



/ STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES /



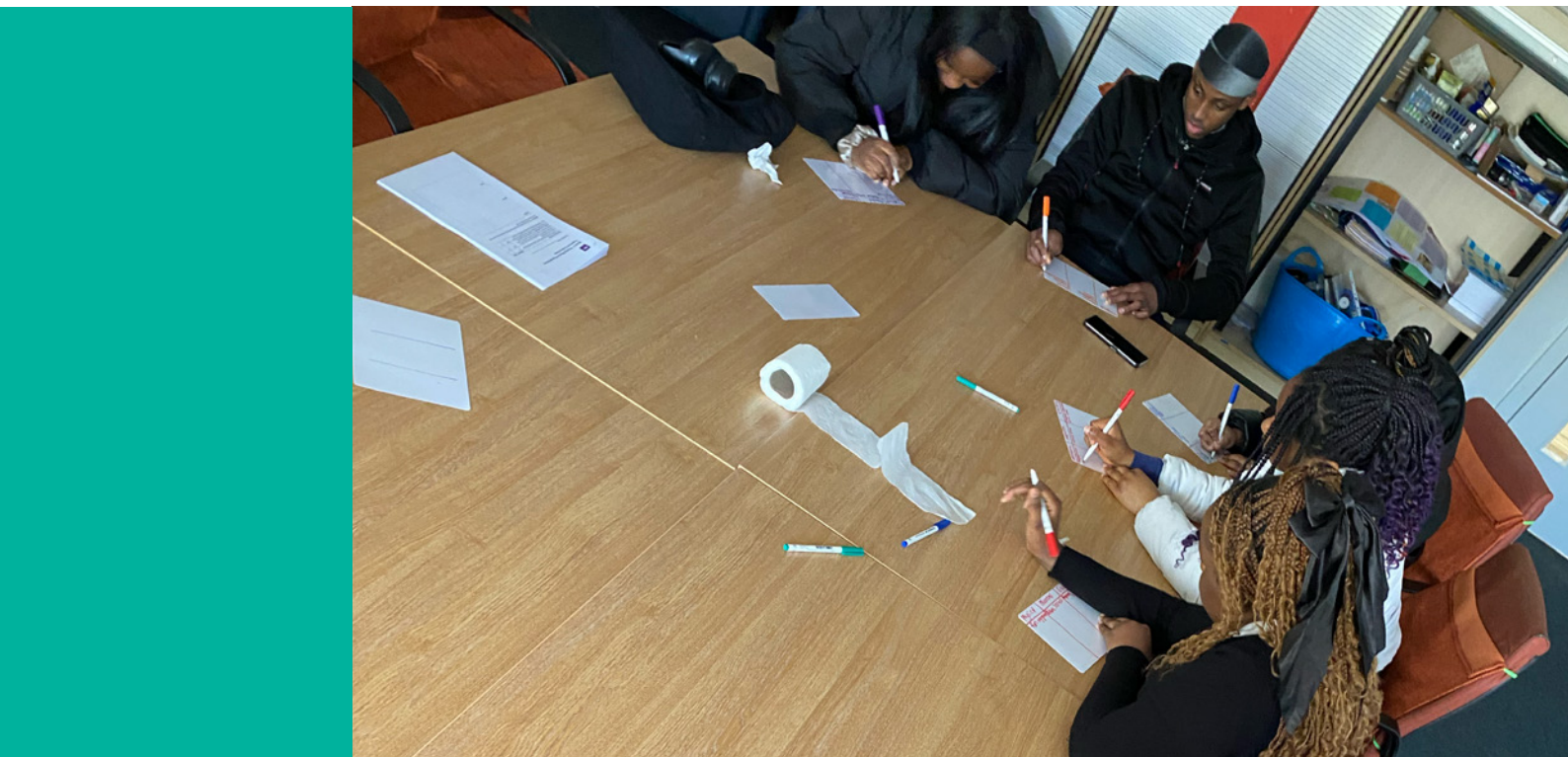
# CashBack Youth X-Change Impact Report 2024-2025

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Company No. 274614 Charity No. SC 036018.  
Registered address: WHALE Learning Centre, 30 Westburn Grove, Edinburgh, EH14 2SA.



# Contents

|                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Annual Report: CashBack Youth X-Change Impact Report                | 1  |
| About SCOREscotland                                                 | 3  |
| About the Project                                                   | 4  |
| Our Project                                                         | 5  |
| Meet the team                                                       | 6  |
| Outcome Highlights                                                  | 9  |
| Outcomes 1-5                                                        | 13 |
| Partnership Spotlight: Empowering Young Minds Through Collaboration | 17 |
| Finances                                                            | 18 |
| Evaluation and Future Direction                                     | 18 |
| Contribution to Scottish Government Policies                        | 19 |





# Annual Report: CashBack Youth X-Change Impact Report

Now in the second year of our three-year CashBack Phase 6 journey, SCOREscotland continues to build on the foundations laid in year one. This report highlights the progress and activities delivered across Southwest Edinburgh—particularly in Wester Hailes—over the past year, showcasing how the project is evolving to meet the needs of our young people and community.



## 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.



# About the Project

Now in its second year of a three-year journey, this initiative continues to support Black and Minority Ethnic young people through a holistic and preventative approach. While the original aim included fostering stronger ties with Police Scotland, the focus over the past year has naturally shifted toward strengthening relationships between young people and their schools. Building on the groundwork laid in Year 1, we have concentrated on enhancing engagement in education, improving attendance, and supporting positive interactions with teaching staff.

The project remains committed to promoting learning, employability and overall wellbeing. Through sports and creative arts, we are helping young people develop physical resilience, emotional confidence and a stronger sense of belonging. Collaboration continues to be a cornerstone of our work—we partner with a range of organisations to deliver leadership training, volunteering pathways and access to relatable, positive role models. Our focus remains on empowering young people with the skills, confidence and community support they need to flourish.

This year, SCOREScotland has had the privilege of working with 95 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 and St. Augustine, as well as direct outreach efforts by SCOREScotland.



# Our Project

In Year 2 of our three-year initiative, SCOREscotland has continued to provide meaningful and targeted support to Black and Minority Ethnic young people across South West Edinburgh. This year, we worked with 95 young people aged 11–24, building on the success of our previous work while responding to emerging needs and interests. Referrals came through a mix of direct engagement with local high schools—including Wester Hailes High School, Currie and St. Augustine's—and ongoing outreach efforts led by SCOREscotland.

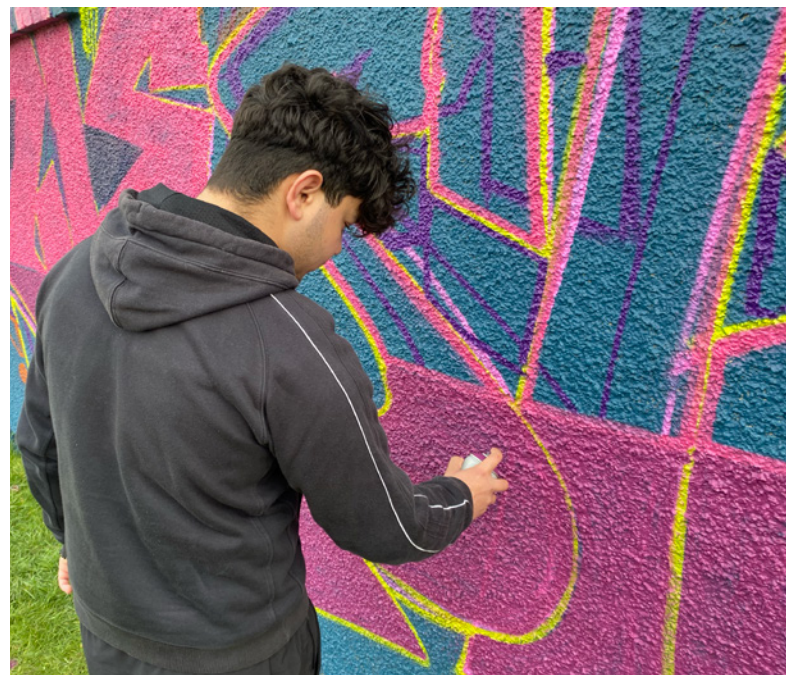
Our program continues to offer holistic support, both within school environments and in the wider community. We remain committed to ensuring that the right staff are in place—adults who not only deliver sessions but also act as trusted, stable figures in the lives of the young people we serve.

This year, we sustained and expanded our sports offerings, with weekly basketball and boxing training sessions promoting teamwork, discipline and physical well-being. In the arts, we streamlined our creative workshops into a combined poetry and music strand, creating space for self-expression, emotional exploration and cultural storytelling.

A key highlight of this year was our *Youth Money Camp*, held over a weekend in September at the University of Edinburgh. This immersive experience gave young people three full days of hands-on learning in financial literacy, research and presentation skills. It was a powerful development opportunity that helped participants build confidence and practical knowledge for life beyond school.

Another highlight of the year was the **Winter Party** organised by our young participants. This event was entirely **youth-led**, demonstrating the leadership, creativity and initiative fostered through our programmes. The young people took charge of the planning process, curating the music playlist, organising dance activities and setting up a variety of board games to ensure everyone felt included and engaged. Our role as staff was deliberately limited to providing food and a supportive presence, allowing the young people to fully own and shape the event. The Winter Party served not only as a festive celebration before the Christmas holidays but also as a powerful moment of community building, teamwork and shared joy. It highlighted the importance of giving young people the trust, space and resources to create experiences that matter to them — and once again, they rose to the occasion with enthusiasm, creativity and a deep sense of togetherness.

Across all areas of delivery, our aim remains the same: to empower young people, nurture their potential and equip them with the tools they need to thrive in education, employment and life.





# Meet the team:



**Harry Economou**  
CashBack Project  
Coordinator



**Sarah Harper**  
CashBack Homework  
Support Club Lead



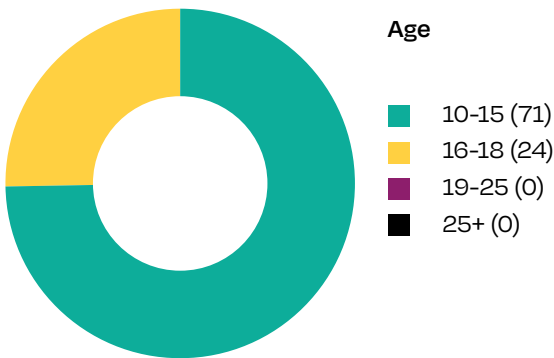
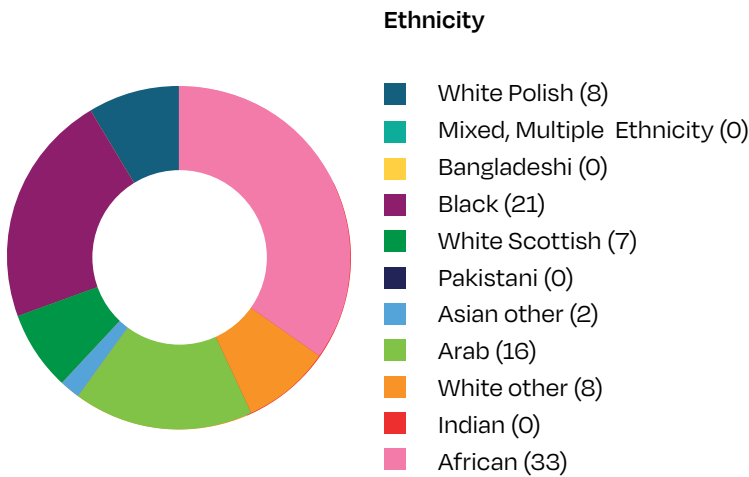
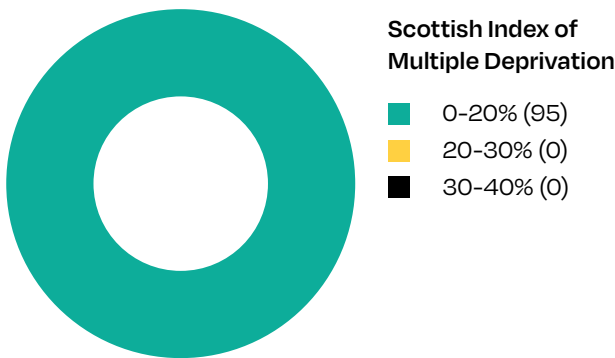
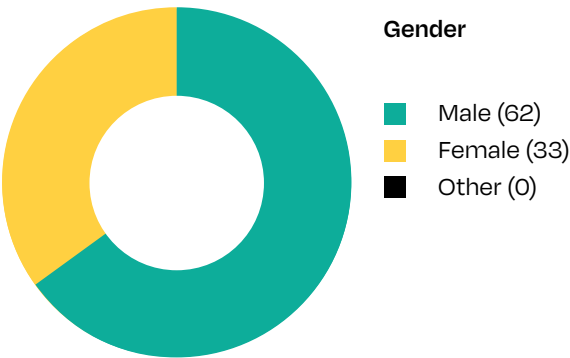
**Janet Pena**  
Youth Worker



**Tarek Awaad**  
Basketball Coach

## Our Young People

Breakdown of equality data for our young people  
*Year 2*



# Case Study

Less than a year ago, M, a 14-year-old girl began a life-changing journey when her family moved from Gambia to Scotland. The culture shift and the challenge of integrating into a new society presented a series of adjustments for her. Adapting to a different educational system, and a new culture, as well as forging connections with peers proved to be a challenge.

M's involvement in the CashBack programme, particularly in the creative writing and music workshops, had a profound impact on her growth. Initially quiet and reserved, M gradually gained confidence and found her voice during the nine-week programme. The workshops provided her with an outlet to express herself through creative writing, leading to the creation of two exceptional poems and her contribution as a bongo player in a group song. The poem "Wonderful Teacher" was devoted to the project coordinator.

These achievements reflected her growing self-awareness and ability to articulate her thoughts. A pivotal moment came when M, inspired by the encouragement she received during the programme, decided to present her work at the Edinburgh International Poetry Festival. This milestone demonstrated her bravery and the transformative effect of the CashBack initiative on her artistic and personal development. Her performance at the festival celebrated not only her talent but also the programme's success in empowering young people and unlocking their creative potential. The CashBack activities had a profound impact on M, transforming her from a reserved participant to a confident and expressive young individual. Reflecting on the experience, M stated, "The workshops were amazing and I'm so grateful for this opportunity. I'm excited to take part in other activities of SCORE and meet more people". Stakeholders involved in the CashBack activity also recognized M's journey. A programme facilitator remarked, "M's growth was truly inspiring." M now attends the lunch club at her school every Thursday, where she learns knitting, cooking, and other skills that support her personal development.

*With a special gift for learning and with a heart that deeply cares You add a lot of love to everything you share And even though you mean a lot You'll never know how much For your help to change the world through every life you touched You sparked the creativity In the students whom you taught And helped them strive for goals that could not be bought You are such a special teacher that no words can truly tell However much you're valued for the work you do so well"*

## "In The Shadows of Silence" Poem:

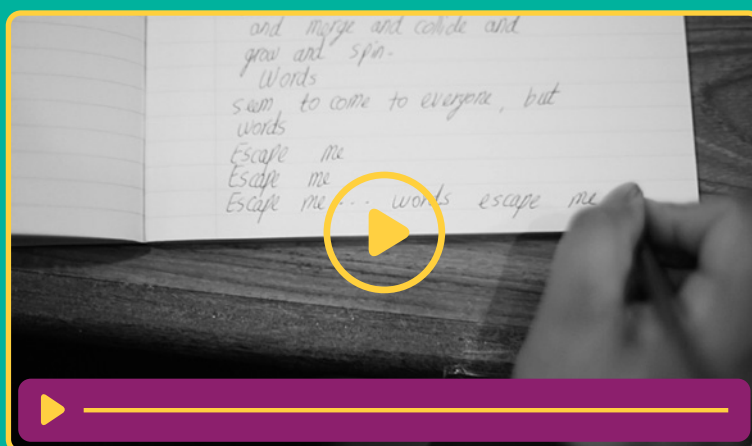


*I'm excited to take part in other activities of SCORE and meet more people*



*The workshops were amazing and I'm so grateful for this opportunity.*

## "Words" Poem:





# Outcome 1

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



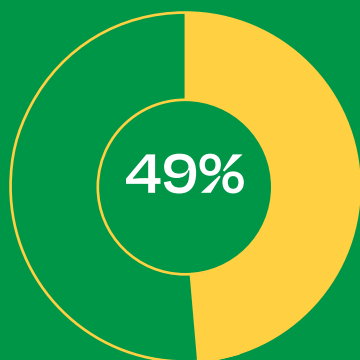
Young people report that they feel less inclined to participate in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour.

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.

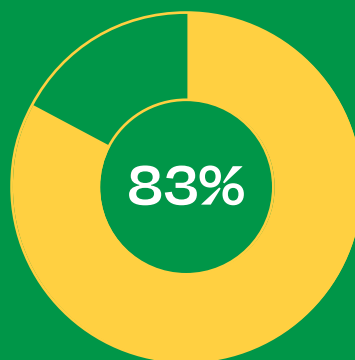


## Outcome 2

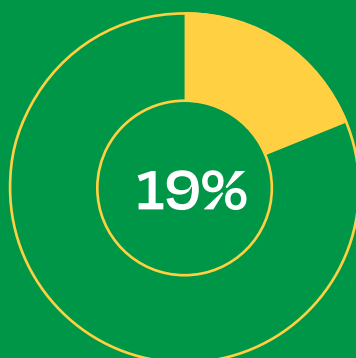
### YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITY WHICH IMPROVES THEIR LEARNING, EMPLOYABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS (POSITIVE DESTINATIONS)



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



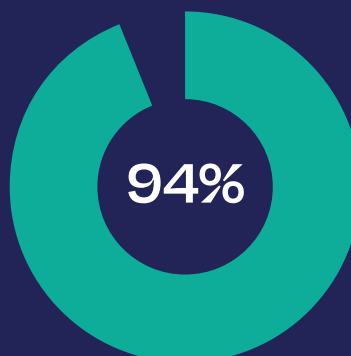
Young people report their mental health has improved and they have a more positive outlook on life



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



Young people report they are less inclined to engage in harmful drugs and/or alcohol



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



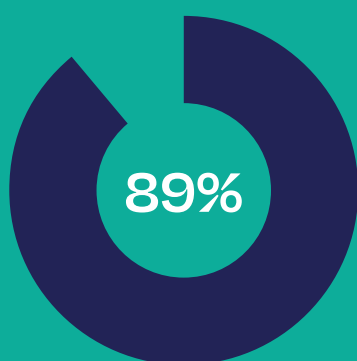
Young people report a heightened sense of belonging to a community



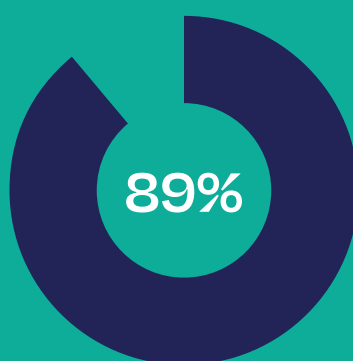
Young people report increased motivation to positively influence what happens in their community

## Outcome 5

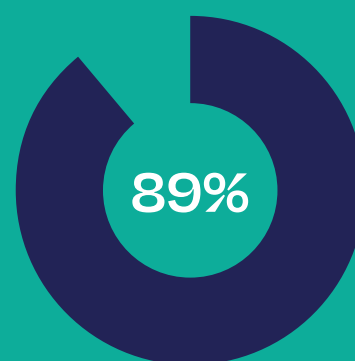
### YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD THEIR PERSONAL SKILLS, RESILIENCE AND BENEFIT FROM STRENGTHENED SUPPORT



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

# Outcomes 1- 5

| Outcome 1: YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DIVERTED FROM ANTISOCIAL, CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM - 88% |             |                       |              |                 |                       |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|                                                                                                                        | 2024 / 2025 |                       |              | Phase 6 to date |                       |              |
| OUTCOME 1: YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DIVERTED FROM ANTISOCIAL, CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR AND INVOLVEMENT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM       | Achieved    | Completed the program | Percentage % | Achieved        | Completed the program | Percentage % |
| Young people reported that they're less inclined to participate in antisocial/ criminal behaviour                      | 75          | 84                    | 89%          | 157             | 179                   | 88%          |





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

|                                                                                                                                                     | 2024/2025       |                              |                     | Phase 6 to date |                              |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>OUTCOME 2: YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITY WHICH IMPROVES THEIR LERARNING, EMPLOYABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS (POSITIVE DESTINATIONS)</b> | <b>Achieved</b> | <b>Completed the program</b> | <b>Percentage %</b> | <b>Achieved</b> | <b>Completed the program</b> | <b>Percentage %</b> |
| Young people gain an accreditation for a new skill                                                                                                  | 39              | 84                           | 49%                 | 52              | 179                          | 29%                 |
| Young people report an improved relationship with their school                                                                                      | 70              | 84                           | 83%                 | 150             | 179                          | 84%                 |
| Progression outcomes after completion of the programme; the number of participants gaining/ taking up: Modern Apprenticeship/ Employment            | 2               | 84                           | 2,4%                | 2               | 179                          | 1%                  |
| Progression outcomes after completion of the programme; the number of participants gaining/ taking up: University/College                           | 2,4             | 84                           | 2,4%                | 2,4             | 179                          | 1%                  |
| Progression outcomes after completion of the programme; the number of participants gaining/ taking up: Volunteering                                 | 12              | 84                           | 14,3%               | 12              | 179                          | 7%                  |



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

| OUTCOME 3: YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPROVES                                                                                      | 2024/2025 |                       |              | Phase 6 to date |                       |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|                                                                                                                                                             | Achieved  | Completed the program | Percentage % | Achieved        | Completed the program | Percentage % |
| Young people report an increase in feelings against SHANARRI indicators: Safety, Health, Achievement, Nurture, Activity, Respect, Responsibility, Inclusion | 79        | 84                    | 94%          | 159             | 179                   | 89%          |
| Young people report their mental health has improved and they have a more positive outlook on life                                                          | 72        | 84                    | 86%          | 152             | 179                   | 85%          |
| Young people report they are more aware of the risks and impacts of harmful substance use                                                                   | 72        | 84                    | 86%          | 152             | 179                   | 85%          |
| Young people report they are less inclined to engage in harmful drugs and/or alcohol use                                                                    | 72        | 84                    | 86%          | 152             | 179                   | 85%          |
| Young people report their confidence has increased                                                                                                          | 79        | 84                    | 94%          | 159             | 179                   | 89%          |
| Young people report evidence of participation in physical and sporting activities                                                                           | 72        | 84                    | 86%          | 152             | 179                   | 85%          |

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

|                                                                                                  | 2024/2025 |                       |              | Phase 6 to date |                       |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|                                                                                                  | Achieved  | Completed the program | Percentage % | Achieved        | Completed the program | Percentage % |
| Young people report a heightened sense of belonging to a community                               | 75        | 84                    | 89%          | 143             | 179                   | 80%          |
| Young people report increased motivation to positively influence what happens in their community | 75        | 84                    | 89%          | 143             | 179                   | 80%          |

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 2024/2025       |                              |                     | Phase 6 to date |                              |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>OUTCOME 5: YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD THEIR PERSONAL SKILLS, RESILIENCE AND BENEFIT FROM STRENGTHENED SUPPORT</b>                                                                                                        | <b>Achieved</b> | <b>Completed the program</b> | <b>Percentage %</b> | <b>Achieved</b> | <b>Completed the program</b> | <b>Percentage %</b> |
| 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%                 | 155             | 179                          | 86%                 |
| Young people report increased access to appropriate services                                                                                                                                                        | 75              | 84                           | 89%                 | 157             | 179                          | 88%                 |
| 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%                 | 157             | 179                          | 88%                 |



# Partnership Spotlight: Empowering Young Minds through Collaboration

As we progress through the second year of our three-year journey, we continue to celebrate the strength and depth of our community partnerships, which remain central to the impact and reach of our youth work. This year, SCOREscotland worked with 95 young people across South West Edinburgh, made possible through the ongoing collaboration with a network of passionate and committed partners.

Our creative and educational programming was once again enhanced by collaborations with **Push the Boat Out**, **Tinderbox**, **Money Matrix**, **Tarek Basketball Coach**, **St. Augustine's RC High School**, **Blast Boxing**, and this year, **Spectrum Arts**. Each partner brought unique expertise that supported the development, expression and empowerment of the young people we engage.

We combined poetry and music this year into a unified series of expressive arts workshops co-led by **Push the Boat Out** and **Tinderbox**, encouraging participants to explore identity, rhythm and storytelling.

A standout project this year was the creation of a large mural on the **Scottish Power Station** on **Wester Hailes Road**, a high-traffic location that locals walk and drive by every day. This mural has become a visible and proud symbol of youth creativity in the community. The project received wide praise from local residents, with many expressing their admiration for the work. We received official approval from the **City of Edinburgh Council** (as the landowners), **Scottish Power Networks** (as the building owners) and **Police Scotland**, showcasing the collaborative spirit and strong support from multiple community stakeholders. The project also involved a group of **part-time students from Wester Hailes High School**, many of whom had limited engagement with the school. Over 10 weeks, this initiative not only helped them build essential skills but also strengthened their relationship with the school and the wider community. The mural stands as a lasting testament to their hard work and the positive impact of youth-led creative projects.

Our financial education offering evolved with the **Youth Money Camp**, delivered in partnership with **Money Matrix** and hosted by the University of Edinburgh. This immersive weekend-long residential focused on research, public speaking and financial literacy, significantly boosting young people's confidence and practical life skills.

In the realm of sport, **Blast Boxing** expanded its reach, now delivering weekly boxing training in both **Wester Hailes High School** and **St. Augustine's**, fostering discipline, self-confidence and physical wellbeing among participants. Basketball sessions also continued under the guidance of **Coach Tarek**, offering consistency and structure to those with a passion for the sport.

Our sincere thanks go out to all our partners whose dedication continues to fuel meaningful change. With their continued support, and the enthusiasm of the young people we serve, we remain committed to empowering the next generation of leaders, creators and changemakers across Edinburgh.



# Finances

| Finances                    | 2024/25      |              |            | Phase 6 to date   |                   |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
|                             | Actual       | Target       | Variance   | Actual            | Target            | Variance     |
| Staffing Delivery Costs     | 48646        | 45765        | 2881       | 82,492.00         | 79,428.00         | 3,064.00     |
| Non Staffing Delivery Costs | 20602        | 22351        | -1749      | 36,846.00         | 39,317.00         | -2,471.00    |
| Management and Marketing    | 6356         | 7250         | -894       | 11,794.00         | 12,388.00         | -594.00      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>75604</b> | <b>75366</b> | <b>238</b> | <b>131,132.00</b> | <b>131,133.00</b> | <b>-1.00</b> |

## Evaluation and Future Directions

The success of our workshops and activities continues to rely on the valuable feedback and insights we receive from participants. Throughout the year, we maintained a multi-faceted approach to evaluation, utilizing questionnaires, surveys, one-on-one conversations and focus group discussions. These methods enabled us to gain a holistic understanding of participant experiences, perceptions and areas for improvement. We are deeply grateful for the openness and honesty displayed by our participants, whose feedback plays a vital role in shaping the ongoing direction of our initiatives.

One key takeaway from our evaluations this year was the expressed interest in expanding our basketball training sessions. Participants highlighted the desire for more frequent sessions, which led us to secure access to a court at **Edinburgh College**. This new arrangement allows us to offer an additional training session each week, providing our players with more opportunities to develop their basketball skills.

Reflecting on Year 2, we recognized the need to enhance the frequency and consistency of basketball sessions to better support the development of our young athletes. Moving into Year 3, we are committed to responding to this feedback by continuing to expand basketball training opportunities and providing additional pathways for participants to engage with the sport throughout the year. By leveraging the insights gathered from our evaluations, we are confident that these adjustments will enhance the impact and sustainability of our basketball program.





# Contribution to Scottish Government Policies

## Child Poverty

Through our holistic approach to youth development, we continue to address child poverty by creating accessible and enriching opportunities for young people. This year, we expanded our **boxing sessions to two schools**—Wester Hailes High School and St. Augustine's—while maintaining free basketball training, including an **additional weekly session at Edinburgh College**. These activities offer not only physical engagement but also foster discipline, structure, and aspiration. By eliminating financial barriers, we ensure equitable participation and strive to break the cycle of poverty through early intervention and skill-building.

## Children's Rights

At the heart of our project lies a deep commitment to **children's rights**, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Our programming is shaped by the voices of our young participants through **surveys, focus groups and 1-2-1 conversations**, ensuring that their views actively inform our decisions. This year's **10-week street art project with WHHS part-time students** exemplified our belief in the power of creative expression and youth voice. It offered an opportunity for young people often disengaged from school to build positive relationships and showcase their skills in a public and celebrated space.

## Climate Change

Although we did not work with the Edinburgh and Lothian Green Team this year, our values of **climate awareness and sustainable practices** remain central to our delivery. We continued to prioritize **environmentally responsible planning**, including aligning session times with public transport schedules and choosing local, walkable venues. Our use of community-based spaces, like the **mural on the Scottish Power station**, contributes to local beautification and reuse of urban spaces, reinforcing the value of sustainability through action.

Furthermore, one of the highlights of Q4 was our young people's participation in the Scottish Government's consultation on the Draft Transport Just Transition Plan. Through a dedicated focus group, they shared their views on key areas of the plan, particularly in relation to 'People and Communities', strengthening their confidence and ensuring youth voices were included in national discussions around climate justice and Scotland's future. This engagement not only empowered our participants but also exemplified our project's contribution to advancing the Scottish Government's climate change priorities.





## Fair Work

Our commitment to the principles of **Fair Work** is reflected in our inclusive approach to programming and partnership. We have created opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds to engage meaningfully in skill-building and community development. Collaborations with partners such as **Spectrum Arts, Push the Boat Out and Tarek Basketball Coaching** have enabled participants to gain hands-on experience in a range of disciplines, from the arts to athletics. These engagements promote **confidence, leadership and transferable skills** that support future employability.

In summary, our Cashback project remains a dynamic contributor to the Scottish Government's policy goals, providing young people with platforms for empowerment, skill development and civic engagement. As we move into the next phase, we remain deeply committed to fostering a Scotland where all children and young people can thrive, regardless of their circumstances.

## Physical Activity, Health Improvement and Mental Health and Arts, Cultures and Heritage

While our reporting focuses on four key Scottish Government policy areas, the scope and impact of our work extend well beyond them. Many of our activities actively support additional national priorities such as Physical Activity, Health Improvement and Mental Health, and Arts, Culture and Heritage. Through initiatives like weekly basketball and boxing sessions, we promote physical wellbeing, resilience, and positive mental health among young people. Likewise, our creative workshops, mural projects, and music sessions foster self-expression, cultural engagement, and a sense of identity and belonging. These interconnected outcomes demonstrate the holistic nature of our approach—where youth development, health, creativity, and inclusion are woven together to support confident, healthier, and more connected communities.

