

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING SUMMARY

'Fighting for our Rights' project

Surname	Reilly
Given name	Robert
Date of birth	1956
Place of birth	Isleworth, Middlesex
Date of interview	10 May 2017
Length of interview	00:40:41
Number of tracks	1
Name of interviewers	Zoe Perry, Alisha Ale, Jen Kavanagh

Track 1 of 1 [00:40:41]

Robert Reilly (RR) was born in 1956 in Isleworth, Middlesex. Parents names Edward and Anne. Father worked as rigger. RR one of 10 children. Attended Thamesmead Secondary School in Shepperton. Previously attended a special school funded by Shaftesbury Society. Residential school. Describes school as a following medical model [00:02:48]. Moved to mainstream school age 13. Describes the experience of mainstream education, feeling vulnerable but gave RR confidence. Explains his disability, spina bifida [00:04:50]. Talks about challenges of fitting in with mainstream schooling, language used including crippled. Finished school at age 17. Became trainee journalist with agency at Heathrow. Then became a bookkeeper for 16 years at betting shop. Left when legislation changed. Worked for Ministry of Agriculture, then joined Kingston Association of Disabled People (KADP) [00:09:05]. Mentions being unaware of social model of disability at time of starting role. Talks about knowing little about disability, didn't consider himself disabled. Later claimed Disability Living Allowance (DLA). Mentions being turned down initially, and mentions Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Talks about initial role at KADP as administration assistant and how it developed [00:13:00]. Explains role of Mark Moss, former CEO. KADP becoming an incorporation. Explains premises and office move, from Siddeley House in Canbury Road to River Reach on High Street in 2005. Mentions funding [00:16:50]. Core grant from Kingston Council, also fundraising. Talks about other staff, Ali Kashmiri, Karen Fenwick, Rosemary Green. BAME worker funded by City Bridge. Explains need for Access Officer again [00:21:45]. Mentions holiday grant scheme, and disability equipment grant. Paid for by Kingston Centre for Independent Living (KCIL) reserves. Talks about change in organisation name [00:24:50]. Aims remaining the same. Perception of service users to change, some confusion. Talks about what independent living means [00:28:25]. Describes RR role in organisation, serving disabled people in Borough. Supporting Direct Payments scheme. Talks about service growing in future [00:32:20]. Challenges related to funding, joining forces with other organisations in neighbouring boroughs. Comments on need for strength in numbers, national organisations threatening small local charities. Mentions winning contract to run Direct Payment service in early 2017 [00:36:40]. Proud moment. Ends with reflecting on taking pride in successful project management. Positive response from service users when grants have been awarded.

End of recording [00:40:41]