

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING SUMMARY

'Fighting for our Rights' project

Surname	Wodynska
Given name	Renny
Date of birth	1958
Place of birth	Birmingham
Date of interview	21 June 2017
Length of interview	00:51:47
Number of tracks	1
Name of interviewer	Jen Kavanagh

Track 1 of 1 [00:51:47]

Renny Wodynska (RW) was born in 1958 in Birmingham to Polish parents Wladyslaw and Czeslawa. Both agricultural workers who moved to UK in 1950s. Awarded scholarship to attend school in Birmingham. Studied Communication Studies at the University of Wales. Volunteered at sheltered housing scheme as youth, ignited passion for social work. First job in Mid Glamorgan Social Services in Pontypridd, then moved to Hammersmith and Fulham Social Services [00:03:50]. Qualified as social worker at Surrey University and Goldsmiths. Talks about placements during studies. Started work at Kingston Social Services. Describes role as social worker in General Health Team. Work with dementia patients and carers. Reflects on people RW supported. Refers to changes in legislation. Describes Kingston team [00:07:38]. Mentions team at Surbiton Hospital, working with nurses, multidisciplinary. Talks about first encounter with Independent Living Scheme (ILS). RW approached to be first facilitator. Mentions Ann (Macfarlane) and Jane (Campbell). Refers to support from Jenny Webb and Roy Taylor. Describes it as an exciting time [00:11:00]. Talks about process of working with Ann and Jane, support offered. Mentions Personal Assistant User Group [00:14:10]. Shaping services for the individuals. Describes it as a privilege to work on scheme. Talks about support including social activities – service users travelling. Describes self-assessment process [00:18:10]. Individuals being the professionals in their own world. Mentions social model of disability. Talks about impact on Ann and Jane once in receipt of ILS. Describes them as role models [00:22:20]. Talks through how the scheme grew. User Group meetings helped with sharing and highlighting difficulties. RW doesn't recall any particular problems, concept of risk wasn't the same then. Describes how finances worked, keeping records [00:27:05]. Talks about simple procedures being developed. Refers to Direct Payments being illegal – going to Houses of Parliament to lobby. Reflects on successes of the scheme [00:31:15]. Describes career progression, including working in Hereford and Worcester. Shock to realise how ahead Kingston was. Worked with charity to support people in farming affected by suicide. Talks about current role at Skills for Care in the Midlands that includes using knowledge gained in Kingston [00:34:10]. Reflects on how little progress has been made, better promotion needed. Talks about work that needs to be done to better support social model of disability. Culture of risk averseness that affects growth of the scheme nationwide [00:38:05]. Describes work in Kingston as some of best work RW has done. Feedback of past clients viewed as proudest achievement. Feels privileged. Questions why it's taken so long for progress to be made. Reflects on impact scheme has had on services today, austerity affecting people badly [00:43:55]. Talks about need for risks to be taken again, shift back to civil rights movement. Mentions lobbying in Kingston and changes to Disability Discrimination Act [00:47:00]. Talks about experience of discrimination faced by

some clients. Mentions Dr Mike Oliver in Greenwich who wrote papers on scheme. Ends with comment on how much impact RW feels the work has on peoples' lives. Looking to retire in the next few years, but enjoying current role.

End of recording [00:51:47]

