Scottish Youth Parliament Election - Manifesto.

I’m Jack McKelvie; I am 16 and attend St Ambrose High School. The Scottish Youth Parliament was set up to give young people a voice in politics, locally and nationally. If you decide to elect me as your MSYP, I pledge to serve you; it’s what you, the youth and future want to see a change in.

Being an MSYP is about serving the youth of the area you are elected in. If you decide to elect me I want you to throw every suggestion and question at me and I will do everything in my power to help you by campaigning for you. I will listen to your suggestions, take in your concerns and answer your questions to the best of my ability. I will campaign for what you would like to see a change in locally and nationally. That’s my most important point, you. This is something I can guarantee to you.

If elected I will campaign for votes at sixteen. We showed what the young people of Scotland are capable of in the Independence Referendum with a huge engagement of us young people throughout it. 100,000 sixteen and seventeen year olds registered to vote with a turnout of almost 90%, this has shown that we are capable of having our own beliefs and making our own decisions when it comes to elections. However, sixteen and seventeen year olds were only allowed to vote in the referendum, and those who did and didn’t, will have to wait until they are eighteen to vote in an election. This is something I am hugely passionate of and we all know young people deserve a bigger voice in politics. At sixteen we can enlist to join the armed forces, but can’t vote. At sixteen we can pay tax, but can’t vote. We can do all these things but not vote for what government we’d like to see. This is something I will campaign for strongly.

Another major point is the use of Foodbanks by young people in this country. From 2013-2014 330,205 children were using foodbanks across the UK. This is something I will campaign for week-in-week-out. It is unacceptable that these are the figures for us, the future to be so deep in poverty. At a young age in a country that is one of the richest in the world, young people or no one should be using foodbanks. This is something that needs to be tackled.

Another one I will campaign for is a few different forms of bullying. A lot of the youth are bullied at school, in work etc. The two forms I will be focusing on is racial bullying and homophobic bullying and I will campaign with groups like Show Racism The Red Card and LGBT Rights to ensure bullying of these forms are tackled and dealt with. No discrimination of any type should be accepted and young people shouldn’t be subject to any of it.