

An aerial photograph of a historic European city, likely Gdansk, Poland, featuring a dense cluster of buildings with red-tiled roofs and a prominent church spire. A river flows through the city, with a large white boat docked at a pier. The scene is captured during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light illuminating the sky and the buildings.

# Homelessness amongst mobile EU citizens

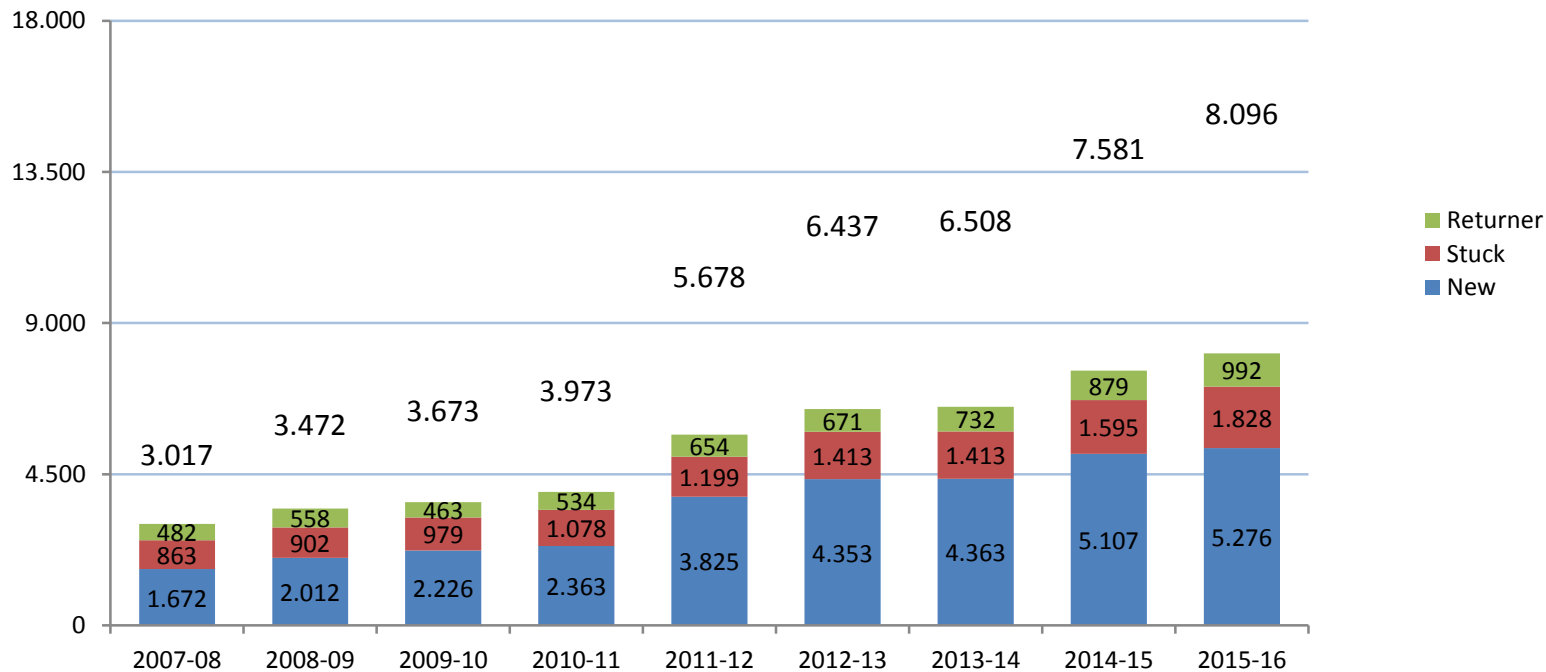
Is the reconnection model  
working?

Petra Salva Director of Services  
St Mungo's

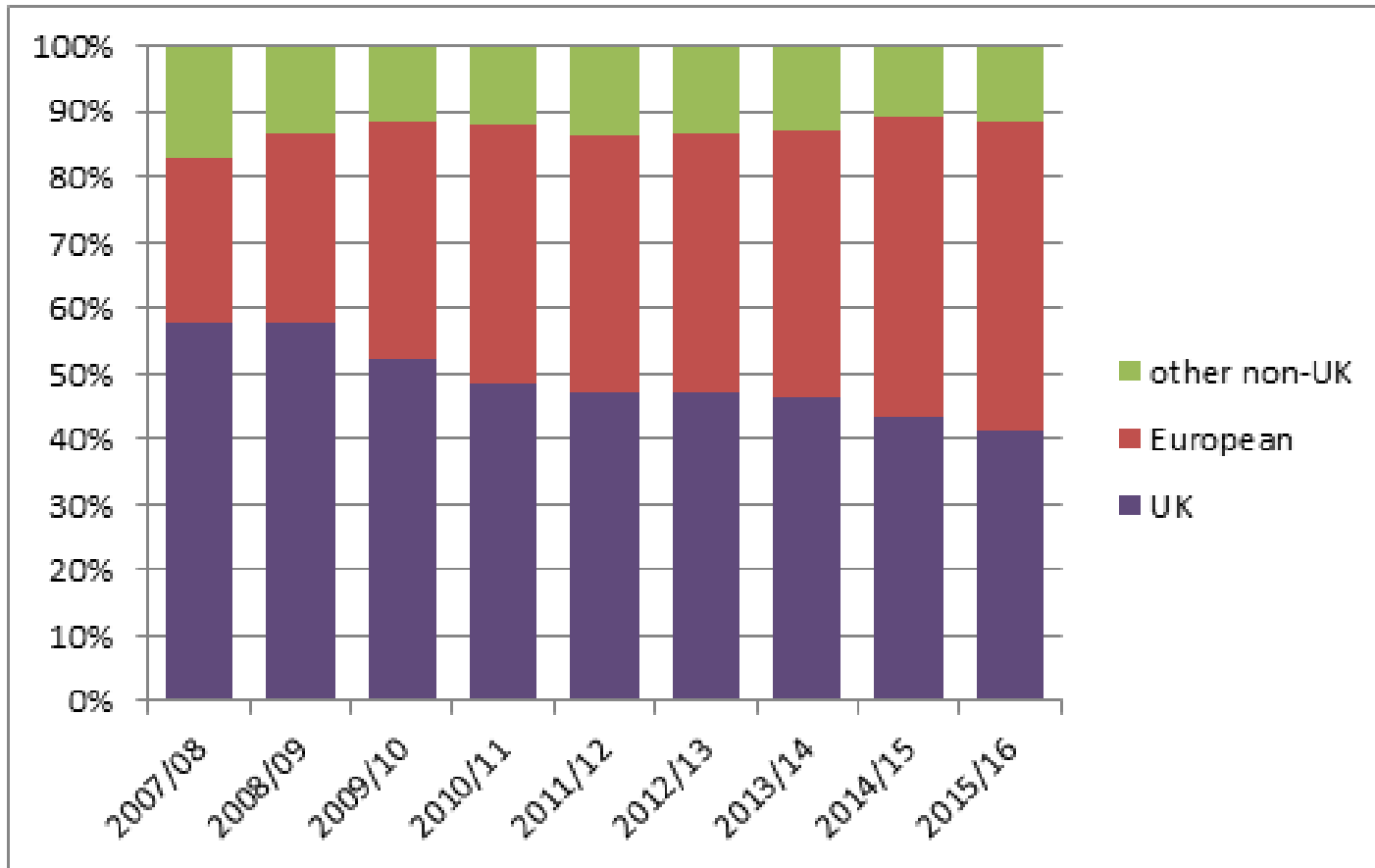
FEANTSA Policy Conference  
18-19 May  
Gdańsk, Poland

# Setting the scene

- rising numbers on the streets of London, though...
- ...a smaller number than in many comparable cities
- ...the proportion of people living on the street and returners has decreased
- ...almost two thirds of those new to the streets only seen once
- ..



- Overall in 15/16, 59 % are non UK nationals - 37% from CEE - 10% other EU
- Romanians single biggest group representing 20% of all rough sleepers in London



# The context

- There are different issues for EU rough sleepers and for those that come from outside the EU to those for UK rough sleepers
- This is not just a rough sleeping issue - challenges flow on to housing, work, health services and communities where people are rough sleeping
- Rising Roma population ( new and different approaches required)
- Significant increase in Romanian rough sleepers over last few years (1 in 3 rough sleepers were Romanian in Westminster)
- Changes in benefit legislation continue to fuel the issue (Reduced access to services – Benefits/Healthcare/Immigration process, right to rent)
- Approaches are inconsistent even within our own organisation and partner organisations
- Difficult political context – anti-immigration vote, declining sympathy, rise of UKIP, Brexit, Calais crisis, sensitive funding climate ( hands off approach)
- Our work takes place within a complex and rapidly changing policy environment , government and legal changes which creates significant challenges specifically relating to Mobile EU citizens.

# Current approaches in London

- Prevention - Government funded 'before you go campaign' / some work with embassies / preventing trafficking (poppy project SA)
- Employing non UK nationals- Study/ exchange visits - Outreach and rough sleeping services employ CEE workers
- Deterrence - disruption of hotspots / anti begging campaign / tackling illegal employment
- Employment Support - work first pilots / support work in hostels/day centre providing support and training
- Accommodation - faith based hosting and night shelters - pilots emerging
- Immigration Advice and support- Resolution fund/Migration advice providers/more resources for EU nationals
- Voluntary return- Routes home - Greater London Authority funded - local outreach teams
- Enforced return- increased Home Office and police operations and administrative removals
- Research - Little done on impact - enforcement - UK reconnection - plans to do more - data collection in London is comprehensive

# St Mungo's approach

**Our vision is that everyone has a place to call home and can fulfill their hopes and ambitions.**

- Developing our approaches and range of services- there has been much learning and growth of expertise
- Tried and tested a number of solutions
- Forefront of driving creative solutions
- Influence commissioning and research and best practice
- Developed a migrant strategy that stretches over next four years



# St Mungo's approach to reconnection

## Multidisciplinary Engagement Treatment Reconnection Offer (METRO)

- METRO provides an intensive and structured recovery programme with a holistic assessment in the relevant language, a tailored support plan and continuity of care.
- We offer people sleeping rough with complex needs immediate respite care and stabilisation prior to any decision or offer of a reconnection - before working with our project delivery partner e.g. Poland, MONAR, to deliver long term therapy, rehabilitation and housing
- METRO is based on the premise that the most effective reconnections are those that are voluntary.
- This means that each person will receive a thorough assessment not only of their needs, but also their aspirations and goals.
- The focus is on ensuring that individuals fully understand their treatment/care options and the possibility of reunion with family and receive tailored, personalised support, end to end.

# Success rate

**In 15/16 our reconnection programme Routes Home worked with 195 people**

- **97** people were supported back home into accommodation and services
- **24** people rejected the service and any offer of reconnection
- **12** were supported to remain in UK and access housing and social services support
- **3** in hospital with TB
- **7** victims of trafficking linked with reintegration programmes in their home countries.