

Vignette eleven

Pretty much within the first year of joining community support work for ... I picked up this chap who was living at home with his daughter; who had suffered from huge anxiety; who shopped at a corner dairy; who was really quite restricted in the things he did and the places he went to - not too good in crowds and things like that and when I picked him up and started going out and we used to go for drives and walks and stuff like that. He would tell me things like "I used to own that house, and I used to own that house" and I thought this guy was a bit grandiose- talking through a hole in his head sometimes. It wasn't until later down the track when he started talking about and using peoples names who I knew, and what he was actually saying very much correct, that I started to realize that this chap had so much potential in different types of works and things like that, that I started to realize that this man basically was a millionaire and was a very capable person, and thought "what's he doing?" you know, and being restricted to his house, and how are we going to go about solving it.

He was a man also who found it hard to trust people and it took him a year before he would actually trust me, and he told me this. One of the things we actually looked at doing was cos he was going the corner dairy it was costing him so much money I said to him "Look, we've got to look at going to a supermarket" or something like that. Now, in my job I think keeping things simple is the best way of doing it and the way I looked at it was I said, "Righto, look here's a chance to you into the supermarket" I said "but we can do it slowly, we don't need to go rushing in there". And what I said was before we go he makes a list out of the stuff that he wants to get from that supermarket- a shopping list- and if he gets within side that door if he couldn't go any further I would do the shopping- he could go back and sit in the car and I would do the shopping for him. So we talked about that for a while and he finally agreed to do that. We also put a point on the fact that all the positive things that he would get from that, and he'd also become acclimatised to that. We had to sort out a time of when the supermarket was less busy and all those sort of things- we went through that and we talked about it and talked about it and finally we set a date of when we were going to do it. So I sort of arrived up there and said "O.k., are you ready to go" and expected him to be a bit nervous and stuff like that. He said "I thought it was so bloody stupid just going to the supermarket I went and done it'. So he'd been, he'd just got over it and done it.