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

phone Amy at Speaking Up!  
(01223) 566258

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

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

MPs Talk Back!
What we’ve found out...

Amy Forgacs  
Project Worker
Do you remember us?

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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 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