

Start a Petition

Many people make change

'Lobby' means trying to **persuade** people with your view to influence their actions or decisions. For example, you could lobby your community council to set up a youth group, or you could lobby a Member of the Senedd to change a law.

Starting a **petition** on an issue you feel passionately about is a good way to do this. A petition is a statement signed by many people. You can create them on **paper** or **online**. Your petition will say clearly what you want to change and will then show a list of people that agree. Petitions raise awareness about problems and they show that many people feel strongly about an issue and want to bring about change.

Here are some **top tips** for starting a petition:

1. **Does the issue affect lots of people?** Consider whether you think the issue is big enough for lots of people to sign. If you think the petition will be small, perhaps a letter or a press release will gather more attention and be more effective.
2. **Paper petition?** Some community issues might be better suited to making a paper petition, for example, if you wanted to petition a community group, or your school Governing Body or Head-teacher. If so, you can use our guide [and example of a paper petition](#). If you make a paper petition you could consider collecting signatures differently, for example you might want to set up a stall with a banner to attract attention, and discuss your issue face to face. You might also consider printing flyers to inform people about the issue, and to spread awareness of your campaign.
3. **Online Petition?** If you think your issue is better suited online, find a petition site that suits you, [Change.org](#) and [38 Degrees](#) are big sites with a lot of functions to support your campaign, or you create a petition to the Senedd directly on their [website](#). You could ask a teacher, group leader or trusted adult to support you to set this up.



4. **What exactly do you want?** Be clear and concise about what change you'd like to make, for example rather than stating "improve our public transport" make suggestions like "create cheaper and more frequent public transport links between Aberystwyth and Tregaron, and invest in greener vehicles".
5. **Why is it important?** Use evidence to convince people to sign, for example you could quote pollution levels in the city, or how the cost of transport affects your choices.
6. **How do you get support?** Share your petition widely online to get as many signatures as possible. You could post the petition onto community groups on Facebook, encourage your peers to share the petition, and use social media to ask people with large followings (for example famous people) to do so too.
7. **Where should you send the petition?** Find the right place to submit the petition to; [you can use our fact sheet to help you with this](#). A teacher, group leader or trusted adult will also be able to support you to send your petition to the right place.