

A fountain of connection and creativity

Youth Scotland member group The Ripple is a community-based programme for young people in Lochend, Craightinny and Restalrig in North East Edinburgh. They are also an active member of LAYC. During lockdown, the project supported families with food boxes and phone top-ups, kept in touch with their young people online and developed an outreach approach. Generation CashBack support from Youth Scotland provided Development Worker advice, training and sports and games equipment for new outdoor activities, and enabled the purchase of branded staff uniforms.

Youth Scotland supported the project to restart their drama group for younger children as soon as restrictions eased, and they hope to restart their girls group and boys group soon. These sessions provide a mix of positive activities, opportunities to meet new people, a 'chill-out' space and a snack.

James, and brother and sister Zafar and Salama* told us about their experiences with The Ripple in case study interviews.

*Pseudonyms have been used

“ Amazing. Good.
Best thing ever.” [James]





James had been actively involved in The Ripple groups for years. During lockdown, the Youth Work Team were able to provide James with phone vouchers to support him to keep in touch with friends. Once the groups restarted, James became actively involved again.

During lockdown, the project supported Zafar's and Salama's family with food boxes, and the siblings kept in touch with the project with regular online contact as well as sending in pictures of creative work and activities from home. These were collated and both young people achieved a Youth Scotland Hi5 Award.

During interviews, James', Zafar's and Salama's descriptions linked to CashBack outcomes of building capacity and confidence, developing personal skills, improving wellbeing, and increasing participation in positive activities.

Being creative and active

“ We do warm-ups such as games, acting games, creating scripts, and like characters for names, in what place it's set... it's just good for our mindset.” [James]

“We take ideas from [other stories] and make it into a play... it's a good thing for like ideas and creativity.” [James]

“We do cooking and then we do some games, sports, like volleyball, basketball, football and hockey.” [Zafar]

“I like the girl's group, it has crafts, drawing, talking with other people.” [Salama]

Feeling better about myself

“ It mainly builds up confidence, to speak in front of lots of people...I think this drama is going to help me to move on to do drama at school.” [James]

“It was something good in my life.” [Salama describes her 'Hi5 Award']

“It helped me get my mood up... Because I want to make people happy, I want to make people know that I'm really good at stuff and show other people.” [Zafar]

Connecting in groups and connecting during lockdown

“ I've met new people from other schools.” [Salama]

“I can't wait til next week.” [James describing how he feels when the group finishes each week]

“It helped me meet new people and make new friends too.” [Zafar]

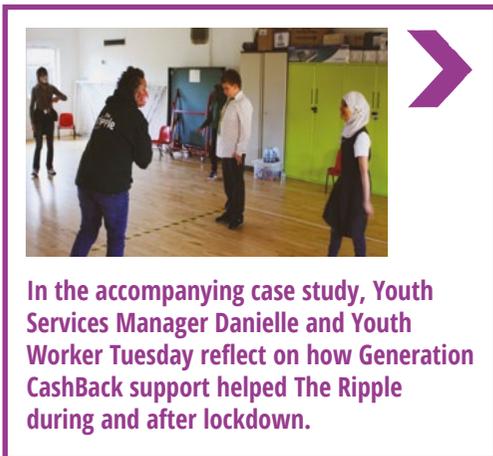
“It [phone top up from project] helped me keep in touch with all my friends. When I got it, I phoned every single one of my friends, because I've not seen them in a long time. And then, they were happy that I kept in touch.” [James]

Sense of identity / feeling part of something

“ I really want one of those jumpers [Ripple hoodie]...they're good...it represents what I've done. And people know like as I walk past, 'oh he's been to The Ripple before, and that's good of him'.” [James]

“I've done something. I never just sit on the sofa, eat chocolates, watch TV. I've done something else.” [Zafar]

“When I'm older, I'd look back and say 'I did that...I'm special'.” [James]



In the accompanying case study, Youth Services Manager Danielle and Youth Worker Tuesday reflect on how Generation CashBack support helped The Ripple during and after lockdown.