

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	28 JUNE 2021	12
FULLY FUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE - HOLIDAY, ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME (HAF)			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

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, together with a healthy meal, for children in receipt of free school meals.

The objectives of the programme are for attendees to:

- eat more healthily over the school holidays
- be more active during the school holidays
- take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing, along with their wider educational attainment
- be safe and not to be socially isolated
- have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition
- be more engaged with school and other local service

Fylde has been provided with an indicative budget allocation of £123,000 to deliver a scheme in 2021/22, with additional funding to recruit a scheme coordinator, for six months.

Committee approval is required to proceed with a project of this value however, the timescales for recruitment of the coordinator were limited. Authorisation to proceed was sought from the Chief Executive under Chief Executive's Delegated Powers: *"Power to make emergency decisions in consultation with the relevant committee Chairman, together with the Leader of the Council"*. The Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee have also provided consent, in advance of a committee decision to proceed.

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance & Democracy Committee is requested to approve a revenue budget increase of £123,000, fully funded from specific HAF grant, for the delivery of the HAF programme in Fylde in 2021/22.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Environment, Health & Housing Committee – 15 June 2021 Resolved:

1. That the Committee support the emergency decision of the Chief Executive to proceed with the recruitment of the HAF Co-ordinator;
2. That the Committee approve delivery of the HAF project as set out in the report; and

3. That the Committee request that Finance and Democracy Committee approve a revenue budget increase of £123,000, fully funded from specific HAF grant, for the delivery of the HAF programme in Fylde in 2021/22.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

REPORT

Background

- On 8 November 2020, the government announced that the holiday activities and food programme will be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. The programme has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018. The Government is making £220 million available to local authorities in England to coordinate the programme.
 - School holidays can be particular pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes, with children from disadvantaged families less likely to access organised out-of-school activities; more likely to experience ‘unhealthy holidays’ in terms of nutrition and physical health; and more likely to experience social isolation. Free holiday clubs are a response to this issue, with the aim to make free places available to eligible children for the equivalent of at least 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, 6 weeks a year.
- Local authorities are asked to ensure that the offer of free holiday club provision is available for all children eligible for and in receipt of free school meals in their area, on a voluntary basis. Places may also be made available to other children who can pay to attend.
- The aims of this programme are for children who attend this provision to eat more healthily over the school holidays; be more active during the school holidays; take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment; be safe and not to be socially isolated; have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition; be more engaged with school and other local services; and for the wider family to develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting.

Scheme Details

- Local authorities may coordinate the programme themselves or work with another organisation to coordinate the provision on their behalf. LAs are encouraged to work with a wide range of community and voluntary partners in the delivery of this programme.
- The role of coordinating this holiday provision involves mapping the holiday provision to ensure that holiday provision exists and is supporting the areas of greatest need; establishing a steering group of local representatives to support implementation and delivery; drawing in wider support to enhance the local programme i.e. sponsors, food/activity providers and local businesses etc.; developing a local plan for provision in the area; ensuring that sufficient, adequate provision is available across the area for children with SEND or additional needs; awarding funding to holiday club providers to ensure there is enough provision to meet demand; supporting all providers to meet the framework of minimum standards including safeguarding requirements and maintaining food standards; supporting all providers to improve the quality of their provision; working with families to reduce dependency by educating families around purchasing and preparing healthy meals on a sustainable basis; promoting and advertising provision to encourage the most at-need

children to attend; working with other local services or agencies to ensure a joined-up and efficient approach; and building local partnerships and sharing learning and good practice among local partners.

6. Local authorities will receive grant funding based on predicted participation levels and the numbers of children eligible for and in receipt of free school meals in the area. The funding will cover the provision of free holiday places and the coordination of the programme locally. Administrative costs must not exceed 10% of the total funding allocated on the costs associated with running the programme. The remaining 90% can be used flexibly to support setting up new provision where needed; paying for additional staff to expand existing provision; paying for additional staff to meet additional needs; bringing in activity providers such as sports coaches; or establishing partnerships with catering organisations. Funding can also be used to purchase equipment for the programme but should be limited to 2% of the overall programme expenditure.
7. Holiday clubs must be able to provide information, signposting or referrals to other services and support that would benefit the children who attend their provision and their families, such as Citizen's Advice; healthcare practitioners; family support services or children's services; housing support officers; Jobcentre Plus; and organisations providing financial advice.
8. All organisations and individuals (including volunteers) involved in the delivery of the holiday activities and food programme and must have relevant and appropriate policies and procedures for safeguarding; health and safety; relevant insurance policies; and accessibility and inclusiveness.

Local Provision (Fylde)

9. £3.16 million has been made available for distribution across Lancashire districts on a pro rated basis. Fylde has 1401 registered children in receipt of free school meals (FSM) representing 3.9% of the total allocation across the county. A 30% reach represents 420 children; a 35% reach represents 490 children.
10. Fylde has been provided with an indicative budget allocation of £122,691.84 based on FSM numbers - the final figure will be confirmed once the central offer has been finalised, including additional Public Health funding (once confirmed). The figure is likely to increase but not significantly. The central costs are based on the summer holiday only and do not include Christmas week.
11. In addition, there is support funding for a scheme coordinator - each district will be allocated 2.5 days of funding for the coordinator post, for a six-month period. This equates to £15K per district plus 28% on costs - £19.2K. The 2.5-day post are a 6month post 1st May – end Oct 202. Districts may 'buddy up' and appoint a full-time person to cover 2 districts.
12. Fylde and Wyre have agreed to share a full-time post with Fylde as the employing authority and Wyre reimbursing for their portion of the salary costs. A job description and personal specification has been prepared for the role and job evaluated. The job has been advertised internally and interviews will be held at the beginning of June; the successful candidate must be in a position to commence their new role as soon as possible to finalise scheme arrangements and planning in advance of the July school holidays.
13. In Fylde, we will be working with several partners that already run successful school holiday provision, including Streetwise, YMCA, Fylde Rugby Club and AFC Fylde, as well as some smaller providers. Places will be purchased at these holiday clubs using the funding provided, assigning the available places via a booking system.
14. Smaller satellite clubs will also be established in areas of greater need in Freckleton, Kirkham and Central St Annes, making use of community buildings and schools to deliver the sessions. Enquiries are being made with commercial recreational ventures in the area to see if discounted fees can be negotiated for families in need, as part of the HAF programme.
15. A number of afternoon sessions will be arranged for older children (12 – 16), working with outreach workers already active in the community, in Memorial Park, Parkview and Ashton Gardens.
16. The Fylde (and Wyre) coordinator will be working closely with the coastal coordinator from Active Lancashire, providing 1:1 support, and with the Blackpool coordinator, who has experience delivering the scheme as part of the government pilot program.
17. Weekly progress meetings will be scheduled with the LCC Early Help Partnership officer for this region; Biweekly meetings will also take place with LCC and Streetgames, a national charity providing sport programmes for disadvantaged communities. Streetgames have extensive experience in this area and were commissioned by

LCC to deliver an online program of support over Easter, during lockdown.

18. Work is currently being undertaken to identify providers of nutritional education programmes, who make use of interactive games and cookery demonstrations to engage with the children, providing additional take home provisions for the family.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report sets out details of grant funding received by the council to deliver the HAF project, and requests that Finance and Democracy Committee approve a funded revenue budget increase of £123,000, fully funded from the specific HAF grant, for the delivery of the programme in Fylde in 2021/22 as detailed in the report.
Legal	No legal implications arising as a result of this report
Community Safety	No Community Safety implications arising as a result of this report
Human Rights and Equalities	No Human Rights and Equalities implications arising as a result of this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No Sustainability and Environmental impact implications arising as a result of this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No Health & Safety and Risk Management implications arising as a result of this report

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
NA		