​Ajay Dattani audio 2 challenging

Transcript

“In all honesty growing up, the old original OSCAR Birmingham was very prominent in Birmingham. We are approximately 45 years old this year. Initially the original pioneers within Birmingham were all from the Caribbean. We have a very big Jamaican community, Jamaicans are the majority in terms of the makeup of Black Birmingham, before immigration and growth of West African communities and Somali community – Jamaicans, St Kitts, Barbados, the people who spearheaded the charity, it was the Caribbean community. They did a lot of great work at the time, and there wasn’t much money. Community spirit – people came out. If they had an annual sickle cell walk, walkathon, people came out. They did a lot of great work with next to no money. ​​

Back then, if someone was admitted to hospital, one of the workers and volunteers, would visit them at their bedside, bring some essentials, then say, have you got everything in order at home. Check your house is locked, check in. You can’t do that nowadays. Great community support, Black community was strong back then. OSCAR Birmingham had great support, great brand, although not everyone knew about sickle cell, it was kind of like everyone knew. Most Jamaicans kind of understood there was a level of awareness, sickle cell is a problem, family planning, choose wisely.”