

## ORAL HISTORY RECORDING SUMMARY

### 'Fighting for our Rights' project

<b>Surname</b>	Cannings
<b>Given names</b>	Sheila Ann
<b>Date of birth</b>	1957
<b>Place of birth</b>	Leatherhead
<b>Date of interview</b>	16 May 2017
<b>Length of interview</b>	00:56:48
<b>Number of tracks</b>	1
<b>Name of interviewers</b>	Uloma Paris, Zoe Perry, Jen Kavanagh

#### Track 1 of 1 [00:56:48]

Sheila Ann Cannings was born in 1957 in Leatherhead. Parents Gertrude Ethel and Ernest Edward. Father was a postman, mother a housewife. Attended Therfield School in Leatherhead then got a business degree through Bentall's department store. Became a buyer for Bentall's then left when pregnant with daughter. Explains how disability was caused during pregnancy with her son [00:04:05]. Talks about severe memory loss as a result. Diagnosed as Wernickes Encapalopathy, brain starved of nutrition. Affects memory and balance [00:07:20]. Describes feeling angry at hospitals and their denial of malpractice. Felt very depressed. Mentions Crescent Resource Centre in New Malden, describes it as a life-saver [00:10:00]. Talks about legal process, case started two years later. Lots of medical input. Describes frustration of not being able to undertake everyday tasks. Difficult to combine past life with new disability. Incident happened at Epsom Hospital. Mentions being in receipt of disability benefits and Independent Living Scheme [00:14:35]. Refers to KCIL and KADP. Talks through a typical day shortly after the incident, support from personal assistant. No longer in receipt of Direct Payments due to money received from legal case [00:19:10]. Describes challenges of being a disabled parent to young children. Talks about effect on daughter, resentful and frustrated [00:24:15]. Talks about becoming chair of members committee at Crescent Resource Centre. Describes first encounter with Crescent, reluctance to attend, ignorance about disability in general. Reality of everyone being human [00:28:30]. Mentions individuals SC met at Crescent. Mentions Fiddler's Green in Surbiton. Talks further about members committee and services offered at the Crescent, including daycare, cookery, computer classes [00:32:35]. Coffee shop run by service users. Social groups and day trips. Gained confidence. Describes being nervous about encountering other disabled people at first. Talks about Tessa and Graham Powell. Describes feeling concerned about never being to do certain things again, but then grew in confidence. Talks about frustration over inaccessibility of certain places today [00:37:05]. Joined Crescent in 1993. Mentions merging services with Newant House. Difficult to combine young and older peoples' services. Describes breakdown in services. Talks about Raleigh for accessing services today, attends one day a week. Talks about closure of the Crescent. Funding as reason but also view that people should be living independently and not rely on centres. Talks about impact on service users, depression [00:41:45]. Describes campaigns, petitions to Guildhall. Meetings with counsellors, writing to Downing Street [00:43:30]. Protests at Guildhall and at the Crescent. Mentions contact with recent politicians. Frustrations with changes in funding priority. Talks about desire to see centres being reintroduced. Information, support and help for community. Talks about lack of provision in Kingston at present [00:47:15]. Describes having to be strong and fight as a result of her disability. Learning from others in the

community. Talks about lack of awareness outside of the disabled community increasing [00:51:00]. Talks about pride in children and how they have grown up. Pride in people SC has met through Crescent and elsewhere. Confirms dates in which son was born and therefore became disabled. Talks about re-hospitalised following his birth in 1990. Ends with reflection on impact of disability on her daily life.

**End of recording [00:56:48]**