



Safety House Region of Utrecht

What is a Safety house?

Safety-houses, a usefull concept anywhere?



Safety-houses in the Netherlands

- First concepts about 12 years ago
- Around 32 Safety-Houses in the Netherlands
- Financed by the Ministry of Safety and Justice and financial contribution by the participating municipalities
- Main objective: increasing public safety by combining/ matching criminal justice, (health)care and municipal services in complex cases



Safety House Region of Utrecht

- A Region with 26 municipalities
- About 1.2 million inhabitants
- Largest cities in the region:
 - Utrecht: 350.000 inhabitants
 - Amersfoort: 150.000 inhabitants



The concept of safety-houses

A safety house is a concept in which cooperation and coordination on individual complex cases is organised between various parties involved in social safety.

The main working form is the *case-meeting* in which individual cases are discussed led by an independent Chairman.



Objectives

- Decrease number of criminal offences and misdemeanours
- Work more efficiently; combining (health) care, criminal justice and municipal services
- Work more effectively



Participating Organisations

Chain Partners

- Police
- Public Prosecution Office
- Municipalities within the region of Utrecht (26)/municipal services
- Probation and after care services
- Child care and protection boards
- Prison service
- Institutes for psychiatric consults / psychiatric care
- Various institutions for addiction and psychiatric treatment
- Various institutions for welfare and social services

Governing Board/ Steering group

- Compiled of directors of the key chain partners



How we operate target groups (until 2015)

Focus on complex target-groups (until 2015);

- Persistent Offenders (18+)
- Young (multiple) offenders (12 – 18)
- Domestic Violence
- Youngsters who are (negative) leaders in criminal youth groups
- Multi problem Families
- actual complex safety-problems



How we operate target groups (from 2015)

Focus on complex target-groups (from 2015);

- 'Top X'
(X = about 250-300 complex case in the region of Utrecht)
- Each Municipality can provide their greatest problem-cases, (according to certain criteria)
- Focus on High Impact Crimes (house-burglary/ street robbery, violent crimes)
- Police, municipalities and Public Prosecution-office atune cases
- Domestic Violence is a seperated target group



How we operate – case meetings





How we operate – case meetings





Exchange information

Input:

Information is collected on different aspects as:

- Criminal records / recent criminal behaviour
- school/ work
- leisure time
- housing
- Family / finances
- care/psychiatric situations
- debts



Outcome

A personal programme/ intervention on the specific case

- with preventive and/or repressive components
- including 'enforce & urge' elements ('dwang & drang')
such as school attendance laws / family supervision / probation supervision
- an advise for judicial intervention in case of a new offense
- objective is a perpective and support for changing behaviour



Profile targetgroup Top X Regio Utrecht (1)

- Based on research on 250 Top X casus
 - 246 male, 4 female
 - Youngest = 15 years old, the oldest = 80, 52% between 17 and 24 years old
 - 34% from city of Utrecht stad, 22% city of Amersfoort, 44% from 24 smaller municipalities
 - Total of 6.744 registered criminal records (first registrations in 1989), 76,7% of de registered criminal records are related tot the region



Profiel doelgroep Top X Regio Utrecht (2)

- Age of starting the criminal career (first registrations):
 - -> 74,3% between 12-16 jaar
 - (1) 13 years old (21,8%), (2) 14 years old (20,5%)
- Highest offense frequency on age between 16 and 19
- Great variety of offenses
- Last five years **4.021** registrations as suspect of crime in the police system



Safety-figures 2013-2016 Utrecht Region

A reduction in the number of housebreaking in region Utrecht by 32 %

2013	2014	2015	2016
7399	6207	5231	5049

A reduction in the number of mugging in de region Utrecht by 41%

2013	2014	2015	2016
352	284	255	207

A reduction in the number of robberies in de region of Utrecht by 12%

2013	2014	2015	2016
75	67	66	66



figures Top X-cases

- Starting point of interventions after discussing case in case-meeting
In 2016 research on 89 Top X-cases
- In the year before start of interventions - > **490** registrations in police system(5.5 p/p)
- In the year after start of interventions - > **351** registrations in police system
-> decrease of **28%**