

# MPs Talk Back!

**The Cambridgeshire Parliament for  
People with Learning Difficulties**

**research into the experience of MPs**

**Working Together for Change  
conference 2 March 2007**

# **MPs Talk Back – research team**

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# MPs Talk Back – research aims

In the MPs Talk Back research we wanted to:

- find out how we could make the Parliament for people with learning difficulties better
- show how we could work together.



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voice | action | change

# **MPs Talk Back – what we did**

- **regular team meetings**
- **made a leaflet**
- **ran a focus group with current MPs**
- **tried out ice breaker activities and use of ‘shields’**

# **MPs Talk Back – what we did**

- decided on questions to ask**
- sent letters to MPs we wanted to talk to**
- talked to 20 MPs**
- used real objects as reminders**
- used shields to sum up ideas**

# **MPs Talk Back – finding out what the MPs had to say**

**MPs seemed to like:**

- meeting on their ‘home ground’**
- reminders of the Parliament**
- summing up ideas on shields**
- getting feedback – shields and leaflets.**

# **MPs Talk Back – what MPs told us**

- **being an MP changed their lives**
- **Parliament helped to change other people's lives**
- **MPs had strong feelings about Parliament**
- **talking, listening and being listened to are important**

# **MPs Talk Back – what MPs told us**

- **about practical issues – buildings, food, transport**
- **how the Parliament worked**
- **how to make Parliament better –  
more support, more control,  
more advocacy, making more of a  
difference**

# **MPs Talk Back – What did I do?**



**I helped to choose another research worker**



- a big discussion**  
**and need to meet before work started**

# **MPs Talk Back – What did I do?**



**My ideas for the focus group:**

- fun icebreaker and shields**
- make them feel comfortable**
- let them say what they wanted to say**

**The focus group went well –**

**interesting ideas.**

# MPs Talk Back – What did I do?



The leaflets –

my ideas for words and pictures



# MPs Talk Back!

# MPs Talk Back – What did I do?



**Planning for interviews –**

**my idea to have things  
to remind people about  
Parliament**



# **MPs Talk Back – What did I do?**



**Analysis – taking a close look at what MPs said –**

- counting how many people said what**
- putting ideas from shields into categories.**

**Analysis was fun to do – the BEST day.**

# **MPs Talk Back – What did I do?**



**Before we went to Parliament to tell them about the research we:**

- planned the presentation**
- planned some group work**
- made a powerpoint**
- made a leaflet**

# MPs Talk Back – What did I do?



**I presented to Parliament:**

- **they understood what we were saying**
- **they listened**
- **we got new ideas from them**



# **MPs Talk Back – these are things I found difficult**



- **choosing a research worker**
- **being interviewed when you know the questions**
- **having to change ‘hats’**
- **being a leader in Parliament**
- **then being a researcher too**

# **MPs Talk Back – reporting so far and what next**

- **report to Parliament**
- **article in Louder!**
- **conference in Cambridge – spring 2007**
- **more articles**
- **better research . . . . .**

