OTHERING DISABILITY
From pity and blame to strategies for full participation
Living in the shadow of segregation

Segregation within segregation

Some UK asylums now luxury gated communities (eg Friern), others secure units or prisons
Worrying trends


Some Clinical Commissioning Groups implementing/considering refusing independent living support where residential care is cheaper
Also living with impact of disability rights movement

- Imagining an inclusive world. From ‘homes’ to the pub
- 1995 first civil rights law. 2005 – positive duties on public bodies
- Treating people differently to achieve equal outcomes.
- Inquiries into whole sectors
- Media presence
- DR UK – disabled people leading change, working for equal participation for all
Financial crash. Austerity policies. Reduced eligibility for benefits and social care

Disability benefits should go to 'really disabled people' not 'anxiety sufferers', says Theresa May's adviser (Independent, February 26 2017)

50,000 have lost Motability cars since Personal Independence Payment came in
Some media stoke fear that others are getting something they shouldn’t
Redefining who is ‘really’ disabled

Vulnerable

Undeserving

Disabled People Leading Change
Occurrences of the word ‘disabled’ close to the word ‘vulnerable’ & ‘rights’ 1979-2005

Percentage of House of Commons speeches on disability including the word 'rights' and 'vulnerable'

Disability Rights UK

Disabled People Leading Change
Understandably some campaigners try to expand ‘vulnerable’ circle for eligibility

- **Risk 1:** positions disabled people as ‘vulnerable’. Support means ‘looking after’, not enabling participation. Vulnerable or undeserving – what a choice!

- **Risk 2:** can re-inforce discriminatory views eg saying mentally ill people have ‘diseases of the brain’ makes people more likely to think they are incompetent, dangerous

- **Need to replace the whole paradigm.** Support is investment in independent living & equality for all disabled people
UN Convention: united for rights

Disabled People Leading Change
Rights to education, work, independent living, adequate income….

A positive vision of full participation

New unity amongst activists

Disability Rights UK – working with parliamentarians for flexible apprenticeships, employment rights; supporting new leaders; stopped 55% benefit cut to under 25s
"We want greater powers to be seen, to vote, to be included, have the same opportunities in social life, education and employment as everyone else" (Gary Bourlet)
Right to participate equally

Not ‘help’ for poor ‘vulnerable’ people

Not disabled superheroes – implying everyone should achieve by their own efforts alone

Shared humanity, equal life chances, investment in our participation

There is no other!

www.disabilityrightsuk.org