

Disability and Age

7 June 2023

Image Description:

A black and white line drawn comic over four pages. The style is loose, capturing expressions often in close-ups of faces. Text in boxes is the voice of the research project, accompanied by speech bubbles for the voice of the participating artists.

Page 1. The top half of the page is taken up by a figure looking up at an empty venn diagram floating above their head, one side is labelled disability, the other age. The figure is tapping their chin as if in thought. A text box reads: As part of the I'm Me project, we wanted to explore the intersectionality of disability and age.

The bottom left panel shows a cake, with a slice removed to show how it is made from lots of different layers. A text box reads: We did this through a practical workshop, that explored the question in layers to build up understanding.

The final panel on the page shows a man with a thin moustache smiling in a somewhat smarmy manner and giving a thumbs up to indicate that he's ok. A text box reads: First, we constructed a 'default man', a Mr Normal. White, male, heterosexual and non disabled. We named him Archie.

The first panel on page two shows a figure looking at a series of objects on the floor representing a timeline. A text box below reads: We thought about the typical stages in Archie's life.

The second panel is a group drawing of all the members of the I'm Me project together sitting, thinking and talking. A text box reads: We discussed how there were no structural barriers that stopped Archie achieving whatever he wanted to achieve in life. The facilitator asks the group, "What doesn't Archie have that most people in this room do?"

The bottom left panel shows two members of the group answering. One says with a grin "Empathy!" the other answers "Disability"

The final panel again shows the whole group in discussion. A text box reads: We then started thinking about our own lives and collected experiences from different key moments.

At the top of page three a panel shows a man with a beard and wearing a hat thinking, above his head is a dream bubble in which shows the same man singing against a background of musical notes. The bubble is captioned, I could sing before I could walk and talk.

Across the bottom of the page a woman is telling the rest of the group, "I live with my mum, dad, and 2 dogs. My sister lives down the road and my grandma lives next door.

A text box at the top of the final page reads: What we found interesting was the diversity of experiences. So much more interesting than Mr Archie normal.

The panels on the page show different experiences and memories from members of the group.

Top left a panel shows a very small child standing outside a building with a sign reading respite. This is captioned: I remember that when I was a young boy I was sent away to respite and I was 7 years old and it was challenging at the time.

Across the middle is a long thin panel. On the left side three boys are shown crying with broken hearts floating around their head. On the opposite side a young woman with beautiful hair is thinking, I'm not interested in relationships because my brothers keep splitting up with their girlfriends.

The bottom right panel shows a young boy with glasses with two other children, with the caption, Aged 6 I made a friend with a non-learning disabled boy and we've been friends ever since.

The memory continues into the final panel, with a picture of the same person wearing glasses standing at a wedding, the caption reads, I met his friends and we all get together regularly, and now I'm his groomsman.