

The Injured Party: a different perspective

Presentation to the
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Overview



Context

**Brain Injury
Rehabilitation**



Pathway

**Rehabilitative
Training
Parallel processes**



Injured Party experience

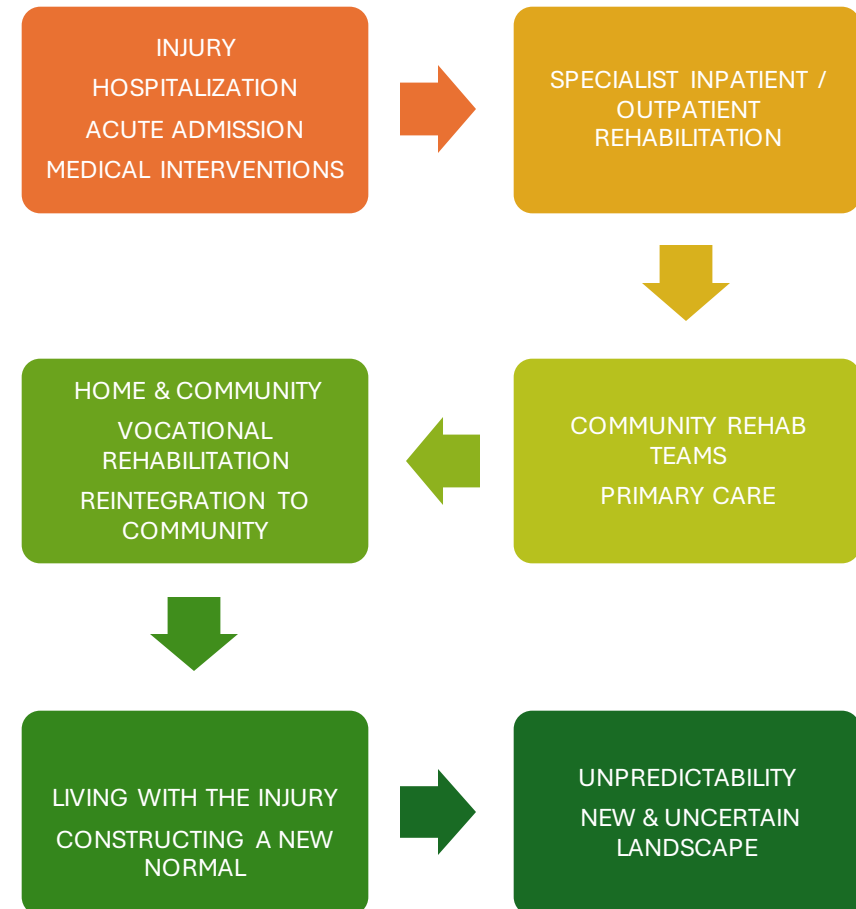
**Symptoms
Impact**



Reflections & Take aways



Rehabilitation Pathway





Rehabilitative Training & Vocational Training

Bridge to reintegration into community

Safe & graded learning environment

Build insight & awareness

Cognitive rehabilitation and self-management

Enhance social communication skills

Build independent living skills

Maximize community reintegration & function

Provide structure & routines

Barriers & Facilitators



Parallel processes

2 -year timeframe to make claim -Average time to RT programme

Shared values ‘collaboration, respect, openness, integrity’

Goals of rehabilitation- focus on building potential and capacity for skills development and reintegration, maximize independence

Goals of injury resolution – fair & impartial service, that parties can trust, reduce cost, time and stress of litigation

Medical assessment – qualitative piece, recovery achieved since injury and prognosis,

Mediation –clarify issues, facilitate agreement, relieve stress, phone vs in person, self vs advocate

Brain Injury

Symptoms/ difficulties

Physical – mobility, balance, movement, dexterity, strength, coordination, visual deficits, weakness, auditory, sensory (taste, smell, touch, etc.

Cognitive – deficits in memory, concentration & attention, information processing, visual processing, awareness, spatial awareness, insight, executive skills (judgement, reasoning, decision making, motivation, initiation, problem solving, organisation, planning, cognitive communication skills, etc.

Psychological – mood changes, personality changes, uncertainty, unpredictability, anxiety, depression, fear of future, worry, isolation, reduction in social support, loss of identity, changed self-concept & self –worth, reduced coping etc.

The person in front of you could have any combination of above – every injury is different and manifests differently



Results in..

Loss of skills and abilities, don't feel able to contribute, feel worth less

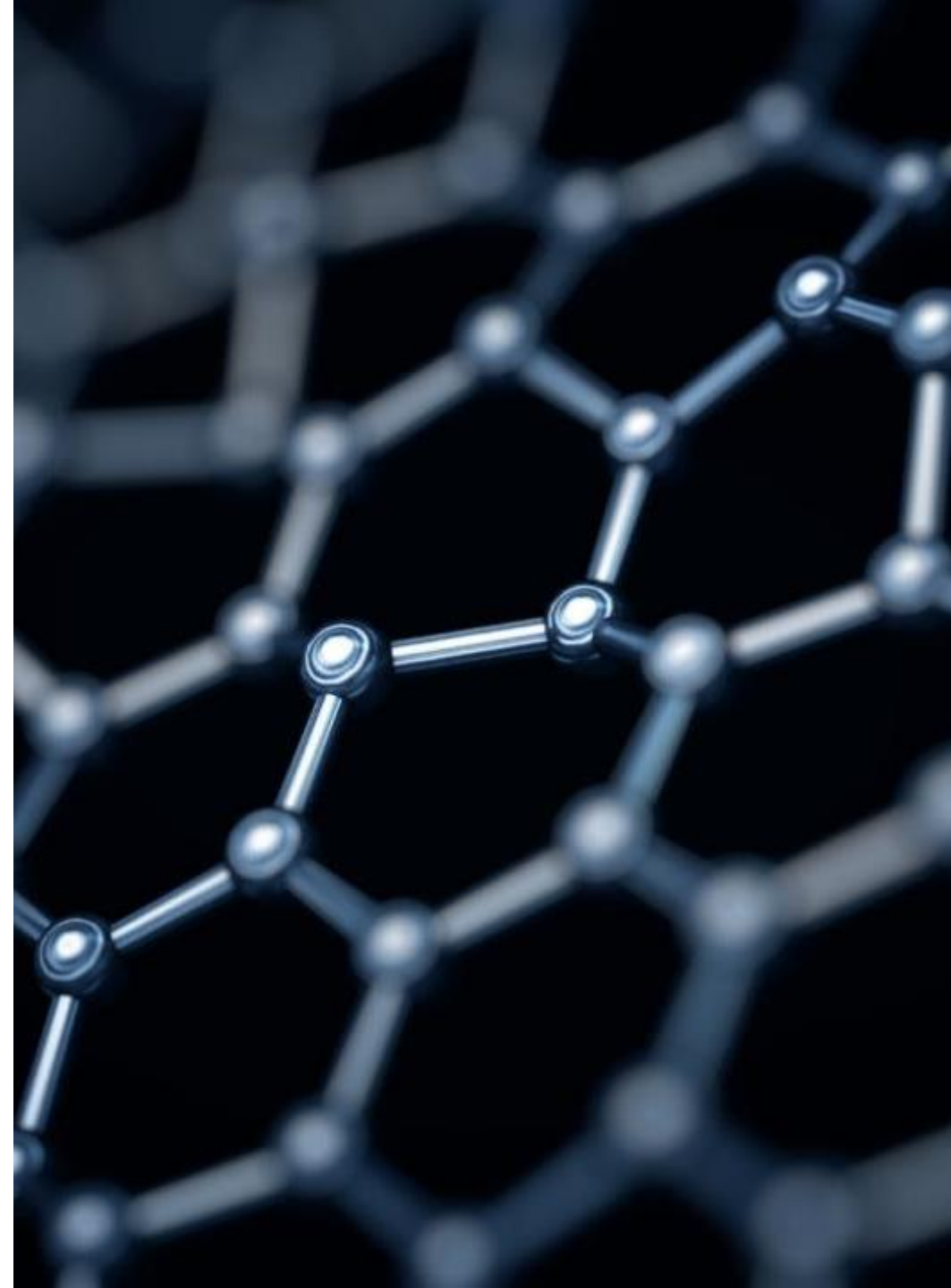
Changed roles & loss of identity, loss of authority and respect, treated differently by others

Changed cognitions - difficulty articulating thoughts, poor recall of information, losing track in conversations

World narrows, reduction in experience and exposure, fear of failure, loss of confidence, avoidance of situations, isolation

Loss of independence, reliance on others day to day, loss of autonomy, poor safety awareness

Changed sense of self, unpredictability & uncertainty



John's rehabilitation story

John RTA pedestrian

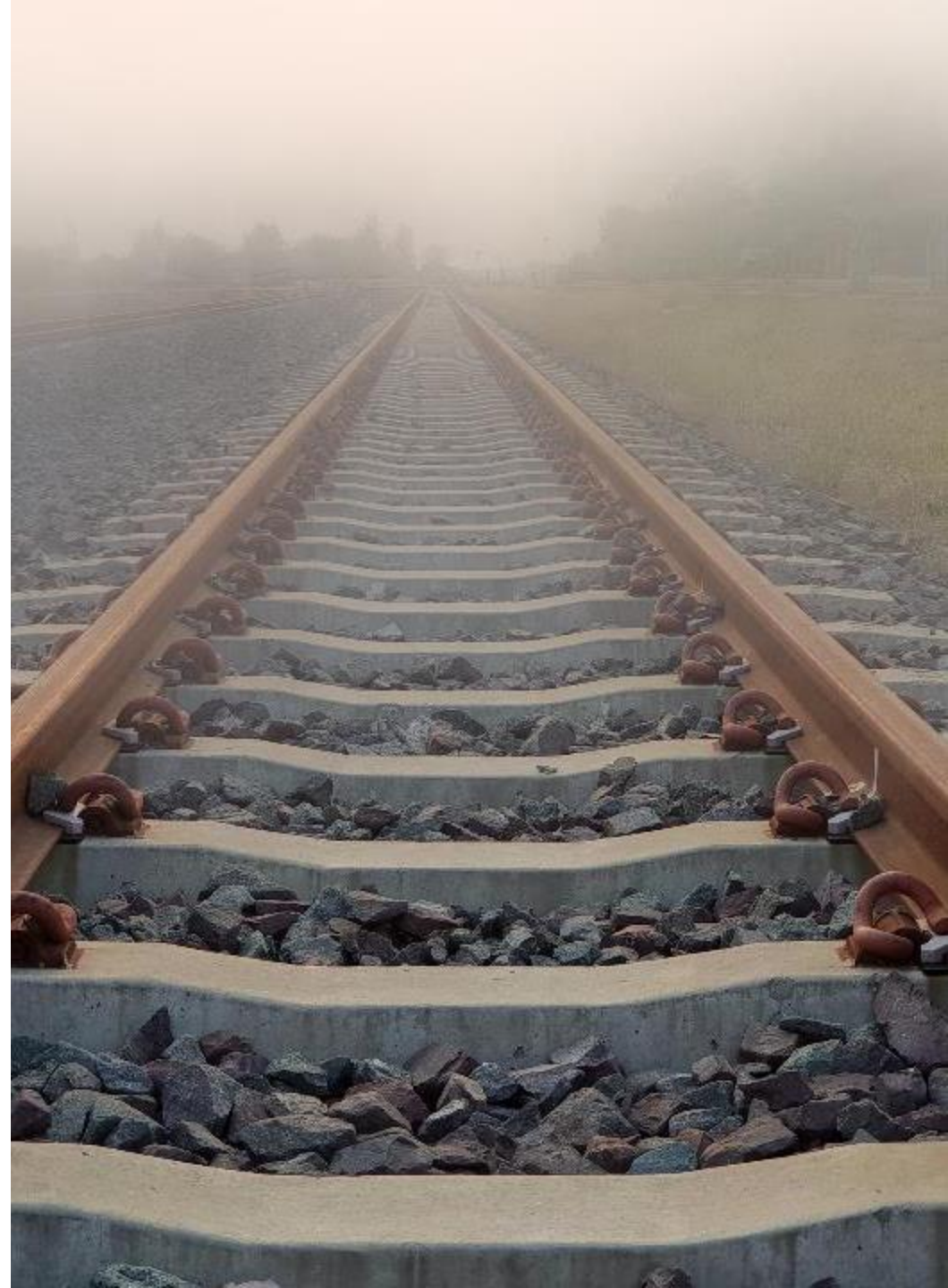
Hospital admissions

Physical , cognitive & psychological impact

Admitted to NRH inpatients 4 months

Intensive interdisciplinary rehabilitation

Discharge to home with referrals for services – OPD, RTU, and community BI service. MSW applications for house adaptations.



Parallel process for John

Legal case ongoing – assessments/ correspondence – ‘stressful time’

Outpatient therapies – number of DNA’s - ‘worried by legal case’

Deferred start on RT – ‘anxious and preoccupied’ awaiting date

Deferrals, delays ‘can’t sleep, worrying thoughts’

Started RT – absences, unable to engage fully, impact on peer support

Afraid that attending programme will negatively impact outcome

Pattern of disengagement – reengagement

Eventual closure – time lost – window of opportunity





Reflections

Dealing with 'system' that challenges executive skills

Communication & advocacy – will I be able to explain it?

Anxiety about being 'tested' and 'judged'

Engagement in rehabilitation – negative effect?

Assessment of damages – specialist

Window of opportunity – impact of delays



Take aways

Person behind the negotiations

Life has been changed forever

Timeframe – impact of delays

Reassurance – feel can't get better until process completed

Practical & financial – damages paid out at same time – impact on getting house adaptations

Trust in the system

Thank You!

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