

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing))	Cabinet	Wednesday 15 March 2023

HAF Programme 2023/24

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	No
Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	No

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on delivery of the 2022/23 HAF Programme
2. To seek approval to deliver the 2023/4 HAF Programme in South Ribble

Recommendations to Cabinet

3. To note successful delivery of the 2022/23 HAF Programme.
4. To approve delivery proposals for the 2023/24 HAF Programme.
5. To authorise officers to lobby for any additional HAF funding which becomes available.

Reasons for recommendations

6. Funding received for the HAF Programme in 2022 enabled a wide-ranging offer of activities and food for children across the borough. There is a will from leisure services, community groups and providers to continue the scheme. Feedback received from parents and carers echoes this.
7. Delivery of the HAF Programme is directly in line with the Council's corporate priorities. It complements other schemes which support families with the cost of living, including the school uniform bank and South Ribble Food Network .

Other options considered and rejected

8. If Cabinet is minded not to approve proposals for 2023/24, the anticipated funding offer from LCC could be declined. This would result in LCC commissioning external providers in South Ribble; we would have no role or influence in the programme. Given the Council's extensive knowledge of communities, and strong relationships with groups and organisations locally, we do not believe remote commissioning to be in the best interest of South Ribble families.

Corporate priorities

9. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

10. A report was presented to Council in March 2022 which outlined funding from the Department for Education, administered by LCC. This grant was to cover the cost of six weeks of school holiday provision (one week at Easter, four weeks in the summer and one at Christmas), a healthy meal for all participants, and the salary cost of a part time co-ordinator.
11. The HAF programme has since been extended a further three years as of 1 April 2022. During 2022 we received £276,878 to fund six weeks provision, with a successful application for a further £27,000 to enhance our Christmas offer.
12. Objectives of the HAF programme for children included:
- Eating more healthily over the school holidays
 - Being more active during the school holidays
 - Taking part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character, and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment
 - Being safe and not socially isolated
13. Department for Education guidelines state that HAF provision must be targeted at children in receipt of free school meals. LCC data inform us that there are 2508 such children in South Ribble, broken down as follows:

	Total
Age 4 to 7 years	700
Age 8 to 11 years	932
Age 12 to 16 years	876

2022 programme delivery

14. A timetable of activities was created which offered a varied range of options, all free to families. This included:
- Swimming, tennis, gymnastics, table tennis and gym sessions at leisure centres
 - Boxing and Kick boxing training with qualified coaches
 - Arts and crafts, bird box making, nature trails
 - Forest school – themes such as natural elements, bushcraft, fairies & dragons
 - Giant inflatable explorer jungle
 - Climbing wall, bikeability and multi-sports in parks
 - Festive pantomime and Mrs Claus & Elf touring primary schools
 - Football including girls only and disability football group at the new Withy Grove Sports Hub.

- PASTA (play and skills tea-time activities) – family cooking session with a festive theme
15. The delivery target across Lancashire was to offer enough places for 30% of children in receipt of free school meals to be able to participate; the equivalent of around 752 places each day.
 16. Close working relationships with schools, foodbanks and charities locally led us to challenge the free school meal register as being the sole measure of vulnerability, so in South Ribble, no child was turned away from HAF activities.
 17. Catering was provided by local businesses, providing much needed revenue amidst COVID related financial losses. Any surplus food was shared with local charities, foodbanks and community groups, to ensure nothing was wasted.
 18. In addition to the initial funding award of £276,878 a further £27,000 was secured. This covered provision of food & welfare parcels during Christmas delivery, with contents including:
 - Washing powder, washing up liquid
 - Toothbrushes and toothpaste
 - Shower gel and shampoo
 - Cereal
 - Cordial
 - Pasta and pasta sauce
 - Baked beans
 - Instant noodles
 19. Additional funding also contributed to the salary costs of the co-ordinator post and investment into the Legend system which enables online booking for parents and carers.
 20. A highlights summary from 2022 HAF provision is attached at appendix A. Feedback from parents and carers is attached at appendix B. Feedback from providers is attached at appendix C.

2023 programme proposals

21. LCC has approached districts around the continuation of HAF, following government confirmation of funding for the next 3 years (to be managed in 3 one year periods.) This is now confirmed and established, 2022 was year 1 of 3.
22. StreetGames, commissioned by LCC to co-ordinate HAF, are keen for South Ribble to work in the same way going forward; quality assurance visits and data returns in 2022 were all positive.
23. All providers from 2022 have expressed an interest in delivering the programme on an ongoing basis. Due to the success of the previous programme, minimal changes are proposed. Potential areas for improvement are:
 - Early engagement with schools to encourage participation
 - Increase our SEN offer and upskill our providers with SEN training

- Collection of parent / carer data with consent to contact – this has improved due to the integration of Legend booking system, however improvements are still required for those families that turn up on the day without pre-booking.
24. A proposed timetable for Easter 2023 is being drafted, with activities provided by external groups, charities, and the Council's Leisure and Active Health Teams. Venues include parks, schools, community centres and leisure centres in Leyland, Penwortham, Lostock Hall and Bamber Bridge. Over the two-week holidays, it is proposed to offer 872 places through local groups and charities, 860 places through leisure centres and 1276 places with the Active Health Team. This equates to provision of 3008 places for quality activities and healthy meals across the borough.
 25. Following a meeting with the South Ribble Secondary Headteachers Cluster, commitment has been given to schools promoting HAF activities to all children and families, with particular focus on those who may be more vulnerable.
 26. Cabinet is requested to support the continuation of HAF, with the following benefits in mind:
 - Improving the health and well-being of children in the borough
 - Opening up opportunities for free access to paid-for activity
 - Utilising external funding to build wealth in our communities
 - Showcasing South Ribble's leisure centres and parks
 - Providing employment opportunities for young people
 27. Confirmation has been received that the funding award for South Ribble to cover Easter, Summer and Christmas 2023 will be £282,622.20 with the possible opportunity to apply for additional funding leading up to the Christmas period.
 28. As stated on paragraph 19, additional funding was secured from LCC in 2022 for provision of food and welfare parcels and investment into the booking system. Any opportunity to lobby for additional funding in 2023 will be taken.

Climate change and air quality

29. The work noted in this report does not have a direct impact on the Council's Carbon emissions or the wider Climate Emergency and sustainability targets of the Council. In general, the provision of local holiday activities based in parks, community centres and leisure centres around the borough encourages families to stay local.
30. HAF activities are environmentally friendly by design (e.g. no motorised sports or use of generators), and all provisions are locally sourced where possible. We are aiming for carbon neutrality in our approach.

Equality and diversity

31. The HAF Programme is designed nationally to be inclusive and accessible to children in receipt of free school meals. The local approach in South Ribble ensures that no child is turned away, from activities or food provision
32. No negative impacts on any of the Protected Characteristic Groups are anticipated. There will be positive impacts on children with disabilities, through inclusive measures such as 'quiet hour' in leisure centres. This is being offered in line with feedback from parents / carers of children with Autism Spectrum and / or Sensory Processing Disorder.

Risk

33. The risk of declining to offer HAF activities is that children would miss out on activities and meals which the scheme provides. In addition, there is potential for reputational risk if other Lancashire authorities are running the programme and South Ribble is not.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

34. There are no direct financial implications of this report. The delivery of the HAF programme for 23/24 will be funded from the grant funding of £282,622.20 provided for that purpose.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

35. There are no legal concerns with what is proposed here. This appears to have been a well- run scheme in the past and what is proposed is consistent with the council's priorities.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report

Appendices

Appendix A – HAF Highlights 2022

Appendix B – HAF Programme 2022 feedback from parents and carers

Appendix C – HAF Programme 2022 feedback from providers

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