

STAFF STORY



Jackie Walter is a Care and Support Assistant at Clover Court in Lowestoft, part of Sanctuary Supported Living, which provides long-term supported housing with care to adults with physical disabilities. Reflecting on Black History Month, Jackie has been sharing her experience of racism in England.

“My first memory of racism was when I was living in a block of flats as a child at the end of the 90s, and someone called me names. I remember crying because I never thought that would happen to me in England. I felt really upset, and actually felt guilty that I’d somehow encouraged someone to be racist.

I’d gone to nursery and reception in North London before this, and my classmates came from all over.

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But after moving to south London later on, I was the only black child at my school.

I hadn’t thought about it before – that the colour of my skin could be an issue had never occurred to me – but suddenly it was a “thing”. I thought, what’s wrong with me? I was now very aware of being different and felt embarrassed about it.

I remember having the “N” word shouted at me on various occasions, it was humiliating, and I felt very scared.

There seems to be more racism in this country now than ever before. People should never make judgements just based on the colour of someone’s skin.”