

BUDGET CUTS

Have Your Say



SpeakingUp
active voices

Inside this Louder you will find an addressed postcard that you can send to the council. You can ask a supporter for help to write.

Some things you might want to mention:

> The Council might shut a respite service.

What do you think this would mean for people with learning difficulties and their carers?

> The council have rated very badly in recent inspections of Social care. What do you think will happen to these ratings if they cut services?

> Tell them about other services that you think are most important to people with learning difficulties.

Remember to put a stamp on the card and then post it!




MP Michelle Mansfield hands the petition to Councillor Fred Yeulett



Professor Stephen Hawking supported the petition and signed up

LOUDER gives you a voice
If you have something to say, a burning issue you think Parliament should be talking about, then get in touch with us today....
Here's how to contact us:

To Contact Us

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LOUDER

the voice of the Parliament



CARE CUT CRISIS

APRIL 2007

www.speakingup.org

CASH SLASHED IN CARE CUTS HORROR



At a full council meeting last month, councillors voted to slash the Adult Support Services budget by £2.6 million. The Parliament was shocked to hear about the council's decision.

NOW WHO CARES AS £2.6m AXED

There is no definite decision yet as to what the cuts will mean however...

CLOSURE! The council website says that one of only three in-house respite services for people with learning disabilities could close as a result.

MPs Tracey Auckland and Michelle Mansfield are leading the Parliament campaign to **STOP THE CUTS!**

To join our campaign and send your personal message direct to the councillors see page 2.



ACCESSIBLE

We Don't Think So!



The MPs told their guests in no uncertain terms about the difficulties they have accessing services in the community. **Here are just a few of the problems the MPs found:**

- > Heavy doors on shops
- > Cash machines and tills placed too high
- > Timetables that were very hard to understand.
- > Shop staff who talk to the supporter instead of to the customer with a disability.



They did find a few good things too that they want others to learn from:

- > A café with a sign to ask people to move from an easily accessible table if someone with a disability needs it.
- > Libraries with books in different formats.
- > Some really helpful staff.

They asked the councillors and other guests to learn from the good and stamp out the bad!

TOILET TROUBLE

Campaign For Better Loos

At the Parliament this month the MPs told the council about the need for properly accessible toilets for people with high support needs.

The MPs called for public toilets with height adjustable benches and hoists.

At the moment people who need a hoist cannot go out for more than a few hours without being very uncomfortable. The MPs asked their guests from the council if they could imagine how this might feel.

Then they showed them a solution to the problem...a specially designed toilet made by Andy's Loos.

We're waiting to hear whether the city council will put their hands in their pockets and buy one.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

Conference

The Centre for Participation is made up of different organisations who do research for and with people with Learning Difficulties in Cambridgeshire.



The Centre for Participation held a Conference called "Working Together for Change" on Friday 2nd March 2007.

We invited people with learning difficulties and professionals from Cambridgeshire.

Guest Speakers included **Rob Greig** and **Nicola Smith**: National Directors for People with learning disabilities and **John Reynolds**: Councillor for Cambridgeshire



These are the 4 workshops that took place

> Parliament - Video Project and Voting

This workshop told people a) whether people with learning difficulties vote b) It also told people about a video project that explains how people communicate at Parliament.

> MPs Talk Back

This workshop told people about the research that was done with MPs, to find out what it was like to be an MP and what the MPs thought of the Parliament.

> What About Us?

This workshop was done with some young people from Impington Village College who gave their views on making their school a safer place.

> Speaking Up - Where Next?

This workshop helped people to think about how to be involved in meetings and what is important to them.

People said they liked...

- > "To see lots of people from other parts of the Eastern Region."
- > "To learn about what other areas are doing."
- > "The conference was Inspiring, Fun, Great, Interesting"

