

Written questions members Island Council for the Executive Council/ Government Commissioners.  
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Issue : Appointment of Youth Workers

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Sender : Rechelline Leerdam

Date answer : (within 15 days)

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Responsible editor :

QUESTIONS:

1. What exactly will the program entail whilst working with teenagers and who is responsible for the overall evaluation of this program?

Youth work is recently added as social service to the community and therefore falls under the Directorate Social Domain. It follows the transition of preventative youth care that fell under Center for Youth and Family (RCN) to the Public Entity. This similar as to developments on Saba and Bonaire as well as the European Netherlands. Youth work or 'preventative youth care' is now an Island task making it structural. It therefore cannot be described as a program. The Unit Social Support executes youth work on behalf of the Public Entity. Here youth work is executed in connection with other social services available for youth and also their parents/caregivers enabling a holistic approach as described in the masterplan Strong Roots of the directorate Social Domain.

2. What tangible benefits do we plan to achieve by this new program?

The directorate Social Domain aims for comprehensive programming in which organizations and volunteers work together with active involvement of teenagers (12+). This is done through the commitment to four pillars: 1. Active policy: an effective framework in which there is continuous coordination with stakeholders (direction); 2. Deployment of youth worker (Social Support unit): establishing contact and building relationships with teenagers, parents/carers, referral and guidance, tailor-made approach; 3. Structural programming: entering into and implementing performance agreements that focus on interests and social-emotional, cognitive and motor development (continuous learning path, talents); 4. Incidental activities and projects: incidental activities for and also (partly) by young people themselves, increase level of participation.

3. How does this program differ to afterschool programs, school counselors and foundations such as Mega D Youth Foundation, A+ and daughters of the king?

The afterschool programs for teenagers (12+) is since 2021 directed and funded under this new approach. This as a follow up to the BES(t)4Kids program that focusses on youth up to 12 years. The youth workers are the spiders connecting all organizations and also contact teenagers directly.

Organizations reaching out to teenagers are encouraged to collaborate as much as possible and to make use of each other's expertise. Here the basis is laid in creating a united approach to empower teenagers. If needed individual teenagers are able to receive additional support. The youth workers guide the teenagers to ensure they receive the appropriate social support.

#### **4. Who are the stakeholders involved?**

All organizations who reach out to teenagers can and will be involved. There are already a large number of stakeholders involved. Some focus on teenagers, others reach out to teenagers as part of their target group or service. Just to name a few; A+ Academic & Professional Training Centre (A+ APTC), St Eustatius Sport Facility Foundation (SSFF), Mega D Youth Foundation(MYF), New Challenges Foundation(NCF), Gwendoline van Putten school(GVP), Diker Training Academy, Police, Center for Youth and Family and the ministry of Health, Wellbeing and Sports who also contributes financially.

#### **5. What is the vision and method to create a positive environment for teens?**

It is the vision of the Public Entity to create a continuous learning strand for teenagers that matches their interests and qualities and to strengthen the position of teenagers on the island and in the context of children's rights. The vision is for youths aged 12 years and older to have a healthy life, offering a safe and promising environment in which to grow up. Specific attention emphasizes to the development of teenagers on a cognitive, motoric and social-emotional level. The result is a strengthened pedagogical climate that is established in consultation with relevant parties, together with teenagers themselves and which is regularly adjusted so that teenagers on St. Eustatius can make the transition to adulthood in a healthy, safe and promising way. This in a holistic approach in conjunction with the master plan of Social Domain 'Strong Roots'.

#### **6. Is there a confidentiality policy in place for this program?**

All Civil servants of the Public Entity of St Eustatius follow the "Code of Conduct" which covers the confidentiality policy.