

Annex 3 An impression of the approach to domestic violence and child abuse in the central municipalities for women's shelters

Annex to Chapter II.2.3

As specified in Chapter II of the report on the Dutch implementation of the Istanbul Convention, the municipalities are responsible for tackling domestic violence and child abuse within the framework of the Social Support Act 2015 and the Youth Act. The Social Support Act 2015 designates 35 central municipalities for women's shelters that coordinate this approach together with the surrounding municipalities. They are also responsible for sheltering victims, including their national accessibility (a person who needs safe shelter must also be able to go somewhere other than his or her own municipality).

This annex gives an impression of the policy of eight regions / central municipalities. The regional approach, research, counselling and raising awareness (campaigns) and number of domestic exclusion orders imposed are discussed.

In 2016, the *municipalities of Zeeland* started with better supervision of children in the women's shelters by using the Resilience method and by strengthening and promoting the cooperation of chain partners in tackling domestic violence. This continued in 2017. Furthermore, the Zeeland Centre for Sexual Violence opened on 1 February 2017. 'The New Future' project (focusing on the economic independence of women with a background of domestic violence) was also secured in two regions in Zeeland. In 2016 and 2017, research was carried out on the sense of safety among residents (16 years and older) of the municipalities in Zeeland. In addition, a study was conducted on the percentage of residents 19 years and older who had ever been victims of domestic violence.

Throughout Zeeland, 71 domestic exclusion orders were imposed in 2016, with four violations. In 2017, there were 45 domestic exclusion orders, with three violations.

At the end of 2014, the *Frisian municipalities* jointly drew up a regional vision. Subsequently, a regional action plan was drawn up for the years 2016 and 2017. This action plan has been extended to the end of 2018. The plan describes actions for the following four tracks: prevention, identification and application of the reporting code, effective help and effective collaboration. In addition to the regional action plan, the Frisian municipalities have also drawn up local action plans. The ideas behind the regional vision and the actions from the regional action plan are reflected in the agreements made by Social Domain Fryslân on behalf of the Frisian municipalities with Safe at Home, the certified institutions, the women's shelter, the Child Protection Board and other organisations. An investigation was conducted on the repeat reports at Safe at Home in 2016 and 2017. A benchmark study was also carried out on Safe at Home Friesland.

In 2016, a total of 69 domestic exclusion orders were imposed in the Frisian municipalities. In 2017 there were 74.

With regard to the *Amsterdam-Amstelland region*, Safe at Home received its definitive organisational form in 2016. The partnership agreements between Safe at Home and local teams, Safe at Home and Youth Protection and Safe at Home and The Blijf Groep (a women's shelter) have been documented. The joint focus and common regional ambition acquired even better form in 2016. 2016 is also the year that the Centre for Sexual Violence Amsterdam-Amstelland was launched. The 'safety assurance' plan, in response to the report of the joint inspectorate for youth, was implemented. Amsterdam formed a collective against child abuse. The Child Abuse and Sexual Abuse Task Force published the final report 'I do not look away' and addressed several areas for improvement that have been tackled by the municipality of Amsterdam. Furthermore, research has been conducted on the organisation of the access to women's shelters.

In 2017, every municipality from the Amsterdam-Amstelland region drew up its own agenda / implementation plan with priorities and improvement tasks, such as improving cooperation with the education sector, better application of the reporting code and commitment to prevention. The

Amsterdam Implementation Plan 2017-2019 was adopted in Amsterdam. The themes focus on: reaching victims in a timely manner, strengthening chain cooperation and better identification of the problems and approach. There has been intensive cooperation particularly with the chain partners in the criminal and care domain. A lot has been invested in getting to know each other and each other's work better and working together on cases where the domains are intertwined. There is cooperation with different social organisations in preventing and openly discussing domestic violence and child abuse. In addition, there is also work on themes that were put on the agenda in all municipalities of the region: reporting code and prevention, the reduction of waiting times at Safe at Home, MDA ++, system-oriented cooperation between adult mental health care and youth care and evaluation of the partnership agreements between Safe at Home and the local teams. In addition, the work process around the domestic exclusion orders has been adjusted and steps have been taken to achieve better monitoring.

Every year, Safe at Home devotes attention to the day against elder abuse (15 June), the week against child abuse, directly followed by the week against violence (in November). An annual campaign is also conducted before the summer holidays in which professionals are made aware of the signs of forced marriage and abandonment and the steps to take in case of suspicions of this. There are targeted actions to reach people from areas where a risk of female genital mutilation exists.

In *Amsterdam*, 300 procedures for a domestic exclusion order were initiated in 2016 and eventually 236 were imposed. In addition, 31 were violated. In 2017, there were 263 procedures, 201 domestic exclusion orders imposed and 25 violations.

The following emerges in the Regional Vision review of domestic violence *Hollands Midden 2014 – 2018*. In this Regional Vision, ambitions are formulated and translated into concrete efforts. Therefore, during the course of this regional vision, much has already been handled and achieved. In recent years, a lot of effort has been devoted to the development of local (neighbourhood) teams and the joint use of methodologies. Concrete agreements have been made for cooperation between the (neighbourhood) teams and Safe at Home, which have been evaluated and revised. There are permanent contact persons at Safe at Home for each (neighbourhood) team. Teams are trained to recognise signals of domestic violence and conversational skills to strengthen early detection and early intervention. The approach according to the '1 family, 1 plan, 1 director' principle was actively undertaken in 2017 to strengthen the implementation. Considerable attention has been devoted to the use of the reporting code and training special-task employees. Despite these efforts, the ambition (to identify domestic violence as early as possible and stop it quickly and sustainably through adequate action) has not yet been achieved due to the complexity of the problem. Several points for attention from the previous regional vision emerged that require continued attention and further development and therefore are reflected in the new regional vision. They are:

- the formation of a Care and Safety House;
- the system-oriented approach from a broad analysis of the problems of the different members of the family/households;
- working according to the 1 family, 1 plan, 1 director principle;
- expansion in tightening the reporting code; and
- deployment of the personal network with a pilot light function, where necessary.

Various studies were carried out in 2016 and 2017, namely an impact study on the 'Wishes and Boundaries' programme on sexual and relational education and an evaluation of the Temporary Domestic Exclusion Order Act. There is also an investigation into how Safe at Home can improve collaboration with the education sector. Finally, research was done on the use of the reporting code in childcare. In 2016, from Safe at Home *Hollands Midden*, attention was devoted to the week against child abuse and the week without violence (November).

In *Leiden*, 23 domestic exclusion orders were imposed in 2016, while there were a total of 83 in the entire region of this central municipality. There were three violations in the municipality of

Leiden and a total of nine in the entire region. In the municipality of *Gouda*, 15 domestic exclusion orders were imposed and 36 in the entire region of this central municipality. There were no violations. In 2017, 15 domestic exclusion orders were imposed in *Leiden* and a total of 70 in the entire region. There were four violations in the region. In *Gouda*, 15 domestic exclusion orders were imposed that year with four violations and a total of 30 for the entire region with a total of eight violations.

Gelderland South has a regional approach to domestic violence and child abuse. This approach runs from 2017 to 2020 and has been adopted by all Municipal Executives in Gelderland South. The following themes are being tackled within this: strengthening the quality of Safe at Home, organising women's shelters, a care coordinator for human trafficking, maintaining the centre for sexual and family violence, elder abuse project, strengthening expertise of social neighbourhood teams in the field of domestic violence and child abuse, encouraging special-task employees in domestic violence and child abuse, tackling complex divorces and channelling perpetrators to care. In addition, *Nijmegen* has a local approach to domestic violence and child abuse. This also runs from 2017 to 2020 and has been adopted by the Municipal Executive in Nijmegen. It includes actions from a preventive point of view and extra effort aimed at long-term recovery. In 2017, the citizens' panel (an annual survey from the municipality of Nijmegen among its residents) asked questions on whether residents would know what to do if they suspect domestic violence in their local area. The municipality also participated in the Coordination Centre for Human Trafficking's campaign on human trafficking and is participating in an exhibition on human trafficking in the city. Each year, in consultation with Safe at Home and Moviera, the municipality organises activities within the framework of the week against child abuse and the week against violence (November). Twenty-five domestic exclusion orders were imposed in Nijmegen in 2016 and 14 in 2017.

At the end of 2017, the Manifest Reporting Code was signed by five municipalities in the *West Veluwe Valley*. In 2017 and 2018, these municipalities will actively encourage the use of the reporting code. In addition, the vision for the tasks and development of Safe at Home was recorded in 2017. It is in addition to the previously established regional vision. At the same time, attention will be given to the education and counselling of professionals, both internally and externally, social partners and residents by multiple parties. In October 2017, the Centre for Sexual Violence (subsidised by Nijmegen, Arnhem and Ede) held a conference on sexual assault. In the municipalities of Barneveld, Ede, Nijkerk, Scherpenzeel and Wageningen, a total of 25 domestic exclusion orders were imposed in 2016 and a total of 26 in 2017.

In 2017, the Action Plan 'Elderly in safe hands' (elder abuse) was conducted in *Parkstad Limburg* (an administrative partnership in Southeast Limburg). In addition, Parkstad installs 15 AWARE devices (coupled with assistance) for the safety of victims of domestic violence each year. Also in 2017, a so-called 'mirror advertising campaign' took place, with the aim of drawing more attention to the Sexual Assault Centre. In the municipalities of *Heerlen*, there were 14 domestic exclusion orders in 2016 and seven in 2017.

In *Rotterdam*, the 'Safe at Home' Action Programme was performed to strengthen the regular tasks, such as sheltering and domestic exclusions. In this programme, projects have been carried out to acquire a more timely and better picture of domestic violence and child abuse (including encouraging the use of the reporting code and achieving a referral index for all ages) and its long-term solution (e.g. through trauma screening of children who have witnessed domestic violence, empowerment of women and development of an approach to perpetrators). In addition, projects have been initiated that are aimed at vulnerable target groups: child abuse, elder abuse and harmful traditional practices.

Various studies were carried out in 2016 and 2017, namely on social isolation among marriage migrants, on the intergenerational transfer of domestic violence and on the nature and scope of elder abuse.

In 2016, 261 domestic exclusion orders were imposed in Rotterdam. Forty-five violations of the domestic exclusion orders and personal protection orders were known. In 2017, 297 domestic exclusion orders were imposed and 57 violations were known.