Rough Sleeping and Rehabilitation

The Why & The Wherefore
The Way Out & The What Might Have Been
The Why – Nature AND Nurture

• Unprocessed childhood trauma
• History of depression
• Arrested maturation
• Wrong relationship with alcohol
• Poor/defiant decision-making
• Fragile emotional health/DV
• Fear of failure
The Wherefore

• Evolving descent into chronic mental and physical alcoholism
• Waning familial and friendly support
• Increasing isolation
• Mounting debt
• Loss of work
• Mental breakdown/diminished (self) esteem
• Eviction from family
The Way Out

- Detox round one
- Discharge to street
- Denied benefits and rehab access – local connection expired
- Detox round two
- Discharge to temporary local authority hostel
- Notice to quit - not ‘in priority need’
- The hand of God leading to residential rehab
How on earth did this happen?
‘The Bystander Effect’

‘But the stream of London charity flows in a channel which, though deep and mighty, is yet noiseless and underground; not obvious or readily accessible to poor houseless wanderers; and it cannot be denied that the outside air and framework of London society is harsh, cruel and repulsive.’

*Confessions of an English Opium Eater*,
Thomas De Quincey, 1821.
WARMTH TRENDS in Cognitive Sciences

COMPETENCE

*Housewives
*Irish
*Middle Class
*Americans
*Black Professionals

*Whites
*British
*Jews
*Asians
*The Rich

*Poor Blacks
*Benefits Recipients
*Turks
Feminists
*Arabs

Elderly
*Retarded
*Disabled

*Whites
*British
*Jews
*Asians
*The Rich
TRENDS in Cognitive Sciences

- Active facilitation
- Passive facilitation
- Active harm
- Passive harm
- Pity
- Admiration
- Contempt
- Envy
What might have been

- Respectful and understanding approach to care
- Housing assessment
- Communication/language/coordination/navigation
- Close support/after-care/(talking) therapy
- Integrated complex medical care and medication management
- Basic needs (i.e. transportation)/supported, stepped reintegration
- *Nothing about me without me*
“... I am a human being!
I ... am .... John Merrick:
I am not an animal!”