

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to all the disabled people who participated in this study, sharing often intensely personal experiences and attitudes. We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance provided by the different voluntary groups around England who helped us to contact people to take part in the research. We have been ably supported and advised by our research managers at DWP, namely Sonia Corder and Grahame Whitfield.

At the *National Centre* we would like to thank Sue Arthur for her invaluable contribution during the early stages of the project. Thanks are also due to Carl Mclean, Nasreen Ali, Gulshan Karbani and Marion Clayden who conducted many of the interviews and group discussions. Also to Emily Hill, Alice Mowlam, Robin Legard, Jane Lewis and Sarah Dickens who assisted with various stages of analysis and recruitment.

The Authors

Donna Molloy was a Senior Researcher in the Qualitative Research Unit until Autumn 2002, she is currently working at the Social Exclusion Unit. During her time at *NatCen* she conducted research in a wide range of social policy areas including employment, education, social security and homelessness among young lesbians and gay men. Her main interests are the causes of social disadvantage and social exclusion and the relationship between research, policy and practice.

Tim Knight is a Researcher in the Qualitative Research Unit. He has conducted research into participation in further education with young people and work with criminal offenders. His main interests are transitions to work and the analysis of qualitative data.

Kandy Woodfield is Deputy Director of the Qualitative Research Unit. In addition to leading the qualitative component of the preceding *'Disabled for Life?'* study, she has also been conducting other research around disability issues, including recent work for RNIB, exploring customer satisfaction. Her research interests span issues relating to labour market exclusion and disadvantage, social exclusion and socio-legal issues relating to families in transition and victims' experiences of the legal system. She also co-ordinates teaching in qualitative methodology for *NatCen*.