

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities	Scrutiny Committee	Tuesday, 12 July 2022

## Holiday Activities and Food Programme Update 2022

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an overview on delivery of the 2021 HAF Programme
2. To provide an update on delivery plans for the 2022 HAF Programme

### Recommendations to Scrutiny Committee

3. To note successful delivery of the 2021 HAF Programme.
4. To note delivery plans for the 2022 HAF Programme

### Reasons for recommendations

5. 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.

### Other options considered and rejected

6. If Cabinet had been minded not to approve proposals for 2022, this could 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

7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

<b>An exemplary council</b>	<b>Thriving communities</b>
A fair local economy that works for everyone	<b>Good homes, green spaces, healthy</b>

	<b>places</b>
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## Background to the report

8. 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.
9. 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
10. 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.
11. 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

12. 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
13. 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.
14. Knowledge from 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.

15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. Although successful, Christmas HAF provision was less well attended than summer, which was anticipated by local authorities across the County. LCC has lobbied the Department for Education to move Christmas provision to either October or February half-term, but there is currently no flexibility on this.

## **2022 programme proposals**

19. 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.)
20. 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.
21. All providers from 2021 expressed an interest in delivering the programme on an ongoing basis. Due to the success of the previous programme, minimal changes have been applied:
  - 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
22. In March 2022, Cabinet approved continuation of South Ribble's HAF programme, with the following benefits in mind:
  - Improving the health and wellbeing 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
23. The funding received by South Ribble to cover six weeks of HAF provision in 2022 (Easter, Summer and Christmas) is £276,878.
24. HAF activities are all bookable by phone or online at [www.southribble.gov.uk/haf](http://www.southribble.gov.uk/haf) Community groups and SRBC staff actively support families who may struggle to book online independently.
25. An example HAF timetable is attached at appendix D – further detail on the complete HAF offer is available online via the link above.

### **Climate change and air quality**

26. The work noted in this report does not have a direct impact on the Councils 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.
27. 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**

28. 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
29. 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**

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. There are no direct financial implications of this report.
32. This report is to detail delivery proposals; once we receive confirmed allocations, further details will be provided on available budgets.

### **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

33. 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  
Appendix D – Example HAF timetable for August 2022

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
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