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Donna Peach's life is a testament to the transformative power of resilience and empathy. Born into poverty in Openshaw, Manchester, Donna faced neglect, abuse, and constant struggle. Despite these hardships, she discovered moments of joy and developed a strong bond with her siblings.

Education became Donna's pathway to change. Through higher education and a doctorate, she gained the tools to advocate for vulnerable children and challenge social inequalities. Donna emphasizes the need for systemic change, envisioning a society where support systems mirror extended family networks, providing resources and assistance to those in need.

Donna Peach's extensive career in social work spans decades, encompassing roles in residential homes, local authorities, and her current positions as an investigator, consultant, lecturer, and expert witness. Despite entering the field uncertainly, Donna's personal experiences and dedication to making a difference have fueled her unwavering commitment. She has witnessed the complexities of the system and believes in the power of social work to effect positive change. Donna encourages critical thinking and values prevention and early intervention, challenging the notion of when a child should be taken into care. Her resilience and empathy serve as an inspiration, driving her lifelong journey in social work.

Donna also highlights the systemic challenges of capitalist corruption, global exploitation, and the performative nature of some initiatives. She calls for genuine, meaningful change that confronts historical injustices and dismantles oppressive systems. Her perspective inspires individuals and communities to work towards a more equitable and inclusive society.

She challenges the performative nature of current approaches and calls for a shift in mindset towards a more compassionate and relationship-based model of care. Donna emphasizes the importance of working with families, prioritizing human connection, and providing the necessary resources to support the well-being and development of children.

Donna highlights the complexities within the care system and recalls a time when family group homes provided flexible and supportive environments for children. However, she notes that market-driven policies have led to a fragmented system focused on profit rather than genuine care. She emphasizes the need to return to a child development view of care, where the state acts as a resource and support system to ensure a child's overall well-being, promoting kinship care and maintaining relationships with birth families.

Donna's insights shed light on the importance of humanizing young people in care and recognizing their inherent value and potential. She advocates for abandoning punitive systems like youth courts and instead prioritizing understanding and support. By investing in their well-being and providing the necessary resources, society can empower young people to become independent, fulfilled individuals who positively contribute to their communities. Her call for genuine systemic change challenges the status quo and emphasizes the need for a compassionate, relationship-based approach to care and social work.