



# Violence does not have a place in the home

Tackling domestic violence and child abuse



A national multi-year programme commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the Ministry of Justice and Security and the Association of Dutch Municipalities

Violence belongs nowhere, and certainly not in the home, where everyone should be able to feel safe and be themselves. Yet many people cannot feel safe in their own home. The physical and emotional damage that this can cause is enormous. We cannot simply look the other way.

## Why?

# Together, we form a safe network

'Violence does not have a place in the home' is a national multi-year programme that aims to reduce domestic violence and child abuse, limit the damage caused, and break the cycle of violence from generation to generation. We need to create a safety network around the victims, as well as the perpetrators or potential perpetrators and their social network.

Although this seems simpler than it actually is, it is high time for us to get started on achieving this ambition. Inaction is no longer an option. The long-term solution lies in better cooperation between the professionals, who assume responsibility

and who stand for effective communication and referral between professionals. The safety of the victims must always come first, but there also needs to be a focus on perpetrators and potential perpetrators and their social network. Perpetrators, too, are in need of guidance and support. We cannot expect to achieve all of this overnight, and we will undoubtedly face new challenges along the way, but if we continue with the same old approach, we can expect to get the same old results. We want domestic violence and child abuse to be detected earlier and better, so that we can put a stop to it as early as possible and find long-term solutions. This includes a particular focus on specific groups of victims: children whose parents are involved in complex divorce proceedings, the victims of human trafficking, abuse of the elderly and issues around forced prostitution.

The 'Violence does not have a place in the home' programme has been commissioned by the Ministries of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) and Justice and Security (JenV) and the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG), and it focuses on the phases in which domestic violence, neglect and/or child abuse are already taking place.

## Facts and figures

**200,000** adults and **119,000** children become victims of domestic violence or child abuse every year

**50%** of victims still suffer from excessive domestic violence eighteen months after notifying the authorities



The chance that you will be confronted with domestic violence and/or child abuse is **greater** than the chance of encountering any other form of violence



How?

# Create synergy for long-term solutions

The programme brings together national, regional and local initiatives, providing coordination and building synergy into our approach to reducing domestic violence and child abuse and finding long-term solutions.

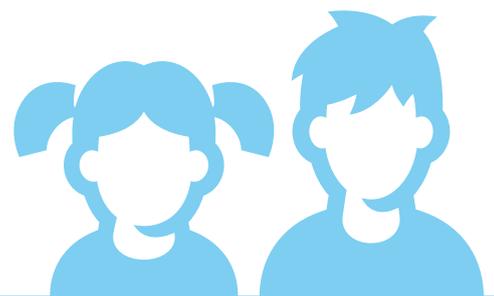
To achieve these results, the programme will reflect the daily practice of over one million professionals working in the fields of social services and public safety, the organisations that they are active in, local government and a range of departments, in order to help them build multidisciplinary and systems-oriented partnerships. There will be a key role to play for the 28 regional project leaders, appointed by the regions themselves, who will function as the focal point for regional partnerships (central municipalities). The programme will also monitor the effectiveness of this approach. This may lead to the prioritisation of the

issues identified by the programme, but it may also lead to the prioritisation of issues identified within the region. A study will be conducted into the indicators used to monitor and examine the (social) impact of the work done by the professionals, organisations and authorities involved.

'Violence does not have a place in the home' draws primarily on the strengths of existing organisations and partnerships, and will only develop new structures where this will truly add to existing structures and make a direct contribution to the objectives of the programme. This could include the

facilitation of learning circles and coordinating the overall approach of the project. But the role of the programme will not be confined to signalling. It will also seek to find long-term solutions to the issues of domestic violence and child abuse, and to develop standards that can be applied within the relevant professions.

The basis for good multidisciplinary cooperation is knowing, understanding and trusting one another. As long as professionals - as well as managers, administrators and commissioning parties - are prepared to work on this basis, they will be able to tackle the issues that arise directly, without the need to wait for others. Professionals must be given the space to operate in this way, prioritising the safety of victims and providing effective risk-based, restorative care on this basis. The adoption of this underlying approach to cases of domestic violence and child abuse will lead to a situation in which victims, perpetrators and their social environment are approached with a view to long-term solutions, within a multidisciplinary, system-oriented and partnership-based approach.



The cost to society is estimated at many **billions** of euros every year

**7,200** divorces every year may be having a major impact on children



**51%** of all women who are murdered are killed by a partner or ex-partner

**577,000** children have parents with psychological or addiction issues, and the risk of child abuse is **two to three** times higher for these children



## What?

# Three major lines of action



### Earlier and better identification

- Getting the issue out in the open
- Raising awareness among employers
- Ensuring that professionals use the reporting code
- Strengthening Safe At Home
- Improving factual research
- Reinforcing local teams
- Reinforcing forensic medical expertise



### Prevention and long-term solutions

- Multidisciplinary and system-oriented collaboration
- Trauma screening and appropriate support
- Tackling perpetrators
- Informing schools faster
- Improving shelters and support for victims



### Specific groups

- Victims of sexual violence
- Victims of human trafficking and forced prostitution
- Victims honour-related violence and forced marriage
- Children in vulnerable family situations
- Complex divorces
- Victims of elderly abuse

## Multi-year planning and phasing

**April 2018**  
Launch of programme

**Summer 2018**  
Core team ready

**July 2018**  
An assessment framework for every professional group that falls under the Reporting Code Act

### Autumn 2018

- Each region has an approach and action plan
- Launch a new publicity campaign, pilots for assessment framework and centre for domestic violence and child abuse
- **First progress report**

### 1 January 2019

- Improved reporting code comes into effect
- Development of Safe At Home radar function

### January 2019

Start of project approach

# Milestones and priorities for 2019

## Milestones

- Launch of three pilot multidisciplinary centres under one roof
- Launch of publicity campaign
- First extension of 'handle with care' pilots
- Start of the reporting code tour
- Processing of the proposed legislation for existing current criminal offences

## Priorities in the regional approach

- Establishment of regional administrative networks, where the integrated management of the approach to child abuse and domestic violence is located and where connections between the police and care and justice partners are made
- Connecting the regional visions / plans to the priorities with the programme

## Cross-regional priorities

- Setting criteria for the design of MDA++
- Setting requirements for the decision on the use of trauma screening
- Setting criteria for local teams (reinforcement of local field)
- Strengthening collaboration between Safe At Home, professional groups and professionals
- Development of field standards for the detection and reporting of domestic violence and child abuse (in accordance with the field standard for hospitals)
- Development and implementation of improvement proposals from the 'Safety First' development agenda (Police, Public Prosecution Service, Child Protection Board, Probation and Safe At Home)
- Ensuring regional forensic medical expertise for children



### first half of 2019

- Monitoring insight into progress, gains and problem areas
- **Second progress report**

### February 2019

Start of publicity campaign

### 2019

Support for regions and exchange of working practices

### second half of 2019

**Third progress report**

### 2020

Interim evaluation and decision regarding progress

### 2021

In all regions, notable improvements are being made in tackling domestic violence and child abuse, across the three lines of action:

- ✓ Earlier and better identification
- ✓ Prevention and long-term solutions
- ✓ Specific groups



### Steering group

The steering group consists of administrators from the national organisations involved; they identify any problems in the legislation or regulations, ensure support among their own constituency and proactively implement the goals and successes of the programme. The steering group makes decisions and ensures progress. It meets twice a year.

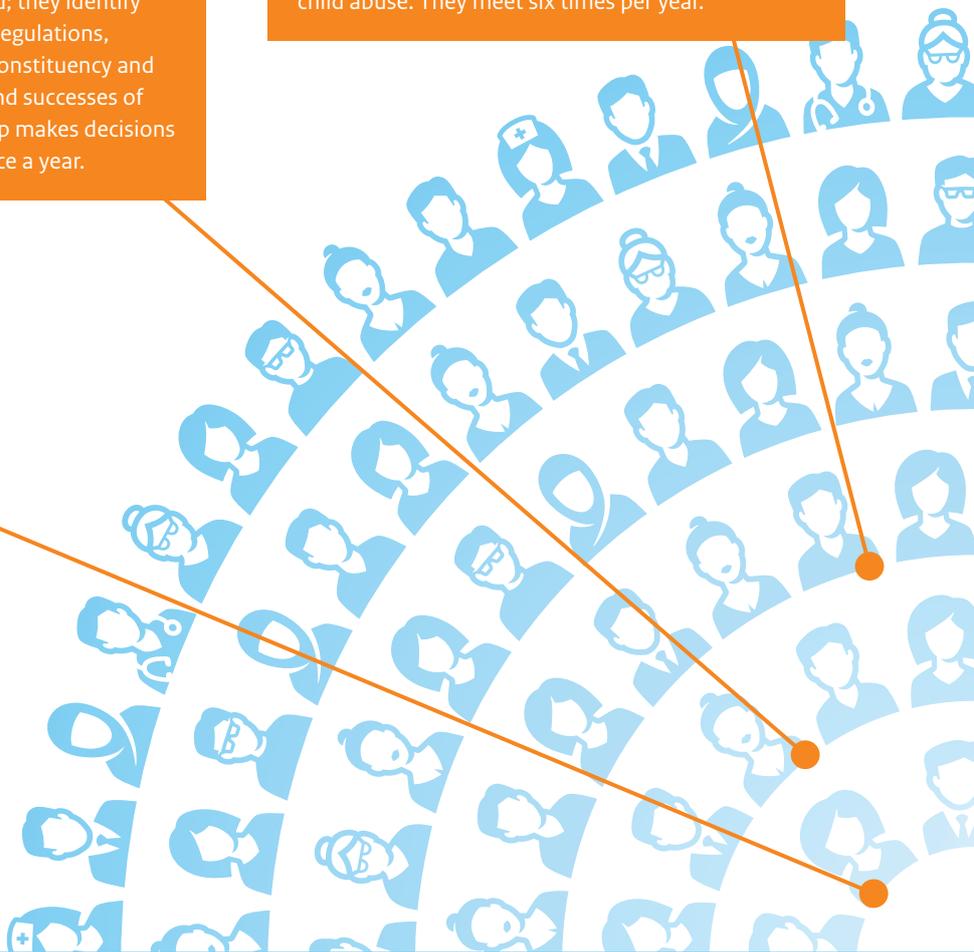
### Core team

Members of the national core team represent organisations relevant to the programme and have expertise at the operational and/or tactical levels. The core team monitors the efforts made within their own organisations with respect to the joint approach in the regions, and identifies issues and best practices from the regions. It encourages and supports regions in implementing their own action plans by providing knowledge. They also work to engage and involve partners who have responsibilities in tackling domestic violence and child abuse. They meet six times per year.



### Commissioning parties meeting (Ministries of VWS, JenV and VNG)

The three commissioning parties of the national multi-year programme 'Violence does not have a place in the home' are the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS), the Minister for Legal Protection (JenV) and the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG). Both the ministers and the director of the VNG meet 3 times a year.



## Research programme including effect monitor

Existing knowledge on the approach to child abuse and domestic violence is bundled, analysed and adapted for sharing with municipalities, organisations and regional project leaders and professionals. On this basis and the knowledge needs of professionals, a decision is made on what more is required.

The effect monitor measures whether a real difference is being made with the approach to domestic violence and child abuse in the lives of those affected. This includes victims, perpetrators and their social network.

The effect monitor consists of the indicators used to monitor and examine the (social) impact of the work of the professionals, organisations and authorities involved.



### Learning circles

The aim of the learning circles is to exchange knowledge and experiences, to learn and develop together, and to work on developing themes in greater detail. The learning circles act as a complement to the support provided by the three regional advisers. Five or six regions meet in each learning circle, and they are held 6 times per year.



### Regional project managers (28) / Administrative networks

In practice, the approach is implemented as close as possible to victims and perpetrators. Each region translates the three overall action lines into their own action plans for concrete implementation; they also establish an administrative and content-based network which supports and promotes this approach. The regional project leader oversees the implementation of the action plans.



### Over one million professionals

Every day, one million professionals in the field of care and public safety are actively involved in tackling child abuse and domestic violence. The long-term solution lies in better cooperation between the professionals who are responsible, and effective communication and referral between professionals. It also involves putting the safety of victims first, as well as focusing on perpetrators and potential perpetrators, and the social network of all those affected.



The safety of victims has a central role in encouraging and assisting the regions to implement the regional action plan.

### First-hand experience

The programme team is supported not only by professionals from the fields of social work and public safety, but also representatives who have first-hand experience. They know what works and what does not.



### Further information

#### National programme

#### 'Violence does not have a place in the home'

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