

# Spaarnevleugels - The Netherlands

## Introduction

Spaarnevleugels, located in Hoofddorp, a village in the Netherlands near Amsterdam, is an initiative by HVO-Querido that provides forensic care and supported housing for adults. It serves as a transitional facility, where the primary goal is to assist residents in finding a place that best suits them after their stay at Spaarnevleugels. The approach is based on strength-focused work and the living environment philosophy, aiming to support residents in their integration into society. HVO-Querido offers shelter, guidance, and daytime activities to people in vulnerable situations in North Holland, particularly in the Greater Amsterdam area. Through their efforts and expertise, they strive for an inclusive, livable, and safe society.



Spaarnevleugels opened its doors in 2020 in response to the shortage of protected housing facilities in Haarlemmermeer and surrounding regions. To increase the number of available places for supported living, a suitable location was sought, leading to the establishment of Spaarnevleugels. This facility contributes to the ambition of the Kennemerland region to allow its residents to live as normally as possible.

## Scale

Spaarnevleugels has capacity for 35 residents. Of these 35 places, 24-28 beds are available for forensic care (IFZO), and 7-11 beds are designated for protected living, with placements arranged by municipalities (WMO).

### RESCALED-principles in practice:

- Small-scale
- Differentiated
- Community-integrated

## Differentiation

### *Target group:*

Spaarnevleugels caters to men and women aged 18 and older who require forensic care and supported housing. There are no exclusion criteria based on the type of offense. To qualify, potential residents must be

willing to engage in guidance, daytime activities, or work. A key requirement is the willingness to work on self-sufficiency, self-care, and independence, with the support of a counselor and therapist.

Residents are expected to behave respectfully towards fellow residents, staff, and neighbors and must have a connection to the Zuid-Kennemerland, IJmond, and/or Haarlemmermeer regions, with a view to potentially moving to independent housing in the area. The goal is for residents to transition to their own homes within two years. The use of hard drugs is prohibited, and new residents must be drug-free for at least three months. The use of alcohol and soft drugs is allowed, provided it does not hinder personal development. Additionally, the facility is not designed for people with physical disabilities.

Placement at Spaarnevleugels can be arranged either through the justice system (IFZO) or via the municipality (WMO).

#### *Forms of security:*

At Spaarnevleugels, the focus is on relational security, emphasizing the importance of building strong relationships with residents. This approach is encapsulated in the phrase "Connection before correction." The facility follows the living environment philosophy, aiming to create an open and positive atmosphere, which is crucial for the residents' development. In such an environment, residents feel more responsible for their own situation, are emotionally more stable, and have a better outlook on life, leading to less aggression and greater motivation to engage in their guidance. Teambuilding plays a key role in fostering a positive home atmosphere, and counselors are always accessible to residents through an open-door policy.

Regarding static security, staff are present 24/7, and while there are cameras on the premises, both staff and residents find them reassuring rather than intrusive. The facility's entrances and exits are secured with locks.

Procedural security is maintained through various house rules, such as prohibitions on aggression, intimidation, and discrimination, as well as measures to prevent disturbances within the facility or the neighborhood, and the ban on hard drugs. However, residents have a say in these rules through a residents' committee, which helps ensure a safe and pleasant environment for both staff and residents. Spaarnevleugels also maintains good relations with the police and has designated security officers among the staff responsible for security.

### *Activities:*

At Spaarnevleugels, a strength-based approach is central to the care provided. This approach focuses on supporting individuals in vulnerable positions so that they can reintegrate into society. Rather than concentrating on what a person cannot do, the emphasis is on what they can achieve. The residents' goals and dreams form the foundation of their support plan. For some residents, autonomy can be challenging, especially when transitioning from prison to Spaarnevleugels. Efforts are made to accommodate their need for autonomy by starting with a signaling plan and offering tailored support. Residents work together with staff to set up agreements regarding their weekly routines. While having a daily activity or meaningful engagement is a requirement for living at Spaarnevleugels, having a strict weekly schedule is not mandatory. The level of structure in a resident's schedule varies, with some being subject to conditions imposed by the justice system due to their forensic status.



Spaarnevleugels focuses on housing, daytime activities, and treatment (in collaboration with probation services, mental health care providers, and HVO-Querido). They work with various providers of daytime activities, such as Werkdag, Reakt, and Ecosol. Residents participate in training programs that contribute to their development toward greater independence, such as budget management courses. Collaboration with mental health providers ensures that each resident has a therapist. Residents are responsible for their own grocery shopping and cooking.

### **Community-integration**

#### *Location and architecture:*



Spaarnevleugels is located in Hoofddorp, in a former wing of a hospital that has been converted into a self-contained facility. While the facility may not appear fully integrated into the community from the hospital side, this is balanced by its proximity to a nearby residential neighborhood on the other side. Although remnants of the original hospital layout are still noticeable, considerable effort has been made to create a homely atmosphere, with the addition of plants, wall decorations, and a pool table.

Residents are grouped into four corridors, each featuring its own living room and kitchen. While these corridors exist, they are not strictly separated from one another. Each resident has their own bedroom, bathroom, and toilet. Additionally, each corridor has access to a balcony, including one designated for smoking. The facility also features a SWIP-SWAP corner (see photo), where residents can exchange donated items.

#### *Interaction with the community:*

Spaarnevleugels does not offer activities directly but collaborates with various local organizations, such as probation services, daytime activity providers (Werkdag, Reakt, Ecosol), the general practitioner, and the pharmacy. Extensive information about the facility, including how local residents can report any disturbances or where they can direct other inquiries, is available on the HVO-Querido website.

#### **Spaarnevleugels**

Founded: 2020

Capacity: 35

Security level: Low

Nearest city/town:

Hoofddorp (The Netherlands)

Nature of interaction: Visited  
by RJN (15/01/2024)

#### **Publicity/ read more**

- About Spaarnevleugels at the official website of HVO-Querido:

HVO-Querido. (2023, November 2). Spaarnevleugels - HVO-Querido. Retrieved 14th of may, 2024 from <https://hvoquerido.nl/locaties/spaarnevleugels/>

- Questions and answers about Spaarnevleugels at the official website of HVO-Querido:

HVO-Querido. (2022, April 28). *Vragen en antwoorden Spaarnevleugels - HVO-Querido*. Retrieved 14th of may, 2024 from <https://hvoquerido.nl/vragen-en-antwoorden-spaarnevleugels/>