

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING SUMMARY

'Fighting for our Rights' project

Surname	Page
Given name(s)	Patricia
Date of birth	1951
Place of birth	Liverpool
Date of interview	17 May 2017
Length of interview	01:04:14
Number of tracks	1
Name of interviewer(s)	Zoe Perry, Roshani Poudel, Jen Kavanagh

Track 1 of 1 [01:04:14]

Patricia Page (PP) born in 1951 in Liverpool to parents John and Katlyn Farnsworth. Lived in Liverpool until 8 years old. Moved to New Malden until age 16. Afterwards lived in Northern Ireland for 6 years and Scotland for 3 years. Moved back to London. Attended Burlington Primary School in New Malden. Started work in Northern Ireland – IT job from 1967. Continued working in IT across different locations until 1989. Mentions state education including GCSEs. Believes it was easier to find work after leaving school and that work ethic/intelligence was key to securing jobs. Generally enjoyed work and paid well although nowadays would be hesitant to do it again. From 1989 started working for NHS in a multidisciplinary team then known as Community Health, Disability Support Team (DST). Liked being involved with people [00:06:45]. Severely injured in car accident in January 1984 – paralysed from chest down. DST work involved meeting other disabled people – hadn't done this before. Believes both injury and DST work were eye-opening experiences. In hospital for 6 months after accident. Notes at the time there was not much support for disabled adults. Tried to improve this lack of support through DST work. Mentions in detail about roles and responsibilities in DST work – involved liaising with Kingston Association of Disabled People as it was known then [00:14:30]. PP and her team often felt that their important work was going unnoticed by managers [00:17:50]. During DST, PP delivered disability awareness training with psychologists – including for staff at Kingston Hospital (KH). DST ended after 9 years as funding was removed [00:22:25]. Became Equality Adviser for KH – mentions more detail about this. Faced difficulties as some staff (particularly nurses) often overlooked importance of disability training. Left KH in 2007 [00:28:30]. Mentions Disability Equality Scheme (project work in partnership with KH and Kingston Centre for Independent Living). Goes into detail about how the scheme came about, the purpose of it and recent frustrations over KH's reluctance to prove they were meeting disability equality standards. Organised surveys of disabled people's views about their hospital care – often received negative feedback [00:40:00]. Mentions role in campaigns against council charging increases around 2002 regarding direct payments [00:44:10]. Talks about

previous role on KADP (now KCIL) committee – helping people with disabilities to have a voice [00:51:12]. Ends by reflecting on past achievements notably with DST.

End of recording [01:04:14]

