

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING SUMMARY

'Fighting for our Rights' project

Surname	Webb
Given names	Jennifer Rose
Date of birth	1948
Place of birth	Upwell, Norfolk
Date of interview	2 May 2017
Length of interview	00:51:14
Number of tracks	1
Name of interviewer	Jen Kavanagh

Track 1 of 1 [00:51:14]

Jennifer Webb (JW) born in 1948 in Upwell, Norfolk to parents William and Phyllis. Attended Wisbech High School. Left school at 18 years old. Studied a Theology degree at Leeds University and afterwards went to Bedford College, London to undertake professional training in social work. Training involved placements in psychiatric hospitals and prisons. Accepted a job offer to work in the Stevenage Probation Office. Goes into more detail about roles and responsibilities. Moved to work in community centre called 'The Oval' in Stevenage area – involved in health and community work for 6 years. Transferred from Stevenage to live in London Borough of Southwark. Worked for local council in administrative roles including health and social care project work. Stayed in Southwark for 9 years. Afterwards joined Kingston Council in October 1988 as Assistant Director of Social Services for adults [00:05:43]. Helped to organise direct funding for Independent Living Scheme (ILS) in 1989. Talks about main aims of this scheme – ultimately to enable local people with disabilities to manage their own futures. Mentions important partnership with Ann McFarlane and Jane Campbell in setting up ILS. Goes into detail about key stages of this work. Mentions the benefits of local disabled people being able to run their own independent living organisation, birth of what is now KCIL [00:12:50]. Mentions wider local disability movement around direct payments. Talks about initial government opposition to direct payments around 1994. Kingston Council was forced to change financial relationship with KADP (now KCIL). JW explains more about this and believes it worked well. Talks about KADP acting as intermediary between individuals and council [00:16:34]. Goes into detail about assessment process for direct payments from the time of JW's work. Mentions about growth in local social care during the 1990s. Talks more about how the council responded to direct payment issues [00:21:22]. Talks about later evolution of ILS – good working relationships with KADP and increasing number of people who requested direct payment support. Around 20 people had support by the time of JW's departure from council. Central government introduced new legislation during 1990s to approve direct payments – people in the local area now had choice to receive payments from either KCIL or council. JW talks about what she viewed as the strengths of ILS including greater disability rights and freedom of choice [00:25:52]. Talks about different achievements from ILS – JW played a key role in consultancy with Department for Health. Provides detail about role in consultancy film around 1996 or 1997 [00:32:30]. Ends by reflecting on present-day challenges concerning severe lack of social care funding by the government.

End of recording [00:51:14]