

Scottish Youth Parliament Elections 2026 - EQIA and CRWIA

Aims/Objectives	Response
What is the aim of the project/policy?	Every member of the Scottish Youth Parliament is elected through an open and democratic election using a process determined by SYP.
Is the project/policy aligned with SYP values? (UNCRC and youth participation, youth-led, rights-based approach, politically impartial, uplifting young people's voices, etc.) (Y/N)	yes
Is the project/policy youth-led? (Y/N)	<p>Partially -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plans developed based on feedback from 2021 and 2023 elections and SYP Elections Review through 2025. - MSYPs involved in 3 Election Review Groups (ERG) throughout 2025 - ERG discussions and review outcomes have informed planning for 2026 elections. - Regular input and strategic support from SYP Board members (Full Board, Participation and Programmes Committee, ERG chairs). - SYP's social media champions involved in Elections Communications development. - Feedback will be gathered from young people / candidates throughout the elections programme, in line with the SYP Elections Evaluation Framework. - Current MSYPs will have opportunities to help plan and facilitate the Candidate Experience Programme.
If no to the above, please provide a brief explanation:	n/a
Does the project/policy achieve SYP organisational goals? Please explain briefly how:	<p>yes -</p> <p>SYP Elections Programme directly aligns with Strategic Outcome 1: We have been democratically elected to represent young people in Scotland.</p> <p>Strategic indicator: Hold robust and democratic elections ... based on the recommendations from a reiew of our elections and events programmes.</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 2: We create space for young people furthest from their rights.</p> <p>Strategic indicator: Increase the opportunities for young people who face inequality or barriers to participation to be actively engaged in SYP...</p> <p>Strategic indicator: Collaborate with our National Voluntary Organisation (NVO) partners and develop new partnerships to include the voices of young people who are underrepresented and furthest from their rights.</p>
Does the project/policy achieve MSYP goals? (Y/N)	yes
Does it benefit young people on balance? (Y/N)	yes
Consultation	
Is a consultation needed?	<p>yes - ongoing discussion with Local Election Coordinators, SYP staff, SYP Board, and MSYP working group to agree process, timeline, and key activities, and gather feedback / monitoring data.</p> <p>Gather feedback from young people / candidates to inform ongoing progress monitoring.</p>
If so, is it internal or external?	both
What MSYPs/stakeholders need to be consulted?	<p>Local Election Coordinators (in LA's and NVOs)</p> <p>Election Review Group members</p> <p>National voting platform provider</p> <p>Young people / candidates</p>
Will this consultation benefit young people on balance? (Y/N)	yes

Adaptations	
Are adaptations required to meet SYP values and goals? If so, please explain:	no
Will adaptations be required throughout the project/policy? (Y/N)	TBC
What adaptations are needed? (I.e. BSL interpreters, disability access, accessible text and media (subtitles/easy-read versions), support worker attendance, etc.)	<p>SYP will make every effort to ensure activities are accessible for all young people who want to take part in the SYP elections programme (including attending info sessions, applying to stand in the elections, taking part in the Candidate Experience Programme, and voting).</p> <p>Young people will be asked to indicate any access or support requirements on their candidate application form, and on any activity sign up forms.</p> <p>SYP will create large-print and subtitled versions of all elections resources.</p> <p>SYP will liaise with ECs and candidates who require additional support to provide accessible materials / BSL etc where required.</p> <p>In addition to online training modules (during candidate experience programme), SYP will provide ECs with ppt / session plans to use locally, which include suggested adaptations. A video summarising each session will also be available for young people who can't attend an online / in person training. Asynchronous training modules will also be created.</p>
Please explain what staff work would be involve to achieve these adaptations:	SYP staff to ensure accessibility adaptations as outlined above. ECs are responsible for ensuring accessibility of any activities within their own LA / NVO.
Inclusion and Diversity	
Is the project/policy inclusive? (Y/N)	yes
Does the project/policy include diverse perspectives from the following: <i>BIPOC, LGBTQ+, those with neurodivergence, differently-abled/ASN, young carers and those with care experience, those with criminal justice experience, and those with legally protected characteristics as listed in the Equality Act 2010?</i>	yes
If no to the above, please explain why:	
Does the project/policy hinder the above mentioned marginalised groups? (Y/N)	no
If yes to the above, please explain why:	
Is the project/policy from a youth-led perspective or in the interests of representing young people's views (especially seldom heard voices categorised above)? (Y/N)	yes
If no to the above, please explain why:	
Monitoring & Review	
Will this project/policy require ongoing monitoring?	yes
Will this project/policy require a review?	yes
If so, how often will a review take place? (e.g. 3 months, 6 months, annually)	<p>Ongoing monitoring of Elections Programme, as outlined in SYP Elections Evaluation Framework.</p> <p>Review of EQIA and CRWIA every two months, and final review in December 2026 as part of end-of-elections evaluation and reporting.</p>
Please advise who will be responsible for the review:	Rosy Burgess, Head of Participation and Programmes

Impacts	
What are the potential negative impacts of this project/policy?	see SYP Elections risk assessment
If there are negative impacts, what actions can be used to address them?	see SYP Elections risk assessment
What are the positive impacts of this project/policy?	<p>As outlined in the SYP Elections Quality Assurance Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The election process must uphold young people's democratic rights, enabling free, fair, and representative participation. - The election process must be accessible to all young people, including those with additional support needs, those from marginalised communities, and those in rural or island areas. - The election process must be secure, reliable, and governed by clear procedures that protect the integrity of the vote. - The election process must be youth led, meaningful, and designed in ways that reflect young people's rights, interests, and communication preferences. - The election process must meet all required rules, policies, procedures, and ethical standards, ensuring fairness and consistency across Scotland. - Election information, processes, and outcomes must be communicated clearly so young people can fully understand and trust the process. <p>Regardless of the outcome of the Scottish Youth Parliament elections, through the Candidate Experience Programme, SYP expects all young people who stand as candidates in this, and future SYP elections will develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skills and knowledge to help their overall personal development (in line with the Youth Work Outcomes and Skills Framework) - Understanding and awareness of the Scottish Youth Parliament and the role of an MSYP. - Local connections and involvement in local youth voice mechanisms (where these mechanisms exist)
What impact will this have on young people from marginalised groups?	<p>All young people who stand as candidates will have access to a candidate experience programme, which will help them to develop skills and knowledge regardless of the outcome of their election.</p> <p>Young people across Scotland will have a better understanding and awareness of SYP and the role of an MSYP.</p> <p>Candidates in the SYP Elections will be encouraged and supported by local Election Coordinators to engage in local youth voice mechanisms, increasing local participation and representation.</p>
Risks	
Are there any identified risks to young people participating in this project? Please explain:	see SYP Elections risk assessment
Are there any identified risks to young people that may come from implementing this specific policy? Please explain:	see SYP Elections risk assessment
How will any identified risks be mitigated? Please explain:	see SYP Elections risk assessment