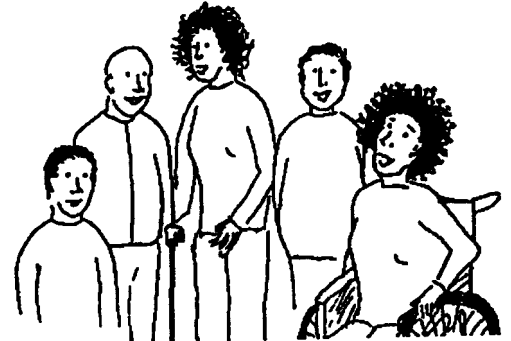


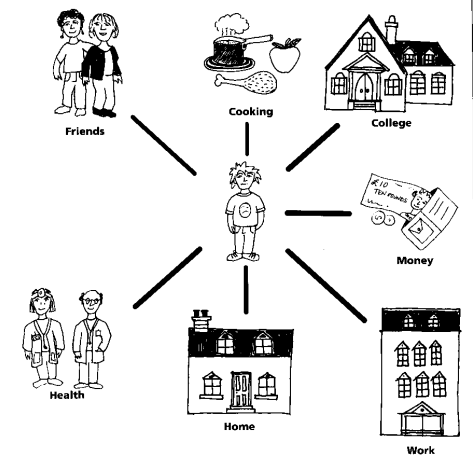
A project about disabled people and their life chances

1. What we are doing

We are doing a project about disabled children and adults and how to make their life chances better.

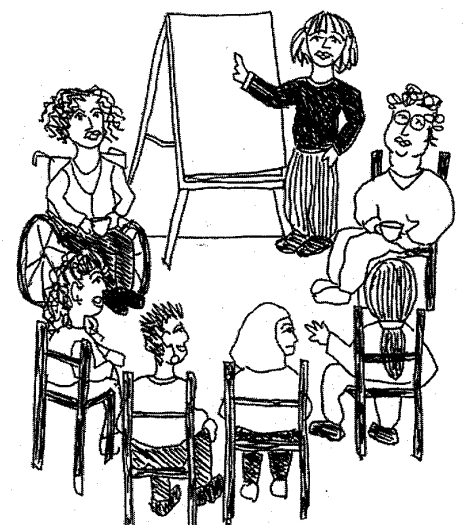


'Life chances' are about how disabled people get on in lots of different things, like education, having a job, and having a home.



A lot of different people are helping on this project. These include:

- **disabled people,**
- people from **disability organisations,**
- people from **different government departments,** like the Department of Health, the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Work and Pensions, and



- **Maria Eagle**, the Minister for disabled people.

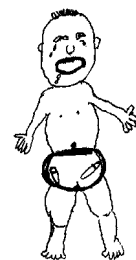
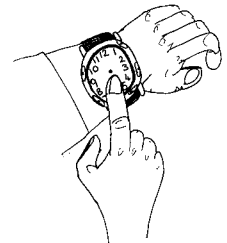


This project will help the Government decide how to spend its money over the next few years.

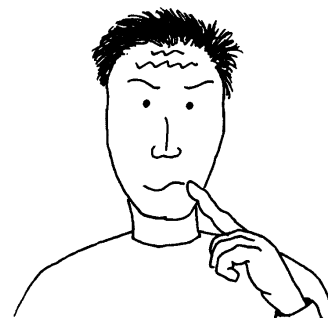


'Disability' can mean different things to different people. It can include:

- people who are disabled for a short time and people who are disabled for a long time,
- people who have been disabled since they were born and people who became disabled when they were older, and
- people who describe themselves as 'disabled' and people who do not describe themselves as disabled.



When we think about disability we are thinking about all of the groups described above. We also know that these groups may have different issues. We know that 'impairment' is not the same thing as 'disability'.



2. We know that sometimes disabled people:

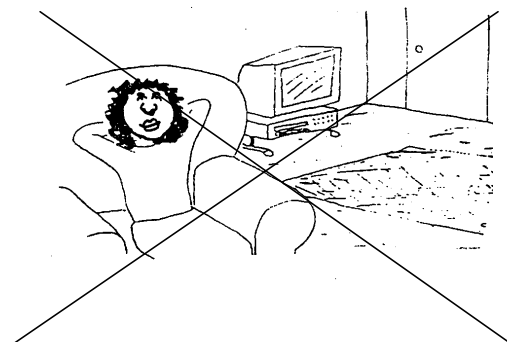
- don't do as well as they could at school or **college**



- find it difficult to get the right **job**



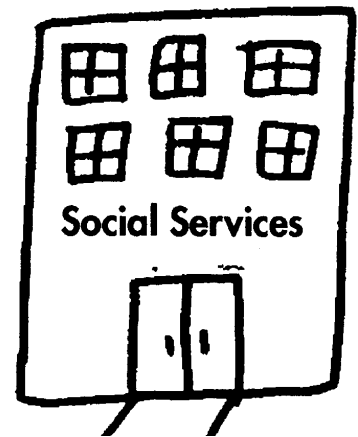
- do not live in a **home** that meets their needs



- or do not have enough **money**.



Sometimes disabled people do not get the support or services that they need.



This can be difficult when they are starting a new job or new college.

There are services available to help disabled people. These services do not always work well together or the services are not always as good as they could be.

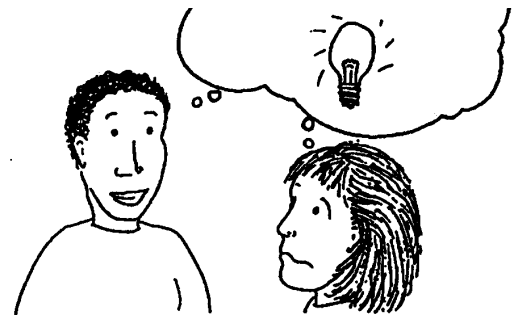


3. The aims of the project are to:

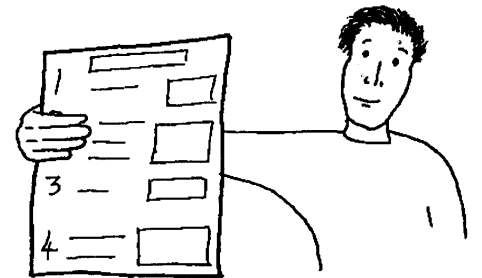
(a) to find out about disabled people's 'life chances'



(b) to understand why things are the way they are for disabled people

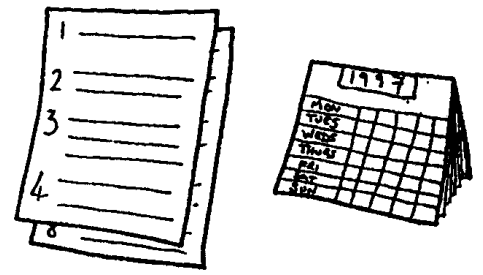


(c) to suggest changes that Government Departments can make to improve things for disabled people.

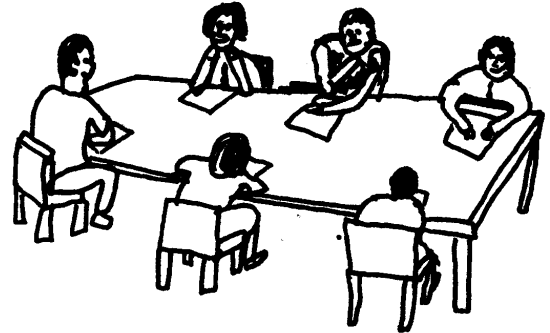


4. When things will happen

We first told people about this project on 3rd December 2003. The project has three parts.



Part one was December 2003 to February 2004. In part one we met with different organisations to find out what is known about disabled people.



We have also looked at information that has been collected about disabled people's lives.



Part two was February to June 2004. In part two we looked at the most important issues in detail.



Part three of the project will run from June until September 2004.

It will include what we think different Government Departments should be doing to improve things for disabled people.



5. Who is in charge of the project:

Maria Eagle, the Government minister for disabled people, will guide the project as a whole.

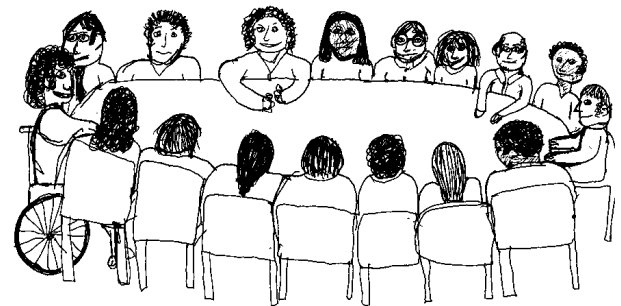


Andrew Smith, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, will help Maria.



Andrew Smith is a minister who attends Cabinet meetings with the Prime Minister.

Maria leads a **large group** that gives advice on what the project should be doing.



Some of the other people on this large advice-giving group are:

Baroness Ashton, Department for Education and Skills/ Department for Work and Pensions



Yvette Cooper, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister



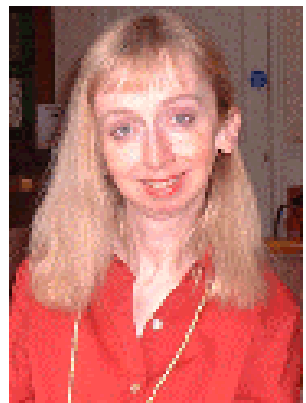
Stephen Ladyman, Department of Health



Bert Massie, Disability Rights Commission



Sally Witcher, Disability Employment Advisory Committee



The people listed below are also on this large-advice giving group:

- **Jane Campbell**

Social Care Institute for Excellence

- **Norman Glass**

National Centre for Social Research

- **Christine Lenehan**

Council for Disabled Children

- **Mark Thompson**

Director-General-Designate, BBC

- **Stephen Aldridge**

Strategy Unit

- **Bruce Calderwood**

Department for Work and Pensions

- **Gareth Davies**

Number 10

- **Ann Frye**

Department for Transport

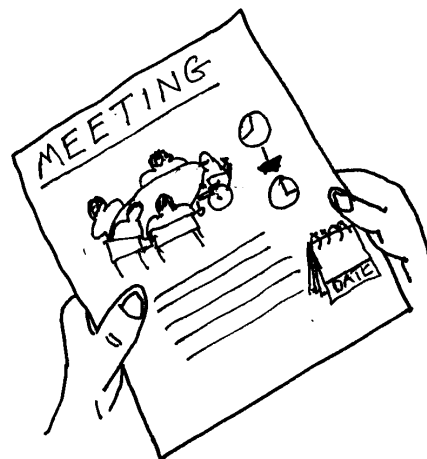
- **Nicholas Holgate**

HM Treasury

- **Claire Tyler**

Social Exclusion Unit

This group of people met for the first time on Monday 2nd February 2004. Clicking your mouse [here](#) will take you to a page that describes what was said at this meeting.



The group met for the second time on Tuesday 4th May 2004. Clicking your mouse [here](#) will take you to a page that describes what was said at the second meeting.

6. How to get more information:

We can give you information in **Braille** if you ask us for it.

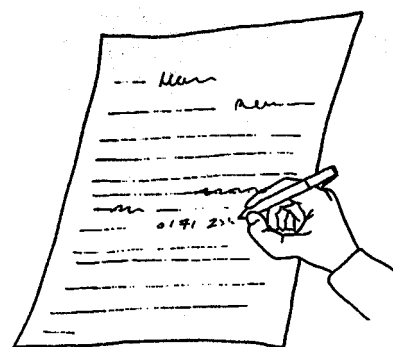


We can send you information about how the project is going by **email**. If you would like email updates email us on:

Disability@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

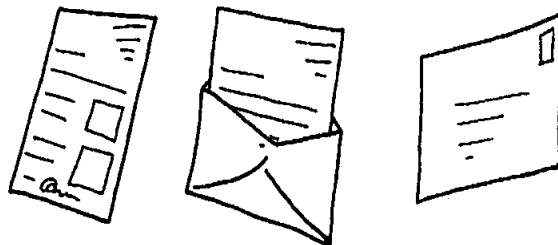


If you have any **comments** on this project, you can write them in a



letter and send it to us at the address below:

Strategy Unit "Disability" Team
Cabinet Office
Room 4.14 Admiralty Arch
The Mall
London
SW1A 2WH



Pictures also from the Department of Health's Valuing People accessible clip art: <http://www.publications.doh.gov.uk/learningdisabilities/access/>