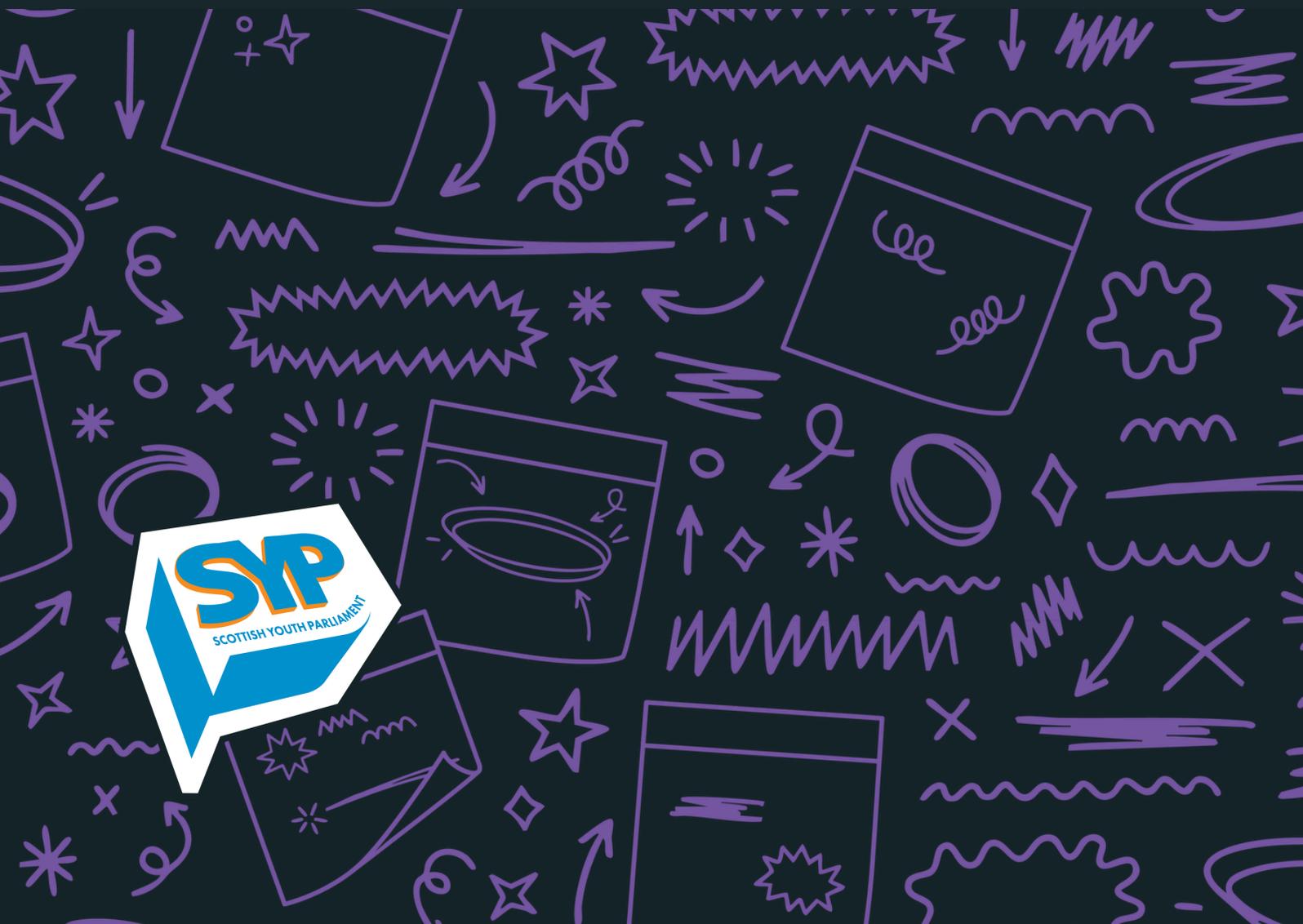


# REGIONAL SUMMARY

## LOTHIAN

FEBRUARY 2026





# ABOUT THIS SUMMARY

*Dear Scotland's Future* is SYP's manifesto 2026-2031. It has been developed by young people, for young people and sets out the agenda for the changes they want to see over the next five years. Based on a consultation with nearly 5,000 young people across Scotland, this summary highlights the responses from young people in Lothian.

The region of Lothian is based on the regional groupings used within the Scottish Parliament and contains the following constituencies:

- Almond Valley
- Edinburgh Central
- Edinburgh Eastern
- Edinburgh Northern and Leith
- Edinburgh Pentlands
- Edinburgh Southern
- Edinburgh Western
- Linlithgow
- Midlothian North and Musselburgh

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## DEMOGRAPHICS

This summary is based on **474 responses**, the majority of which were from group responses. Therefore, it is not possible to include an accurate gender or age breakdown.

- **321 respondents** were from group sessions held in **Midlothian** via year-group assemblies in secondary schools.
- Most individual respondents were from **Edinburgh**.
- Most respondents were **aged between 14-17**.
- Most individual respondents identified as **female**.





# TOP 10 MOST AGREED POLICIES

The following ten policies received the highest agreement by young people in this region. Percentages were rounded to two decimal places. Note, this does not equate to being the most urgent issues for young people.

- **Financial education - 96% agree**  
*Compared with 90% Scotland-wide*
- **Accessible and reliable public transport - 95% agree**  
*Compared with 91% Scotland-wide*
- **Accessible and affordable sports and leisure facilities - 94% agree**  
*Compared with 91% Scotland-wide*
- **Reduce time for prosecution of sexual assault crimes - 94% agree**  
*Compared with 90% Scotland-wide*
- **Barriers to accessing further and higher education - 93% agree**  
*Compared with 91% Scotland-wide*
- **Maintain and expand free travel for young people - 92%**  
*Compared with 87% Scotland-wide*
- **Strengthen rent controls - 91% agree**  
*Compared with 83% Scotland-wide*
- **Address prejudice, discrimination and bullying - 91% agree**  
*Compared with 89% Scotland-wide*
- **NHS protected from privatisation - 90% agree**  
*Compared with 83% Scotland-wide*
- **Bold and urgent action on climate emergency - 90% agree**  
*Compared with 78% Scotland-wide*





# YOUNG PEOPLE IN LoTHIAN SAY...

**"I think the content we learn needs to change some of it is outdated and not interesting [...] it is the same stuff over and over again."**

- Young person, Edinburgh

**"It's difficult for young people to be responsible with money [...] with no knowledge in how to do so."**

- Young person aged 14-17, Edinburgh

**"We only get one train an hour. If there are delays or cancellations, our entire days can be disrupted."**

-Young person aged 14-17, East Lothian

**"Women, for the longest time, have faced misogyny and violence, and even now, these acts persist, so if more places start treating it as a hate crime, more will follow suit, and hopefully, in an ideal world, misogyny will be a thing only taught in history lessons."**

-Young person aged 12-13, East Lothian

**"Having your life saved should never cost money."**

-Young person aged 14-17, Edinburgh

**"It's extremely hard to find support right now for mental health."**

-Young person aged 14-17, West Lothian

**Not enough is being done [on climate] by the people with power to change it, Scotland does seem to be quite ahead with climate consciousness but there is still more that needs to be put into this."**

-Young person aged 14-17, East Lothian

**"[The NHS] is a fundamental human right and a pillar of Scottish society."**

-Young person aged 18-21, Midlothian



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