

# MOVING ON

REFUGEES  
HOMELESSNESS  
ANTI-TRAFFICKING &  
MODERN SLAVERY



**HOMELESSNESS**  
LESSON ONE  
RIGHT UP YOUR STREET

*A schools resource for 11-16s*



## Right Up Your Street: Character Cards

**DANNY**

Danny has been sleeping on sofas at his friends' houses for two months.

**SABIA**

Sabia and her two children are sharing a bedroom with her parents in their tiny flat

**LEAH**

Leah lives with her boyfriend. He gets very aggressive and has hit her a number of times. She wants to leave.

**SHAUN**

Shaun is staying in a hostel after being evicted.

**NASIR**

Nasir left home after fighting with his family and he's now sleeping rough.

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## Right Up Your Street: Case Stories 1

### TOM

Tom's mother had alcohol problems leading to a broken marriage and resulting in Tom moving between his mother and step father's houses.

Tom's mother threw him out of the house because he wasn't earning enough; he worked two nights a week at a local pub, and was unable to live with his step father as there was not enough space.

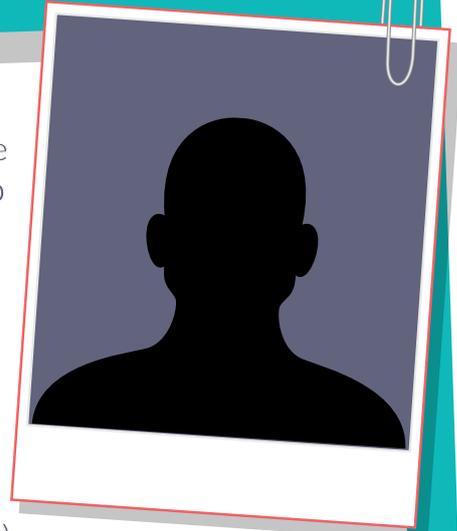
Tom ended up sleeping rough in the local park but did maintain working. He came to Booth House (A Salvation Army Life house) and was assigned a project worker to help him do the following; keep his employment, find permanent accommodation and re-build the relationship with his mother.

With support to access benefits, signposting to other help, building personal motivation, confidence, self-esteem and facilitating meetings with his mother Tom achieved his targets leaving Booth House and moving in to his own private rented accommodation.

Tom continues to work and has a positive relationship with his mother. On leaving Booth House he wrote;

*"I would like to say thank you for everything you have done for me. Helping me with every single problem I had, getting me back in touch with my parents and finding a place for myself."*

*"Thank you for accepting who I am and I just hope if I'm in trouble again I would be able to come back with open arms."*



## DAVID

David, came to Vale Street Salvation Army Lifehouse 14 months ago after splitting up with his girlfriend and finding himself on the streets with no employment, and no family or friends, to help him get back on his feet. While staying at the Lifehouse, the chaplain – Captain John – encouraged him to take part in a football tournament in July last year. Due to David's lack of confidence he eventually agreed but only on the condition that his friend Anthony, another resident at the Lifehouse, went with him.

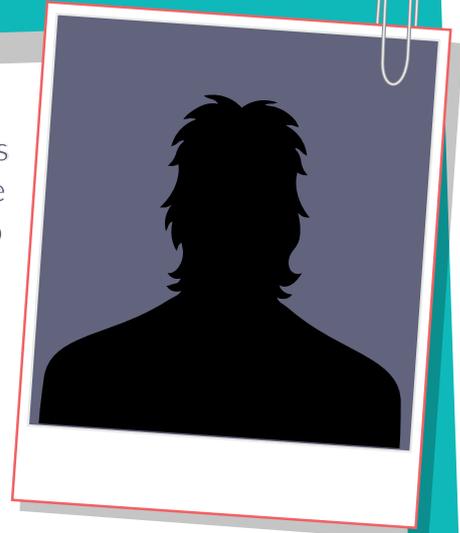
This tournament at Stoke City's Britannia Stadium proved to be a turning point in David's life.

*He said: "I wouldn't have gone to the tournament if it wasn't for the Chaplain John's encouragement and if Anthony hadn't gone with me."*

A lady who was running the football tournament from The Prince's Trust picked up on David's lack of confidence and suggested he took a self-development programme run by the youth charity. That started in October and for five days a week for 12 weeks David attended the course which focuses on confidence building, teamwork and communication skills.

David said: "The course was fantastic – it has really helped me develop my confidence. My Salvation Army key worker, Michael, was very supportive. It was quite strange going to the course and coming back to the Lifehouse because most others on the course were living at home with family or friends. But it was great because I could tell Michael about the things I had done at the course and it was nice to have someone listen to me and get excited about the things I was doing.

David has now begun a cycle mechanics and business enterprising course and has just been given a grant to help him set up his own cycle repair business.



## MARK

When he first came to Booth House Lifehouse in Swindon, despite finding a warm and friendly welcome, Mark would stay in his room and shy away from social integration. Mark had lost his job, partner, and home, and saw his confidence decrease so much that he wouldn't look people in the face.

Mark said: "It was awful. We joke about it now but the person I was two years ago is completely different now."

*"At first I was nervous and scared, and hardly spoke to anybody, I had very little confidence at all."*

However, within a few weeks the father-of-two began volunteering at the Recycles scheme, as he realised he needed to do something. Recycles gives the people who live at Booth House Lifehouse the opportunity to learn new skills by refurbishing old bikes and doing repairs for people in the community.

Mark began by volunteering on the retail side of Recycles and gradually started to learn cycle mechanics.

Rick, the recycles mechanic said "The changes I've seen in Mark – it's almost like two different people. He came to us quite down on his luck and quite depressed. He is now confident and moving forward. It is a total change around."

The Salvation Army gave Mark the opportunity to complete an NVQ Level 2 qualification in engineering and he now is employed by the church and charity as a relief cycle mechanic and lives in a housing association flat in Swindon."

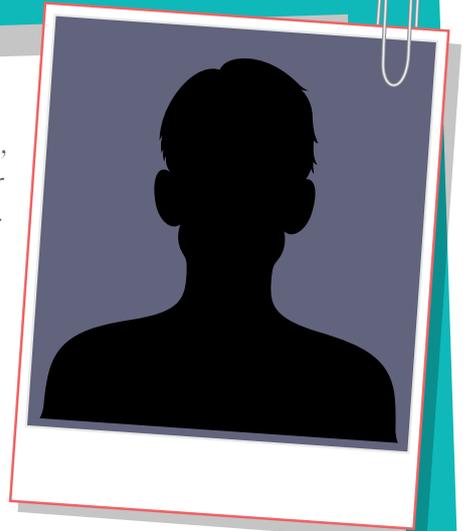


## PHIL

Phil was addicted to alcohol and drugs such as heroin, cocaine, valium, cannabis this led to him becoming homeless. His mother persuaded him to stay at The Salvation Army's Gloucester House, a treatment centre that provides residential rehabilitation for people with drug and alcohol problems.

When Phil arrived he went on a 21-day detox and has been clean for more than eight years.

A successful bass player who has performed with Mick Jagger, Kylie Minogue, Robbie Williams, and many more, Phil now works as a Hepatitis C adviser with an organisation called Swindon and Wiltshire Alcohol and Drug Service and lives in a Salvation Army Housing Association flat in Swindon.



*"I'm proof that you can beat addiction to have a fulfilling life and do something worthwhile. I know what addiction is like but thanks to The Salvation Army I have come through it and my life has changed for the better."*

He said: "The light bulb went on for me when I was in court. I knew then I needed to get help. I want to let people in similar situations know that you can come out of it."

Residents of William Booth Centre

## Mary's Story

Mary spent 20 years sleeping rough on the streets of Birmingham, until an epileptic seizure triggered by drink and drugs proved a wake-up call, leaving her in hospital unable to feed her addictions or even walk outside for a cigarette. But the 41-year-old is turning her life around, which has included a reunion with her mother. She spent so long on the streets that paying bills and cooking are new skills to her. But now she is taking gradual day-to-day steps towards rehabilitation. This is her story...

I grew up in Longbridge and ended up on the streets in Birmingham when I was 19 years old. My ex-partner, who I haven't seen since then, and his brother used to sell heroin.

I was only a teenager and my partner was 32. I had sniffed gas and things like that, but I'd never taken drugs before. When they offered me heroin my ex-partner's brother said, 'Look at all the money I'm making', and that it was a brilliant thing to get rid of all your worries. I'd gone through a lot of things growing up, so I tried it. I took heroin for the first time at 19 and I woke up when I was 41. That is all I remember.

I lived on the streets for 20 years. They gave me heroin for free at first but they didn't tell me how addictive it was or about the withdrawal symptoms. I didn't know any of that.

When I got addicted I got withdrawal symptoms, and when I couldn't get the drug for free I started paying for it. Back then there were only a few people begging for money. Now there are hundreds, and because I was a girl on my own I was making quite a lot of money. I could basically just sit in a doorway with a quilt round me and make my money.

I was making enough for my drugs and I was also an alcoholic.

I was 21 when I moved onto the streets. I started sleeping in the subways. Then there'd be the odd squat where I'd find an old shop where all the windows and doors had been bust in.

I'd sleep inside them to stay out of the weather. But as time went on, the council and the police started closing all these things, so then we started living in subways and a few different doorways and sometimes a phonebox. You'd have to sleep sitting up just to keep the snow out. It sounds unbelievable now, but back then I didn't even think about it.

Residents of William Booth Centre

## Mary's Story (continued)

About ten years ago I'd developed alcohol and drug-induced epilepsy, so I was having really bad fits every single day. Every time the ambulance would come and take me to hospital. In January I was living in a doorway on Hill Street at the side of New Street Station. I'd been there for about four years and the police kept trying to throw me off.

They knew me and felt bad about telling me to move on. I moved on to another doorway which was 10 steps high, whereas the other one had been on the floor. I went to sleep with my legs crossed and sitting up.

I woke and remember seeing blood splattered all over the floor. My teeth had been smashed out of my face and I didn't realise it. Obviously the day before I had been high on drugs and drink. I'd also broken both my legs. The paramedics came and took me to hospital, even though I didn't want to go at first because I always had to walk back.

I had a £20 and a £10 note in my pocket but I couldn't walk to buy drugs. I had to do my whole withdrawal in hospital - drink, drugs, everything. I'd lost all my bags with all my dealers' numbers. The money stayed in my pocket for about two months while I was in hospital. I think that happened for a reason.

Straight from hospital I went to the William Booth Centre and I haven't touched drugs since then. After being in here a few months, all the staff, all the support workers, helped me and I wrote a letter to my mum. Then I got a letter back and I sent my mum a Mother's Day card. Support worker Andrea took me to visit my mum. My mum came down to the bottom of the tower block where she lives and we were both in tears. I'd only seen her four times in those 20 years, and now we speak every day.

I enjoyed looking after my room, cleaning it, doing the washing-up and cleaning my clothes. I have my little routine now - I've never had routine before.

I'm just learning how to pay bills and how to live. Now I'm at a women's hostel and I'm hoping to take a college course so I can work out what I want to do with myself.



Residents of William Booth Centre

## Bob's Story

Bob became homeless after separating from his wife and suffering health problems, which included heart problems requiring a triple bypass in 2005. The Royal Signals veteran, who served during the Falklands conflict and in Africa twice, was supported by The Salvation Army after being treated in hospital in Edinburgh where he was born.

Bob, now 73, worked as a teacher in Kent and Warwickshire after leaving the Army in 1991. This is his story...

I was passing through Oxford and I felt pains in my chest, so a young woman phoned an ambulance for me. I ended up having reconstruction done on my foot in an orthopaedic hospital. It was caused by diabetes and I had nine hours of surgery. When I was discharged, I went to Edinburgh and asked for housing.

I was gobsmacked when they said I had been away from Edinburgh too long. I explained that my brother lived there, but they weren't having it. I ended up in hospital again in Edinburgh. It was my heart this time.

When I was discharged this time I was in a bad way and got a coach to Birmingham. A friend took me to The Salvation Army when I arrived. They took me to a room and I lay in bed for a week. I was in a bad way, I thought I was dying. But I liked it here.

The Salvation Army are here to help us, and if you don't ask for a bit of help you ain't going to get it. They help you in a big way. I've got a nice flat down at Great Barr and The Salvation Army people have made repeated visits to me. I can't extol what they do enough.

There's not many places like this. There's other hostels, but not like The Salvation Army. Daniel, Cecil and Hannah did everything for me and helped me find the place in a sheltered complex. I couldn't ask for better.

Residents of William Booth Centre

## Jim's Story

Jim fled his flat near Glasgow after being terrorised by a neighbour, but he was not able to resettle after returning to the West Midlands where he has roots. The 73-year-old had previously worked in Coventry at firms including former Jaguar Rover Triumph, and was eight years on the academic staff at the University of Warwick before moving to Coatbridge in Scotland.

The divorced father-of-four was found housing association accommodation after an 11th-hour effort by staff at William Booth House once he had completed the standard three-month stay. This is his story...

I had some problems with my neighbour above me. One Saturday he said to me, 'You're getting it tonight.' At 11 o'clock that night my ceiling was just swamped, all the electrics went and water was dripping through the ceiling. I worked out later that this chap had filled his bath up, disconnected the waste pipe and pulled the plug. It all came through his floor into my ceiling.

Later on in the night I thought he was going to come through the door at me. So I barricaded myself into my room waiting for him to come through and have a go. About nine o'clock the next morning I thought, 'I've got to leave, I can't stop here, this guy's going to kill me.' I was despondent, I really thought he was going to kill me. So I packed a bag and went to Coventry, where I used to live. I tried to find my daughter but didn't have the correct address. I tried to get a flat from Coventry City Council and they said no because I hadn't been in Coventry the past four years.

I panicked, and then I tried The Salvation Army. I ended up at their Lifehouse in Coventry and spoke to the chaplain, who found me accommodation at William Booth House in Birmingham. I was a few days over my time when Hannah, the manager, sat on the phone and really went for it to find somewhere for me to live. She was incredible. She found me somewhere to stay, and everything was set up. I was in tears, I was so happy, and the relief really came through. I could feel the weight coming off my shoulders. I can't thank these people enough.

The accommodation I'm in now is like a home from home. It even has a little library. I'm so grateful to The Salvation Army, and any time I see them out collecting money I'm straight into my pocket to give them my change.

Residents of William Booth Centre

## Paul's Story

Paul's story is a familiar one on the streets. His relationship with his partner broke down around two years ago and it was the start of a downward spiral that led to depression, anger and alcohol misuse. The former warehouse worker, 50, ended up sleeping rough before finding solace at William Booth House, where he has a month left...

I was working, I had a job and a two-bedroom flat, but unfortunately it all fell apart. If you've never been in this situation before, you're not educated about where you can go to get help. It knocks you down because it's so frigging easy to be made homeless. You hear about it all the time, with all the figures. I went to my doctor about the booze and he helped me get into a hostel that night.

Things didn't go well there and I had a couple of days on the street living in doorways. It's scary. I can handle myself, but it's dangerous out there. You have to have eyes in the back of your head, because people want to nick your possessions. One night I was sleeping in a car park across the road from The Salvation Army centre where I am now.

I got in touch with Shelter and they told me what to do to declare myself homeless, and that's when I came here. The first couple of days were nerve-wracking because I was trying to sort myself out, but I just locked myself in my room and kept myself to myself.

Then I came out and talked to people and heard their stories. I thought I had it hard until I spoke to some of the other people staying here. It gives you a kick up the backside to get on with things. I won't have anything bad said about this place - it's brilliant. I walk into a room and I've got my kitchen, bed and my own bath.

It's superb. After sleeping in a car park, just to come somewhere safe where you can lock the door and pull the quilt over is such a relief.

If this hadn't been here I don't know where I'd be now. I can only think the worst because I wasn't happy with myself and the situation I was in. I just told myself, 'You're bigger than this, stronger than this', and these people have been superb.

I've walked through the door and they've listened to me, talked to me and helped me move on.