**Oral History Transcription - Fatma - Alder House**

**Rewind – Leonard Cheshire Disability, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund**

**Filmed** – 2017

**Start of transcription**

[Text on screen: What is your background?]

00:10 [Fatma]: I was born in Cyprus, which is, at the moment has been divided, and the area I was born is in Northern Cyprus, at the moment. I got marriedat 18and then I come to live in England. I have three children and I work for a while with my father-in-law, at his factory and then the, when I was pregnant with my second child, we had our own clothing factory. My background is clothing [laughs] background. My youngest son has disabilities and when I was about 42 I have started changing direction and when I was looking for jobs I decided I would like to do care because I was getting some help for my son and everything. And mixing with disabled children, I thought it would be a good start. I have joined an agency and through agency I was sent to Alder House. And then in 1999 I was offered job as a Senior Care Assistant. Since then I've been here, and now I work as a deputy manager.

[Text on screen: What are your memories of coming to Alder House?]

01:36 - It wasn't very welcoming, through service users, there was a lot of discrimination, because most of the staff were regular staff and of an English background. There was few of them and, to put it bluntly, I used to be called 'bloody agency' coming from a different background and some of the residents didn't want my care. Didn't accept me as who I was, especially coming from an agency as well, different background. But I did manage to get around with my personality, I should say. I did manage to work them closely and they realised that obviously I am no different than any other person. I knew what I was doing. And I was accepted as part of the team then, which was great for me and I felt more settled down, a lot of support from the managers I had.

02:35 - Working here long time, I think you forget that you are just here as worker on my part because it becomes as a second home. You are spending more time in here than in your own home. And I still have service users I have been looking after since I first came here, only a few of them left but it's still... there's good relationships there, which are then for me, it's home from home.

[Text on screen: What are your memories of the residents?]

03:06 - Miss Lola Durajaiye, she passed away a few years ago as well. I did go on a few outings with her as well and kind of, we hit it off from the beginning as well, with her. Which, we had a special relationship. Anytime people couldn't find me, they used to know I was in Lola's room [laughs]. They used to look for me, even manager Janet, when she first came in and she couldn't find me she used to know that I was in Lola's room, because I used to pop in because the lady was bedridden and I used to spend mornings chatting to her before I started work, which was really good with her, with my relationship. It was lovely. I still do miss them.

[Text on screen: What are your happiest memories of Alder House?]

03:53 - I think it's the relationships and the achievements looking after, giving somebody your time and making, making time for the people who hasn't got much in their lives because some of them, like I said, they haven't got families to visit and everything. For me that's a great achievement to be able to give them my time. I think that's the biggest achievement I can do. Just spend time with people, I think on that respect I can say that's a great achievement for any person to providing a bit of time, give your time to someone who really needs it.

04:35 - Before I had my son I didn't realise how many people have disabilities and what support was available because I felt lost when I had my son because I didn't know anything about it. I didn't have support around me, years ago, my son is 33 now, which things change and improve and I'm glad to say there is more support, more acceptance for disabilities, which I think, and all of us working together and I think providing support for the people in need, I think. It... I'm sure that counts for something, it's better, and for me myself, I feel better knowing and having the experience.

**End of transcription**