



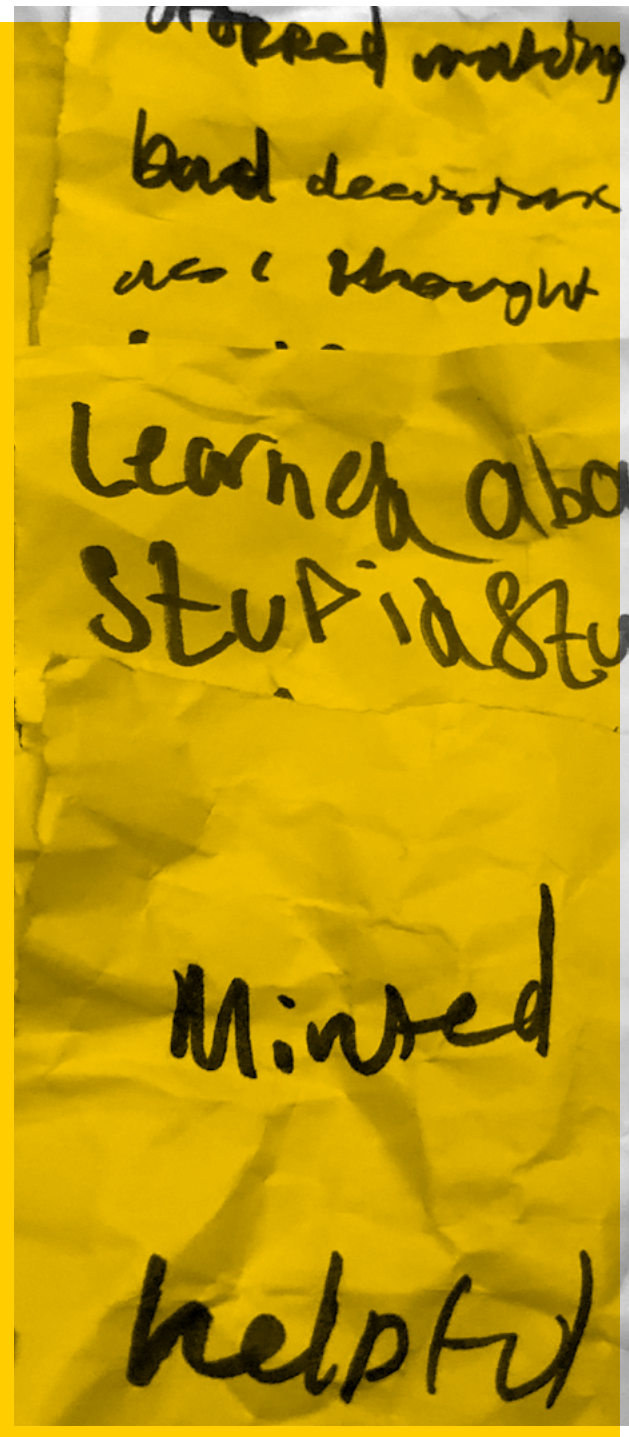
A Different Approach

CashBack 180 is a twelve-week youthwork programme designed by Mayfield and Easthouses Youth 2000 Project (Y2K). It supports young people aged 11-18 who are considered at risk of anti-social behaviour and face poor life chances. Through group work and one-to-one sessions, the aim is to improve young people's confidence, resilience, wellbeing, connections and skills; supporting them on their journeys to a positive future.

At Beeslack Community High School, Penicuik, six pupils took part in the programme in autumn 2020. They were selected because of increasing concerns about their behaviour in school and in the local community. A deterioration during lockdown had led to police involvement.

In this case study Mrs. Semple, Deputy Headteacher Pupil Support, describes the reasons behind the school's recent use of the programme, and its impact on young people.

“ They're beginning to connect things they do and actions they take with consequences, which is what's important... that's what we're beginning to see, that they're beginning to own things.” [Mrs Semple]



Starting points

School staff sought an intervention to support pupils because a continuation of current behaviour was likely to damage their future prospects. They felt the pupil/teacher relationship might not be the best solution.

“During lockdown some of the risk-taking behaviours really ramped up. All these young people either have had charges or are about to have charges, you know, involved in drug taking, antisocial behaviour, and having that time in lockdown, just amplifying that...”

“...that was then in third year (S3), getting to a stage where if this kind of behaviour continued, it was getting really detrimental to their futures.”

“We know that they [young people] don’t want to tell us everything, we’re school teachers, so they’re not really being honest with us.”

Owning it

“We’ve seen a real difference even now in school, where I’m not getting anywhere near the same amount of referrals. The fact I’ve not had any referrals for these guys for the past four, four and a half weeks. Which is really amazing... And no exclusions. These folk were all at risk of exclusions.”

“Late-coming is something that’s really improved, because they’d all be coming in late in the morning.”

“They’ve also been more open and honest, so, they will say to me about their drug use, of how they’re wanting to try and stop, and they’re trying to help each other, which is a new thing as well. Things haven’t been hidden anymore, which is really helpful.”

“Although we were kind of managing them in school, still there were some difficulties. We were still getting these reports from the community and from our community police officer... So that’s stopped now, which is really fantastic.”

Honest relationships

“It’s the youth work approach that really works, because they’ll get all this information in PSE, but it goes in one ear and out the other [because it’s from] a teacher. But when it’s the youth work approach and that kind of relationship, then it’s embedded more.”

“The workers are really important... because twelve weeks isn’t a lot of time. Being able to quickly build a relationship where they [young people] feel trusted and can talk about anything. And then you start talking and then [the young person realises]: nothing happened, it’s ok, I’m allowed to share things that maybe you thought you weren’t able to say because you were scared of consequences or whatever. So that’s the first step to changing their behaviour. So it’s really, really helped.”

More? Absolutely

“We would definitely do that again. We’ve got a whole list of people we would want to start working with. Absolutely. And I would like to. I don’t know how many hours they’ve got that they could give to us, but we could fill every day with the needs that we have with our young people. That kind of approach, it’s not just about education, it’s the approach it’s taking to learning.”



In the accompanying case study, three young people reflect on their involvement in CashBack 180 and what they learned.