

Candidate Profile – Lewis Johnson

I am well politically informed and have followed local and national politics; this has included attending a number of the elections / referendum counts held in Lerwick. I know that our generation face a range of challenges in our country, and I am keen to work with others to make changes that will improve opportunities for young people living in Shetland. I'm a keen and confident speaker, I'm concise in the way I speak and feel I can get the views of young people across to those I will engage with if elected MSYP. I'm charismatic and intelligent and am able to come up with new ideas on how to tackle issues brought by young people living in Shetland. I'm energetic and enthusiastic, and am keen to make sure that others get involved, and we don't settle for second best.

To consult with young people in my area, I would be aiming to use social media platforms, like FaceBook, perhaps even Instagram. Additionally, I would aim to meet young people where they are likely to be hanging out. This could include places like Mareel, Islesburgh and other Leisure Centres across Shetland. I would also like to continue the successful Q&A sessions that previous MSYPs have done in schools across Shetland with the Shetland Island Council Convenor and MSP for Shetland. Using tools like FaceBook Messenger will allow me to connect with young people all across Shetland, making use of its conference calling options, meaning people don't have to travel such distances just to meet for a couple of hours, and have to spend another eighth of the day travelling home again.

I'm 15 years old, and a pupil at Brae High School who studies a range of subjects, and also takes part in a National Progression Award in Sound Engineering at Mareel as part of my Vocational Pathway. Recently I became a Music Champion for the Big Music Project and will be working alongside other young people to organise music nights. If elected I would always strive to get the best for young people, and take action, while still interacting as a young person myself. I feel if I were to be elected, I would try and hold a number of conference sessions to try and get your ideas and opinions to the Scottish Youth Parliament. It is important that you are represented as although we come from a small island community this should not stop us ensuring our voices are heard at a national level.