

A unique living project for young adults with Usher Syndrome, working together with the diagnostic Usher team

Andrea: My name is Andrea Reinders. I am the leader of the houses on the Mgr. Hermuslaan where young adults with usher syndrome live together.

This is Hanneke Brekelmans and she works at the specialist diagnostic Usherteam of Viataal.

And this is Ekrem Koc and he lives at the Mgr. Hermuslaan and has also contact with Hanneke.

Viataal offers different services for people with Usher syndrome.

*There is a school for children with usher. The name is the Rafael school.

*People with Usher who live on there own can ask people from BEO to help them with a computer training, 4 hands sign language course, mobility training etc.

*People with Usher who can't find a job can get help from FAMA.

*Then there is the Mgr.hermuslaan

*and the Usher team.

First I will tell you something about the houses and show you a DVD, then Hanneke and then Ekrem will tell you something. Finally we will devide you in groups so we can have a discussion about some questions we will present you. I will ask 1 person in each group to summarize plenary where you talked about.

Of course you are free to ask any questions you have.

Let me first tell you something about the Mgr. Hermuslaan. The Mgr Hermuslaan is a street in Sint-Michielsgestel. There are 4 houses which belong to Viataal. Here, deafblind adults live together, each with their own specific required care. The main goal is "To guide the young adults to an independent as possible, way of living".

In the different houses we have 4 guiding models, namely

*Treatment/care model:

The deafblind persons who live here have a limited level of independency. There are almost always social workers present. Major aspects in the guidance are giving reflection on the experiences and anticipation on difficult situations. In this house 4 persons can live together.

*training model:

The deafblind persons who live here are training to live by there own. The are leaning by doing things. They live together in 2 houses for three persons.

The main goal is the learning of practical and social skills in the day-to-day living situation. The social workers are not constantly present, but available 24 hours a day.

*itself provision model:

The deafblind person live almost independent. Central point is the responsibility of the resident and they have a great deal of freedom. Contact with the social workers is limited. It is more a consultation.

*Independent living model

In another part of the village some deafblind persons, who lived on the Mgr. Hermuslaan, live completely on there own.

Once or twice a week the social worker has an appointment with them. The resident indicates what he or she wants to learn and receives feedback on this.

In all this models the resident indicates what he wants to learn. Together with his or her personal coach a coaching plan is developed. The coach can give suggestions for this plan. After 3 months there is an evaluation of the goals.

When persons with Usher Syndrome live together in a house, they can speak with each other about the things they have to deal with. They understand each other because they encounter the same problems. Through communication with each other and learning coping-strategies they develop their own identity and independency.

The persons who live here can go to the specialist diagnostic Usherteam of Viataal.

Hanneke will tell you more about this team.

Now I show you a DVD of the Mgr. Hermuslaan. It's a DVD in Dutch.

I only translated a little part in English. I show you this part only. In this way you get an impression of the Mgr. Hermuslaan.

Ekrem and Franka will tell you something about the Hermuslaan on this DVD. The both live here.