

Welcome to Your Vote Week in Dumfries and Galloway | Electoral Commission Search
Welcome to Your Vote Week in Dumfries and Galloway Your location: Change England
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'change' to choose a different location. Posted: 9 March 2023 Written by: Finlay (age
17) and Riley (age 16) from Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council Introduction Schools
and youth groups across Dumfries and Galloway got involved in Welcome to Your Vote
Week from 30 January to 5 February 2023. Two members of Dumfries & Galloway Youth
Council reflect on what they got up to throughout the week and how they started the
conversation about democracy with other young people. Blog from Finlay and Riley
Hello, we're Finlay (age 17) and Riley (age 16) from Dumfries and Galloway Youth
Council, an elected group of 35 young people aged 12-25 from across the region who
represent the views of youth voice and youth democracy to the regional council and
other partners. Throughout Welcome to Your Vote Week, young people in Dumfries and
Galloway participated in a large variety of activities. During Dumfries and Galloway
Youth Council's weekly meeting, we went through the Welcome to Your Vote Week
presentation and took part in structured debate on a wide range of issues. The
materials effectively helped to spark these debates on issues such as traffic around
schools, compulsory education, and a lively discussion about who has the power to
make these decisions. Throughout the four localities in Dumfries and Galloway,
Dumfries and Galloway Council's Youth Work Service spent time with multiple groups
going through the Welcome to Your Vote Week packs. These packs were used to inform
young people across Dumfries and Galloway about the role they can play in democracy
and how important their vote is. Youth Work D&G also did a social media campaign,
spreading the word about Welcome to Your Vote Week and the voices of young people in
relation to democracy. The activities and information provided by the Electoral
Commission during this week has opened up democracy to many young people, and
especially allowed them to learn about the work of Dumfries and Galloway Youth
Council. We hope young people will now have the confidence to participate in Youth
Democracy, and get involved in the upcoming by-elections to the Dumfries and Galloway
Youth Council, whether it be voting or standing as a candidate themselves. On
Thursday 2 February, the Youth Council alongside candidates standing in the DG Youth
Council by-elections as well as members of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health
Services (CAMHS) Participation Group, attended First Minister's Questions at the
Scottish Parliament. During the day, we did a self-guided tour and attended a ten-
minute talk about the history of the Scottish Parliament and devolved powers of the
Scottish Government. We found the trip to be eye-opening, allowing us to see
democracy at one of the highest levels in Scotland. We also had the experience to
observe First Minister's questions in front of our own eyes instead of a screen. It
was fascinating to see active decisions being made which could impact people. It also
allowed us to see the value in our vote and the impact it has on our society
alongside individual communities. Overall, Welcome to Your Vote Week has inspired
many young people across our region to see democracy in a different light and how
important their voice can actually be in decision making. We hope this discussion
keeps going and continues to encourage fellow young people to use their right to vote
and get involved in the decision-making process. Photo outside the Scottish
Parliament Members of the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council outside the Scottish
Parliament after their visit during Welcome to Your Vote Week Link to resources Young
people, youth groups and schools can access free learning resources for use all year
round. Take a look now Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales
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