

TRANSCRIPT: Fighting the system

I do feel that, as parents, we do tend to be fighting the system. For example, we've had years and years of social workers who, because their training isn't there, do not understand what we go through, do not understand our children's needs and they'd rather blame the parent 'cause it's easy.

For example, we have three very complex children with foetal alcohol syndrome, all of different developmental ages, and we do very well. But to be told by a social worker I'm imagining it and that our children aren't disabled, despite having about twenty different diagnoses from different medics, to be told that, in writing, that I have a fabrication disorder because of her lack of awareness of my children's disability, makes you cross.

And we've had quite a few child protection investigations accusing my husband and I of doing things which we haven't and we've been exonerated. But our children say things, but not in the right order, and so we then get investigated. And it breaks your heart because you're doing your very best - more than most people perhaps would do - and then you get the finger pointed. So rather than spend that time looking at the bad things that we haven't done, perhaps they should be spending the time looking at how they can support parents like us, because there's only so far you can stretch before it goes bang! And if you don't get respite and don't get understanding, you can understand how some parents say, 'I've had enough'.