Young people from all over Scotland descend on Kilmarnock for 67th National Sitting of the Scottish Youth Parliament

More than 160 young people from every corner of Scotland will be heading to Kilmarnock this weekend (Saturday 20th - Sunday 21st October) for the Scottish Youth Parliament's 67th National Sitting.

Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) will be setting up in Ayrshire College for two jam packed days of workshops, training sessions, discussions, consultations, and debates.

The weekend will also mark the launch of SYP’s new campaign for 2018-19 on public transport, with a number of experts from the transport sector attending the Sitting for a panel discussion with the membership.

It won’t be a case of all work and no play, however, as East Ayrshire Council has planned a spectacular itinerary for MSYPs as part of their Year of Young People celebrations. The carnival-themed evening activities - complete with movie night and games inspired by ‘all the fun of the fair’ - will guarantee that visiting MSYPs enjoyed a warm East Ayrshire welcome!

Local MSYPs Conor McNamara (Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley) and Terri Brown (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley) are particularly excited about welcoming the membership and guests to their home constituency.

Ahead of MSYPs’ arrival in Kilmarnock for SYP67, Depute Provost Claire Leitch, who is also Children’s Champion for East Ayrshire Council, said: “We’re very excited to welcome the MSYPs to East Ayrshire and I’m sure that they will all enjoy their time here, especially at the spectacular Ayrshire College.

“We’ve had a great year so far celebrating the Year of Young people, and hosting the Sitting and the fantastic carnival-themed celebrations is certain to be another highlight of the year.

“We have young people at the heart of all our decision making locally and we look forward to hearing the outcomes of the Sitting after the weekend, especially in terms of what is discussed around areas such as transport and other important issues.”
Chair of the Scottish Youth Parliament, Suki Wan MSYP, said: “We are delighted to be heading to Kilmarnock this weekend for the Scottish Youth Parliament’s 67th National Sitting. I know we can look forward to another fantastic weekend filled with debate, discussion and lots of hard work.

“In addition to our Sitting work, we’re particularly excited about the launch of our new campaign on public transport... stay tuned for more information about that in coming weeks!

“In the meantime, however, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in bringing this Sitting together, including all at East Ayrshire Council. In particular, I’d like to thank the Support Workers and awesome local MSYPs for welcoming us to their ‘patch’ - we can’t wait to get started!”

[ENDS]
Notes to editor

1. All media enquiries to Karen Keith, Communications Officer (karen.k@syp.org.uk).

2. The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) represents Scotland’s young people. The charity’s vision for Scotland is of a nation that actively listens to and values the meaningful participation of its children and young people. SYP’s goal is to make this vision a reality, in order to ensure Scotland is the best place in the world to grow up.

3. A fundamentally rights-based organisation, SYP’s mission, vision, and values are grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In particular, Article 12 - “Young people have the right to express their views freely and have their opinions listened to in all matters affecting them” - is at the heart of all work carried out in SYP’s name.

4. As a completely youth-led organisation, the words and sentiment of Article 12 have profound importance for SYP’s work. The charity’s democratically elected members (MSYPs) listen to and identify the issues that are most important to young people, ensuring that their voices are heard by decision-makers. SYP exists to provide a national platform for young people to discuss the issues that are important to them, and supports them to effectively campaign for the change they wish to see. SYP was a key voice in the campaign to bring the voting age in Scotland down to 16, and played an integral role in the passing of the Marriage and Civil Partnerships Bill (Scotland) in 2014.

5. Politically impartial, SYP works with stakeholders, groups, individuals and representatives across the political spectrum who share the charity’s values, to enable SYP to deliver the policies that are important to Scotland’s young people.

6. National Sittings are held three times a year. Each Sitting is kindly hosted by a different local authority, and over the course of the last two years, Sittings have been held in Stornoway, Port Glasgow, Edinburgh, West Dunbartonshire, and North Ayrshire.

7. The Scottish Youth Parliament’s 67th National Sitting takes place on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st October at Ayrshire College, Kilmarnock.

8. The Year of Young People is an opportunity for generations to come together and celebrate our nation’s young people. It is a platform for our young people (8 to 26). It will give them a stronger voice on issues which affect their lives, showcase their ideas and talents, and ultimately, aim to challenge status quo and create a more positive perception of them in society. To find out more about the Year of Young People, click here.

9. To follow the weekend’s events on Twitter, please check out the hashtag #SYP67 and #YOYP2018, or follow SYP at @OfficialSYP.