



Rijksoverheid

Small scale facilities for young offenders in the Netherlands

Juvenile and Young Offenders in Prison and Probation - Europris

01-12-2020



- Jiske Wallace-Lems – National projectmanager small scale facilities
- Irene Bos – Manager small scale facility Limburg
- Fleur Souverein – researcher academische werkplaats risicojeugd

The Dutch system



The current Dutch system for juvenile incarceration consists of one type of high security facility for young offenders. In 2015, there were seven high security facilities spread accross the country.

From 2015, the department of justice, along with the prison service and other stakeholders, has been designing a new system, whereby:

- 1) Young people will be placed in either a low security or high security facility, based on their assessed level of risk and need of care or treatment.
- 2) Small scale facilities for young people on a criminal charge can be combined with small scale facilities for certain young people on secure care orders.
- 3) two high security facilities are shut down and five small scale facilities will be opened.

What is a small scale facility?



- A Small-Scale Facility (KVJJ) is a facility where young people stay close to their own living environment with a lower security level than in the current Judicial Youth Institution (JJI).
- The aim is that care and education or employment are continued or started up as much as possible during their stay.
- Positive elements in the network of the young people can be retained and existing care, treatment, education and / or work can continue.
- The KVJJ offers young people tailored relational and physical security, supervision and guidance within a positive learning and-residential climate.
- The young people and their network are in charge of the care-plan as much as possible.
- To make the care-plan successful, a range of organisations is involved with the facility, such as probation services, care providers and the municipality.





- KVJJ Amsterdam was opened as a pilot project in 2016 and now has a permanent status;
- KVJJ Limburg opened in april 2020;
- KVJJ Noord opens january 2021;
- KVJJ Rotterdam and KV The Hague will open july 2021;
- All facilities have space for eight young people on remand or in the last phase of their custodial sentence.

Case example

Dutch Judicial Small Scale Facility

A young man with short brown hair, wearing a light blue baseball cap, a grey hoodie, and dark pants, is sitting on a concrete ledge. He is looking down and to the left. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or ground. The entire image is framed within a large, dark oval border.

This is Koen

Without a small scale facility

- He is 12 years old;
- He got in a very life threatening fight with another boy;
- He uses a lot of physical aggression to other children
- School can't handle him anymore
- The extra preventive rules are not enough to help him to change his dangerous behaviour
- He has to go to the youth prison☹

This is Koen

He stays at a small scale facility

- He is 12 years old;
- He stopped with (physical) aggression to other children;
- He can still continue his own school;
- He makes his own plan for the future with his parents, probation officer, school and other youth care providers.
- He can stay in his own environment, close to his parents, family and positive friends;
- He and his family can start with de threatment he needs together, in his own invironment
- It's a very small step back to his home, his own invironment.
- He has more freedom en relational security.



A young man wearing a light blue baseball cap and a grey hoodie is sitting on a concrete ledge. He is looking away from the camera, towards the right. The background is a dark, textured wall.

This would be Koen

At a Judicial Youth Prison

- He is 12 years old and stays between 10 older boys, behind bars en heavy doors;
- His probation officer wil stop until he is free again;
- He can go to an different intern school, with new different intern threatment;
- He lives far from his parents, family and friends
- His parents can call en visit him within the visitors room; he has less freedom.....
- When he is released he has to start all over again at his own invironment, which is still the same as before.

This is Koen

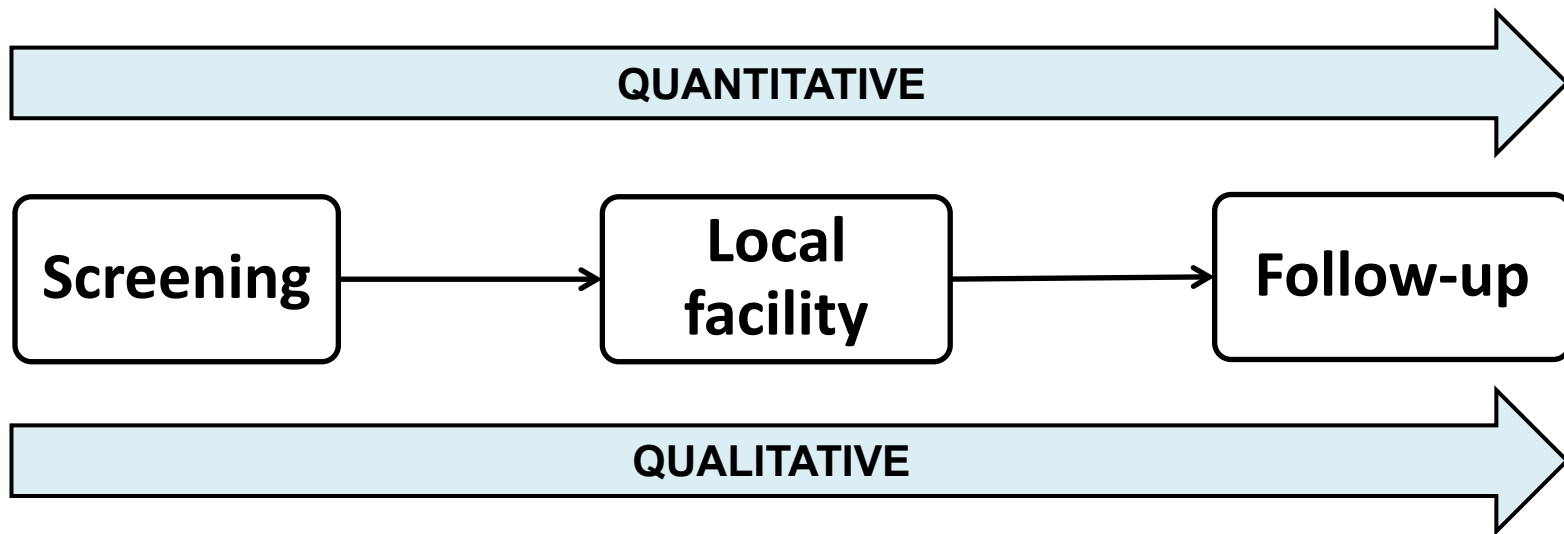
At the small scale facility

- He is 12 years old and his parents, family, probation officer, youth care can visit him all the time and he can visit them;
- He makes his own relational safety and guidance plan;
- He can go to his own school independently with relational security (there is contact possible with Koen all the time and school can also call for help/guidance;)
- He can practice with his own plan for the future with his parents, probation officer, school and other youth care together in his own environment;
- The environment is more friendly, with more guidance, fewer other youth with criminal problems, it looks more like a second home, where he can cook, study, see his parents, family and friends en build or continue positive problem solvings skills, contacts and hobby's.



**It is a good chance
For Koen; he is growing,
the relational safety works
well for him.**

RESEARCH



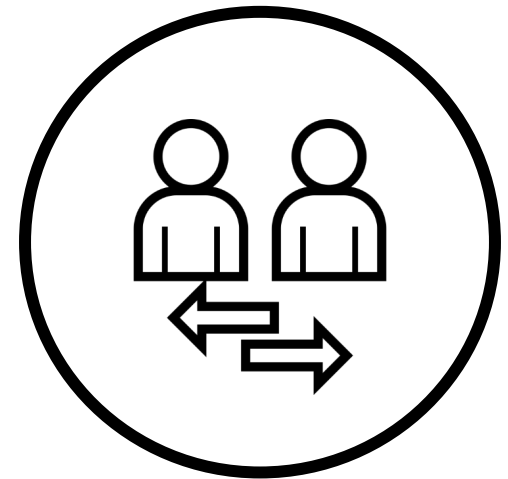
SECURITY



PHYSICAL

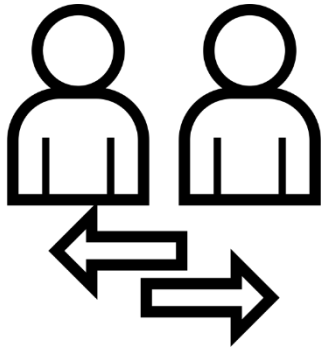


PROCEDURAL



RELATIONAL

RELATIONAL SECURITY



INTERACTION



COLLABORATION

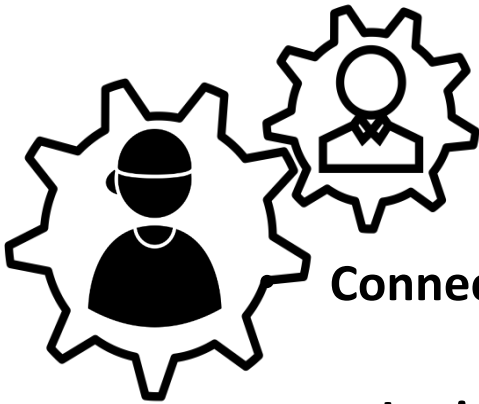
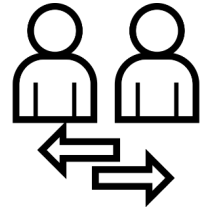


STAFF PRESENCE



Feeling safe is not about the structures
of a building, feeling safe is about the
people around me.

STAFF-YOUTH INTERACTION



Connecting and aligning with young people, their world and logic

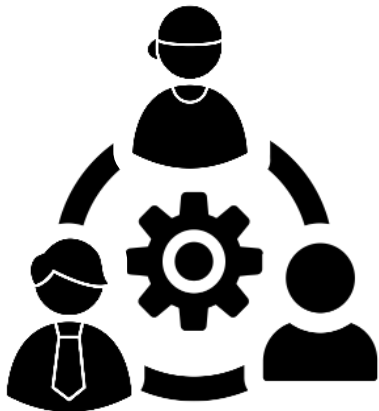
- Loving care
- Empowerment
- Genuine connection
- Staff as a role model
- **Respect** for mutual **boundaries**



COLLABORATION



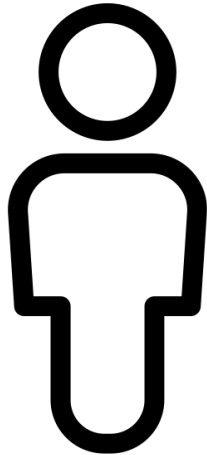
Collaborating with young people to build on **protective factors**



- **Youth ownership** over trajectory
- **Autonomy** and **responsibility**
- Learning by **trial and error**
- Staff as **coach**
- Clear **structure** and **boundaries**



STAFF PRESENCE



- **Prevention**
- **Observe, intervene and de-escalate**
- **Available for support**
- **Informal activities**



RESULTS



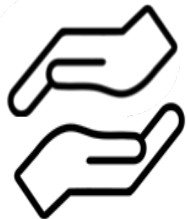
- **Experienced safety** is high
- Less **deviancy training**
- **Motivation** is high
- Positive **working climate** and **job satisfaction**
- **Wide support:** staff, young people, caregivers



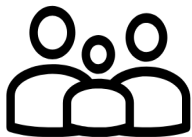
PROTECTIVE FACTORS



70% continued,
37% initiated



94% continued,
53% initiated



Accessible frequent
contact; Active
caregiver role

Follow-up

3 – 26 months (median 10)
N=49 (78% response rate)

- 72% structural daytime activity
- 64% lives at home
- 63% good involvement network
- 50% satisfied
- 15% closed institution



A SUCCES STORY...

Some nuance...

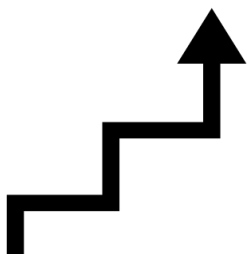
- Not a solution for every problem
- Not a quick-fix
- Complex population, complex context

Conclusion

- ✓ Secure, safe and therapeutic environment
- ✓ Not all youth need high security measures
- ✓ Key elements may be applied in other settings
- ✓ Wide support: government, professionals, youth and parents



IMPLEMENTATION



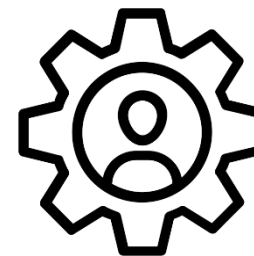
Phased and enough
time



In collaboration
with all
stakeholders



Involving the
community



Projectmanager



Learning by trail and
error



Trust in those directly
working with young
people



Selection,
training,
supervision and
management



Monitoring and
evaluation

