



Y2K Youth Project

CashBack 180 Project Year Two

**CASH
BACK**

**CASH
BACK** **180**
Y2K
positive change positive futures

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Overview and highlights

The CashBack 180 service supports young people who are either involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, antisocial, risk-taking, or offending behaviours. This is achieved through the delivery of targeted programmes and activities designed to help them make positive life choices and work towards more constructive futures.

Over the past year, the service has engaged with young people across Midlothian through both one-to-one and group sessions. These sessions focus on helping participants understand the root causes and consequences of their behaviour, while encouraging them to explore and adopt positive alternatives.

Building on the success of Year One of Phase 6, we have continued to adapt our project to meet the needs of referred young people, including creating bespoke programs to meet the specific needs of young people. These developments reflect our ongoing commitment to evolving the service in response to the needs of young people in the community.



109 Young people
engaged



93 young people
reported a reduction in
their offending



42 group work
sessions delivered



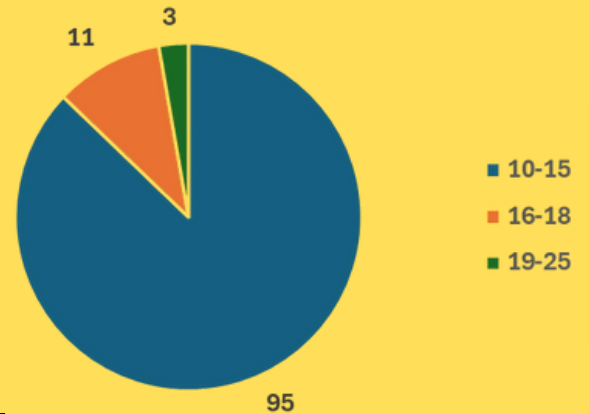
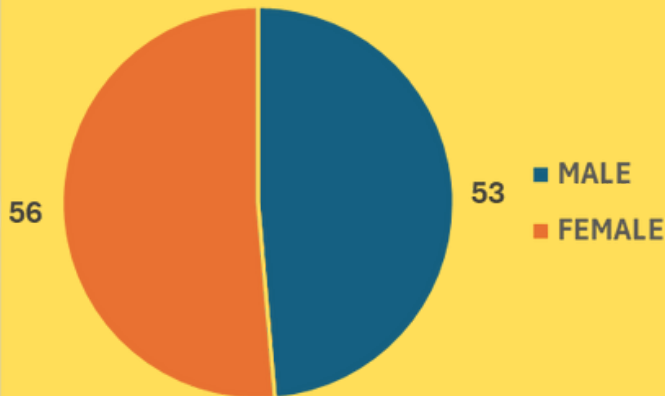
323 1:1 sessions
delivered

About Our Young People

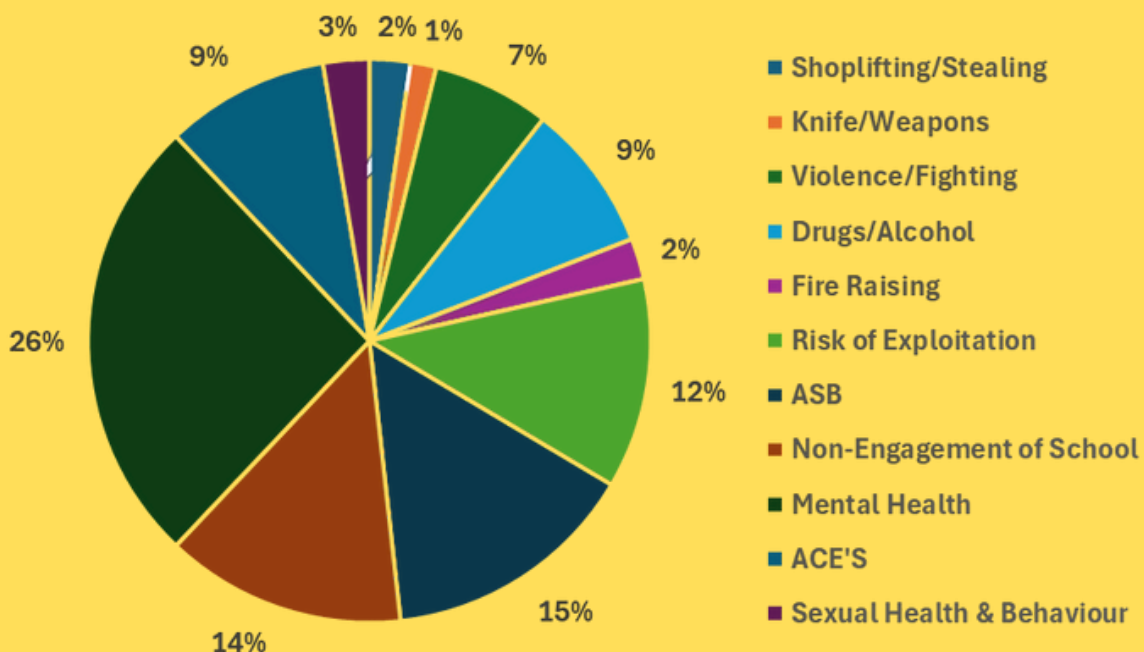
It has been a highly successful year for CashBack 180, with 109 young people from across Midlothian engaging with our support services. We worked in close collaboration with six local high schools—Newbattle, Lasswade, St David's, Beeslack, Penicuik, and Dalkeith—as well as with social services, to identify those who would benefit most from our programme. Referrals focused on young people identified as being at risk of engaging in risky or offending behaviours.

AGE

GENDER

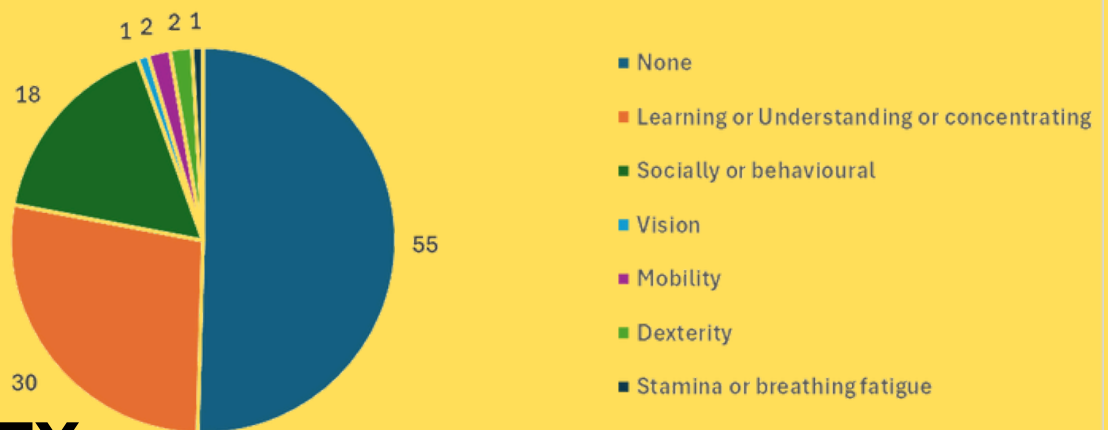


REFERRAL REASONS

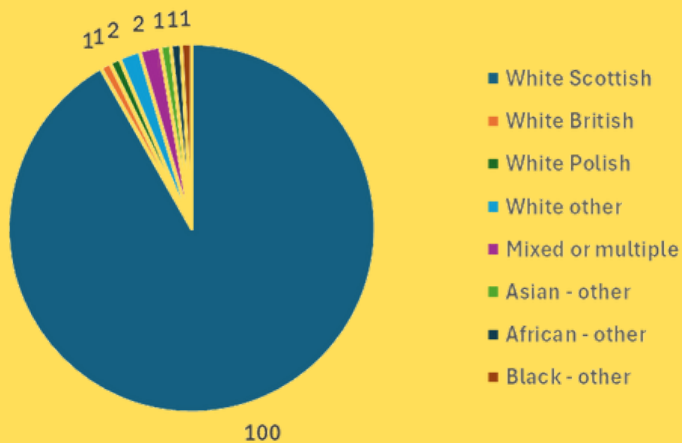


More About Our Young People

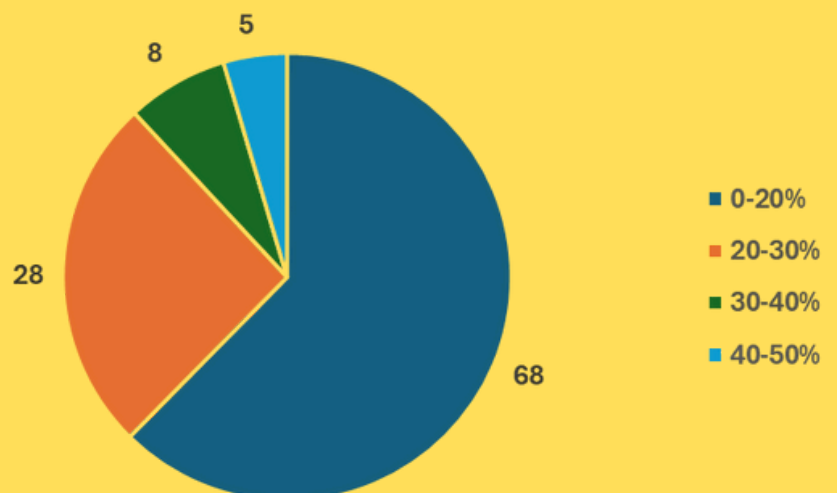
DISABILITIES



ETHNICITY



SIMD



Scottish Government Policy Areas

Climate change plan

Over the past 12 months, we have provided a wide range of opportunities for young people to engage in climate-focused initiatives. One of the key developments has been the creation of our new Wellbeing Garden—an outdoor space designed for both learning and enjoying the benefits of nature. Young people have played a leading role in planning, developing, and maintaining the garden, taking real ownership of the space. In addition, we delivered a variety of workshops and activities aimed at deepening their understanding of climate change and empowering them to take meaningful action to protect the environment.



Fair Work Framework

At Mayfield and Easthouses Youth 2000 Project, we are proud to be an accredited Living Wage employer, ensuring that all staff are paid at least the real Living Wage. We are strongly committed to workforce development and provide ongoing opportunities for both internal and external training.

Staff are encouraged to share feedback, ideas, and suggestions during regular full team meetings. We actively listen and, where possible, support staff in pursuing tasks and projects aligned with their interests.

All employees have access to regular support and supervision sessions with their line manager, alongside structured work plan meetings to review workload and priorities. As part of our commitment to wellbeing, we provide access to the 360 Wellbeing app.

We foster an inclusive and respectful workplace, with clear measures in place to support staff wellbeing and professional growth. We operate a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and discrimination and prioritise the health, safety, and dignity of every employee.

Our full Fair Work statement is available here:

<https://youth2000project.com/policies-documents/>



Scottish Government Policy Areas

UNCRC

Increasing young peoples awareness of the UNCRC continues to be a significant focus and our youth workers regularly deliver focused sessions to ensure young people have a good understanding of their rights. We use creative, fun approaches to educating young people about their rights including rights bingo,

Our CRWIA can be viewed by following this link:
<https://youth2000project.com/policies-documents/>



Best Start, Bright Futures

The CashBack 180 service supports the Best Start, Best Futures policy by ensuring young people receive timely access to the support they need. Young people are actively involved in decisions that affect their lives, fostering a sense of empowerment and ownership. To further support our service users and address issues of hunger and poverty, we offer a dignified food provision, providing every young person with a free, hot meal each day. Additionally, we maintain a Health and Hygiene cupboard stocked with essential items, available for young people to access whenever needed.

Key performance Indicators

In last 12 months of the CashBack 180 service, we have exceeded our targets in the vast majority of areas. We have been delighted to see so many young people reporting a reduction in their involvement in offending. Our flexible, responsive approach has resulted in excellent engagement and outcomes achieved for our service users. In the last 12 months, the majority of our participants have been in the 11-15 age range, which meant employment, training and volunteering was not as relevant to them at the time of their engagement with our service. Looking ahead, we have plans to explore interesting and meaningful opportunities for young people to volunteer with other local partners.

	24/25 actual	24/25 planned	% achieved	24/25 variance	Phase 6 to date actual	Phase 6 to date planned	% achieved	Phase 6 to date variance
Outcome 1 - Young people are diverted from antisocial, criminal behaviour and involvement with the criminal justice system								
Young people report that their own participation in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour has reduced	93	80	116%	13	167	130	128%	37
Young people report that they feel less inclined to participate in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour	95	80	118%	15	168	130	129%	38
			0	0				
Outcome 2 - Young people participate in activity which improves their learning, employability and employment options								
			0				0	
Young people gain an accreditation for a new skill	49	80	61%	-31	103	130	79%	-27
Young people report an improved relationship with their school	71	80	88%	-9	141	130	108%	11
Young people's attendance at school improves	76	0	0	76	144	0	0	144
Progression outcomes after completion of the programme; the number of participants gaining/taking up:								
Modern Apprenticeship/Employment	12	4	300%	8	12	6	200%	6
Training/Work Experience	4	4	100%	0	5	6	83%	-1
College/University placement	6	0	0	6	9	0	0	9
Volunteering	4	20	20%	-16	13	33	39%	-20
			0	0				
Outcome 3 - Young people's health, mental health and wellbeing improves								
			0				0	0
Young people report an increase in feelings against SHANARRI indicators	102	80	127%	22	197	130	151%	67
Young people report their mental health has improved and they have a more positive outlook on life	97	80	121%	17	177		136%	47
Young people report they are more aware of the risks and impacts of harmful substance use	94	0	0	94	169	0	0	169
Young people report they are less inclined to engage in harmful drugs and/or alcohol use	85	80	106%	5	151	130	116%	21
Young people report their confidence has increased	91	80	113%	11	169	130	130%	39
Young people report evidence of participation in physical and sporting activities	75	0	0	75	154	0	0	154
			0	0				
Outcome 4 - Young people contribute positively to their communities								
			0				0	
Young people report their perception of their neighbourhood improves	93	80	116%	13	168	130	129%	38
Young people report a heightened sense of belonging to a community	89	80	111%	9	167	130	128%	37
Young people report feeling their contribution, links with communities and social interaction are improving	80	80	100%	0	150	130	115%	20
Young people report increased motivation to positively influence what happens in their community	57	0	0	57	121	0	0	121
Young people go on to volunteer, coach, mentor, support or take a leadership role in community organisations	20	0	0	20	69	0	0	69
Hours of volunteering contributed by participants	643	40	1607%	603	686	65	1055%	621
Community focused awards gained by participants	16	0	0	16			0	0
			0	0				
Outcome 5 - Young people build their personal skills, resilience, and benefit from strengthened support networks and reduce risk taking behaviour								
			0				0	
Young people report feeling more resilient	95	80	118%	15	175	130	134%	45
Young people report positive, supportive networks - including improved relationships with family, friends and peer mentors	93	80	116%	13	181	130	139%	51
Young people report increased access to appropriate services	102	80	127%	22	188	130	144%	58
Young people report positive changes in their behaviour	99	80	123%	19	178	130	136%	48

Financial Summary

Our year two budget was spent in full as expected. 100% of the funding was spent in Midlothian. The breakdown below provides details of actual spends for each quarter.

Finances	2024/25			Phase 6 to date		
	Actual	Target	Variance	Actual	Target	Variance
Staffing Delivery Costs	85,024	85,024	0	167,577	167,577	0
Non Staffing Delivery Costs	1,150	1,150	0	2,294	2,294	0
Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0
Management and Marketing	8,647	8,647	0	17,047	17,047	0
TOTAL	94,821	94,821	0	186,918	186,918	0

Communications and events

We regularly use our social media platforms to share updates and promote the work of CashBack 180 and our wider services. We also use our platforms to share information on other opportunities available to local young people in their communities.



Partnerships and Collaborations

Collaboration is crucial to the success of the CashBack 180 service, ensuring that young people receive the best possible experience. We have partnered closely with colleagues in education and social work to develop tailored support packages for each individual engaging with our service.

Our programme also integrates contributions from various other services, including Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and Health in Mind. These partnerships enrich the experiences of our service users and expand their support networks.

All young people involved in our programmes have the opportunity to work toward accredited qualifications and awards. In collaboration with Newbattle Abbey College, we offer projects where participants can earn accredited Adult Achievement Awards. Additionally, we utilize Youth Scotland awards to recognize young people's involvement and participation, helping to enhance employability skills and educational outcomes.



Partnership Approach

This year, the CashBack 180 service contributed to a wider Midlothian initiative delivered in partnership with a range of local agencies. The project, titled “Stay Spooky, Stay Safe, Be Bright,” aimed to engage young people in positive activities during the Halloween and Bonfire Night period, with the goal of reducing antisocial and risk-taking behaviours.

A launch event was held on October 14th at the local McDonald’s, where the initiative was promoted and young people were able to register for activities that aligned with their interests. Thanks to additional funding, we were able to deliver four targeted diversionary trips across the four-week period and extend our opening hours, offering safe and supportive spaces for young people.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service played an active role, attending regularly to share important safety information and build relationships with young people. The project was a strong example of effective partnership working and successfully engaged 114 young people throughout the programme. You can find out more about this initiative by following this link

<https://cashbackforcommunities.org/midlothian-initiative-provides-positive-bonfire-night-activities-for-young-people>.



What our young people said....

At Y2K, young people's voices are at the heart of our work. The CashBack 180 service is led by young people, and we are dedicated to involving our participants at every stage—design, delivery, and evaluation. We ensure that all young people complete monitoring forms, which help us gather meaningful impact data and user feedback. Additionally, we use SHANARRI indicators to track and support the individual progress of each participant.



I usually don't like bonfire night cause I get a bit nervous cause you see loads of bad stuff on social media but this has been so fun. It was so good getting to have a chilled, fun time without having to worry. I got to watch fire works with the youth workers so I felt safe



When younger lads in the group were mucking about, I realised that's what I did in school and realised how rude it was



I enjoyed meeting new folk in the group, it built my confidence for going to college.



Case Studies



Stephen

Stephen began working with Y2K in primary school through the CashBack180 project during a time when he was only allowed one hour of school per day due to behavioural challenges. Y2K remained a consistent support throughout his teenage years.

At 19, while living in homeless accommodation, Stephen re-engaged with Y2K through the Midlothian Housing Project. Isolated and struggling, he joined the Thriving Transitions drop-in and enrolled in the Prep for Next Steps course with Newbattle Abbey College. Although he needed frequent reminders, Stephen showed determination and completed the 12-week course.

His confidence grew, and he began to seriously consider his future—for both himself and his daughter. He also enrolled in a music course at Edinburgh College, attending the first session with support from a CB180 youth worker.

Stephen achieved an Adult Achievement Award at SCQF Level 4, boosting his confidence and sense of direction. This marked a key step in his journey toward building a more stable and positive future. This recognition helped boost Stephen's self-esteem and sense of accomplishment. He said,

“I’ve never stuck at anything like this before. It feels good to finish something and have something to show for it.”

Stakeholders also noted Stephen's transformation. A youth worker shared,

“Stephen went from someone who avoided new settings and people to actively taking part in groups and even attending a college course—that’s massive for him.”

Stephen's social confidence grew as he made new friends and took part in group activities—something he had previously avoided. This marked a shift in his mindset from isolation to hope. He has since secured permanent housing in Midlothian, a major step toward stability. Though he finds managing a home challenging, he is actively seeking support and learning how to cope.

Stephen is starting the Rural Skills course at Newbattle Abbey College, in September, aiming to build a more secure and positive future. His journey with Y2K and CashBack, grounded in consistent, strengths-based support, has been a turning point—helping him move from crisis to confidence and long-term aspiration.

Case Studies



Paris

Paris, a young person with autism and a history of trauma, was struggling with school attendance, emotional regulation, and communication. She often avoided class, refused to follow rules, and had frequent interactions with the police due to risk-taking behaviours.

Through weekly one-to-one support with Y2K via the CashBack programme, Paris began to make significant progress. She went from needing reassurance to attend school, to arriving on time and staying in class. A major turning point was when she independently set a career goal—to become a football coach or P.E. teacher—demonstrating newfound confidence and ambition.

Paris also improved her communication, regularly updating her guidance teacher and youth worker about her emotions and challenges. She started using positive coping strategies and even rejoined a football team, overcoming previous peer-related setbacks. Her team is now preparing for a tournament in Spain—an achievement that reflects her personal growth.

By the end of the programme, Paris had set her sights on college and further education, aiming for a future in sports and leadership.

“She is wanting to engage more with school and learning, so your input has been of real benefit.” – Stakeholder Teacher

The CashBack programme helped Paris move from disengagement and crisis to resilience, confidence, and a clearer vision for her future.

Attainment and Achievements



This year, we have supported young people engaging with our service to work towards accredited awards, helping them build confidence, develop new skills, and improve their overall attainment. Through their involvement in the project, service users have achieved Dynamic Youth Awards at SCQF Level 3. Additionally, we have continued delivering our "Prep for Next Steps" course for young people aged 16–21, enabling them to work towards an Adult Achievement Award in partnership with Newbattle Abbey College.

We remain committed to helping young people progress toward positive destinations, while also providing ongoing support to those who need it. After completing our programmes, service users can continue to access support through our evening drop-in sessions. These sessions offer the chance to reconnect with CashBack 180 youth workers and participate in a variety of informal educational workshops and activities.

In our second year, the young people involved have shown outstanding dedication—successfully working towards accredited awards, volunteering, continuing in school, progressing to further education or training, and securing employment.

Attainment and Achievements



Continued.....

44

SCQF level 3 awards



4

SCQF level 4 awards

1

SCQF level 5 awards

6

Young people moved on to further training or education

6

4

3

Volunteering hours contributed

Looking Ahead



Over the past year, we have experienced a period marked by positive outcomes and meaningful development. There has been a notable rise in requests for one-to-one support, often driven by the increasing complexity of challenges faced by young people. Looking ahead, we aim to strengthen our partnerships and expand the reach of our group work programs. We are also exploring ways to enhance support for young people aged 16 and over who face barriers that may hinder their transition to greater independence. Our commitment remains to work closely with local young people and the broader community, responding to emerging needs with a creative, person-centred approach to service delivery.