

Commission on Parliamentary Reform

Consultation event with group from Cyrenians

Note of discussion

We asked: What do you know about the Parliament and what would make you get more involved?

You said:

- Some members of the group had been engaged with MSPs and the Scottish Government in a consultation exercise about the design of a care home through their involvement with the YPIC (young people in care) Council. Others had no engagement with, and no knowledge about, the Parliament.
- Those with no engagement or knowledge said that more information needed to be made available about the Parliament. They suggested that, for example, MSPs visit care homes in their areas or that information be posted around youth centres or clubs.
- It was agreed the language used in the Parliament did not help young people engage with it.
- Some members of the group felt there was no point engaging with the Parliament as politicians would not value their opinions and views. They had no experience of seeing any impact from their involvement.
- There was very little awareness of the Scottish Parliament website and social media.
- It was acknowledged that, for some young people, there is so much going on in their lives that informing themselves about, and engaging with, the Scottish Parliament is a low priority.