



Edinburgh



£742,255

funding delivered
in 2024-25



1963

young people supported
in 2024-25

The following CashBack partners aim to support young people in Edinburgh in this funding period (2023-26):

- Access to Industry
- Action for Children
- Barnardo's Scotland
- Celtic FC Foundation
- Cyrenians
- Edinburgh Young Carers
- Impact Arts
- Ocean Youth Trust Scotland
- Police Service of Scotland
- Scottish Football Association
- Scottish Professional Football League Trust
- Scottish Rugby Union
- Strengthening Communities for Race Equality Scotland
- Venture Trust
- YDance (Scottish Youth Dance)
- Youth Scotland

Read on for project details and case studies. Visit the [Edinburgh](#) impact page on our website for a breakdown of project activities and spending by year.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

**CASH
BACK**
FOR COMMUNITIES

Partners supporting young people in Edinburgh



Edinburgh



Access to Industry

CashBack Passport provides skills-based employability training and one to one holistic support to young people aged 16-25 residing in HMP YOI Polmont and in communities across Scotland. Enables young people to gain skills regardless of length of sentence or nature of offence.



Action for Children

CashBack Positive Changes is a behavioural change, wellbeing, and inclusion service for young people aged 14-24 who are not engaged in school, currently offending, or perceived to be at risk of being involved in the justice system. Service includes 26 weeks of needs-led support.



Barnardo's Scotland

HEAD2WORK Through CashBack is an integrated personal development, health, and employability project for young people aged 14-21.



Celtic FC Foundation

CashBack Gateway to Opportunities is a bespoke wellbeing and personal development project. It engages young people aged 16-24 from a variety of backgrounds who are at risk of (re)offending or those living in the most deprived areas to progress to positive destinations.



Cyrenians

Keeping Families Together with CashBack works in partnership with Scotland's five secure centres, providing mediation and rights-based whole family support. **Key to Potential with CashBack** provides targeted outreach and careers advice for those who are not engaged in school.



Edinburgh Young Carers

CashBack for Brighter Futures for Young Carers is a holistic service for children and young people caring for a parent affected by alcohol/substance use. Each young carer has an individual development plan which may include mental health support, core skills development, and respite.



Impact Arts

CashBack to the Future provides young people in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities with opportunities to participate in fun, creative activities to support them to develop skills and improve their wellbeing. Includes visual arts, performance, and music-making.



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

On Board with CashBack is a programme aimed at changing the attitudes and behaviours of young people aged 12-25 most at risk of being involved in the justice system. Each young person participates in group work, outdoor education, and youth work aboard a 70ft yacht.



Police Service of Scotland

CashBack VOW Project provides intensive support to remove young people from the justice system and support them to positive destinations. **Turn Your Life Around with CashBack** peer mentors share lived experience and raise pupil awareness of consequences of negative behaviours.



Scottish Football Association

CashBack Achieving Goals uses the 'Power of Football' to provide routes to learn, build confidence and skills, volunteer, and gain qualifications. Includes tailored 'Football Champions' (P5-P7) and 'Football Leaders' (S3-S5) strands in areas of social deprivation to gain skills and leadership.



Scottish Professional Football League Trust

CashBack Off the Bench is a life skills programme for young people aged 16-25 building wellbeing, employability, and confidence. Participants supported to achieve SQA qualifications, volunteering and leadership awards.



Scottish Rugby Union

CashBack Schools of Rugby provides both curricular and extra-curricular rugby activities in deprived areas to support positive behaviours. **CashBack Community Rugby** provides behavioural change workshops for 16-25 year olds most at risk of involvement in the justice system.



Strengthening Communities for Race Equality Scotland

CashBack Youth X-change Project supports minority ethnic young people to improve learning and employment options, skills, and health and wellbeing. Includes focus on building relationships of trust with police, schools, and services.



Venture Trust

CashBack Green Futures is a trauma-informed, needs-led, employability service for disadvantaged young people. Provides community and one to one support, including developmental and environmental activities. Builds core skills through outdoor adventure activities.



YDance (Scottish Youth Dance)

CashBack on Track uses dance to nurture the development and wellbeing of young people aged 10-25. Strands include programmes for care experienced young people, community diversion, young offenders in HMP YOI Polmont, and young parents/carers and family members.



Youth Scotland

Generation CashBack is run with Scouts Scotland, Girlguiding Scotland, and the Boys' Brigade. The programme supports disadvantaged young people to benefit from community-based youth work through group work ('Grow') and leadership and peer mentoring ('Lead').

Case study: Rosie's story

Edinburgh Young Carers



Image: Edinburgh Young Carers

This case study discusses sensitive content including suicidal behaviour. Please practice self-care during and after reading.

Edinburgh Young Carers deliver Brighter Futures for Young Carers in Edinburgh, a holistic service for young people caring for a parent affected by substance use.

Before joining, Rosie (12) cared for mum who struggled with poor mental health and substance use. Losing a friend and separation from her dad led Rosie to attempt suicide.

Rosie enjoyed attending groups and slowly started to make new friends. She had a chance to try therapeutic horse-riding, and her first session was unforgettable. She truly connected with her horse and burst into happy tears, something she had not managed to do for years.

“I think this is the best thing that happened to her. [...] Her vulnerability is her wee bravery today – just amazing to see her truly emotionally connected and share like she has.”

Rosie's mum

Unfortunately, recently Rosie's mum relapsed and passed away. Strong communication between her school and all the professionals in Rosie's life have provided stability at a difficult time, and allowed her to continue horse riding.

She now volunteers at a local riding school despite her young age. The stable is Rosie's happy place. She lives with her dad and attends school regularly. Although she is no longer a young carer, she will continue to receive support until she is in a good place to move on.



Case study: P's story

Strengthening Communities for Race Equality Scotland (SCORE Scotland)

SCORE deliver CashBack Youth X-change in Edinburgh. It supports minority ethnic young people to improved learning and employment, skills, and health and wellbeing.

P, a 17-year-old from Uganda, moved to Scotland in December 2024 and initially struggled with isolation and adjusting to a new environment. He spent most of his time at home and had no local friends. His first step toward change came when he joined an open basketball session at Saughton Park, where he found a welcoming space that encouraged him to participate.

Over time, P began attending regular indoor basketball sessions at Edinburgh College. These sessions gave him structure, helped him build friendships, and boosted his confidence. Though still quiet, he became more engaged and resilient, showing a clear sense of belonging.



Image:Canva Pro

“I used to be at home all the time, but now I look forward to basketball. It helped me meet people and feel less alone.” – P

A youth worker noted his progress:

“He’s come a long way. From barely speaking to now being part of the group dynamic He’s quietly confident and always shows up ready to engage.”

P is now preparing to start college to study Software Development, a major step forward supported by the confidence and stability he gained through the Cashback basketball programme.

Case study: Leo's story

Police Service of Scotland

Police Scotland deliver CashBack VOW Project in Edinburgh with Aid & Abet. It provides intensive support to remove young people from the justice system and support them to positive destinations.

Leo is a care-experienced 23 year old man. He was in and out of prison since the age of 16 for offences including crimes of violence. The VOW team approached him in prison, and he spoke openly about his offending to finance his drug use and how desperately he wanted to change his life.

Leo wanted to **cease offending, stop using drugs and find employment**. He was interested in construction, and through CashBack partners Action for Children, Leo achieved a construction qualification in 3 months.

When he was fitted with an electronic tag, Leo found it difficult to cope. Over time, his peer mentor helped him to understand why this had happened, and that his behaviour has consequences.



Leo achieved the goals he set for himself, and improved his own and his family's quality of life.

“The VOW Project gave me hope and a positive role model.”

The construction qualification he gained helped him into work, and he stopped offending and using drugs. After feedback to the Parole Board on his progress and passing his drug test, Leo's tag was removed.

Leo is now a father and has secured employment. He is able to support his partner and their child at home.