Social exclusion in the UK The lived experience Edited by Mel Hughes St Albans, Critical Publishing, 2022, 188 pages ISBN9781915080387, (pbk) £21.99

Reviewed by Gemma Webb

This book has been co-authored with people with lived experience and social work academics and students. The emphasis is on those with lived experience being at the centre of the narrative of social exclusion. This book presents a rich account of those with lived experience of services and harnesses lived experience throughout, challenging those assumptions which present stigma, exclusion, and marginalisation on people's lives.

All the gripping chapters will interest readers in specialist areas. It is certainly worth exploring where you have a specific interest as this book is set out to enable quick reading and easy referencing. The author's writing in chapter 7 about being a parent in the child protection system have really considered the impact of violence on women and children in this very insightful chapter. The author's have considered the really factors which impact on abusive situations and provide supportive data and references to reflect the impact of the child protection system on the family.

The content of the book reflects how those most affected by economic, social and health inequalities are the least likely to be involved in shaping changes to it. The authors within this book seek to provide narratives of those who are most marginalised, stigmatised, or excluded within UK society and provide them with the opportunity to share what fosters inclusion.

The book covers theoretical frameworks and emerging themes and considers how these relate to different lived experiences. The authors provide richness in their openness and honesty and provide depth in how the factors associated with their experiences have negatively affected their right to choice and freedom.

This book provides in-depth insight into the experiences of those with lived experiences. It's a book full of rich and honest exposures to people's lives, and challenges stigma and social exclusion. It provides a sense of how inequalities impact on marginalised people and presents

this with a range of commentary.

This book is relevant to all those working in social care, health care, education and beyond, including anyone with an interest on the importance that should be placed on social exclusion and marginalisation.

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