



THE YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRE

Why youth and family centres?

The youth and families of the Netherlands are generally doing well, and good basic facilities are in place to stimulate the health and development of young people, to support parents in raising their children and to prevent, identify and deal with problems. And yet, young people fall between the cracks of the aid systems, more could be done to identify problems at an earlier stage, and organisations still do not work together as much as they need to. By developing youth and family centres, the government aims for fast, effective and coordinated advice and help tailored to the situation to become available as a matter of course. Above all, the youth and family centres need to be easily accessible physical locations where (prospective) parents, children and young people can go for anything related to growing up and parenting. The Programme Ministry is working with municipalities, provinces, umbrella organisations and sectors to achieve these ambitions.

Profile of a youth and family centre

- combines local functions and tasks related to health, growing up and parenting
- is a physical and easily accessible walk-in location
- can be found in every municipality/district under the same name
- has a positive image aimed at prevention and identification
- truly offers advice and minor help
- coordinates/links to a wide variety of facilities for healthcare and youth care
- would, if necessary, be able to arrange for intervention
- is available to and for children and young people aged -9 months to 23 years and their parents
- is equally accessible to all cultural groups
- is also willing/able to answer questions from professionals
- strives to achieve uniform methods of identifying problems
- uses the register of at-risk juveniles and electronic child database.

Municipal direction

Realising and directing the centres is up to the municipalities. The provinces (and urban regions) have close ties to this process through their youth care offices and care providers. The national government will conduct further dialogues regarding a possible statutory framework. An amount up to 441 million euros is available by 2011. For details, see the Administrative Agreement with the VNG (IPO agreement to follow).

Implementation process

- 2007/2008 toolkit for municipalities
- 2008 first-stage youth and family centres connecting to ambitions and initiatives that have already been developed
- 2011 national coverage: a centre in every city.

Basic model

In order to use the title of youth and family centre (CJG in Dutch), the facility must combine the following:

A. Youth healthcare

Child health clinics and municipal health services

B. Five functions stipulated by the Social Support Act

- ✓ Information and advice
- ✓ Identification of problems
- ✓ Guidance to help
- ✓ Minor pedagogical help
- ✓ Coordination of care
- ✓ including social work, family coaching and parenting support

C. Link to youth care offices

D. Link to Care and Advice Teams



Local tailor-made solutions

Besides the Basic Model, there are many functions that could be linked to the youth and family centres on the basis of solutions tailored to specific local needs. These functions could include:

- ✓ Childcare, playschool, early childhood education
- ✓ School attendance officers
- ✓ Developments in community school and appropriate education
- ✓ Welfare: general social work, youth work and street corner work
- ✓ Front-line care, such as GPs, maternity caregivers and midwives
- ✓ Municipal youth healthcare
- ✓ Municipal Work & Income services, including a Youth department
- ✓ Debt relief for parents and young people
- ✓ Police and judiciary

The initial contours of the youth and family centres have been designed in cooperation with:

