

# Big Ideas that Changed the World of Disability

- These webinars are to explore some ideas which help us think about what disability means
- We use these ideas
  - to understand our history
  - to argue and challenge what people think and do
  - to research what is happening
  - to build new ways of working together

# Theory

- A theory is an idea which:-
- Helps you think about problems
- Explains why something happens
- Suggests what will happen next

# Model

- » Models are pictures or diagrams or structures that you build to show how an idea will work in the real world
- » We can build models based on theories
- » (Picture)

# Your ideas count

- » Together we will work out what these ideas mean
- » And how they matter to you
- » Do they explain things that happen in your life?
- » Can you we use these ideas to change how other people think?
- » Can we use these ideas to change what other people do?

» The first idea we are going to discuss is  
The Social Model of Disability

» (Picture)

# Disability

- » What do YOU think of when you think of disability?..
- » Write or gesture one thing that you think of when you think of "disability"
- » Hold it up for a screenshot

# Disability: Two ways of thinking

- » Something is wrong with a person
  - » It is a problem for that person
  - » It's bad to have a disability
  - » People need to be as normal as possible
  - » Doctors and professionals are the best people at fixing the problem
- A person is different - and there are many ways of being different
  - Disability is a problem when society creates barriers
  - Disability is neither bad nor good - it is just a fact of life
  - Problems can be solved by all of us working together

The medical model explains disability as illness  
The social model explains disability as to do with how  
society is organised



# 50 years ago

- » A group of people with disabilities sat down and talked about what happened when they went out
- There were so many barriers!
- But whose problem was this????

# Mike Oliver

- He was a professor who had a disability
  - His big idea came from discussions with other people... what if we turned things upside down?

# The social model of disability

» Mike Oliver changed the questions that people with disabilities were asked

- What is wrong with you?
- How does your deformity affect other people?
- How does your speech defect affect your communication?
- How does your hearing make life difficult for you?

Picture of interviewer

# If I had a hammer...(Picture)

- » Mike Oliver called the social model a tool. It works to help solve problems
- But... not all problems can be solved by one tool...
- Give a person a hammer.. and all they see is nails...
- We need a tool box of different things