

# Youth Work Week 2023

## Impact and Influence: Stats and Stories

#YWW2023 #InvestInYouthWork



### How to contact your elected politicians

A letter to your local politician can make the difference and raise awareness. We know that some MSPs have already spoken to Scottish Government Ministers about the loss of CashBack funding. Here are a few tips if you need them:

#### Step One

Introduce yourself and your organisation or project

Begin your letter by introducing yourself, your role as a youth worker, and the organisation you represent. Briefly explain the goals and objectives of your project, the young people and community you support.

#### Step Two

Highlight the positive outcomes

Share your success stories and concrete examples of how youth work has positively impacted young people in your community. Include statistics and short case studies that illustrate the effectiveness of using a youth work approach. Do you work in partnership with other organisations or schools? Consider working together to compile as much impact data as possible to share with your elected politicians.



## Step Three



### Emphasise the importance of youth work funding

Explain why funding for youth work is vital in achieving better education outcomes, tackling poverty, and reducing anti-social behaviour. Have you received funding for specific projects in the past? What did that funding allow you to do, and how did this impact the young people you work with.

Showcase how youth work contributes to the overall wellbeing of the young people you work with, and the value it adds to the local community.

## Step Four

### Be honest about the impact of funding cuts

Clearly outline any consequences of ongoing cuts to youth work services and the effect this could have on your young people.

What do funding cuts mean for your organisation - and what is the knock-on effect for the community you serve? Explain how the loss of this funding puts pressure on services which could in turn slow young people's progress and leave vulnerable young people without much-needed support.



## Step Five

### Call to action

Make a clear and compelling call to action, urging your local politicians to support investment in local youth work. You might want to call for financial support to address a specific local issue, ask them to get involved in a campaign you're running, or to raise a specific local issue in parliament to raise awareness.

## Step Six

### Invite them for a visit!

Invite them to your project to discuss your concerns and to see the work you do. Nothing is more powerful than politicians seeing the incredible power of youth work with their own eyes. It will also give them a chance to meet the young people you support, hear their inspiring stories, and see the impact you're creating for themselves.

## Finding your local representatives

To find your local politicians you can use the following sites, just put in the postcode of your project:

### MSPs

<https://www.parliament.scot/msps>

### MPs

<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

### Councillors

You can find a list of local councillors on your council website.

