Time4Change

Everybody has a right to be safe no matter who they are or what their circumstances. We all have a duty to ensure the safety and welfare of vulnerable adults and we must ensure that we are doing all that we can to protect the most vulnerable members of our society treating them with care and compassion and dignity and respect.

The case study below is a brilliant example of how we can learn more about care and compassion and dignity and respect by taking the time to listen to and learn from people who know how important this is.

What is Time4Change and how does it work?

The Time4Change project employs people with a learning disability to act as trainers and to help us to deliver training and awareness raising activities across Cornwall to lots of different people and lots of different organisations.

To support our trainers, we ensure that they have all completed a training course to help them to do their jobs well.

Through the training activities our trainers share their own personal experiences and stories to help others to recognise and understand the importance of treating everyone fairly and with respect.

To put this into context, two of our trainers have provided a brief overview of their own experiences. These really show how important the work of the Time for Change team and the trainers is in changing perception and understanding.

Scenario one

A young man with a learning disability was out with a group of friends enjoying a night out in a local pub in Truro.

The group became aware that the bar man and people at the bar were laughing at and making derogatory comments about the young man. The barman shouted across the bar to the young man that he “didn’t want people going to sleep in his pub”.

The young man was in fact not sleeping but has a physical disability which causes his head to drop at times. The young man was left feeling intimidated and embarrassed by the comments and left the pub very upset.
The young man had received verbal abuse in the past and just thought that this was part of his life. However, the young man had recently been involved in a Human rights course run by Time4Change and because of this, he realised for the first time that the behaviour of the barman and other customers was not acceptable.

So, he spoke to the Time4Change about what happened that evening and they supported him to make a complaint to the police. During the conversation with the police he learned that other people had made similar complaints about the bar and that this behaviour would be considered when the pub’s licence came up for renewal. As a result, the pub’s licence was subsequently not renewed.

The young man now co-facilitates the Human Rights training and talks to his peers about how to report Hate Crimes.

Scenario two

Whilst Time4Change were delivering assertiveness training to a group of people with learning disabilities a member of the group arrived and was very upset as she felt she had just been humiliated while travelling to on the bus.

The bus driver had been rude and aggressive to her. He had not given her the right change and when she had spoken to him about this he had shouted at her in front of the other passengers. She now felt anxious about travelling on the bus again.

We discussed this with the entire training group and they shared similar stories of bus drivers being rude, buses failing to stop when they had seen them waiting at the bus stop and about being bullied whilst travelling on buses.

As a result of these discussions, the group decided to write to the bus company to complain about the treatment they had received. They also decided to ask their peers to share their experiences of travelling on buses to support the complaint.

Time4Change are now working with the training group and the bus company to develop a training and awareness programme that the group will deliver to the local bus company. This will raise awareness of the importance of treating all passengers with dignity and respect and care and compassion.

For more information

If you would like to find out more about Time4Change please visit the Cornwall Council website: www.cornwall.gov.uk/timeforchange