SUBMISSION FROM JAMIELEE DEVERS

Me personally, I have been involved in making DVDs for quite a few years, in the past it wasn’t just starring in DVDs but also young Gypsy/Travellers were involved in the making of them too, filming, doing sound, directing and so on. That was a great experience for many of us, teaching us skills but also building up the confidence of young people and preparing them for future experiences.

Being able to stand up for who they are and not have to keep their identity, who they are, hidden, instead showing their true identity and being proud of it. Making films like this is a great way to get your message across, putting things down on paper doesn’t work for many people but speaking….that’s one thing most Travellers enjoy doing!

The DVD we are going to show today is called Hidden Carers – Unheard Voices and it was made with 7 carers from our community in different areas of Scotland. The title is very appropriate because, and I know from my own family experiences, often caring is hidden away in my community, people don’t usually speak out and that sometimes means they don’t get the services they are entitled to. They just struggle on and that can take its effect on your own health.

I think DVDs are a great way to get your own voice heard, get your views and your experiences across, and most importantly in your own words. Just doing that also builds up your confidence and builds trust. Hopefully this DVD can also start to break down some of the barriers faced by carers in the Gypsy/Traveller community. There were more barriers 50 years ago I think it is getting better for some but for others there is still a long, long way to go.

This DVD is about the issues faced by carers, you have a copy of the DVD in your packs. We suggest that the DVD is not used in isolation but rather as part of the training Georgia and Susan spoke about. We want it to be used in context, in sessions led by Gypsy/Travellers so there is time to explore and discuss the issues in depth. It is not enough to say oh I watched that DVD and that’s enough, I know, it isn’t enough just to watch one 15 minute DVD!

Jamielee Devers
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