

# SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN CITIES



## NANTES INVESTING IN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

ADAPTING CHILDCARE TO FAMILY NEEDS AND LIFTING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

The early childcare service is an innovative project to adapt and improve childcare services for children from 10 weeks up to three years old. The aim is to improve labour market access for women and single parents in the north of the city. This district, Nantes Nord, has the largest concentration of social housing in the city: 40% of the population is made up of single-parent families, of which 71% live on low income levels.

As part of the service the city directly manages 25 multi-purpose childcare centres, each varying in capacity and in facilities offered, including long-term, short-term, flexible and 'emergency' childcare. In 2011 Nantes set up a single service point to manage family requests for early childcare and identify the most suitable childcare services.

As part of the scheme 60 people, all women and mostly single parents, have been able to return to employment or undertake training. This has helped to boost the local labour market and has had a positive impact on the lives of the women concerned.

The success of the project is attributed to having all relevant organisations and service providers working together, both on early childhood and social inclusion. In the future Nantes will focus on extending the childcare services available, adapting them to the specific needs of women with irregular or flexible working hours and who require childcare during leisure or cultural activities.

