

Roy's story...

Roy's trees...



Roy too was struggling to cope with anger. He had been in a wheelchair for a long time and had coped admirably with the challenges of learning to live alone again, which the doctors had told him he would not do. However he had achieved this.

He did attend a day centre to combat the isolation he felt but he found that relating to other people was often very difficult and that he became aggressive, particularly towards women.

Helena and Edward's social worker asked Roy to join the BCA pilot project, encouraging him to pass on his skills as a decorative painter. He was very proud to be asked to do this and to be a founding member of a group, which he knew would expand.

Within the group he gradually learned to relate better to people and was, as a result of his skill, even able to show them that you could create artwork simply using a sponge. He then was the member chosen to talk about the methods used by BCA to a visiting government minister at an exhibition about disability, where BCA had a stall organised by a campaigning paper involved with our work.

At the beginning Roy had conquered his physical problems. Now he was successfully conquering his mental attitude towards his disability. He told his GP: "You made me realise that just because I am in a wheelchair it doesn't mean I can't do anything. I still have my hands and my mind. It is all in the mind. I told my GP this. 'How I wish more of my patients realised that' came the reply."

Helena and Roy's social worker had now used this project to help two of her clients re-integrate successfully and realise their potential. At the end of the programme she said "This work should be the model for Social Services everywhere and BCA's networking and training methods could be applied in any area."

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Senior Social Worker

