

The history of activism at Mencap



Judy Fryd

It was mum, Judy Fryd, who set up what would become Mencap in 1946.

Judy and other brave families spoke up against unfairness.

Their activism helped make big, positive changes for people with a learning disability.



Mencap activists have been really important in getting laws to protect their human rights .



In the past, people thought that children with a learning disability shouldn't go to school.

But in the 1970s, activists helped change the law.

Big successes





Treat me well

'Treat me well' is a campaign to change how people with a learning disability are treated in hospital.

The campaign calls on NHS staff to make reasonable adjustments which can help to save lives.

Find out more about 'Treat me well'.



Death by indifference

In March 2007, Mencap published 'Death by indifference', which reported the deaths of 6 people with a learning disability.

The report talked about the terrible things that happened because of the way people with a learning disability were treated.

Find out more about 'Death by indifference'.



Stand by me

In 2011 Mencap launched the 'Stand by me' campaign to end disability hate crime .

We called on police forces to take the police promise – 10 things they would do to serve people with a learning disability better.

Find out more about 'Stand by me'.



This easy read was first published 13.02.2023

Last update made: 13.02.2023