

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	23 July 2021
Title:	Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Additional Grant Recommendations Summer 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 additional grant awards to organisations offering holiday activity and food schemes to benefits related Free School Meal (FSM) children during the Summer 2021 school holidays, funded by the Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme.
2. In addition, approval is sought to award grant funding to partner organisations offering support and advice to benefits related FSM children and their families during the Summer 2021 school holidays, funded by the Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme.

Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member approves the award of HAF grants to the organisations identified in Appendix 1 to this report of £37,465.
4. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the allocation of remaining HAF contingency funds up to a maximum of £298,525 to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant set out in paragraph 19, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member. This may include new grants to partner organisations to supplement the HAF Summer offer where gaps are identified at a local level, and individual grant awards may exceed £5,000.

5. It is further recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the allocation of HAF grant funds to partner organisations supporting the signposting HAF aim, up to a maximum of £50,000 to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant set out in paragraph 19, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member. This may include new grants to partner organisations to supplement the HAF Summer offer where gaps are identified at a local level, and individual grant awards may exceed £5,000.

Executive Summary

6. At her Decision Day of 8 June, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approved the award of grants to providers to deliver holiday activity and food programmes during the school summer holidays, as part of the Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme. The DfE have subsequently provided additional contingency funding to a number of local authorities in England for additional HAF provision to reflect increase in the number of FSM eligible children in recent months. Hampshire County Council (the Council) has been awarded £335,990 from the DfE contingency budget.
7. Between 2 May and 15 May 2021, the Council invited grant applications from organisations able to provide holiday activity and food schemes during the 2021 Summer holidays 26 July to 01 September. Applications had to deliver to the DfE HAF programme outcomes identified in paragraph 19.
8. Under Type A grants (further described in paragraph 26), applications were received from 40 organisations for 94 projects. Under Type B (described in paragraph 26), applications were received from 17 organisations for 45 projects. These were evaluated by a panel of council officers, resulting in recommendations contained in this report for 108 separate grant awards up to a total value of £2,061,286.60.
9. The total value of applications requested exceeded the overall summer budget available. The additional funding makes it possible to fund some of the bidders that scored well but were not initially taken forward as they were in districts of Hampshire where applications exceeded the local budget available. Bidders have been approached and two are ready to provide new schemes for eligible children over the summer holidays. Other grants are for organisations that are already being funded and have waiting lists; they have capacity within their venues to provide additional places.
10. One of the HAF programme aims set by DfE is for families to be more engaged with school and other local services. To support delivery of this aim, it is recommended that £50,000 is set aside as a signposting grant, to be used to fund advice and support agencies to partner with HAF providers

to deliver signposting support and guidance to eligible children and their families to meet the DfE HAF standards in paragraph 19.

11. 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 or signposting support is of good quality.
12. Applications for Christmas holiday provision and for signposting support and advice between 20 December 2021 to 4 January 2022 will be sought from organisations in the coming months. Following an evaluation process, recommendations for grant funding will be brought to a future decision day.

Contextual information

13. 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.
14. The HAF programme covers the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021, and the DfE is making £19.25m available to local authorities from its contingency fund to supplement the programme. Hampshire County Council have been allocated funding of up to £335,990.
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 31,026 children who are potentially eligible to access holiday places on the HAF programme based on actual FSM eligibility numbers from school census information.
19. The desired outcomes of the programme are to encourage children and young people to:
- To eat more healthily over the school holidays;
 - To be more active during the school holidays;
 - To take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and well-being along with their wider education attainment;
 - To be safe and not to be socially isolated;
 - To have greater knowledge of health nutrition;
 - 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.
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.
22. HAF schemes must also 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. This could include sessions provided by:
- Citizen's Advice;
 - school nurses, dentists or other healthcare practitioners;
 - family support services or children's services;
 - housing support officers;
 - Jobcentre Plus or projects that seek to support and engage families/and young people into employment or relevant training;
 - organisations providing financial education, such as food pantries or other local delivery schemes, where budgeting or other financial education is provided to individuals or families
 - mental health advice and other service areas of relevance to children and young people and their families and carers.
23. Examples of the types of support that could be funded with the connect4communities Signposting Grant include, but are not limited to:

- Face to face awareness and advice sessions, including the costs of staff/volunteers, preparation time, materials and travel costs.
- Virtual delivery of awareness and advice sessions, including any recording/filming costs as well as the costs outlined above.
- Display, print and digital resources for sharing with HAF participants and their families.
- Other ways to share information, raise awareness and provide initial support and guidance.

24. The Council seeks to achieve these aims through the provision of signposting activities. Organisations will be grant funded to provide free of charge advice and support at the holiday activity schemes in partnership with existing HAF providers for eligible children and their families.

Hampshire's Approach

25. The Holiday Activity and Food grant initiatives will be delivered under the 'connect4communities' programme of work:
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connect4communities>

26. The funding for the Summer holidays has been allocated across three different grant streams:

- Grant Type A – For childcare places in existing schemes/clubs or new schemes/clubs being proposed in priority and rural areas;
- Grant Type B – For Summer holiday events, short activities, innovative projects and initiatives targeting priority and rural areas, older children & young people (11–16 year olds), and families.
- Signposting Grants – For advice, guidance and support activities connected to holiday activity schemes, targeted towards eligible children, young people and their families.

27. Applications were invited against these three 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 additional availability of DfE contingency funds will allow providers to respond to additional demand for places.

Finance

29. The Hampshire grant allocation from the DfE is now £3,655,930. The table below reflects the actual and recommended spend to date, it includes the

administration costs of managing the grant on behalf of the DfE, and shows the balance remaining for Christmas.

30. Demand for places is high and the contingency funding can provide additional places for eligible children on HAF schemes.

Table 1: *Actual and recommended spend to date, administration costs of, and balance remaining for Christmas:*

A Easter Grants Paid	B Summer Grant Funding (including new DfE funding**)	C Christmas Grant Forecast	D Admin Forecast	E Total
£346,093*	£2,397,277	£580,566	£331,994***	£3,655,930

31. *Please note that this figure differs from the Easter Decision Report amount due to underspend being reclaimed from providers who were unable to fill all their funded places. The funding was reinvested back into the scheme to top up summer provision and is reflected in column B above. ** The DfE contingency allocation has been added to summer as this is anticipated to be the period where demand is highest. Any underspend would be carried forward to the Christmas grant round. ***The administration budget incorporates a £50,000 allocation for signposting grants.

Performance

32. 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.
33. 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.
34. 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.
35. 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.

36. 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.
37. In terms of Christmas provision, a range of proposals are being tested with key stakeholders such as families, schools and Family Support Service colleagues to ensure that any commissioned offer meets need.

Consultation and Equalities

38. 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.
39. 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

40. 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

41. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member approves the award of HAF Summer grants to the organisations identified in Appendix 1 to this report up to a total value of £37,465.
42. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the allocation of remaining HAF contingency funds up to a maximum of £298,525 to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant set out in paragraph 19, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member. This may include new grants to partner organisations to supplement the HAF Summer offer

where gaps are identified at a local level and may also include individual grant awards of over £5,000.

43. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the allocation of remaining HAF signposting grant funds up to a maximum of £50,000 to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant set out in paragraph 19, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member. This may include new grants to partner organisations to supplement the HAF Summer offer where gaps are identified at a local level and may also include individual grant awards of over £5,000.

Climate Change

44. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
45. The decision is essentially strategic/administrative in nature and does not have any climate change considerations.

Appendix 1 – Recommended HAF Grant Awards

Grant Type A – Places in existing or new clubs/schemes

Basingstoke

Organisation	Project Title	Age Range	Grant Recommendation	Number of places
1. Isis	Isis out of School Club , the Vyne Community School	4-14 years	£3,080	100 additional places
Total			£3,080	100

Hart

Organisation	Project Title	Age Range	Grant Recommendation	Number of places
2. KOOSA	KOOSA Court Moor School, Fleet	4-13 years	£3,380	100 additional places
Total			£3,380	100

Havant

Organisation	Project Title	Age Range	Grant Recommendation	Number of places
3. Active Kids	Active Kids Holiday Club, Park Community School	4-12 years	£17,500	500
Total			£17,500	500

Rushmoor

Organisation	Project Title	Age Range	Grant Recommendation	Number of places
4. KOOSA	KOOSA, Alderwood School	4-13 years	£3,380	100 additional places
Total			£3,380	100

Winchester

Organisation	Project Title	Age Range	Grant Recommendation	Number of places
5. Sport Skool	Sport Skool, John Keeble School	5-13 years	£10,125	250
Total			£10,125	250

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 HAF Grant Recommendations HAF Grant Recommendations	<u>Date</u> 9 December 2020 2 February 2021 22 February 2021 8 June 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:

Equalities 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): 18/05/21

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) has 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 covers the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021. Hampshire County Council have been awarded a total of £3,655,930. This EIA covers Summer 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 is distributing its DfE allocation via two grant streams for summer provision;

Grant Type A – For childcare places in existing schemes/clubs or new schemes/clubs being proposed in priority and rural areas;

Grant Type B – For Summer holiday events, short activities, innovative projects and initiatives targeting priority and rural areas, older children & young people (11–16 year olds), and families.

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 a range of 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 such as rural areas.

Successful applicants will receive a briefing on the HAF principles and other key topics such as safeguarding.

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 Summer 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 prioritise 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