

CASHBACK

HIGHLANDS



Annual Report 2021 - 2022

> PHASE 5, YEAR TWO

**Eden
Court**
HIGHLANDS



Contents

CONTENTS.....	2
OVERVIEW	3
YEAR 2 PROGRAMME SUMMARY	4
OUR PARTICIPANTS.....	5
OUR PEOPLE.....	6
OUR PARTNERS	8
OUR PRACTICE	9
CASE STUDIES	10
JC.....	10
MICHAEL	11
RC	12
NATHAN	13
PROJECT FOCUS.....	14
Open Studio	14
Next Steps: Under Canvas.....	15
Surge Street Theatre.....	16
Power Of Sound – Primary School Project.....	18
Queer Youth Arts Collective	19
EDEN COURT HIGHLANDS UPDATE 2021-22	20
YEAR 2 EVALUATION IN SHORT	22
Evaluation approach	22
Summary.....	22
Why does it work?	23
What next?.....	23
EVALUATION - THE IMPACT.....	24
YEAR 2 IN NUMBERS	26
Our Equalities Data	26
Project Spend	27
MOVING FORWARDS INTO YEAR 3	28

CashBack Highlands is Eden Court's flagship youth engagement programme for young people aged 12 –24; designed to empower young people to feel more confident, to learn new skills and increase their aspiration.

The programme is embedded in the Highlands, enabling the region's young people to develop their creative skills and contribute to the region as its next generation of cultural producers.

We work with a network of project partners who support young people and their families.

CashBack Highlands is part of CashBack for Communities; a unique Scottish Government programme which takes money seized from criminals under the proceeds of crime legislation and invests them in our future – our young people.



“Year 2 of CashBack Highlands delivery has brought as many challenges as we faced in our first year. We’ve adapted and re-shaped the programme to ensure we’re offering the very best to our participants and partners and as we’ve concluded the year, we’re really starting to feel momentum behind the work. Here’s to more in Year 3.”

Lucy McGlennon, Head of Engagement, Eden Court Highlands

> Year 2 Programme Summary

If we are to summarise Year 2 of CashBack Highlands in one word – I think that word would need to be “open”.

“Open” is one of our core organisational values at Eden Court, and one that has certainly defined 2021-22; as we moved out of a year when we couldn’t really be open, to a year where being open was more important than ever before.

Eden Court is a community hub, and we knew that our community members, audiences and participants had missed us – we were delighted to be opening our doors again!

Our CashBack Next Steps at Under Canvas programme was a huge success, and the summer holidays felt like we were off to the start we had wanted in 2020. We ran a street theatre project in Alness and Inverness as part of our Artists in Communities work. We employed two previous CashBack participants to support Under Canvas as a venue throughout July, August and September, as well as one further young person who joined the summer delivery team as a freelancer.

As we reached the autumn, we were starting to find our stride and regular Open Studio and Partner Referral sessions were underway with little interruption, and we were able to connect with the National Theatre of Scotland’s The Enemy; bringing a number of secondary school aged young people to the theatre for the first time in October.

In the sweet spot – before renewed restrictions on live performances were

brought in – we were able to hold 2 showcase events for our participants; a film showcase event in our cinema, and a live music showcase in our studio theatre space. Both events were well attended and really connected the participants to the building and the unique elements our programme can offer.

The ever-changing restrictions placed on live performance and school visits changed again towards the end of the year, and a number of elements of our work with schools had to be cancelled, including planned theatre trips and accompanying workshops in December and February. In short, the pandemic has continued to impact the work even as year 2 has concluded.

The latter half of the year saw us visiting schools regularly again as a further part of our Artists in Communities programme; with our Power of Sound project touring to a number of schools, and us connecting with Golspie High School on a 10-week residency, working with their S1-S3 pupils.

Amongst the successes this year, we worked with 549 young people, from communities across the Highlands but in particular, within Inverness, Alness and Golspie. We also worked with and engaged 28 artists and facilitators.

In this Annual Report we’ll chat about our second year of CashBack Highlands, share our successes and our learning for the future as well as some of the findings from our evaluation.



OUR PARTICIPANTS

We work with young people via referrals and open calls from across the Highlands.

We have a person-centred approach, focusing on the creative strengths of young people, often working 1:1 and in small groups in order to build lasting positive relationships.



We want our participants to feel at home within Eden Court and we pride ourselves on offering support to young people at various points in their lives fostering a long-term love of creativity and the arts!

Some of our participants have worked with us over the course of a number of years; demonstrating that the relationships we have with them are long term and meaningful and through taking part they want to do more with us.

This year we watched CashBack alumni further develop their skills, and move onto Qualification Courses at Eden Court, join our Youth Theatre, volunteer with us on events and festivals and some move into paid employment as freelancers supporting the delivery of CashBack, or into roles at Eden Court.



OUR PEOPLE

The CashBack Highlands team are a committed and skilled group of artists and facilitators who are dedicated to inspiring and motivating our participants. They encourage a love of creative working where confidence, resilience and wellbeing are at the core of all activities.

Our facilitators including award winning film-makers, djs, theatre makers, dancers, hip-hop artists, graffiti artists and producers.

This creative mix in expertise and skills allows us to bring music production, live performance, film, animation, photography, film making, poetry, script writing, editing, project management and live music mixing to our programme.

We've also partnered with a number of professional theatre companies and artists to deliver projects within the programme across the year.

"My main focus is that each young person is enjoying the sessions I run. I spend time building a good relationship and getting to know each young person. I find out things they are interested in and things that they enjoy doing and with this information I design and plan the sessions and a programme of activities." CashBack Facilitator

"My primary priority is inclusivity; to engage with the young people and make them feel comfortable and relaxed in sessions. I try to give them the confidence to express themselves both creatively and within the group environment. I feel that nurturing a healthy group dynamic ultimately leads to getting the best out of everyone." CashBack Facilitator

"The main developments I've seen have been in confidence and social skills which ultimately leads to a greater willingness and aptitude to express themselves. I've seen progress from all the participants at Open Studio and feel it has proven to be a healthy and productive space for creative and social growth." CashBack Facilitator



OUR PARTNERS

Across our programme we work with a number of partner agencies including; Who Cares? Scotland, Highland Council Placement Services Change Team, Enable Scotland, Findhorn Bay Arts, Connecting Young Carers, Highlife Highland's Youth Development Team and Moray Pathways.

Needs identified by our partners:

- Boosting young people's confidence to reengage with formal education
- Improving life skills for independent living (self-confidence, pro-social attitudes) Individualised learning plans and one to one support
- Strong relationships between out of school providers and schools

“Thank you for the continued partnership working for those who are care experienced and giving them opportunities to come together.”

Referral Partner

How needs are met by CashBack Highlands:

“CashBack truly makes the sessions fit for the young person. Not being too rigid gives freedom for expression and creativity but also gives space for them to be shy, anxious and unsure to start and not feel pressured.”

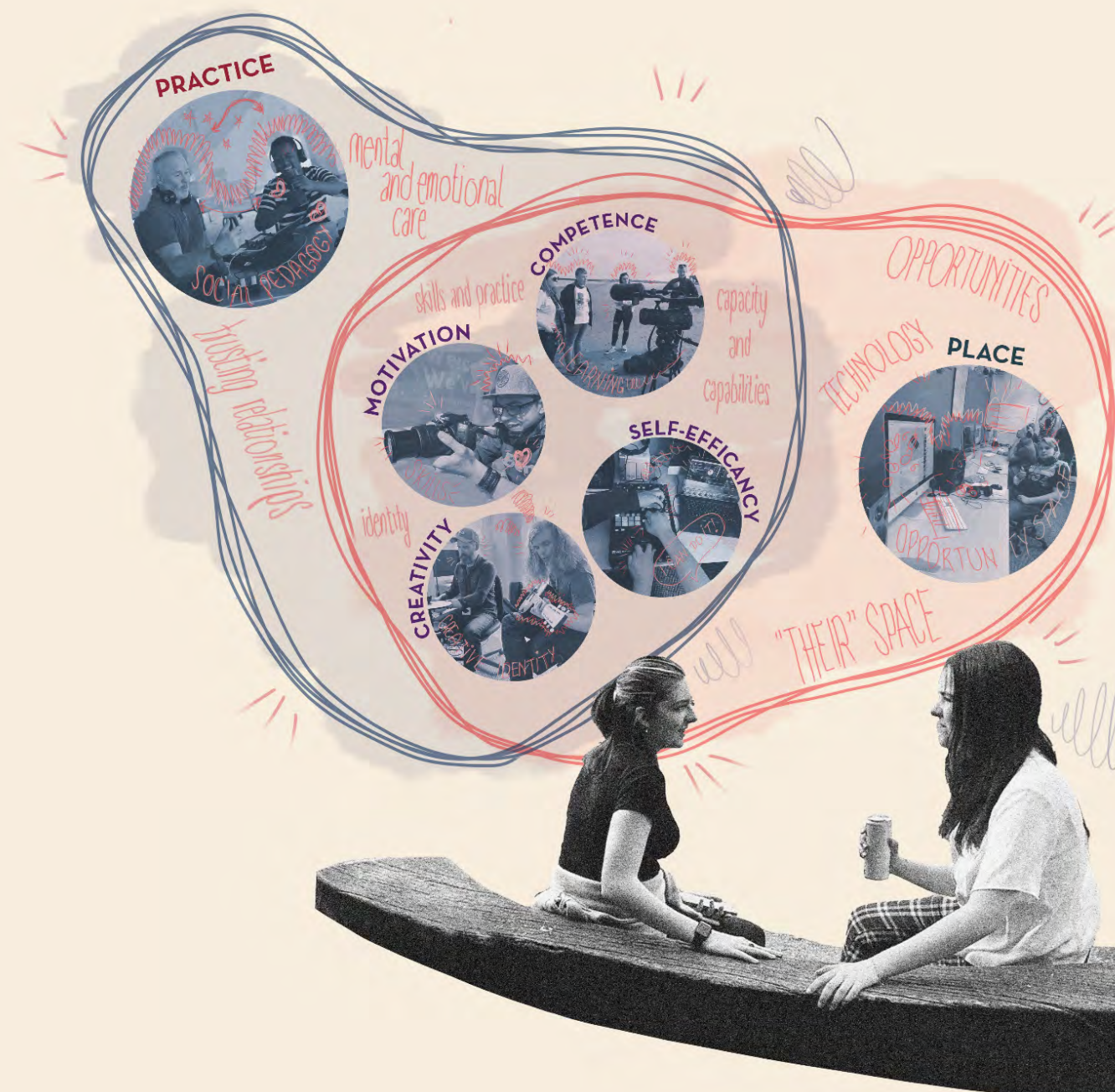
“Giving young people opportunities they wouldn't normally have. Raising aspirations and giving them a chance to have fun.”

“...We have seen the greatest change in individuals' confidence and belief in themselves. We have also had some grow their talents which was down to the motivation from the workers running the sessions.”

OUR PRACTICE

Positive outcomes for young people are supported by Eden Court through a number of related development processes. The practice draws on social pedagogy, putting young people at the centre of the work and making the learning environment more inclusive and exploratory. The place itself is very important given the unique spaces on offer and the ability of young people to feel at home there. Development of

competence, motivation, creativity, and self-efficacy are all connected and overlap - as young people gain skills they feel more able to do things, their creative ideas flourish, and they are motivated to learn more. This is especially important for those who may not be supported to develop like this in more formal education settings.



JC

JC lives in Moray, having moved to Scotland with his family five years ago from southern England. JC has an avid imagination, and has long been interested in history, historical computer games and film, and also enjoyed acting at school. JC has autism and ADHD, which can sometimes make it hard for him to focus on one thing at a time, though he is capable of thinking about things in great detail.

JC was referred to the CashBack Highlands program via Amy Souter, a personal assistant with Enable Scotland. JC has experience on film and TV shoots as a 'supporting artist'.

JC wanted to get involved to meet people and have fun.

"I was bored at home, I wanted to stop being lazy. I wanted to get acting, directing and editing experience. I have been making a film and also taking part in a film, I am focusing on film, editing and music." JC

"I have noticed his confidence grow in terms of meeting new people, interacting constructively on shared projects and also in facing the challenge of making the journey to and from Inverness alone."

Through this project, JC's understanding of the film making process has grown, by working with patient and engaging experts who offer their thoughts while allowing JC to make his own decisions about the works he is creating."

Amy Soutar, Personal Assistant, Enable Scotland

MICHAEL

Michael is 18 and lives in Inverness, he attended CashBack Highlands Next Steps in the summer of 2021 and then began to attend our Friday Open Studio sessions, but has been engaged in our CashBack programme previously too.

He was known to the Eden Court Engagement team as he had been previously attending various drama sessions at various stages since he was in Primary School. Michael was referred to the CashBack team as he had clear creative aspirations whilst needing further support to achieve his goals. He was hoping to build his confidence as he was initially very shy and didn't mix with many other young people in school and out.

"I am probably looking to gain more experience, working with cameras, it has helped me with sussing the media side of performing. It's been good to meet other people."

I have been working on a documentary around my drag persona (Queen Michelle), which I have been working on for a couple of months with Ross (Cashback Facilitator), I also did Under Canvas and worked on different films with other participants helping them in their films. I have also been attending QYAC (Eden Court's Queer Youth Arts Collective). I also did the Surge Theatre project, I was performing as a turtle at Eden Court interacting with public and customers over 3 days." Michael

RC

RC has attended our Next Steps Under Canvas summer sessions where she worked closely with one of our CashBack facilitators in developing her playing confidence. RC returned for further sessions with us and has continued on various progression pathways within Eden Court.

RC lives in the Highlands with her mum, for whom she is a Young Carer. She has limited opportunity to develop her own hobbies and interests, due to her caring role and the family situation

it has been difficult for her to make and maintain friendships.

RC is keen to continue working with the staff at Eden Court. She is considering teaching as a career and including her music interest as a second subject, and has recently applied to study Higher Drama.

[Link to one of RC's original music recordings from sessions at Eden Court Digi Room.](#)

[RC Half In Love / CashBack Highlands](#)

"RC joined the sessions at Eden Court in the summer. Initially she needed a great deal of support from me to access the activity but through providing reassurance and confidence in her ability she was able to develop working relationships with Eden Court staff and recorded her own songs. She continued to work on this in the October break and is now able to attend the weekly sessions without my support. She has collaborated with another young carer to produce another track and they will both be performing on stage at the Showcase event."

I have seen her confidence in her talent grow. She has developed friendship amongst her peers and good working relationships with professional staff that previously she would have struggled to cope with. She has continued to be more confident and contributing positively to groups away from the event."

AH Support Worker

"I've recorded two pieces of music. I feel like I have boosted my confidence and with meeting people and I've learned about making music."

RC

NATHAN

Nathan is 17 years old and from Forres. He is in part time education, but formal education settings are difficult for him. Nathan was a direct referral to the CashBack Highlands team by his parents. Nathan was becoming more and more isolated, struggling to meet people. His dad manages Moray Waste Busters so Nathan volunteers there working alongside his dad.

Nathan attended Under Canvas sessions in the summer (once a week for 4 weeks) for some taster sessions and become familiar with the building and

the people. Since then he has attended our weekly Open Studio sessions where he has begun to become a regular and popular member of the group.

Nathan was introduced to basic filming techniques and editing on final cut pro. He has been creating original music on Logic pro and has really enjoyed working with sound fx. He has been more than happy playing cameo roles or appearing in other people's film especially in a comedic way. Two of his short films featured in the CashBack Highlands screening at Inverness Film Festival in November.



"I have gained confidence, learned things I couldn't do before, socialising and interacting with people. These sessions have definitely helped with that. People are more friendly than I thought they were."

Nathan

"I worked very closely with Nathan to build up a good and strong relationship. We went out with a camera and filmed the Cathedral for his first project which turned into a very abstract and eerie short film. He then made a comedy film based on combat video games which was hilarious. He was so happy to hear everyone laughing and appreciating what he had made."

We all love working with Nathan and love his energy, enthusiasm and humour."

Dave Martin, CashBack facilitator



PROJECT FOCUS

OPEN STUDIO

Open Studio sessions are an opportunity for in depth learning and progression with young people referred to us via a wide range of project partners including Highland Councils' Placement Service Change Team, Children's Services, Connecting Young Carers, Who Cares Scotland and Enable Scotland.

Open Studio is based in our digital suite (or digi room as it is known by the young people), equipped with state-of-the-art digital filming and theatre kit for the participants to make use of. The artform focus is on photography, film making skills, editing, and music production.

We run Open Studio during the school terms; for 10-week blocks of sessions at Eden Court.

This year we were able to deliver 3 sessions every Friday allowing us to deliver high quality engagement activities for young people either out with mainstream education or who face barriers in participation.



PROJECT FOCUS

NEXT STEP: UNDER CANVAS

After a long period in lockdown and social distancing, a group of people were able to come together and hang out in a fantastic festival style tent at the front of Eden Court for the summer holidays.

The CashBack delivery team for this part of the programme helped to create a relaxed, open, fun and creative atmosphere for everyone involved, offering a number of creative opportunities and experiences over the course of 3 days each week.

Lots of ideas, lots of conversations, lots of laughing and the making of new friends.

We had a silent headphone disco, DJing, film making, music making, photography, dancing in the tent and in the Digi room. It felt amazing and the response from everyone was great. Everyone felt that it was a good, uplifting and confidence boosting experience and from that we had a lot of the participants who have re-joined us for CashBack sessions that will run throughout the year.

"Everyone was a little bit nervous to begin with but this soon changed and everyone got back into catching up, making new friends and getting their hands on equipment to make films and music together. The atmosphere every day was buzzing. It was just what we all needed after the previous 18 months."

CashBack Facilitator





PROJECT FOCUS

SURGE STREET THEATRE

We devised a six-day workshop program based in Alness and Inverness working alongside Surge; a professional street theatre company from Glasgow. The aim of the project was to offer young people the skills, experience and exciting opportunity to take part in a street theatre performance.

We identified young people from our CashBack program, as well as inviting some via call outs, to work with Surge and our team.

Over the three day course in each location; the young people were introduced to the characters they would play and shown their costumes, and spent time devising and developing the piece of street theatre that they would then take out to perform.

In Alness, a group of giant fish performed twice in the town centre for an unsuspecting public. We were also fortunate enough to have access to a swimming pool which made for some excellent fishy photographs.



The next three days were based in Inverness, where a new group of young people became giant sea turtles and performed twice in and around the River Ness and Eden Court.

These two performances were very well received by audiences and the young people who took part in them. What was most impressive was these young people are not professional performers and many lacked confidence and self-esteem. But they, and we, were so pleased and impressed with how they embraced and took on this challenge! Each day with the support of Surge and the Engagement team, the group grew in confidence and ability and proved to themselves they could and would do it.



Many of the young people who took part in our Surge workshops are now continuing to work with us through our CashBack program, learning more about theatre, music, performing and film. An opportunity they may not have thought about, before taking part in our street theatre sessions.

“Working with the Eden Court team this summer was superb. Our Young Carers were given the opportunity to meet up for fun and creative days, make new friends, learn new skills and get a break from their caring role. For some it was their first event since the pandemic began so really special for them.

Those who took part said it was really exciting getting to use the professional equipment for film and music sessions and it gave them the confidence to continue to explore this as an area they want to work in in the future.

The summer sessions were a great interactive and creative event for our Young Carers and we look forward to more work with the team!”

Barbara Brown - Young Carers Development Worker



PROJECT FOCUS

POWER OF SOUND Primary School Project

The Power of Sound was a new creative music project devised as part of our Artists in Communities are of the programme. We used the project as an opportunity to re-engage with schools across the region at the point that facilitators were allowed to visit schools again.

The project was predominantly delivered in primary schools, as during the period that restrictions were lifting, we found it easier to work in primaries than secondary schools.

The 6-week program aimed to bring young people together through the collective enjoyment of creating and playing music which culminates in the audio and video recording of a live session. Participants are given the freedom to explore sound with melodic and percussive instruments, voice and movement. By adding in lyrics to their pieces it allows the groups to steer the themes by exploring the fundamental link between language and music.

This holistic approach gave the young people a wide scope to find a connection with themselves, and each other, whilst contributing to the group dynamics.

As always, CashBack puts the onus on galvanising young people's confidence; giving them the means to nurture ideas and express themselves creatively.



Listen to what they've created during these sessions:
<https://soundcloud.com/user-557333404>

PROJECT FOCUS

QUEER YOUTH ARTS COLLECTIVE

The Queer Youth Arts Collective (QYAC) is an online creative space for queer and questioning young people to connect, create, and build community with people like them. QYAC, originally named the 'LGBTQIA+ Youth Arts Collective', was established in 2021 in response to analysing our participant data and discovering that we were working with a number of young people who identify as LGBTQIA+.

Seed funded by CashBack Highlands as a Partner Referral Block, QYAC has since become a core part of the engagement programme at Eden Court. Due to its high demand, the collective has grown significantly over the past year and has expanded to two groups running weekly.

The young people try all kinds of art forms – banner making, filmmaking, poetry, voguing and runway, drawing comics, and drama to name a few – with the support of two queer facilitators from the Engagement team.

When asked why they come to QYAC, participants said:

- To have fun in a safe environment and get away from the world.
- I like to have somewhere where I can enjoy being myself :)
- It's a place to be creative and chill out with people like me, It's always just a very safe and non- judgemental place.
- I come to QYAC because I like having other queer people my age to talk to about our shared experiences, especially because a lot of the stuff I see online is from an American/English perspective. I have LGBT friends in school but it's nice having other people to talk to.
- Because it's a safe space for me.
- To meet other queer people as I don't meet too many outside of my friend group.
- Meeting other queer young people, really cool stuff.
- Hanging with queer people, cause it's fun, safe place to be yourself.



EDEN COURT HIGHLANDS UPDATE 2021-22

Eden Court began 2021-22 in another period of closure owing to the winter lockdown that impacted the country. This meant that we started the financial year unsure of where we would end – financial projections were almost impossible to predict, and most of our workforce remained on furlough.

We existed in a stream of applying for any funding we were applicable for. Through the positive result of some of these applications, we received COVID Emergency Fund or Recovery grants and the picture began to look less bleak as we turned towards re-opening our cinemas and café, 5 days per week from the end of May.

Restrictions on theatrical performances remained in place over the summer months; which shifted our focus onto music programming and the return of our outdoor summer festival; Under Canvas. Without work in our indoor theatres we had capacity which enabled us to

take Under Canvas on tour for the first time, and enabled us to visit Highland communities in Tain, Wick, Ullapool, Kyleakin, Ballachulish and Strontian.

Eden Court's Engagement Team joined the Highland Council as a delivery partner on their extensive Get Into Summer funded "Summer of Hope" programme.

In July, it was announced that Chief Executive Officer, James Mackenzie Blackman would be standing down in November, to move to a job at Theatre Royal Plymouth. Shortly after the announcement, recruitment began for Eden Court's next CEO.

Across the year there were a number of additional changes to staffing at a senior level within the organisation, and after a significant period without a Head of Finance and Operations, we welcomed Valentin Aberici to offer much needed support and capacity as the business operation began to increase.

The autumn period remained steady and we returned to being open 7 days a week – whilst still feeling the impacts of the pandemic and of COVID, particularly in terms of staffing levels, due to self-isolation guidance, and performances being cancelled at short-notice.

Live theatre faced further restrictions between December 2021 and January 2022 interrupting much of the pantomime season; an unfortunate anti-climax for most venues who worked tirelessly to produce their pantomimes in very challenging circumstances.

The early part of 2022 saw low audience numbers across cinema and live performance; with cancellations making it challenging to inspire confidence in our audiences.

We reached the end of 2021, with our new CEO, Rebecca Holt in post, but with what looks like another challenging year ahead.





YEAR 2 EVALUATION IN SHORT

Evaluation approach

We use two main methods to explore Cashback outcomes. The first is a post-participation survey asking participants to reflect on their experience and how it has affected their learning and development. The survey deliberately asks participants to reflect on the development of their creative and practical skills and abilities, alongside indicators relating to psychosocial development aligned to the nature of the activity (i.e., self-efficacy, feeling supported, ideation, commitment and motivation to learning). We have survey responses from 47% of participants, a reliable sample representative of participants' experiences in this context.

Qualitative data comes from regular site visits including interviews with participants, practitioners and staff, and referral partners. Year 2 included visits in August, November and March, including three focus groups, 10 participant interviews, three referral partner interviews, two staff workshops and regular observation of sessions.

Summary

All six national outcomes for the Cashback for Communities programme have been successfully demonstrated in Year 2, in line with the expectations set out in the grant award letter. They are particularly strong for psychosocial outcomes (i.e.,

confidence, ability to do new things, resilience) and for education and wellbeing. Slightly lower scores were identified for community-level outcomes, but this may be due to how the concept of community is understood or experienced by participants. Eden Court provides a rich and rewarding community for participants, but this may be regarded as a positive exception to some other communities they are attached to (e.g., school, neighbourhoods).

Alongside the national outcomes Cashback Highlands has catalysed the 'Queer Youth Arts Collective', a new youth-led and self-sustaining forum engaging nearly 40 young people in discussion and action relating

to their cultural lives and opportunities. Initiatives like this, and the growing Cashback Highlands programme are helping to reframe the status of the young artist participants within Eden Court and across broader communities. Cashback Highlands continues to develop and operate a sophisticated model of practice enabling positive outcomes to be achieved with young people often with complex lives and needs.

Why does it work?

The Cashback Highlands model draws on social pedagogy – putting young people's voices at the centre of the work, adapting to individual abilities and needs, and providing a safe and supportive learning environment. Young people develop across four interrelated aspects: competence, creativity, motivation, and self-efficacy. They are supported to express themselves in whichever medium they like, collaborate with each other and with the practitioners, developing new positive identities and self-concepts in the process.

What next?

Year 3 brings the opportunity to target young people more directly involved in the youth justice system, to broker new relationships with schools and community organisations across the region, and to embed 'Cashback graduates' more formally in Eden Court's engagement activities. In doing so, the programme will continue to improve even more young people's lives and grow its reputation as a high-quality, thoughtful, and genuinely transformative model of practice.

OUTCOME 1

"Young people build their confidence and resilience, benefit from support networks and reduce risk taking behaviour."

81%

reported increased confidence

85%

reported that they were able to do new things

85%

reported that they had supportive networks

85%

reported that they felt more resilient

86%

reported that they had made a positive change in their behaviour

OUTCOME 2

"Young people develop their personal and physical skills."

84%

reported improved skills

OUTCOME 3

"Young people's health and wellbeing improves."

72%

reported improved wellbeing

OUTCOME 4

"Young people participate in activity which improves their learning, employability and employment options (positive destinations)."

84%

reported an improved attitude to education

83%

reported increased motivation to learn

OUTCOME 6

"Young people are diverted from criminal behaviour or involvement with the criminal justice system."

OUTCOME 5

"Young people contribute positively to their communities."

84%

reported an improved perception of their neighbourhood

70%

reported better links to their community

62%

reported that they wanted to make a difference to their community

62%

reported that they felt a stronger sense of belonging to their community

We don't ask young people directly about their criminal behaviour, but stakeholders report that Cashback Highlands is an essential diversion activity for some of the region's most vulnerable and at risk young people.

YEAR 2 IN NUMBERS

549
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WORKED WITH

239
NUMBER OF UNIQUE CREATIVE SESSIONS

28
ARTISTS DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME

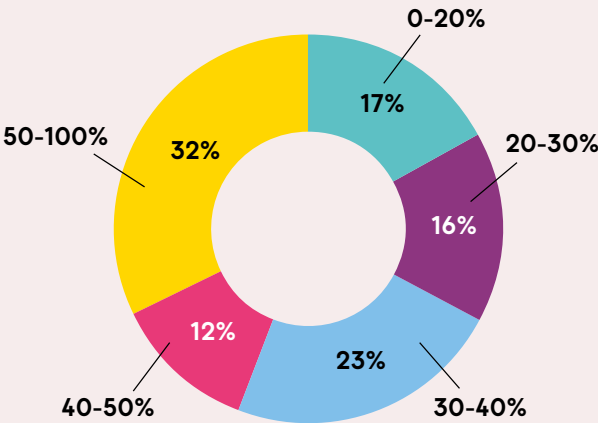
450
NUMBER OF AUDIENCE ENGAGING IN EVENTS

275
DAYS EDEN COURT WAS OPEN

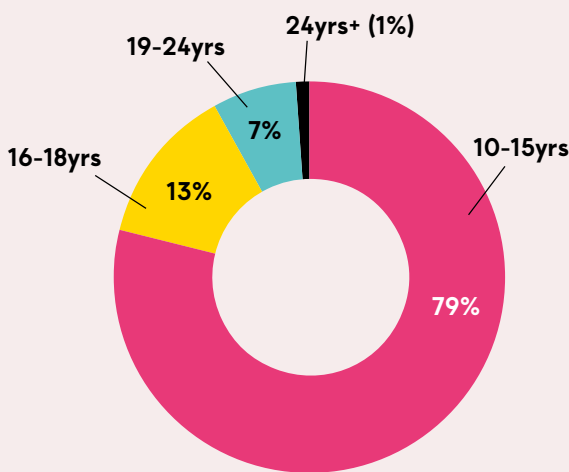
OVER 17%
OF OUR PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING ONE OR MORE DISABILITY

OVER 15%
OF OUR PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED AS BEING PART OF THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

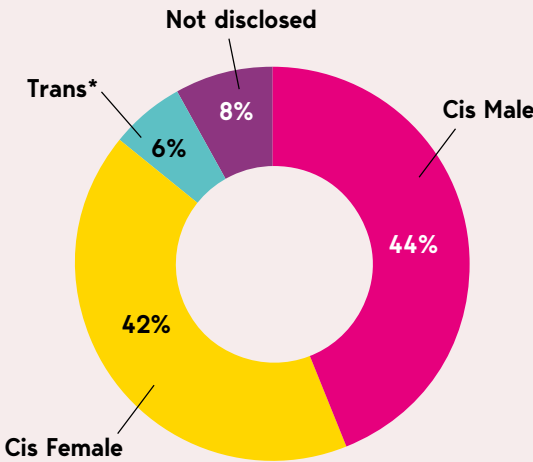
SIMD BREAKDOWN



AGE BREAKDOWN



GENDER BREAKDOWN



Trans* includes all participants who identify under the trans umbrella including transgender, non-binary or gender queer

PROJECT SPEND

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YR 2 TOTALS
Community Artists in Schools	£22,907	£16,393	£19,194	£22,897	£81,391
Open Studio	£3,254	£4,694	£6,103	£6,497	£20,548
Partner Referral Pathways	£4,453	£ -	£ -	£4,470	£8,923
Next Steps Programme	£ -	£5,808	£2,867	£2,866	£11,541
Continuing Professional Development	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£4,000
Young Promoters/ Youth Arts Awards	£ -	£1,939	£345	£345	£2,629
Showcase Events	£ -	£ -	£2,905	£ -	£2,905
Progression and Invite Go and See Funds	£ -	£ -	£1,160	£1,350	£2,510
Accessibility / Translation	£250	£250	£250	£250	£1,000
Digital Media Equipment (Capital)	£ -	£5,335	£ -	£ -	£5,335
Core Project Team Costs	£8,199	£8,199	£8,199	£8,199	£32,796
Management and Marketing	£4,425	£4,425	£4,425	£4,425	£17,727
External Evaluation	£5,250	£ -	£ -	£ -	£5,250
TOTAL	£49,738	£48,043	£46,448	£52,326	£196,555

All of the activity his year was delivered in the Highland Council Local Authority area.

MOVING FORWARDS INTO YEAR 3

As we gaze ahead in Year 3, we are looking forward to continuing with the momentum we've found in Year 2 – with more participants taking part in our showcase events, and achieving Youth Scotland Awards.

Our evaluation of Year 3 has highlighted some additional considerations as we move into our third year of programme delivery:

- Connect and engage directly with Youth Justice teams in Highland – using the Open Studio delivery model both at Eden Court and to facilitate 1-to-1 working in other locations
- Continue to develop a long-term, embedded approach with schools that still offers a flexible model of engagement
- Consider what a formal “graduation” offer could look like for those who have been engaged with the programme for a number of years and are ready for their next step
- Consider how the “community of practice” becoming established at Eden Court can be more embedded within the organisation. There is potential for Cashback participants to be recognised as young artists and more consistently contribute to the engagement strategy and beyond.

Further reading on our key lessons from Year 2, and recommendations for Year 3 can be found in the Year 2 Impact Report, compiled by TIALT, our evaluators.

As always, the resilience and resourcefulness of the team delivering the programme, and of those taking part has been the real shining light of CashBack Highlands this year. We are very proud to have engaged 549 young people in the programme, and to have reconnected with a number of existing partners as well as forging new partnerships.

In Year 3, we'd love to think that the pandemic is behind us, and that we won't need to re-shape and react to those challenges – but if we do need to, we're ready, and have had plenty of practice. And, if Year 2 can be summarised by our core value of being “open” then let's aim for Year 3 to be summarised by our core value of being “Ambitious”.

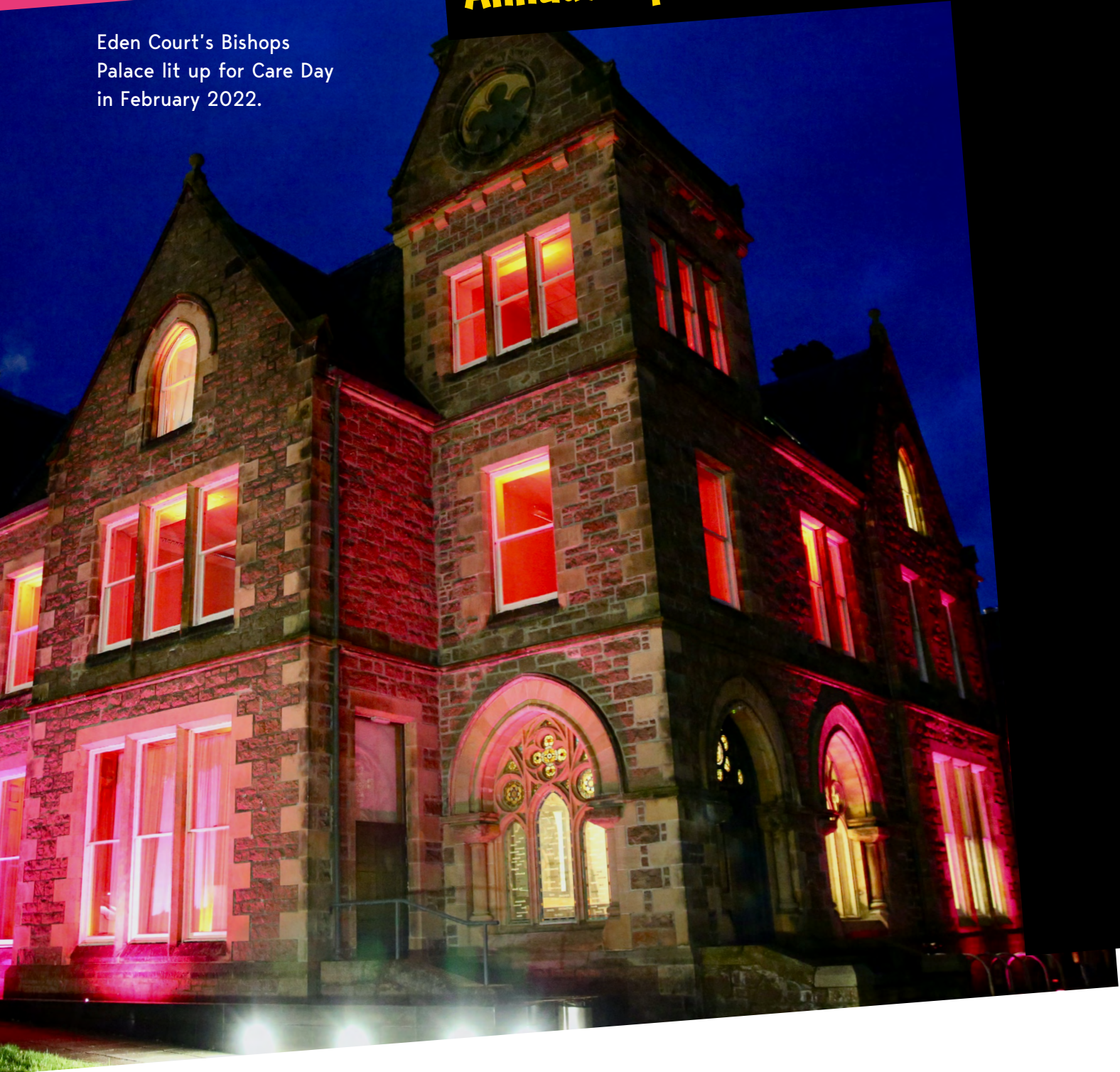
“Year 2 of CashBack Highlands is when we have been able to invest even more into our brilliant and inspiring participants, and also into our amazing delivery team. We have been able to further focus on communities, within areas, schools and community groups allowing us to connect young people and those that support them in a wide variety of settings. As we enter year 3 we will have even more exciting projects and opportunities, continuing to focus on young people who face barriers in participation.”

Graeme Roger, CashBack Highlands Project Manager

CASHBACK HIGHLANDS

Annual Report 2021 – 2022

Eden Court's Bishops
Palace lit up for Care Day
in February 2022.



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