
CashBack for Communities Small Grants Scheme 2013 -2017

Evaluation report YEAR 4 (9-month extension)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - CASHBACK SMALL GRANTS SCHEME YEAR 4 (9-MONTH EXTENSION)

“Give young people opportunities to try new and different things, give them confidence to ‘go for it’ and they will rise to the challenge.” Leader.

The CashBack for Communities Small Grants Scheme (CashBack SGS) is a distinct grants scheme funded by CashBack for Communities and operated by a Partnership of six national youth organisations: The Boys’ Brigade, Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs Scotland, Girls’ Brigade Scotland, Girl Guiding Scotland, Scouts Scotland, and Youth Scotland.

CashBack SGS was established in March 2010 to support local volunteer led youth groups, who may not previously have had access to external funding, to enhance their programmes for young people and to get positive projects off the ground. The current tranche of CashBack SGS funding was designed originally to operate for 3 years, (2013 – 2016). However, in 2016 the Scottish Government announced a 9-month extension for 3 further funding rounds to bring CashBack SGS in line with the CashBack for Communities funding cycle. The amount allocated to the Partners for CashBack SGS Year 4 was £178,125. Year 4 ran from June 2016 to March 2017 and this extension period is the focus of this report

SUMMARY OF RESULTS – YEAR 4

- **195 awards made**
- **Application success rate of 61% (down from 95% in Year 3 and due to ultimate funding round of Year 4 being heavily oversubscribed)**
- **£178,599 awarded**
- **CashBack SGS grants more than doubled the amount of money available to youth groups**
- **7,223 young people participated in CashBack SGS funded projects**
- **551 new volunteers recruited**
- **1,194 volunteers involved and giving,**
- **87,394 volunteer hours (an average of 73 hours per volunteer) equating to,**
- **an economic value of £922,880**
- **Youth groups in every local authority area received an award**
- **50% of CashBack SGS grants awarded to youth groups in deprived areas (SIMD 1-5)**
- **18 new youth groups set-up of which 4 (22%) are in areas with SIMD scores of 1 or 2 (highest deprivation)**
- **CashBack SGS met its target outputs and outcomes each year**

CashBack SGS funding helps to make activities accessible and affordable to a wide range of young people, many from disadvantaged areas. The establishment of new youth groups helps to grow provision and increase the capacity of the Partners to offer services to young people and to provide local volunteering opportunities. Young people are engaged in pro-social activities offering opportunities to experience new things, learn and develop skills and interests. Funding from the CashBack SGS also helps provide opportunities for young people working towards and achieving organisational badges, recognised awards and leadership qualifications such as KGV1, Youth Achievement Award, and Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Through progression pathways many become confident, skilled young leaders with an appreciation of the importance of active citizenship.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The CashBack for Communities Small Grants Scheme (CashBack SGS) Partnership commissioned this study to investigate the impact of the CashBack SGS on young people and youth groups. The CashBack SGS was originally designed to operate for 3 years, (2013 – 2016). However, in 2016 the Scottish Government announced a 9-month extension for 3 further funding rounds. Year 4 of the CashBack SGS ran from June 2016 to March 2017. The extension period is the focus of this report. It builds on and complements the reports for Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3 and it provides summary statements on the 4-year tranche of CashBack SGS (2013 – 2017).

1.1 BACKGROUND

CashBack SGS was established in March 2010 to support local volunteer led youth groups, who may not previously have had access to external funding, to enhance their programmes for young people and to get positive projects off the ground. CashBack SGS is a partnership of 6 national, volunteer-led organisations comprising: Boys' and Girls' Clubs Scotland (BGCS), Girlguiding Scotland (GGS), Girls' Brigade Scotland (GBS), Scout Scotland (SS), Boys' Brigade (BB), and Youth Scotland (YS) - the network of youth clubs and youth groups. The Partnership administers the funding and supports groups to make successful applications to the fund. Each organisation has a network of small branches across the country that are active and present in almost every local community on mainland Scotland and the Islands. At the start of this 4-year tranche of funding the Partnership had a total of 6,862 groups, with 171,819 young people supported by 26,000 volunteers.

2. CASHBACK SGS PROGRAMME 2013 – 2016/17

The CashBack SGS allocation for grants to groups was £237,000 per annum in Years 1, 2 and 3. In Year 4 (extension) the allocation was £178,125.

The anticipated outcomes for young people of the 4-year grant programme are:

- Increased participation in positive community based activity
- Increased participation by difficult to engage and equalities groups
- Increased opportunities to try new things
- Increased opportunities to develop interests and skills
- Increased involvement in structured pro-social and healthy activities
- Increased number of places to go where young people feel safe and comfortable

The key outputs for the CashBack SGS each year are to:

- Award between 175 and 250 grants to groups.
- Reach between 5,000 and 15,000 young people.
- Increase the number of volunteers or others in support roles.
- Increase the number of community based activities for young people in priority areas.

2.1 THE EVALUATION

Each year of the CashBack SGS has been evaluated and reported on with this report produced at the end of Year 4 of the current funding tranche. The aims of the evaluation of Year 4 were to:

- Report on the performance of Year 4 against set targets
- Track and report on the performance of the CashBack SGS over the 4-year period
- Investigate the impact of the CashBack SGS on the participating young people and volunteer led youth groups
- Determine whether the intended outcomes for the CashBack SGS are being achieved.

3. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation of Year 4 (extension) comprised of desk research only.

3.1 DESK RESEARCH

Quantitative data - Partnership data for the 3 funding rounds in Year 4 (June 2016, September 2016, and December 2016) were analysed and the results compared with the key outputs and the results from Years 1,2, and 3 for a number of agreed indicators against which to track the performance of CashBack SGS over the 4-year period.

Qualitative data –Eleven CashBack SGS End of Projects Reports submitted during Year 4 were selected at random and the content analysed for evidence of the achievement of CashBack SGS outcomes. The intention was to include 2 reports from each Partner, i.e. 12 reports, however the selection was dependent on End of Project reports being available at the time of analysis. The findings from the analysis are presented in Section 5 of this report.

The Year 4 (extension) sample of 11 End of Project reports is as follows:

BOYS' BRIGADE	BOYS' & GIRLS' CLUBS OF SCOTLAND	GIRLS' BRIGADE SCOTLAND	GIRLGUIDING SCOTLAND	SCOUTS SCOTLAND	YOUTH SCOTLAND
1	0	2	3	2	3

4. CASHBACK SMALL GRANTS SCHEME PERFORMANCE

Table 1 presents quantitative data for Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3, alongside CashBack SGS performance indicators and key outputs.

TABLE 1: CASHBACK SGS PERFORMANCE 2013 TO 2017

Indicator	Key outputs annual	Year 1 March 13 – March 14 BASELINE 5 rounds*	Year 2 June 14 – March 15 4 rounds	Year 3 June 15 – March 16 4 rounds	Year 4 (ext) June 16 – Dec 16 3 rounds	Over the 4-year period 16 rounds
Amount awarded (£)	237,000 Y4 £178,125	£235,456	£233,133	£239,566	£178,599	£886,754
Number awards	175-250	241	248	239	195	923
Average amount awarded (£)	-	£978	£940	£1,002	£916	£961
% start-up awards	-	13%	9%	7%	9%	9%
% programme awards	-	87%	91%	93%	91%	91%
% youth groups in SIMD deciles 1-5 (high deprivation)	-	51%	56%	53%	50%	52%
% youth groups with young people from equalities groups	-	Not known. Report in Year 2.	Of the 20 youth groups reporting equalities data 12 have young people from equalities groups. (60%) **	Limited data for 1 quarter was provided on ethnicity **	n/a	n/a
Number of young people	5,000 – 15,000	9,660	7,830	9,299	7,223	34,012
Number of new volunteers	Increase number of volunteers	399	348	401	551	1699
Total number of volunteers	-	1,593	1,486	1,559	1,194	5,832

*NOTE: The second tranche of CashBack SGS funding was disbursed to the Partners by the Scottish Government in July 2013. During the hiatus between March 2013 and July 2013 some Partners ran a March and a June funding round in the knowledge that their expenditure on grants would be reimbursed from the Year 1 allocation. Therefore, Year 1 includes 5 funding rounds: March 2013, June 2013, September 2013, December 2013, and March 2014.

**NOTE: equalities data reporting by groups began in Year 2. The collection of equalities data continues to be a challenge for small volunteer-led groups. For many groups this is considered inappropriate to collect such information and for others the information is patchy leading to incomplete data sets. Hence the data do not provide an accurate picture of young people from equalities groups.

AMOUNT AWARDED

In Year 4 (extension) the Partnership disbursed £178,599. The allocation for the 9-month period was £178,125. This small 'overspend' was due to one youth group awarded in March 2016 returning grant money to Youth Scotland. This money was reallocated to their Year 4 pot.

£886,754 was awarded over the course of the 4-year period.

AWARDS

195 grants were awarded in Year 4. Year 4 (extension) had just 3 funding rounds/9 months and yet the Partnership exceeded the lower target for the number of awards made per annum by 20. The average amount awarded was £916, and is the lowest figure during the 4-year period. The average amount of grant per young person is £25. (see paragraph below)

**923 awards were made over the course of the 4-year period.
£961 was the average amount awarded over the 4-year period.**

REACH OF CASHBACK SGS AWARDS

- Success rate of grant applications

To give the most comprehensive picture of success rate, the consultants analysed data from June 2010 to December 2016 (i.e. from the first tranche to the end of the current 4-year tranche). Table 2 illustrates that the success rate of grant applications has increased each year since the launch of CashBack SGS with the exception of Year 4. This reduction can be attributed to the ultimate funding round, December 2016, being oversubscribed as youth groups tried to take advantage of this final chance of CashBack SGS funding. Irrespective of the result for 2016/17, there has been a 42% increase in the success rate over the course of the 3-year period. This suggests that the support provided by the Partners has helped to build the capacity of their memberships in making successful grant applications.

TABLE 2: APPLICATION SUCCESS RATE 2010 - 2017

YEAR	2010 / 2011	2011/2012	2013/14	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/17
SUCCESS RATE	54%	71%	75%	81%	96%	61%

- Grants awarded by local authority area.

In Year 4 youth groups from all 32 of Scotland's local authority areas received a CashBack SGS award. The highest number of grants went to youth groups in Highland (19); City of Edinburgh (16); and Fife (15) illustrating that CashBack SGS reaches youth groups in urban and rural settings.

CHART 1: DISTRIBUTION OF YEAR 4 CASHBACK AWARDS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

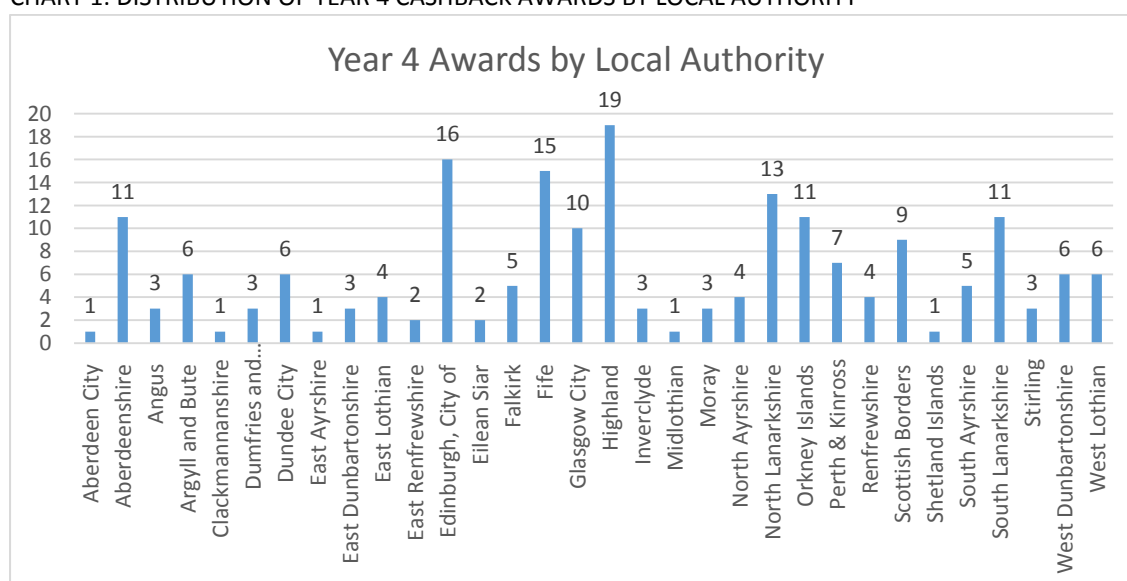
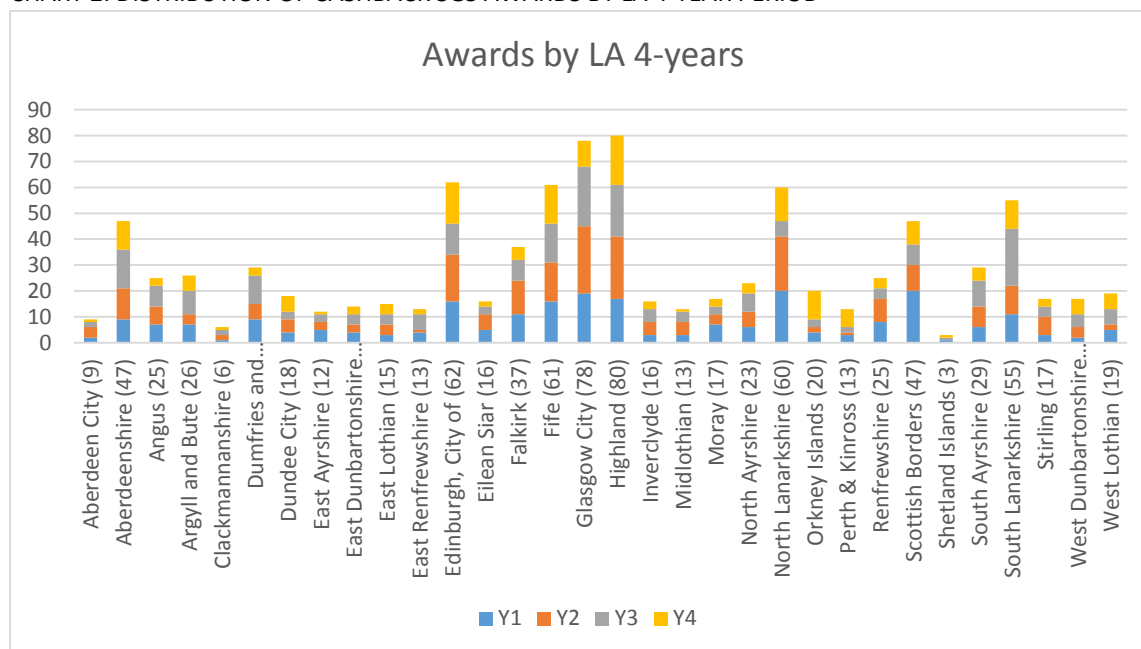


Chart 2 illustrates the distribution of CashBack SGS grants by local authority area over the 4-year period. Grants were awarded to youth groups in every local authority area in Scotland. The highest number of awards went to groups in Highland (80), Glasgow City (78), Edinburgh City (62), Fife (61) and North Lanarkshire (60). (Figure in brackets after LA name is total number of awards made during 4-year period)

CHART 2: DISTRIBUTION OF CASHBACK SGS AWARDS BY LA 4-YEAR PERIOD



LEVERAGE OF CASHBACK SGS

60% of groups receiving a CashBack SGS award had other sources of funding for their projects. The CashBack SGS funding of £178,599 was augmented with £122,822 raised by the youth groups from other sources. Thus CashBack funding increased the amount of money available to the 195 groups for their projects by 1.45 times to £301,421. The total cost of the 195 successful applications was £389,908. Grant requests are not always met in full, for example because elements of the application are not eligible, and because the Partners each have a finite sum to disburse each funding round. It is assumed that groups altered their project plans to fit the available budget or that certain elements were specified to be funded.

Over the 4-year period the total of £886,754 CashBack SGS funding was matched with a total of £780,423 raised by youth groups from other sources. Thus CashBack SGS grants more than doubled the amount of money available to groups for their projects. The total cost of the youth groups' projects was £2,014,625 over the 4-year period.

START-UP AND PROGRAMME GRANTS

In Year 4 there were 18 start-up grants and 177 programme grants awarded. Thus start-up grants account for 9% of total awards. The proportion of start-up awards increased by 2% in Year 4 with a concomitant decrease in the proportion of programme grants awarded.

Over the 4-year period CashBack SGS funding enabled the setting up of 87 new youth groups. They represent 9% of the total CashBack grants awarded.

NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE

7,223 young people benefitted from the CashBack SGS in Year 4 (extension). The total of 7,223 young people is 44% above the lower end of the target range (5,000), and is 48% of the top of the target range (15,000). The average amount of grant per young person is £25.

34,012 young people have participated in CashBack SGS funded projects over the 4-year period.

GENDER OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Of the 7,223 young people, 56% (4041) are male and 44% (3,182) are female. This result is in keeping with the proportion of males to females over the 4-year period: 55% and 45% respectively and reflects the size and gender profile of the Partners' memberships.

Over the 4-year period 55% (18,651) of the 34,012 young people are male and 45% (15,361) are female

AGE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The age profile of young people benefiting from the CashBack SGS in Years 3 and 4 is presented in the Table 3 below. The age profile is fairly consistent across the two years, with the exception of under 10's in Year 4 where there was 5% increase and a decrease of 4% in young people aged 14 to 16 years. This data may provide a useful benchmark for the Partners in Phase 4 of CashBack.

TABLE 3: % AGE GROUPS

Age/Year	% aged under 10	%Aged 10 -13	%Aged 14- 16	%Aged 17-19	% Aged 20+
Year 3	18	42	27	9	4
Year 4	23	40	23	10	4

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

CashBack SGS continues to help youth groups to attract new volunteers. 551 new volunteers were recruited during Year 4, the highest number recorded during the 4-year period, thereby increasing the leadership capacity of the youth groups. The total number of volunteers involved in Year 4 projects was 1,194.

1,699 new volunteers have joined as a result of CashBack SGS funding over the 4-year period.

5,832 volunteers involved in CashBack SGS projects over the 4-year period.

IN-KIND VALUE OF VOLUNTEER TIME

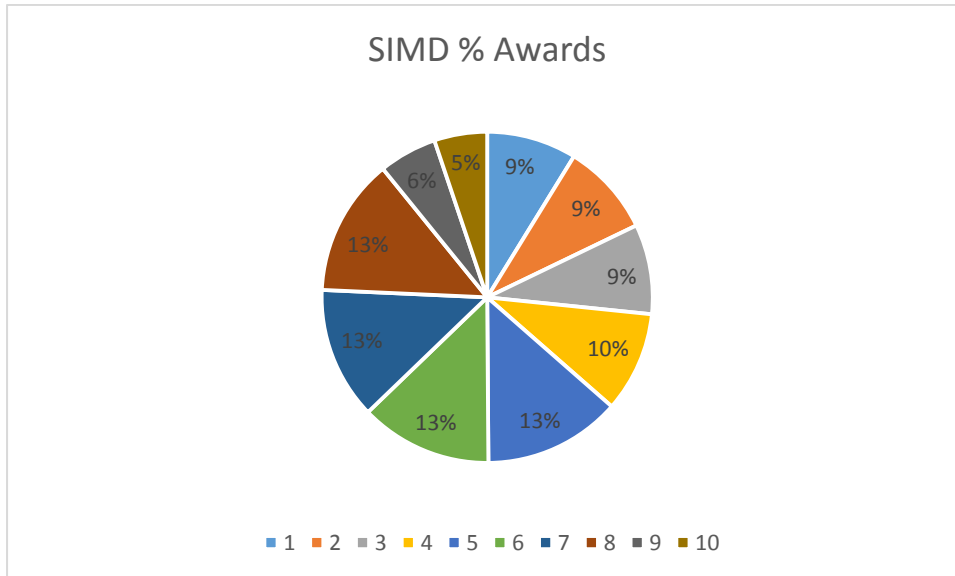
Volunteers' gift of time makes a substantial in-kind contribution to the CashBack SGS. Volunteers' time in Year 4 is recorded as 87,394 hours from 1,194 volunteers, an average of 73 hours per volunteer. The economic value of volunteers' time has been calculated using the current local authority sessional youth worker rate of £10.56p per hour. The contribution of 87,394 volunteer hours equates to an economic value of £922,880.

For the 4-year period, the total number of volunteer hours was 441,267, Using the above calculation this equates to an economic value of £4,659,780.

SIMD

In Year 4, 50% (98) of the CashBack SGS awards went to youth groups operating in areas of high deprivation (SIMD 1-5) and the other 50% (97) to youth groups in more affluent areas (SIMD 6-10). Chart 3 presents this finding and also provides a breakdown of awards by SIMD decile score. With the main focus of the forthcoming, new CashBack programme being on areas of highest multiple deprivation the Partnership may wish to use this data to inform their work.

CHART 3: SIMD SCORE % ALL AWARDS



A key aim of CashBack SGS is to increase the number of community based activities for young people in priority areas. Chart 4 illustrates the finding for Year 4 that of the 18 start-up groups, 6 (33%) operate in postcode areas with SIMD deciles scores of 1 – 5 (high deprivation). Of these 6 youth groups, 4 are in areas with the highest deprivation scores, SIMD 1 and 2. (i.e. 22% of all start-ups) The remainder of start-up grants (12 or 67%) went to youth groups operating in more affluent areas.

Chart 4 illustrates that Programme awards are more evenly distributed over the SIMD decile scores than start-up grants with youth groups in post code areas with SIMD score of 5 receiving the highest number (25) of Programme awards and groups in areas with SIMD score of 10 receiving the least (9).

CHART 4: AWARDS TYPE AND SIMD SCORE

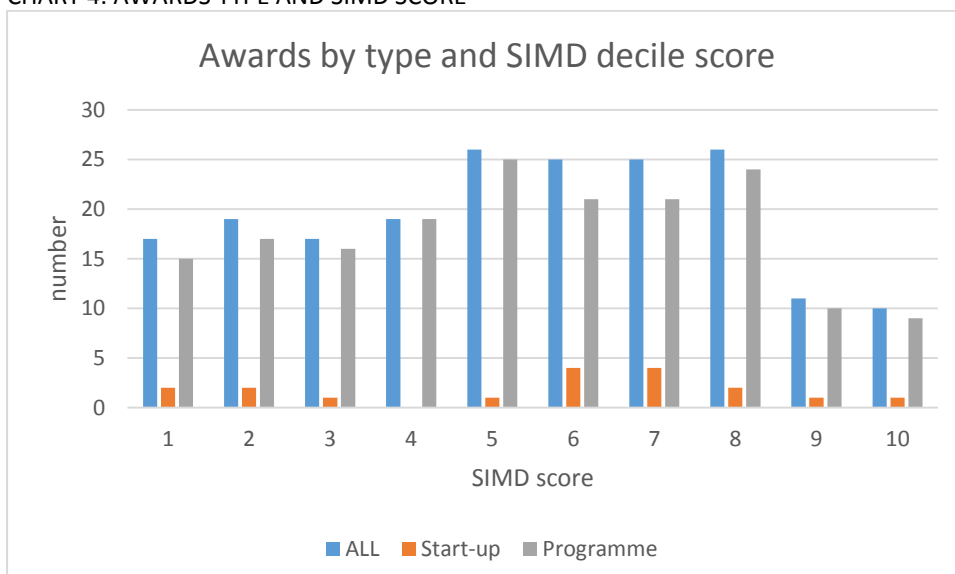


Chart 5 presents this data in percentage terms. Half (50%) of all grants, 33% of start-up grants, and 52% of programme grants were awarded to youth groups in more deprived areas.

CHART 5: % AWARD TYPE AND SIMD 1-5 and SIMD 6 -10

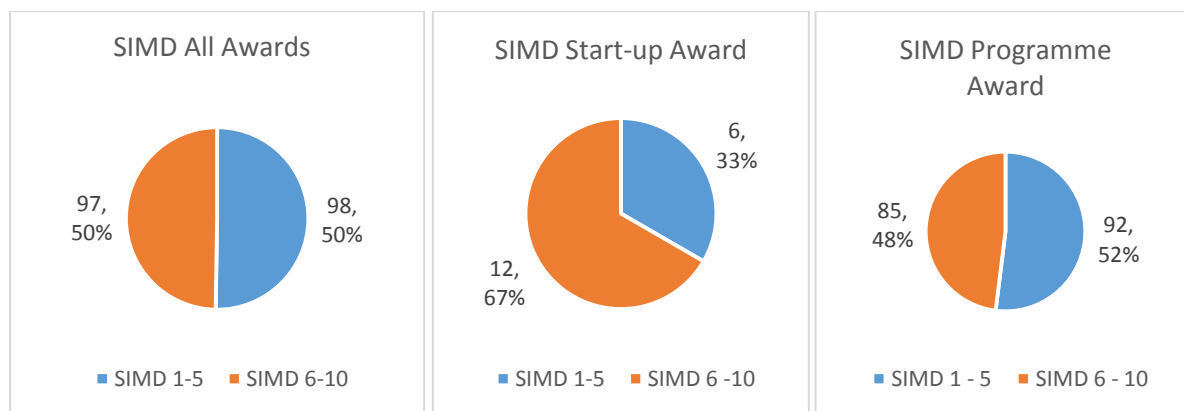
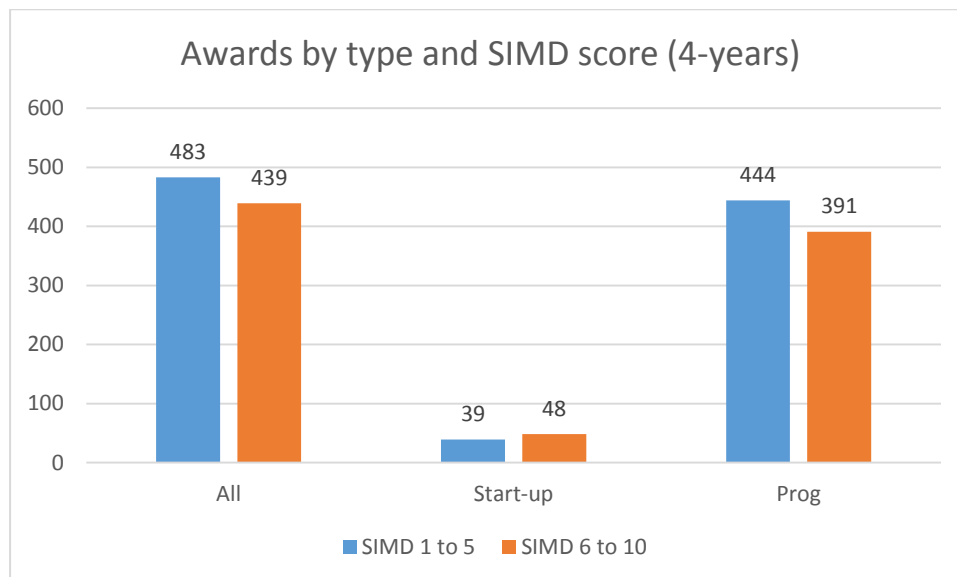


Chart 6 shows the SIMD picture over the 4-year funding period. Overall, slightly more grants (483: 439) were awarded to youth groups operating in postcode areas with SIMD decile scores of 1 to 5 (high deprivation) than to groups in less deprived areas. Further analysis of these data found that slightly more start-up grants (48:39) were awarded to youth groups in less deprived areas than deprived areas. However, the opposite was the case for programme grants, with 444 grants awarded to groups in deprived areas compared with 391 to grants for groups in less deprived areas.

CHART 6: AWARDS TYPE AND SIMD SCORE 4-YEAR PERIOD

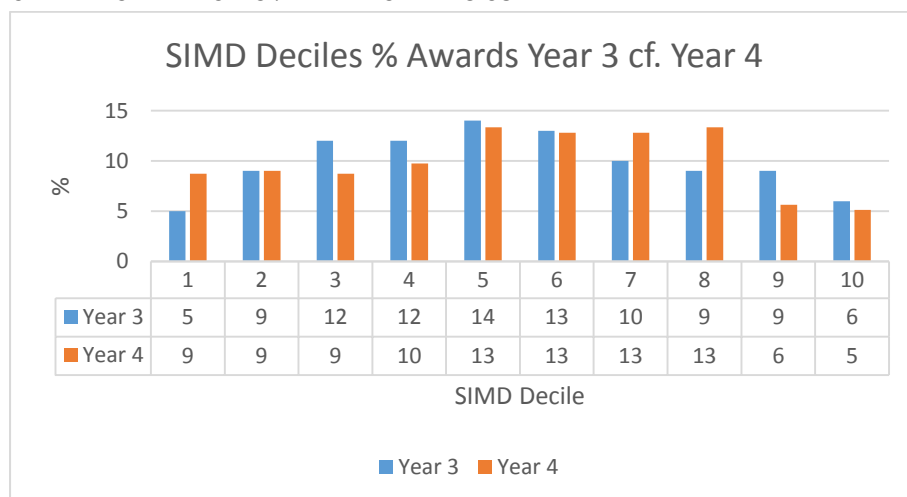


The general finding is that CashBack SGS awards have been disbursed reasonably equally to youth groups operating in areas of high and low deprivation.

Over the 4-year period 52% of CashBack SGS grants have been awarded to youth groups operating in postcode areas with SIMD decile scores of 1 to 5. 45% of start-up grants and 53% of programme grants have been awarded to youth groups operating in postcode areas with SIMD decile scores of 1 to 5.

In preparation for Phase 4 of CashBack funding with its emphasis on youth groups in the most deprived areas (SIMD 1 and SIMD 2), an analysis has been conducted which compares the percentage of awards made for Year 3 and Year 4 by SIMD score. The results are presented in Chart 7 and may provide a benchmark for the Partners. In Year 3, 5% of awards went to groups in areas with SIMD score of 1, in Year 4 this increased to 9%. The percentage for SIMD 2 did not change over the two years.

CHART 7: SIMD DECILES % AWARDS YEAR 3 COMPARED YEAR 4



5. CASHBACK OUTCOMES

The 11 End of Project reports sampled for the Year 4 evaluation were analysed for evidence of the achievement of CashBack SGS outcomes. Table 4 presents a brief description of the projects. The awards ranged in size from £300 to £1,759 and totalled £12,574. All were programme grants, 5 of which included funding for equipment. In this small sample 507 young people benefitted from CashBack SGS funding. An average investment of £25 per young person. All CashBack SGS outcomes were achieved and a summary with examples is presented in Table 5.

TABLE 4: YEAR 4 SAMPLE END OF PROJECT REPORTS

Partner Organisation	Group	Project Description	Award	No. Young People
BB	5 th East Kilbride Boys' Brigade Company	Week-long Ocean Youth Trust yacht trip around west coast of Scotland, Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition in Cairngorms and Bronze DoE award expenses.	£1,500	10
GBS	63 rd Cranhill Girls' Brigade	Digital camera, laptop package, exercise parachute, and craft items.	£1,500	34
	1 st Lochwinnoch Girls' Brigade	Used their grant to encourage participation in physical activities and sports the young people wouldn't normally have access to (curling; hydro-spin; climbing wall; and roller-skating), gain confidence	£815	18

		and increase self-esteem of the girls.		
GS	1 st Glamis Guides	Modern, lightweight tents to enable the unit to attend more camps and venture further away from home.	£600	18
	4 th Mearns Guides	Tents and camping equipment. 4 th Mearns is a new guide unit and the award meant they could offer camping for this first time.	£1,300	17
	4 th Inverness Guide Unit	3-day trip to Edinburgh staying in a youth hostel, seeing the city sights and a theatre trip. The award helped to make the trip more accessible to girls from families with less resources.	£1,000	11
SS	47 th Greenock District Scouts (4 th Port Glasgow)	Residential trip to Lochgoilhead for paddle sports, expedition and team building.	£1,700	11
	Tullibody Scout Group	Mess and cooking tents. Camp was built around the 6-hour Bear Grylls Survival Mission which made the camping more exciting for young people.	£1,759	64
YS	REACH Lanarkshire Autism	Life skill sessions and work experience at the Hilton Garden Hotel, arts and crafts materials for enterprise group, and an outdoor activity/team building day.	£700	45
	Reay Youth Group	Day trip to Aviemore for outdoor activities, karting, swimming pool and flumes, fast stream and wave machine. The young people experienced these activities which can't be accessed in the north of Scotland with their peers away from the family environment.	£600	10
	Hip Hop School Scotland	The award enabled this group to provide music, dance, and street poetry workshops and free-running sessions in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire for young people in remote, deprived areas or areas that lack facilities, including young people who experience behavioural issues at school.	£1,500	269
Total			£12,974	507

TABLE 5: YEAR 4 ACHIEVEMENT OF CASHBACK SGS OUTCOMES

CashBack Outcome	Small Grants Outcomes	√	Achievement of Outcomes
Participation	Increased participation in positive activity	√	<p>The 11 projects provided 507 young people with the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of positive activities.</p> <p>6 of the youth groups (55%) recruited new volunteers as a consequence of their project thus increasing the group's capacity to offer positive activities to young people.</p>
	Increased participation by difficult to engage and equalities groups	√	<p>6 of the youth groups (55%) involved young people from ethnic minority backgrounds.</p> <p>4 of the youth groups (36%) involved young people with disabilities.</p> <p>This finding demonstrates that youth groups are reaching and involving young people from equalities groups.</p> <p>Examples: The Hip Hop Scotland project was specifically designed to involve young people from remote, deprived areas and included young people with behavioural issues at school.</p> <p>Young people with autism were the focus of the REACH Lanarkshire Autism project.</p>
	Increased opportunities to try new things	√	<p>All the projects offered young people opportunities to experience activities for the first time or in a different way to past activities.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47th Greenock Scouts offered water sport taster sessions and the young people could then choose which activity they wanted to progress on. <p><i>"Give young people opportunities to try new and different things, give them confidence to 'go for it' and they will rise to the challenge."</i> Leader.</p> <p>A common theme running through the reports was the opportunity for new experiences that young people would otherwise not have had or are not available locally.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th Inverness Guides trip to Edinburgh. <p><i>"I am a student myself, so good to get funding otherwise would have made the trip more expensive for the girls."</i> Parent.</p>
	Increased opportunities to develop interests	√	<p>Every project offered young people opportunities to develop interests and skills.</p>

	and skills		<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Lochwinnoch Girls' Brigade leaders encouraged the young people to participate in the physical activities and sports and make the most of the opportunities on offer. The leaders hope that this will help to foster the girls' interest in continuing with the activities and to link it to badge work. <p><i>"This was a great exercise to broaden the girls' horizons and improve their self-esteem. We hope to keep the momentum going with our following year's badge work."</i> Leader.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5th East Kilbride Boys' Brigade project enabled young people to gain sailing skills, work as a team member, and have responsibility for others in challenging conditions. <p><i>"Living in such a tight space and being asked to do lots of different tasks was challenging. However, I would definitely recommend the experience."</i> Young person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63rd Cranhill Girls' Brigade gained photography skills, organisational and presentation skills through organising a photoshoot and presenting their work at their annual display to the local community. REACH Lanarkshire Autism gave young people the opportunity to experience housekeeping, meal preparation, silver service, and to learn about food hygiene. Skills for life and transferable to the workplace. <p><i>"My son attended the Hilton work experience. He was totally in his element there. He was so proud of himself for going to work."</i> Parent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tullibody Scout Group reported that young people learned camping skills, care of camping equipment, and care of themselves and others when outdoors <p>The projects provided a means for young people to work towards and achieve organisational badges and awards, and nationally recognised awards and qualifications, e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Awards; Girls' Brigader Triangle, Girls' Brigader Brooch Awards; Scouts' Adventure Challenge Badge, Expedition Challenge, Outdoor Challenge, and Chief Scout Award; Dynamic Youth Award, Youth Achievement Award.</p>
Diversion	Increased involvement in structured pro-social and healthy activities	√	<p>By their very design all the projects aimed to increase young people's involvement in pro-social healthy activities with personal learning and physical exercise a main feature of many.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Glamis Guides' award enabled them to camp with modern equipment. This has helped to attract new members meaning that the group can offer increased involvement in pro-social, healthy activities.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extract from Hip Hop Scotland’s report illustrates the impact on the lives of some of the young participants. <p><i>“We hear a lot of children and young people are doing so well and are living a more positive life in school and their community.”</i> Leader.</p>
	Participants have places to go where they feel safe and comfortable.	√	<p>Each project involved supervised sessions and activities with qualified instructors and/or leaders and parents where young people can learn and develop skills and experience new things with their peers through structured activities in a safe, supported environment.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reay Youth Club benefitted from supervised activities led by instructors whose involvement also helped to support leaders with their duties of care. 4th Mearns Guides found the new tents and training in their use helped the girls to overcome fears of sleeping under canvas and away from home for the first time.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation of Year 4 has found that the CashBack SGS continues to meet the key outputs and anticipated outcomes set for it, even with just ¾ of the usual number of funding rounds and a smaller grant allocation than previous years. The Partners have disbursed their full grant allocation to 195 youth groups across all local authority areas in Scotland. Half of the grants have been awarded to youth groups operating in areas of Scotland with high levels of deprivation and harder to reach groups. CashBack SGS funding helps to make positive activities accessible to young people who might not otherwise have had the chance to experience them.

The average award in Year 4 was just over £916. The average amount awarded per young person was £25. Nearly two-thirds (60%) of grant recipients secured match funding meaning that the CashBack SGS doubled the amount of funding available to these youth groups’ projects.

Nearly 7,223 young people benefitted from Year 4 CashBack SGS funding. Eighteen new youth groups have been established and over 550 new volunteers recruited in Year 4 thereby increasing the capacity of the Partnership to engage young people in positive activities that benefit their personal development, life skills, experience, and confidence. The total volunteer contribution of almost 87,400 volunteer hours equates to an economic value of nearly 1 million pounds.

Whilst the facts and figures are impressive, it’s the stories behind the numbers that really illustrate the positive impact and the legacy that the CashBack SGS has on young people and the youth group leaders. By introducing young people to new experiences and opportunities youth groups help to foster young people’s interest in pro-social and healthy activities. Activities are also a means for young people to achieve recognised badges and awards, to develop confidence, self-esteem, leadership skills, practical and inter-personal skills which will be transferrable to a wide range of interests and social, educational, volunteering and employment settings.

The CashBack SGS has a positive impact on youth group leaders also. The ability to fund opportunities and equipment makes it easier for leaders to plan and deliver quality activities for young people. The purchase of outdoor activity centre services enables leaders to work alongside qualified instructors thus helping to provide more adventurous and safe experiences for young people. The offer of exciting activities and opportunities attracts new leaders and new young people alike.

The benefits of CashBack SGS funding to young people and youth groups described in this report demonstrate that in the hands of these groups, Cashback provides good value for money - all CashBack outcomes achieved for an average amount of around £1,000 per youth group.

FINALLY

The findings from the Year 4 evaluation and those for the 4-year tranche (2013 – 2017) presented in the separate summary document demonstrate that the CashBack SGS has been highly successful in supporting the development and capacity of youth groups to offer increased opportunities and benefits to young people. Partners are to be congratulated on their achievement of providing a small grants scheme that meets the needs of youth groups within their memberships.

As the Partners enter Phase 4 of CashBack for Communities they may wish to reflect on the success of the past 4 years of CashBack SGS and apply the learning from the evaluations to any future small grants schemes they may operate as a partnership or individually within their respective organisations.