



Zorg en Jeugd Caribisch Nederland
Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,
Welzijn en Sport

Assisted living pilot for young people in the Caribbean Netherlands



In a recent study into the problems of young adults in Caribbean Netherlands, the importance of care services for vulnerable young people becomes apparent. Especially the combination of housing and extra guidance is essential for being able to take the step to adulthood.

For whom?

The Assisted Living pilot is intended for young people from 16 to and including 23 years old in Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius in a long-term Youth Care assistance programme who are ready for a next step towards more independence. These young people cannot return to their home, because the situation at home has remained unchanged despite the efforts of long-term assistance. These young people cannot rely sufficiently on support from their home environment and network during the transition from youth to adulthood.

Intensive guidance

In the assisted living facility, the youth learn to live independently step by step. The youth are supervised daily by residential supervisors and the coordinator of the 24-hour facility. The guidance is focused on improving their independence, on their ability to manage for themselves and look after themselves, and on learning social, relational, and practical skills.

In addition to daily residential supervision, the youth also receive support in achieving their personal goals. The youth care professionals and mentors from Youth Care remain responsible for this. The aim of the assisted living programme is to ensure young people are able to live independently in about two years.

Learning in phases

Youth Care is responsible for the supervision of the young people in the assisted living pilot. Counselling ties in closely to Youth Care's existing social services and will be based on the Child Focus Approach. Based on a personal growth plan, the youth in the assisted living facility will go through three phases:

Phase 1: Supervision through directing

Phase 2: Guidance through coaching

Phase 3: Guidance through counseling

The personal learning objective of each phase fits in with the respective degree of their independence. As the three phases progress, the young people's independence increases and the assistance will be less intensive.

Youth participation

In each phase, several workshop and training sessions are provided by residential supervisors, youth care professionals and guest speakers. In addition to a number of fixed topics, the young people are given a say in coming up with and selecting topics. Youth participation is essential.

Inflow and outflow

The assisted living pilot started in March 2021. The pilot location can accommodate approximately 9 young people. The intake takes place via Youth Care. For two years, the young people will be prepared for independence through training, courses, workshops and personal guidance. It will be investigated whether living accommodation can be made available for young people who successfully complete the assisted living programme, so that the youths' progression can be guaranteed.

Contact person pilot project

The supported living facility is starting as a pilot, to allow for adjustments as the practice demands. Chain partners are welcome to share ideas for improvement of the facility with the coordinator of the facility. The coordinator is also the first point of contact for other questions:

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The assisted living pilot increases the future opportunities for a large group of young people on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius.

