# Generation CashBack

## Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA)

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### Generation CashBack and the UNCRC

The Generation CashBack programme is delivered by a consortium comprising of: Scouts Scotland, Girlguiding Scotland, The Boys’ Brigade Scotland, and Youth Scotland. All four organisations are committed to upholding children’s rights, both at an organisational level and as part of the Generation CashBack consortium. The desired outcomes of the Generation CashBack programme are to support young people to:

* build their confidence and resilience, benefit from support networks and reduce risk taking behaviour
* develop their personal and physical skills
* improve their health and wellbeing
* participate in activity which improves their learning, employability and employment options (positive destinations)
* contribute positively to their communities
* divert from criminal behaviour or involvement with the criminal justice system

As a result, many of the articles in the UNCRC are inherent to Generation CashBack’s design. Since the overall objective of the programme is to improve outcomes for children and young people, **articles 3 and 6** underpin all activities. The best interests of children and young people are considered in every decision, and the aim to support children to develop to their full potential is foundational to the Generation CashBack programme. The programme works particularly with children and young people from areas of higher deprivation who may be at a higher risk of involvement with the criminal justice system, including some young people in young offenders' institutions. As such, Generation CashBack also upholds **article 40**, treating any young people in the justice system with dignity and respect.

***Providing diversionary activities and personal development opportunities for children and young people:***

The Generation CashBack programme provides many different opportunities for young people to learn and develop. Through the ‘Lead’ strand of work, young people have access to youth work sessions and training which support them to develop new skills which improve their educational and employability options. They are also able to undertake a range of youth awards through the different consortium partners. Through the ‘Grow’ strand, local youth groups can improve and expand the activities on offer to children and young people. This gives participants a space to express themselves, meet new people, make friends, access information, and feel supported by trusted adults. **Articles 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 28, 29 and 31.**

***Providing opportunities for children and young people to develop leadership skills and have their opinions heard:***

A key tenet of the Generation CashBack programme, and the youth awards that young people undertake through it, is supporting young people to develop leadership skills and put these into practice in their communities. Through this, young people learn the importance of their opinions, see that their input is valued, and go on to become more active members of society. As well as championing youth leadership, the Generation CashBack programme is committed to co-production with young people. The cross-consortium events, Reach, are co-produced by an advisory group of young people, recruited from Generation CashBack groups across Scotland. A range of youth participation programmes are available across the consortium including: a Youth Scotland opportunity for young people to become Young Grantmakers with the National Lottery Community Fund; an opportunity to consult on rewilding Scotland with Scotland: The Big Picture; leadership and participation training through the iLead Pathway; Scouts Scotland’s Young Leaders and Green Leaders Schemes; Ignite; and many more. **Articles 12, 13, 14, 15, 28 and 29.**

***Protecting children and young people from harm and ensuring that their fundamental needs are met:***

All four organisations in the Generation CashBack consortium have robust policies and procedures in place to protect the rights of children and young people, to ensure their fundamental needs are met while engaging with the programme, and to protect them from harm. The consortium partners also undertake due diligence on their member groups to ensure standards are upheld by them. Each consortium partner has a Child Protection Policy and requires all staff and volunteers who work directly with children and young people to be members of the PVG scheme, provide suitable references, and attend regular Child Protection Awareness training. Consortium partners also have Equality and Diversity Policies to ensure all staff are working to combat discrimination, and support children and young people equally. Health and Safety Policies and Risk Assessments are in place to ensure all activities are appropriate, and necessary safety precautions are taken. Data Protection Policies are implemented to ensure young people’s data is kept securely, and data protection regulations are followed. All staff working for the consortium partners are fully briefed on these policies and procedures and disciplinary action will be taken where staff are in breach of the rules. The consortium partners also support their member groups with key policy development by providing policy templates, risk assessment templates and support from LDOs, thereby supporting the sector more widely to have robust and live policies and procedures to protect the rights of young people. **Articles 2, 14, 16, 19, 23, 30, 33, 34 and 36.**

### Generation CashBack’s impact on children’s rights

Phase 5 of the Generation CashBack programme runs from April 2020 – March 2023. During those three years the programme aims to reach 8000 children and young people living in areas of higher deprivation and work across all 32 Local Authorities in Scotland. Generation CashBack will have a positive impact on the rights of those children, in particular on the following articles: 2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36 and 40.

In Phase 5 Year 1 of Generation Cashback young people achieved the following outcomes:

* 98% of young people reported increased confidence
* 99% of young people reported feeling more resilient
* 99% of young people reported an increase in their skills
* 98% of young people improved their wellbeing against SHANARRI indicators
* 93% of young people reported that they have participated in a positive activity as a result of being in their youth group or completing a Lead opportunity
* 88% of young people reported increased motivation to positively influence what happens in their community

### Groups benefiting from Generation CashBack

The Generation CashBack programme supports young people who live in areas of higher deprivation and other disadvantaged young people, and Phase 5 prioritises tackling anti-social behaviour in communities. Generation Cashback primarily supports youth groups based in the geographical areas that score in the lowest 20% in each council area against the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). The programme will have a direct positive impact on these groups and the young people that attend them. Generation CashBack focusses on supporting young people aged 10 – 25. However, by increasing the capacity of the youth groups, it will leave a legacy that will impact positively on children and young people attending the group in the future, and on younger, current attendees.

There are no competing impacts between different groups of children and young people. Each group participating in Generation CashBack is supported with an individual needs analysis and receives tailored support to build capacity in the areas that are most useful to them. All groups are offered Lead sessions delivered by Generation CashBack LDOs across a range of different topics.

### Consideration of negative impacts

No negative impacts have been assessed from the Generation CashBack programme for children and young people.

### Furthering the implementation of the UNCRC

While the Generation CashBack programme does not explicitly make reference to the UNCRC, the principles are embedded in the outcomes of the programme. Consortium partners also support member groups to follow these articles by providing direct support and training. Generation CashBack will further the effect of the following articles:

* Article 2 – non discrimination – Generation CashBack provides children and young people with equal access to positive, non-discriminatory youth activities
* Article 3 – best interests of the child – all Generation CashBack activities are designed and delivered with the best interests of the child in mind
* Article 6 – right to life – all activities are designed to support young people to thrive and reach their full potential
* Article 12 – respect for the views of the child – Generation CashBack gives young people the opportunity to develop leadership skills and take action in their communities. It also listens to feedback from young people taking part and offers opportunities for co-production of activities
* Article 13 – freedom of expression – young people are encouraged to share their opinions and develop their individual perspectives
* Article 14 – freedom of thought, belief and religion – Generation CashBack is open to young people from all religious and secular backgrounds
* Article 15 – freedom of association – young people have the opportunity to meet new people, make friends and join different sessions and groups that interest them
* Article 16 – right to privacy – consortium partners have Data Protection Policies in place to ensure young people’s data is stored securely and any images or videos are only shared with child and parental consent
* Article 17 – access to information from the media – Generation CashBack groups support young people to research causes they are passionate about and incorporate this into their leadership and awards activities.
* Article 23 – children with a disability – consortium partners have Equality and Diversity Policies in place to ensure member groups consider how best to make activities accessible to children with disabilities, and that those children are adequately supported
* Article 28 – right to education – Generation CashBack provides a range of opportunities and awards that complement children’s school learning and enhance personal development
* Article 29 – goals of education – the range of activities and awards available through Generation CashBack ensures that young people can develop the talents and abilities they are most passionate about to the full
* Article 30 – children from minority or indigenous groups – consortium partners have Equality and Diversity Policies in place to ensure young people from minority groups are adequately supported and activities are accessible
* Article 31 – leisure, play and culture – Generation Cashback offers young people many opportunities to take part in fun leisure activities
* Article 33 – drug abuse – member groups of the consortium partners offer issue-based sessions covering topics such as drug education
* Article 34 – sexual exploitation – all consortium partners have a Child Protection Policy in place, including mandatory training for staff, in order to prevent or recognise any forms of harm against children
* Article 36 – other forms of exploitation - all consortium partners have a Child Protection Policy in place, including mandatory training for staff, in order to prevent or recognise any forms of harm against children
* Article 40 – juvenile justice – Generation CashBack supports young people in youth offending institutions and treats them with respect and dignity

### Consulting with young people

Generation CashBack was first developed in response to young people's views. Theirs' and youth workers' on-going feedback has helped the consortium to learn and refine the approach into Phase 5, having already run as part of previous phases. This means an even bigger focus on leading in the community and empowering young people to play their part:

"I want to help the community, keep it safe and clean – and this [Generation CashBack] has helped. I feel more confident and made more friends" (Young person, Glasgow)

When planning for Phase 5 of Generation CashBack the consortium drew on evidence and feedback collected from young people and youth workers in previous phases. There was a high demand for Generation CashBack support in Phase 4, as evidenced by the consortium reaching over 180% of the Phase 4 Year 2 Grow and Lead targets, which suggested there would be a high demand for Phase 5 moving forward. The evaluation from previous years also demonstrated that skilled and knowledgeable LDO support enables youth groups to reach more disadvantaged young people, more quickly than possible without their support.

The consortium collectively supports over 168,000 young people which evidences their commitment to listening to and meeting young people's needs. Young people's views are essential to the Generation CashBack project successes; from young people co-designing project ideas for the small grants scheme (Phase 3) to national youth-led events (Phase 3 and 4).

"When the advisory group first met we discussed why and for who we were doing this event. We talked about the aim and what workshops we felt were suitable. We thought about what they would actually want to do... We had free reign, which young people don't usually get so that was really good - it allowed our hopes to become a reality." (Reach, Young Advisor)

### Further evidence to inform this assessment

As Phase 5 is in its second year of delivery, we have already collected evidence from children and young people to evaluate the impact of the programme. The Lines Between has been contracted to conduct an independent evaluation on Generation CashBack Phase 5, providing quarterly and annual reports on outcomes and impact achieved, as well as case studies. Phase 5 builds on the work delivered in previous phases of Generation CashBack, which were also independently evaluated and found to have a positive impact on children and their rights. Further reports on the impact of previous phases of Generation CashBack are available on the Youth Scotland website.

In Year 1 of Phase 5 2781 children and young people benefited from Generation CashBack activity. Between them they completed 2267 qualifications. Some highlights of their progress against outcomes were as follows:

* 98% report improved wellbeing against SHANARRI indicators (articles 2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 28, 29, 31)
* 98% report increased confidence (articles 6, 12, 13, 14)
* 93% report that they had participated in a positive activity (articles 15, 28, 29, 31)
* 88% have increased motivation to positively influence what happens in their community (articles 12, 13, 14, 28, 29)
* 89% report positive supportive networks (articles 6, 12, 19, 33, 34, 36)
* 99% report an increase in their skills (articles 6, 28, 29, 31)

Below are some direct quotations from young people who benefitted from Generation CashBack support in Year 1 of Phase 5, taken from the case studies conducted by The Lines Between:

* “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.” (Articles 3, 6, 15, 31)
* “I’ve done something. I never just sit on the sofa, eat chocolates, watch TV. I’ve done something else.” (Articles 3, 6, 28, 29)
* “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.” (Articles 3, 15)
* “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.” (Articles 3, 6, 12, 13, 28, 29)
* “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.” (Articles 3, 6, 28, 29)
* “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.” (Articles 3, 6, 12, 13)
* “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.” (Articles 3, 6, 17, 33)

### Monitoring the impact of Generation CashBack

Generation CashBack reports on the agreed targets and outcomes listed above. The consortium reports to the Scottish Government, who fund the programme through the CashBack for Communities initiative. The Lines Between is contracted to conduct an independent evaluation of the programme. Reports are submitted on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Reports cover:

* Number of children and young people reached by Generation CashBack
* Number of children and young people gaining youth awards through Generation CashBack
* A summary of participants’ progress against outcomes agreed with CashBack for Communities
* Detailed case studies conducted across member groups of all four Generation CashBack consortium partners

Annual reports and case studies are made available to the public on the Youth Scotland and Cashback for Communities websites.

Young people’s progress against outcomes is tracked through evaluation forms that they complete after participating in Generation CashBack activities, as well as from stakeholder reporting. The consortium supports member groups to execute their evaluations by hosting training sessions to build youth worker capacity and confidence in this area, as well as directly collecting evaluation forms when delivering Lead activities.

### Communicating the impact of Generation CashBack to children and young people

Children and young people hear about Generation CashBack opportunities primarily through their youth groups. These would be explained to them by an LDO from Generation CashBack, or a youth worker at their group. Young people can choose whether or not they want to engage with Generation CashBack opportunities using the information available to them.

There are case studies and reports available on the Youth Scotland website that are presented in a clear, user-friendly and visual way. There are also films and animations about the CashBack for Communities project on the Youth Scotland website, and the CashBack for Communities website. The full CRWIA will be available on YS and C4C website from end Feb 2022. As a consortium we will be looking at how we can present this information to groups and young people in an accessible way.

### Sign & Date

***Policy Lead Signature & Date of Sign Off:***



Head of Youth Work Programmes and Quality Improvement 18/2/2022