Diak-South, Järvenpää Unit

Degree Programme in Social Services

Bachelor of Social Services

3. MY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Vantaan Nicehearts Ry was my first placement place I have ever been to. Despite that, I still believe and hope that lack of experience did not hinder my professional development. In this chapter, I am

describing competences and skills I have learnt and/or developed during my practical placement in Vantaan Nicehearts Ry.

3.1 Ethical competences

I believe that ethics are my strong point. My statement is based on my previous studies (for example, the research project. The group I worked in did not get any negative feedback associated to the ethical issues, what means that we managed to avoid ethical mistakes). I also think, that such small details as changing my case study interviewee's name are also a proof of my developed ethical competences. It sometimes seems like I am exaggerating with ethics (such as confidentiality and so on), however, I personally believe that it is better to be too „protective and ethical” than too careless.

The placement in Vantaan Nicehearts Ry made me more aware of the importance of ethics, with special impact on confidentiality, as I dealt with people with „difficult past” who were sometimes eager to share their stories. I am aware of the harm I could do while disclosing them, so I am not going to do so.

3.2 Client work

I have developed my skills associated to the client work during my placement in Vantaan Nicehearts Ry. I was able to support the service users in various activities in a goal-oriented way (for example, participating in integration activities as a form of achieving the goal of integration and building the team spirit).

3.3 Social services

I have learnt a lot in this field, especially as long as the legislation of the services is concerned. I got to know at least partly the basic social legislation (such as the Social Welfare Act and Aliens Act). Since law is definitely not my favorite issue to study, it is not likely that I would have studied the basic social legislation without being forced to.

3.4 Social analysis

The placement has helped me in developing my skills of social analysis, that means, in understanding the relationship between and individual in a society. I understand the situation of foreigners in the Finnish society better. Activities such as conversations with the service users and the case study helped me a lot in developing this skill. Also such issues as decision-making in society are clearer to me now.

3.5 Reflective development and management

This competence has also been developed. I was able to reflect on my work and reach some conclusion. It started the process of „learning on one’s own mistakes”. I was also able to be an active member in the group of service users of Vantaan Nicehearts Ry. As I have written in my learning diary, I got the feeling of being a member of the group very quickly (what is surely largely dependent on the group itself and the group members’ attitude). I was also able to work as a manager with the service users and exercise own ideas (for example, I have organized workshops of friendship bracelets weaving. I was really happy when I realized that women started soon doing the bracelets nearly every day, asking to show some new patterns, designing new patterns themselves and coming back to me when some help and advice was needed). The process of learning had two directions: I managed to be an active learner and gained new skills from the women (associated mostly with handicraft and creative activities, such as making baskets out of coffee packages). I was really thankful and happy to discover that the women were very eager both to learn and to teach new skills to me.