

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING SUMMARY

'Fighting for our Rights' project

Surname	Young
Given name(s)	Jane Sarah
Date of birth	1960
Place of birth	Twickenham, London
Date of interview	7 June 2017
Length of interview	01:18:44
Number of tracks	1
Name of interviewer(s)	Jen Kavanagh
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Track 1 of 1 [01:18:44]

Jane Young (JY) was born in 1960 in Twickenham to parents Paul and Cicely. Father worked as a businessman and mother as a history teacher. Attended Lady Eleanor Hollis School in Hampton before family moved to Norwich. Went on to Southampton University to study law, then took a secretarial source at City of London Polytechnic. Started work in a publishing firm in 1983. Talks about other roles and having her children. Talks about diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis in 1995 [00:06:38]. Describes condition, needing to use a wheelchair. Talks about her two sons including son with Asperger's. Mentions attending a drop-in centre called The Willow. Talks about contacting disability team at Kingston Council, and meeting Phil Levick. JY was assessed, some nursery provision was provided by Council. Talks about care package from family services [00:10:30]. Describes finding out about Independent Living Scheme and receiving Direct Payments. Finances supported looking after children. Mentions KCIL (Kingston Centre for Independent Living). Explains services offered by personal assistant (PA) [00:16:05]. Talks about disability equality policy group, describes consultation. Describes focus on support for disabled parents. Separate group then formed – looked at school provision. JY chair of Disabled Parents Action Force [00:23:45]. Explains who else was involved with group. Talks about campaign with council tax team to get more accessible formats. Mentions interpreting service at the Council. Mentions Radar and Disability Rights UK. Talks about speaking at conferences and with organisations to disseminate work [00:29:30]. Talks about the post of Access Officer at Kingston Council being created. JY appointed in 2003. Post deleted when JY left. JY also became Disability and Equality lead for HR department. Job then became Disability Equality and Access Officer for Council in 2005. Describes aims of role [00:35:15]. Describes remit that included providing access advice to schools in the Borough. Mentions 'Building Schools for the Future' initiative. JY responsible for checking planning applications for commercial premises. Talks about partnerships with housing and occupational therapy teams. Mentions Equality Standard for local government. Talks about training offered to internal Council staff, and partnership with health departments. Mentions Ann Macfarlane and Pat Page. Talks about Disability Equality Scheme, partnership with Primary Care Trust and Hospital Trust [00:42:45]. Talks further about work for HR department. Challenges of working on a broad equality brief that also included ethnic minority groups. Varied job [00:46:45]. Talks about Council employment and adjustments for disabled staff. Challenges with absence. Talks about successes and challenges with various departments. JY went off on sick due to pain associated with disability in 2007, then reduced hours. Eventually retired on

medical grounds in 2009 [00:54:05]. Worked as a contractor with adult social care on a new information portal. Talks about helping KCIL with their website. Achieved a postgraduate certificate in disability studies from Leeds University by distant learning. Talks about Independent Living Group led by Disability Rights UK. JY a member alongside Jane Campbell. Talks about campaigning regarding the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) that replaced Disability Living Allowance [01:01:40]. Talks about writing a report for Just Fair, describes it as JY's proudest achievement. Fed into a UN committee inquiry about impact of government policy on disabled people [01:06:40]. Talks about giving evidenced to parliamentary committee. JY currently works as disabled qualified member of social security tribunal. Describes what this role entails. Talks about changes JY would like to see made, including United Nations Convention to be brought into British law. Mentions article JY had published on day of interview in the Guardian's Social Care Network [01:11:40]. Wants to see supporting disabled people as an investment, not a drain. Innovative service development needed in Kingston. Talks about advocacy work with disabled people, liaising with social workers. Ends with a reflection on the importance and impact the work taking place in Kingston in the 1990s has had on JY's life, and the freedom of disabled people in general.

End of recording 1 [01:18:44]