

SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN CITIES

ROTTERDAM THE INTEGRATED CHAIN APPROACH

SERVICES WORKING TOGETHER UNDER A COMMON STRATEGY TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

Rotterdam uses the integrated chain approach for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness, with a particular focus on young people. The integrated chain is a transferable strategic model for preventing homelessness, where services work together under a common strategy that seeks to support homeless individuals, couples and families.

The integrated chain approach consists of a one-stop-shop and close cooperation between all service deliverers involved, which include housing corporations, centres for people with addiction issues, Salvation Army night centres, and local care networks.

In order to make the service as integrated as possible, areas such as housing, income and work, and training and health care are all addressed simultaneously. The city's policy on homelessness is a holistic one; the multifaceted aspects of poverty and exclusion are addressed together in order to improve the individual's situation.

The success of the integrated chain approach is evident in the dramatic reduction of homelessness in the city. Through long-term investment many people are now in stable and independent accommodation. Within the city of Rotterdam there are almost no people sleeping rough. This has been a significant achievement, and is one that the city wishes to maintain in the long-term.

