

## Standing in the wings

**Anne Duffy**

Parent of a young man with Duchenne muscular dystrophy

When Anne Duffy's son Andrew was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), one of the most difficult changes in her life was how other people now perceived her – she was no longer Mrs Duffy, teacher, broadcaster, writer, but 'the mother of the disabled boy'.

Further challenges presented themselves when dealing with professionals in education, medical, social and other services, which the Family Care Officer at Muscular Dystrophy UK had warned her of: *It's not the condition that will wear you down - it's the struggles with services, and obstacles you'll have to go through, that will do it.*

In this talk, Anne describes how she has dealt with the challenges over the years, especially when Andrew became an adult.