

REPORT OF THE
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
PART II

1. Approval to Spend for 2022 - 2025 – Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

- 1.1. On the 23 March 2022, the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services gave approval to spend up to £10.3m for a Holiday Activities and Food Programme contract for a total period of three years from 2022 and 2025.
- 1.2. On 8 November 2020, the Government announced that the HAF pilot programme, which had provided healthy food and enriching activities to low-income children since 2018, would be expanded across the whole of England from 2021. In October 2021 the Government announced that HAF will be funded for the three financial years from 2022-2025.
- 1.3. 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 covers four weeks in the summer and a week’s worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays. Organisations will also be able to offer additional places to fee paying families.
- 1.4. 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 wellbeing 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.

2. Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Grant Recommendations Easter 2022

- 2.1. On the 23 March 2022, the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services approved grant awards to organisations offering holiday activity and food schemes to benefits eligible Free School Meal (FSM) children during the Easter 2022 school holidays, funded by the Department for Education’s Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme.
- 2.2. 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 2022. Hampshire County Council (the Council) has been allocated £3,421,210.

- 2.3. Grant applications delivering to the DfE HAF programme outcomes were received from:
- 42 organisations for 113 projects for childcare places in existing schemes/clubs or new schemes/clubs being proposed in priority and rural areas,
 - 20 organisations for 44 projects for Easter holiday events, short activities, innovative projects and initiatives targeting priority and rural areas, older children & young people (11–16 year olds), and families.
- 2.4. Applications were evaluated by a panel of council officers, resulting in recommendations for 133 separate grant awards up to a total value of £512,117.09.

3. Approval to Spend Request for Special Educational Needs (SEN) Discretionary Payments

- 3.1. On the 8 June 2022, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gave approval for spend against the new SEN discretionary spend framework agreement of up to £109m over 12 years (four years, plus two extension options of four years each).
- 3.2. Hampshire County Council support approximately 13,262 children and young people who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Of these, in the region of 500 require specialist services that will form part of the scope of the new framework agreement.
- 3.3. A review of discretionary payments spend was undertaken which identified four key areas of spend:
- Additional support to schools (e.g. Learning Support Assistants)
 - Therapies
 - Packages of support (meaning support which is coordinated by an external provider)
 - 'Other' (included within this would be specialist teachers experienced in Autistic Spectrum Conditions, music therapy, equine therapy, rebound therapy, play therapy, tutors etc).
- 3.4. The aim of these discretionary services is to deliver bespoke, short-term interventions to support engagement or re-engagement with the pupil's education, training, or employment setting. Currently services are spot purchased through 65 providers to meet the needs of pupils in this manner.
- 3.5. Discretionary spend is expenditure against part of the high needs block which is part of the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant. The total discretionary spend in the financial year 2021-22 was £13.4m, covering a range of support including SEN support and alternative provision.
- 3.6. Current spot purchase arrangements will be improved through the procurement of a framework agreement which will also introduce reporting by providers against Key Performance Indicators and rigorous quality checks.

4. Additional Specialist Provision for Hampshire

- 4.1. On the 8 June 2022, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gave approval for:
- a prescribed alteration to Henry Tyndale School, Farnborough, (category of school: Special) to expand from 153 places to 188 places utilising the former Park Childrens Centre, Aldershot, with effect from 1 September 2023.
 - a prescribed alteration to Norman Gate School, Andover, (category of school: Special) to expand from 93 places to 105 places, with effect from 1 September 2022.
 - a prescribed alteration to Pinewood Infant School, Farnborough, (category of school: community) to expand from 105 places to 113 places, with effect from 1 September 2022.
- 4.2. Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children, including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision to meet this demand within the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) sector.
- 4.3. This additional SEND provision will help manage some of the school place pressures generated by the increase in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by the Local Authority. From 2015-16 to November 2021, the number of pupils in Hampshire with EHCPs has increased by 124% with approximately 33% of pupils with an EHCP in a specialist placement. This has resulted in a corresponding pressure for places in special schools and resourced provision.
- 4.4. The lack of sufficient provision within Hampshire Schools has resulted in increased placements within the independent and non-maintained sector (INMSS). This decision will reduce the Local Authority's dependence upon independent and non-maintained provision (INMSS) and will keep pupils as close to their home community as possible.

Further details can be found at the link(s) below:

[Executive Lead Member for Children's Services - 23 March 2022 Decision Day](#)
[Executive Lead Member for Children's Services - 8 June 2022 Decision Day](#)

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Executive Lead Member for Children's Services