

CashBack: Connecting Through Creativity

Year 1 Annual Report

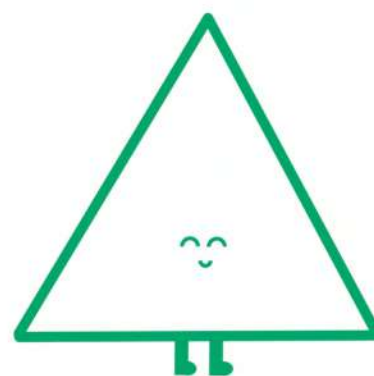


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Contents

- Introduction..... 01
- Approach: Project Summary..... 03
- Collaborative Working..... 06
- Communication & Marketing..... 06
- Scotland’s 2018–2032 Climate change Plan.... 07
- Best Start, Bright Futures..... 09
- Keeping the Promise..... 09
- UNCRC..... 10
- Case Study 1..... 12
- Project Outcomes Overview..... 16
- Project Figures..... 17
- Project Outcomes in Detail..... 19
- Year 1 Engagement Stats..... 28
- Local Authority Breakdown..... 31
- Case Study 2..... 33
- Year 1 Financial Report..... 36
- Organisational Updates..... 41
- Evaluation Method..... 44
- Looking Forward..... 46
- Appendix..... 48



Introduction

Avenue's CashBack Connecting Through Creativity Project has been proudly delivering person-centred and therapy-informed creative art sessions to young people. The project is funded by Phase 6 of the Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities Fund; and runs until March 2026.

Our CashBack Connecting Through Creativity Project has been supporting young people between the ages of 10–25 in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Providing fun and creative group and 1-to-1 art sessions that support young people to explore and maintain positive frameworks for relationships in their personal lives.

Through creativity and art, the project supports young people to explore a range of issues including trust, relationship building, emotional literacy and positive ways to work through difficult feelings. The project also supports young people to build their self-confidence, while developing key skills which includes communication and working as part of a team.

Our project is aimed at supporting young people who:

- are most at risk of being involved in antisocial or criminal behaviour
- impacted by adverse childhood experiences and trauma
- living in an area of deprivation (as identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation)
- live in Aberdeen City or Aberdeenshire
- that could benefit from creative approaches to improve their health, mental health, and wellbeing

This report focuses on the activity and outcomes that Avenue has achieved in year one (2023–2024) of the Phase 6 programme. Within this report we will review and highlight the project's progress in each quarter, the targets reached, and the impact realised for individuals that have engaged in our CashBack Connecting Through Creativity Project, as well as year one of the project's financial expenditure.

“If she doesn’t like something, then she would drop out very quickly, but she has really stuck with this project.”



Parent
SensationAll

Approach



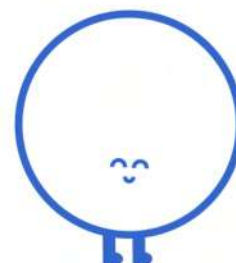
Project Summery

Avenue underpins everything we do with informed and meaningful relationship building which we recognise are vital elements of positive mental health and wellbeing. CashBack Connecting Through Creativity Project uses creative activities and art to enable children and young people aged between 10 and 25, to explore and maintain positive frameworks for relationships in their personal lives. Children and young people often struggle to put their feelings into words and by using creativity and art, they can be supported to explore a range of issues including trust, relationship building, emotional literacy, and explore positive ways to work through difficult feelings.

Our Project is designed to be enjoyable and therapy-informed, with the flexibility to respond to individual need. Trained creative practitioners have been engaging children and young people in a programme of group and one-to-one creative sessions that have been focusing on relationships, while building their confidence and understanding.

We have consciously built flexibility into the project's design to allow us to continuously respond to the changing needs of, and feedback from, the young people we engage with. Avenue has close working relationships with local agencies, that also have strong connections with young people at risk of antisocial behaviour, offending or reoffending. Feedback from these partners identified a two-year gap in emotional and social development because of the pandemic, which is impacting on young peoples' resilience and relationships. Avenue's own experience also shows an increased resistance to flexible ways of thinking within the young people we support. Engaging in artistic activities which encourage creative thinking, appears to have a positive impact in improving such challenges.

Throughout the first year of the project, we have seen young people developing far more positive relational connections with the practitioners, as well as their peers, and their families. It has increased self-confidence, built key skills such as communication, and planning; and provides positive experiences that are shared and celebrated together.



Project Approach

The Project team devised the programme of activity to ensure Avenue reaches as many young people as possible during the lifetime of the project. This takes into account young peoples' willingness to commit to participating in groups spread over a number of sessions. Flexibility was also a key factor in the structuring the project. It was vital to support individuals to still be able to engage when personal circumstances became a barrier. We have achieved this through splitting the project into different categories, as well as keeping in mind the school holidays and the time of year groups take place. This can be broken down into two sections: long-term and short-term projects.

Long-term projects consist of groups which run for a duration of 12 weeks, with sessions lasting 1.5-2 hours. These groups vary in size depending on the number of individuals available to us through partner organisations. For individuals who are not ready to engage in group work due to anxiety, lack of confidence or difficulty building relationships, we offer 1-to-1 sessions which run for a period of 10 weeks. We also gently encourage individuals engaging in 1-to-1 sessions to participate in our groups when they feel ready. Having already built strong connections with the creative practitioners, young people feel more at ease, and more willing to challenge themselves to try engaging in groups.

The short-term projects are an alternative approach we have taken to the structure of the original project proposal. This is especially important during the school holidays when children and young people see most disruption to their daily routines. We have found that it is harder to engage young people for a longer period of time during the summer due to this lack of structure, particularly if families are away on holiday. As a result, the creative team have formulated more intense, shorter projects which last for a couple of days, with longer and more intense sessions. For example, we ran a 3-day workshop at Kincorth Community Centre where we worked with a group of young people to create a wall mural which was inspired and informed by their relationship with their community, and sense of belonging. Each session lasted around 6 hours and included sharing a meal together, with lunch provided by the project.

Additionally, we have utilised these short-term projects to provide new partner organisations the opportunity to give young people the chance to engage in our project. These 'taster sessions' help participants decide if they are interested in engaging in a long-term project. We have run a number of these taster sessions with Station House Media Unit (SHMU), Aberdeen Youth Movement (AYM), and Quarriers (Aberdeenshire). These sessions have also helped develop strong relationships with the organisations, and have unlocked new opportunities to work with groups of young people in a different capacity.

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Collaborative Working

Collaborating with other organisations is a vital part to achieving sustainable, and impactful outcomes for children and young people. The Creative Team approached new organisations to work with, in addition to the strong relationships Avenue already had with Quarriers, Children 1st, and Craigielea Children's Centre.

The project equally recognises the importance of young peoples' wider personal network in helping to build, and crucially sustain, personal resilience. As such the project has sought to work with the whole family approach seeing parents and carers as important stakeholders.

All of our stakeholders have fed into the design of this project and will continue to contribute to the development of the project. Partnership working is also key to the sustainability of support, particularly for those with additional and complex needs.

Wrap-around support is often required to ensure that emotional and practical needs

are met. This can be achieved by linking young people with existing services and resource already available. This will also provide continued sources of support for the children, young people and families beyond their engagement with the project.

We are particularly grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment from the following organisations in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire:

- Craigielea Children's Centre
- SensationAll
- Quarriers (Aberdeen and Shire)
- Bramble Brae Primary School
- Barnardo's
- Fraserburgh Family Resource Centre
- Inverurie Family Resource Centre
- Inverurie Social Work (Adoption)
- Kincorth Community Centre
- FitLike Hubs
- Children 1st
- Station House Media Unit (SHMU)

Communication & Marketing

The Creative team have worked hard to develop a consistent, easily accessible, and interactive [webpage](#), which can be found within Avenue's existing website. The webpage has been designed to be fun, friendly and easy to navigate. It is specifically aimed at the young people we have been working with, and those we hope to work with in the future. While also providing existing and new organisations information about the project; providing a more in-depth understanding of what we are achieving, and plans for the future. We have created an interactive element to the webpage, where young people can access free creative, art activities which can be engaged with at home. These activities have been developed by the Creative Practitioners to provide young people an opportunity to engage in the type of work we do, giving them a taster of the larger programme of activity imbedded within our group and 1-to-1 sessions.

Continued

This section of the webpage is continually updated and reviewed in line with sessions and feedback provided by the young people engaging in the project. Additionally, we have used the webpage to share the work we have been doing, highlighting key moments through a gallery of images specific to each group we have successfully run, and completed; while also providing a brief summary of the groups' overall experience. We utilise Avenue's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to promote the project, provide live updates of activity, and celebrate the artworks and successes achieved by the young people.



[Avenue - a new direction](#)



[@avenue_grampian](#)



[@AvenueNEScot](#)

Scotland's 2018–2032 Climate Change Plan

In response to [Scotland's 2018–2032 Climate Change Plan](#), Avenue's Cashback Connecting Through Creativity Project is committed to making a positive and long-lasting impact. We have tackled this by developing a holistic approach which utilises open conversations and creative activities, which help inform, educate, and support the young people we are working with. This ensures their voices are heard, and young people feel comfortable to ask questions. This builds curiosity, and sparks discussion about what actions they can take to contribute to Scotland's commitment to transitioning to net zero emissions.

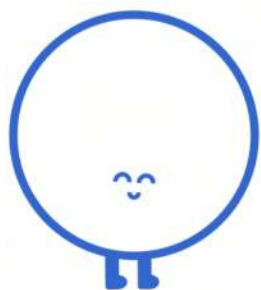
By using a place-based approach we are able to engage the young people to think about positive behaviours, empowering them to make changes that are relevant to their own communities. This approach recognises climate change as a human rights issue and the transition to net zero as an opportunity to tackle inequalities.

The Creative Practitioners have worked hard to develop relevant and creative art sessions which tackles these difficult topics in a positive and engaging way. These sessions take the approach of looking at an imagined future, and what our planet might look like if we don't make the change now. The project has minimised the waste created through art activities by ensuring we reuse, recycle, and reduce the materials we utilise during sessions. Creative Practitioners highlight the importance of recycling during our sessions. We hope that by having these conversations now, it will positively impact the young peoples' mindset to taking action and change their long-term behaviours regarding climate change as they mature into adults.

Best Start, Bright Futures: The Scottish Governments Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, 2022–26

Avenue's Cashback Connecting Through Creativity Projects works directly with children and young people who have experienced the damaging impacts of poverty first hand. Tackling child poverty is the Scottish Government's national mission, and we know it will take all of society to work together to deliver the change needed. The project is acutely aware of the impact caused by the current cost-of-living crisis, and the barriers this creates for individuals in accessing our project. The art sessions we provide are therefore free to attend and open to all who may need the support. By traveling to communities most in need, we are able to remove the barrier of accessing our services, and we cover travel costs for individuals who would otherwise be unable to engage in the art sessions.

We are conscious of the issues relating to food poverty within Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. We therefore provide snacks and refreshments during sessions and encourage young people to take any left-overs home. To deliver sustained reductions in child poverty over the longer-term and break the cycle of child poverty, we will work with partners to provide the integrated and holistic support parents and young people needed to improve their wider wellbeing.



Keeping The Promise

Avenue is proud to support [The Promise](#), the Scottish Government's pledge that all children grow up loved, safe, respected, and able to realise their full potential. The Promise was launched in February 2020 following a wide-ranging, root-and-branch investigation of children's services by the Independent Care Review. The review heard evidence from more than 5,500 care-experienced young people and adults, as well as dozens of organisations who work to support vulnerable children and young people across Scotland.

At Avenue, we are clear that The Promise is a learning opportunity for us as a charity, for the agencies we work with, and for Scotland as a whole. We should all be asking searching questions of ourselves, such as 'Where do we need to improve?', 'What is going well?' and 'Are we offering the right support to everyone who needs it?'

Avenue's Promise Pledge

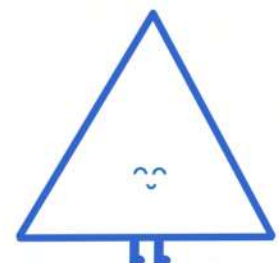
- Avenue will listen to the views of children, young people and families and use them to inform how we develop our services.
- Avenue will champion the rights of children and young people.
- Avenue will find ways to enable the voices and experiences of people who use our services, members of our team and colleagues in partner agencies.
- Avenue will build confidence amongst our staff to make changes in the way we do things in the best interests of the children, young people and families we support.
- Avenue will work towards a system that has the child/ young person and families at the centre and is based on love, care and respect, ensuring equality and social justice for all and being committed to getting it right for every child (GIRFEC).
- Avenue commits to the ongoing, continuous improvement of services to ensure we're always doing all we can to effectively support the families we work with.

UNCRC: United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a legally binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.

The UNCRC consists of 54 articles that set out children's rights and how governments should work together to make them available to all children. Under the terms of the convention, governments are required to meet children's' basic needs and help them reach their full potential. Central to this is the acknowledgment that every child has basic fundamental rights. These include the right to:

- Life, survival, and development
- Protection from violence, abuse, or neglect
- An education that enables children to fulfil their potential
- Be raised by, or have a relationship with, their parents
- Express their opinions and be listened to



Our Project works with children and young people in person, therefore this project directly impacts the rights of all children and young people who participate in the project. Engagements are designed to have a positive, and long-term impact on individuals. The Creative Practitioners have developed creative sessions which focus on maintaining positive frameworks for relationships, exploring a

UNCRC: United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child – Continued

range of issues including, but not limited to, increasing confidence, developing trust, building relationships, enhancing emotional literacy, and creating positive ways to work through difficult feelings.

We believe that core to the success of Avenue's Cashback Project is making sure the voice of the child is heard throughout the programme. This ensures young people are aware of their rights, and feel empowered to express their opinion. The creative team have worked hard to embed this into the ethos of the project, designing creative sessions which specifically look at children's rights as a way to inform, support, and educate the children and young people that are working with us.

The Creative Team developed a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) which ensures children's rights are at the forefront of everything we do.

Avenue already has a robust suite of relevant policies, procedures, and staffing

requirements in place to support children and young people's Rights. By completing a CRWIA, Avenue can thoroughly explore any additional changes that would have a positive impact for the children and young people we work with across the whole organisation. The CRWIA helps us to champion the interests of children, as well as challenge us to think about what more we can do to place children and young people at the centre of our policies.

In addition to this, the creative team has begun to build a relationship with Aberdeen Youth Movement (AYM), many of whom are also members of the Scottish Youth Parliament. We have asked them to get involved in the project through participating in sessions, but also engaging in conversations about children's rights. We intend to collaborate with the AYM to develop a child friendly version of Avenue's CRWIA, and utilise their experience when designing sessions about children's rights.



Case Study 1

L was referred to us through social work who thought that this would be a good opportunity for them to build their confidence and help them to feel less isolated. L had been having a lot of difficulties at school with bullying and being the target of premeditated attacks which were filmed by other young people. This had also had an impact on their school

attendance. L was also on a waiting list for CAMHS and waiting for support to begin. It was felt that Cashback Connecting Through Creativity would also be beneficial for their mental wellbeing. L did not know what to expect from the group before they began, explaining “I don’t know I was just told to be here”.

**“Making new friends. I’m not good at that,
I get bullied all the time”**



L was initially apprehensive about the group stating that “I was worried about what people would think of me”. During our creative sessions L demonstrated an increased confidence and excitement about being at the group smiling and dancing into the room and often turning up with new outfits they asked practitioners’ opinions about. They also were disappointed if a practitioner was absent due to annual leave exclaiming “I love Janet. She’s lovely” and “we haven’t seen all three of you together for ages!”. L also developed their artistic style and was able to recognise their achievements and take pride in what they had made exclaiming that “I always take pictures of what I’ve made”, “It’s really cool” and “wow I’m



going to put that in my room”. L also developed a positive relationship with the other members of the group. They formed a good relationship with one young person in particular - with both young people noting how nice it had been getting to know each other and wanting to take part in more group sessions

together. During the sessions L also experienced more bullying at school and was assaulted by another young person. They were able to talk about their experience with practitioners and contacted the police about the attack. They also noted how good the CTC sessions had been because “you can get away from things.”

L was able to recognise their achievements in developing their own artistic style. They were particularly proud of their interaction with other group members stating that they were surprised about “making new friends. I’m not good at that, I get bullied all the time” but how proud they were of “meeting people and getting on with it and not feeling left out. I feel left out at school”. L’s school attendance also increased during the CTC sessions.

When asked by staff about their experience of taking part in the group they answered that “you need to do more art sessions” and “We can come to Aberdeen for the art sessions”. Practitioners helped L to explore what other areas they might like to learn about, and cooking was something they were keen to

learn, especially with their new friend from the CTC group. CTC staff got in touch with their respective social workers in order to see if there were any opportunities to do this in the future and how keen L and the other young person were to further their learning opportunities with each other.



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Project Outcomes

Avenue's Creative Practitioners have witnessed positive changes in the young people we have been engaging with throughout the first year of the CashBack Connecting Through Creativity Project. Within year one, Avenue has engaged with 93 new young people, with an additional 3 young people returning to engage in other aspects of the project.

The creative team regularly monitors the progress made by the young people participating in the project. This is achieved through observational, verbal, written responses, and feedback gathered from the young people directly, as well as partner organisations, social workers, and parents/carers.

The indicators that the creative team have measured against, provides evidence for the progress towards each outcome, which acts as an indication that a positive difference has been made in each young person's life.

The CashBack Connecting Through Creativity Project focuses on the following 5 Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Young people are diverted from antisocial, criminal behaviour and involvement with the criminal justice system

Outcome 2: Young people participate in activity which improves their learning, employability and employment options (positive destinations)

Outcome 3: Young people's health, mental health and wellbeing improves

Outcome 4: Young people contribute positively to their communities

Outcome 5: Young people build their personal skills, resilience, and benefit from strengthened support networks and reduce risk taking behaviour

Project Figures Year 1

Over year 1 of the project, the Creative Team have successfully accomplished 4 out of the 5 outcomes. Substantially exceeding the targets set out by Inspiring Scotland which has been developed to ensure Avenue's project stays on track for year 2 and 3.

Outcome 1	Target	Actual	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people report that: their own participation in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour has reduced. 	7	13	186%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people report that: they feel less inclined to participate in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour. 	35	25	71%
Outcome 2	Target	Actual	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people: Report an improved relationship with their school. 	35	37	106%
Outcome 3	Target	Actual	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people report: An increase in feelings against SHANARRI indicators: Safety, Health, Achievement, Nurture, Activity, Respect, Responsibility, Inclusion. 	35	44	126%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people report: Their mental health has improved, and they have a more positive outlook on life. 	35	49	140%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people report: They are less inclined to engage in harmful drugs and/or alcohol use. 	7	23	329%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people report: Their confidence has increased 	35	59	169%

Project Figures

Outcome 4	Target	Actual	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people report: a heightened sense of belonging to a community 	35	42	120%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people report: feeling their contribution, links with communities and social interaction are improving 	35	38	109%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people report: Number of participants going on to volunteer, coach, mentor, support or take a leadership role in community organisations. 	3	3	100%
Outcome 5	Target	Actual	%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people report: feeling more resilient (e.g. believing in yourself, taking things in your stride, being determined, being self-disciplined, being optimistic, adapting to different situations) 	35	50	143%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people report: positive, supportive networks – including improved relationships with family, friends and peer mentors 	35	46	131%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people report: increased access to appropriate services 	8	22	275%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people report: positive changes in their behaviour (e.g. reduced risk taking/ increased understanding of risk/ better ability to make positive choices/ improved understanding of rights and responsibilities) 	35	46	131%



Project Outcomes



Outcome 1

Young people are diverted from antisocial, criminal behaviour and involvement with the criminal justice system.

Due to the types of organisations we have been working with, a lot of the young people were already very isolated and disengaged within mainstream learning. Many of the young people were actively engaging in anti-social behaviour, and had a pre-existing experience of the criminal justice system. In order to divert young people away from anti-social and criminal behaviour, the group work sessions focused on making a fun and welcoming environment, which created a positive alternative to the activities that the young people were usually engaged with. We also recognise that for a lot of young people involved in antisocial behaviour their self-esteem is very low. A key part of our approach is building their confidence, exploring positive pathways, and enabling the young people to realise that these were realistic opportunities they could achieve.

Throughout our Cashback Project, young people have reported that their own involvement in anti-social and/or criminal behaviour has reduced. An excellent example of this was when a young person, who was engaging with us through Inverurie Family Resource Centre, said that if they were not at the group, they would be “at Tesco chucking shit at people”. Another young person said if they weren’t at the session, they would be “getting high or looking for fights”.

We have also witnessed excellent attendance from individuals referred to our project by partner organisations. By engaging in sessions, the young people are actively making a positive choice to participate in the programme, as an alternative to anti-social or risk-taking behaviour that could potentially lead to involvement with the criminal justice system. This deliberate participation emphasises the effectiveness of our approach, as these young people opt for constructive involvement in the project, rather than disengaging. Practitioners have devised session plans aimed at tackling issues related to young people’s potential involvement in antisocial or criminal behaviour. Their approach focuses on improving emotional literacy, building trust, and nurturing positive relationships. Working closely with social workers, parents, and carers has provided our practitioners with beneficial insight into the backgrounds and experiences of the young people involved in the project. This understanding serves as a foundation for tailoring our support, and concentrating on specific areas of need that can be explored through the project’s themes. Our work has focused on both intervention, and prevention. By empowering improved self-resilience, better social connections, and healthier relationships, young people report an increased confidence in dealing with life challenges in the longer term.

Reflection

During year 1, we found that the number of young people who really struggled to engage with group-based work, was higher than anticipated. Whilst we have been able to take a flexible approach and offer those young people 1-to-1 opportunities, we have seen an impact on our outcome reporting as a result. For example, we fell short of outcome 1, target 2 (Young people feel less inclined to participate in anti-social and/or criminal behaviour) by 30%. To address this, we have worked more closely with referring partners to plan in advance for 1-to-1 work, and increase the number of larger-sized group work to allow a wider demographic to attend.

Outcome 2

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

Outcome 2's quota was set at 35 young people reporting an improved relationship with their school. The project successfully reached 37 young people in year 1, which is a 106% achievement rate.

Through the context of art, the practitioners used creative processes to highlight the multiple alternative approaches to learning and achieving goals. Our approach to sessions is person-led and rooted in trauma informed practices. Sessions use an experiential framework, building on young people's own contexts to introduce new knowledge in order to deeply connect with new concepts that are being discussed during sessions. This has helped young people to develop their problem-solving skills, and allowed them to explore their own learning styles. This has increased their confidence and understanding of how they can best learn within the wider formal educational structures.

Participants were encouraged by the Creative Practitioners to engage in creative art sessions that focused on expanding learning, and creating positive experiences of different learning environments. Sessions focused on building core skills that included: problem solving, creative thinking, communication skills, and time management. All of these benefit and improve young people's learning, employability, and employment options.

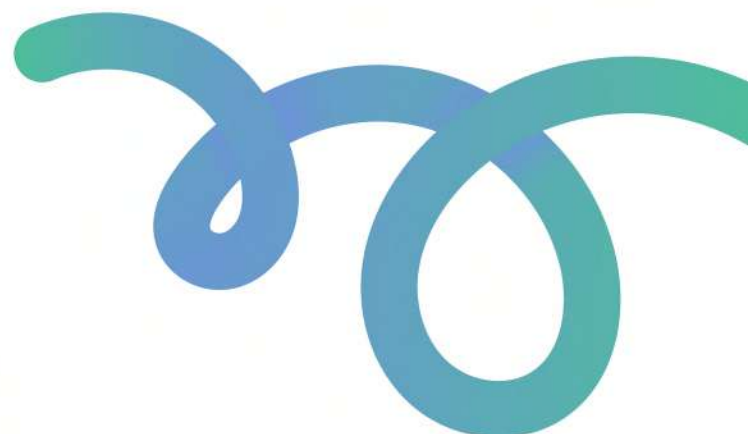
A good example of this was a young person who engaged in our group sessions at Fraserburgh Family Resource Centre. They were not engaging in school at all when we started working with them. There was a dramatic change in their self-esteem and confidence during our sessions. This enabled the young person to feel more able to re-engage with school, and by the end of our group work, they were attending school full-time.

The art sessions have allowed young people's confidence and mood to improve. Generally, we have observed a reduction in anxiety, and increased willingness to engage both with other participants, as well as the activities during sessions.

Avenue has employed two part-time Young Person Creative Practitioners. These roles are designed to provide opportunities to young people to gain employment experience, and develop vocational skills that will be attractive to future employers. These roles also deepen the Avenue's commitment to ensuring the voices of young people are heard within the core of the project.

Reflection

Many of the individuals referred to us by partner organisations were some of the most vulnerable and hard to reach young people within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. Many were on the edge of disengaging with school, and had very complicated relationships. Whilst it was essential that we were able to reach those who had already disengaged, we split our focus to provide support for those at risk of similar challenges. By engaging with individuals through art sessions, we were able to help reaffirm a positive relationship with school, and helped individuals recognise a personal value to re-engagement. As the example above demonstrates, our work has provided an effective pathway to seeing school as a positive place to be.





Outcome 3

Young people's health, mental health and wellbeing improves

Within year 1 of the Cashback Project, targets set out for Outcome 3 were successfully met.

A key area which Creative Practitioners have been focusing on and targeting is young people's mental health and wellbeing. Through using creativity and art, practitioners have been able to successfully engage young people in conversations about their mental health, and different approaches to managing their feelings.

In preparation for starting this project, Avenue sought feedback and input from partner organisations who are directly working with young people. From our wider experience, Avenue also noticed that families and young people are presenting with more complex needs, and engaging with us for longer. This trend is echoed through feedback from our partners, and has evidenced a significant need for additional trauma-informed services. For example, our partners at the Craigielea Children's Centre reported that the children they work with are displaying a two-year gap in emotional and social development, which is negatively impacting their ability to develop and maintain positive relationships with family and peers. This is likely to have a lasting impact on their futures as they lack the problem solving, creative thinking, and resilience needed to overcome future challenges and attain positive destinations.

As outlined in the [Mental Health Strategy 2017-27](#), a key factor to mental health and resilience is the quality of the parent-child relationship. Wellbeing is holistic and interconnected, and a young person's developmental experiences must be understood within the wider context and influences of family, community, and society. We have incorporated a trauma-informed approach, and the [GIRFEC framework](#) to our practice model. This allows us to best support children, young people, and their families to respond to past trauma, and build resilience for the future.

Although building resilience is best achieved at the earliest opportunity, it is never too late to support people affected by childhood adversity. This is pertinent when taking a whole family approach as there are strong links between people whose lives have been affected by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), intergenerational crime, and victimisation.

The creative team are acutely aware of the pressures many young people face regarding their mental health and wellbeing. As such, we ensure this is one of our key subjects when running art sessions. Creativity allows for the expression of emotion, that may not be articulated through words. This helps young people to find new ways to express how they feel. As such, we have noticed considerable improvements as young people have engaged with sessions. This is evidenced through observational, verbal and written responses, and feedback from the young people, partner organisations, social workers, and parents. We have noticed significant improvements in the young people's mood, engagement in the sessions, and growing confidence in being part of a group, through feeling connected with others while gaining a sense of belonging. To measure progress against Outcome 3, practitioners have utilised the SHANARRI indicators at the beginning and end of group sessions. This allows us to gauge how the young people feel over the course of the project. Additionally, sessions have included creative activities which require the young people to use their fine motor skills, and spatial awareness, which positively impact their physical and mental health. By providing group sessions, it has allowed the young people to have an increased respect and understanding of others, as well as themselves. Through feeling included and working together towards a collective group outcome, they have been able to gain a sense of achievement.

Outcome 3 Reflection

Throughout year 1 of the project, young people consistently highlighted the significance of endings, and the impact this has on those participating in the project. As a project drew to a close, we saw that young people were dealing with the same emotions that come along with any ending, particularly when it has been something so important to them, and there is a noticeable shift in mood. This resulted in evaluations through SHANARRI being more negative than anticipated, or as indicated they would be by young people at earlier points in project. This led us to understand the importance of allowing adequate time during the group work timeline for discussions about endings and transitions to take place. We now complete the SHANARRI prior to the last session, and have seen an improvement in evaluation as a result. Practitioners are also gathering and recording anecdotal evidence alongside the SHANARRI framework. The practitioners have also developed a range of evaluation games and activities, which have aided our evaluation, and supports evidence against Outcome targets reached. These initiatives have resulted in a more accurate representation of young peoples' progress.

Additionally, we have also approached schools around the concept of transitions, and the emotional impact these can have. Subsequently, we have developed and planned group work sessions which focus on the transition from primary to secondary education. More information can be found about this specific project in the Looking Forward section of this Annual Report.

Outcome 4

Young people contribute positively to their communities.

Within year 1 of Avenue's Cashback Project, targets set out for Outcome 4, were successfully met.

We ran several programmes within year 1 which looked at young people's connection to their community. These sessions specifically focused on improving young people's links and social interactions within their community. Additionally, young people were encouraged to go on to support their community further once group sessions had ended (for example, through volunteering). Sessions were also developed to help the young people to discover a heightened sense of belonging within their community. This was achieved through a number of different activities and session plans.

For instance, Creative Practitioners delivered a two-day intensive wall mural project at Kincorth Community Centre in partnership with FitLike Hubs and Children First. Through this direct creative approach to thinking about community, young people discussed what mattered to them, where they most felt a sense of belonging, and what made them proud of their community. The entire group returned on the second day, to paint their design. This shows a commitment and pride towards their community, and a motivation to

influence decision making. The wall mural project strengthened the young people's relationships and connections to their neighbourhood, and they expressed their pride, sense of belonging, and achievement in participating in the project. Many of the young people asked to be made aware of future projects, so that they could participate further; contributing to future developments within their community.

Our long-term engagements with groups take place in the young people's community, a space closest to them, which they feel comfortable and safe in. In recognition the barrier that having to travel to activities can present to young people, we have taken the art sessions out to where participants are. This allows those who could benefit most from sessions to reach and engage in our services. By running group sessions specifically with SensationAll and Quarriers we were able to engage with several individuals who had been on long waiting lists for support and intervention. The group sessions have allowed the young people to build a sense of belonging as part of these groups. Some parents have also mentioned that by attending the group, it has allowed their young person to feel less isolated and have a better link to a community who have similar needs.

Outcome 4 - Continued

Additionally, Avenue has begun to build relations with Aberdeen Youth Movement (AYM), many of the young people are also members of the Scottish Youth Parliament. As well as running a session with AYM around the UNCRC, several AYM members have also committed to further volunteering through our project's summer sessions. We intend to engage with AYM further in order to develop a child friendly version of Avenue's CRWIA, and utilise their experience when informing sessions around children's rights which is informed by the UNCRC.

Reflection

On reflection, Creative Practitioners intend to continue to run sessions and short-term projects which focus on young people's community and sense of belonging. As such, we have developed a larger number of summer programmes which are based within their communities. We will also be working closely with primary and secondary schools during term-time, which allows practitioners to understand young people's relationship to their schools, their sense of place, belonging, and community dynamic. This will also improve young people's relationship with their schools for those who are on the verge of disengaging, or have already disengaged; which links to outcome 2 targets.



Outcome 5

Young people build their personal skills, resilience, and benefit from strengthened support networks and reduce risk taking behaviour.

Within year 1 of Avenue's Cashback Project, targets set out for Outcome 5, were successfully met.

Avenue's project is relationship-based, utilising creativity and art to develop core skills and strengthen connections with peers, families, and their communities. These group art sessions challenge the young people and take them out of their comfort-zones. This encourages resilience, while enabling young people to develop their personal and social skills, through meeting new people, which leads to maintaining positive relationships.

Through focusing on the subjectivity of art, Creative Practitioners have facilitated conversations that explore differing attitudes and opinions. The aim of this work is to help participants recognise the value of diversity in their opinions, and that it is ok to think differently. Using exercises and constructive feedback of work, the groups have explored how to communicate their opinions and feelings clearly and positively. During sessions Creative Practitioners focused on how differing attitudes and responses can impact on an individual's confidence and self-esteem. This allowed for the young people to identify and deal with varying opinions and responses from peers, building their resilience, enabling them to take things in their stride, and maintain positive relationships within the group.

Outcome 5 – Continued

A key focus of our sessions is enabling young people to become more comfortable with uncertainty and being able to positively explore unexpected outcomes. This in turn has enabled young people to reflect on other circumstances in their life where the unknown can be very daunting. Creative Practitioners have highlighted and emphasised the confidence with which young people have embraced the unknown within the sessions. This has enabled them to recognise challenges they have overcome, the skills they have developed, and feel more confident in their ability to deal with uncertainties, take things in their stride, and thus become more resilient.

Young people's level of possible risk-taking behaviour has reduced, as they are actively choosing to participate and engage in art sessions through the project, rather than engage in activities which may lead to negative outcomes.

Creative Practitioners have identified a number of young people who would benefit from additional support that Avenue provides. The project has developed easy access routes to support, removing any barriers to accessing further help.

Reflection

We have come across some minor conflicts within the groups, which is to be expected. An example of this was our girl's group with SensationALL, where two young people had a disagreement about an artwork, that required some de-escalation by Creative Practitioners. They achieved this by approaching open conversations through games, integrating this into discussions and making it part of the sessions which has also worked well with other groups. Moving forward, we have built in more opportunities to proactively discuss disagreements and differences of opinion within sessions.

Furthermore, having had positive experiences with our groups, the young people have felt confident enough to engage in activities provided by other organisations; developing new relationships and providing sustainable support networks for the young people.

As discussed in Outcome 3, Creative Practitioners have noticed the importance of endings and how the young people respond to these changes within their routines. Giving the young people positive coping mechanisms to manage their emotions, and recognising the importance of dealing with endings as a growing experience, Creative Practitioners have also seen improvement in this area.





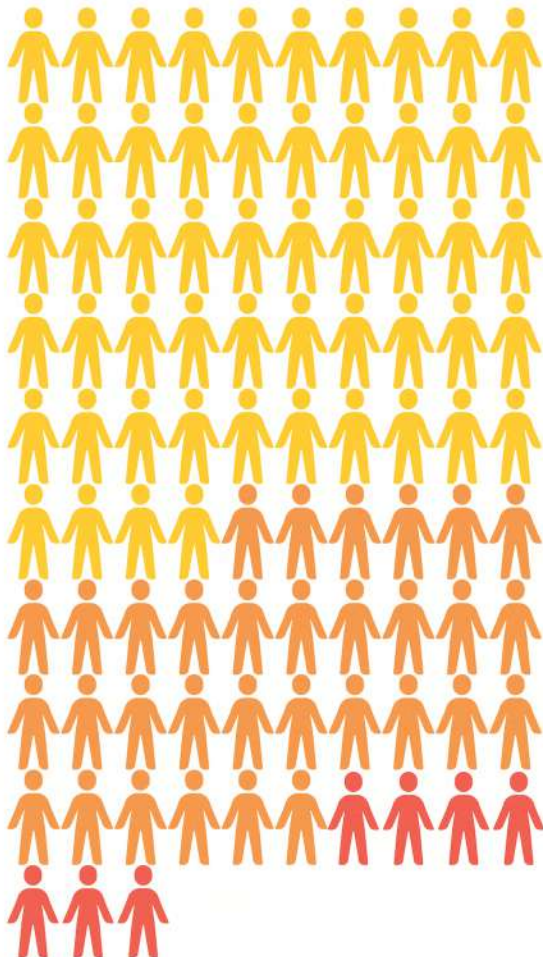
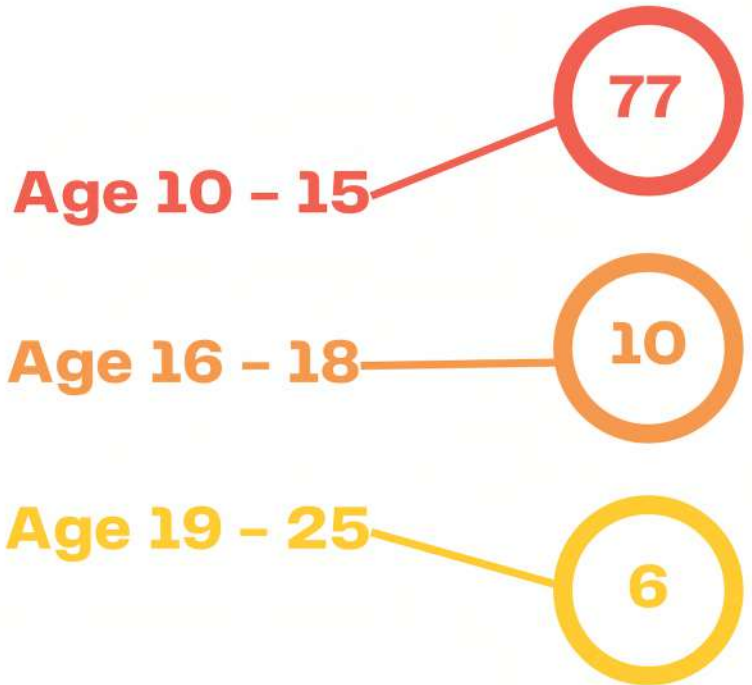
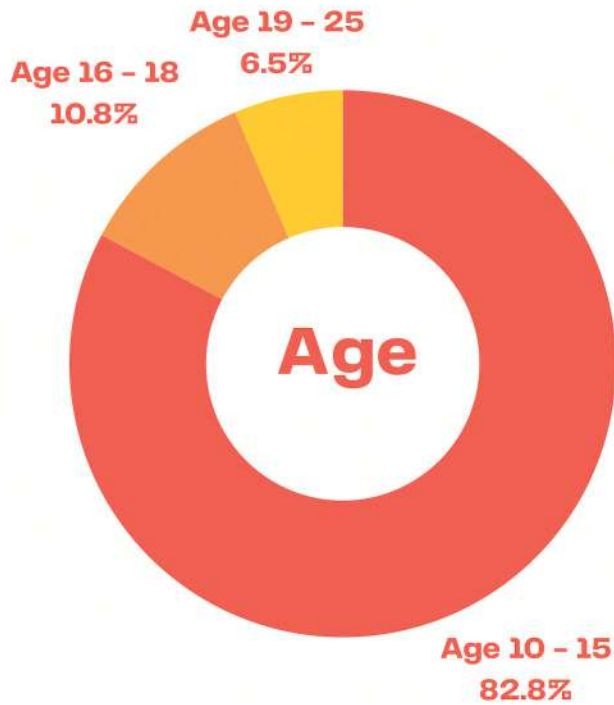
“It’s a break away from my family, I enjoy coming to the art classes, it makes me feel good. I really like the abstract painting, it’s been my favourite activity so far, the colours and movements created through paint brushes are really nice.”



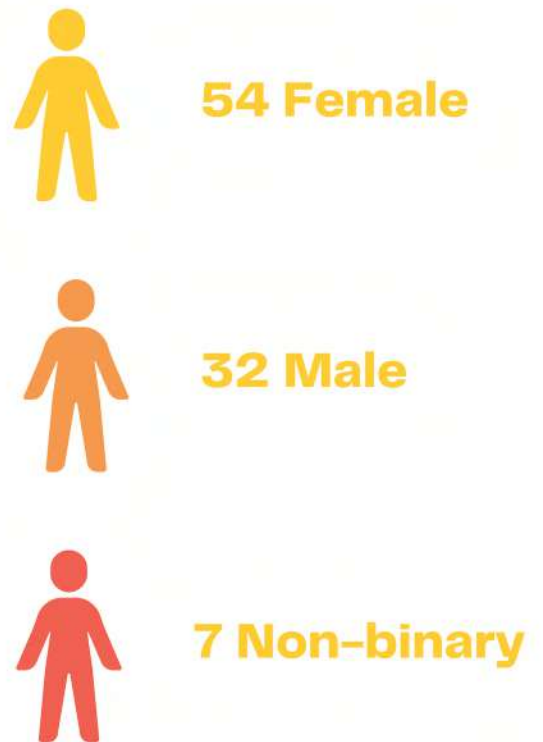
**Young Person
Quarriers (Aberdeen)**

Engagement Year 1

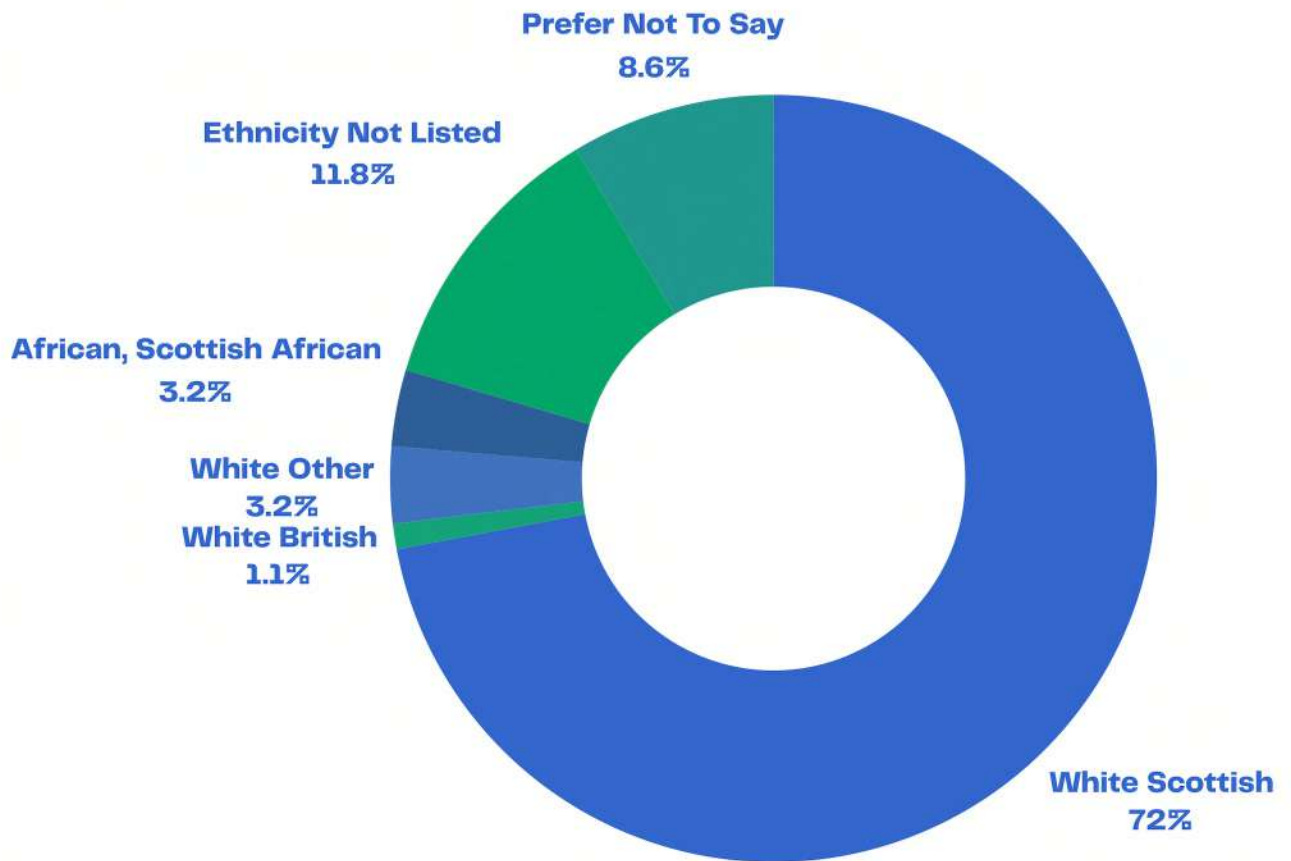
93 Participants in Year 1



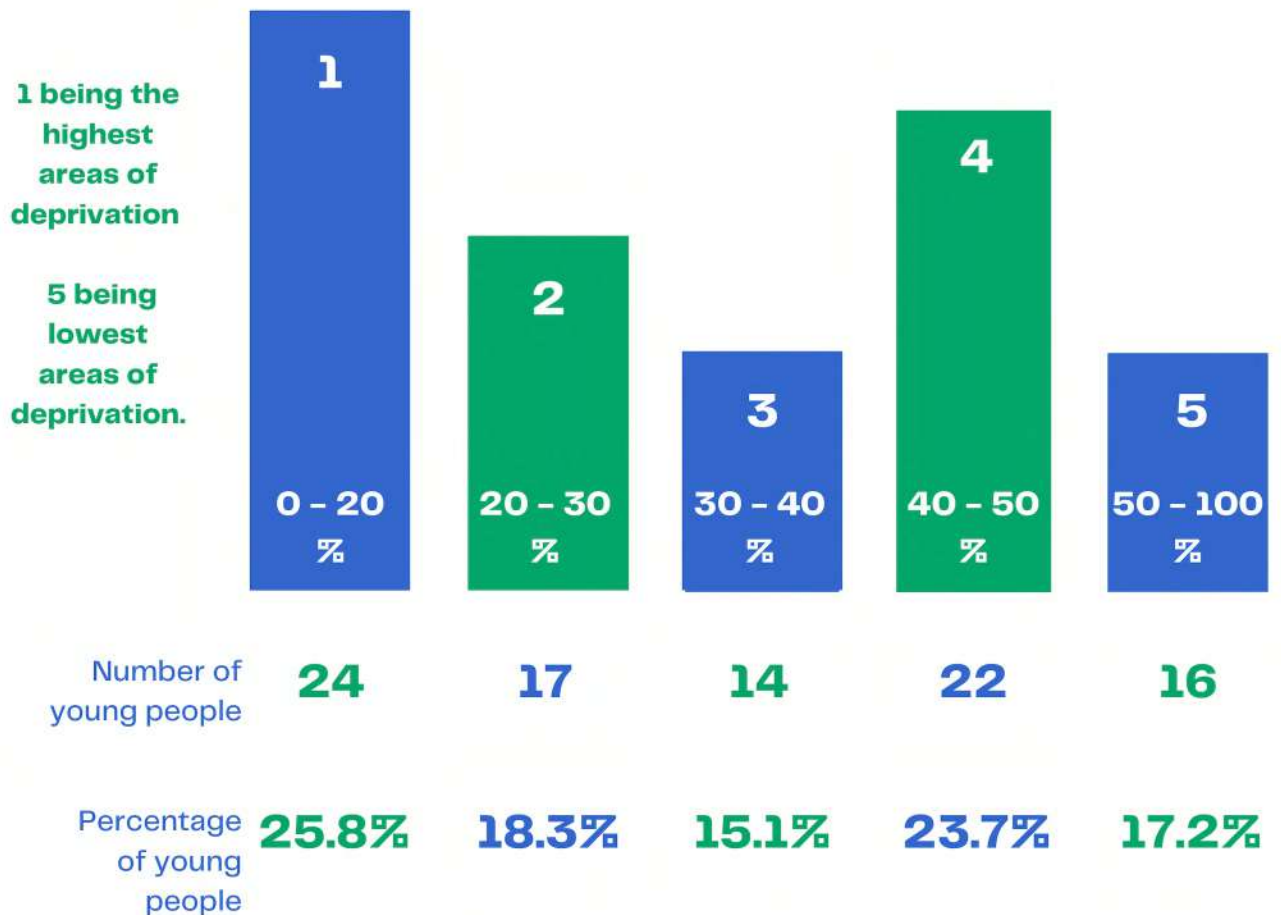
Identified Sex



Ethnicity

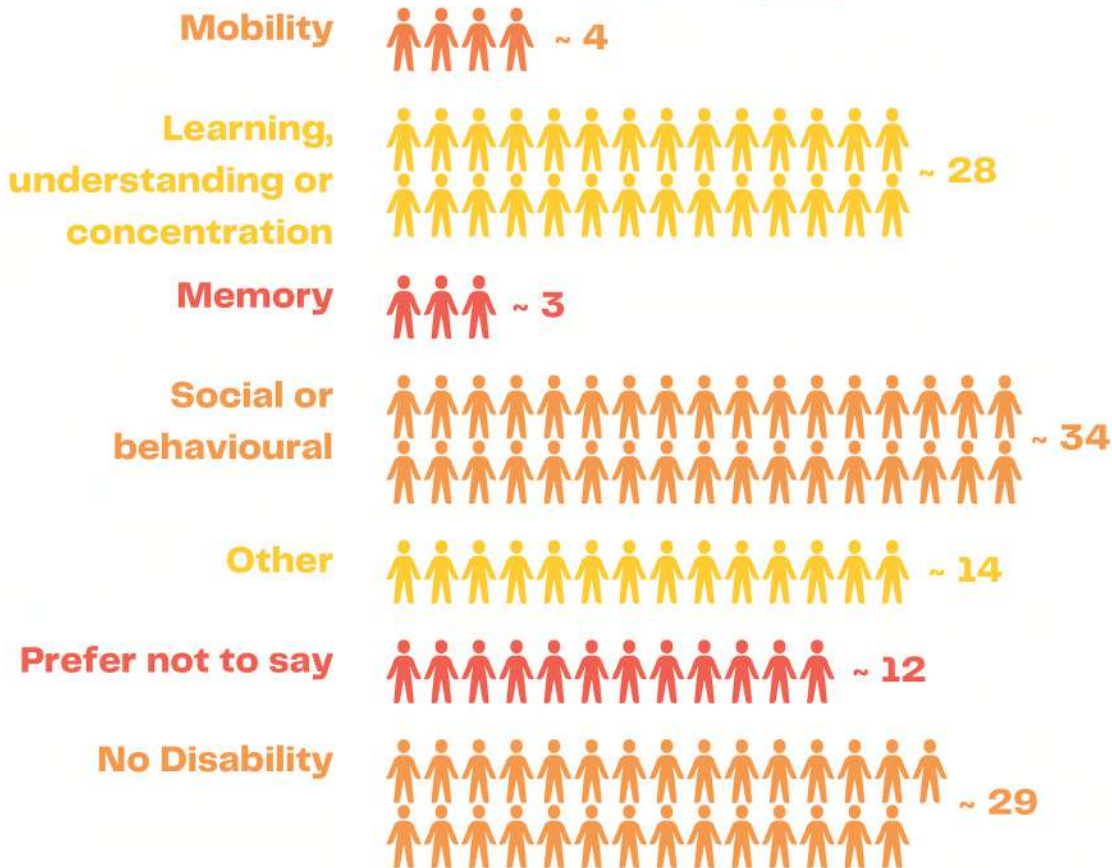
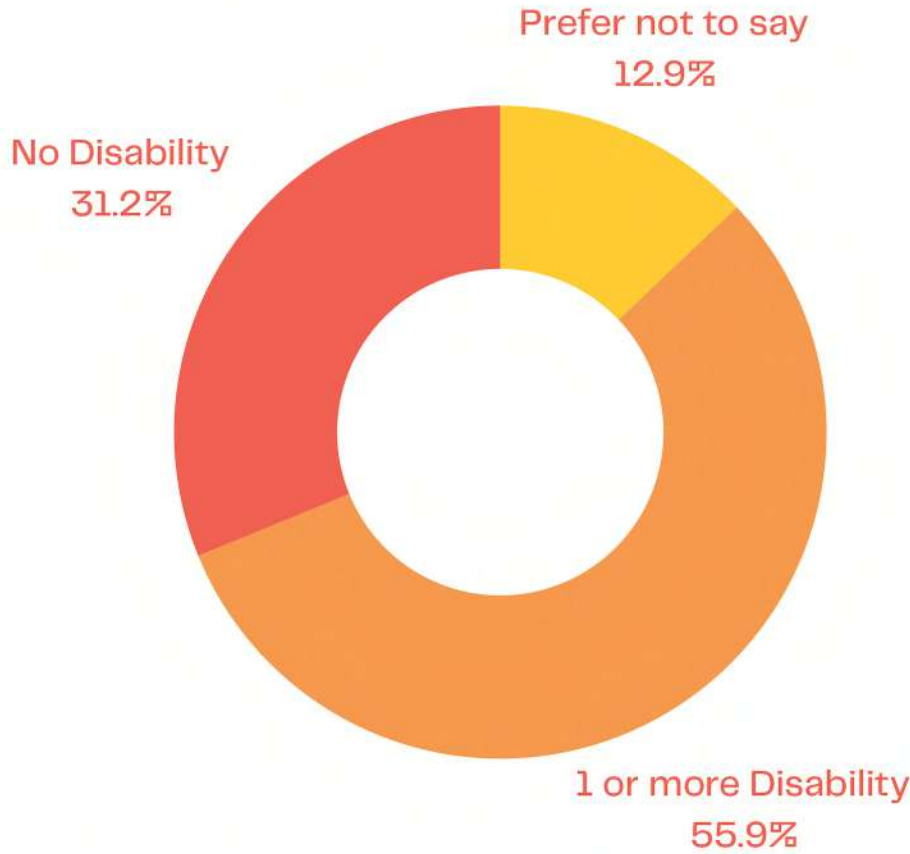


SIMD Profile

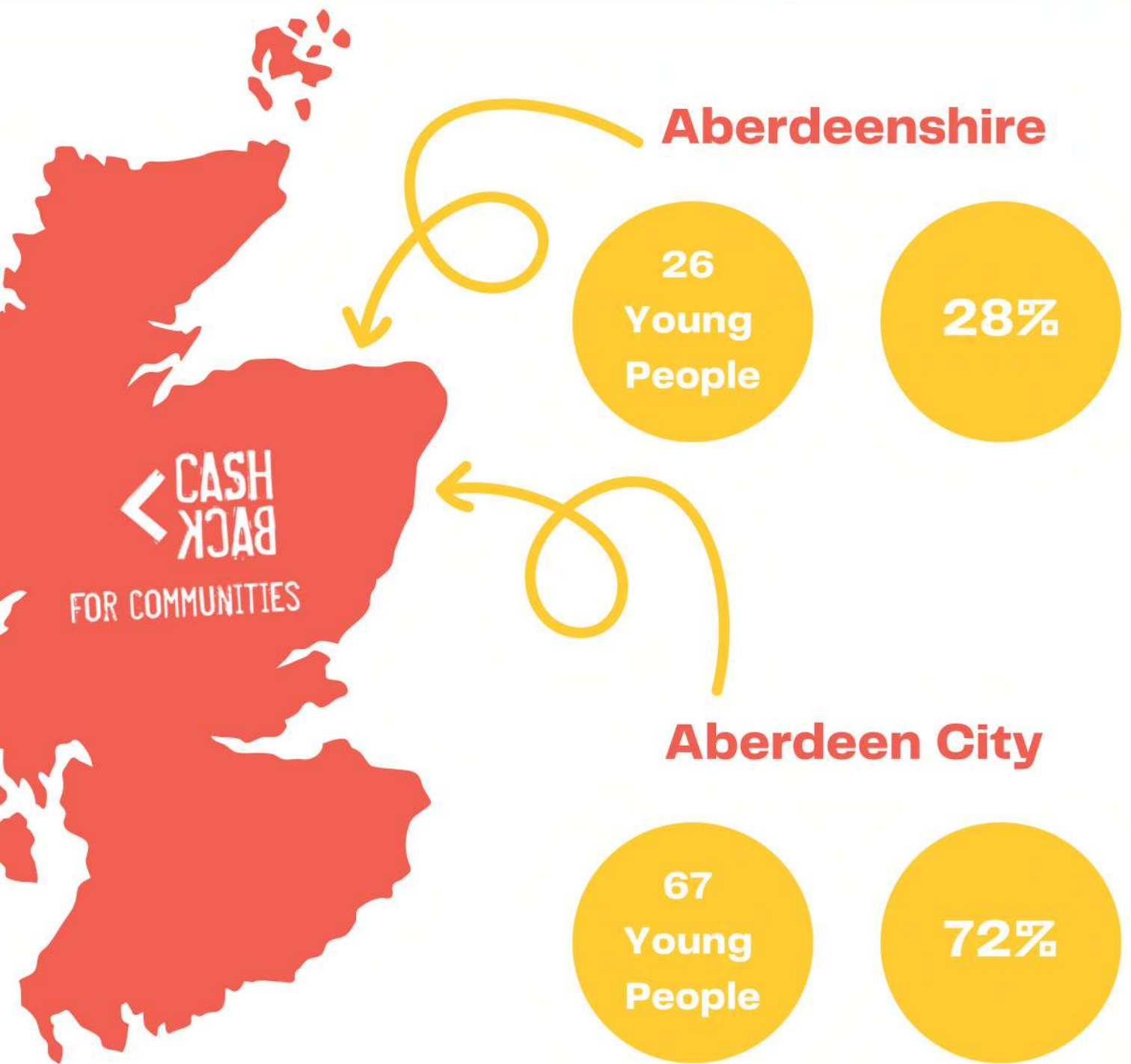


Disability

Out of the 93 young people who participated in year 1 of Avenue's Cashback Connecting Through Creativity Project, 52 individuals reported they were affected by 1 or more disability.



Local Authority Breakdown



Project Expenditure By Local Authority

- Aberdeen City - £57,939
- Aberdeenshire - £22,483
- Total Cost - £80,422



“All I've heard is he loves going :) never seen him so happy to go somewhere as much as this before which is absolutely brilliant 😊”

**Parent
Quarriers (Aberdeen)**



Case Study 2

L was referred to us through the social workers at Craigelea Children's Centre. They were struggling with low mood, anxiety and found attending school difficult. Their social worker had been concerned about L's "low mood and depression" and that "peers were difficult" for L, resulting in social isolation. It was felt that the health and wellbeing

side of the Connecting Through Creativity project would provide an opportunity to express their feelings and would benefit them greatly, as well as developing their interest in art which they are "really good at". Albeit L was not comfortable about being part of a group, art is one of their main interests which they utilise to express themselves.

"I normally don't like trying new things, but it has been nice to try new things".



L was apprehensive of joining any activity and in the past had often dropped out of groups. This was echoed in their view of what they thought the group would offer before they engaged, as they stated that "I didn't think I would get anything out of it" and that "I'm not a big fan of people and don't like big crowds."

Initially, L was quiet and apprehensive when first joining the group. They displayed a very uncomfortable and introverted body language. They kept their hood up throughout the session, had their hair covering their face, avoided eye contact and had little verbal communication.

During our creative sessions, L began to demonstrate an increased confidence where practitioners could visibly see them open-up and feel more relaxed and confident taking part and communicating with other members of the group. They are now chatty and expressive with their gestures. Creative practitioners have been able to share a joke and there has been a lot of laughter. L has also started to wear their hood down and have more prolonged conversations with the group.



With the support of the Creative Practitioners, L has experimented with different printing and mark making techniques. They have been encouraged to step out of their comfort zone, get messy and think differently about how art can help to communicate and express themselves. L has embraced each new skill they have been introduced to with confidence and been comfortable, taking risks and

working with the unknown. In particular, L enjoyed experimenting with gelli printing giving them a sense of satisfaction that would warrant a fist pump. This shows a big turning point as L stated that “I normally don’t like trying new things, but it has been nice to try new things”. L’s social worker also highlighted this achievement stating that “this is the only group they have managed to sustain”.

L has shown a significant improvement in their confidence and ability to sustain engagement within a group. L's social worker has also noted that L is "really motivated to come along" and "seems more positive". L also noted that they "feel relaxed around new people" as a result of coming to the group, and that they would recommend it to a friend "because it's fun". L has been happy and relaxed enough to allow more meaningful conversation with the Creative Practitioners. They have been happy to talk about themselves, how they feel, and their hopes for the future.

Due to these achievements within the group L has now increased their engagement with school. L's social worker noted that they have "agreed to up [their] time at school which [they] wouldn't have done previously". Going forward L is in conversation with their guidance teachers to try and establish a new timetable for school. L would very much like to take part in more art sessions with our

creative team and has enjoyed the freedom to explore new challenges. They have also stated that they "would like more surprises" and that "messy art is good." This shows an increase in confidence with experimenting, and being comfortable in unknown scenarios which in turn has helped to alleviate their anxiety and contribute positively to their health and wellbeing.



Financial Report Year 1

By the end of year 1 we accumulated an underspend of £24,514 from the allocated budget. The original budget accommodated all possibilities and predicted the costs based on expected need. The underspend accumulated within different areas from the original budget, specifically: staff salaries, staff travel, room hire, and participants travel.

Staff Salaries

The original budget allowed for two Creative Practitioners to be employed for a total of 44 hours per week. Following successful recruitment, the preferred candidates were only able to accept a total of 37 hours between them, resulting in a continuous underspend. In addition, and as part of the original project grant letter, Avenue proposed the hiring of two Young Person Creative Practitioners in a support role, to aid and support the development of Avenue's Cashback project. However, our experiences of trying to attract candidates to these posts was more challenging than anticipated. This meant the budgeted salaries were significantly underspent during Q1-3. Avenue is pleased to highlight that we have now filled the positions, and two young people have begun working closely with the creative team to contribute to the successful running of the project. The overall surplus for staff salaries allowed some flexibility, and in recognition of the complexity of the project, it was agreed to increase the Creative Practitioner Project Lead role to Full Time. This has absorbed some, but not all of the resulting surplus.

Staff Travel & Accommodation

The original budget allocated for staff travel has not been fully utilised. Though several of our group and 1-to-1 engagements have taken place in Aberdeenshire, most of the work we have been achieving has taken place in Aberdeen City, which has meant there has been less staff travel required than anticipated. Additionally, the organisations Avenue has been working with in year 1 to engage the hardest to reach young people have been very generous and able to accommodate us, providing spaces for the creative team to facilitate the running of the art session. Both of these have resulted in an underspend.



Staff Travel & Accommodation - Continued

Though at this stage of the project, we have not been required to use the budget allocated for room hire, it is important to note that this may change in years 2 and 3. This will depend on the organisations we are working with, and the availability of space they have.

Participants Travel

There was an underspend within the participants travel budget due to many young people having access to free bus passes. This removed much of the costs for young people to travel to participate in the project. We have spent part of this budget on organising taxis for those unable to travel the distance by bus, to ensure they are able to attend the sessions.

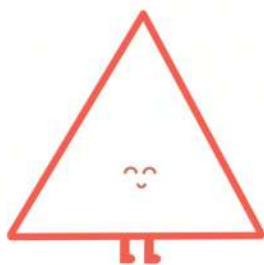
As a result of this accumulative underspend, Avenue has worked with Inspiring Scotland to restructure the budget for years 2 and 3. Inspiring Scotland's Fund Manager allocated for the CashBack Project has confirmed that Scottish Government Finance Team have approved the variations request as proposed, and they will adjust their figures to reflect the revised budget. The Scottish Government also confirmed that no new Grant Offer Letter was required and have noted the permanent underspend of £11,115 which will no longer be available to Avenue's CashBack Project years 2 and 3. These changes to the original budget will have no detrimental impact to the successful running of Avenue's Cashback Project and engagement with young people.



Financial Report • Year 1

Project Activity Q1	Target	Actual	Variance
Staffing Project Delivery Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing salaries Staff travel Insurance, training and recruitment 	£6,680	£7,051	- £371
Non Staffing Project Delivery Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Room hire Participant travel and refreshments Art materials and stationery 	£0.00	£133	- £133
Capital Expenditure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT equipment 	£0.00	£3,438	- £3,438
Management and Marketing Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and Marketing 	£2,000	£2,000	£0.00
Total Project Costs	£8,680	£12,622	-£3,942

Project Activity Q2	Target	Actual	Variance
Staffing Project Delivery Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing salaries Staff travel Insurance, training and recruitment 	£23,389	£15,759	+ £7,630
Non Staffing Project Delivery Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Room hire Participant travel and refreshments Art materials and stationery 	£2,259	£804	+ £1,455
Capital Expenditure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT equipment 	£842	£187	+ £655
Management and Marketing Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management and Marketing 	£2,000	£2,000	£0.00
Total Project Costs	£28,490	£18,750	£9,740



Project Activity Q3	Target	Actual	Variance
Staffing Project Delivery Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing salaries • Staff travel • Insurance, training and recruitment 	£25,571	£17,623	+ £7,948
Non Staffing Project Delivery Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room hire • Participant travel and refreshments • Art materials and stationery 	£5,586	£2,737	+ £2,849
Capital Expenditure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT equipment 	£1,828	£1,506	+ £322
Management and Marketing Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and Marketing 	£2,000	£2,000	£0.00
Total Project Costs	£34,985	£23,866	£11,119

Project Activity Q4	Target	Actual	Variance
Staffing Project Delivery Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing salaries • Staff travel • Insurance, training and recruitment 	£24,869	£19,270	+ £5,599
Non Staffing Project Delivery Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room hire • Participant travel and refreshments • Art materials and stationery 	£5,585	£3,268	+ £2,317
Capital Expenditure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT equipment 	£327	£646	- £319
Management and Marketing Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and Marketing 	£2,000	£2,000	£0.00
Total Project Costs	£32,781	£25,184	£7,597

Project Activity Year 1	Target	Actual	Variance
Staffing Project Delivery Costs	£80,509	£59,703	£20,806
Non Staffing Project Delivery Costs	£13,430	£6,942	£6,488
Capital Expenditure	£2,997	£5,777	-£2,780
Management and Marketing Costs	£8,000	£8,000	£0.00
Total Year 1 Project Costs	£104,936	£80,422	£24,514



Organisational Updates

This section of the annual report provides a quarterly breakdown of Avenue's Organisational Updates for year 1 of the Cashback Connecting Through Creativity Project.

Quarter 1

Within quarter 1, Avenue employed 3 new members of staff to administer the project. This included a Creative Practitioner Project Lead to manage the project, and 2 Creative Practitioners to assist in the development and delivery of the art sessions. The Creative Practitioner Project Lead was employed to work 4 days per week, and the Creative Practitioners were employed to work a combination of 2 and 3 days per week.

During this period, Avenue's CEO announced they were moving on from the organisation, and an interim CEO was appointed by the Board of Trustees.

Quarter 2

The creative team created and developed a webpage dedicated to the CashBack Connecting Through Creativity Project. This can be found on Avenue's existing website.

Quarter 2 focused on developing the project's core structure and approach to facilitating creative engagements with young people. The creative team embarked on producing session plans for group and 1-to-1 work, which accentuated the importance of the projects fundamental objectives and outcomes to be met during the duration of the project. While also informing best practice, embedding a person-centred approach, and utilising trauma-informed practices. In addition, the creative team engaged in the British Association of Art Therapists' 'ARTiculate Training', which implements an art therapy-informed approach to help deepen connections and understanding of facilitating art sessions.

Additionally, this quarter was spent building on pre-existing connections and approaching new organisations to collaborate with. This ensured Avenue engaged with young people most in need and hardest to reach within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

Quarter 3

Avenue's new CEO joined the team in quarter 3, and the Creative Practitioner Project Lead moved to full-time hours to accommodate the needs of the project.

The Creative Team published Avenue's Cashback Connecting Through Creativity Project's Children's Rights and Wellbeing Assessment (CRWIA) on the Avenue Website.

This assessment was developed as a tool to understand how a proposed law, policy or decision might affect children's human rights.

Specifically, the CRWIA assesses how our Cashback Project and organisation may impact children through engaging in our developed programme of activity. CRWIA helps people to identify which rights could be impacted by a decision, whether the impact will be positive, negative or neutral. This requires decision makers to look at the evidence or data that is available, and to identify any changes that mitigate the negative impacts, and maximise the positive impacts.

Quarter 4

Avenue successfully employed two part-time Young Person Creative Practitioners (YPCP) to help inform and support the creative team in the development and running of the project. Alongside their involvement in the delivery of the project, they will also act as advisors to the organisation, including the management team and the Board of Trustees.

These positions aim to support the YPCP's to engage in meaningful employment, skill development, and have access to a real living wage. In addition to the YPCPs engaging in the project, the YPCPs will develop transferable, core skills of problem-solving, and creative thinking.

It is important to note that Avenue has taken on board the importance of implementing the Fair Work Framework and promotes this framework within the organisation.

The Fair Work Framework is a guide on best practice, which offers all individuals an effective voice, opportunity, security, fulfilment, and respect. It balances the rights and responsibilities of employers and workers, and it generates benefits for individuals, organisations, and society. The aim is for this Framework to be used by everyone in the workplace to guide best practice: to help improve understanding of fair work, benchmarking existing practices, and identify areas where improvements can be made.

Finally, the project's budget was restructured to accommodate the surplus realised in Q1-3. The restructuring allowed an increase to hours for the Project Lead.

“I just wanted to say thank you so much for that. It was so so so much fun! I actually got a bit emotional on the way home because my mood had been turned around so much! Was ace thank you.”

**Young Person
Aberdeen Youth
Movement**



Evaluation Method

Avenue's Project uses a range of tools and processes in the measurement of gathered data and personal outcomes. We use a person-centred approach, with individual plans and records created, utilising our Charitylog System. This allows the creative team to use best practice methods when capturing both quantitative, and qualitative information to support evaluations.

Young Person Plans:

An individual record that outlines work, achievements, personal and practical skills, and goals set by individuals.

Art Session Evaluations:

Feedback from participants, observations from staff and individuals, as well as group session notes gathered at the end of every session.

Observational:

Capturing moments during sessions: Partner Organisations and Creative Practitioners capture spontaneous instances where progress towards outcomes are demonstrated. We continually observe behaviour and interactions of participants, informing the assessment of individuals' progress.

Visual Evidence:

The ongoing progress of the group and their work is captured through various forms of art and photographs, contributing to a visual record of achievements.

One-to-one CHART (Chat About Art) and Case studies:

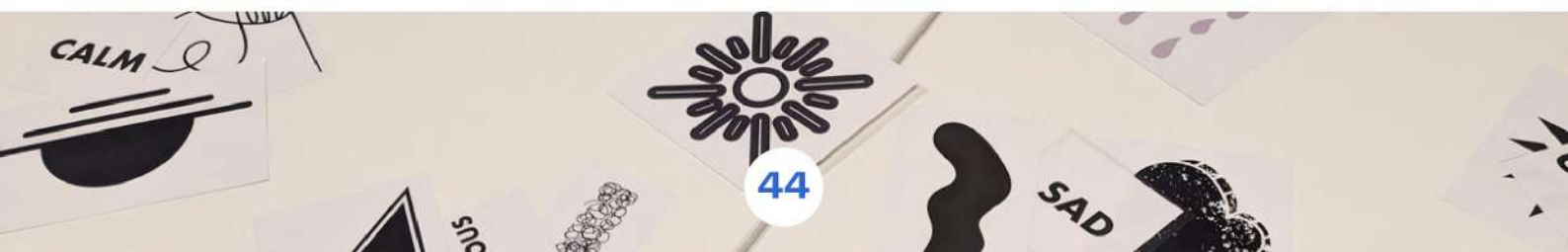
Final consultations with specific participants provide an insight into progress and the impact of the programme and allow allow Creative Practitioner to develop case studies.

Stakeholder Engagement:

We use information from stakeholders, including parents, carers, teachers, and other engaged agencies, to monitor and record the progress of young people.

Evaluation Games and Feedback Forms:

End of project games which helps practitioners gather relevant feedback from young people in a fun and appropriate manor. This helps to gather the thoughts and opinions of participants in order to shape future delivery.



Staff Evaluation

Avenue's Cashback Project utilises a variety of different data collection techniques. This ensures the creative team have all the information necessary to robustly evaluate the projects performance. A range of techniques have also been used to gather meaningful feedback from young people engaging in the project, to evaluate how their outcomes have been successfully reached.

Creative Practitioners are committed to a continuous learning and development approach. We critically reflect our own and each others practice, compare experiences and share knowledge and skills. We have incorporated time to have regular reflective discussions about our values and attitudes, and how we can use these effectively to evaluate and develop our work. This ensures we are continuously improving and developing art sessions, in order to deliver the most appropriate and high-quality service we can offer for young people and their families.

The Project Lead attended a 2-day training course with Evaluation Scotland where in which the training provided a useful resource that the Cashback team could implement and utilises when evaluating Avenue's Cashback Project. An example of this

was developing a number of interactive evaluation games, which we now use at the end of every group project. Young people have responded positively to this form of evaluation method, rather than the usual 'filling out a form' method. This has allowed us to gain a better understanding and insight into how the project is impacted the young people and what outcomes we have achieved.



Creative Practitioners attend regular supervision sessions with their Line-Manager. Part of this supervision is to highlight gaps in their training and knowledge in order to ensure they have a commitment to continual professional development, and keeping up to date with relevant training and theory available to support the project.

Looking Forward

As Avenue looks ahead to year 2 of the Cashback Connecting Through Creativity Project, Creative Practitioners will continue to provide fun, creative art session to support children and young people within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. Through our person-centred, holistic approach to group and 1-to-1 sessions, Creative Practitioners have spent time reflecting upon year 1's project engagements and activity. From this, we have enhanced session plans which will continue to support children and young people to explore and maintain positive frameworks for relationships in their personal lives. To ensure the project provides the best opportunity and long-lasting support for young people to engage in the sessions, we have made a few changes to year 2 of the project, which we will carry out as the year progresses.



We have several groups organised to participate in the programme within year 2 of the project, including Bramble Brae Primary School, Kaimhill Primary School, and Northfield Academy (including associated primary schools), as well as, other groups which have been referred to us through partner organisations already working closely with young people who require our support. By using a person-centred approach, we have learnt a lot from the young people, when running groups. The success of these groups are influenced by a number of key factors, including restructuring session plans, providing enough conversations and time to discuss endings, locations of groups, the duration of sessions, as well as short, and long-term projects.

Looking Forward Continued

In year 2, we have devised the project to include more engagements with school and have created several short-term projects during the summer months which are more intensive. By providing more short-term projects over the summer in year 2, this will enable us to work with a range of individuals who many not be able to engage in longer term projects. An example of this from year 1 was the residential trip delivered in partnership with Quarriers (Aberdeenshire). By talking to the young people involved, it was easier for them to have a week residential where they could take part in a range of different activities, knowing their caring responsibilities were catered for.

We have also recognised the importance of engaging schools within the project. This allows us to reach larger numbers of young people, using the school structure to help with continued attendance of sessions, and reaching those who need it most. The school identified specific individuals who are becoming disengaged with school and/ or involved with anti-social/ criminal behaviour.

In recognition of endings, we have developed a transition project in

year 2, in partnership with Northfield Academy and their associated school's group (ASG). This 12-week project will support young people leaving primary and transitioning into a secondary school setting. The group work will focus on states of change, and how that can impact their mental wellbeing and relationships; and provide creative supportive strategies to manage this.

Additionally, Creative Practitioners will be providing staff at Kaimhill Primary School with CPD training sessions. These will run parallel with creativity sessions with pupils at the school. This will enable staff to imbed longer-term creative approaches into their practice, and which will enable young people to continue to engage with creative learning opportunities following on from our 12-week programme.

Finally, we will continue to build on the fantastic outcomes achieved in year one, through ongoing work with disengaged young people. Our project strives to provide fun, creative support for young people, while having a lasting impact through using the expression of art. We also want to give a massive thank you to all the amazing young people who participated in year one of our Cashback project. Avenue's Creative Practitioners look forward to engaging more young people in year two of the Project.

Appendix

1.Cashback Connecting Through Creativity Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

2.Real Living Wage Scotland

3.The Fair Work Framework

4.Scotland's 2018-2032 Climate Change Plan

5.Best Start, Bright Futures: The Scottish Governments Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, 2022-26

6.UNCRC- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

7.The Promise Scotland

8.Mental Health Strategy 2017-27

9.Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)





**CASH
BACK**
FOR COMMUNITIES

AVENUE
a new direction

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