

Increasing engagement between Members and young people

KEY:

F: Female Speaker
DM: Daniel McCrossan
GM: Gary Middleton
PM: Paul McFadden

(CHATTER)

(UPBEAT MUSIC)

(CHATTER)

F: What I enjoyed the most about today is gaining a personal experience that you don't really get by just researching what politicians have said, either in Parliament or in Stormont. But you actually get to talk to them.

DM: I think it's a vital event, particularly for younger people to engage with politicians. There is a claim out there that politicians are very detached from communities, very detached from young people and I think this event gives them an opportunity to engage directly with us on the issues that matter most to them.

F: We did learn a lot about maybe Party policies that we didn't know about before.

M: I sort of learnt that there was maybe a larger gap than I thought between sort of what our current MLAs are voting for, their policies or the Party policy, and what they personally believe in and young people. There's maybe a bigger gap than I expected, I think.

GM: It's very encouraging to see so many young people come along, air their views, ask difficult questions of us as politicians, and I think it has to be welcomed, and I think these sorts of programmes need to be rolled out on a more regular basis.

PM: These young people are (cliché) the voters of the future. But they are young people whose lives matter and whose affairs should be important to politicians.

(MUSIC)