

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING SUMMARY

'Fighting for our Rights' project

Surname	Carpenter
Given names	Jennifer Daphne
Date of birth	1950
Place of birth	Belfast, Northern Ireland
Date of interview	14 June 2017
Length of interview	00:58:12
Number of tracks	1
Name of interviewer	Jen Kavanagh

Track 1 of 1 [00:58:12]

Jennifer Carpenter (JC) was born in 1950 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Moved to England in 1973. Parents Christina and James. Father worked as civil servant, mother a housewife. Attended local schools then college in Belfast. Left school at age 18, worked in Human Resources. Talks about losing sight in a 3 week period. JC has [CHECK CONDITION SPELLING] PXE, describes this condition [00:03:40]. Describes experience of losing sight, eye haemorrhage due to PXE. Permanent damage and blindness. Talks about initial contact with Social Services, mentions Roy Taylor and Jenny Webb. Describes early mobility support. Aware of Independent Living Scheme (ILS) around 1992. Mentions that information was inaccessible [00:09:00]. Talks about recruiting personal assistant. Talks about difficulty of having a young child when disabled. Awarded just 8 hours support a week. Describes now not being in receipt of ILS payments. Talks about Access Committee at Kingston Centre for Independent Living (KCIL) in 1990s [00:14:10]. Mentions Kingston Association for the Blind (KAB). Buddy scheme and tandem scheme. Describes meeting disabled community through Crescent Resource Centre. Talks about Disabled Parents Group at Crescent. Talks about learning braille and Finger Print [00:17:20]. Volunteered in equipment shop at Crescent. Describes mobility training. Explains only seeing light perception now. Describes emotionally about having hallucinations, Charles Bonnet Syndrome [00:23:30]. Mentions injuries from falls, including broken foot. Mentions counselling with RNIB. Talks about challenge of friends not understanding what being blind is like. Talks about learning to swim, going to the gym, dancing. Talks about campaigning at Moorfields Eye Hospital with KAB. Publication called 'Who Should Eye Contact?' [00:27:10]. Started Eye Contact in 1995, support for people with sight loss. Mentions Talking Newspaper and Brian Gaff. Describes technical support at home including Pen Friend, audio label. Demonstrates using Alexa software [00:30:50]. Mentions access software on computer. Mentions Carol Barnshaw at Social Services. Describes KAB buddy scheme. Talks about Metro Blind Sport, learning to dance, playing tennis and archery [00:35:00]. Describes levels of sight impairment. Talks further about dancing, rock and roll. Talks about learning to swim [00:39:05]. Talks about computer lessons through Sight for Surrey. One to one support important. Talks about difficulty of finding a good personal assistant [00:46:45]. Talks about changes from DLA (Disability Living Allowance) to PIP (Personal Independent Payment). Inaccessible formats of important information. Frustrated with treatment at Assessment Centre [00:49:50]. Talks about proud achievements. Mentions volunteering with Health Watch in Kingston. Mentions the Malden Centre. Mentions swimming hat from British Blind Sport, lifeguards not understanding. Talks about shop staff mistaking white pole for Nordic walking stick [00:54:40]. States

positive experience on public transport, Tube and train. Ends with access problems at KCIL AGM and public meetings.

End of recording [00:58:12]