

**Rowan Alba**

**What we do**

and how we do it



# The journey to now

- Socially isolated housebound older people
- Made so by the built environment
- Older people more than other people
- People are complex and don't fit into boxes
- And we just keep on doing it, which is why a lot of services don't help people change



We will need to take you in

Marital breakdown

tied housing

mental health

alcohol

lack of affordable housing

“managing “ the hostel population which do not involve “circulation” from hostel to hostel  
affordable housing with support rather than a hostel

Thorntree

Home for life

Support

Harm reduction

Nurture

Home for life

# A menace to society

- 56 year old man, living in Websters Land (just off High Street, in central Edinburgh)
- 186 convictions for breach of the peace
- A man deemed by social services so aggressive he was risk assessed as being too dangerous for two people to work with
- About to be evicted for non- payment of rent and end up on street (having made himself deliberately homeless, according to the legislation)

**And now,  
12 years  
down the line**



# Not just older people

**350**

**service  
users  
annually**

**60% reduction in  
re-offending in  
Follow Me service**

**100% reduction  
in social isolation  
across all services**

**90% improvement  
in mental health  
across all services**

**50% reduction  
in alcohol abuse  
in CARDS**

- Gerry's story  
depression, anxiety and inability to cope following his wife's death 30 years ago  
two failed tenancies ; countless evictions from temp accomm units , often due to alcohol consumption/curfew breaches  
rough sleeping on and off for 30 years  
unable to continue rough sleeping aged 68; accepted Thorntree Street as had "heard it was an OK place"