

GENERATION  CASH BACK

 CASH BACK  
FOR COMMUNITIES

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021





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# About Generation CashBack



## Generation CashBack is part of the CashBack for Communities Programme in Scotland.

The CashBack for Communities Programme takes monies recovered through the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and invests them into community programmes, facilities and activities largely for young people. The programme is designed to support the Scottish Government's aim to tackle inequalities by having a greater focus on young people from areas of deprivation and other disadvantaged young people. In addition, Phase 5 prioritises tackling anti-social behaviour in communities and plans to maximise the diversionary impact of Youth Work.

Generation CashBack has been funded as part of Phase 5 of the CashBack Programme which runs from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023. It is delivered by a partnership consortium of four of the largest volunteer-led youth work organisations in Scotland, comprising of: Scouts Scotland, Girlguiding Scotland, The Boys' Brigade Scotland, and Youth Scotland. It centres around two main strands of project delivery ('Grow' and 'Lead') tasked with growing membership and increasing engagement in disadvantaged communities. Each organisation within the consortium employs one or more Local Development Officers (LDOs) to provide local level support to groups across both strands. While each organisation approaches delivery according to their own successfully established practices, all LDOs work closely with staff and volunteers.

### Grow

Development Officers help new and existing youth groups to grow their offer for young people. Using a needs-analysis approach, LDOs support Grow groups to increase their focus on tackling anti-social behaviour and delivering diversionary activity. Their support includes helping groups recruit new volunteers, upskilling youth workers to meet these needs, delivering new activities, providing information and advice, as well as providing access to small scale capacity-building funding for essential resources and running costs.

### Lead

The Lead strand supports disadvantaged young people to learn and develop new skills which improves their educational and employability options. Young people are supported to put these skills into practice in their communities, developing their leadership skills, while gaining a range of youth awards through each consortium partner. These awards are designed to meet young people's needs; enabling them to develop their pathways into further learning and employment.

# The Generation CashBack Consortium



The Generation CashBack consortium is comprised of 4 leading national youth work organisations.

## Girlguiding Scotland

Girlguiding Scotland has more than 57,000 members across Scotland and our mission is to inspire and empower girls to be anything they want to be. We know all girls are amazing and can do anything they set their mind to and we encourage them to give new challenges and adventures a go. Whether that's camping abroad, canoeing or partying at Girlguiding Scotland's pop concert, TARTAN GIG.

## Scouts Scotland

As Scouts, we believe in preparing young people with skills for life. We encourage our young people to do more, learn more and be more. Each week, we give almost 40,000 young people in Scotland the opportunity to enjoy fun and adventure while developing the skills they need to succeed. We're talking about teamwork, leadership and resilience—skills that have helped Scouts become everything from teachers and social workers to astronauts and Olympians.

## The Boys' Brigade Scotland

The Boys' Brigade engages with over 15,000 children and young people providing opportunities to meet together in their communities and engage in a range of fun and developmental activities. We believe that empowering children and young people is important and do this by involving them in decision making at all levels of the BB and giving responsibility appropriate to their age and aptitude.

## Youth Scotland

Youth Scotland is the national charity for supporting and delivering youth work in the community. We believe in changing lives through youth work. We are the largest national youth work organisation in Scotland, supporting 74,860 young people, 1,617 youth groups and over 8,868 youth workers. Youth Scotland has been around since the early 20th century and has a diverse membership network—from small rural youth groups to large urban projects.



# The Story of 2020-2021



**Phase 5 of Generation CashBack launched into a global pandemic and countrywide lockdown. Scotland's most vulnerable young people had their issues compounded by these additional challenges in their communities. Youth work, traditionally an interpersonal and relationship-based approach, faced a socially-distanced and isolated landscape. Youth work, it has often been said, is nothing if not resilient and resourceful and rapidly adopted a 'new normal' of video calls, online activities and digital youth work. Youth workers and groups had new support, training and technical needs overnight.**

Generation CashBack was no exception. Local Development Officers (LDO) supported groups remotely, helping them understand how the Covid guidance and restrictions applied in their setting, as well as responding to need and delivering a variety of different worker training and young person Lead opportunities online and using recorded content.

Generation CashBack story of successfully leveraged the groundwork and traction of a successful Phase 4 programme. The consortium has developed an effective targeted approach, reaching many of the most vulnerable young people across a majority of Local Authorities in Scotland. Despite a year of multiple lockdowns and Covid-19 restrictions the consortium has exceeded targets and expectations—set pre-Covid—and qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the programme demonstrates that Generation CashBack has had a significant positive impact on the young people involved. The unique design

of the Generation CashBack model has been key to the success of Phase 5 with LDO support providing a tailored, proactive support package for youth groups involved in the programme, with the aim of creating a self-sustaining delivery infrastructure.

The consortium spent £561,696 across the partnership to fund both the Grow and Lead strands of the programme. The cross-consortium event 'Reach' was unable to take place due to COVID-19 restrictions. The funds for this event were diverted to a hugely successful Microgrants programme, where development grants were distributed to young people who were being supported by Grow groups.

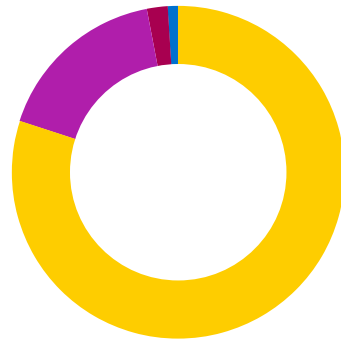
# The People We Worked With



Participation target **2666** – Participation actual **2781**

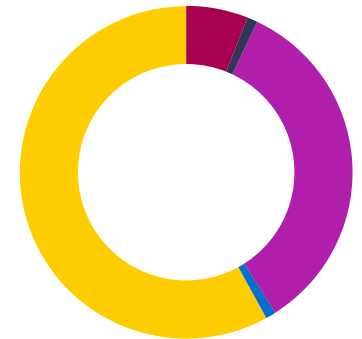
## Age Profile

- 10-15 years - 2224 - 80%
- 16-18 years- 447 - 17.2%
- 19-24 years - 73 - 2.6%
- Over 24 years - 7 - 0.3%



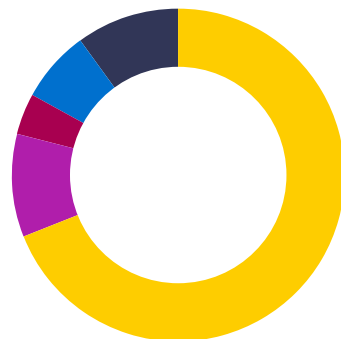
## Sex Identity Profile

- Male - 1639 - 58.9%
- Female - 966 - 34.7%
- Don't know - 161 - 5.8%
- Non-binary - 9 - 0.3%
- Prefer not to say - 6 - 0.2%



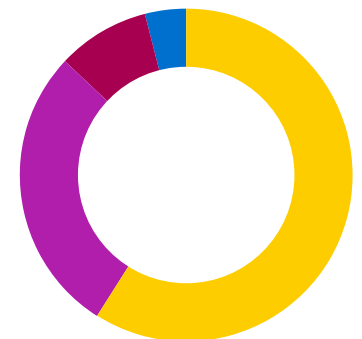
## SIMD Profile

- 0%-20% - 1926 - 69.3%
- 20%-30% - 266 - 9.6%
- 30%-40% - 112 - 4%
- 40%-50% - 200 - 7.2%
- 50%-100% - 277 - 10%
- SIMD 1-5 - 90%



## Disability Profile

- None - 1655 - 60%
- Don't know - 774 - 28%
- Identifying with a disability - 246 - 9%
- Prefer not to say - 106 - 4%



# SIMD Breakdown

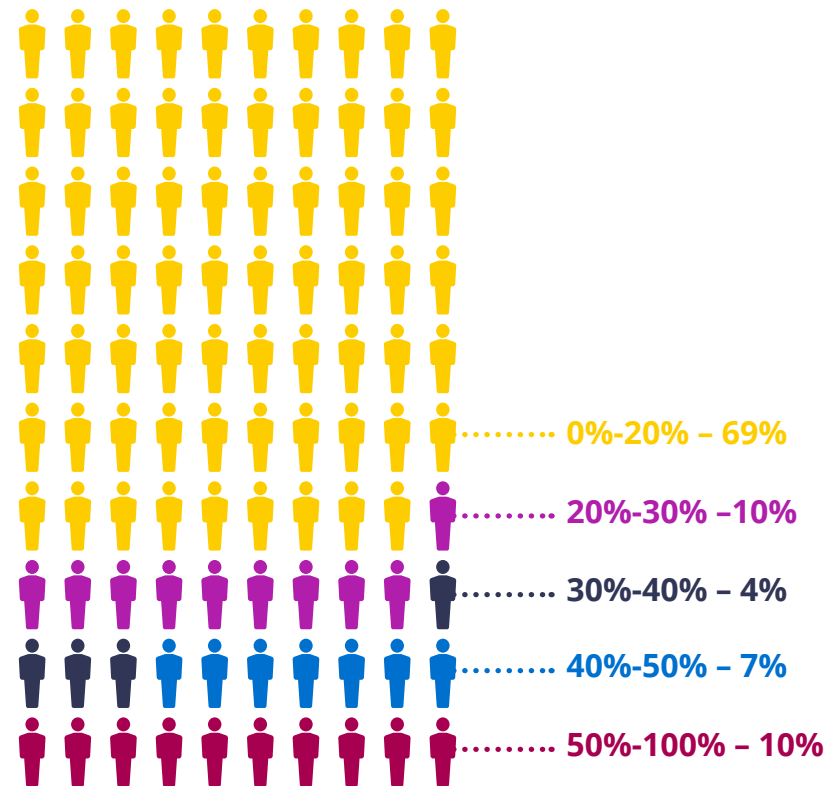


**Generation CashBack engages young people in Scotland's most deprived areas. 90% of the young people engaged in Year 1 were from SIMD 1-5. The majority of delivery has reached young people facing the most extensive deprivation as shown by the data presented to the right.**

Generation CashBack calculates the top 20% most deprived Datazones within any given Local Authority area, as opposed to the national measure, which ensures we reach urban, rural and island communities throughout Scotland. For some Local Authority areas (e.g. Moray, Aberdeenshire, Shetland). The top 20% of postcodes include those in SIMD 3 and 4. SIMD eligibility is checked using a database tool Youth Scotland created specifically for this project.

Some youth groups have fulfilled the eligibility criteria by being able to produce evidence that they are specifically targeting young people involved in, or at risk of being involved in, the Criminal Justice System and/or anti-social behaviour in the community. Although not all of these groups are eligible by their meeting point postcode they are clearly addressing Phase 5 priorities.

## Simd Profile of Participants



# Accreditation



Accredited learning gained during Generation CashBack delivery includes Youth Scotland Awards such as Hi5 Awards (level 2), Dynamic Youth Awards (level 3) and Youth Achievement Awards (levels 4-7), as well as a number of non-SCQF qualifications or training courses such as Duke of Edinburgh Bronze-Gold, Explorer Young Leader, Queens Guide, Saltire Awards.

“ My steps for the future are to continue college onto my second year then once I have completed my second year progress onto university to finish my degree.”

## Recognised SCQF qualifications/accreditations achieved over year 1

Level 2	256
Level 3	556
Level 4	24
Level 5	7
Level 7	23
Non-SCQF qualifications/accreditations	1,401

**NB** It is likely that the SCQF/ non-SCQF accreditation figure is under-reported as one of the disadvantages of remote self-evaluation (rather than as part of a face-to-face group) is that young people don't have access to the youth worker's guidance when assessing and identifying achievements.



# Microgrants: Giving Opportunities to Young People During Lockdown



Due to the restrictions required during the pandemic, Generation CashBacks' flagship youth event, Reach, was sadly cancelled. With the agreement of Scottish Government, the consortium partners moved quickly and diverted funds from the planned event to create a Generation CashBack Direct Microgrants fund.

The Generation CashBack Direct Microgrants Fund provided opportunities for targeted young people to receive a microgrant of between £100-£300 to help them develop their interests and skills, and to enable young people to take the next steps in achieving their goals.

The microgrants scheme was promoted to Phase 5, Year 1 CashBack groups who had engaged in Grow support. Applications ranged from young people looking for musical equipment, online training courses and sometimes simply for hardware to increase access to online activities. Some of the funding proved to be the difference between young person having to cease participation completely to being able to meet online, buy crucial equipment and access resources needed to survive in lockdown. Feedback showed that young people were over the moon to be supported to pursue their interests and skills.

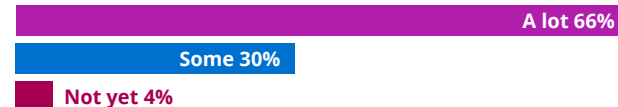
Generation CashBack Microgrants Direct funded a total of 153 successful applicants from 34 youth groups across Scotland.

## Do you feel this microgrant is supporting you to ...

### Be more confident



### Have a better, more positive, view of yourself



### Make more positive choices



### Challenge yourself

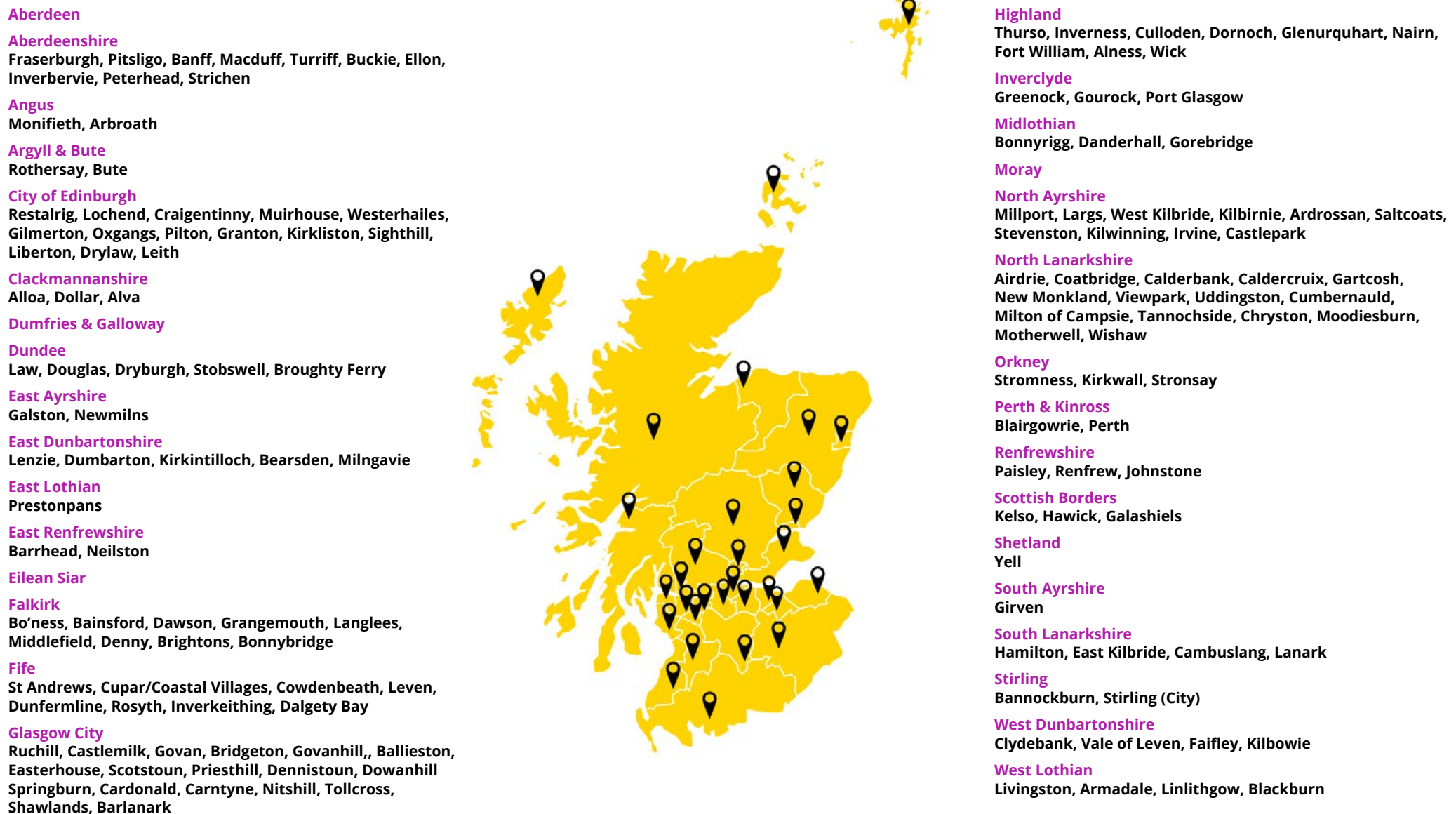


### Try new things

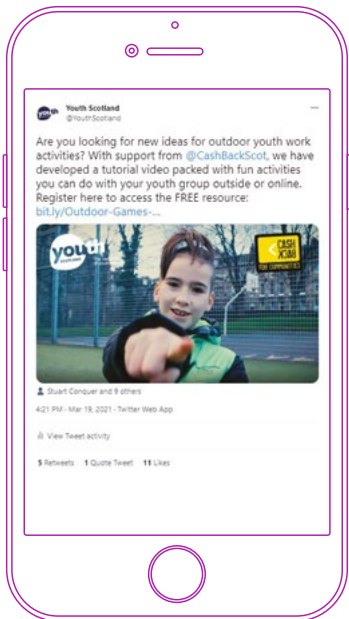


# Participation by LA Area

## Generation CashBack funded activity across Scotland in 2020-21



# Social Stories



# Generation CashBack Positive Outcomes and Destinations

The qualitative and quantitative data available shows Generation CashBack has had a positive impact on all six outcomes and the Microgrant scheme during Covid-19; the following statistics highlights some of those achievements.

**99%** of young people report Generation CashBack activity has had a positive impact on their behaviour

**2,781** young people engaged/  
104% of target

**98%** of young people reported improved wellbeing (against SHANARRI indicators)

**5,106** the wider number of young people impacted on by GCB support in year 1

**£298,700** the economic value of voluntary activity generated by young people throughout Year 1

**93%** of young people reported that they have participated in a positive activity

**88%** of young people have a heightened sense of belonging to a community

**25,884** the number of hours young people have contributed to volunteering

**99%** of young people feel more resilient

**88%** of participants have increased motivation to positively influence what happens in their community



# OUTCOME 1: Young people build their confidence and resilience, benefit from support networks and reduce risk taking behaviour



Performance against outcome 1 remained very high throughout the year and well above the target set for each indicator.

“ I have found it useful because they have helped me become more confident, helped me face my fears and helped me make new friends and help me with some problems!”

## Outcome 1: Confidence and Positive Support Networks

Young People (YP) report increased confidence

Target 75%

Actual 98%

YP report they are able to do new things

Target 76%

Actual 99%

YP feel more resilient

Target 60%

Actual 99%

Other stakeholders report increasing confidence in YP

Target 70%

Actual 96%

YP report positive supportive networks

Target 70%

Actual 89%

YP report positive changes in their behaviour

Target 65%

Actual 99%

Other stakeholders report perceived positive changes in behaviour of young participants

Target 60%

Actual 94%

## OUTCOME 2: Young people develop their personal and physical skills



Across the consortium young people are being given various opportunities to develop their skills, take part in training and gain accreditation. Analysis of the evaluation data available suggests that the consortium has had a positive impact on this outcome.

### Outcome 2: YP develop their physical and personal skills

YP increased personal skills or achieving accredited learning

Target 25%

Actual 32%

YP report an increase in their skills

Target 73%

Actual 99%

Other stakeholders report skills increasing in YP

Target 65%

Actual 89%

YP expect to complete training opportunities and develop personal/physical skills

Target 38%

Actual 52%

YP take on leadership or volunteering roles

Target 24%

Actual 37%

Accredited learning includes Hi5 Awards (level 2), Dynamic Youth Awards (level3) and Youth Achievement Awards (levels 4-7), as well as a number of non-SCQF qualifications or training courses such as Duke of Edinburgh Bronze-Gold, Explorer Young Leader, Queens Guide, Saltire.

### Recognised SCQF qualifications/accreditations achieved over year 1

Level 2	256
Level 3	556
Level 4	24
Level 5	7
Level 7	23
Non-SCQF qualifications/accreditations	1,401

**NB** It is likely that the SCQF/ non-SCQF accreditation figure is under-reported as one of the disadvantages of remote self-evaluation (rather than as part of a face-to-face group) is that young people don't have access to the youth worker's guidance when assessing and identifying achievements.

## OUTCOME 3: Young people's health and wellbeing improves



Partners have delivered well against Outcome 3, with young people reporting that being involved in Generation CashBack activity has had a positive impact on their wellbeing. The following data shows how young people reported their feelings against SHANARRI indicators using 'The Wellbeing Web':

### Wellbeing (SHANARRI)

The Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach supports children and young people so that they can grow up feeling loved, safe and respected and can realise their full potential. At home, in school or the wider community, every child and young person should be:

- Safe
- Healthy
- Achieving
- Nurtured
- Active
- Respected
- Responsible
- Included

These eight factors are often referred to by their initial letters – **SHANARRI**.

### Outcome 3: YP health and well-being improves

YP improve wellbeing against SHANARRI indicators

Target 56%

Actual 98%

Other stakeholders report perceived increases in SHANARRI indicators

Target 65%

Actual 98%

Performance against Outcome 3 was consistently well above target throughout the year- 98% of young people recorded an increase in their wellbeing against the SHANAARI indicators – well above the target of 56%. Similarly, 98% of Stakeholder feedback reported increased wellbeing among young people (compared to the target of 65%).

“ My next steps for the future would be to set more targets and work on my physical and mental being.”

## OUTCOME 4: Young people participate in activity which improves their learning, employability and employment options (positive destinations)



### Training and learning options offered across the consortium have included:

i:Lead, Peer Education opportunities, Leading Games, Laughter Yoga, Goal Setting, Digital Literacy, Mental Health Awareness, Young Leader qualifications, Dynamic Youth Awards, Youth Achievement Awards, Hi5 Awards, Saltire Awards, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, leadership skills that are transferable to adventurous activity, learning skills required to become effective volunteers, and leadership skills for young people.

A significant majority (93%) reported that they have participated in a positive activity as a result of being in their youth group or completing a Lead opportunity – this could be gaining new skills or completing training or undertaking leadership or volunteering roles. This is above the target of 73%.

### Outcome 4: YP participate in activity which improves their learning, employability and employment options

YP reported that they have participated in a positive activity as a result of being in their youth group or completing a Lead opportunity



“ [I want] to hopefully learn how to start my own small business by designing and creating my own T-shirts, drawstring bags and other personalised items. My next steps are to continue learning more skills and develop further.”



## OUTCOME 5: Young people contribute positively to their communities



### Young people's views on, and interaction with, their communities also continue to be very positive.

In terms of volunteering, 37% are either currently volunteering or interested in volunteering. This exceeds the target of 24% for this measure. Overall, these young people report undertaking 25,884 hours of volunteering over the last quarter. Volunteering opportunities have been seriously compromised by the restrictions of Covid-19 but impressively young people have still been supported to contribute to their communities during this period.

Stakeholder feedback was also received on this outcome, with 92% of Stakeholders reporting a perceived improvement in young people's contributions to their community, compared to a target of 70%.

“Young people are feeling proud of their achievement and feeling they have made a positive impact on their own environment.”

### Outcome 5: Young people contribute positively to their communities

	Target	Actual	Difference
YP take on a volunteering role	24%	37%	13%
Number of hours of volunteering by YP		25884	
Number of community focussed awards gained by participants		1723	
YP feel their contribution, links with communities and social interaction are improving	80	89%	9%
Other stakeholders perceive improvement in YP contribution, links and social interaction	70%	92%	22%
Participants perception of their neighbourhood improves			
Participants have heightened sense of belonging to a community	80%	88%	8%
Participants have increased motivation to positively influence what happens in their community	60%	88%	28%
Economic value of volunteer hours		£298,700	

## OUTCOME 6: Young people are diverted from criminal behaviour or involvement with the criminal justice system



There is consistent national evidence to show that Youth Work, with its inclusive, young person-led approach and provision of diversionary activity, has a very positive impact on young people's behaviour.

Result from the Generation CashBack data back up this evidence. On the basis that all the young people who returned data for Year 1 have been participating in online or face to face sessions, 100% have been recorded as participating under the measure 'YP participate in behaviour change sessions and diversionary activities'.

Stakeholder feedback this quarter reports 78% of young people reducing risk-taking behaviour (compared to a target of 40%).

### Outcome 6: YP are diverted from criminal behaviour or involvement with the criminal justice system

	Target	Actual	Difference
YP participate in behaviour change sessions & diversionary activities	1067	2781	1714
Other stakeholders report a reduction in YP risk-taking behaviour	40%	78%	38%

“ I learnt how to be a proper, responsible leader and be a good influence on them instead of a bad influence that I may have been in the past.”

# Evaluation Overview



The Lines Between has been contracted to continue its independent evaluation of Generation CashBack in Phase 5, providing quarterly and annual reports on the outcomes and impact achieved, and case studies to demonstrate the nature and impact of Generation Cashback activity. A sample of the case studies and follow up work with groups are included in this report.

Phase 5 Year 1 evaluation has included:

- Analysis of quantitative and qualitative data by each partner on a quarterly basis.
- Interviews by The Lines Between with volunteers, delivery staff, community representatives and young people during case study visits. This data was gathered remotely during covid.
- Facilitated discussions with Local Development Officers (LDOs) and Delivery Managers at the two cross-consortium evaluation workshops held in Year 1 via zoom.

## What Difference Did it Make?

“ [I] made new friends, being more productive with my time, the importance of being kind, working towards badges.

“ This was a very good way of improving my networking skills throughout guiding and I am sure that it will come in handy in the future when I am organising and planning for events.

“ Being able to try things that I would not necessarily try otherwise.

“ It lifts my spirits and gives me something to do during lockdown and being involved has helped me focus on positive things.

“ [It] has helped me become more social and I count it as one of the groups who helped crack my shell and allow me to become the social butterfly I am today.

# What Next?

**Phase 5 of Generation CashBack got off to strong start in year 1, despite the restrictions and multiple lockdowns. Feedback from Grow groups is that they have never appreciated the targeted Generation CashBack support and the wider organisational membership benefits more than during this period. Groups have had to navigate ongoing changes in delivery restrictions, often with minimal or no paid staff input and reliant on volunteers. Group workers and volunteers had to rapidly adapt to new ways of working with young people remotely, and the online training, resources and support provided by consortium partners was considered a key factor in the success of this engagement.**

As expected, Phase 5 priorities were a natural fit for Generation CashBack. Many of the groups were already engaging young people in diversionary activities. Generation CashBack support enabled groups to initiate new programmes or build on existing work allowing them to address issues of anti-social behaviour and division in their communities.

The consortium is looking to build on the success of Year 1 as Phase 5 gains traction. A number of new Grow groups have been identified by partners already and will be followed up by development workers for Year 2. We are going to continue to work cross-local authority, identifying areas most in need of support using SIMD measures and local reports of ASB and CJS involvement.

## Priorities for Year 2:

- Across the consortium we will support our CashBack eligible member groups to ensure they feel safe and resourced adequately to start face to face youth work again with the easing covid restrictions.
- We will review new delivery formats and the different ways we supported groups during covid (e.g. tutorial videos, microgrants) and establish best delivery combination going forward.
- The consortium will continue to support a blended model of delivery (both online and face to face) depending on the needs of the group. Some groups with additional needs (eg those supporting young people with autism) are reporting that the online format works for their young people. Most groups are feeding back however that young people prefer face to face delivery. Online worker training enables groups in more inaccessible areas to benefit from the same opportunities as the central belt and will continue.

- We have refined the evaluation process based on our experiences in year 1 and will concentrate on increasing the evaluation data return in year 2. We anticipate a higher data return in year 2 as restrictions ease, and as youth workers will be able to support the evaluation process with young people face to face. Consortium partners are committed to outlining the importance of evidencing impact to Grow groups and supporting youth workers with the evaluation process where necessary.
- Youth Scotland will build on the Action Learning workshop model it piloted in year 1 with CashBack groups experiencing anti-social behaviour within its groups/ communities. We will present findings of this pilot and look at rolling it out to other areas.
- The impact of Generation CashBack will continue to be widely promoted across the consortium in monthly newsletters and e-news and through our respective social media channels.

## Making a Splash

Youth Scotland member group The Ripple is a community-based youth project supporting the communities of Restalrig, Craigentenny and Lochend in North East Edinburgh. They are also an active member of LAYC. The project received Generation CashBack support from Youth Scotland, through Development Worker advice, staff training and equipment. This enabled the group to shift to an outreach approach, to trial online engagement, and to continue to reach a broad range of young people during a difficult period of time.

In this case study, Danielle, Youth Services Manager, and Tuesday, a Youth Worker, reflect on lockdown in 2020, a time of severe restriction for youth work services, when The Ripple successfully changed tack.

Ordinarily, the project runs its activities from 'the hub' where "the whole idea is that it's aimed at different young people every night". Drop-ins are aimed at harder to reach young people, "some of them we know are causing a bit of disturbance out and about, and maybe are a bit, you know, non-engaged in education and probably are creating a bit of trouble socially in the community". A boys group and a girls group have more planned activities and offer a supportive environment while "our drama club is our only sort of younger, under 12s kind of age group." All of that changed early in 2020.



Prevented from the normal centre-based practice of drop-ins and organised groups, The Ripple Youth Work Team were keen to reach out and support young people, and began a new approach of initiating contact with young people in local streets and parks. Youth Scotland provided support during the implementation of this new approach with advice and toolkits, as well as various training sessions including Online Engagement, Issue-based workshops and, more recently, support in Reopening Indoor Youth Work. They also benefitted from Youth Scotland's kitbag of sport and games equipment. A further crucial element was that Generation CashBack support enabled the purchase of branded staff uniforms (hoodies, jackets, ID badges), giving The Ripple a clear visual outdoor presence, along with the purchase of a project mobile phone as a point of contact for young people.

## A new approach

Staff described how lockdown required them to perform their roles differently and promote the project in new ways.

"You became a bit of a detached youth worker overnight... you have to take your youth work skills and implement them outside and see how that can build up... and it has been very successful..." (Tuesday)

"We got wee Ripple business cards made... they could take it home and show their parents and they could follow our Facebook and things like that, so they can keep up to date when clubs are back on or when we're out and stuff. And they've been really well received. Which is brilliant, the kids go 'I'm gonna get my mum to like that page' and stuff, which has been really nice to hear." (Danielle)

## Renewed community visibility and impact

Being out in the community and wearing uniforms purchased through Generation CashBack support, has had a valuable impact on The Ripple's profile, its support of young people, community relationships and future work:

**Identify and presence:** "It gives us that opportunity to actually be able to go out and do some outdoor stuff as well. Because we're not just going to be randoms on the street, we've got the uniforms, we can go out, we can do more stuff." (Danielle)

**Consultation:** "By the October break we should've spoken to enough young people to kind of have a cohort up at Craigentenny, to know what kind of things they want to do." (Danielle)

**Awareness among young people:** "So the young people that don't know us, that don't come to our groups, it's been good because obviously we've introduced ourselves... you're all dressed the same, and they know straight away you're from somewhere. Because you've all got the same hoodies on, the same jackets and stuff, so it's great, you can go up and they talk away to you and they'll say to you 'oh I know what the hub is' and you go 'oh do you, have you ever been to the hub' and that starts the conversation straight away, and you can tell them what clubs are on and stuff. So it's getting The Ripple name out there, it's getting it a bit of publicity for the group for when we do start back... And a good few of the kids have already been like 'oh I would love to come to that club' so that's brilliant." (Danielle)

**Profile-raising in the community:** "People come up and say 'oh I've seen yous about in the street' and things like 'what are you all about?'. One of the parents said 'I've always wondered what are yous doing'. I explained, and she went 'that's fantastic'... it just shows you the impact that a uniform can have..." (Tuesday)

**Ideas for the future:** "I'm quite keen to try and get some more of that up and running once everything's settled a wee bit more. So I think, just having the uniform will always set us in good stead... it's just a good thing to have. Now we've not got an excuse not to go out. We've got the uniform, we've got the kitbags, let's get out... let's go to where young people are." (Danielle)



“ I’m really proud that we are still doing something, we’re still trying to reach out to them...”

## Activities creating and building relationships

Along with the outreach approach, outdoor activities using sports equipment provided by Youth Scotland have been used as a way to bring young people together, but they are also providing important opportunities for support.

“We’ll say to them on social media, we were going to meet, and hopefully we’ll find them there, and we’ll just say you know ‘do you fancy a game of football’ or whatever, rounders or something...so that they’re not just walking the streets.” (Tuesday)

“Workers have seen about twenty to fifty kids, and they’re getting good contact, they’re getting good socialising, and they’re having a joke and a laugh.” (Danielle)

“... Building up a trust with some of the kids is so hard, because you’re breaking down barriers, some of the kids have had it really hard or they don’t really communicate very well...” [our message is] “you can trust us, we’re not going to let you down... we still want to see you, we still want to talk to you, we still want to make sure you’re alright, you’re safe.” (Tuesday)

During lockdown, The Ripple project staff attended Youth Scotland training designed to help maintain engagement such as an introduction to Zoom. More recently, sessions on Reopening Indoor Youth Work and Development Worker support on reopening the project’s Buddying Network have been invaluable. While there are new ways of running reopened groups, the reaction has been positive.

“I think I pretty much attended nearly every bit of training that was offered... I like Youth Scotland training, it’s really good. I like the way they run it, it’s very much ‘you take part... the more you take part in it, the more you’ll get from it... that’s the way I learn more, so for me it’s useful.” (Danielle)

“They have been social distancing and they’re quite enjoying it, they’ve been using it more as a game and doing the whole two metre thing... They’re seeing it more and more each week as they come as a bit of fun and a bit of a game, and like ‘what’s my temperature?’... which I think is good, because as much as the Covid is serious, let us see the fun side a wee bit too, being in the building, yes we’re taking it serious... but we can still be here and we can still enjoy ourselves, which is nice.” (Danielle)

“I really like their award stuff... we’ve got three kids that have done [Youth Scotland] Hi5 Awards whilst we were in lockdown. They were just doing some art and they were doing that anyway. I love that kind of stuff, because I think it’s so easy to follow, it’s absolutely brilliant, and they really simplify it for young people so that they really are getting it for doing something that they’re already doing.” (Danielle)

“They [young people] seemed to be chuffed with things like that [Youth Scotland Hi5 Awards] so, it’s just nice to get recognised for something that you’re doing and you’re quite good at.” (Danielle)

## Solid foundations for the future

While not a straightforward transition, staff have found reward in trying the new approach and seeing positive results and advice, training and resources from Youth Scotland have all played a part.

“That’s part of your job as a youth worker, you have to adapt... I must admit, at first I was a bit disheartened, but now I love it... I’m really proud that we are still doing something, we’re still trying to reach out to them... I’d much rather be going out walking the streets, and if I didn’t get a kid then I’ve tried my best...” (Tuesday)

Overall, the project has succeeded in remaining open for business, getting out into the local community, trialling new approaches, and safely restarting indoor work which was further supported by Youth Scotland advice and training, when the opportunity arose.

“The fact that we’re still open in the pandemic, is massive... that we’re still reaching out to all different ages... trying and making sure that every child is getting, almost catered for in the sense, that they’re not getting lost in the system.” (Tuesday)



“With the virus, it’s really hit the teenagers, and they can’t come into the centre, so you’ve got to have something else...” (Tuesday)

# 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

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"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

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"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

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"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

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"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)



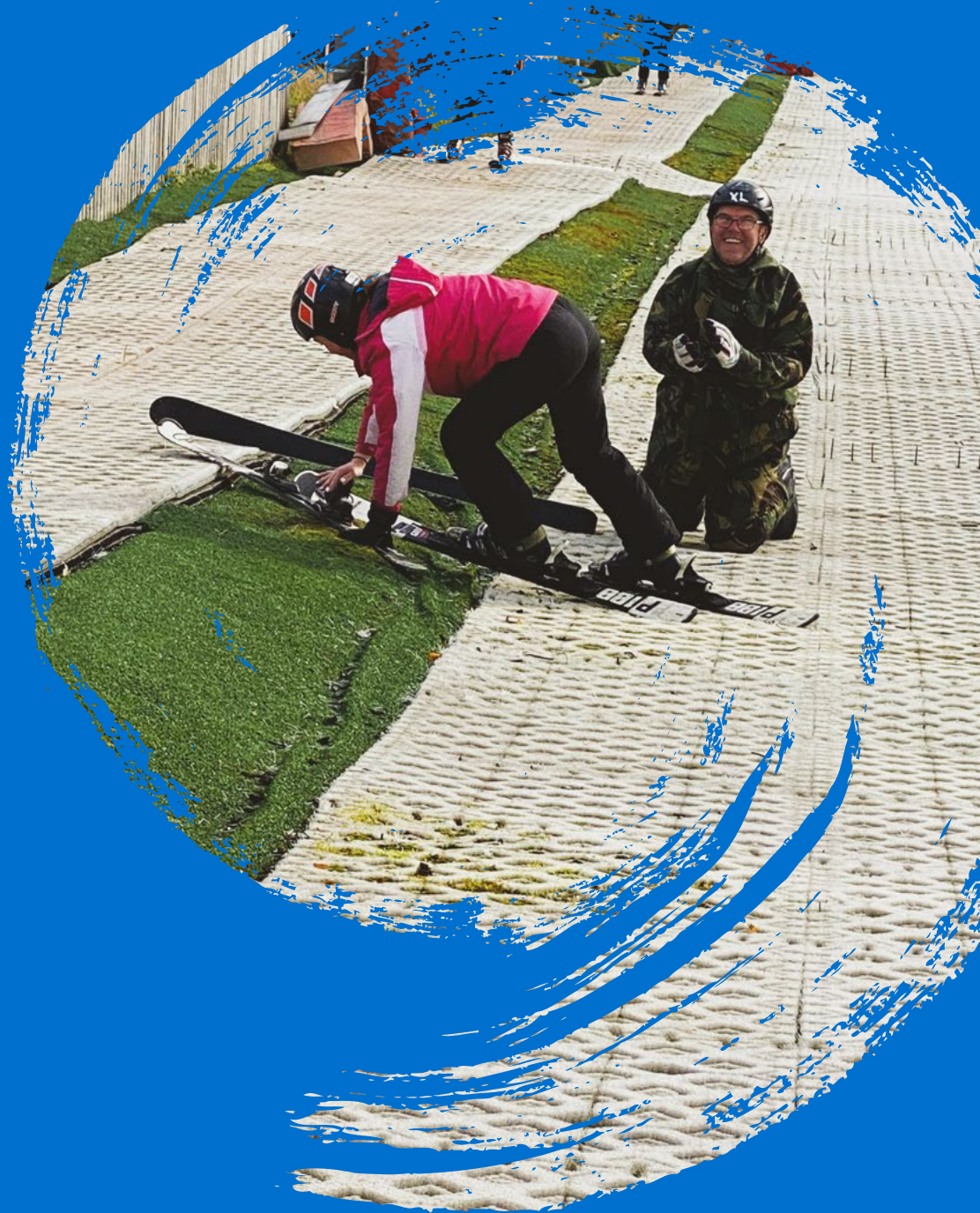
“It mainly builds up confidence, to speak in front of lots of people...”

# Keeping the Show On the Road

Young people involved in Kilwinning Explorer Scouts are used to taking part in exciting activities and working together as a team. Lockdown brought this to a crashing halt, but Generation CashBack provided a means to keep young people engaged in positive activities and break the monotony of lockdown.

Alan Roy has been the Kilwinning Explorer Scout Leader for over 15 years. Involved since his youth, the Scouts opened doors and gave him chances to develop. He wants the next generation of young people to have the same opportunities. In this case study Alan describes how Generation CashBack support helped to keep the Explorer Scouts together during challenging times.

“Without the Scouting being there, there would be a big void in the kids’ world... not just on a Tuesday night or a Friday night, or many weekends off skiing or sword fencing or abseiling or canoeing. There’s a lot of things that would be missing out of their world.” (Alan Roy)



## Lockdown changed everything

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Lockdown affected ways of working and limited the types of activities that Alan could offer the Explorer Scouts. Most concerning was the toll on young people themselves.

“It was a drastic change because normally after the Easter holidays we go into what we call our outdoor programme, which involves cycling and swimming and canoeing, abseiling, different things. When the first lockdown kicked in, all these things just ended because we were not allowed to meet up, there was no face-to-face Scouting. We missed that, we missed our cycle ride, we missed our swimming, we missed our barbecue, we missed our bag packing, we missed our annual camp. It was really quite sad.”

“Mentally it was ripping them to bits because this is a bunch of kids that have been bonded together since the age of six, seven, eight, nine, 10-years-of-age, and some of them are 16, 17, 18-years-of-age and they’re not seeing their pals. To me it’s an extra special group when you’re in a youth organisation like that, because you’re not necessarily meeting the kids round the corner, you’re meeting them from three miles, five miles, 10 miles up the road that have got a different attitude, a different school uniform, a different lifestyle. And they all bond with each other, and they’re missing each other. It’s really quite grim.”

## Advice and support in a challenging time

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Covid restrictions put a stop to much of the unit’s usual fundraising efforts, such as bag packing in supermarkets. This inevitably impacted the activities they could offer. Generation CashBack support was a lifeline in helping the Explorer Scouts continue to meet online and in-person.

“I’ve always known we live in a fairly deprived area, because of my previous employment and knowing the area when I was a teenager. I found out about CashBack via the Scouts Association. I turned my hand to applying for CashBack and because of our postcode and the area that we’re in and the financial situation.”

“They also offered me advisory capacity in relation to virtual Scouting and offered me help with Duke of Edinburgh awards and other supported systems.”

## Making things happen

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Generation CashBack support facilitated opportunities to bring the group together and have fun. The resource enabled the young people to take part in new outdoors activities.

“For years we have gone in January to Newmilns Dry Ski Slope. The kids really wanted to go, but the funding just wasn’t there, so I put in a request for that. Then I discovered the outside go-kart track. At the time everything was focused on being outside, there was no indoor at all. So the outdoor plan and the way these kids are, the outdoor side of the world is more important to them.”

“It was a bit of escapism for them and let them all catch up with each other face to face.”

## Broadening horizons

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**In an area with limited provision for young people, Kilwinning Explorer Scouts offers young people opportunities and experiences; a chance to develop important life skills.**

“For individuals to have a bit of training, knowledge and background in map reading and orienteering, abseiling, archery, all these different things. You’re actually learning to be polite; you’re learning to stand up straight, you’re learning to be decent to your fellow man. Across the board you’re learning to queue, you’re learning to behave, you’re learning to listen, just on and on.”

**Kilwinning Explorer Scouts also play a valuable role in the local community.**

“Scouts is really important, because it’s not just about meeting in the hall on a Monday night or a Tuesday night; we actively take part in other things. We tidy up the local community, to running coffee mornings, to Poppy donations up the street. We get asked by other organisations like the local churches and the local community centres that are doing their own coffee mornings if we can supply some Explorers to help serve or do dishes or clean up, which we’ll always get volunteers for.”



“ I would say  
Scouting broadens  
your horizons big time;  
it opens a world to you.”

# Broader Horizons

The Kilwinning Explorer Scouts have a strong bond, forged through shared activities and seeing each other regularly. This year has been a different experience, but with the help of Generation CashBack they have been able to get together and have some fun.

In this case study eight young people from Kilwinning Explorer Scouts speak about the impact Scouting has had on their lives, from unique opportunities to try new things and developing valuable life skills. They also describe lockdown and how support from Generation CashBack helped keep them connected and brought some relief during a difficult time.



“ You come away with an experience that obviously you wouldn't get anywhere else than in Scouting.”

## Missing out

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The first lockdown led to the group's regular activities, trips and meetings being cancelled. For some, this resulted in missed opportunities and experiences and affected their social interaction and overall wellbeing.

"I've not been in our Scout hall since March last year. So straightaway the effect that it has on us as a group, we can't meet as a group. I'd say that has a big impact; the only time we've met as a group has been outdoors and all we've been able to do is go for walks, because there's nothing else we can do as a group."

"I'm coming close to the age where I'll no longer be able to take part in the Explorers as well. Also, without Scouts being able to meet up with each other, I've got nothing to do apart from exercising on my own, and that's about it. My day is spent doing work or sitting in front of a computer."

"Personally last year the limited meetings we could have with the Scouts was almost like a break from the madness. Last year was particularly, it was quite taxing on my mental health. I mean that was pretty much my entire social life for the last year, so it was a good thing that we were able to meet for the limited time we could."

## Together again

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The support provided to the group through Generation CashBack meant they could come together to go dry-slope skiing and go-karting. This provided a valuable chance to get together and enjoy themselves.

"I've really enjoyed both activities; absolutely fun, I absolutely enjoyed going to them."

"It gave me something to look forward to because we're all really good friends here. It was nice for us all to be able to have a competition and a reason to meet up and talk to each other and have fun at the same time."

"It was almost like a break from the madness. It was good to meet up with everyone and do something I enjoy. I also very much enjoyed the go-karting as well, it was good fun."

## Valuable life skills

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As well as unique and exciting experiences, the skills the young people have gained will provide a solid foundation and equip them as they transition through life.

"It's definitely helped my decision-making, because in Scouts and Explorers we get a lot of opportunities to make our own decisions and think about things. It's helped me develop the skill to think about things rationally and make a decision for myself instead of just trusting someone else to do it all the time."

"It also helps with team-building, especially in Duke of Edinburgh, where you're stuck with people for two days. We've got to have a level of patience with each other, because we're all tired, we've all got to just keep going."

"Scouts has allowed me to develop my leadership, because I've been able to go down and volunteer at their sessions and take active part in the planning for their sessions."

## Positive and informed choices

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For many of the young people in the group, experiences with the Scouts have helped them to consider what they want to do when they leave education. The skills and experiences they have gained are helping them achieve their aspirations.

"The Scouts has allowed me to work with the younger children. Because it's given me the experience, because I'm wanting to become a primary teacher, and I wouldn't know that without being able to volunteer with the Beavers."

"For ages I really didn't know what I wanted to do, and because of the Scouts and stuff I've been able to make decisions and decide on my career path. I want to join the Army, and this has helped me come to that conclusion."

"I'm also kind of thinking about the police which is sort of helped by the volunteering and all that. Because the police when they're recruiting will look for someone that's done volunteering. Duke of Edinburgh can also help when you've got that as well."



**“ It was almost like a break from the madness. It was good to meet up with everyone and do something I enjoy.”**

## Assorted Support Through Lockdown

Generation CashBack's crucial role in a fast-changing youth work context

Based in Clydebank, Youth Scotland member group Y Sort it, supported by Generation CashBack, offers programmes and activities for young people across the local communities in West Dunbartonshire. Flexible support from Youth Scotland enabled staff at Y Sort It to adapt and upskill, so their essential youth work offer could continue throughout lockdown.

For this case study we hear from Allan Young, Youth Work and Outreach Co-ordinator at Y Sort It. He told us that Youth Scotland allowed them to enhance their capacity and deliver youth work through new digital platforms. The youth group

has been supported to experiment and offer new activities to young people. They have introduced new ways of working with families to encourage outside play and community spirit.

In the second part of this case study we hear from Leslie, the mum of one of the young people who engages with Y Sort It. She talked about how essential the support from Y Sort It throughout lockdown has been for her daughter and for herself.



**Flexible support from Youth Scotland enabled Y Sort It to adapt and respond to young people's needs in a confusing and ever-changing context.**

"Getting a Zoom package was part of the support from Generation CashBack. Originally we thought we were going to have to use some of the funding to help young people get online, but they were supported to do that through other streams. The funding has been flexible, which means now we can think about reallocating it to face to face work."

"We've been able to deliver general youth group sessions, activities and issue based sessions too, for example on sexual health, budgeting and finance. Young people engaged with these really well and consistently attended."

"In one of the groups chats someone shared an article about lockdown going on for two years, and the group chat went crazy. So we had to chat about what had happened, about how lockdown was going to last and we did a lot of work unpicking some falsehoods."

**Lockdown was an opportunity for Y Sort It to extend their reach and meet wider community needs including tackling food insecurity and supporting young people to return outdoors, when it was safe to do so. With support from Generation CashBack, they created time and safe spaces for socially distanced play, bringing people in the community together through outdoor activities and food.**

"With Pick, Play & Picnic we can invite families to come along to local neighbourhood parks. We're hoping to engage with some of the young people we haven't been able to engage with through lockdown as we didn't have their contact details. This is one of the highest SIMD areas and the support will enable us to offer a picnic element to those play session. We'll use it to provide them with a lunch pack that should also help them through the weekend where they may not be able to access other community food support. It's national picnic month this month, so it will be fun!"

"Some parents might be hesitant to let their kid out, these sessions we're doing are around lunch time so with it being in the middle of the day it mitigates that safety element. If the parents come out they'll see it is safe and the staff are able to moderate and keep everyone safe."

**Youth Scotland's Local Development Officers (LDOs) added capacity to the Y Sort It team and helped to build on the success of the online sessions by introducing fun, new activities.**

"We're keen to keep the digital youth work going as well. Through Stuart (LDO) we've managed to get some more issue-based groups going. Having the LDOs in to facilitate those sessions it means that our other two staff have been freed up to focus on the play and detached sessions, otherwise they would have been dropped. They've helped us to put together a programme of activity, for example 'Be Internet Citizens' will help young people explore a range of topics from fake news to hateful content."

"We're encouraging those families who are maybe apprehensive about getting back out into parks, with having our staff there who are able to facilitate safe play sessions, and give them good resources to get families outside and playing again. As well as it being fun, it's about building ownership and that community spirit."

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**Youth groups supported by Generation CashBack can access resources and benefits through partners' membership organisations. Youth Scotland's training has been an essential resource**

"The LDOs have supported us to get training too. Most of the staff have done online child protection training through Youth Scotland over lockdown which has been a massive help as we've moved everything online."

“Support from the LDOs has been invaluable. To have the capacity and the expertise to deliver these pure amazing sessions – like laughter yoga! It's going to be chaos.”

“Digital youth work wasn't a massive thing before lockdown. We had to sort it out quickly, and switch everything up.”

**The parent of a young person supported by Y Sort It described how important the youth group has been for the family through lockdown.**

**Her daughter was recently assessed as having multiple learning difficulties and is a young carer for her mum. Y Sort It have helped her daughter feel supported and kept busy, engaged and positive throughout a really difficult time.**

"I don't know where we'd be without Y Sort It, honestly. She can be doing up to three Zoom calls a day with them. I thought I would get to see more of her with it being lockdown but that's not the case! I hear her laughing from the living room, she just has so much fun on them, I'll go in and pop my head in and say hi to everyone. It's given her connection as she is still able to see people."

**Y Sort It has been invaluable for the local community in challenging circumstances, providing food parcels, sanitary products and essential equipment for families in crisis.**

"My daughter has become a very good cook through all this! They deliver what she needs to do the cooking and they've been making cakes too, they go through all the steps with her."

"Another person in our household had coronavirus symptoms so we had to self-isolate for two weeks, and Y Sort It were amazing, with food parcels ... I can't thank them enough."

"We had a separation in the family; some left and took all their kitchen equipment, so we needed to get some new bits for the house quite quickly. Y Sort It put us in contact with this recycling organisation so we could get a toaster, microwave and kettle."

"For the community they've been travelling all over Dunbartonshire Council delivering food parcels. They are doing a clothing drive too. Care packages as well, for females, they've been doing sanitary towels and body wash... They've gone above and beyond."

**Peace of mind for the family, and vital support for young people; Allan and the other youth workers are trusted adults in a time of crisis.**

"I had a bad fit yesterday. My daughter looked after me. It is a scary thing to see. She messaged Allan, because she was upset and a bit shocked. Allan phoned her straight away and said to let him know if either of us needed anything."

**Her daughter has become a vital member of the youth group and she relishes the opportunity to help others.**

"She has been a volunteer with Y Sort It since 14, she is heavily involved with the group and she feels important. A lot of kids will go up to her and confide in her, if there are things going on at home, she can tell the workers, but they find it easy to talk to her. She can now spot signs in kids too if she thinks they have behaviour issues. She seems to be able to calm other kids down, she has a lot of patience."

**“ The support they give is fantastic. Y Sort It have male and female workers so she can speak to anyone without judgement. She worries about things, so I'm really glad she has other people apart from me to speak to.”**



## **A Lifeline in Lockdown** – Amanda and Charlotte\* on feeling connected and safe through Generation CashBack activities.

Based in Clydebank, Youth Scotland member group Y Sort it, supported by Generation CashBack, offers programmes and activities for young people across the local communities in West Dunbartonshire. Flexible support from Youth Scotland enabled staff at Y Sort It to adapt and upskill, so their essential youth work offer could continue throughout lockdown.

Amanda and Charlotte have regularly taken part in Y Sort It's online sessions. They told us these sessions helped them feel connected and supported in a scary and uncertain time. Through trying new activities and being involved in decision-making, their confidence has grown. They feel engaged, important and included in their community.

\*Pseudonyms have been used to protect anonymity.



“Even if there isn’t a call on, you could always speak to someone. It’s built the relationships more. You are seeing and talking to the workers or others more than you would normally.” (Amanda)

**Expanding support systems; online sessions encouraged young people to make friends with other young people in the area and to spend positive time with family members.**

“It’s helped a lot with mental health because people were struggling at the start and then after the Zoom calls, you were keeping in touch and you got to speak to a lot of people.” (Charlotte)

“My mum gets involved! She’ll end up talking to people instead of me, she sings and everything. Yeah it means that she is not just seeing me all the time and she’s seeing other people on the calls and getting to know the others. She asks me about who people are and she’s getting to know the people that work with me.” (Amanda)

**Activity packs and online sessions encouraged the young women to try new activities and learn about important topics.**

“We’ve done a lot cooking, quiz nights, workshops, gardening, photography, issue-based groups, we learned some Italian. I would have been so bored without the sessions. It keeps me on my toes.” (Amanda)

“I tried gardening and photography for the first time, I wasn’t a big cook, but I tried a lot of new foods that I hadn’t had before... I wouldn’t normally go near a vegetable but when we were doing the cooking sessions they’d give us vegetables and they’d be like try this on video so we can see your face, and usually I would actually like it!” (Amanda)

“We’ve done sessions on confidence, eating disorders, alcohol and drugs... I like how eye-opening they are, I thought I knew some of this, but then you don’t know that much until you can really talk about it. There is so much more to it than you think.” (Amanda)

**Feeling valued, listened to and having ownership over their youth group.**

“I’m on the young person’s management board. We have to make the decision about whether a session is something young people would like or enjoy. I can say how something was from a young person’s perspective. It’s good to know that young people have a part in the decisions. They are always open to other ideas, if you say something they will look into it. They always try what we suggest.” (Amanda)

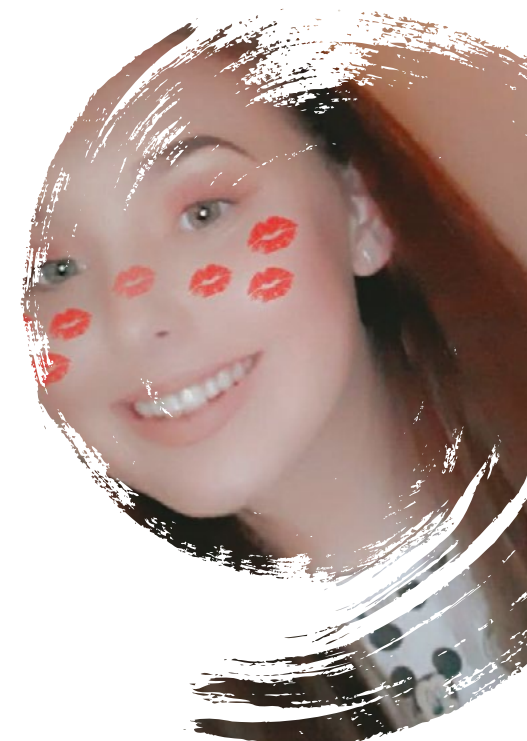
**No longer nervous about video calls, Amanda and Charlotte are ready to take their new-found confidence into the world.**

“There was people in it that I didn’t know, I had seen them before but I talked to them more now than I did before. I definitely have more confidence, I didn’t like going on the calls at the start because there were so many people. But I like it now.” (Amanda)

“I’ve got more confidence for CV building. I wasn’t confident with it before, and a few others I knew weren’t either and the youth workers told us how to build it up and it has made a big difference.” (Charlotte)

**Y Sort It have supported young people to learn about COVID-19 and stay safe as the lockdown restrictions are relaxed.**

“Every week they are reminding us about our safety. People take it really well when you say ‘nope these are the rules’.” (Charlotte)



## And the Band Played On

The Boys' Brigade 6/8th Dundee company have a membership of 160 young people and provide fun-filled activities and opportunities for personal development. Their championship winning pipe band is popular but COVID 19 restrictions hampered their ability to come together to practice – group performance and rehearsals with wind instruments were not permitted. With flexible support from Generation CashBack, the company was able to purchase electronic chanters to enable young people to continue making and playing music together. This had a positive impact on engagement, skills and a sense of connection throughout a difficult time for the boys.

This case study is drawn from excerpts of conversations with pipe band members Oliver (senior section) and Lewis (junior section). They told us about their experiences with the Boys Brigade, the opportunities it gives them and how Generation CashBack helped their much-loved band to continue during lockdown.

“ Just getting back together and having fun again like we used to before lockdown.”



## Social connection, fun and opportunities to develop

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The Boys' Brigade create an environment that enables young people to build new relationships and extend their social networks. It also gives them an opportunity to develop their skills and personal qualities, and most importantly, laugh and have fun.

"I think it's just a fun place to play games and have Halloween parties and just like hang out with, make new friends and stuff. It's getting you out of the house and it boosts your confidence because there's loads of new people that you have to kind of meet. You go on trips and do different, loads of different things in the hall and games."

"I've done Airsoft, paintballing everything. I think it's just the enjoyment because I know every time I go on a Friday it's not going to be boring. You meet new people every week and you're always running about, you're sweating and it's always a laugh."

"At Queen's Badge, you have to start looking for roles in the community. So, like I've had to coach an 11-a-side football team so that's like put me out of my comfort zone but that's shown me how to lead."

## A band of brothers

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The 6/8th Dundee Company band is popular among the members, who described their sense of pride, achievement and ambition.

"You're having fun but you're in the band, you're working together to win trophies and progress so you've always got that, it's like playing football kind of, you all have to work together."

"It feels weird but it feels like, "Aw, I've practised enough, and a lot, for them to look up to me". So, it feels like you've got more responsibility."

"You've got obviously the mums and dads coming at the end and them hearing the band as well, it's a sense of being proud, it's like you're all together as a wee family type thing."

"I like playing in the band because you all get along and you get to practise with each other."

## The day the music died

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COVID 19 restrictions stopped the band being able to practice together. They continued practice over Zoom, which helped members to maintain social contact. The boys described the effort that Scott, their tutor, made to keep things going.

"Because I was so used to every Thursday night, you would teach and then play in the band until about 9.30pm, when that all stopped my life was very boring!"

"Scott done his best. He set the Zoom calls up, the band, all the boys from the pipes go on to the Zoom call and play. Obviously, the playing part was good but it was mostly having a laugh with Scott and all the other boys again."

"When lockdown happened we went on to the Zoom calls, it was weird going from hearing everyone together to then only hearing Scott, I think that was a bad thing. We just want everything to go back to normal!"

"It's just not as good as going in the hall."

## Bringing the band back together

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Even as restrictions eased, the ongoing ban on wind instruments meant that the band would still be unable to fully come together to practice and play. The support they received through Generation CashBack provided them with a solution.

"I think they're [electronic chanters] really cool and just the sound is quite good as well out of the speaker. I think it's much better [playing together]."

"It was good because obviously if you didn't have them, the only way you could probably do it is with music and just playing with your fingers and not hearing anyone."

"It's hard to explain, when you're playing as a band and everyone's playing well it gives you a good feeling and it's just, "We're improving, we're actually good."

"It's so much better when people are playing all together because it just gives you like, "Oh everyone's together, we're playing well."



“ He set the Zoom calls up, the band, all the boys from the pipes go on to the Zoom call and play.”

# Dundee is Alive With the Sound of Music

The Boys' Brigade 6/8th Company in Lochee, the West of Dundee, has a very successful championship winning pipe band that provides valuable development opportunities for young people. However, COVID 19 restrictions posed major problems – group rehearsal and performance of woodwind instruments were restricted. With flexible support from Generation CashBack, 6/8th Company was able to purchase electronic chanters to enable young people to continue making music. This had a positive impact on engagement, skills and a sense of connection throughout a difficult time for the boys.

This case study is drawn from excerpts of conversations with Captain Gordon Findlay, Pipe Major Scott Findlay and a parent. They describe how Generation CashBack provided a solution to a threat posed by COVID 19 and the positive impact of these efforts.

“CashBack, yeah, it’s a great thing, great thing for any organisation. It makes aspirations and plans become reality.”



I mean one of the big and huge concerns was obviously our pipe band activities – because anything where there’s a wind instrument, be it bagpipes or whatever else, they’re just banned, they could be banned for a long, long time, I really don’t know.” (Captain Gordon Findlay)

## Trying to find a way through

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**As an organisation used to providing activities, awards, trips and outings, COVID 19 restrictions presented significant challenges. Undeterred, volunteers and parents tried to keep their young people engaged through online activity.**

“If you’re trying to teach somebody something, I believe, like a musical instrument online it’s really, really difficult, really difficult.”(Captain Gordon Findlay)

“Sometimes the Zoom calls aren’t too productive on the playing side but on the social aspect of it, of coming on and just having a laugh and actually seeing each other. Now, you know with any club, sometimes the most important thing is seeing your pals, isn’t it?” (Pipe Major Scott Findlay)

“We had to work even harder just to keep them motivated because I think when they’re not going in to the hall each week and meeting up with their friends and obviously having that face-to-face interactions it was harder to keep him motivated and keep him practising. But, he’s done far better than we expected actually and he has really kept it up.” (Parent)

## A CashBack lifeline

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**Even as restrictions eased, and face to face activity was allowed, there were barriers to performing as all wind instruments were restricted. Support from Generation CashBack was key to getting the band playing together again.**

“It was felt that if we didnae attempt to keep this going, this could be lost forever. That’s pretty dramatic but you know it is true. One of our young lads, Scott and some of his other colleagues thought, “Boy, if we could just get electronic chanters, at least we’ve got a chance of keeping a very long established and popular activity going.” (Captain Gordon Findlay)

I know that we’ve got a lot of boys that live in [SIMD] postcodes. I looked it up and I saw the criteria and well we came up with the idea of the electronic chanters, we applied and were obviously successful. So, I’ve read about the CashBack, yeah, it’s a great thing, great thing for any organisation. It makes aspirations and plans become reality to be honest with you. There’s no doubt about that.” (Captain Gordon Findlay)

“The electronic chanters are absolutely fantastic quality and you know if it’s, something like that, not only for the instructors but for the boys, I mean to have something like that it’s a real novelty to be honest and if something’s novel, it’s gone lift their enthusiasm levels a bit, you know.” (Captain Gordon Findlay)

## Getting back together

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**The support from Generation CashBack and the easing of restrictions, enabled the 6/8th Boys Brigade Company to bring the band together again.**

“Without these chanters we wouldn’t have been in a situation where we could meet up with the guys and realistically, thinking back now, would we have kept the Zoom classes for all these months? I personally don’t think it would have been possible. So, yeah, these chanters have been absolutely invaluable to us, it was great just getting together and getting the speakers out and getting the chanters out and playing some tunes together and actually teaching the kids again. And I think they really enjoyed it as well.” (Pipe Major Scott Findlay)

99% of them were over the moon to get back in and just get in the habit of you know what your Thursday night is, your Thursday night is coming along to band and learning and then going away and working on your own stuff. So, I think it was a great response from the kids.” (Pipe Major Scott Findlay)

“I think he’s only got two people from his actual school that go along with him and there’s about 40 boys so there’s a real mix of people across the Dundee area that he can quite confidently meet with and speak with and he’s making new friends there as well, so yeah, it definitely has helped him grow in confidence socially anyway.” (Parent)



“ So, yeah, these chanters have been absolutely invaluable to us, it was great just getting together...”

# Generation Cashback Year 1 2020–21 Local Authority Data

Areas		YP*	%	LA Spend
Aberdeen		2	0.08%	£477
Aberdeenshire	Fraserburgh, Pitsligo, Banff, Macduff, Turriff, Buckie, Ellon, Inverbervie, Peterhead, Strichen	151	5.42%	£30,422
Angus	Monifieth, Arbroath	6	0.20%	£1,118
Argyll & Bute	Rothersay, Bute	33	1.19%	£6,711
City of Edinburgh	Restalrig, Lochend, Craigentiny, Muirhouse, Westerhailes, Gilmerton, Oxfgangs, Pilton, Granton, Kirkliston, Sighthill, Liberton, Drylaw, Leith	144	5.18%	£29,080
Clackmannanshire	Alloa, Dollar, Alva	55	1.99%	£11,185
Dumfries & Galloway		0	0.00%	£0
Dundee	Law, Douglas, Dryburgh, Stobswell, Broughty Ferry	116	4.18%	£23,488
East Ayrshire	Galston, Newmilns	45	1.63%	£9,171
East Dunbartonshire	Lenzie, Dumbarton, Kirkintilloch, Bearsden, Milngavie	281	10.12%	£56,818
East Lothian	Prestonpans	23	0.84%	£4,698
East Renfrewshire	Barrhead, Neilston	56	2.03%	£11,408
Eilean Siar		0	0.00%	£0
Falkirk	Bo'ness, Bainsford, Dawson, Grangemouth, Langlees, Middlefield, Denny, Brightons, Bonnybridge	148	5.34%	£29,975
Fife	St Andrews, Cupar/Coastal Villages, Cowdenbeath, Leven, Dunfermline, Rosyth, Inverkeithing, Dalgety Bay	258	9.28%	£52,121
Glasgow City	Ruchill, Castlemilk, Govan, Bridgeton, Govanhill,, Ballieston, Easterhouse, Scotstoun, Priesthill, Dennistoun, Dowanhill Springburn, Cardonald, Carntyne, Nitshill, Tollcross, Shawlands, Barlanark	276	9.93%	£55,802
Highland	Thurso, Inverness, Culloden, Dornoch, Glenurquhart, Nairn, Fort William, Alness, Wick	214	7.69%	£43,173
Inverclyde	Greenock, Gourock, Port Glasgow	255	9.17%	£51,480
Midlothian	Bonnyrigg, Danderhall, Gorebridge	7	0.24%	£1,342
Moray		9	0.32%	£1,790
North Ayrshire	Millport, Largs, West Kilbride, Kilbirnie, Ardrossan, Saltcoats, Stevenston, Kilwinning, Irvine, Castlepark	124	4.46%	£25,054
North Lanarkshire	Airdrie, Coatbridge, Calderbank, Caldercruix, Gartcosh, New Monkland, Viewpark, Uddingston, Cumbernauld, Milton of Campsie, Tannochside, Chryston, Moodiesburn, Motherwell, Wishaw	22	0.80%	£4,474
Orkney	Stromness, Kirkwall, Stronsay	22	0.79%	£4,443
Perth & Kinross	Blairgowrie, Perth	27	0.96%	£5,369
Renfrewshire	Paisley, Renfrew, Johnstone	104	3.74%	£21,027
Scottish Borders	Kelso, Hawick, Galashiels	47	1.67%	£9,395
Shetland	Yell	15	0.54%	£3,030
South Ayrshire	Girven	40	1.43%	£8,053
South Lanarkshire	Hamilton, East Kilbride, Cambuslang, Lanark	6	0.20%	£1,118
Stirling	Bannockburn, Stirling (City)	9	0.32%	£1,790
West Dunbartonshire	Clydebank, Vale of Leven, Faifley, Kilbowie	92	3.31%	£18,567
West Lothian	Livingston, Armadale, Linlithgow, Blackburn	194	6.97%	£39,147
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,781</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£561,697</b>

\*These numbers are drawn from sample data return

# Generation Cashback Year 1 2020-21 Financial Report

Project Costs		Actual	Target	Variance
<b>Project Delivery Activities</b>				
Staffing Costs: Local Development Officers	£	194,497	193,434	1,063
Staffing Costs: Senior Development Worker	£	26,684	25,965	719
Delivery - Grow	£	218,105	216,161	1,944
Delivery - Lead	£	42,449	45,443	-2,994
Delivery - Cross-consortium regional/national events (diverted to Microgrants in 20-21 due to covid)	£	12,436	13,167	-732
<b>Total project activity</b>	£	<b>494,170</b>	<b>494,170</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Other Project Costs</b>				
Management and Marketing	£	55,859	55,859	0
External Evaluation	£	11,667	11,667	0
<b>Total Other Project Costs</b>	£	<b>67,526</b>	<b>67,526</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	£	<b>561,696</b>	<b>561,696</b>	<b>0</b>

