

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People
Date:	24 February 2021
Title:	Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Grant Recommendations Easter 2021
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for grant awards to organisations offering holiday activity and food schemes to benefits eligible Free School Meal (FSM) children during the Easter 2021 school holidays, funded by the Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme.

2. Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member approves the award of HAF Easter grants to the organisations identified in Appendix 1 to this report up to a total value of £384,576.
4. In the event that a provider is unable to fulfil the funded number of places, or has to amend its offer in the light of Covid, it is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to reallocate any underspent Easter HAF grant funding to ensure a Hampshire wide offer, within the grant allocation for Easter of £384,576. Any such reallocations will be agreed in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.

Executive Summary

5. The Department for Education (DfE) have provided every local authority in England funding to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food

and enriching activities for children eligible for benefits related free school meals. The programme will cover the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021. Hampshire County Council (the Council) have been awarded £3,319,940.

6. Between 27 January and 12 February 2021, the Council invited grant applications from organisations able to provide holiday activity and food schemes during the 2021 Easter holidays 2 April to 16 April 2021. Applications had to deliver to the DfE HAF programme outcomes identified in paragraph 18.
7. A total of 71 applications were received from 33 organisations and were evaluated by a panel of council officers, resulting in recommendations contained in this report for 51 grant awards up to a total value of £384,576.
8. The total applications requested exceeded the budget available. Feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants and to those where requests for funding were only partially recommended.
9. Some grant recommendations to projects may decrease following best value discussions with organisations which are currently underway.
10. Successful organisations will need to submit monitoring to the Council to ensure that the funding is reaching the target cohort of children and young people and that the provision is of good quality.
11. Applications for Summer holiday provision between 26 July to 1 September 2021 will also be sought from organisations in the coming months. Following an evaluation process, recommendations for grant funding will be brought to the first Executive Lead Member decision day following the May elections.

Contextual information

12. On 8 November 2020, the Government announced that the HAF programme, which has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018, will be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. Grant allocations and requirements were published by the DfE on 8 February 2021.
13. The HAF programme will cover the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021, and the DfE will make up to £220m available to local authorities for the programme. It will be available to children in every local authority in England and will build on the success of the local holiday programmes that the Government have been funding since 2018.
14. Hampshire County Council have been allocated funding of up to £3,319,940.

15. School holidays can be particular pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes. For some children that can lead to a holiday experience gap - 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 are more likely to experience social isolation.
16. Free holiday clubs are a response to this issue and evidence suggests that they can have a positive impact on children and young people. It also shows they work best when they provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities, when they offer more than just breakfast or lunch, and when they involve children (and parents) in food preparation.
17. The aim of the HAF programme is to make free places available to children eligible for free school meals for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week and for six weeks a year. This would cover four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays in 2021. Organisations will also be able to offer additional places to fee paying families.
18. Across Hampshire, there are currently 26,384 children who are potentially eligible to access holiday places on the HAF programme based on actual FSM eligibility numbers from school census information. It is anticipated that this number could increase by circa 10% because of more families meeting the FSM criteria due to the economic recovery from Covid 19 and the effect on employment.
19. The desired outcomes of the programme are to encourage children and young people to:
 - a) To eat more healthily over the school holidays;
 - b) To be more active during the school holidays;
 - c) To take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and well being along with their wider education attainment;
 - d) To be safe and not to be socially isolated;
 - e) To have greater knowledge of health nutrition;
 - f) To be more engaged with school and other local services.
20. The HAF programme also aims to ensure that the children and families who participate in the programme develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting as well as being effectively signposted towards other information and support for example health, employment and education.
21. The Council seeks to achieve these aims through the provision of holiday clubs and activities. Organisations will be grant funded to provide free of charge places at their schemes for eligible children and will be required to

provide a healthy meal as part of their core delivery. They will provide a range of activities for the children and young people to engage with and participate in, with a focus on healthy eating and healthy lifestyles as a common theme. Organisations will also be expected to support the wider family and signpost to other key community resources as required.

Hampshire's Approach

22. The Holiday Activity and Food grant initiative will be delivered under the 'connect4communities' programme of work:
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities>
23. The funding will be allocated across three different grant streams:
- Grant Type A – Adding New Places
 - Grant Type B – Branching Out
 - Grant Type C – Creating and Connecting
24. Grant A - Adding New Places applications are for existing activity providers to offer free places to children (who meet the benefits related FSM criteria) on their regular activity programme.
25. Grant B - Branching Out applications are for existing activity scheme providers who take their delivery model to a new area. Applications were invited from all areas of Hampshire but grant awards target priority areas of Havant, Gosport, New Forest and rural, isolated communities or hard to reach communities.
26. Grant C - Creating and Connecting applications are for organisations who develop new and innovative programmes that inspire children, connect the community, engage parents and involves local professionals. Projects should create a local legacy by providing memorable experiences that encourage children and their families to be more physically active, to eat healthy and affordable meals and improve their resilience. Grant applications were invited from all areas of Hampshire, but the recommended grant awards target identified priority areas.
27. Applications were invited against these grant streams via the connect4communities website. Organisations were able to apply for one or more of the grants available depending on the type of activity they were seeking to deliver.
28. The Connect4Summer+ recommended grant award of £154,000 is a collaboration between Park Community School in Havant and Romsey Community School. For the past two years, the team at Connect4Summer have been one of a small number of HAF pilot projects commissioned directly

by the DfE. In 2020 they delivered summer activities, food for vulnerable children and educational sessions for parents across Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. In total 7,500 children and teenagers attended activities. Their application for Easter 2021 seeks to deliver family focussed activities in 21 venues in Hampshire, targeting areas of high populations of children receiving free school meals. Activity sessions will be a combination of children's fun and physically active activities alongside educational opportunities for parents to learn to cook healthy meals, budget and connect with food pantries and food share schemes. Crucially they will target sessions in each area exclusively for teenagers who are least likely to access other childcare led HAF provision. For Easter, the Connect4Summer project aims to work with 3,000 children and over 1,000, whilst also providing employment, training and volunteering opportunities for young people.

Finance

29. The Hampshire grant allocation from the DfE is £3,319,940. The DfE guidance stipulates that; “the holiday club places will be available for the equivalent of at least 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, 6 weeks a year. This covers four weeks in the summer, plus a week’s worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays.” Based on this guidance, awarding grants to the value of £384,576 provides sufficient places for FSM eligible children around the county for Easter, to cover the required four days.

Performance

30. All funding granted to third party organisations (including schools, and early years providers) will be supported by a grant agreement setting out the conditions of the funding as well as reporting requirements.
31. Third party organisations will be required to report to the Council on how they have spent the funding provided, in line with the DfE grant criteria.
32. The Council has developed a monitoring approach which will embed and drive quality from the outset of the project. Monitoring is completed in three phases with the first being a self-assessment process mapping provider planning against HAF standards.
33. In phase two, Council officers will review, assess, and evidence the self-assessment, challenging providers where needed and highlighting and sharing exemplar practice. Phase two will include monitoring visits and cumulates in a HAF profile and score.
34. The final phase will pull together qualitative data in which Council officers will seek the views of children and participating families. In this phase will identify

and highlight the most significant changes made to individuals, families and communities. This will form the basis for our own evaluation by the DfE.

Consultation and Equalities

35. These grants will have a positive impact on the following protected characteristics:

- Age - children and young people and their families will benefit from these grants.
- Disability – services provided will be inclusive.

36. The grants will also have a positive impact on rural and poverty considerations as provision will be targeted where there are currently gaps in rural areas and provision will be free of charge to benefits eligible free school meals children.

Other Key Issues

37. This paper was published on 23 February for consideration at the 24 February decision day. Extraordinary procedures were used as the Council did not receive the budget confirmation or grant programme guidance/requirements from the DfE until 8 February. However, in order to ensure provision could be in place for eligible Hampshire children during the Easter holidays, the Council opened the grant round for applications on 27 January, such that recommended grant awards could be approved in time for schemes to mobilise and deliver from 2 April 2021.

38. As part of the application process, organisations were asked to detail their Covid risk assessments. They were also asked to provide contingencies to their delivery plans should face to face sessions not be possible. Online activities and resources, and home food deliveries will enable organisations to mitigate against further restrictions if necessary, whilst still offering a level of support to eligible children and their families.

Conclusions

39. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member approves the award of grants to the organisations identified in Appendix 1 to this report to a total value of £384,576.

40. In the event that a provider is unable to fulfil the funded number of places, or has to amend its offer in the light of Covid, it is recommended that the

Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to reallocate any underspent Easter HAF grant funding to ensure a Hampshire wide offer, within the grant allocation for Easter of £384,576. Any such reallocations will be agreed in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.

Appendix 1 – Recommended Grant Awards

Grant Type A – Adding New Places

District	Organisation	Project title	Maximum Grant Recommendation	Proposed places
Basingstoke	Energy Kidz Ltd	Holiday Activity & Food	£9,153.00	270
	Wild Life Day Camps Ltd	Tree Tops	£5,545.00	180
	Sport Extra Basingstoke	Holiday Activity Camp	£8,035.00	225
East Hants	Fit For Sport Ltd	Holiday Activity & Food	£2,467	75
	P D's Holiday Fun Club	Holiday Fun Club	£1,892.00	80
	Wild Life Day Camps Ltd	Tree Tops	£5,236	180
Eastleigh	Creative Kidz Childcare Ltd	Easter Holiday Club	£4,789.00	150
	Energy Kidz Ltd	Holiday Activity & Food	£5,085.00	150
	Wild Life Day Camps Ltd	Tree Tops	£3,081.00	100
Fareham	Energy Kidz Ltd	Holiday Activity & Food	£4,576.00	135
	Fit For Sport Ltd	Holiday Activity & Food	£4,725.00	135
	Growing Places	Growing Places	£3,150	90
Gosport	HCC Outdoors	Daycamps	£482.00	12
	Woodpeckers	Woodpeckers	£5,516.00	135
Hart	Fit For Sport Ltd	Holiday Activity & Food	£9,450.00	270
Havant	Freedom	Easter Holiday Club	£5,525.00	175
	OSCA	Holiday Scheme	£955.00	25
	Growing Places	Growing Places	£6,300.00	180
New Forest	JC Sports Developments	Multi Activity Fun Days	£3,322.00	120
	Premier Sports Bournemouth	New Forest Get Active	£6,600.00	240
Rushmoor	Fit For Sport Ltd	Holiday Activity & Food	£4,725.00	135

	Physical Developments Ltd Premier Education	Premier Ed Hants HAF	£3,600.00	120
Test Valley	Personal Best Education	Personal Best Activity Camp	£6,486.00	200
	Energy Kidz Ltd	Holiday Activity & Food	£4,576.00	135
	Your Sports Education	Easter Holiday Club	£5,000.00	200
Winchester	YMCA Fairthorne Group	Daycamps	£4,941.00	120
	Active Me 360 CIC	Activity Holiday Camp	£4,500.00	120
	Alresford Youth Association	Holiday Club	£2,460.00	65
Total			£132,172	4135

Grant Type B – Branching Out

District	Organisation	Project title	Maximum Grant Recommendation	Proposed Places
Basingstoke	Active 365/Premier Education	Premier Ed North Hants	£5,107.00	180
	Active Me 360 CIC	Activity Holiday Camp	£6,432.00	160
East Hants	CM Sports	Easter HAF Project	£5,250.00	150
Eastleigh	Personal Best Education	Personal Best Activity Camp	£5,701.00	150
	Active Me 360 CIC	Activity Holiday Camp	£6,090.00	150
Fareham	Globe Sport	Easter Holiday Club	£2,367.00	75
	CM Sports	Easter HAF Project	£3,500.00	100
Gosport	Personal Best Education	Personal Best Education	£7,602.00	200
	Globe Sport	Easter Holiday Club	£2,712.00	75
	CM Sports	Easter HAF Project	£7,000.00	200
Hart	No recommendations (places to be covered by scheme A)			
Havant	Freedom	Easter Holiday Club	£4,250.00	110
	CM Sports	Easter HAF Project	£17,500.00	500
New Forest	Globe Sport	Easter Holiday Club	£5,274.00	150

Rushmoor	Physical Developments Ltd Premier Education	Physical Developments Ltd Premier Education	£8,600.00	360
Test Valley	No recommendations (places to be covered by scheme A)			
Winchester	No recommendations (places to be covered by scheme A)			
Total			£87,385	2410

Grant Type C – Creating & Connecting

District	Organisation	Project title	Maximum Grant Recommendation	Proposed Places
Eastleigh	Pavilion in the Park Eastleigh Youth & Community Trust	Connect4communities Holiday Activities	£5,582.00	280
Fareham	Y Services for Young People	Y - Youth	£1,914.00	100
Havant	Oaklands Catholic College	School Holiday Provision	£3,523.00	60
Countywide	RCS Ltd & PCS	Connect4summer+	£154,000.00	3000 plus 1000 for parents and wider family
Total			£165,019	3440 Children 1000+ parents and wider family members.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> COVID Winter Grants COVID Winter Grants – Holiday Activities and Community Grants	<u>Date</u> 9 December 2020 2 February 2021
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u> Department for Education: Grants to fund local coordination of free holiday activities and healthy food for disadvantaged children during 2021.	<u>Date</u> February 2021

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Your reference number is EIA310152907.

Thank you for submitting Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project or proposal (required): Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Grant Programme

Is this project a Transformation project? (required): Neither

Name of accountable officer (required): Suzanne Smith

Email (required): suzanne.smith2@hants.gov.uk

Department (required): Children's Services

Date of assessment (required): 23/02/2021

Is this a detailed or overview EIA? (required): Overview

Describe the current service or policy. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):

The Department for Education (DfE) have provided every local authority in England funding to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities for children eligible for benefits related free school meals. The programme will cover the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021. Hampshire County Council have been awarded £3,319,940. This EIA covers Easter 2021 provision.

Geographical impact (required): All Hampshire

Describe the proposed change. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):

Hampshire County Council are distributing their DfE allocation via 3 distinct grant streams;

Adding New Places - for existing activity providers to offer free places on their regular activity programme to children who meet the criteria.

Branching Out - for existing activity scheme providers who take their delivery model to a new area.

Creating and Connecting - for organisations who develop new and innovative programmes that inspire children, connect the community, engage parents and involves local professionals.

Who does this impact assessment cover? (required): Service users

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? (required): Yes

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):

Market engagement was undertaken with relevant providers to ensure that they were aware of the opportunity for funding and could apply for a grant. Particular focus was given to areas with known gaps in provision which has resulted in an increase in potential places for these areas.

Age (required): Positive

Impact (required): Children and young people (and their families) will benefit from the HAF grant programme as the funding is directed at school age children and young people.

Disability (required): Positive

Impact (required): Organisations funded by HAF are expected to offer inclusive provision so that children and young people with additional needs can attend.

Sexual orientation (required): Neutral

Race (required): Neutral

Religion or belief (required): Neutral

Gender reassignment (required): Neutral

Gender (required): Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership (required): Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity (required): Neutral

Poverty (required): Positive

Impact (required): The HAF funding is directed at children who are benefits eligible for Free School Meals. The funding will mean that they will be able to access free holiday activities and food during Easter 2021.

Rurality (required): Positive

Impact (required): The HAF funding is to support holiday activities throughout the county. This includes rural areas where activity schemes may not have traditionally operated. Funding will be used to pump prime these areas to encourage organisations to deliver in pockets of the county where there is a lack of existing provision.

Any other brief information which you feel is pertinent to this assessment (optional): N/A

Please confirm that the accountable officer has agreed the contents of this form (required): Yes