

Candidate Profile – Sonny Thomason

One of the main reasons why I want to be an MSYP as a representative of young people it is important that the views are heard as they are often misunderstood or not listened to.

Being an MSYP would give me valuable experience which I could take with me throughout life and learn from.

Politics and people have always interested me and this has made me want to stand as a representative for the Youth Parliament. I think young people should have a voice and be heard in this ever-changing environment that we now live in where there are more opportunities regarding:

- Higher and Further Education, particularly support and extra funding for people that are under privileged and more information regarding student loans
- How we can support young people into work, apprenticeships and work experience in local businesses
- The development of many sporting facilities and a way to get more children active and help to tackle obesity
- How we work together to make the town centre regeneration a success
- A focus on developing tourism in Shetland
- Increased mental health support for young people and raising awareness of services and information available
- More sexual health education for young people

I will use a range of tools to gather the views and opinions of young people including: surveys, social media, meetings in schools and colleges. Also, I will attend a variety of community events for young people to listen to the young people involved.

I will consult with the young people in my area by traveling all over the island, going to different schools visiting all age groups. I believe that no issue is too big, or too small, and this will help me listen to the views of young people about issues that matter to them.

I follow current affairs closely in my area and have been heavily involved in business, sports, journalism and work in the public sector and due to this experience this gives me a good outlook on many different aspects of life. Therefore I feel I would be a good voice for many young people in Shetland. I am also a very good listener and a very pro-active person i am also very approachable, confident and sociable.