

Enablement and Empowerment

Half a Century ago a group of people in the UK & USA Worked and Campaigned to establish and implement the concept of 'Community Care', with Closure of the large, impersonal Institutions for Physical & Learning Disabled, Mentally Ill and Orphaned Children.

At that time the concept of 'Enablement' was also developed and implemented in some radical Voluntary Community Services. The focus was on what people can be enabled to do, rather than what they had been assess as what they cannot do.

Mary Warnock produced a report to the Government (The Warnock Report, 1978) and this resulted in the Community Care Act, closing the big institutions, and introducing local Community Services & Facilities.

Community Care Systems were set up and some of those introduced 'Enablement Services'. These are services where the focus is on what people can do, not just what they cannot do.

Enablement (as opposed to Disablement) includes the principle of 'Empowerment'; Giving people power over their own lives in areas where they are able compensate for the areas they struggle with.

This is how Calne Central Volunteers work within the wider Community Service Network. People with skills and abilities helping each other in areas where and when they each struggle.

We seek to be Inclusive and meet Diverse Cultural, Race, Gender and Ability needs. We seek to do this in ways that are Enabling & Empowering.

