



#ImWithSam: tackling learning disability and autism hate crime

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Proving life can get better

Dimensions and #ImWithSam

Dimensions supports around 4,000 adults with learning disabilities and autism.

We are a not-for-profit organisation that works with local authorities to deliver social care, including:

- Residential care homes
- Supported living
- Outreach



Aims and objectives

1. Learn about the #ImWithSam campaign to tackle learning disability and autism hate crime
2. Understand the history of how people with learning disabilities and autism have been responded to in the past and why it is relevant today
3. Think about the role safeguarding can play in tackling hate crime





The #ImWithSam Campaign

#ImWithSam

- #ImWithSam is a national campaign to tackle learning disability and autism hate crime
- We launched the campaign after our research showed over 70% of people with a learning disability or autism has been a victim of a hate crime
- #ImWithSam has several goals:
 - To raise awareness of the problem of learning disability and autism hate crime
 - To empower people with learning disabilities and autism to stand up to hate crime
 - To work with government, the criminal justice system and others to deliver our blue print for change





**Hostility and
vulnerability**

Vulnerability vs. hostility

Because there is no single piece of law on hate crime there is an agreed definition of hate crime within the criminal justice system

- *'Any criminal offence which is **perceived** by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by **hostility or prejudice** based on a person's race or perceived race; religion or perceived religion; sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation; disability or perceived disability and any crime motivated by hostility or prejudice against a person who is transgender or perceived to be transgender'*
- This definition is used:
 - In Home Office Counting Rules
 - By the Crown Prosecution Service



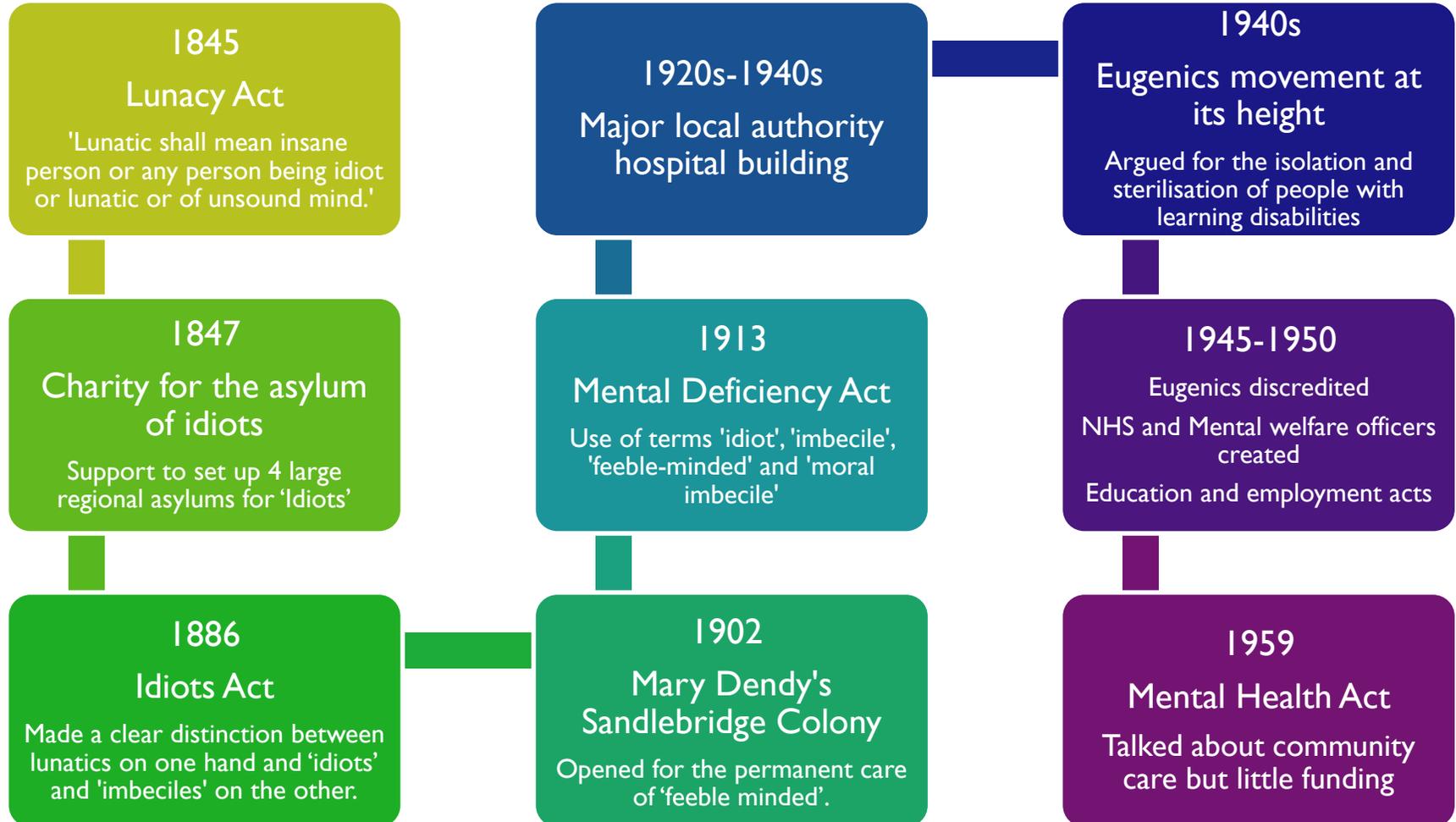
Vulnerability vs. hostility

- In disability hate crime, a focus vulnerability can often make it harder to think about the hostility of the person committing the crime.
- This means crime against people with a learning disability or autism aren't recognised as hate crimes, even when the perpetrator is hostile.
- There is also a tendency to focus on safeguarding the victim, which means reducing risk to them rather than dealing with the perpetrator's hostility.
- Hate crime is the result of stigma and prejudice and this will have a role in lots of safeguarding issues.





A history of learning disability and autism



What words do you think of when you hear the term lunatic?

What words do you associate with hospital?



What words do you think of when you hear the term lunatic?

Unstable

Mad

Disturbed

Unsafe

Crazy

Dangerous

Sick

Scary

What words do you associate with hospital?



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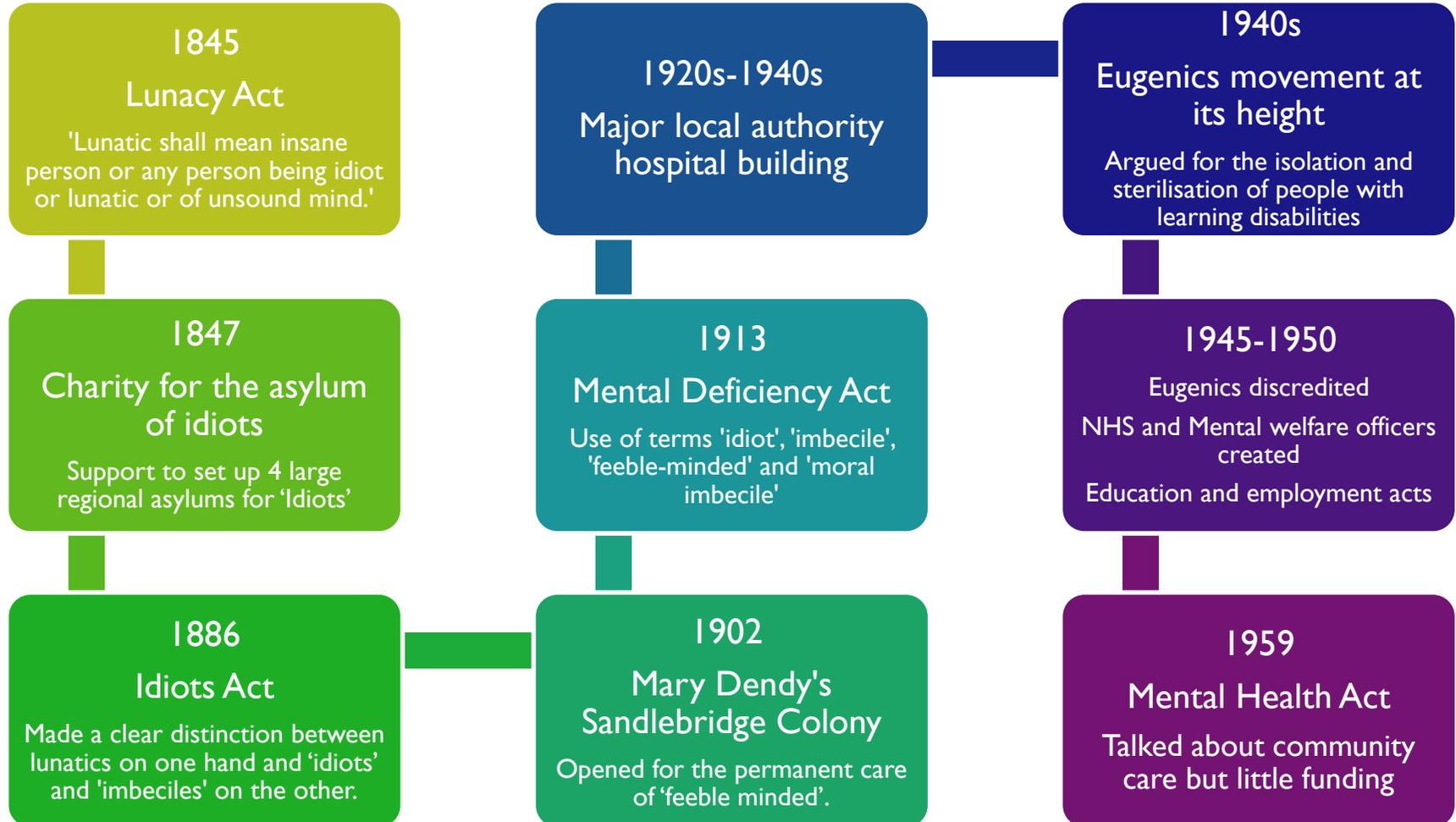
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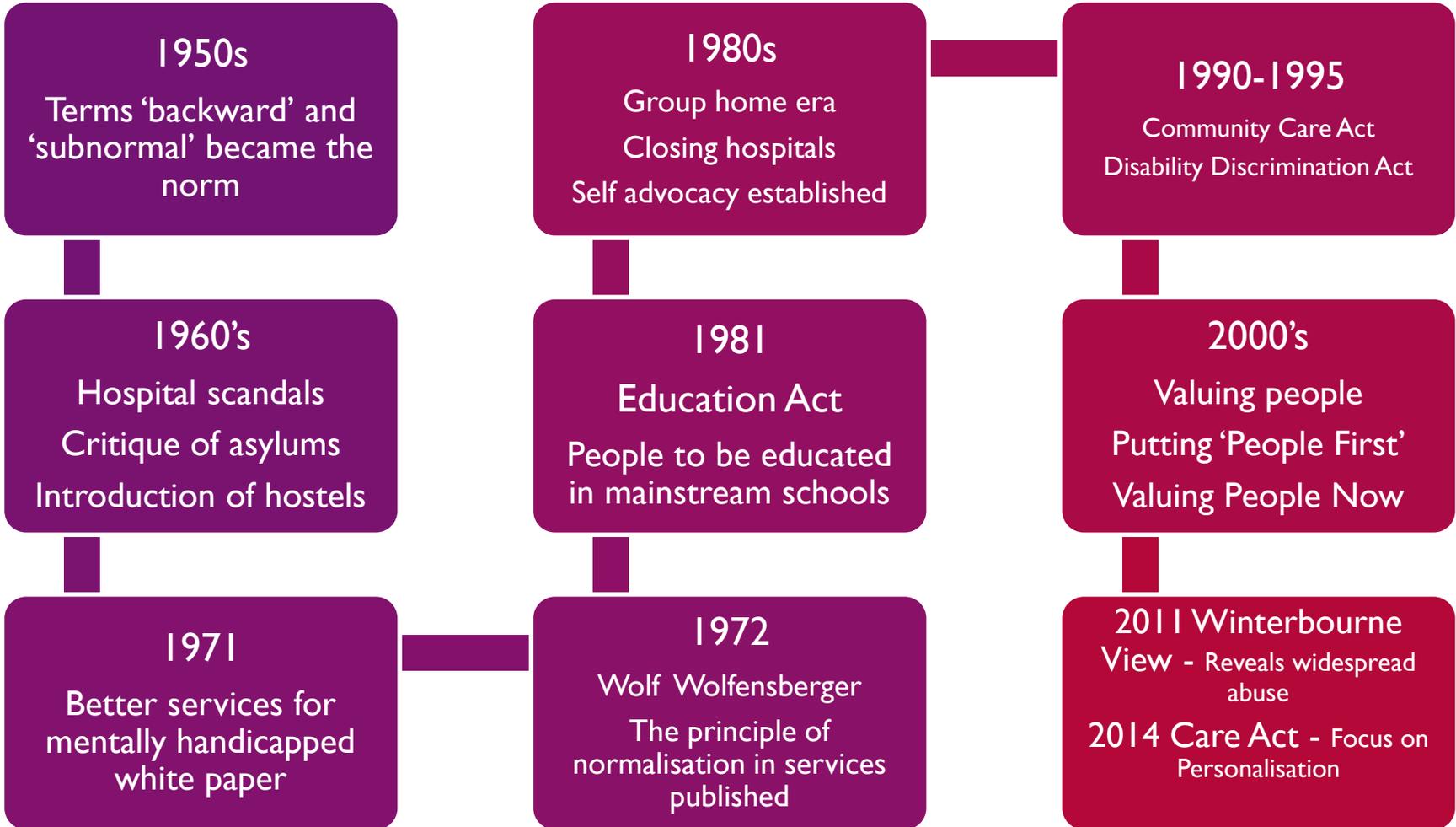
Care
Health
Sickness

Cure
Treatment
Schedule

Doctors
Nurses
Wards







What do you think the challenges were of moving people out of long stay hospitals?



What do you think the challenges were of moving people out of long stay hospitals?

People with learning disabilities and autism were stigmatised

Other didn't want to live near them

People didn't understand certain behaviours of someone with a learning disability or autism

Many people didn't recognise that people can have 'hidden' or 'invisible' disabilities

There were very few ways for people with learning disabilities and autism to contribute to their communities



Vulnerability vs. hostility

- Lots of this prejudice still exists today
 - **People are targeted because they are seen as weird or different**
 - **People are targeted for being drains on society**
 - **People are targeted because their behaviour has not been understood**
- Some of the most serious crimes against people with learning disabilities have included these elements, as well as targeting the victim's vulnerability
 - **Brent Martin**
 - **Lee Irving**
 - **Steven Hoskin**

All of these murders involved repeated failures in other services to safeguard them and join up work with the police.





The impact of hate crime on people with learning disabilities and autism

Mark's story



The impact of hate crime on people with learning disabilities and autism

- Our survey found that hate crime had a very negative impact on people:
 - **43%** felt scared of other people
 - **56%** felt less confident
 - **62%** felt angry
- Fear of hate crime prompts people to change the way that they lead their lives:
 - Not travelling alone
 - Not going out at night
 - Not going to certain areas of the community
 - **45%** felt less comfortable leaving the house



The impact of hate crime on people with learning disabilities and autism

- We also know services and agencies will advise people to stay safe – which can make them change the way they live.
- This is helpful to keep people safe, but doesn't always promote people's rights and inclusion.
- If services and agencies are advising people to keep safe they also have to make sure they are working to deal with the source of the hostility.



