



**Scottish Youth Parliament  
83<sup>rd</sup> National Sitting  
6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025  
Paisley Town Hall, Paisley  
MSYP Pack**

**#SYP83**

# Welcome to SYP83

Hello MSYPs, and welcome to our 83<sup>rd</sup> National Sitting, taking place at Paisley Town Hall, Paisley!

This pack will help you find out more about the plans for SYP83 and help you prepare for the weekend. If you have any questions about the Sitting, please speak to your Support Worker in the first instance.

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## Agenda

Please note: this agenda may be subject to change.

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Time	Activity	Location
9am	Registration	Reception
9.45am	<b>Welcome and Opening Statements</b>	Main Hall
9.50am	<b>Local Perspectives - Renfrewshire MSYPs</b>	
10am	<b>Member's Motions</b>	
11.55am	<b>Manifesto Launch Presentation</b>	
12.10pm	<i>Lunch - we will start to move back to the main hall at 1pm</i>	Corridors/Lucille's Bar

1.10pm	<b>Manifesto Tour and Content Creation</b>	Main Hall/Cinema
2.10pm	<b>Keynote Speaker - Beth-Anne McDowall</b>	Main Hall
2.30pm	Break	Corridors/Lucille's Bar
2.45pm	<b>Political Impartiality in Practice - training</b>	Main Hall
3.25pm	<b>Advocating for yourself, an issue, or an audience - Workshop Rotation</b>	
4.30pm	Close	

Join us on Saturday evening from 6.30pm - 9.30pm for social evening, to be hosted by Renfrewshire Council at the same venue - see page 14 or more information!



## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
9am	Registration	Registration
9.30am	<b>Welcome and Opening Statements</b>	Main Hall
9.35am	<b>AGM Hustings</b>	
11.15am	Comfort Break	
11.30am	<b>Subject Committee Sessions and CDC Elections</b>	Breakout Rooms
12.15pm	Lunch - <i>We will start to move to breakout rooms at 1pm</i>	Corridors/Lucille's Bar
1.15pm	<b>Consultation Workshops</b>	Breakout Rooms
2.30pm	Break	Corridors/Lucille's Bar

2.45pm	<b>Presentation : SYP's New Strategy</b>	<b>Main Hall</b>
3pm	<b>Joint MSYP and Support Worker Session Planning for Manifesto Action!</b>	
3.40pm	<b>Make and Create a Pocket Pledge!</b>	
3.50pm	<b>Closing Statements</b>	
4pm	<b>Close</b>	

## Staying Safe

This section contains useful information to help ensure everyone is safe during the Sitting. If you have any questions or need help during the weekend, you can speak to your Support Worker or a member of SYP staff (they will all be wearing blue SYP t-shirts or hoodies).

SYP has a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of abuse, bullying and harassment. We ask everyone to help create this environment and to promote the work and values of SYP as a positive space. All MSYPs are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct. If you see or hear anything that worries you, please speak to a Support Worker or member of SYP staff.

## What to bring

We recommend you bring the following:

- A downloaded or printed copy of the MSYP Pack.
- A Pen

- Toiletries.
- Clothes for 2-3 days.
- Reusable drinks bottle.
- A device and charger (mobile phone / laptop / tablet) for voting - wifi will be available.

## **Arriving at the Sitting**

When you arrive at the venue, your Support Worker will go to the registration desk to check you in. You can go straight into the foyer or luggage room.

If you are coming to the Sitting without a Support Worker, please go to the registration desk and let SYP staff know you have arrived. A member of SYP staff will be your main point of contact. Please check in with them throughout the weekend.

## **Luggage Room**

A luggage room will be available throughout the event where you can store big luggage items. Please keep any valuables, medication, and other belongings that you

will need for the day with you at all times. You might not be able to get to your luggage during the day.

SYP, Renfrewshire Council, and Paisley Town Hall take no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal belongings.

## **First Aid**

If you feel ill or need any help during the weekend, please speak to your Support Worker or a member of SYP staff. The first aider at the Sitting will be Debbie Hammell, Participation and Programmes Manager - you can contact her on **07305 104779** during Sitting times. If you are unwell away from the Sitting (e.g. at the evening sessions or at night) please speak to your Support Worker.

## **Quiet Space and Prayer Room**

At this Sitting, we will have a quiet space and a prayer room available for anyone who wants to take a break or time to pray. Please let your Support Worker or a member of SYP staff know if you want to use either of these rooms so someone knows where you are, you may need to be accompanied by your Support Worker at these times.

## **Fire Alarms and Evacuations**

We are not expecting the fire alarm to go off during this Sitting. However, if we do need to evacuate the building, please follow the instructions given to you by SYP and venue staff, and emergency services staff.

When you reach the muster point, please go straight to your Support Worker (or your designated SYP staff member if you are attending without a Support Worker), and they will let SYP staff know you are safe. Please do not go back into the building until you are told.

## **Smoking and Vaping**

Paisley Town Hall is a smoke-free venue, and in line with SYP policy, this is a clean air event. Please don't smoke or vape anywhere on the venue grounds.

## **Alcohol**

As with all SYP events, alcohol is strictly prohibited throughout the weekend of this Sitting.

## **Catering**

Meals and snacks will be served throughout the weekend, and we will cater for any dietary requirements that we have been told about before the Sitting. Please let your Support Worker know straight away if you have any dietary requirements, so they can let us know.

If you have a special diet, you will be given a token - please show this to the caterers to make sure you get the right meal.

Unfortunately, we cannot cater for individual likes and dislikes, although we will make sure there is a range of options where possible.

## Name badges

Name badges will be given out to Support Workers during registration on Saturday morning. You must wear your name badge at all times.

Your name badge will include your name, constituency, and details of the workshops you have been allocated to. More info about each of the workshops are shown on the following pages. Your name badge will look like this:



The codes on the badge relate to the following:

MT - relates to your Manifesto Tour Group for Saturday. Details of this can be found on page 14.

CW relates to the consultation workshop groups. The number next to the code will designate your breakout group for the consultation workshops on Sunday. Further details of this can be found on page 16.

Committee Code - this relates to the subject committee sessions and CDC elections on Sunday. A full list of these codes is found on page 15.

# SYP83 Comms Challenge!

## CONTENT HUNTERS

### #DearScotlandsFuture Comms Challenge



The National Sitting isn't just about policy making... It's about storytelling. And you have just been asked to help the SYP Media Team with that. What are we after? We want you to show Scotland what this event looks like from the inside *oot!* Are you ready?

<p>★ <b>SYP83</b> ★</p> <p>We celebrate young people's voices across Scotland</p>	<p><b>REGISTRATION MOOD</b> Take a photo or record a short selfie video saying in a few words how you feel about the Sitting.</p> <p><b>BRAINS IN MOTION</b> Record yourself or another MSYP explaining the Motion you're interested in. Let's keep it simple but punchy!</p> <p><b>BREAKOUTS MOMENTS</b> Breakouts bring us closer as an organisation. We want you to capture the laughter, teamwork in action, and a moment of reflection.</p> <p><b>MEET MY MSYP BESTIE</b> The Sitting is also a place to strengthen our friendships. Why not show others who you're hanging out with?</p> <p><b>WHAT'S NEXT?</b> At the end of each day, write a short sentence sharing your highlights. Post them on Instagram and don't forget to tag us!</p>
<p><b>160</b> MSYPS All over the country</p>	
<p><b>INSTRUCTIONS</b></p> <p>Throughout the weekend, you're invited to complete the content challenges on the right using the #DearScotlandsFuture hashtag and tagging @SYPOfficial.</p>	
<p><b>MIND YER AUDIENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Professionals &amp; stakeholders   Best for: Reports, impact stories, policy updates</li><li> Young people &amp; visual audiences   Best for: Reels, bold graphics, behind-the-scenes</li><li> Gen Z &amp; trend-driven users   Best for: Short, fun, relatable videos, challenges</li><li> Community &amp; parents   Best for: Event recaps, friendly updates, photo albums</li><li> Media &amp; fast news followers   Best for: Live updates, quotes, key stats, threads - <i>Remember that SYP doesn't use X anymore!</i></li></ul>	<p><b>SYP83 WINNERS</b></p> <p>The group of MSYPs with the most interactions will be featured on our website and social media channels after the Sitting.</p>



## What's happening on Saturday?

Saturday's theme will be creating change. With a focus on Members Motions and our new Manifesto, Saturday's sessions will give you the power to make policy. Inspiring speakers and skills sessions will support you in taking action!

**Local Perspectives - Renfrewshire MSYPs  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 9.50am - 10am**

The Local Perspectives session is an opportunity for you to find out more about the hosts for this Sitting.

During this session, you will hear from the Renfrewshire MSYPs and a representative from Renfrewshire Council, who will tell you about the local authority, what it's like to be a young person in the area, and what the Renfrewshire MSYPs have been working on!

**Members' Motions**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 10am - 11.55am**

A crucial and unique part of every SYP Sitting is the Members' Motions debates. Motions give MSYPs a chance to share their views and the views of their constituents on issues that matter most to Scotland's young people - to create SYP policy positions and shape SYP's direction.

Members' Motions approved by the membership become SYP policy. This is a powerful tool that MSYPs can take to local and national decision makers to influence change using the unique democratic mandate SYP has to represent Scotland's young people.

MSYPs will hear from the Motion proposer before participating in a youth-led debate, centred on representing the views of your constituents and ensuring that a multitude of perspectives are represented. We want to encourage more discussion during the Motions session and make this as democratic a process as possible.

**What will happen at the Sitting?**

At this Sitting, we will be debating 11 Members' Motions. MSYPs will be able to vote on all the Motions through the online voting survey during the weekend of the Sitting. If you can't come to the Sitting, don't worry - all the official speaker videos will be uploaded to the SYP website so you can watch them before you vote.

At this Sitting, each Motion will follow this process:

- Board member chairing the session will introduce the Motion.
- Motion proposer speech - up to 3 minutes.
- Debate - the debate will be opened up to the membership for comments and discussion for 7 minutes. The session Chair will take points for and against in turn, and will provide opportunity for the motion proposer to respond if required.
- Session chair will wrap up the Motion and move to the next Motion

The Motions will be debated in the order listed in this pack.



## Where can I find out more information about the Motions being voted on?

For the Motion wording and three pieces of further reading about each of the proposed Motions, please see the ‘Members’ Motions Extra Information’ section at the end of this pack (pages 19).

This information will be useful to help you think about the issues before you consult the young people you represent to find out their views and come to the Sitting to relay them.

To help you consult, you can also find a consultation guide at [How-to-consult-with-young-people.pdf \(syp.org.uk\)](https://www.syp.org.uk/how-to-consult-with-young-people.pdf). If you aren’t able to consult in person, you could try some of these online consultation activities:

- Set up an online survey, using a free poll website such as Microsoft forms and share the link with friends and constituents. You could also email this link to youth groups, schools, colleges, and universities in your

constituency and ask them to share the survey with students.

- Use social media polls to find out whether your constituents agree or disagree with each Motion - you could challenge young people to get five friends to respond.
- Use video calls with friends to discuss the issues and collect their views to help you decide how to vote.

**Remember** to contact your Support Worker and the other MSYP(s) in your area - they might have other ideas of groups you could get in touch with!

## **Voting on Motions**

At this Sitting, voting will take place via an online form. Voting on all Motions will open at 12.30pm on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September and will close at 2.30pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The results of all Motions votes will be announced on the final day.

Every MSYP will be sent an email with the details of how to vote. Devices will be available if you do not have access to your

own. Those who are unable to attend the Sitting in person will also have the chance to watch pre-recorded speeches and vote online.

In order to pass, more than 50% of the membership must vote in favour of the Motion. It will then become SYP Policy for at least the next three years.

When voting on Motions, you should focus on the policy statement that is proposed. You are encouraged to share your voting decisions on social media to update your constituents that you're representing their views nationally, and ensure you are being accountable to them.

Remember that when voting you are representing your constituents' views. However, you can distinguish this overall view from your own during the debate, making it clear when you are doing so. For example: 'my personal view is... because... however, my constituents overwhelmingly thought ... because ... and that's why I am voting agree/disagree/abstain today'.



## What does my vote mean?

Options	What you are saying if you vote this way	How your vote will be treated
Agree	I have been convinced of the merits of the Motion and agree that it should become SYP Policy.	Your vote will be counted as being in favour of the Motion and will count towards the total votes 'for'.
Disagree	I have listened to the points made, but I do not believe this should become SYP Policy.	Your vote will be counted as being against the Motion and will count towards the total votes 'against'.
Abstain	I have listened to the points made, but they have failed to convince me to vote either for or against the	Your vote will be counted as being an abstention and will be noted alongside the votes for and against but will

Motion.

-or-

I do not believe I understand the issue fully enough to take a position.

-or-

I have an objection to the Motion (wording, timing, etc.) and wish to express this through abstaining.

-or-

Another reason why I do not wish to express a preference.

not be counted in determining whether the Motion passes or falls.

Voting to abstain is not the same as 'not sure' - it's designed so MSYPs can formally register their vote for the reasons explained. This practice is not unique to SYP; the 'abstain' option is common in many organisations and is treated in the same way.



## **Manifesto Launch Presentation** **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 11.55am -** **12.15pm**

We are excited to present the new SYP Manifesto which will shape our policy and campaigning for the next five years. Led by some of the MSYPs involved in designing and developing the Manifesto, this presentation is all about getting you as excited as we are for its official launch and to give you some top tips for chatting with decision-makers about the issues that matter most to the young people of Scotland!

## **Manifesto Tour and Content Creation** **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1.10pm - 2.10pm**

Departing from the Main Hall, with your 'Manifesto Passport' in hand you'll tour the Manifesto stalls in your tour groups, to interact with and learn more about each of the five themes. You'll come away with more knowledge and confidence about SYP's policy positions and what action you can take to

drive meaningful change ahead of the next Scottish Parliament Election. During this session there will also be timed slots to create social media content to help amplify the Manifesto's key messages and engage with young people and decision-makers on the important impact of our Manifesto.

Your Manifesto tour group will be highlighted on your badge.

**Keynote Speaker and Q&A - Beth-Anne McDowall**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2.10pm - 2.30pm**

**Beth-Anne McDowall**

Beth-Anne is a Care Experienced activist and campaigner who has campaigned for better support, protection and services for care-experienced people. She is a board member of Children's Hearings Scotland - and was the youngest person ever appointed to a public body when she was appointed at 19. She is also a board member of the mental welfare commission and has worked at The Independent Care Review and contributed to

the content of The Promise. She has written national standards for young people in secure care, helped redesign the hearing system for children and young people and has worked for the last 5 years in roles within the council, a national charity and now the NHS.

She won a YouthLink Scot award in 2018 and a Young Scot award in 2022 for her work.

Beth's mission in life is to protect, promote and uphold the rights of children and young people and ensure that when they need support and help. It is delivered in the right place, at the right time and by the right people. She also wants to make sure that children and young people feel protected, respected, nurtured and loved and have everything they need to live happy, healthy lives. Every day, Beth hopes to encourage and inspire young people so they know their past does not define them, that their views and voices matter and that they can achieve incredible things for themselves and current and future generations.

## **Political Impartiality in Practice - training Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2.45pm - 3.25pm**

SYP is a non-party-political organisation. Remaining impartial ensures we can work with decision makers from all parties on the issues that matter to young people. This is going to be really important for you when you're taking action on the new SYP Manifesto as it will help you to get young people's views out to all the different decision-makers who represent you and your constituents.

In this session, you'll be working in small groups to refresh your understanding of what political impartiality means for MSYPs and our work, build your skills and confidence to speak about young people's views, and help you stay safe online.

**Advocating for Yourself, an Issue or an Audience  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 3.25 - 4.30pm**

This fun rotation of micro-workshops will build your advocacy skills allowing you to feel more confident when advocating for yourself and your constituents - a key part of the MSYP role. You'll rotate through three short self-directed sessions on the following topics:

- Elevator Pitches
- Convincing Conversations
- Public Speaking

These activities will give you a great opportunity to learn in a way that connects you to MSYPs you might not have worked with before - just be ready to switch when the buzzer sounds!

## **SYP's Saturday Night Social** **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30pm - 9.30pm**

At Paisley Town Hall.

This event is organised and hosted by  
Renfrewshire Council.

A quiet space with other activities will be available too for those who prefer a quieter vibe.

Please note this event is alcohol free. The consumption of alcohol before or during the event is not permitted.

# Saturday Night Social



Get ready for a night to remember at the SYP's 83rd Sitting!

Join us in the stunning Paisley Town Hall for a fun-filled evening packed with good vibes, great music, tasty food, and loads more!

It's your chance to chill, dance, and make memories with other young people from across Scotland.

Renfrewshire's MSYPs and other people from the Youth Voice groups will be there to welcome you and make sure you have an epic night. Grab your mates and bring your best moves.

We'll see you on the dancefloor!



## What's happening on Sunday?

Sunday's theme is future focused - we'll begin with the AGM Hustings and hear from the candidates that hope to lead SYP. Consultation Workshops will guide future policies, Committee sessions and CDC elections will shape future priorities, and the launch of the new SYP Strategy will inform our work for the next five years. We'll end SYP83 by planning and pledging our future action!

### AGM Hustings

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 9.35am - 11.15am

The AGM Hustings are designed to give MSYPs the opportunity to ask all candidates about their candidacy. These will take place at SYP83 on the morning of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

The Hustings will be chaired by an independent Returning Officer.

Before the Hustings, candidates will receive a briefing to help them prepare. More

information about candidates will be issued to members ahead of the Sitting.

## **Subject Committee Sessions and CDC Elections**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 11.30am - 12.15pm**

Every MSYP is a member of one of SYP's eight Subject Committees. Subject Committees form an important role in:

- Ensuring young people's views are heard on specific topics.
- Engaging with their counterpart Committees at the Scottish Parliament and with other key decision-makers.
- Advocating on their chosen issues.

At this Sitting, you will be electing your Committee Convener and Deputy Convener for the year ahead. They will be responsible for driving the focus and campaigning work of the Committee. Each Committee will hear from the Convener candidates as to what they would like to achieve if elected to the role before casting a private vote. The same will then apply to the Deputy Conveners.

After the Elections are done, your committee will then have a chance to catch up and start planning for the year ahead as well as getting to know each other all a little more.

Your Subject Committee code will be on your name badge:

<b>CM</b>	Culture and Media	<b>JOB</b>	Jobs, Economy and Fair Work
<b>ELL</b>	Education and Lifelong Learning	<b>JUS</b>	Justice
<b>EHRSS</b>	Equalities, Human Rights and Social Security	<b>TERA</b>	Transport, Environment and Rural Affairs
<b>HWS</b>	Health, Wellbeing and Sport	<b>EXA</b>	External Affairs, UK and International Relations

## Consultation Workshops

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1.15pm - 2.30pm

As part of your role as an MSYP, you will have regular opportunities to share your views on different decisions and proposals made by decision makers such as the Scottish Parliament, Scottish Government and other key organisations.

At SYP83, we will be running a series of workshops. There are six to choose from, and each one gives you a chance to have your say on current issues impacting Scotland's young people. It's UNCRC Article 12 in action!

Some of these workshops will be facilitated by policy teams from other organisations who will work with MSYPs to talk with you and learn about your perspectives. The other workshops will help to shape SYP's work in different policy and participation areas.

Please sign up to indicate your workshop preference [HERE](#).

**The deadline to sign up for a workshop is 12pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025. If you don't register by this deadline, you'll be randomly allocated to a workshop that has spaces.**

We will let you know which workshop you will be taking part in before the Sitting, and the code for your workshop topic will be written on your name badge:

- CW 1 - Religious observance in schools
- CW 2 - Education reform, assessments and qualifications
- CW 3 - Discussing the minimum age threshold for the Assisted Dying (Scotland) Bill
- CW 4 - Improving safety on public buses with Transport Scotland
- CW 5 - Young people's democratic engagement
- CW 6 - Understanding rent controls in Scotland

**Find out more about each of these workshops below!**

## **CW 1 - Religious observance in schools**

As part of ongoing consultation on the Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill currently going through the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Government want to hear from young people about the right to withdraw from religious observance and education within schools. This session will inform the guidance for young people, parents and carers, and schools. It is a really direct way of ensuring that UNCRC Article 12 is upheld in schools across Scotland, and will help continue to embed young people's voices in the education system and Curriculum for Excellence.

## **CW 2 - Education reform, assessments and qualifications**

*Note - If you are already part of the Education Reform project, then you will be automatically assigned to this consultation workshop.*

In partnership with SYP, the Scottish Government is developing a programme of implementing young people's voices across all areas of education policy - starting with education reform. At this consultation workshop, young people will be discussing assessments and qualifications, with feedback forming a wider final report for the Government. The Government is interested in understanding young people's experiences of

the current assessment process and what the balance should be between exams and continuous assessment moving forward, new ways of recognising achievements beyond exams, and how to clarify the progression between early secondary school years and post-education learning.

### **CW 3 - The minimum age threshold for the Assisted Dying (Scotland) Bill**

*Content warning: This workshop talks about 'assisted dying' and terms like 'suicide' may be brought up in the discussion as well as*

*direct reference to young people's mental health and physical health.*

As part of its scrutiny of the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee from the Scottish Parliament would like to hear what young people think the minimum age threshold should be for requesting an assisted death.

Questions will centre around:

- What the minimum age should be and whether it should be higher (or lower) than 16.
- Whether young people need additional safeguards in the process of requesting an assisted death.
- The minimum age set in other countries for requesting an assisted death.
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**CW 4 - Improving safety on public buses with Transport Scotland**

Transport Scotland is currently exploring how to improve the safety for everyone when using public transport, and they are interested in hearing from young people on what these improved safety measures may look like. They will be asking about the introduction of safety officers, a behaviour code for concessionary travel and how to improve education around safe transport use. All of this will inform an upcoming Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment on concessionary travel usage (such as the Under 22 Free Bus Travel Scheme).

SYP has a strong history of campaigning for improved accessibility of public transport for young people, so this is a fantastic opportunity to build on this issue and ensure young people's voices are central to ongoing decision making.

## **CW 5 - Young people's democratic engagement**

In 2025, we've celebrated ten years of Votes at 16 in Scotland, we're just under one year away from the next Scottish Parliament

election, and the UK Government has recently announced they're planning to extend the right to vote to all 16- and 17-year-olds before the next UK General Elections. Young people in Scotland now have more opportunities to decide who represents them than ever before. But with a rise of online mis- and disinformation, increasing distrust of political institutions, and a lack of confidence and knowledge about political systems, is young people's democratic engagement changing?

We're currently working with Young Scot to consult young people across Scotland on their understanding of politics and where they get information they can trust. In this workshop, we'll dig into some of the issues and identify solutions to help shape an SYP and Young Scot campaign to increase young people's democratic engagement ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2026!

*You can fill in and share our survey with your constituents here: <https://bit.ly/4eDLU70>*

## **CW 6 - Understanding rent controls in Scotland**

Through SYP's Manifesto, young people across Scotland have raised rent controls as a key issue that they're concerned about. As of Spring 2025, rent controls measures ended, allowing landlords to raise rent prices as they deem fit. However, the upcoming Housing (Scotland) Bill - expected to take effect in 2027 if it passes - is proposing a re-introduction of these rent controls, with some exemptions in place. As this is an issue that will carry on through the next few years, we want to hear from MSYPs about your experiences and ideas for rent controls, whether there ever is a reason for exemptions, and what the affordability of housing looks like to you now and in the future.

**Scottish Youth Parliament - 2025-2030  
Strategy Presentation  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2.45pm - 3.00pm**

The Scottish Youth Parliament's Strategy for 2025-2030 has been written by young people,

for young people. As a youth-led organisation, SYP is governed by a Board of young trustees, informed by Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs), and driven by the voices of young people across Scotland. Our strategy ensures that young people remain at the heart of our direction, ambitions, and impact.

To mark 25 years of SYP, the Strategy Reference Group was tasked with creating a bold and forward-looking strategy that not only reflects our achievements to date, but also sets a clear vision for the next five years—and beyond.

The Strategy Reference Group will present the new SYP Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Outcomes that will guide SYP over the next five years.

**Joint MSYP/Support Worker Session -  
Planning for Manifesto Action!  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 3.00pm - 3.40pm**

Equipped with our new Manifesto, your refreshed political impartiality knowledge,

and your new advocacy skills, this session will give you some time with your Support Worker to translate what you've learnt at SYP83 into a plan for taking action on the Manifesto. Large or small, each action is important! We'll also leave some space in this session for you to give us feedback about the Sitting, so we can continue to grow and respond to our membership and partners.

## **Create and Make a Pocket Pledge**

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 3.40pm - 3.50pm**

As the Sitting draws to a close, we will take a moment to reflect on what matters to each of us. You'll write your pocket pledge and share it with those on your table, before placing it in your pocket so it stays with you! We'd love to hear about your pocket pledge - use the SYP83 Comms Challenge to share it on your socials.

## Members Motions Extra Information

Here is the list of Members' Motions that have been selected to be debated at SYP83, in order of debate:

1. Improve the procedure in schools for handling sexual assault allegations
2. Eliminate penile-only criterion from rape law
3. Free breakfast in Scotland's secondary schools
4. Improve the accessibility of car travel by ending discriminatory car insurance policies for young people
5. Tackle the concerns and dangers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage
6. A universal right to youth work
7. Eliminate penile-only criterion from rape law
8. Stop phone bans in schools
9. Young people's participation in planning and deciding the provision of technology within schools

10. Education on the impact and dangers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for young people
11. Improve water-safety awareness for young people
12. Young people's involvement in ethically managing AI-generated content

The information on the following pages has been put together to help you find out more about the issues raised in each of the proposed Motions. You can use this information to help you consult your constituents before the Sitting.

*(Please note: the statements offered in support of these motions are the personal opinions of the MSYPs who proposed the topic and are not current SYP Policy).*

## **MSYP Motions - SYP83**

**Content warning: The below policy refers directly to sexual assault, rape and the justice system.**

### **1. Improve the procedure in schools for handling sexual assault allegations**

The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that Scottish schools should improve the training for teachers on how to respond to accusations of sexual assault in Scotland and all schools should be supported to conduct a review of their internal policies and

procedures.

-- Individual motion by Isla Grimes MSYP

Isla said,

“This motion relates to how Scottish schools respond to allegations of sexual assault & the procedure followed. I personally feel as if schools are not correctly taught on how to follow up with victims of these assaults nor how to deal with the perpetrators due to lack of specific laws for under 16s (example) as well as over 16s of school age. It’s highly detrimental and unsafe to pupils in school who still have to sit in classes with them, and I believe action needs to be taken”.

Further reading

- Scottish Government guidance (2024): [Preventing and responding to gender based violence: a whole school framework](#)
- Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre podcast (2022): [Episode 2: Sexual Violence in Schools](#)
- NSPCC Resources on harmful sexual behaviour in schools (2025): [Resources on](#)

## peer-on-peer sexual abuse in education and healthy relationships

**Content warning: The below policy refers directly to sexual assault, rape and the justice system.**

## **2. Eliminate penile-only criterion from rape law**

The Scottish Youth Parliament calls for the statutory definition of rape to be expanded by removing the outdated penile-penetration requirement and centring the absence of consent as its sole criterion.

-- Individual motion by Iain Pretswell MSYP

Iain said,

“This reform will promote equality by validating the experiences of male and lesbian survivors and more appropriately acknowledge the severe psychological harm of object or digital penetration”.

Further reading

- Scottish Government factsheet: [Scottish Crime Recording Standard: Crime Recording and Counting \(Sexual crimes\)](#)

- Police Scotland infographic (2021): [What is consent? Know the facts](#)
- Sexual Offences Act (2003): [Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)

### 3. Free breakfast in Scotland's secondary schools

The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that every school pupil in a Scottish secondary school should be entitled to a free breakfast from the school.

-- Individual motion by Emma Henderson  
MSYP

Emma said,

“Many young people are very happy receiving the Free Breakfast throughout the winter but were unhappy with the fact that it only happens in the Winter and not all year round. Hunger lasts all year round not just during the Wintertime. If a kid goes to breakfast on a hungry stomach, they are more likely to have lower grades in Schools and lower attendance and poor behaviour”.

## Further reading

- Scottish Government press release (2025): [Free school meals expansion](#)
- Scottish Government information (2025): [Check who can get free school meals](#)
- Research Consortium for School Health and Nutrition (2022): [Schools Meals Case Study: Scotland](#)

#### 4. **Improve the accessibility of car travel by ending discriminatory car insurance policies for young people**

The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that car insurance companies should provide more opportunities for young people to lower their car insurance as it is currently too expensive.

-- Joint motion by Alex Waterston-Law and Emily Tweddle MSYPs

Alex and Emily said,

“Following numerous consultations with our constituents, we have discovered that in addition to increased driving lesson costs, the extortionate premium of car insurance is an impossible fee to pay for many young people. This disadvantages young people, particularly in rural areas, who rely heavily on car journeys due to a lack of public transport with issues regarding education, employment, and social engagements. We believe there should be more opportunities for young people to prove their driving ability in order to reduce their premiums”.

## Further reading

- Citizens Advice Bureau press release (2024): [2.6 million people don't drive as they can't afford car insurance cost](#)
- Transport Scotland statistics report (2020): [Personal and Cross-Modal Travel statistics](#)
- Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety consultation (2017): [Response to insurance costs consultation](#)

## 5. Tackle the concerns and dangers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage

The Scottish Youth Parliament calls on the Scottish government to create responsive policy to tackle the dangers of AI and acknowledge young people's fears around continued AI usage.

-- Individual motion by Skye Allan MSYP

Skye said,

“Responses to AI are still being developed and it is important young people are consulted so issues that are a high concern for this age group are addressed. While some

policy frameworks hint at the possible effects of AI on the job market there is little mention of the rights of personal image or right to be forgotten. We have grown up in an era of tech and this makes us uniquely vulnerable to having our voice and image used to create scams, deep fakes or worse. This has been consistently brought up by young people in a wide range of discussions such as: GBV, environmentalism, online safety, job training... This shows a wide sense of unease and uncertainty around AI”.

Further reading

- Scottish Youth Parliament (2025): [What Is Artificial Intelligence?](#)
- The Social CTV video (2024): [Exploring Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence](#)
- BBC News article (2023): [AI anxiety and job replacement](#)

## 6. A universal right to youth work

The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that universal youth work should be accessible and affordable to every young person in Scotland.

-- Joint motion by Aine Byers and Martha Dickie MSYPs

Aine and Martha said,

“Access to youth work and youth volunteering opportunities that offer skills should be a universal right to all young people, no matter their background. This can only be achieved if parents and carers who are financially disadvantaged do not have to pay membership fees and hidden fees (e.g. trips away and uniform). Instead, we believe youth work provision, uniformed youth organisations, and charities like Girlguiding Scotland should receive more financial support from The Scottish Government. This would ensure that there is equal access to youth work, particularly for families who are unable to financially contribute to its

operation. Universal youth work supports the Scottish Government's commitments to upholding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as Article 2 (Right to Non-discrimination), Article 15 (Right of Freedom of Association), and Article 31 (Right to Play)".

### Further reading

- Scottish Youth Parliament consultation response (2025): [SYPs response to the proposed Youth Work Bill](#)
- Scottish Youth Work Steering Group report (2023): [Impact of Universal Youth Work in Scotland](#)
- Girlguiding Scotland survey (2022): [Girls' Attitudes Survey 2022](#)

## 7. Stop phone bans in schools

The Scottish Youth Parliament believes that secondary schools should not ban the use of phones outside of class time and classroom bans should only exist if digital learning can still be accessed.

-- Individual motion by Catriona Daw MSYP

Catriona said,

“Decision makers across the country are discussing the pros and cons of school phone bans and many of these discussions take place with little to no school students present. Phones are a vital part of many young people's everyday life, and a ban could be particularly harmful towards groups such as young carers and diabetics who rely on these devices to help themselves and their families. There is no reason to stop students from accessing their phones during break and lunch when they can help with buying food, meeting up with friends and contacting family. It's important to note that devices can help with accessibility and widening the resources available to students”.

Further reading

- BBC News article (2025): [Pupils at two Edinburgh schools will have to lock up their mobiles](#)
- STV News article (2025): [Council becomes first to blanket ban mobile phones from school classrooms](#)

- Scottish Government guidance (2024): [Mobile phones: guidance for Scotland's schools](#)

## 8. Young people's participation in planning and deciding the provision of technology within schools

The Scottish Youth Parliament proposes that young people are key participants in the planning and ongoing provision of technology, in support for the Scottish curriculum.

-- Joint motion by Shona Cuthbert and Tazrian Tasmiah MSYPs

Shona and Tazrian said,

“This issue came to our attention during an investigation into restricted iPad search terms. We understood that on Edinburgh council, there was no permanent advisory board for students for technology decisions, despite parents and teachers unions having a say. This is clearly unfair as students are the main consumers of technology, and may become a growing issue as we integrate more

devices in learning. Young people must be represented!”

Further reading

- Audit Scotland briefing (2025): [Additional support for learning](#)
- NSPCC factsheet (2024): [Online safety \(e-safety\) and schools](#)
- Scottish Government report (2016): [Enhancing Learning and Teaching Through the Use of Digital Technology: A Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland](#)

## 9. Education on the impact and dangers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for young people

The Scottish Youth Parliament calls for young people to be educated on how artificial intelligence (AI) and disinformation can affect their lives, including how to identify safe, impartial and accurate information.

-- Individual motion by Jack Anderson MSYP

Jack said,

“It’s important for young people to be educated about AI as it is rapidly reshaping every part of our lives – from how we learn and work to how we communicate and make decisions. By educating young people about AI, we help ensure they’re not left behind in a world that increasingly relies on it. This ensures they have a voice in how it develops and can be used safely in education or work”.

Further reading

Children in Scotland report (2024): [Exploring children’s rights and AI](#)

Scottish Parliament report (2024): [AI in Scottish Schools - What do we know so far?](#)

UK Parliament report (2024): [Artificial intelligence: education and impacts on children and young people](#)

**Content warning: The below policy refers directly to drowning and water-related fatalities.**

## **10. Improve water-safety awareness for young people**

The Scottish Youth Parliament recognises the importance of water safety education and calls for a government-recognised accessible resource designed for young people to be safe in open water.

-- Individual motion by Beth Mackay MSYP

Beth said,

“With a rise of popularity of water activities such as paddle boarding and surfing as well as open water swimming, more young people than ever are making use of our natural environment. Unfortunately, we still see a large number of water-related injury and fatalities today. According to Water Safety Scotland, in 2022 there were 45 accidental drownings in Scotland with 51% of those taking place during recreational activities. Additionally, from 2017-2021 there were 46

accidental drownings of people under 25 with 58% of them also occurring during recreational activities. In 2022 the Scottish Government released the water safety action plan to include water safety promotions with areas of a higher rate of drowning, additional funding to water safety Scotland and continued development of the national learn to swim framework to be delivered by local authorities. However, there needs to be more encouragement for young people to be actively involved in water safety. There needs to be a resource that empowers and informs young people so they can enjoy the beautiful landscape safely”.

### Further reading

- UK Parliament debate (2025): [Water Safety Education](#)
- Education Scotland (2025): [Water Safety Resources](#)
- Water Safety Scotland strategy (2018): [Scotland’s Drowning Prevention Strategy](#)

## 11. Young people's involvement in ethically managing AI-generated content

The Scottish Youth Parliament calls on the Scottish Government and Education Scotland to integrate a youth involvement scheme that equips young people with the skills they require to effectively and ethically manage AI-generated content, ensuring Scotland's young people are integral to Scotland's AI strategies.

-- Joint motion by Kristers Lukins and Islay Jackson MSYPs

Kristers and Islay said,

“This motion is being proposed to highlight that young people are often left out of decisions about AI in Scotland, even though it's already affecting our lives, especially in education, future employment and online. We believe young people should have the chance to shape these policies and be supported with the skills to understand and manage AI generated content in an ethical and informed way. This could be through

something like a youth panel or national consultation where our views are taken seriously. Including young people like this would help make Scotland's approach to AI more fair, inclusive, and relevant to those it impacts most".

Further reading

Scottish Government strategy (2025): [Scotland's Artificial Intelligence Strategy - Trustworthy, Ethical and Inclusive](#)

OfCom report (2025): [Children's Media Literacy Report 2025](#)

British Council video (2025): [Youth Connect - Tech for Humanity](#)