

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing) and Cabinet Member (Communities, Wealth Building and Social Justice))	Cabinet	23 March 2022

Holiday and Food Programme Update

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

- To provide an update on delivery of the 2021 HAF Programme
- To seek approval to deliver the 2022 HAF Programme in South Ribble

Recommendations to Cabinet

- To note successful delivery of the 2021 HAF Programme.
To approve delivery proposals for the 2022 HAF Programme.
- To delegate authority for allocation of additional resources from the COVID recovery fund to the Cabinet Members, to allow flexibility should additional capacity be required.
- To authorise officers to lobby for any additional HAF funding which is available .

Reasons for recommendations

- Funding received for the HAF Programme in 2021 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.
- Delivery of the HAF Programme is directly in line with the Council's corporate priorities. It complements other schemes such as the holiday hunger programme and school uniform bank; supporting families who need a little additional help.

Other options considered and rejected

- If Cabinet is minded not to approve proposals for 2022, 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 July 2021 which set out a funding offer of £225,471 from the Department for Education, administered by LCC. This grant was to cover the cost of 5 weeks of school holiday provision (4 weeks in the summer and 1 at Christmas), a healthy meal for all participants, and the salary cost of a part time co-ordinator.
11. 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
12. An officer task was established to oversee delivery, with staff from Leisure, Active Health, Community Development, Communications and Finance. Alongside this, South Ribble was (and continues to be) represented on a bi-weekly countywide HAF meeting.
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 2465 such children in South Ribble, broken down as follows:

	Female	Male	Total
Age 4 to 7 years	329	338	667
Age 8 to 11 years	435	492	927
Age 12 to 16 years	410	461	871

2021 programme delivery

14. A timetable of activities was created which offered a varied range of options, all free to families. This included:
 - Swimming, badminton and gym sessions at leisure centres
 - Boxing training with qualified coaches
 - Arts and crafts, bird box making, nature trails
 - Video production – filming, editing and sound engineering
 - Giant inflatable explorer jungle
 - Climbing wall, bikeability and multi-sports in parks

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 740 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 £225,471, a further £19,690 was secured. This covered provision of food parcels during Christmas delivery, an extension to the co-ordinator post, and purchase of new SRBC branded inflatable equipment.
19. A report of the summer 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.

2022 programme proposals

20. 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.)
21. 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 2021 were all positive.
22. All providers from 2021 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
 - Enhanced use of social media to promote activities on offer
 - Collection of parent / carer data with consent to contact
 - Use of Legend (leisure IT system) for online bookings
23. A proposed timetable for Easter 2022 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 912 places through local groups and charities, 860 places through leisure centres and 1268 places with the Active Health Team. This equates to provision of 3040 places for quality activities and healthy meals across the borough.
24. 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.
25. 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

26. Current indications are that the funding award for South Ribble to cover Easter, Summer and Christmas 2022 will be around £300,000.

As stated on paragraph 20, additional funding was secured from LCC in 2021 for provision of food parcels and extra equipment. Any opportunity to lobby for additional funding in 2022 will be taken.

Climate change and air quality

27. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

28. The HAF Programme is designed nationally to be inclusive and accessible to children in receipt of free school meals.

29. An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed as timetable of activities is finalised, however no negative impacts on any of the protected groups are anticipated.

Risk

30. 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

31. This report is to detail delivery proposals when we have confirmed amounts of allocations further details will be provided on available budgets.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

32. There are no concerns with this report from a Monitoring Officer perspective.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report

Appendices

Appendix A – HAF Report 2021

Appendix B – HAF Programme 2021 feedback from parents and carers

Appendix C – HAF Programme 2021 feedback from providers

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