

YEAR THREE REPORT | JUNE 2023



EVALUATION



YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND

CASHBACK FOR COMMUNITIES
PHASE FIVE

| BY CATCH THE LIGHT LIMITED |

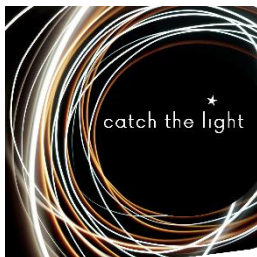
SUMMARY

The following report details the results achieved by 146 youth providers that benefited from the Youth Work Fund (Part 1) and partnerships working in seven localities in Scotland that experience high levels of deprivation and crime.

The CashBack for Communities initiative allows the Scottish Government to reinvest proceeds of crime into positive youth activities. For thirteen years, YouthLink Scotland has been a key strategic partner, redistributing funds they receive so that youth work providers receive a much-needed injection of cash to support local engagement activities.

This report focuses on year three of 'round five', which ran from 2020 to 2023, when all public services adjusted to the Covid-19 lockdown safety measures. The results speak of a sector determined to reach out to young people at a time of need so that they had sufficient support to combat isolation and stay connected with peers and good adults. Against the odds, year three of round five has seen the sector once again exceed targets set on the number of young people to engage – reaching almost 11.5 thousand individuals across Scotland.

Part two presents findings from the partnership pilot projects, which picked up a pace in year three as services returned closer to normal levels. The findings highlight the benefits of targeting young people at risk, and actively seeking out young people through a variety of detached street work, work in crime hot spots, work on Friday evenings and work in schools.



YouthLink Scotland is the fund recipient, CashBack for Communities administer the funding on behalf of the Scottish Government and Catch the Light is the external evaluator.

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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND

YouthLink Scotland is the national agency for youth work that focuses on supporting and empowering young people in Scotland through championing high-quality youth work. As part of their mission, they provide essential resources and training for youth workers, promote collaboration within the sector, and advocate for the importance of youth work. They also encourage youth participation in decision-making processes and ensure that young people's voices are heard. Through their work, YouthLink Scotland is helping to create a society that values and invests in the future of its young people.

The estimated 2-3 thousand youth organisations in Scotland include a wide range of national agencies, local charities, and local authority-led and supported activities. Youth work is therefore active across the length and breadth of Scotland's 32 local authorities covering urban, rural and island locations. It is a vital backbone in the fabric of learning, personal development and civic education that helps our active democracy and our communities to thrive and flourish.

THE BENEFITS OF YOUTH WORK

YouthLink Scotland has proved to be an important player in redistributing CashBack for Communities funds to local youth providers, proving that youth work approaches offer effective ways to prevent offending or antisocial behaviour. It provides young people with positive role models and mentors who can guide them towards making positive choices and avoiding negative influences. Youth work can help young people develop skills and interests that keep them engaged and motivated in positive activities, reducing the likelihood of boredom or frustration leading to antisocial behaviour. Fundamentally, youth work can provide a safe and supportive environment for young people to socialise, make new friends and form positive relationships with peers and good adults, reducing the risk of isolation and alienation that can contribute to offending. With training in reflexivity skills, qualified youth workers can help young people to understand the consequences of their actions and develop empathy and respect for others, which can reduce the likelihood of them engaging in harmful behaviour.

Youth Worker training pathways in Scotland are often envied around the world, ranging from entry-level introductory courses to Degree, Masters, and Doctoral level opportunities on offer in Scotland's colleges and universities. The [CLD Standards Council](#) which oversees the quality of professional development of the youth work-workforce, recently added a [Modern Apprenticeship in Youth Work](#) to the fray. Subsequently, the Youth Work sector has built itself up as a profession with robust training pathways for individuals in pursuit of vocations that support young people through a vital phase of their life. Uniquely the sector has drawn from a large pool of thousands of volunteers in Scotland that give their time freely to Scotland's

young people and greatly enhances the reach, diversity, and sustainability of youth work services.

For well over 100 years now, youth work has played a prominent role in providing Scotland's young people with a safe and supportive environment where they can develop social skills, self-esteem, and resilience in safe informal contexts. Here are some distinct advantages brought about by youth work:

- **Rights and the UNCRC:** Youth work is a key enabler of young people's rights under the UNCRC. It seeks to empower young people by giving them the knowledge and opportunities for fulfilment, such as - article 13: freedom of expression; article 14: freedom of thought, belief and religion; article 14: freedom of association; article 28:right to education; article 29: goals of education to develop personality, talents and abilities as well as encourage respect for human rights, parents, other cultures and the environment; article 31: the right to leisure, play, and culture; article 39: recover from trauma and reintegration; article 40:to be treated with dignity and respect and to reintegrate into society; and article 42: actively ensuring young people know how to fulfil their rights.
- **Holistic approach:** Youth work takes a comprehensive approach that considers young people's physical, emotional, and social needs. This builds a well-rounded development and achieves better outcomes in adulthood.
- **Informal education:** Youth work is a form of informal education that focuses on empowering and supporting young people mostly outside of formal educational settings. Although some services are located within schools or form strong partnerships with their local school community. Unlike formal education, which follows a structured curriculum and is often mandatory, youth work is voluntary and flexible, allowing young people to choose a pathway of individualised real-world learning opportunities.
- **Inclusivity:** Youth work never requires young people to achieve an elite level of performance or be selected or unselected because of their abilities or limitations. Consequently, it can cater to a wider range of interests and needs, as well as being open to families of all types and circumstances. With no requirement to purchase expensive kits, specialised clothing or equipment youth work actively ensures that all young people have access to support and development opportunities, regardless of their background.
- **Exploration of identity:** Youth work can provide a safe and supportive space for young people to explore their identity and sense of belonging, especially for young people that feel marginalised or excluded.
- **Community building:** Youth work can help to build stronger, more cohesive communities by promoting social connections and a sense of shared purpose. This can have positive impacts not just on individuals, but on society.

ABOUT THE YOUTH WORK FUND

The Youth Work Fund began upon the inception of CashBack for Communities funding, over 13 years ago. The wider funding is a government initiative which reinvests funds from the proceeds of crime into positive youth projects.

The youth work sector has positively welcomed the Government's decision to use proceeds of crime monies to support the delivery of skilled youth work that tackles the effects of deprivation. It allows local providers to invest in early intervention to the detrimental effects of crime, offending and antisocial behaviour – a key funding priority of CashBack for Communities.

In previous rounds, the youth work sector has excelled in proving its ability to reach large numbers of young people (40 thousand in round four), from diverse backgrounds to achieve the funding targets set by the Scottish Government and managed by Inspiring Scotland on their behalf.

- The Youth Work Fund aims to support the personal and social development of young people through youth work initiatives.
- The funding can be used for a range of activities, including training for youth workers, community events, and youth-led projects.
- The Youth Work Fund is a competitive funding opportunity, with applications assessed based on the potential impact of the project and the organisation's track record in delivering youth work initiatives.
- YouthLink Scotland has been distributing the CashBack for Communities fund to local providers since 2008.

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROGRAMME (PPP) 2020- 2023

Before knowing that the pandemic would have such a major effect on all our lives, YouthLink Scotland was invited by Inspiring Scotland to devise an additional pilot programme that would test the benefits of longer-term partnership funding being awarded to priority locations, with the following purpose and criteria:

Purpose:

1. To determine ***whether more secure and longer-term funding*** of a project/programme supports CashBack for Communities outcomes.
2. To determine ***a more strategic local-level approach to the use of funds***, that supports CashBack for Communities outcomes.

Criteria:

- Applications must be developed and endorsed by local authority youth work services, community safety and voluntary sector youth work organisations. The proposed activity may be delivered by one youth organisation, but the bid must come from a partnership.
- The proposed activity must be youth work in nature and either delivered by a youth work organisation/service or in partnership with a youth work organisation/service.
- The proposed activity must explicitly address needs identified in local plans/strategies (community safety/CLD).
- The proposed activity must contribute to CashBack outcomes and priorities; young people at risk and contribute to the most disadvantaged communities (as identified in local outcome plans).

Reporting:

Annual reporting (both monitoring information and progress towards outcomes) is required.

Where a funded project is not progressing satisfactorily, funding may be discontinued or made conditional on agreed quarterly targets.

Evaluation:

The seven pilot projects are the focus of phase five's external evaluation (by Catch the Light) based on the CashBack for Communities indicators.

ABOUT THE REPORT

The proceeding report is in two sections:

- Part 1 – The Youth Work Fund
- Part 2 – The Partnership Pilot Projects

PART 1: THE YOUTH WORK FUND

YOUTH WORK FUND RECIPIENTS

The following list includes all 146 Year 3 – Youth Work Fund – Main Grant recipients. It references a wide range of locations, themes and activities from generic provisions to work with targeted communities and issues. Whilst all of these organisations have benefited from funds during year three, many others can be added to the list of previous recipients and eligible organisations that will no longer be able to benefit in round six.

Aberdeenshire Council
CLD Service
Kirrie Youth Project
Methilhill Community
Children's Initiative (MCCI)
MADE4UINML2
Bluevale community club
Hotspot Intervention
Team
Gallatown Gala and
Community Group
Stranraer Youth Cafe
Scottish Families Affected
by Alcohol and Drugs
Stirling Council (Culture
Team)
Glenboig Development
Trust
Fife Council
Highland Wildcats
Aberdeenshire Council,
Mintlaw Academy
Dunfermline PSYV
Hotspot Intervention
Team
Renfrewshire Council
The Hut (SCIO) (formerly
Temple/Shafton Youth
Project)
Community Central Hall
Barnardo's
Falkirk Council Community
Learning & Development
YoMo Young Movers
The Pickaquoy Centre
Trust
Community Central Hall

South Ayrshire Council
RockSolid Dundee
Tron St Mary's Parish
Church
Tranent Youth and
Community Facility
(Recharge)
Stirling Council - Youth
Participation Team
Youth Family Community
Learning
The Indigo Childcare
Group
OPEN Project, Voluntary
Action Shetland
Whitehill Universal
Connections
Citadel Youth Centre
Aberdeen City Council
Youth Work team
The Village Storytelling
Centre
Open Door
Accommodation Project
Larkhall Universal
Connections
Royston Youth Action
Clydebank Unit No 87 (The
Clydebank Sea Cadets)
Reeltime Music
The Safety Zone
Mayfield and Easthouses
Youth 2000 Project
Edinburgh City Youth Cafe
(6VT Youth Cafe)
The Play Center Glasgow
C.I.C

Renfrew YMCA SCIO
Girvan Youth Trust
Granton Youth Ltd
Universal Connections
Community Renewal
Trust, (Govanhill Roma
Youth Project)
Church House, Bridgeton
[SCIO]
Coaching In Communities
CIC
Springhall and
Whitlawburn Youth
Development Team
Springhall Community
Youth Project
Aberdeen Foyer
Shetland Islands Council
Strengthening
Communities For Race
Equality Scotland-
SCOREscotland
Operations Manager/Co-
Founder
Mid & Upper Nithsdale
Youth Forum
Tweeddale Youth Action
Toonspeak Young People's
Theatre
Barnardo's Scotland
Linstone Housing
Association
12th Inverness Boys'
Brigade
Govan Youth Information
Project
Aberdeenshire Council

FAST FORWARD (TO POSITIVE LIFESTYLES) LIMITED
 Pennypit Community Development Trust
 Pilmey Development Project
 Kirkcaldy YMCA
 Action for Children
 North Berwick Youth Project
 Tamfourhill Community Hub - Youth groups
 Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs
 Barnardo's
 St Teresa's Youth Club
 Falkirk council
 Eildon West Youth Hub (TD1 Youth Hub)
 G15 youth project
 Creetown Initiative Ltd
 The Venchie Children and Young People's Project
 Annandale and Eskdale Youth Group
 Brechin Youth Project
 Denis Law Legacy Trust
 Shetland Islands Council - Youth and Employability Service
 Cupar Youth Cafe
 Additional Support Needs Youth Groups
 Ferrywell Youth Project
 Tayside Council on Alcohol
 The Loft Youth Project
 Barnardo's
 Yusuf Youth Initiative
 The BIG Project

One community Scotland
 Canongate Youth
 Action for Children
 Irvine Sea Cadets
 The Broomhouse Centre t/a SPACE
 Cardowan Community Meadow
 Portree Youth Club
 East Renfrewshire Council
 Universal Connections
 Rutherglen
 Rural & Urban Training Scheme (RUTS)
 Hamilton Universal Connections
 Rural & Urban Training Scheme (RUTS)
 About Youth
 Rural & Urban Training Scheme (RUTS)
 Rural & Urban Training Scheme (RUTS)
 YMCA Tayside
 Live Argyll
 East Ayrshire Council - - Kilmarnock, Ayrshire
 The Larder
 Aberdeen City Council
 Passion4Fusion
 Broadford Youth Club
 Escape Youth Services
 CLD Inverclyde
 One Community Scotland
 The Ayr Ark
 The Place Youth Club
 Corseford Tenants and Residents Association
 Gallatown Bike Hub
 Midlothian Council CLLE

Universal Connections
 The Pearce Institute
 Coach My Sport (CiC)
 North Lanarkshire Council
 Stronger Together
 Enterprise
 High Life Highland
 Barnardo's
 Community Learning and Development
 Fife Council
 Getting Better Together Ltd
 Parkhead Youth Project
 The Children's Wood
 Play Alloa
 Oasis Youth Centre
 Management Committee
 Marchmount Bowling Club
 West Dunbartonshire Council
 Hot Chocolate Trust
 Possibilities for Each and Every Kid (PEEK)
 Govanhill Baths
 Community Trust (GBCT)
 The Penicuik & District
 Young Men's Christian Association and Young Women's Christian Association
 Sunny Govan Community Radio

The table below identifies the amount of funds distributed and invested in positive youth activities in each local authority area accompanied by the number of young people that benefited from the funded activities. It illustrates the extent of reach with over 1.5 thousand young people benefiting in Glasgow; over one thousand in West Dunbartonshire and almost one thousand in the Highlands.

Breakdown of the Youth Work Fund distribution, by Local Authority area

Local Authority	Award	Beneficiaries
Aberdeen City	£31599	492
Aberdeenshire	£32,404	134
Angus	£17,130	244
Argyll and Bute	£10,250	133
City of Edinburgh North	£40,845	494
City of Edinburgh South	£42,152	381
Clackmannanshire	£11,200	70
Dumfries and Galloway	£24,698	429
Dundee City	£43,700	301
East Ayrshire	£14,496	133
East Dunbartonshire	£9,210	79
East Lothian	£12,301	303
East Renfrewshire	£6,250	65
Falkirk	£22,389	192
Fife	£51,296	556
Glasgow North East	£45,523	411
Glasgow North West	£48,526	349
Glasgow South	£75,121	790
Highland	£32,202	978
Inverclyde	£27,390	517
Midlothian	£14,035	376
Moray	£12,333	144
North Ayrshire	£30,853	988
North Lanarkshire	£48,450	726
Orkney Islands	£14,115	358
Perth and Kinross	£14,570	87
Renfrewshire	£50,410	358
Scottish Borders	£13,634	254
Shetland	£13,170	271
South Ayrshire	£31,515	554
South Lanarkshire	£43,043	941
Stirling	£14,674	210
West Dunbartonshire	£35,100	1119
Western Isles	£19,169	214
West Lothian	£25,659	125
	£979,592	13776

YEAR 3 IN NUMBERS



£1.5M WORTH OF VALUE INVESTED

This is a combination of CashBack for Communities funding, matched by other funds and in-kind contributions such as volunteer time, venues and management that are matched into the project by the funded delivery partners.



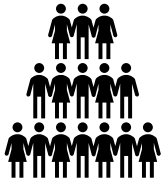
£979,592 WORTH OF FUNDS

£762,601 was distributed to local youth organisations across Scotland directly from the CashBack for Communities – Youth Work Fund. The remainder went to partnership projects detailed in part two of this report.



146 YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

This is the number of organisations and project bids that received funding within year-three 2022-2023, receiving an average of £5,044 (range:£14,104) from the Youth Work Fund.



13,776 YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED

This number is 38% above the annual target of 10,000 young people. Organisations that received a proportion of the Youth Work Fund engaged with 78 young people on average (range: 760).



£762,242 MATCHED

This is the amount of matched funding raised by individual providers and contributed towards the project through bringing in other funding or making in-kind donations (in-kind value is estimated to be £270,800).

YOUTH WORK FUND OUTCOMES

The six pre-determined national outcomes for CashBack funding are arranged over a series of indicators, the achievement of which is tracked by YouthLink Scotland as the fund holder against agreed numerical targets.

		No.
1.1	Increased confidence	7,764
1.2	Doing new things	7,719
1.3	Positive support network	7,145
1.4	Positive changes in behaviour	6,568
2.1	Gain accreditation	2,468
2.2	Report their skills are increasing	6,320
3.	Improved wellbeing (SHANARRI)	7,443
4.1	Nos remain or return to school	4,935
4.2	Attendance at school improves	2,539
4.3	Participate in other learning or training	2,136
5.1	Go on to volunteer after the project	1,339
5.2	YP feel their contribution to the community has improved	5,045
5.3	No hours of volunteering accumulated	41,407
6.1	Feel less inclined to participate in antisocial or criminal behaviour	5,341 (7434 affected)

Inspiring Scotland does not require the targets to be adjusted to the actual number of participants reached. With the youth work sector exceeding the number of participants by 38%, all outcome indicator targets are exceeded, as highlighted in the next section on progress made.

PROGRESS MADE

Outcome 1: “Young people build their confidence and resilience, benefit from support networks and reduce risk-taking behaviour”

Indicator	Reported number	Target number	% of target achieved
88% of young people feel that they have improved their confidence levels	8,877	7,500	118%
61% of young people are able to do new things	8,436	7,500	112%
60% of young people feel they are part of a positive support network	8,220	7,500	110%
48% of young people observed positive changes in their behaviour	6,568	3,500	192%

Progress made on this outcome is positive. Almost two-thirds of actual participants feel that they have improved their confidence levels. Similar levels (61%) are able to do new things. Slightly fewer (60%) feel they are part of a positive support network – a key benefits of youth work. Almost half (48%) observed positive changes in their behaviour. This is important against the backdrop of being in a period of recovery from the pandemic.

Outcome 2: “Young people develop their personal and physical skills”

Indicator	Reported number	Target number	% of target achieved
2,581 young people achieved accreditation for their learning through the funded activities	2,581	2,500	103%
2,382 accredited awards distributed to young people	6,938	5,000	139%

From the reports received by YouthLink Scotland through their monitoring system, 2,581 young people achieved accreditation for their learning through the funded activities. These greatly enhance any academic qualifications achieved at school. As has been shown in previous CashBack for Communities reports, the youth work sector is instrumental in helping to upgrade young people’s curriculum vitae through experiential learning that is often accompanied by accreditation and higher levels of attainment. As the table below illustrates there were 2,382 accredited awards distributed to young people [see breakdown]:

Youth Achievement Award (SCQF L)	Dynamic Youth Awards	Hi5 Awards	Saltire Awards for Volunteering	SQA (various levels)	ASDAN	DofE (Bronze, Silver & Gold)	Food & Hygiene	First Aid	Other Awards
203	295	138	393	67	40	156	258	539	492

The Dynamic Youth Awards, Youth Achievement Awards and Hi5 Awards belong to [a suite of accreditation offered by Youth Scotland](#). They are credit rated and levelled on the SCQF qualification framework, making them equivalent to awards gained at school/college and recognised by employers. Food Hygiene and First Aid are also useful qualifications for entering the workplace. Saltire Awards mark the number of hours young people contribute to their communities. The Duke of Edinburgh’s (DofE) Award has Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, which many youth providers support young people to gain, at no cost to the individual. It requires participants to learn new skills, develop a physical activity, do some volunteering and carry out an expedition. Providers also support a range of additional awards tailored to the experiences. They include in-house training as well as accredited courses of learning and development [see list below]:

SQA Core Skills, Dynamic Youth Awards, Saltire Award, NICAS indoor climbing Award, sailing awards
 Play leaders qualification with Active schools
 Dynamic Youth Award
 Child protection Training, Entry to youth work
 Bike ability
 Sports Leaders
 Skills in managing stress, managing anxiety, improved sleep and self-care
 Personal Development
 BAFA Level 1, Concussion Recognition, Youth Tackle Certification, Tip of the Spear Certification, Mental Health Workshop
 39 x Paddle Awards
 SQA - Wellbeing Award - NAT 4, SQA Leadership - NAT 4/5
 Dynamic Youth Award
 21 x bell bottom sailing
 Saltire award
 John Muir Award
 Introduction to grant making
 Dynamic Youth Award
 Delivering programmes where the focus was health and wellbeing addressed identified needs
 Energy efficiency knowledge
 10 x Snowcamp awards
 9 x youth pass awards
 2 awarded ILM Leadership Level 2
 25 x Outdoor Learning Award
 Borders College Tenancy Award
 Community Achievement Award
 7 x I: Lead engage
 Young leaders course at Belmont Outdoor Centre.
 RYA Practical Sailing Course - Tall Ships
 Driving Theory Course
 Driving Practical Course
 National 5 Computing
 National 5 English
 Awareness of exploitation
 BB Award Scheme - General scheme plus Presidents & Queens Badge (similar to D of E)

John Muir Award, Confidence to Cook, Sailing level 1 beginner
 18 x John Muir award - 10 have completed the sailing and 5 completed the confidence to Cook
 5 x Child Protection Training
 Forest & Outdoor Learning Award = 6
 John Muir Award
 20 x Hi 5 awards - 20
 Wellbeing workshop
 Mental health awareness
 Sea Cadets Accreditation
 Outdoor education awards
 Mental Health Awareness/Dynamic Youth Award
 Motolearn (SCQF Level 5, 3 credit points)
 Urban Box (Personal Development Award: Practical Abilities Unit H18W 44, Level 4, 6 credit points)
 'Ride Bike' Academy from Motolearn (SCQF Level 5, 1 credit point)
 Motolearn (SCQF Level 5, 3 credit points)
 Motolearn (SCQF Level 5, 3 credit points)
 Certificates of achievement
 City & Guilds
 Education Through Cashback Modules (SCQF) 30
 Motor Skill Learning Certification
 ASDAN
 1. Team working
 2. Problem-solving
 3. Communication
 4. Working with numbers
 5. Exploring job opportunities
 6. Rights and responsibilities in the workplace
 7. Health and Wellbeing
 Active Community Engagement Award
 GO Mountain Biking Award and Paddle Award
 Personal Development Award
 15 Dynamic Youth awards
 Health Issues in the Community/Cycling Awards
 North Kelvin College Community Achievement Award - National 5

The following provides a snapshot of what some of these awards lead to, such as further education and employment opportunities:

“OPEN (in-house) Induction and Issue based training is recognized for equipping young people with the skills, abilities, and knowledge to become effective youth workers. Several OPEN’s volunteers have gone on to gain employment with Shetland Youth Services.”

“Glasgow University - activate course- 12-week course learning about community development and community education with access to interviews at Glasgow University to do the BA in community development.”

“As part of a wellbeing workshop, young people were involved in creating mood boards and memory boxes. They learned mindfulness breathing techniques and mindfulness meditation. They also did a course in basic cooking skills.”

Outcome 3: “Young people’s health and wellbeing improves”

Indicator	Reported number	Target number	% of target achieved
1.1.1 1.1.2 1.1.3 1.1.4	8,308	7,500	111%

As indicated in the table and chart above, the majority (60%) of young people taking part in funded youth work activities felt that their health and wellbeing improved. This is measured as young people showing improvements against one or more of the [SHANARRI indicators](#). Based on the Scottish Government’s principles of ‘Getting it Right for Every Child’ – SHANARRI are the indicators associated with rights and a strengths-based approach to staying safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible, and included. Notably, the pandemic has led to fluctuations over the three-year term, with participants showing improvements in year 1, rising to 78% in year two and reducing again in year three. This is backed by several providers raising wider concerns regarding young people’s mental wellbeing. This is also reflected in the nature of activities provided, where many of the engagement activities have focused on wellbeing and exploring ways to recover from the pandemic.

Outcome 4: “Young people participate in an activity which improves their learning, employability and employment options (positive destinations)”

Indicator	Reported number	Target number	% of target achieved
1.2.1 1.2.2 1.2.3 1.2.4	8,567	3,200	268%
1.3.1 1.3.2 1.3.3	2,966	1,500	198%

The majority (62%) of participants achieved a positive destination through taking part. A proportion of youth work is delivered through school-based activities, where the services act as an alternative to formal learning, especially for those struggling with the demands of mainstream education. See for example [this video](#) which explains the benefits that youth work in school makes to young people’s mental health. Equally, advancements in learning and employability are also achieved through after-school activities, or with young people that do not attend school or have left school. Within this context over a fifth (2,966) of participants saw their school attendance improve. A

similar proportion of participants (2,136) took part in other learning or training – either through the youth provider or colleges and other training stakeholders.

Outcome 5: “Young people contribute positively to their communities”

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Reported number</i>	<i>Target number</i>	<i>% of target achieved</i>
1.1.1 Young people contribute positively to their communities	1,338	1,200	112%
1.1.2 Young people contribute positively to their communities	41,777	15,000	278%
1.1.3 Young people contribute positively to their communities	5,136	5,000	103%

Over a third (37%: 5,136) of young people taking part in funded youth work activities felt that their contribution to their community improved. This led to 41,777 hours of volunteering being contributed to local communities. There are many ways that youth work achieves this with young people. Some young people take up a leadership role within the group they belong to. Some move into representative roles and become a spokesperson as part of a youth forum that makes decisions about how groups or communities are run. This can lead to increased engagement in local decision-making through for example school or political parties and movements. Many engage in a wide range of volunteering opportunities in their communities.

Outcome 6: “Young people are diverted from criminal behaviour or involvement with the criminal justice system”

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Reported number</i>	<i>Target number</i>	<i>% of target achieved</i>
1.2.1 Young people are diverted from criminal behaviour or involvement with the criminal justice system	6,199	5,000	124%

YouthLink Scotland’s digital tracking system confirms that around 7,434 of participants were at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour or offending. This is based on the professional judgement of youth workers. Accordingly, in year three 6,199 (84%) of them felt less inclined to engage in anti-social or offending behaviour. This is of major significance given the focus of the funding – confirming that youth work providers target the right communities and individuals and positively influence their behaviour.

Matched and In-kind Funding

A remarkable additionality that youth organisations bring to achieving CashBack for Communities outcomes, is their ability to secure matched funding or donate in-kind contributions. As highlighted in the previous summary, this has doubled the value of the funding pot bringing the total value of the Youth Work Fund to £1.5 million. This matters for a variety of reasons:

- It enlarges the benefits beyond that afforded by the CashBack for Communities funding pot.
- It enables the reach to be extended to many more young people.
- It allows youth providers to run their services for longer and provide more positive experiences.
- It supports full-time and part-time workers to stay at work and pay expenses to more volunteers.
- It ensures that existing services are maintained.
- It offers a higher return on investment, for every pound of CashBack for Communities funding invested.

PART 2: THE PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROJECT

The purpose of the three-year partnership pilot projects is to inject additional funds into a partnership approach to targeted youth work, with a view to:

- Determine whether more secure and longer-term funding of a partnership project/programme supports CashBack for Communities outcomes.
- Assess whether a more strategic local approach to the use of funds (over three years) better supports CashBack for Communities outcomes.
- To review the impact on outcomes and targets.

The partnerships in seven localities are required to deliver activities that are defined as youth work in nature and delivery by, or in partnership with a youth work service provider. It must contribute to CashBack for Communities outcomes, reach young people at risk of antisocial and offending behaviour and contribute to the most disadvantaged communities (as identified in local outcome plans). The pilot phase distributed £94,336 over three years (£15,000 per annum) to partnerships in the areas listed below. Also shown is the number of young people engaged during year three (a total of 2,161 young people) for each locality when all four quarters are accumulated:

- Glasgow 293 young people engaged [140 maximum]
- West Dunbartonshire 875 young people engaged [382 maximum]
- Inverclyde 22 young people engaged [12 maximum]
- Dundee 24 young people engaged [8 maximum]
- Renfrewshire 57 young people engaged [25 maximum]
- North Ayrshire 811 young people engaged [811 maximum]
- South Ayrshire 79 young people engaged [79 maximum]

The participants are broken down into the following categories, showing the annual total, the quarterly average, maximum, minimum and the range. Percentages are calculated according to the maximum number of participants as this is a more accurate reflection of actual numbers. The total is cumulative of all four quarters:

Categories	Total	Average	Max	Min	%	Range
Number of young people engaged	2161	540	1310	109	100%	1201
How many identify as male	1379	345	709	66	54%	643
How many identify as female	728	182	548	16	42%	532
How many identify as LGBTQ+	63	16	62	0	5%	62
How many live in SIMD priority areas 1 & 2 (20% most deprived)	1673	418	955	109	73%	846
How many are at risk of engaging in antisocial or criminal behaviour	1520	380	1020	22	78%	998

The categories table above highlights that more than half (64%) of participants were male, which is likely due to generally higher incidences of antisocial or offending behaviour among males. The reach into areas of high deprivation was extensive with almost three-quarters (73%) of participants living in data zones 1 & 2 (20% of Scotland's most deprived datazones).

DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP

Young people taking part in the 'Give Us a Break' partnership programme, are selected because of known behaviour, offending and other issues which have led to non-attendance or exclusion from school. In year three, as lockdown conditions improved, the partnership was able to add a second group to the programme. Both groups ran each week over two full days of activities. Two youth work staff worked alongside an Outdoor Education Worker every week from August 2022 -July 2023. The groups met in Ardler Community Centre, an area of high deprivation in Dundee.

“The funding afforded greater opportunity to engage and work with those targeted over a sustained period. This programme has from its inception highlighted the impact that sustained youth work approaches can have in working with young people meeting the clear selection criteria. Those we have worked with in the past have commented that our programme is ' the only thing they regularly attend.’”

The project reach is broken down into the following categories:

Dundee	Total	Average	Max	%
Number of young people engaged	24	8	8	100%
How many identify as male	24	8	8	100%
How many identify as female	0	0	0	0%
How many identify as LGBTQ+	0	0	0	0%
How many live in SIMD priority areas 1 & 2 (20% most deprived)	24	8	8	100%
How many are/have/are at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour or crime	21	7	7	88%

Below is an overview of ways that the funding has achieved some of the objectives of the partnership approach.

ENGAGES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

Young people selected have a track record of antisocial behaviour or offending or have signs that they may be at risk of falling into this category – through for example not attending school. The programme offers the opportunity to pay for staff to work more intensively in a meaningful and targeted way with those in the group. Having a whole day of activity allows staff to build and sustain positive and sustainable relationships with young people who can be difficult to reach or engage with in other settings, such as school. Youth work techniques adopted ensure that the programme is informal and based on a dialogue with young people to sustain their interest and engagement.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Those in the group are consulted throughout the programme and took part in planning a residential experience which they then completed in May 2022. They worked out a range of options including kayaking, hillwalking, gorge walking, cycling and other activities that were of interest to them.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

Young people have commented that the informal and friendly approach has helped them to engage in group work. Youth workers 'touch base' and maintain contact outwith the days they attend the programme to foster positive relationships with those in the group and deal with issues that can escalate or be difficult for young people to handle, without adult intervention.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN VOLUNTEERING OR CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY

Although this didn't happen during the project, participants are showing an interest in furthering their development and taking on more responsibility. Workers are pursuing a range of options including leadership in outdoor activities. This will support them in completing their Duke of Edinburgh award.

YOUNG PEOPLE GAIN ACCREDITATION OR RECOGNITION

All group members worked towards completion of their Duke of Edinburgh award and have completed a Velotech certificate.

POSITIVE DESTINATIONS

Work was undertaken to consider possible pathways in partnership with other agencies to ensure the positive results from the project are sustained either back in school or through securing the right post-school destinations beyond the project.

PARTNERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

The project managers reported the following:

“Having been engaged from the outset in identifying suitable candidates for the programme, partners have remained invested throughout. We have great links with Rockwell Offsite Education service and weekly discussions are held with the DHT from the school. We also have a Social Work employee from the Youth Offending team that has supported the group work processes. There are strong Partnership links throughout the Project, and this has enabled clarity of focus and communication every week. All partners are proactive in supporting the programme and weekly contact ensures that young people's needs are considered and where required additional support is offered. Changes to the programme were made in response to identified needs. The combination of third sector and local authority personnel focusing on a small group of young people was key to success.”

GLASGOW PARTNERSHIP

The Glasgow Partnership brings together Sanctuary Housing Association, Street Cones, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership and Police Scotland. Streetcones delivers a targeted intervention on antisocial behaviour. The sessions take place in two primary schools in the Priesthill and Househillwood area, which were selected due to persistent antisocial behaviour issues caused by young people in the neighbourhood. Another two class sessions per school were delivered by the Health and Social Care Partnership's Health Improvement Team and Police Scotland. The sessions included an exercise on Health Issues in the Community to help young people identify what influences their health in their community and prioritise what factors of their lifestyle and environment could be improved. A play has been developed and work is continuing the development of a participatory budgeting exercise where young people will take part in deciding which of their future project ideas benefit from an injection of cash.

“Before CashBack for Communities partnership funding the issues were being tackled through one-off initiatives. The longer-term, three-year term of this funding has enabled a longer-term approach, albeit original plans were curtailed due to the lockdown. Genuine engagement with the wider community and buy-in from the partners: primary schools, police, street cones and the housing association is key. It brings a better chance of buy-in from the community.”

The project reach is broken down into the following categories:

Glasgow	Total	Average	Max	%
Number of young people engaged	293	98	140	100%
How many identify as male	180	60	89	61%
How many identify as female	113	38	51	39%
How many identify as LGBTQ+	0	0	0	0%
How many live in SIMD priority areas 1 & 2 (20% most deprived)	293	98	140	100%
How many are/have/are at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour or crime	110	37	44	38%

Below is an overview of ways that the funding has achieved some of the objectives of the partnership approach.

ENGAGES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

The programme has identified and is working with 44 young people at an early intervention level. The interventions have positively influenced behaviour and supported young people through the school transition from primary to secondary school when many young people can be vulnerable to risks.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING PART IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Rather than situations where for example housing, health or police officer signpost young people to diversionary activities, there is direct engagement that builds confidence and wellbeing. They are now part of a dialogue about the things that affect their community, and they are beginning to recognise that they can play an active positive role.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN VOLUNTEERING AND/OR MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR COMMUNITY

A key aim of Youth Community Budgeting is to improve the quality of life within communities by enabling the active involvement of young people as members of their communities. This will be achieved by involving young people as grant-makers, learning skills about managing money, setting priorities, and making decisions.

PARTNERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

This partnership approach between NHS, Sanctuary Housing Association, Police Scotland, and Education aims to raise awareness of, address perceptions and tackle the issues of anti-social behaviour within Priesthill and Househillwood. The difference is that young people have had the opportunity to meet local police officers and work alongside them to develop relationships. They are engaged in conversations about taking care of their communities, which partners hope will have a positive impact on behaviour and decision-making.

INVERCLYDE PARTNERSHIP

After previous detached work, followed by work in schools, this year's group ran from a dedicated youth facility called I-Zone. Participants attended regularly for one day a week. They took part in cooking workshops, teamwork, issue-based workshops, road safety, mental health, intergenerational work and cake and craft coffee morning. There was also an element of outdoor education.

“Engagement levels after Covid are particularly challenging, however, all the young people are happy to attend and participate in the group outwith the school environment. although only 2 achieved awards, 10 more are still attending the group and will complete their award in June [after the funding ends]. We find ourselves going back to basics of confidence building and working in teams. The informal learning approach supports young people to reintegrate back into school or college.”

The project reach is broken down as follows:

Inverclyde	Total	Average	Max	%
Number of young people engaged	22	7	12	100%
How many identify as male	16	5	9	73%
How many identify as female	5	2	3	23%
How many identify as LGBTQ+	2	1	1	9%
How many live in SIMD priority areas 1 & 2 (20% most deprived)	18	6	8	82%
How many are/have/are at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour or crime	8	3	3	36%

Below is an overview of ways that the funding has achieved some of the objectives of the partnership approach.

ENGAGES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

The partnership programme is targeted at low attenders at school, however, they have been happy to attend the youth centre. Non-attendance was putting these young people at risk of antisocial behaviour and increased the likelihood of poor mental health. Engagement through the programme tackles these issues in a focussed way.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The participants learn new skills through taking part. They work together in teams and set their targets for growth. Young people are supported to reflect on their risk-taking behaviour through group work inputs on issues relating to the use of drugs, alcohol, and vaping and providing information and activities to manage mental health.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

Young people get to build positive relationships with youth work staff. They are introduced to a range of new activities such as Kayaking and cooking. Young people have gained from the informal learning environment and

thrive in this type of activity, which is evident from the positive attendance, a clear turnaround from how they felt about school. Consequently, their levels of isolation are reduced, they make friends, connect with positive adult role models and get to learn new life skills as well as participate in fun youth work activities.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN VOLUNTEERING OR CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY

The young people helped clear out a community building that will be used by adults and young people in their community. The young people have been volunteering with a cake craft and coffee morning with an elderly group. We are now looking at other volunteering options within the school, to help them reintegrate back into that setting.

YOUNG PEOPLE GAIN ACCREDITATION OR RECOGNITION

12 young people have taken part in undertaking a dynamic youth award (DYA). Two young people have gone on to a bronze youth achievement award (a higher level than DYA). Some group members have also completed Saltire awards in recognition of the volunteering work they have done.

YOUNG PEOPLE MOVE ON TO A POSITIVE DESTINATION

11 of the group members are back at school full time. One young person is exploring the potential to attend college.

PARTNERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE:

Youth work services facilitated connecting the relevant partners such as outdoor education, voluntary groups where young people volunteered and link with schools to access more cohesive support for young people. The partners are working together to support young people to participate in the programme in ways that would not happen without this project. We have also involved St Andrew's Ambulance Services and Barnardo's.

RENFREWSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

Youth Services in Renfrewshire delivered a flexible programme of indoor and outdoor activity sessions. These were negotiated with partners and several different clusters of young people that were referred to the group. The programme consists of personal and social development, underpinned by mental health and wellbeing, with an element of planning social action with the young people. This led to two groups becoming the focus of this programme: a group of primary sevens (P7s) moving into secondary school and a group of secondary four (S4) pupils getting ready to leave school.

“The partnership funding allowed Youth Services staff in Renfrewshire to have the time to meet and discuss the needs of the young people and to look at how we could negotiate and build a relevant programme. We wanted to design something that would engage the young people and sustain their interest. We took time to work out why some young people were feeling less confident and were anxious about missing out on their formal education because of the lockdown. It allowed us to purchase resources that were relevant and engaging for young people to make a difference for them and their communities. It strengthened partnerships and partners could see the positive impact this learning had on their young people, and it was able to engage more vulnerable young people who would perhaps not get involved in this type of learning in a formal education setting. We were able to work with smaller groups of young people. But keeping membership open meant that partners could refer to us at any time. This became a useful way to respond to issues as they arose.”

The project reach is broken down as follows:

Renfrewshire	Total	Average	Max	%
Number of young people engaged	57	19	25	100%
How many identify as male	24	8	14	42%
How many identify as female	33	11	11	58%
How many identify as LGBTQ+	0	0	0	0%
How many live in SIMD priority areas 1 & 2 (20% most deprived)	55	18	25	96%
How many are/have/are at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour or crime	13	4	8	23%

Below is an overview of ways that the funding has achieved some of the objectives of the partnership approach.

ENGAGES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

All young people were referred for having levels of vulnerability that put them at risk of antisocial or criminal behaviour. Primary seven pupils joined the programme to reduce isolation and increase positive attitude and good mental health as a result of being care experienced or extremely vulnerable. S4 pupils were identified as at risk of antisocial behaviour both in and out of school.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Group members were involved in building their confidence through large and small group work activities. They built self-esteem and engaged in mental health and well-being activities. Activities such as drama workshops were organised to bring out young people's undiscovered strengths such as being able to talk or perform in front of others and overcome fears of anxiety. Young people that were previously shy and self-conscious participated well in the activities and began to open-up. Key to this was giving participants an active role in negotiating what was included in the programme. S4s have continued to cook, do arts and crafts and work on treating each other (E.g. doing gel nails) to feel better about themselves and to respect other people's feelings. Young people have now built enough confidence and skills to shop on a budget and prepare and cook a meal for nine others. They invited four of their teachers to come along to the youth drop-in and take part in the meal. This raised the self-esteem of the young people who felt valued and were able to build positive relations with their teachers and peers in ways that is different from regular classroom activities. Another activity was to prepare hygiene gift packs for other young people who are in supported accommodation. This raised awareness of what it is like for people in this situation, addressing some of the prejudice and stigma of homelessness.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

The S4 group experienced a new member joining the group after initial relationships were formed. Existing group members were able to consider the new person's perspective. They adjusted their behaviours, made them welcome and were able to show care and compassion to a point where they all now get on well. One young person who had previously been offered a free gym membership and did not attend now attends regularly both in her own time and along with the others.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN VOLUNTEERING OR CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY

One young person who was feeling bullied at school has taken part in activities to complete Saltire Award as an alternative to school. This young person was supported with wider achievement and carried out college preparation. For their college interview, a colleague went along to the interview with her to give moral support. She has since received a full-time place at college to get a Certificate of Work Readiness. Another young person continued volunteering on this course with P7's as the experience is helping her build the skills required to go towards her career prospects in social care. An S4 that was struggling with confidence and self-esteem issues has periodically volunteered in another part of the project – working with the P7s to gain more confidence talking in large groups and to help build her self-esteem alongside the trusted adults that they are now confident to work alongside.

YOUNG PEOPLE GAIN ACCREDITATION OR RECOGNITION

P7s gained accreditation for two Hi5 awards - Hi5 Wider Achievement and Hi5 Climate Action. Other young people worked towards a Dynamic Youth Award and a Community Empowerment Award.

YOUNG PEOPLE MOVE ON TO A POSITIVE DESTINATION

Two of the S4s were accepted for part-time further education. However, they returned to the group as they found college too challenging. They are now receiving follow-up support to overcome their fears. Eight young people that were referred by Social Work moved on to further education earlier in the year. They have also participated in volunteering activities with Barnardo's. One discovery is that is not always linear. Two of the S4s moved on to F.E. part-time and continued with schooling, however, their experience did not go well. They have since returned to the group. A positive from this is that the partnership project was there to pick this up. Without it, the young people would be left to their own devices.

PARTNERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

The Partners are working together to support young people. The partnership with schools has strengthened and communication has improved. One example is that the schools got involved with Youth Services in a collaborative enquiry arranged through YouthLink Scotland and Education Scotland. This promoted the work and profile of the project both locally and regionally. Partnership with Social Work Throughcare has been maintained. As a result, young people now receive easier access to the benefits and rewards that they are entitled to (which can be removed as sanctions or may be options that individuals do not know about).

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

West Dunbartonshire Youth Learning Team have continued to develop and deliver youth work provision for young people living in West Dunbartonshire. The initial plan was to identify groups of young people and develop a 12–16-week group work programme, which was not possible due to the lockdown. However, a large-scale street work programme was embarked upon as part of maintaining as much support for young people as possible during a difficult time. It highlighted some reductions in young people being present outdoors in the usual areas they were known to congregate. What arose through dialogue was a real need for weekend activity as an alternative to involvement in anti-social behaviour and substance use, particularly on a Friday evening. Although the team were keen to respond, they encountered difficulties recruiting into vacant posts. Recruiting part-time detached personnel appears to be difficult at the moment for the whole sector and led to further changes in plans. The focus moved to provide detached sessions in identified hotspot areas to provide advice, information and signposting advice to young people. A QR Code was created that links to the [Youth Learning Team’s padlet](#) which contains a variety of support and services available both locally and nationally. A Friday night provision was also established within the Vale of Leven area with a particular focus on Bonhill, Balloch and Dumbarton East. It continued to attract high numbers of young people. A connection was formed with the West Dunbartonshire Leisure Trust to facilitate these sessions. For example, the Friday evening session during Q3 had an average attendance rate of 47 young people each week. The fall during the fourth quarter is attributed to the winter months as the weather changes and the darker nights come in. Young people taking part can get involved in sports, arts and issue-based workshops as an alternative to involvement in drugs and alcohol and anti-social behaviour. The detached team have also supported engagement on the street for the West Dunbartonshire Youth Council which has undertaken a youth survey ‘What’s Your Take’ identifying key thematic issues that young people wish the service to focus priority on over the coming years. Detached staff covered evenings and weekends and seek out those young people not engaged in formal education and or other youth work provision. The identified thematic themes arising from the survey were; 1) Environmental Issues; 2) Drugs and Alcohol; 3) LGBTQI+; 4) Youth Rights.

“Friday night activities and detached work ensure that there is an alternative to antisocial or other risky behaviour. The funding received from Cashback for Communities has been pivotal to engaging with those young people not engaged in regular services. Reaching them on their terms and their territory breaks down barriers to engagement.”

The project reach is broken down into the following categories:

West Dunbartonshire	Total	Average	Max	%
Number of young people engaged	875	292	382	100%
How many identify as male	767	256	324	29%
How many identify as female	108	36	58	5%
How many identify as LGBTQ+	0	0	0	0%
How many live in SIMD priority areas 1 & 2 (20% most deprived)	651	217	291	26%
How many are/have/are at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour or crime	494	165	291	26%

Below is an overview of ways that the funding has achieved some of the objectives of the partnership approach.

ENGAGES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

Outreach takes place in identified hotspot areas (either through mapping sessions or local intelligence shared at the local ASB Task Group). It targets those young people least likely to engage in traditional youth services or other sports clubs and alternative activities.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Young people attending Friday night provision try their hand at activities that are new to them or build further skills in activities they have tried before. They also take part in issue-based sessions where they discuss issues affecting them and their peers. The team also can refer young people to other support services which are available in the area. They are unlikely to know about these services without adults identifying the issues and signposting them appropriately. Connections are also made with three full-time youth work staff based within the Vale of Leven academy where many young people are engaged in alternative curriculum offered within the school. The partnership investment means they now have in-school and out-of-school support.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

Young people are engaged through detached work, which goes out into communities and meets young people in their territory and on their terms. This builds up a bank of information and a map of where young people are. At the same time young people that may have prejudices and barriers to engaging with mainstream services, have a good adult that they feel they can trust. This becomes important in breaking down barriers in the longer term. Activities such as the Friday night sessions mean that when all other facilities are usually closed to young people, there is now a space where young people can go where they can socialise and pursue their interests.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN VOLUNTEERING OR CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY

This aspect has not yet developed, however, if the project was to continue (subject to funding) it will be a natural progression for young people that have been taking part.

YOUNG PEOPLE GAIN ACCREDITATION OR RECOGNITION

Some young people are doing this through their alternative education courses in school.

YOUNG PEOPLE MOVE ON TO A POSITIVE DESTINATION

This tends to happen through referral to wider programmes on offer in each area.

PARTNERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

A partnership exists between Police Scotland, Anti-Social Behaviour Taskforce, Youth Alliance and HSCP (Health and Social Care Partnership) to determine the areas to target (hot spots) and young people likely to require additional support. The Friday night diversionary programme is delivered in partnership with the West Dunbartonshire Leisure Trust.

NORTH AYRSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

The North Ayrshire partners ran two programmes. One is a diversionary programme from a venue in Kilwinning town centre. This was to reduce the numbers of Anti-social behaviour and give young people a safe place to be on a Friday evening. On offer was a range of activities including retro gaming, soft archery, and street soccer amongst others. It provides a safe place for young people on an informal social level or beyond. Workers skilfully engage young people in dialogue around alcohol and drugs, highlighting the dangers without the dogma that would turn young people off.

On the North Ayrshire Coast is another programme that focuses on citizenship skills, employability and skills, exploring and understanding how to cope with stress and anxiety whilst learning healthy coping mechanisms and sexual health.

“Kilwinning: Being visible in the town and being able to offer activities to young people being reported for anti-social behaviour not only reduces anti-social behaviour but offers an important space that would not normally exist. Young people were in conversations with the police helping to build a rapport with the local officers showing the young people that they are there to help them and there is no need to run away.

North Ayrshire Coast: Young people have gained a new ability to reflect on how their behaviour affects them, their local community and their school-career pathways. Young people have increased their school attendance. The risk of these young people becoming categorised as NEET has reduced significantly and they have a clearer vision of how to live a more positive future.”

The project reach is broken down into the following categories:

North Ayrshire	Total	Average	Max	%
Number of young people engaged	811	811	811	100%
How many identify as male	299	299	299	37%
How many identify as female	459	459	459	57%
How many identify as LGBTQ+	60	60	60	7%
How many live in SIMD priority areas 1 & 2 (20% most deprived)	558	558	558	69%
How many are/have/are at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour or crime	811	811	811	100%

Below is an overview of ways that the funding has achieved some of the objectives of the partnership approach.

ENGAGES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

The young people engaged with Police Scotland officers, building a rapport with the police who demonstrated that they are there to help young people and can be a source of support. All young people engaged well with the sessions and began to explore their behaviour concerning how it affects their community and their school career. The youth work staff have managed to interact with young people that were not being reached. For instance, those involved in underage drinking or causing a nuisance in the neighbourhood. Young people are now involved in alternative and positive services provided by the youth work team.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Once engaged, young people take part in issue-based discussions on topics that matter to them. Sexual health was one topic that came up. Alcohol and drug use/misuse was also a common theme. A range of tools is used to make dialogue interesting and relevant to the young people affected.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

Feedback tells us that young people have enjoyed the youth work engagement. Engagement is non-judgemental and listens to the young people. Young people are given access to activities in their local area. Sessions at Kilwinning in particular, take part at a time when most other services are closed to young people.

YOUNG PEOPLE GAIN ACCREDITATION OR RECOGNITION

All 6 young people on the North Ayrshire Coast group have worked through their Hi-5 award which will be completed before the end of the session. They have also achieved their bronze Velotech award.

PARTNERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

Partners such as Education, Police Scotland, Social Work, and the local Employability team are working together to achieve the intended outcomes. KA Leisure has also contributed to the delivery of this project.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

One group ran in Troon & Prestwick locality on Tuesdays and Thursdays over a full day, with each session being split into a morning session involving drink awareness, peer drug worker-life experiences and social media awareness. In the afternoon young people engaged in different activity sessions. The Carrick area focused on outdoor activities with weekly engagement from the young people. Detached work was carried out in Ayr to engage with young people who may not be at school. The work responds to reports of increases in antisocial behaviour which tends to rise on Friday and Saturday evenings. Activity sessions were also provided in schools, some led by the South Ayrshire Council Thriving Communities team, and some by Adventure Centre for Education. There has been a family engagement session, relating to concerns highlighted by the school. This will inform further engagement beyond the period of the funded project. There was also a residential weekend for those who have engaged successfully as a reward for engagement. This could only take place due to the trust between partners and young people involved that the group were ready for such an engagement.

***“We have been engaging with a targeted group of young people regularly both within and outwith the school. There are increases in those regularly attending school. Detached youth has developed good relationships with the young people in the area that can then be built upon within the school to help address any antisocial behaviour and move them on to positive destinations.*”**

The project reach is broken down as follows:

South Ayrshire	Total	Average	Max	%
Number of young people engaged	79	79	79	100%
How many identify as male	69	69	69	87%
How many identify as female	10	10	10	13%
How many identify as LGBTQ+	1	1	1	1%
How many live in SIMD priority areas 1 & 2 (20% most deprived)	74	74	74	94%
How many are/have/are at risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour or crime	63	63	63	80%

Below is an overview of ways that the funding has achieved some of the objectives of the partnership approach.

ENGAGE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK

The funding has helped build positive relationships through longer-term work, with a small targeted group at the most risk of engaging in antisocial behaviour and crime. Links have been created through detached youthwork and working with campus police officers between behaviour in communities and how we input and deliver messages through schools. The project has allowed us to work in a targeted way, with consent and buy-in from schools. Linking detached youth work back through school programmes allows for the earliest intervention and focussed longer-term work.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Young people have shaped the programme according to issues they are experiencing personally, at school, or when out and about in the community. These concerns have influenced progress made on their personal development

plans. Being able to work with young people during term time, and on a platform that young people want to engage in, has made a difference in the outcomes achieved.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A POSITIVE YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCE

The young people engaging have fed back very positively to schools, youth workers and families about their experience of this project. Attendance amongst young people engaging has risen, this would indicate the benefits for participants. Having a say over what activities are engaged in and how the project evolves, gives young people a bigger stake in the project and their commitment. Feedback indicates that it is the variety of activities that young people have appreciated most. All have stayed with the programme because of this.

YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN VOLUNTEERING OR CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY

Young people have engaged in positive environmental work such as litter picking and beach clean clean-up. Organisers are exploring the potential for an intergenerational project in partnership with a local sheltered housing complex.

YOUNG PEOPLE GAIN ACCREDITATION OR RECOGNITION

Some have completed a Hi5 award and are looking to enrol on DofE as they enter S3.

YOUNG PEOPLE MOVE ON TO A POSITIVE DESTINATION

Late starts due to Covid meant that the project is not far enough on to be able to know what destinations will be reached when participants leave school. It is hoped that the aims of this project will continue in some form. Whatever happens, young people are discussing their ambitions within the group and now know who to approach to get the support they need. As the funding will not be continued, the organisers need to pursue alternatives.

PARTNERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE

Community Safety, CLD, Thriving Communities, Health and Wellbeing Team, Schools, ACE-Adventure Centre for Education (third sector), Girvan Community Garden and Police Scotland have all been involved in making the project a reality.



SUMMARY

This purpose of the three year pilot programme was to:

To determine whether more secure and longer-term funding of a project/programme supports CashBack for Communities outcomes. To determine a more strategic local-level approach to the use of funds, that supports CashBack for Communities outcomes.

The circumstances around the pandemic made it difficult for these projects to get off the ground, taking more than two years to become fully active. Projects adapted to make the most of the circumstances they found themselves in.

Each authority area took a different approach highlighting the diverse ways that youth work is achieved. For example, Dundee worked with 13 young people over three years, which made sure that their work was tailored to a few individuals that were at risk of engaging in antisocial or criminal behaviour. The participants have therefore benefited from intensive support and seen marked changes in their behaviour and achieved positive personal results such as remaining or returning to school, moving into employment, or taking up training or a college place.

West Dunbartonshire connected with a total of 828 individuals, thanks in large part to their outreach program during the pandemic, where they provided information and resources to young people on the streets. Listening to young people and mapping their patterns and concerns helped create a Friday night programme in priority areas during the final year of this round. Whilst the reach has decreased to almost 400 young people, this change was intentional and responsive to their findings. Inverclyde also shifted from earlier detached work to center-based work in the later phase.

North and South Ayrshire adapted to the disparities which emerged in two localities. One area benefited from outreach while another was engaged in issue-based group work. Glasgow's work was directed in two areas suffering from high levels of antisocial behaviour, with each locality and school experiencing the same intervention programme. Renfrewshire decided to focus on different transitional phases of moving into secondary school and moving out of secondary school, as the premise of their indoor and outdoor activity programme.

It is evident from these examples that a three-year funding period facilitates a more responsive approach. By starting with outreach efforts and then tailoring programmes based on the results of interactions with young people, partners have realised significant benefits. This surpasses situations where partners can only offer ongoing programmes to existing participants or provide one-off activities that cannot be built upon, tailored, or adjusted to suit.

A key learning point is that rather determining a more strategic local-level approach to the use of funds; the three-year fund resourced partners to employ their workforces in reaching out and finding out where young people are, discovering what they need and designing interventions that address local contexts and issues faced. Given the context of the pandemic, the additional funds gave local teams and their partners an opportunity to respond to what was evolving during that time. The pattern is echoed in the targeting with 73% of participants belonging to SIMD priority areas 1&2 in year three (the main priority for the fund) along with 78% of participants being at risk of engaging in antisocial or offending behaviour. Significantly almost half (47%) of participants at risk, report that their participation in antisocial or criminal behaviour has reduced since taking part in the project, whilst more than half (54%) feel less inclined to participate in antisocial or criminal behaviour.

APPENDIX A

Cumulative Figures for the Partnership Pilot Projects 2020 to 2023

	Total	Average	%	Range
Number of young people engaged	6208	2159	100%	3241
How many identify as male	2416	760	39%	898
How many identify as female	1663	556	27%	753
How many identify as LGBTQ+	89	26	1%	72
How many live in SIMD priority areas 1 & 2 (20% most deprived)	3419	1117	55%	1245
How many are at risk of engaging in antisocial or criminal behaviour	2317	699	37%	1136
How many young people have achieved each outcome during this quarter				
Increased confidence	1858	591	30%	986
Able to do new things	1492	501	24%	933
Feel more resilient	1570	486	25%	836
Demonstrate increased skills	1443	484	23%	864
Gained accreditation for learning and/or skills	151	49	2%	81
Report increases in wellbeing against SHANARRI	1340	423	22%	913
Have achieved a positive destination	239	79	4%	175
Will remain at or return to school	1968	586	32%	1393
Are taking a course of further or higher education	80	30	1%	44
Have engaged in an Activity Agreement	65	20	1%	57
Are participating in another learning or training activity run by a third sector provider	343	101	6%	289
Have improved attendance (in learning/training etc)	623	178	10%	495
Have improved school attainment	489	149	8%	338
Report that their participation in antisocial or criminal behaviour has reduced	941	318	15%	620
Feel less inclined to participate in anti-social or criminal behaviour	1519	496	66%*	685
How many participants have achieved each of the following				
Saltire Award	22	9	0%	15
Youth Achievement Award	9	3	0%	7
Duke of Edinburgh Award	29	12	0%	25
Other Award	162	55	3%	83

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APPENDIX B

This appendix contains four case-studies from organisations that benefited from the Youth Work Fund in year three:

Case study 1.	
Organisation	Tayside Council on Alcohol
Area	Dundee
Award	£3,280
Project	Positive Connections Group

“All eight young women were previously involved in anti-social behaviour and referred to the group by police and social work. Attending the group encouraged them to engage positively in their local communities”

(Youth worker, Positive Connections Group, Tayside Council on Alcohol)

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“The sessions were like therapy. It helped me drink less alcohol and I stopped smoking weed. It also gave me a reason to just leave the house at the start. I built my confidence and I made new friends. I now go to college and I am studying art. The group helped me get the confidence to even think about applying for this course. I’ve not been in any fights for months and not got in any trouble”

(Young person, Positive Connections Group, Tayside on Alcohol)

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

“The 16+ Group targeted young women aged 16 to 21 across Angus whom were experiencing disadvantage to some extent; impacted by parental substance misuse, engaging in substance use, recently left kinship/foster care, disengaged or had left school/education, at risk of/engaging in offending behaviour. The group ran weekly for 2 hours a week over a 6-month period and consisted of issue-based content guided by the young women's needs as articulated by individuals and referral information. The group placed strong emphasis on building trusting relationships between the project, the participants themselves and the wider community as a whole. The group facilitators encouraged all members to be involved in the planning of the sessions to ensure they had a genuine interest in attending and to ensure the sessions met the needs of all those attending. The project was so well attended throughout the six months by all group members”.

OUTCOMES:

“There was an emphasis on developing four differently themed sessions each month: an issues-based session, a community-based session, a volunteering focused session and a session **focusing on developing new skills and trying new experiences**. This variety of sessions each month allowed the group members to hear **about support services in their area that targeted the issues they were experiencing** such as mental health, sexual health, drug and alcohol awareness and positive wellbeing, but also to explore what is available within their local community in relation to **training, further education, skills development, volunteering and employment** and also ensuring there

were fun sessions that encouraged the young women to **try new things, develop skills and learn new skills**. An emphasis on ensuring there was variation each week, month to month, I believe helped maintain continual engagement from the young women as each session was different, ensuring all interests were covered but also helped **development in multiple areas, such as self-esteem, self-confidence, socialising skills and developing new skills but also new coping mechanisms in new environments**. The evidence to backed this up, in that of the eight young women that attended this programme, **three applied for and were accepted to full or part time college courses, three signed up and participated in the “Opportunities for All” programme to help develop the skills to get back into education and or employment. One of the group members re-engaged in school, and actually made the decision to stay on until 6th year. All eight young women participated in various volunteering opportunities throughout Angus** such as helping on a local trust farm, picking up litter, handing out information leaflets, **four of the members signed up to take part in volunteering with Voluntary Action Angus in their own time**. All eight young women were previously involved in anti-social behaviour that had led to police and social work involvement leading to their referral to this group.

Case study 2	
Organisation	Citadel
Area	Edinburgh, Leith
Award	£7,900
Project	Citadel Boyz Tok

“This year none of the boys received any charges and a number of them actively avoided engaging in anti-social behaviour in the community. The relationship we developed with the members of the boys’ group has proved to be very positive. Their trust in us as an organization with staff who they are able to go to for support and at times guidance has remained beyond the lifespan of the group.”

(Youth worker, Citadel Boyz Tok)

“This project has helped me get into college full time and taught me a lot of skills like cooking and mechanics. It has kept me out of trouble. I got to do a driving experience and they put me on courses that will help my CV. I would probably be in secure if it wasn't for Claire.”

(Young person, Citadel Boyz Tok)

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The awarded funded a project called “Boyz Tok”. Youth workers at The Citadel worked with two groups of young men (aged 14-19) identified as being engaged in risk-taking behaviour and low-level crime within the community. The group work with the older age group (17-19) focused on moving into further education, employment or training and developing life skills. This involved workshops around money management, cooking, life skills, housing, CV building, drug and alcohol misuse and risk-taking behaviour. The group also visited colleges to allow the young people to experience that environment and the group also invited employers to visit and discuss different career options. The group work with the younger age group (15-15) took a more structured approach with focused topics agreed for each session. Topics included: anger management, drug and alcohol misuse, vaping, consent and coercion, sexual health, discrimination, assessing risk/risk taking behaviours and goal setting.

OUTCOMES:

“This funding allowed the Citadel to provide a group for these young males to explore issues and topics in a non-judgmental space. It has allowed us to carry out small group work which has in turn gave us the opportunity to work closely with the young people to achieve their individual future goals. Several the boys have now **moved onto positive destinations**. Four of the boys are now in full- time education at Edinburgh college and one young person is now in **full - time employment**. The young people have also developed over the last year in terms of their maturity and there has been a resulting **reduction in offending**. We worked very closely with the boys on the build up to Guy Fawkes Night and on November 5th itself; in previous years they had been involved in offending within the

community. This year **none of the boys received any charges** and several of them **actively avoided engaging in anti-social behaviour in the community**. The relationship we developed with the members of the boys' group has proved to be very positive. Their trust in us as an organization and their relationship with staff, who they can go to for support and at times guidance, has remained beyond the lifespan of the group.

Case study 3

Organisation

Possibilities for Each and Every Kid (PEEK)

Area

Glasgow, North East, Bridgeton, Barrowfield and Calton

Award

£3,370

Project

Youth Community Council

“The perceptions of young people in the local community prior to this project had been fairly negative, with them widely seen as hanging around and causing trouble. The project has allowed the local community to see that young people are as invested in their areas as they are”

(Youth worker, PEEK, Youth Community Council)

“This project has really helped me build confidence because I’ve learned how to talk to people I wouldn’t normally and start conversations and share my opinions. It’s also helped me achieve more literacy skills which I didn’t expect because we had to keep track of the things we discussed and given me the chance to hear what other people think and how that affects me or how we can work together. I really enjoyed speaking with young kids in communities and when I turn 14 I have decided I will be applying to become an official PEEK volunteer and start working with children.”

(Young person, PEEK, Youth Community Council)

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

“The Youth Community Council brought together young people from three communities in the east end of Glasgow who **were engaging in anti-social and risk-taking behaviour**. These young people had previously engaged with PEEK’s youth team via outreach work in their communities and had shared with youth workers that they felt there was a lack of opportunities for them in their local communities which was leading to them engaging in risky behaviours. The young people had also approached numerous services looking to improve their areas and had found that their concerns were not being listened to. **The youth community council project aimed to bring these young people together to create positive and impactful dialogue, and to amplify the voices of young people who felt they were not being listened to.** Sessions took place weekly and looked at different skills and qualities such as leadership, communication, and teamwork to give the young people the skills they needed to present their concerns at community council meetings. The sessions also included community walkarounds, where young people observed and took notes of positive parts of their communities, and areas for improvement that they would like to raise. **The young people also spent time examining their own values and issues that were important to them as individuals** to better understand themselves and what their objectives for the sessions would be.

Outcomes:

“The project provided a platform for young people to have their voices heard within their communities. Young people involved in the project had previously had fairly negative experiences of attempting to bring issues to services in their local areas. **The project allowed young people to express their concerns about their communities in a safe environment** where their opinions were given a platform, and **allowed young people to discuss issues that were important to them and explore their values**. The young people reported feeling more confident to express their views in a group situation as a result of the project and felt they had gained the skills to prepare and **to present their ideas at local community council meetings** when the next opportunity arises. **The perceptions of young people in the local community prior to this project had been negative, with them widely seen as hanging around and causing trouble. The project has allowed the local community to see that young people are as invested in their areas as they are**, and in future we will hopefully see a more multi-generational collaborative approach to community improvements. **One local community member said - "I see them all hanging around and causing trouble, but it's actually because they don't have anything to do so we need to listen to them more."**

Case study 4	
Organisation	Community Renewal Trust
Area	Glasgow, Govanhill
Award	£5,700
Project	Govanhill Roma Youth Project

“This grant showed that a small amount of money can make a huge difference in a youth project. It enabled us to offer young people we had known for a long time, and who we knew were struggling, time and space to get support and learn new skills. Us accepting young people that have been rejected, from school, family, and from public spaces, has helped young people develop confidence and self-worth.”

(Youth worker, Community Renewal Trust, Govanhill Roma Youth Project)

“Being able to relax and chill with friends has been good. We had the chance to talk about difficult things. Sometimes talking about being a man felt weird. We were filming for sex ed and talked about homophobia and domestic abuse and porn.”

(Young person, Community Renewal Trust, Govanhill Roma Youth Project)

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

“‘Nevo Drom’ has been an exciting and challenging project, enabling us to build positive relationships with Roma young people engaging in risky behaviours’, crime and gang culture. Five of the young people (that we know of) have been directly involved with the Police and Social Services, and all 20 were vulnerable within risky situations involving either anti-social behaviour, cannabis misuse, knife crime, gang culture, drug running, or sexual exploitation. The project was designed by young people. The initial proposal, crafted by some of the boys, involved rap but developed into four sub-projects. The first of these was a music project built around the “drill” genre of music that the young people are engaged with. The genre itself has a history and aesthetic connected with knife crime and gang culture, which youth workers utilised to begin a discussion around these issues using storytelling and character development through lyric writing to begin to explore the motivations behind these issues and begin to understand and challenge potential destructive pathways. This involved the young people in creative writing practice, studio-based recording practice and video production. This approach led to intense conversations with the boys, challenging for both them and workers, exploring violence, racism, sexism, homophobia and religion. The second mode of support we offered to young people was a regular Wednesday night boys’ group. The group formed out of a need for a caring comfortable discussion and hang out space throughout the winter. The group was structured around collective cooking practice, where the group could plan and cook together for the rest of the group and then have a talking/workshop space during communal eating. We aimed to connect discussion and expectations of being a man, violence and masculinity, with practices of cooking and caring with each other. Thirdly we facilitated a

daytime group for school excluded young people to come and learn about projects and plan their own. With the schools' permission, the group met three afternoons a week. The fourth project was the youth group, "Amaro Clubos" The group arose in response to the young people occupying the local libraries in the evening and creating tension with local authorities and police involvement. Alongside young workers, an organising group was formed to plan the club, develop the idea, maintain and clean the space, and invite other young people. The group was truly participant-led, with the young people taking responsibility for the project. As a result of young people's contact with the police on the streets, young members of different groups planned to meet local police and talk about being Roma and how they would like the police to treat them. We organised two sessions with the local community police who invited new recruits along to hear directly from young people.

OUTCOMES:

Nevo Drom has been vital in providing resources to create a project where young people who would not normally access available provision and support can gain positive recognition of their experiences, struggles and strengths. Working on their agendas and issues, where they chose to meet, has **offered young people positive adult contact without the authority and control dynamic of school. The community has seen young people with negative reputations engaged in positive occupation, and in some cases helping at community events. The project has built a network of young people who are more openly developing a language to think about and discuss their lives. The boys' group has allowed participants to see each other and understand a shared experience, with both its positive and negative aspects, whilst building a support network.** In relation to the music/lyric writing, the impact of having their lyrics heard and celebrated has allowed their artistic voices to be heard and celebrated to encourage positive self-esteem and positive image in the community. The mixture of 1:1 and group work helped create a structure where young people could build community whilst also feel safe to explore sensitive topics such as gang violence, drugs and their interpersonal relationships. **Young people's mental health and social relationships benefited from discussion and problem solving.** The boys group gave a group of marginalised young people a regular place to be, this regularity and care was felt in the wider community as it meant that the group could share with each other instead of occupying the streets. Being for Roma young people, meant the project was a space for them to talk about and share their experiences, history and culture. Staff's language skills meant young people with English as a second language, could feel comfortable and understood. Young people felt able to talk about the racism they experience, share their anger and hurt, and explore possible responses (like with the police).