

# Project about disabled people and their life chances - first meeting of the large advice-giving group

The large group that gives advice on the project met for the first time on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2004.



The following people came to the meeting:

- **Maria Eagle**  
Government minister for disabled people
- **Baroness Ashton**  
Department for Education and Skills/ Department for Work and Pensions
- **Bert Massie**  
Disability Rights Council
- **Norman Glass**  
National Centre for Social Research
- **Christine Lenehan**  
Council for Disabled Children
- **Sally Witcher**  
Disability Employment Advisory Committee
- **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**

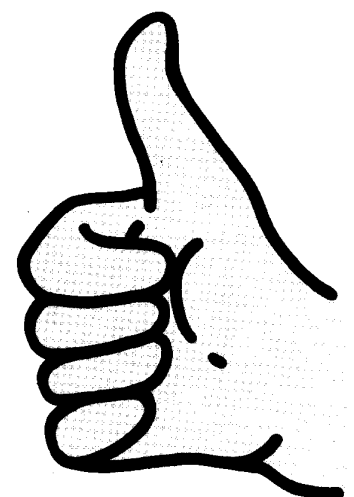
Social Exclusion Unit

The group talked about the findings from the first part of the project. They talked about whether the right issues had been picked as important.

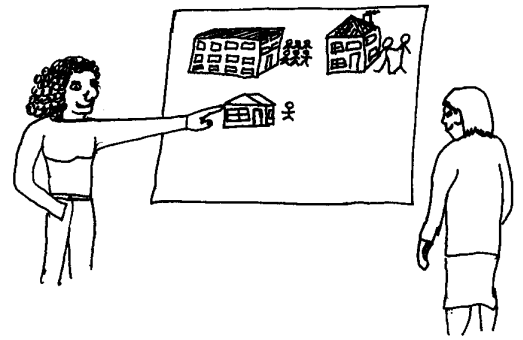


The following things were said in the meeting:

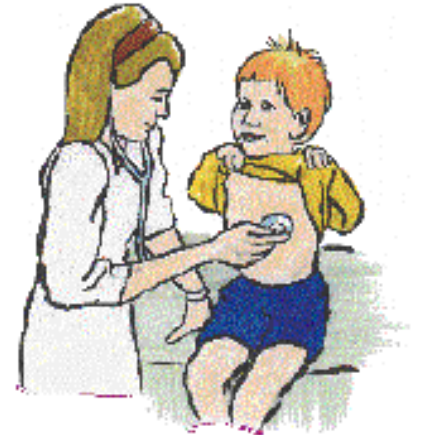
- People were happy that the project is being done. The project could make things better for disabled people. It is important that the project does make **real** changes for disabled people. Disability affects millions of people and it is not fair if these people are disadvantaged.



- People liked the way the project is looking at changes in disabled people's lives. They did say that some changes can happen at **any time** in a disabled person's life. They said that issues for disabled babies and disabled children are very important.



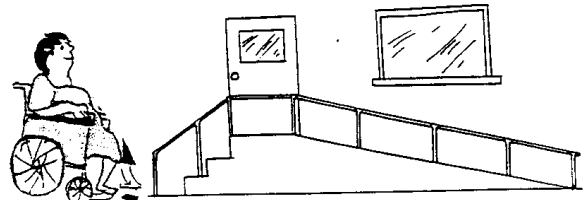
- The group agreed it was important to provide help early. They said that the project should look at this issue in detail.



- The group thought it was a good idea to use the lessons that have been learnt about the best ways to run services.



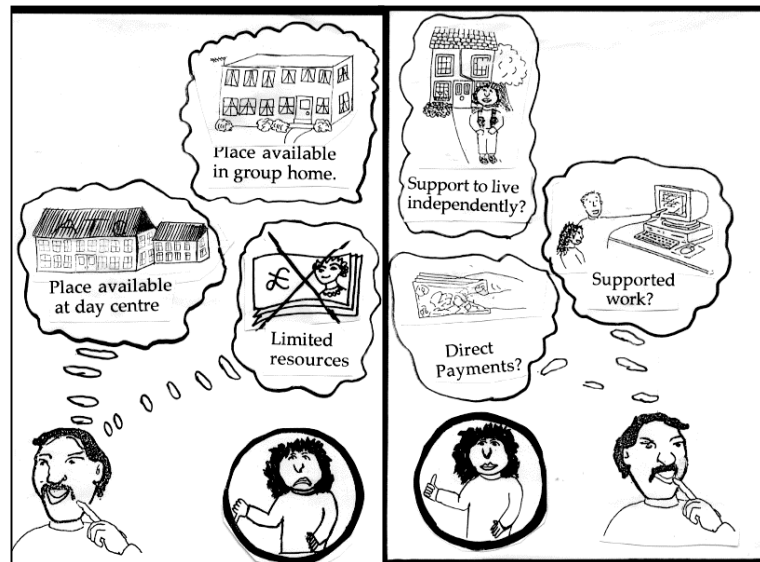
- The group said it was important to use the 'social model of disability'. This means 'disability' comes from the barriers in society, not from the individual.



- The project needs to look at how **all** services can include disabled people, and not just 'special' services.



- The project needs to look in a lot of detail at how services are delivered in the real world.



- The project should seek to make sure that disabled people have a voice. Service providers must not have all the control.



The large advice-giving group will have another meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004.



Pictures also from the Department of Health's Valuing People accessible clip art:

<http://www.publications.doh.gov.uk/learningdisabilities/access/>