



Abstract Nr: 278

**Title: Is a good neighbor worth more than a distant friend?
Experiences of an assisted living model.**

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Introduction: About 7% of the people with SMI require some form of supported living as a consequence of their illness. They often experience problems on a variety of domains, such as persistent complaints due to medication resistance, cognitive disturbances, physical health and self-care problems, and psychosocial dysfunctioning.

Objectives The current project aims to improve social and community functioning in this group of service users.

Methods: 'Noaber Goud' is an innovative project, which means 'good neighbours are worth gold'. In Groningen (The Netherlands), the project has been set up in the form of an assisted living group. 35 people with psychiatric conditions live there, together with four students, who joined the project in August 2018. These students can live in 'cheaper than normal' accommodation, in return for four hours a week of their time helping the residents to join in with society. **Results** All sorts of activities are organised in the neighbourhood, such as a neighbour-day, a guided tour of the factory down the street and a repair café. The assisted living residents have an active role in the project group, and also in the selection of the students that will come to live with them. The students are enthusiastic and see it as a small village, and the residents are also enthusiastic.

Conclusions We conclude from this pilot project that integrated assisted living is feasible and acceptable to service users as well as students and people in the community close to the residence. More research is needed.

**ON THE HEALING POWER
OF HUMAN RECONNECTION**