

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE	4 JANUARY 2022	13
HOLIDAY, ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME (HAF) - UPDATE AND FUTURE PLANS			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

As part of the government’s commitment to tackling child hunger, funding has been made available to deliver a school holiday program of physical and enrichment activities (HAF), together with a healthy meal, for children in receipt of free school meals. Fylde was provided with £123,000 to deliver a scheme in 2021/22 during Summer and Christmas holidays, with additional funding to recruit a temporary scheme coordinator. The project was extremely well received, surpassing scheme targets and engaging with 613 children over the summer period (43% of the local cohort); the scheme will also be delivered in the Christmas week, with Christmas Food Hampers to be distributed to participating children and their families at the end of the holiday club.

The government has indicated that the HAF scheme will be extended for a further 3 years, with delivery taking place across Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays, however no guidelines or indicative funding awards have been announced.

An update on the Christmas scheme with details of the extended project will be provided to Members at a future meeting.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Details of the scheme have been provided by Edyta Paxton, Health and Wellbeing Officer with a responsibility for the delivery of the HAF project.

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

The purpose of the report is to update Members on the initiative to date and provide an indication of future funding opportunities to extend the scheme.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Update – Holiday, Activity and Food Programme

1. In line with the government’s instructions the Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) was delivered across the whole of England in 2021, online nationally over Easter and face to face during the summer holiday (and

Christmas) via local authorities and partners.

2. The Local Authority worked with a number of Fylde partners to deliver the summer HAF programme across St Anne's, Lytham, Warton, Kirkham, Weeton and Elswick over 4 weeks (26th July-20th August), providing four days of free holiday provision per week at multiple venues for children entitled to free school meals.
3. The ten local holiday club providers and partners engaged in the scheme were:
 - AFC Fylde Community Foundation
 - Fylde Rugby Club
 - Streetwise Youth Club
 - Chris Nay Sport Holidays
 - Mulligan & McCann Holiday Clubs
 - Mr Basketball
 - Evolution Sport Camps
 - Play Inclusion Project
 - LCC Wellbeing Services
 - Homestart
4. As per guidelines all provisions had an element of enriching activities such as multi-sport, mental health resilience training through wellbeing games and play, ensuring the children were more active during the holidays. The programme had specific requirements with regards to nutritional aspects and support was provided by Type 2 Kitchens, delivering nutritional education through play and cooking demonstrations. Homestart volunteers used arts and crafts, together with circus magic, to enhance the camps for a more varied experience.
5. Working within the guidelines, partners outsourced food provisions, provided kitchen facilities where children helped to prepare their own lunch and made use of a national lunch supplier following LCC healthy school advice, supplemented with snacks, juice and water from local foodbanks. Breakfast provision was identified (and implemented) as a supplementary requirement early on in the programme.
6. The HAF programme targets children eligible for Free School Meals and other young people identified as vulnerable by schools and social workers, aiming to reach 30-35% of the cohort - 1401 children in total in Fylde. Secondary school aged children identified as hard to reach benefitted from several outdoor sessions delivered by outreach workers from the Family Wellbeing Service in Memorial Park, Park View and Ashton Gardens. AFC Fylde and Fylde Rugby Club also successfully engaged with some of the older children. The local scheme was very well received, engaging with 613 children (43% of the cohort), including 89 secondary school children.
7. Average attendance levels across the 16 sessions delivered at multiple venues was 10, deemed to be a great success and earning a rating of 'Highly Commended' by LCC and Streetgames, the national charity supporting the programme.
8. The programme will also be delivered in the Christmas week (w/c 20th December) at participating venues, with Christmas Food Hampers to be distributed to participating children and their families at the end of the holiday club.
9. The local programme has enabled Fylde to establish successful relationships between the local authority, schools, holiday clubs/providers and charities committed to working together in the future. It was very well received by local families within the cohort, providing much needed respite after the recent lockdowns, school closures, social isolation and financial pressures experienced during the Covid 19 pandemic.
10. The government has indicated that the HAF scheme will be extended for a further 3 years, with delivery taking place across Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays, however no guidelines or indicative funding awards have been announced. Awards will be announced once the evaluation of the 2021 programme has been completed, with guidance on staff numbers and training requirements to enhance the future programme. An update on the Christmas scheme with details of the extended project will be provided to Members at a future meeting.