

Protected Living Velden - The Netherlands

Introduction

Protected Living Velden (BW Velden) is a protected living facility, founded by Confidence Twende in 2016. This facility offers a safe and supported living environment for people who are ready to live more independently. The focus is on independent living with the necessary support, allowing residents to gradually increase their self-reliance.



Confidence Twende is an organization that offers a wide range of care and support options in Central and Northern Limburg, such as protected living, day care, and work reintegration at the workshop in Maasbree, ambulatory support, and safehouses. Confidence Twende is centered on the belief that everyone has the right to a full place in society. They prioritize continuity of care, providing as much support and treatment as possible in the home situation. They assist participants in doing things themselves, rather than taking tasks over, ensuring a gradual transition from professional care to the social network of family, friends, and volunteers.

Scale

BW Velden is a small-scale facility with twelve living spaces, where each resident has their own studio.

RESCALED-principles in practice:

- Small-scale
- Differentiated
- Community-integrated

Differentiation

Target group:

BW Velden is a facility for adults (18+), both men and women, who need support with independent living. The focus is on promoting independence, with residents having their own space and working on meaningful daily activities. The target group is broad and mainly consists of people with complex needs, such as mild intellectual disabilities (LVB) and addiction, but can also include higher-educated individuals (HBO).

Several conditions are set for living in BW Velden. First, the resident must be motivated to work on independence. Second, the resident must have a BW or ZP indication. These are types of indications that

determine what care and support a person receives and whether someone qualifies for protected living or other forms of care. Lastly, the resident must have sufficient financial resources to pay for rent. Residents pay rent for the studios in BW Velden, but it is possible to apply for rent subsidy.

The average stay is two years, but this can vary depending on the resident's needs. Afterward, residents move on to an independent living space. Placement can be made both from the justice system (FZ) and from the municipality (WMO).

Forms of security:

At BW Velden, relational security is the priority, with a focus on building a trusting relationship between staff and residents. Staff are trained in forensic vigilance. The support is aimed at promoting independent living, respecting the autonomy of the residents. This is achieved by normalizing, building trust, and having fun. The relationship between staff and residents plays a crucial role here, and it is important that residents feel supported and heard.

There is limited procedural security: residents have as much autonomy as possible over their weekly schedule and can come and go from the facility at their own time, both during the day and at night.



Individual agreements are made about this. There are few fixed rules; residents experience the location as their own home. However, they are expected to attend the monthly participants' meeting and actively work on their independence. The use of substances is allowed, but only in their own room. Again, individual agreements are made about this. For residents with a forensic label, additional rules may apply, coordinated with probation services.

Regarding static security, some measures have been implemented. There are cameras at the entrance and in common areas. Additionally, there is 24/7 support available, so someone is always available for assistance, even at night.

Activities:

At BW Velden, independence is central. The support is tailored to the individual needs of the residents, with some receiving more support than others. There are only a few structured activities within the facility, apart from the monthly participants' meeting. The guiding principle is that residents make the most use of existing services and facilities in the community.

Outside the facility, residents can work, do volunteer work, or participate in day activities. Many residents go to the Confidence Twende workshop in Maasbree, where they engage in day programs or volunteer work. They are transported there and back daily by a minibus.

Self-sufficiency in daily life is an important part of the support. Residents do their own shopping and cook in their own studios, but they can also choose to cook together in the common area. Additionally, residents can participate in activities with each other if they wish, but there is also space for them to retreat to their own studio.

For residents with problems such as addiction, additional treatment can be provided at the BW Velden location by Confidence Twende. The approach is based on recovery-oriented addiction care, where not clinical healing but coping with addiction and social participation are central. The support and treatment focus on strengthening autonomous motivation and use motivational interviewing techniques. Small successes are celebrated as part of the recovery process. The methods ACT (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy) and CRA (Community Reinforcement Approach) play a major role in this.

Community-integration

Location and architecture:

BW Velden is located in the village of Velden, which is part of the municipality of Venlo, about five kilometers north of the city. Velden is situated in the southeastern part of the Netherlands, near the German border. The building, previously used by the Rabobank, is situated in a residential area next to several nursing homes.

Velden is a small village with about 5,535 inhabitants¹ and is surrounded by greenery. There is a good bus connection to Venlo, and the village offers various amenities such as a supermarket (Jan



¹AlleCijfers.nl. (2025, January 16). Woonplaats Velden in cijfers en grafieken (bijgewerkt 2025!) AlleCijfers.nl. Retrieved January 30th, 2025, from <https://allecijfers.nl/woonplaats/velden/>

Linders), Kruidvat, pharmacy, Hubo, and a doctor's office. According to Confidence Twende, this quiet and manageable environment provides the ideal foundation to regain control of one's life and work on independence.

BW Velden consists of twelve studios, all equipped with a bedroom, living room, shower, and a kitchenette with a stove. Each studio has an area between 40 and 50 m². On the ground floor, there is a common area, which is intentionally not furnished because residents primarily live in their own studios. The location also has a small outdoor space, a washing machine, and a dryer for shared use.

Interaction with the community:

BW Velden does not have formal collaborations with the neighborhood, but residents, like other locals, use local facilities and are active in work, volunteer work, and day activities. They live independently and can pay rent for their studio (depending on the indication), enabling them to participate fully as community members.

However, the facility experiences some resistance from the neighborhood, as not all residents view the presence of BW Velden positively. To reduce stigmatization and NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) issues, the founder of Confidence Twende ideally aims to evolve into scattered living across the city in the future. This would further promote the integration of residents into society.

BW Velden

Founded: 2016

Capacity: 12

Security level: Low

Nearest city/town: Velden
(The Netherlands)

Nature of interaction:

Visited by RJN (15-11-
2024)

Publicity/ read more

- About BW Velden at the official website of Confidence Twende:

Confidence Twende. (z.d.). Velden Venlo – Wonen. Twende. Retrieved January 30th, 2025 from <https://twende.nu/behandeling/wonen/velden-venlo>