

# LOUDER

*the voice of the Parliament*

December 2005

[www.speakingup.org](http://www.speakingup.org)



## HOLD ON!

**But even Santa has to spend a penny**

At the last Parliament meeting in September the MPs focussed on the issues facing people with high support needs.

The MPs were gob smacked to find that in the 21st Century people with high physical needs can't go out into town for the day because there's no suitable loos!

The Parliament were chuffed to hear that the City of Ely is leading the way and has agreed plans for toilets with hoist and changing bed facilities.

The MPs will be writing to the other councils to ask them to follow suit....

We'll let you know how we get on.

Find out more about the Parliament meeting on page 5

We want to hear about your Banking experiences - good or bad.  
See inside for your questionnaire



# BANK

## Account-Ability

In January the Parliament will be all about banking.

The MPs have been busy preparing for the meeting. Darren Fitzpatrick has been to a workshop in Birmingham - people from around the country attended. All sorts of things came up including:

- Capacity Issues - People who don't understand how bank accounts work are having real problems opening accounts and accessing their own money.
- ID - Some of the types of ID (identification) that the banks ask for like passports or driving licences people just don't have.
- Chip 'n' PIN - PIN numbers are difficult to remember - people with learning difficulties should still be allowed to sign instead.

At the Parliament meeting we will be inviting the top bods from the world of banking to come and hear about these and other issues to see what can be done.

REMEMBER TO LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR BANKING EXPERIENCES ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE.

### Banks under the microscope!

MPs are hitting the high street in the name of research. Colin Kempton, MP for Hester Adrian is one of a team of MPs who is going into banks to find out how they treat their customers with learning difficulties.

Here you can see Colin Kempton, MP for Hester Adrian practising his research with Toby Jackson.

Toby is the new social work student and we're lucky to have him working with us on the Parliament until summer next year.



## SHOULD WE STAY OR SHOULD WE GO?

### Parliament on the move.....

The MPs voted to change the venue for the Parliament next year. From January the meetings will be held at the Over Community Centre. One of the MPs said " It's been good at Shire Hall, but we've outgrown it now, I'm looking forward to a bigger space...we'll be able to hear ourselves think!"

## HEALTH CHECK

### Minister to monitor hospital.....

Paul Banes, Health minister, recently met with a Director at Addenbrookes to give him the low down on how people with learning difficulties find the hospital. Paul will check up to see if things change for the better.

# PARLIAMENT FEEDBACK

The Issues facing people with high support needs.

To help the guests at the Parliament understand how it feels to have a high support need we gave them opportunities to experience different things.....

- Using a wheelchair and hoist
- Personal care
- Being supported to eat
- Massage

This was quite an eye opener. One guest said "I just couldn't bear having someone else clean my teeth, it must be scary for people having that every day"

We invited three people who had high support needs to join us on the day. Christian

took part in a presentation with his circle of support. We heard how person centred his support is - Christian pays his support workers to work at night when he likes to be up and about and doing things. MPs and guests commented on how powerful the presentation was and how they wished that more people could have such a person-centred service.

The MPs also thought about how they could involve people with high support needs more in the Parliament. They said we must get better at doing this, perhaps having a High Support Needs Committee.



# 1 MILLION REASONS



## WHY SPEAKING UP HAS BIGGER PRESENCE THIS CHRISTMAS

The all singing - all dancing Speaking Up AGM in October was a great success. We found out that Speaking Up's income last year topped 1 million pounds! Some of the highlights of the event included.....

- The launch of the YPSU theme song, sung by the young people themselves. You can see them in action (below).
- Next Steps members told us about their work and all the awards that they have won.
- Young People's Next Steps did a role play about their project.
- When it came to the Parliament's turn technology let us down, our film wouldn't play...luckily the MPs saved the day. Marilyn, Tina and Michael did spontaneous speeches and told everyone about their role as MPs.



**HO! HO! HO!**  
*All the MPs would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

### Fab! Funding Finalised

The Cambridgeshire Parliament is pleased to announce that we have just been awarded funding for 3 years from the Big Lottery Fund.

Ian Culverhouse, the Transport Minister was involved in talking to the Big Lottery and telling them about what we do.

