

If you are worried about anything
you have read in this leaflet
or want to contact us, you can:



MPs Talk Back!

What we've found out...



phone Amy
at Speaking Up!
(01223) 566258



or e-mail Richard
rb218@cam.ac.uk



or e-mail Isabel
ichc2@hermes.cam.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

and

speaking UP!



Amy Forgacs
Project Worker

Do you remember us?



Richard
Byers









Isabel
Clare









Heather
Williams



Amy
Forgacs

-  We came to speak to you about the Service Users' Parliament.
-  We listened to what you had to say about the Service Users' Parliament.
-  We recorded what you said on tape.
-  We also wrote what you said on a piece of paper.
-  We sent you a picture of what we wrote.
-  Now, we want to tell you what we found out.

What happens next?

-  We will tell other people what we found out.
-  We will write this in Louder!
-  And in other magazines.
-  We will go to the Parliament and tell the MPs what we found out.
-  We still have the tape we recorded your interview on.
-  We will send it back to you as soon as we can.

Thank you
for all your help


7. Making Parliament work better

You said:

- “Some subjects **too hard**” – **MPs need support**
- MPs were **not** always in control “MPs not choosing topics” – **MPs need more control**
- MPs **not** re-elected were **sad** 😞. There should be **something for them**
- MPs want to make **more of a difference**

What did we find out?

Who did we talk to?

- We talked  to **20** MPs from the Service Users’ Parliament.
- **2** MPs did **not** stay at the Service Users’ Parliament for the full 3 years.
- **9** were MPs in the Service Users’ Parliament **only**.
- **9** were MPs in the Service Users’ Parliament and are **still MPs now**.


What did you tell us?

 You told us about 7 key issues:

1. How being an MP changed **your life**.
2. How the Service Users' Parliament helped to **change other people's lives**.
3. MPs' **feelings** about the Service Users' Parliament.
4. **Talking, listening** and being listened to.
5. **Practical** issues.
6. **How** the Service Users' Parliament worked.
7. **How** to make Parliament **better**.

6. How the Service User's Parliament worked

You told us about:

- Getting **ready** for the Service Users' Parliament
-  Meeting people and guests
- What MPs did at Parliament: talking, listening, role-plays, writing, reading
- The **support** MPs got and needed

These were good things:

- ✓ “I liked to watch role-plays”
- ✓ “Guests listened while we talked”
- ✓ “People were welcoming and helpful”
- ✓ “Action groups just before Parliament” were good

Some MPs thought **everything** was good.

BUT other MPs thought there were things that were **not so good** ...

5. Practical issues

You told us about the building:

✗ “Council chamber not good”

but

✓ The new building is “nice – you can move about in there”

You said about the food:

✓ “The food was beautiful”

but

✗ “I got a bit hungry”

And you told us about the transport 🚗 ,
money £, and the bar 🍸

1. How being an MP changed your life

You said:

✓ “It **changed my life** for a bit – meeting people, going to Shire Hall”

MPs “enjoyed the day”

✓ “Spending the **day out**, away from the day centre”

✓ “I liked looking **smart**, dressing up to go out”

But ... it also caused problems for some MPs

✗ “I had to take **time off** work to be an MP”

2. How being an MP changed others' lives

You said:

🗣️ “Some MPs were brilliant at **Speaking Up**”

And you thought you made a difference

✓ “Powerful difference to people’s lives”

✓ “Things changed”

But...

✗ “It’s hard to represent all Cambridge”

✗ And some people felt “nothing changed”

3. How being an MP made you feel

You said:

Being an MP made lots of people happy

- ✓ “I liked it”
- ✓ “More confident”
- ✓ Other people were “chuffed for me”

But...

- ✗ Some MPs found that people were jealous: “friend was a bit jealous” and “carers were jealous”
- ✗ A lot of the MPs who were not re-elected felt “angry and sad”

4. Talking, listening and being listened to...

You said:

MPs liked...

- 👂 Listening to others
- 👂 Being listened to
- 🗣️ Talking
- 🗣️ Speaking up for themselves and others

But...

- ✗ “Some people dominated”
- ✗ Some MPs were sad because they were not understood or listened to
- ✗ Some MPs didn’t say much