

Candidate Profile – Carys Nield

I would like to be a MSYP because I feel I could really make a difference in Shetland. Being a member of Scottish Youth Parliament presents lots of opportunities. I believe I can take these opportunities and resolve the issues presented by the young people of Shetland.

Some of the issues that matter most to me are the fact that people in mainland Scotland have more subject choice and therefore have more opportunity, I want to campaign for getting young people the same opportunities with subjects in Shetland as the mainland. I feel equality is so important because it ensures everyone has the same opportunity. Even people on the smaller islands of Shetland, such as Whalsay and Unst don't have as much opportunity as students on mainland Shetland, I feel this is unfair and needs to be addressed. If elected I could schedule a meeting with the head of Children's Services in Shetland and raise the issue.

Another issue that matters to me is the way young people are portrayed in the media; they are often portrayed as lazy or useless. Young people are judged so harshly, often from just one bad decision. Young people may find it hard to get a job from the way the media portrays teens and young adults.

This also leads onto the issue of abuse of social media, many teens are unsure of how to properly make their social media private and safe. Teens in Shetland have gotten in trouble for misuse of social media; I believe this is partly because they are not properly educated on how to use it safely and for the right purposes. I want to raise awareness on this issue in schools around Shetland.

Transport is a big issue in Shetland, things have been getting better but I still feel there isn't enough buses for young people in the more rural parts of Shetland, this could be solved by speaking and discussing with the bus companies, many young people in Shetland use buses on a daily bases as their only means of transport. I feel there aren't enough buses to get around, especially to the more rural areas of Shetland. I would like to try and change this and improve this and if I'm elected I will campaign to do so. If elected I would speak with and organise a meeting with ZETRANS Shetland and speak on this issue.

As an elected MSYP I will reach out to young people and ensure they are represented as I would want to be represented. These ways will include speaking in schools and colleges. Connecting with young people from all areas in Shetland and ensure their voices are heard and represented!

I think Shetland needs a SYP member like me because I am confident and I will listen to anyone who wants to be heard, I will speak on the issues the young people have presented to me. I have volunteered in my community over the past year at guides, I feel this gives my valuable leadership experience and shows my ability to commit and work with others. I genuinely feel I am the best candidate and I honestly feel I can really change things.