



Social Work Division
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Re Dr Clive Hathaway Travis

I first met Clive in early 2005. I'm involved in the provision of both undergraduate and post qualifying social work training at De Montfort University in Bedford. One of the hallmarks of social work training today is the ever growing importance of listening to the voices of experience, listening to the voices of people who have used services. Clive has done training sessions with both our undergraduate students and those training as Approved Social Workers. Clive has the ability to share his experiences of being ill and using mental health services with humour, insight and very great courage. The account of his experiences challenges assumptions, both about what it is to be mentally ill and what things matter. It is essential for students to understand that behind every diagnosis, every label, there is a real person there who, by virtue of their experience, is unique and of value and deserves respect. Clive has the ability to bring these points to life. Students have described him as 'inspirational' and 'enlightening'. Listening to Clive 'took away some of the stigma attached to mental illness'. He also manages to convey a sense of hope because he has 'come out the other end, still with a sense of humour and a willingness to share'. The students link listening to Clive with the ever deepening realisation of the 'importance of trying to get it right.

I do not think one can over emphasise the importance and value of what Clive does for both students and qualified practitioners. He is articulate, reflective, humorous and generous in sharing his experiences. He provides a perspective, that few, have had the privilege to encounter before. I would highly recommend him as a contributor to the training and development of those working in this field.

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