



/ STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES /



# CashBack Youth X-Change Impact Report 2023-2024

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# Annual Report: CashBack Youth X-Change Impact Report

SCOREScotland proudly joined as a Phase 6 CashBack partner last year. This annual report is dedicated to illustrating the initiatives undertaken in Southwest Edinburgh, specifically in Wester Hailes, over the past year.



## About SCOREScotland

### Vision and Ethos

At SCOREScotland, our vision is to achieve social justice and race equality in a diverse and inclusive society. This vision drives our participation in the CashBack Project, where we aim to divert young people from anti-social behaviour through engaging activities and workshops.

### Mission

SCOREScotland's mission and purpose for existence is to work in partnership with others to address the causes and effects of racism and to promote race equality. We aim to break down barriers to the full participation of minority ethnic communities in all aspects of civic life. By participation in civic life we mean equality of access to public services and information, ability to contribute to and influence policy development and service delivery, freely participating in social, political, cultural, and economic life and feeling valued and integrated as part of society. Through our participation in the CashBack Project, we

strive to dismantle barriers that hinder the full participation of young people offering them opportunities for positive engagement.

### Participation in Civic Life

Within the CashBack Project, we ensure equal access to public services and empower young people to contribute to community development and service delivery. Through our engaging activities and workshops, we facilitate their participation in social, political, cultural and economic spheres, fostering a sense of value and integration within society.

### Value Statement

SCOREScotland is committed to social justice and equal opportunities for all, epitomized in our involvement in the CashBack Project. We provide accessible and inclusive services, supporting and empowering those facing disadvantage and discrimination, and strive to unite communities through our initiatives.

This report reflects our dedication to realizing our vision, fulfilling our mission, and upholding our values, particularly through the CashBack Project.



# About the Project

The project sought funding to support a Black Minority Ethnic youth initiative aimed at diverting young people from antisocial/criminal behaviour by fostering trust with local police through engagement activities. It also focuses on enhancing learning and employment options, improving relationships with schools, promoting physical health through sports, providing mental health support, and encouraging community involvement. The initiative collaborates with various organizations and aims to empower youth by offering training, volunteering opportunities, and access to positive role models.



## Our Project

This year, SCOREscotland has had the privilege of working with 84 young people (11-24 years old) across South West Edinburgh. These young individuals have been referred to our program through various avenues, including direct engagement with schools such as Wester Hailes High School, Currie, and St. Augustine, as well as direct outreach efforts by SCOREscotland.

Our program focuses on providing comprehensive support to these young people, both within and outside of school settings. We recognize the critical importance of having the right staff members in these roles, as they often serve as stable adult figures in the lives of the youth we support.

Throughout the year, these 84 young people had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities aimed at holistic development. This included engaging in sports activities such as weekly boxing and basketball trainings, fostering teamwork, discipline, and physical well-being.

In addition to sports, our program offered creative workshops covering various interests and talents. These workshops included activities such as graffiti art, music library sessions, and poetry workshops, providing avenues for self-expression and artistic exploration.

Moreover, recognizing the importance of equipping young people with essential life skills, we also organized workshops focused on improving numeracy skills. One notable example is the Money Management Boot Camp week held in October, which provided practical lessons and tools to enhance financial literacy and money management skills among participants.

Through these diverse and enriching activities, SCOREscotland aims to empower young people, nurture their talents, and equip them with the skills and confidence needed to navigate and succeed in today's world.

# Meet the Project Delivery Team:



**Harry Economou**  
CashBack Project  
Coordinator



**Francesca Seminara**  
Senior Youth Worker



**Janet Pena**  
Youth Worker

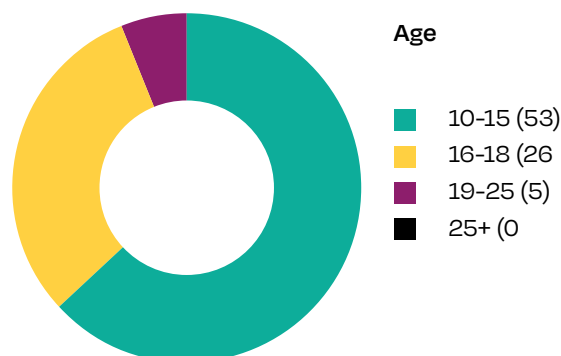
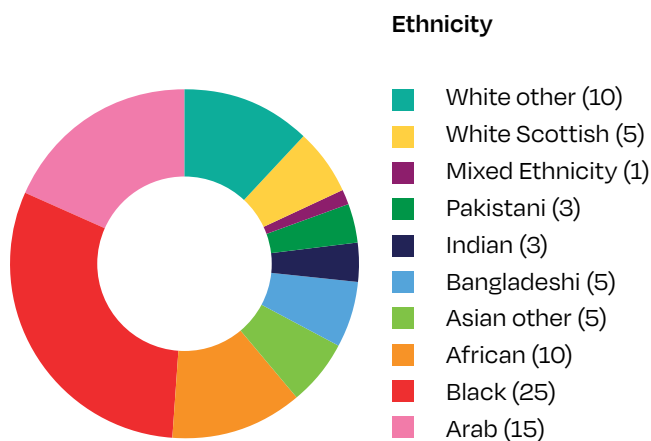
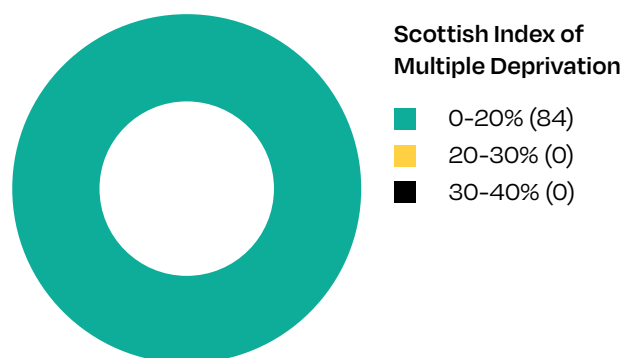
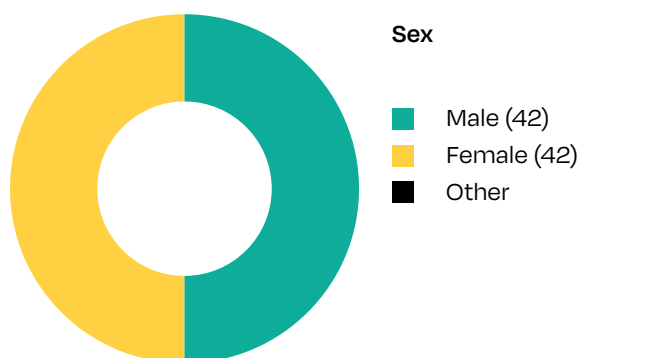


**Tareq Awad**  
Basketball Coach /  
Youth Worker

The team would like to acknowledge support and guidance from Ben Thompson (Inspiring Scotland).

## Our Young People

Breakdown of equality data for our young people this year:



## Case Study

T, a 17-year-old with Bangladeshi roots, faced significant challenges with low confidence, shyness, and discrimination in Scotland. The Basketball CashBack activity became a turning point in his life, providing a supportive environment where he could thrive. Through weekly basketball sessions, T not only improved his skills on the court but also found a community that embraced him for who he was. His new-found confidence positively impacted various aspects of his life, including school attendance and relationships with peers.

T's journey highlights the transformative power of programs like CashBack. His experience demonstrates how participation in empowering activities can foster personal growth, resilience, and a sense of belonging. T's story serves as an inspiration, showing the potential for positive change when young people are provided with opportunities for support and development.

This was a big success for us, and highlights the impact the CB program has had on T so far. He continues to be involved in the basketball sessions and other creative workshops of our program.

The photos attached to this case study are for illustrative purposes only and are not associated with the individual's story.



**Basketball helped me break out of my shell, and I feel more confident now.**



# Quotes from young people

## Basketball video:

*I love how I come here and play basketball and socialise. It's really fun.*



## Money Management:

*I was rubbish with money and this opportunity helped me to get some more knowledge on managing my pocket money.*

## Tinderbox Videos:

*It was such a nice and unique experience. I can't wait to take part in it again.*



## Poetry and creative writing workshop participant:

*I love to sketch and write that's why I took part in the poetry workshop. I like writing poems about how I feel or anything that matters to me. I do it to let all my feelings out. It really helps me when I am angry. I loved the poetry workshop especially because I was working with Asha. The most hardest thing about it was when we had to perform in front of other people but I really enjoyed writing that letter to myself and then drawing around it. If they opened a workshop like this again I would love to join.*

# Outcome 1

## YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DIVERTED FROM ANTISOCIAL, CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM



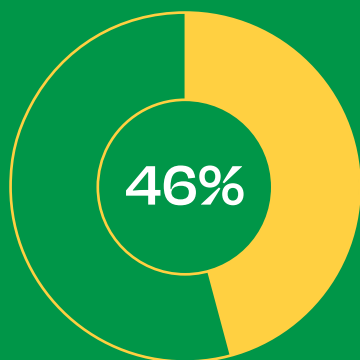
Young people report that they feel less inclined to participate in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour.

Through our initiatives, we offer constructive outlets for personal growth, fostering discipline, teamwork and responsibility. By offering diverse activities, we guide our youth towards a promising future, free from negative influences.

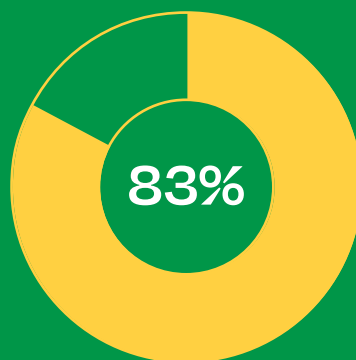


## Outcome 2

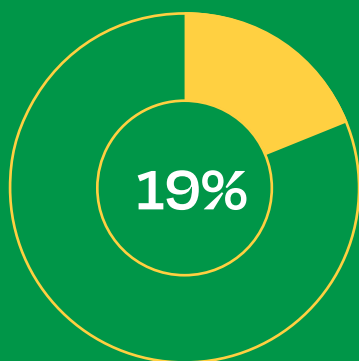
### YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITY WHICH IMPROVES THEIR LEARNING, EMPLOYABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS (POSITIVE DESTINATIONS)



Young people gain an accreditation for a new skill



Young people report an improved relationship with their school

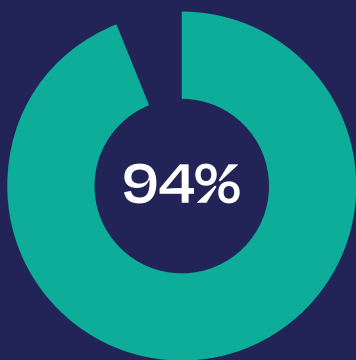


Progression outcomes after completion of the programme; the number of participants gaining/taking up: College/ University placement, Modern Apprenticeship/ Employment and Volunteering

Participating in our program motivates young individuals to actively participate in school. The structured sessions and personalized support, has improved overall attendance and consequently, academic achievement among the youth. Also, getting to explore other things outside of school and help out by volunteering gives them a chance to think positively about what they might do in the future.

# Outcome 3

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IMPROVES



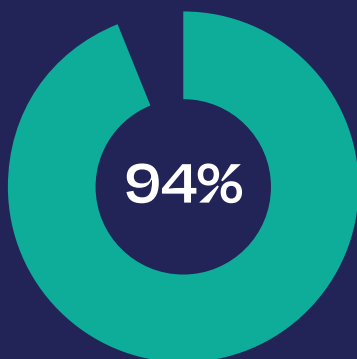
Young people report an increase in feelings against SHANARRI indicators: Safety, Health, Achievement, Nurture, Activity, Respect, Responsibility, Inclusion



Young people report their mental health has improved and they have a more positive outlook on life



Young people report they are more aware of the risks and impacts of harmful substance use



Young people report their confidence has increased



Young people report evidence of participation in physical and sporting activities



## Outcome 4

### YOUNG PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THEIR COMMUNITY



Young people report a heightened sense of belonging to a community



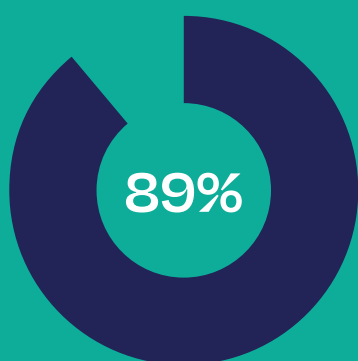
Young people report increased motivation to positively influence what happens in their community



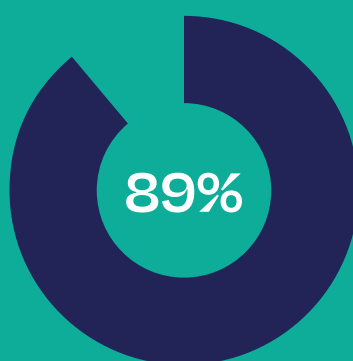
Hours of Volunteering

## Outcome 5

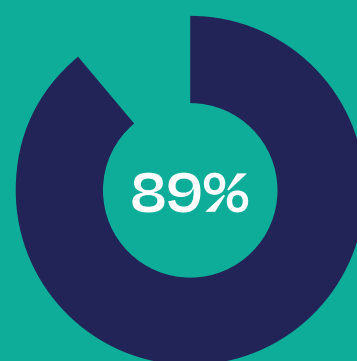
### YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD THEIR PERSONAL SKILLS, RESILIENCE AND BENEFIT FROM STRENGTHENED SUPPORT



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)



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)



Young people report increased access to appropriate services

# Outcome Performance

## Outcome 1: YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DIVERTED FROM ANTISOCIAL, CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

|                                                                                                  | Young People Achieving Outcome | Number of YP completing the program | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Young people reported that they're less inclined to participate in antisocial/criminal behaviour | 75                             | 84                                  | 89%        |

## Outcome 2: YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITY WHICH IMPROVES THEIR LEARNING, EMPLOYABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS (POSITIVE DESTINATIONS)

|                                                                                                                                        | Young People Achieving Outcome | Number of YP completing the program | Percentage |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Young people gain an accreditation for a new skill                                                                                     | 39                             | 84                                  | 49%        |
| Young people report an improved relationship with their school                                                                         | 70                             | 84                                  | 83%        |
| Progression outcomes after completion of the programme; the number of participants gaining/taking up: Modern Apprenticeship/Employment | 2                              | 84                                  | 2.4%       |
| Progression outcomes after completion of the programme; the number of participants gaining/taking up: University/College               | 2                              | 84                                  | 2.4%       |
| Progression outcomes after completion of the programme; the number of participants gaining/taking up: Volunteering                     | 12                             | 84                                  | 14.3%      |



### Outcome 3: YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IMPROVES

|                                                                                                                                                             | Young People Achieving Outcome | Number of YP completing the program | Percentage |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Young people report an increase in feelings against SHANARRI indicators: Safety, Health, Achievement, Nurture, Activity, Respect, Responsibility, Inclusion | 79                             | 84                                  | 94%        |
| Young people report their mental health has improved and they have a more positive outlook on life                                                          | 72                             | 84                                  | 86%        |
| Young people report they are more aware of the risks and impacts of harmful substance use                                                                   | 72                             | 84                                  | 86%        |
| Young people report they are less inclined to engage in harmful drugs and/or alcohol use                                                                    | 72                             | 84                                  | 86%        |
| Young people report their confidence has increased                                                                                                          | 79                             | 84                                  | 94%        |
| Young people report evidence of participation in physical and sporting activities                                                                           | 72                             | 84                                  | 86%        |

### Outcome 4: YOUNG PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THEIR COMMUNITY

|                                                                                                  | Young People Achieving Outcome | Number of YP completing the program | Percentage |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Young people report a heightened sense of belonging to a community                               | 75                             | 84                                  | 89%        |
| Young people report increased motivation to positively influence what happens in their community | 75                             | 84                                  | 89%        |
| Hours of Volunteering: 590/810                                                                   |                                |                                     |            |

### Outcome 5: YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD THEIR PERSONAL SKILLS, RESILIENCE AND BENEFIT FROM STRENGTHENED SUPPORT

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Young People Achieving Outcome | Number of YP completing the program | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 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)                 | 75                             | 84                                  | 89%        |
| Young people report increased access to appropriate services                                                                                                                                                        | 75                             | 84                                  | 89%        |
| 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) | 75                             | 84                                  | 89%        |

# Partnership Spotlight: Empowering Young Minds through Collaboration

In our journey towards fostering community engagement and nurturing young talent, we are proud to shine a light on the invaluable partnerships that have enriched our programs and initiatives. Through collaborative efforts with esteemed organizations such as Money Matrix, Push the Boat Out, Tinderbox, Tarek Basketball Coach & St. Augustine High School, Blast Boxing, Manipulate Arts, and Edinburgh and Lothian Green Team, we have collectively impacted the lives of 84 young individuals.

Each partner has brought a unique set of skills and resources to the table, contributing to a diverse range of workshops and activities tailored to the needs and interests of our youth participants.

Push the Boat Out guided aspiring poets and writers through a series of poetry and creative writing workshops, igniting their passion for self-expression and storytelling.

Manipulate Arts added colour to our endeavours with street art and graffiti workshops, empowering young artists to explore their creativity through urban art forms. Taking it a step further, we're collaborating with the City of Edinburgh Council and Police Scotland to create a small mural in one of the underpasses in our community on Calder Road. This initiative not only enhances our efforts in fostering creativity but also beautifies and revitalises public spaces, creating a sense of pride and ownership among the community members.

Tinderbox orchestrated dynamic music library sessions, providing a platform for budding musicians to hone their craft and explore the world of sound.

Money Matrix spearheaded a transformative Boot Camp week focused on money management and entrepreneurial skills, equipping our youth with essential financial literacy and business acumen.



Under the guidance of Tarek Basketball Coach & St. Augustine High School, our young athletes experienced the thrill of basketball training every Thursday, while Blast Boxing instilled discipline and determination through boxing sessions held every Monday at Gate 55.

The ongoing dedication and commitment of our partners, combined with the enthusiasm and eagerness of our participants, have paved the way for meaningful growth and development within our community.

As we reflect on the past year, we extend our deepest gratitude to Money Matrix, Push the Boat Out, Tinderbox, Tarek Basketball Coach & St. Augustine High School, Blast Boxing, Manipulate Arts, and Edinburgh and Lothian Green Team for their unwavering support and collaborative spirit. Together, we will continue to nurture and empower the next generation of leaders, creators, and change makers.

# Evaluation and Future Directions

The success of our workshops and activities hinges on our ability to gather meaningful feedback and insights from participants. Throughout the duration of our programs, we employed a multi-faceted approach to evaluation, utilizing questionnaires, surveys, 1-2-1 conversations, and focus group discussions.

These methods allowed us to capture a comprehensive understanding of participant experiences, perceptions, and areas for improvement. We are grateful for the openness and honesty displayed by our participants, whose feedback has been instrumental in shaping the future direction of our initiatives.

One notable finding from our evaluations is the expressed interest from participants in having ongoing creative workshops, similar to the basketball and boxing sessions, rather than structured 8-week blocks. This insight underscores the importance of flexibility and adaptability in meeting the evolving needs and preferences of our youth demographic.

In addition, reflecting on year 1, the progress we made on outcome 2 wasn't the one we desired. Moving into year 2 of the project, the strategy that

we will follow is to encourage young people to take on apprenticeship opportunities, as well as offer more hands-on workshops that will improve their learning and employability such as bike maintenance and barbering workshops.

As we transition into the second year of the project, we are committed to responding to this feedback by exploring the feasibility of running creative workshops, such as the music library sessions, throughout the entire year. Furthermore, we aim to identify avenues for more advanced young musicians to pursue their talents in a specialized and advanced setting.

By leveraging the valuable insights gained from our evaluation efforts and remaining responsive to the aspirations of our participants, we are poised to enhance the impact and sustainability of our programs in the years to come. Together, we will continue to cultivate an environment where creativity thrives, talents flourish, and opportunities abound.



## Finances

### Annual Report Year 1 CashBack project

| Project Activity           | Year 1 | Budget for 3 yrs |
|----------------------------|--------|------------------|
| Staff Cost                 | 32,151 | 126,209          |
| Non Staff Project Delivery | 18,178 | 62,068           |
| Management fee             | 5,438  | 19,533           |
| TOTAL                      | 55,767 | 207,810          |

We had an understpend in year 1 and this is due to the project starting late.

The new project coordinator was appointed three months after the project began, so he's been working hard to catch up.

The delay affected how resources were used and schedules were set, leading to the budget variance.

# Contribution to Scottish Government Policies

## Child Poverty

Through our holistic approach to youth development, we aim to break the cycle of poverty by equipping young individuals with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to pursue sustainable pathways to success. By offering free or subsidized participation in our workshops and activities, we strive to mitigate financial barriers and promote social inclusion among disadvantaged youth.

## Children's Rights

Central to our project ethos is the promotion and protection of children's rights, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We prioritize the voices and agency of young participants, providing platforms for self-expression, creativity, and decision-making. Our commitment to children's rights is reflected in our transparent and participatory approach to program development and evaluation.

## Climate Change

Our project serves as a catalyst for environmental consciousness and action, aligning with Scotland's ambitious goals to combat climate change and biodiversity loss. Through awareness-raising initiatives and hands-on experiences, we inspire young individuals to become stewards of the natural world. Activities such as urban green space exploration and tree planting with the Edinburgh and Lothian Green Team foster a deeper appreciation for nature and encourage sustainable practices among participants.

Moreover, our project incorporates principles of climate resilience and adaptation by considering the changing climate in our event planning and space utilization. We promote public transport usage by providing directions and timing events in alignment with transport timetables, thus reducing carbon emissions and supporting sustainable mobility options.

In summary, our project exemplifies a multifaceted approach to social and environmental responsibility, embodying the values and priorities outlined in the Scottish Government's policy agenda. Through collaborative partnerships, youth empowerment initiatives, and environmental stewardship efforts, we are proud to contribute to a brighter, more equitable future for Scotland's children and communities.

## Fair Work

By prioritizing accessibility and inclusivity in our project design, we have crafted opportunities for meaningful engagement and skill development among young participants. Understanding the importance of providing a level playing field, we've embedded these principles into every aspect of our initiative. Our commitment to fair work principles is not just a statement; it's reflected in our collaborative partnerships with local organizations. Through these partnerships, we ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities for all involved, regardless of background or circumstance.

