

Lancashire Holiday & Food Programme Report 2022



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Lancashire
County
Council





HAF Co-ordinator

Helen Armstrong – Helen.armstrong@lancashire.gov.uk

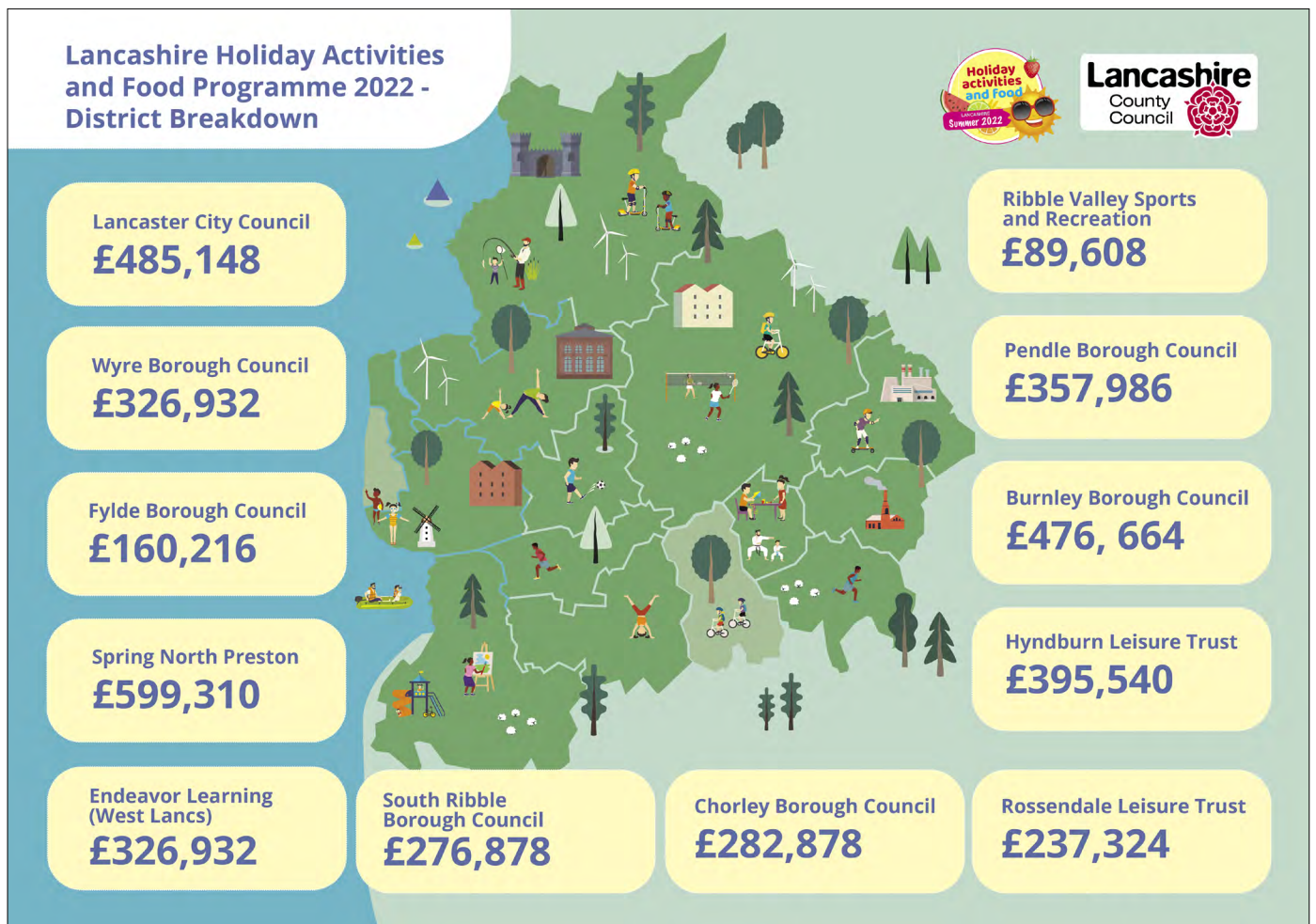
District HAF Co-ordinators

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Budget

Lancashire was awarded £4,215,400.00 by the Department of Education to deliver the HAF programme in 2022



As Lancashire is a large county and one of the central principles of the HAF programme is to develop provision in response to local need and with a good understanding of community we delegated the budget down to our 12 districts through Grant Funding Agreements (GFA).

The budget allocation was based on the percentage of Lancashire children eligible for free school meals in each of the districts which included a slight re-calculation in order to offer a rural premium for those districts who have larger scattered rural communities.



Budget

Central costs included

Lancashire HAF Co-ordinator

Streetgames – commissioned to support the development of quality HAF provision

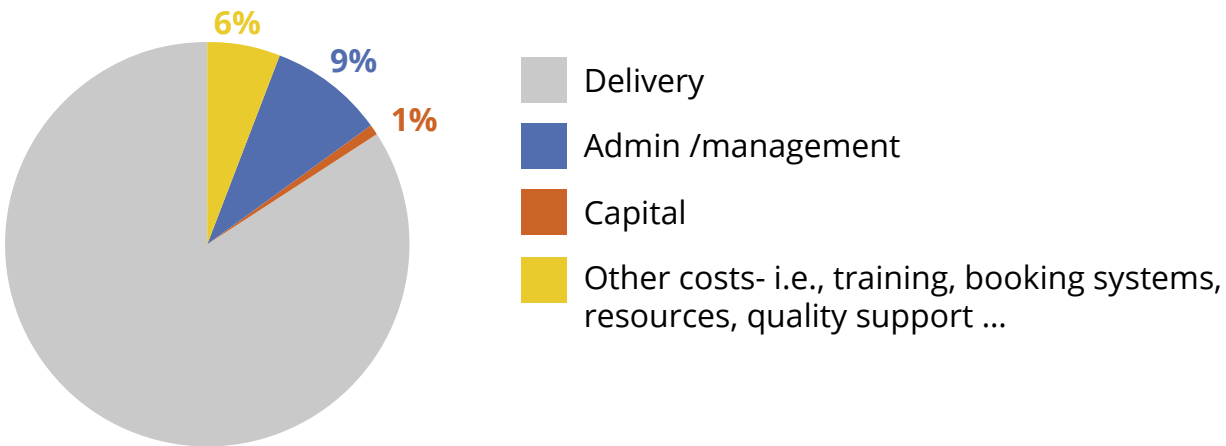
Contingency – used for central promotion and training

£50k

£75k

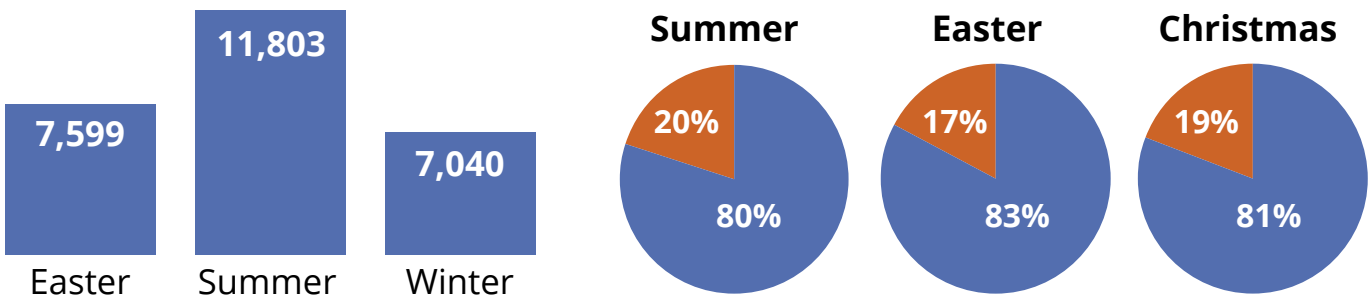
£50k

Lancashire HAF programme costs



Reach

The number of unique children attending each holiday period

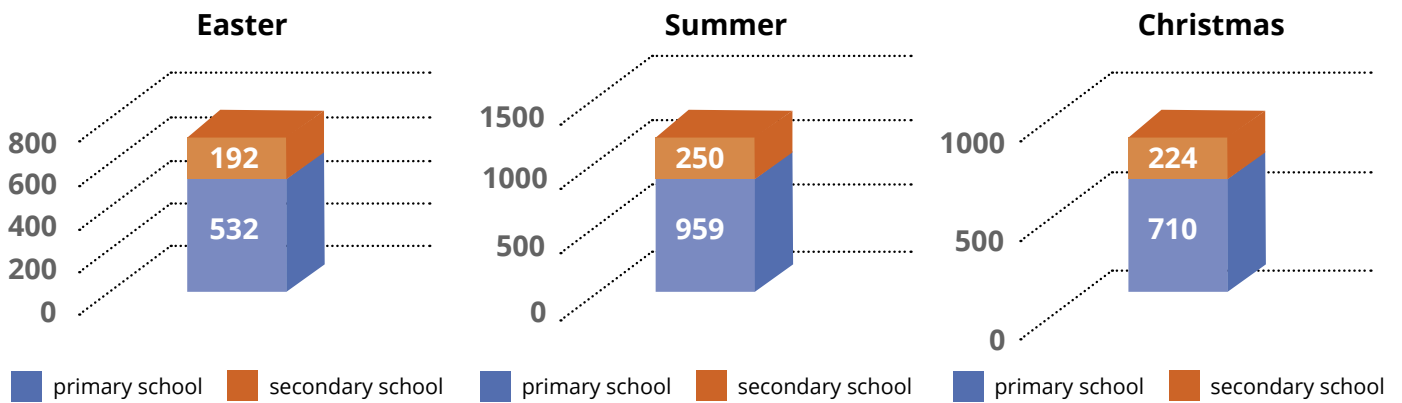


This represents as a percentage of all pupils eligible at Easter-20% Summer 32% and Christmas 19%



Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Numbers attending each holiday period



Governance, Communication and QA Support

Lancashire HAF Steering Group

Frequency of meetings - 3 x a year Termly

Lead – Central HAF co-ordinator
Function – Receive and consider HAF termly reports, provide strategic governance and guidance, champion and promote HAF across multi-agency service and agencies

Membership

- Police
- Team Around the School
- Community Safety
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub & Children's Services Support Hub
- Family Hubs
- Public Health
- Early Help
- Children's Social Care
- SEND Partnership
- Active Lancashire
- Food Active
- School safeguarding
- Virtual Schools

District Steering Groups x 12

Frequency of meetings – twice termly

Lead – District HAF co-ordinator

Function – Receive and consider district HAF termly reports, provide operational guidance and support, champion and promote HAF locally

Membership

- Education Partnership Officers
- Rep from key schools
- Targeted Youth Service
- Streetgames advisor
- Community policing teams
- Local VCSE partners
- Early Help service
- Other key stakeholders

Lancashire HAF All District Network

Frequency – monthly

Lead – Central HAF co-ordinator

Purpose - Disseminating information and updates from national and local programme, sharing good practice and supporting quality, trouble shooting and problem solving

Membership

- Street Games HAF advisors
- District HAF Co-ordinators

Locality HAF Quality Support Network x 3 -North, East and Central

Frequency -monthly

Lead – Street Games advisors

Function

Disseminating information, sharing good practice and supporting quality, creating locality-based networks of support, trouble shooting and problem solving at a locality level

Membership

- District HAF Co-ordinators
- HAF providers





Marketing of the HAF programme

Our approach to ensuring that the HAF programme is widely known, understood and valued by the families whose children are eligible for a HAF place has been fairly low key – with an emphasis on targeted promotion rather than wide scale advertising.

Lancashire – A message is sent out to all school head teachers and pastoral leads ahead of each holiday period asking them to promote the programme and pass on an invitation leaflet to their pupils on the FSM register, this includes the link to our website and where relevant to that district a space for the HAF code to be added

A press release is sent out via our comms team ahead of each holiday period
Our comms team use social media, face book and twitter to publicise and promote the programme

We have developed a short animation to promote HAF aimed at the primary age group- this will be distributed to, schools via the portal and Team Around the School Service, Household Support Fund networks and foodbanks, Early Help Service and Children’s Social Care, Family Hubs and Public Health and GP’s. We plan to develop a short film for 12+ this summer

Districts – local teams link closely with schools to promote the programme and for some distribute codes, they also run their own social media campaigns and each district have their own website/pages for HAF. District Steering Groups promote HAF within their own organisations and with partners. Some districts have created their own short films to promote HAF.

Partnerships - In order to ensure that eligible children and those most in need of a HAF place engage with the programme we enlist the support of agencies who work with the families through the year and who are in a position to encourage their families to take up a HAF place, or to refer them if they fall into the 15% with risk factors other than FSM. This includes virtual school teams and those supporting young people not in education, Violence Reduction Units, Community Policing, Early Help, Children’s Social Care, SEND teams, Targeted Youth Service.



Highlights of the 2022 HAF programme

Engagement

A High level of engagement was achieved amongst primary school children in the summer when 33.5% of FSM eligible children took up a place. In 4 of our districts this was higher than 40%. It is a positive sign that for many children HAF in holidays is an expected norm and something they look forward to. We are working to drive this engagement up further by reducing Did Not Attends (DNA) and engaging more with the 12+ age group.

Providers and the variety of clubs and activities.

Districts have worked hard to ensure there is a wide range of different clubs and activities on offer, that cater for all interests, but also provide challenge for the young people, the motivation to try new things and develop skills. Districts report that they are strengthening their relationships with their providers and have developed a stable pool of good quality clubs. The majority commission on a termly basis rather than annually as this give scope to bring changes when needed and to develop, review and enhance provision constantly. Post delivery briefings are now held so that providers can meet together, network and share good practice.

Booking systems

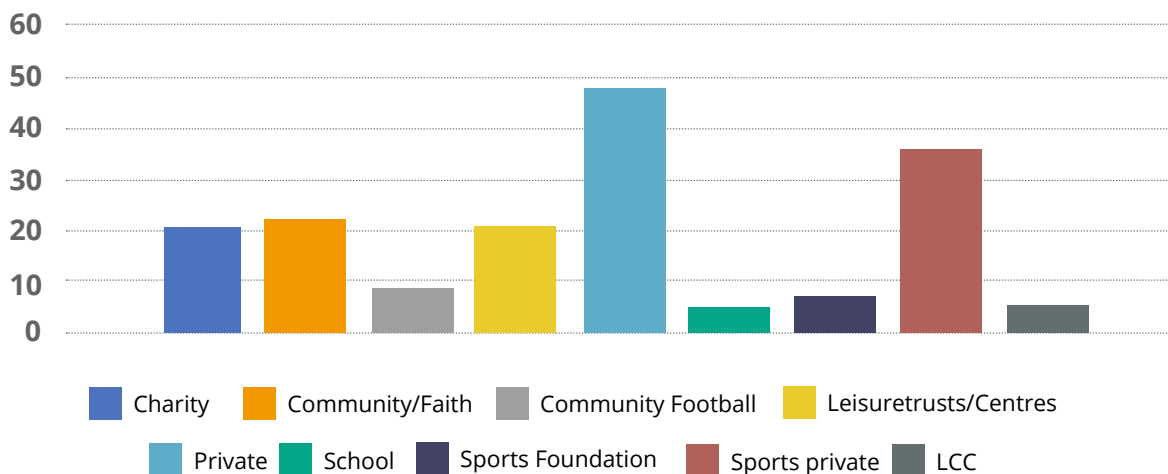
All but two of our districts now have central booking systems in place, this enables districts to have better control and understanding of how well bookings are doing, if there are any issues arising and then also what take up is like. This also gives an extra layer of validity to data on bookings take up and did not attends.



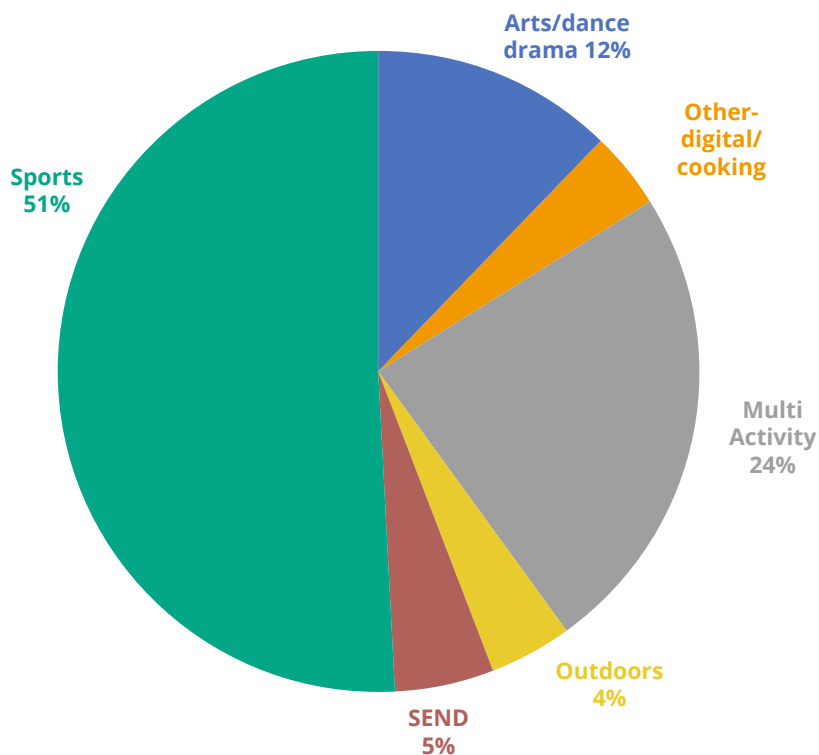
HAF providers

There are 222 HAF clubs in Lancashire delivered by over 140 providers

TYPES OF PROVIDERS



TYPES OF CLUBS



Food Provision

65% of HAF providers can offer hot food or a combination of hot and cold food, many have the facilities to make food on the premises and include children and young people in the planning and preparation of meals and snacks. When using external food providers districts make efforts to source locally and support local enterprises to minimise food miles, in Rossendale they use a community café run by adults with learning disabilities.

All districts work closely with their food pantries and food banks, to signpost families, but also to minimise waste if unused food can be re-distributed. As well as providing a meal during sessions some providers give food for the children to take home, for example one community youth group in South Ribble made healthy pizzas with the children that they took home to cook for their family tea. This kind of practice is widespread. In a few districts they have re-purposed burger vans to offer healthy food and fruit, this has supported detached youth work and activities in community venues like parks. In Burnley fun with food and nutrition van visited all activity providers over the summer providing the opportunity to learn how to make rainbow soup and take the ingredients home to make with their families. In Chorley a food van is used to support the delivery of HAF as detached youth work.

At Christmas there was a focus on food and families as food poverty was increasing as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. Districts used some of the additional funding provided by the DfE to buy in Christmas food hampers and hold family parties where hot meals were provided. In West Lancs food hampers provided remote provision which resulted in a much higher reach than achieved previously. This made a big difference to many families. Many clubs provide breakfast for the children and healthy snacks through the day for children who arrive with big appetites.

Mandatory training ensures provision meets requirements for Food Hygiene, School Food Standards and Natasha's law for food allergies. We have the support of Food Active in Lancashire who sit on the HAF steering group and have developed a HAF food toolkit that has been widely distributed to providers.

75% of respondents to the post summer parents survey and 95% to the young people's survey said that they agreed or strongly agreed that the food was healthy and tasty. In one district they have developed webpages on the topic of food and nutrition .



Enriching Activities



All of our clubs work tirelessly and creatively to provide the children with fun and enriching activities. There is an incredible variety of different things to choose from that include specialist clubs offering, arts and performance-based activities, gaming and digital, and holiday clubs that do something different each day. Many go on trips and excursions or visit local places of interest. The majority of our districts commission additional activity providers to support provision around their area for example:

- In Burnley 'Jurassic In The Park' when 757 children in the summer visited the Dino Family experience, as well as this the walking dinosaurs puppet visited each provider in the district
- In Wyre 8 local artists visited clubs to provide additional workshops, a nutritionist was also visited to deliver sessions on healthy eating
- In-situ a community arts group in Pendle provided a central enrichment package, including film making, trips to a sculpture park, music workshops and outdoor education

We have had testimony from across the county that children have benefited immensely from attending HAF provision in the post summer survey. 89% of parents strongly agreed or agreed that their children enjoyed the activities, 91% that they had learned a new hobby or skill and 96% that their children were less bored during the holidays than would normally be the case.





Physical Activity

51% of our clubs are sports based and all of them provide the opportunity for children to exercise and be active for at least 60 minutes during each session, for the majority, much longer than this. Many of the clubs provide guidance from professional coaches to improve skills in specific sports – football, rugby, tennis, swimming, gymnastics. There are sports that children will be familiar with - basketball, dodge ball and rounders, but also some more unusual sports like, fishing, archery, horse riding, paddleboarding, climbing, boxing and kickboxing on offer. All children are encouraged to have fun and enjoy physical play and games that promote healthy lifestyles with things like inflatables, bouncy castles, sensory dens, nature trails, forest schools and plenty of adult and child led games.





Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

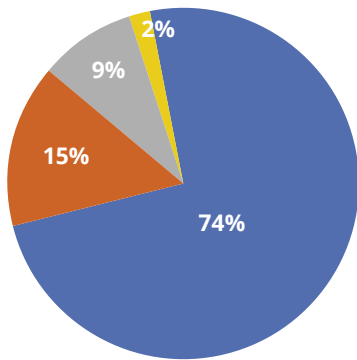
All of our clubs have inclusion and equal access policies and will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that they adapt their provision to meet individual needs. Approx. 10% of the children who took up a HAF place are identified as having a SEND, many more are going through the assessment process with undiagnosed additional needs.

In 2022 we had seven specialist clubs delivering places to children who have medium to high levels of additional needs, this included two specialist schools, the Play inclusion Project in Preston, Fylde and Wyre, Unique Kids in Morecambe and Therapeutic Forest in Rossendale, who provide a club in woods by a stream, for each of the three holiday periods and ensure all children what ever their level of need or disability can access nature for fun and enjoyment. A training need was identified in some of our providers to ensure they had all the strategies, resources, and knowledge to develop inclusive practices, Therapeutic Forest delivered a 20-place training session for providers in each of our 12 districts. This included, for every one of our HAF providers a licence to access the training and resources to support practice online. The training was well received in the evaluations 99% said that the training would improve their practice.

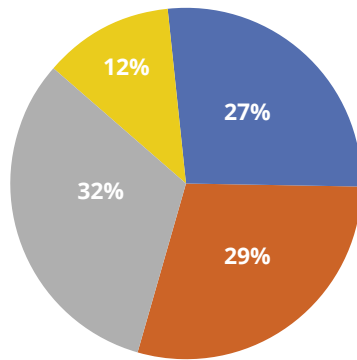


Results from parent's survey - Summer 2022

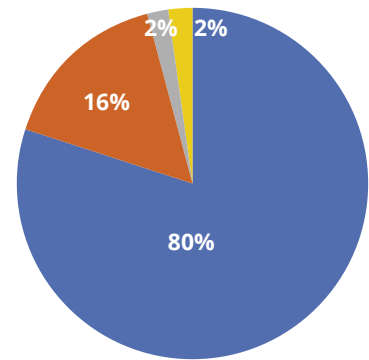
MY CHILD ENJOYED THE ACTIVITIES



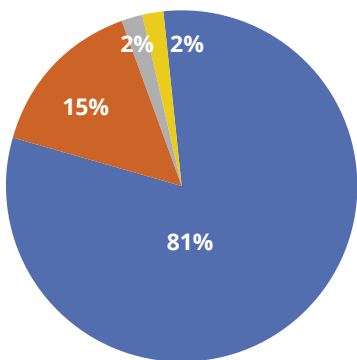
I RECEIVED INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON HEALTHY EATING FOR MY FAMILY



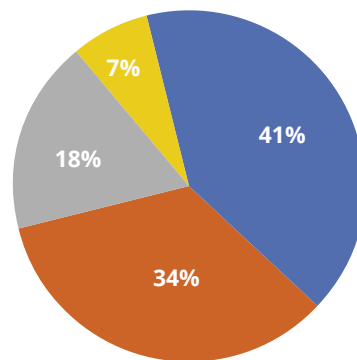
MY CHILDREN WERE LESS BORED IN THE HOLIDAYS



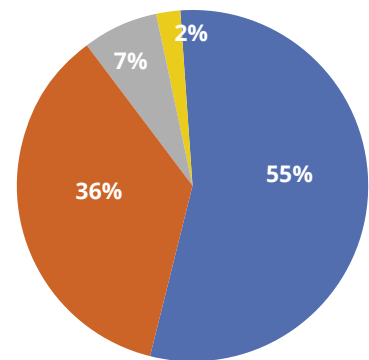
MY CHILDREN ATTENDING ACTIVITIES TOOK PRESSURE OFF OUR FAMILY OVER THE SUMMER



MY CHILD WAS ABLE TO TRY AND ENJOY NEW FOODS



MY CHILD WAS ABLE TO LEARN A NEW SKILL OR HOBBY NEW SKIL OR HOBBY



Quotes from Parents and Young People

Young People

'I like to do the arts & crafts and hanging out with friends' -

'I like this because there are lots of different activities like cooking, football and music' -

'So much fun in Christmas club, I love the food and want to come back'

'I was able to do sports I didn't know I enjoyed '

'It was amazing!!'

'I loved the games meeting new people and trying new foods'

'I got to make new friends even though I find that hard sometimes'

'The staff were great, they made it all fun! '

'It was fun to try a new thing that pushed me to my limit '

'There were so many different things to do, all brilliant, holidays are not boring anymore'

"It was good, very excited to go each day. The staff was nice and friendly. The activities I enjoyed was the bow and arrow, dodge ball and painting. I would love to go again."

"Can I go in the next holiday?"

'I have to travel over 40 minutes to get to the gym to attend power up but it is so worth it. I get to book in with an instructor for a class or a PT session where they help me with some fitness and then I get to sit down and have my lunch. All staff are so helpful and welcoming! '



Quotes from Parents and Young People

Parents

'My son came to visit the dinosaurs twice and absolutely loved it was so refreshing to be able to do something so good that didn't cost a weeks shopping. The staff are amazing'

'My son enjoyed playing dodgeball and played team captain, something which he hasn't done before'

'The club has been fantastic for my son; he has really enjoyed trying new things and meeting new friends. The free lunches have taken a big burden off my shoulders for the holidays. Thank you!'

'Great provision once again, loved the thought that has gone into what you provide. Already looking forward to summer.'

'Wish this was on every holiday, all the time. Great staff and activities.'

'It was a great way to break the holidays up a bit and take some pressure off myself being a single parent and to give my daughter something to do that she really enjoyed. I often find the school holidays very overwhelming as I have to change my routine so much when the kids are off school so having a few days where I could get a few hours to myself to get things done was a massive help!'

'Thank you so much, I really appreciate that you've helped us out so much.'

'Just wanted to say thank you so much for the food parcel, I was not expecting all of this, feel really overwhelmed, thank you again!'

'I had the opportunity to train together with her son as a double PT session. it's amazing to actually find an activity that we both enjoy together to do over the holidays, that is about getting fit and my son gets a lunch provided!'

'The availability of the early drop-offs is fantastic, and the staff have a great big smile on their faces from when we drop them off to when we pick them up -my son also says it is such a good day every time! The healthy homemade pizzas and sausage rolls that he got for lunch also were reported on - highly recommend!'

'With it being a mixed camp and being a girl in football can be quite daunting. However, all staff and the community/ethos that Tag Football has, makes her feel so relaxed and confident that she is excelling at what she loves to do'



Quotes from Parents and Young People

Staff

'A young boy who is autistic's mum was very anxious about the bus journey and camp. The lead gave extra assurance in a meeting prior to camp, so mum felt calmer knowing that he would be looked after and that all coaches were aware of his needs and how to react or deal with certain situations. He had a fantastic 4 days on camps and hopes to return in the future.'

'Mum had a bad accident just before the holidays and unfortunately was unable to help play/keep her children entertained over the holidays. Due to the location, her children could attend the 7B dance and were so delighted that the lunch and full-day activity were all included. Mum could not express enough how thankful she was that they had the opportunity for a place.'



Challenges and priorities

- **Delivery model-** The model we have chosen to deliver the HAF programme in Lancashire, delegating budgets to district-based organisation through Grant Funding Agreements means that planning, recruitment, review and partnership can be done locally with a much better understanding of community and local need. This however does bring challenges for central co-ordination, consistency of approach, marketing & promotion at a county wide level. We will be reviewing this approach in the 2nd and 3rd year of funding.
- **Youth engagement-** In many of our districts it has proven difficult to engage with children of secondary school age, we know that this is a national issue and understand that the programme must flex to what young people ask for. Our districts are working more closely with high schools to promote what is on offer. Collaboration with the Targeted Youth Service should bring greater engagement and increase the HAF offer. Consultation with young people has started but will be increased through the Participation Service, with the idea of creating with them a promotional film.
- **Value for Money-** This continues to be something that we continue to review and support our districts in establishing a consistent approach to the procurement, contracting and payment to providers. Most offer very good value for money, the majority of our districts pay providers ahead of the delivery period for the number of places they will be providing, what can bring value down is if not all the places are booked and then if some children do not turn up on the day. There is lots of work being done to mitigate this. Central booking systems have helped districts keep on top of bookings and pay only for booked places, others will review the take up and adjust the number of places allocated at the next holiday period. Targeted promotion from professional partners increases bookings, but also supports the take up when families have booked a place
- **SEND-** From the data we receive from district approx. 10% of children attending have an identified SEND, it is likely that there are more than this, as some are not declared or diagnosed through the assessment process. We know from feedback that some of our providers have struggled to adapt their provision to meet children's additional needs and didn't have the training or experience to deal with some of the challenging behaviour some of the young people presented with. This has been addressed with training both from Street Games and Therapeutic Forest virtual training on AMH Fist Aid, Managing Challenging Behaviour and classroom training for Strategies in Inclusive Practice.

We only have a few specialist SEND providers who can only offer a small number of HAF places, it is a priority to increase this provision so that there is at least one specialist club in each district



- Partnerships and collaboration – With Lancashire being a larger district-based county the landscape of partnerships and professional network is a complex one. There has been in some cases challenges in bringing services together and raising awareness of the HAF offer across all districts. It has been important to set up local operational steering groups to bring organisations and people with local knowledge and delivery experience together to support the development and raise awareness of the HAF offer with families.
- Exploring other wider funds and support – More work need to be done to explore the support than can be offered to HAF by organisations willing to fund service for children and young people and identify other grants and funds that could supplement what HAF offers. This should be explored at a district and county level.
- School's engagement – Schools have been instrumental in the success of HAF so far by identifying the pupils eligible and encouraging them to take up a HAF place. There are some schools less engaged however and there is still some work to do at a district level to develop relationships. In some areas analysis of take up data as allowed co-ordinators to identify schools where take up is low, so that this information can be shared with the schools and plans put in place to increase engagement.

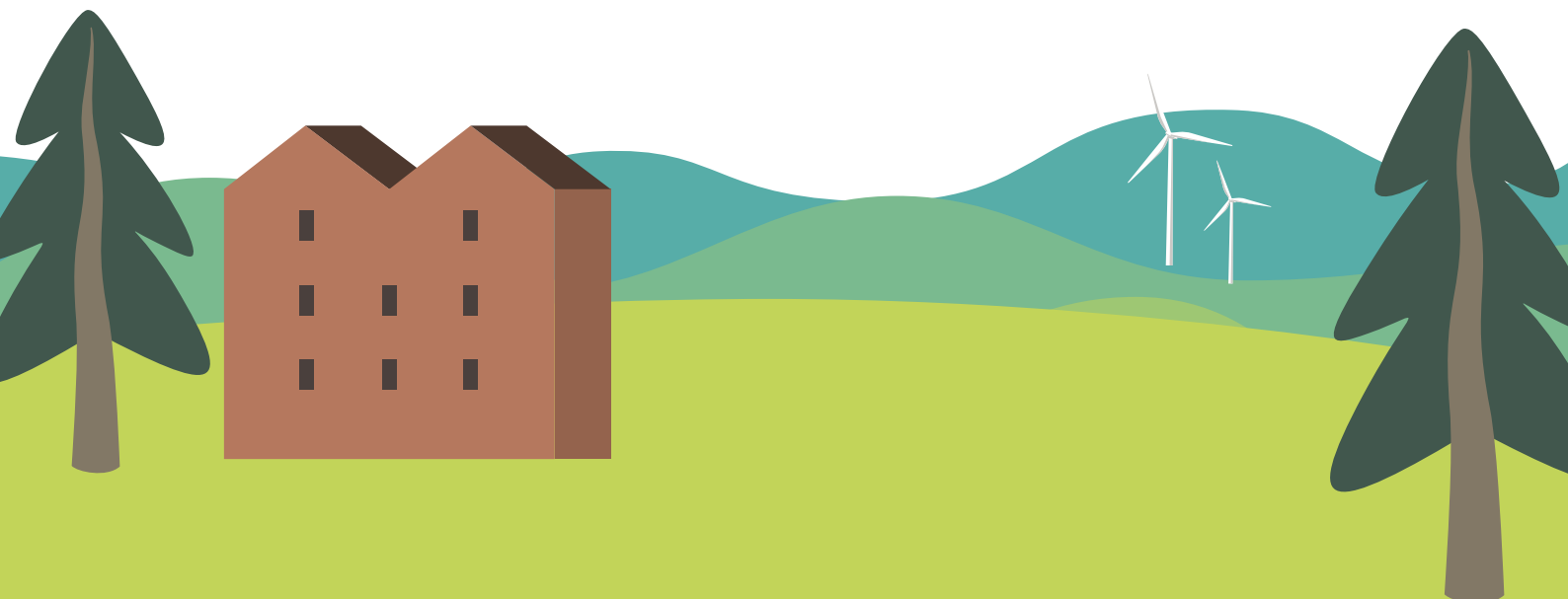


Planning for the 2023 Programme

- Quality Assurance - Early in 2023 we introduced the Lancashire HAF Self-assessment Framework Toolkit, this was cascaded by districts to their HAF providers, and in some cases was written into the terms and conditions of their contracts. Providers completed their self-assessments prior to delivery and then the assessments were moderated at Quality assurance visits over the holiday, the visits were completed by District Co-ordinators, local support staff, Street Games Advisors and Lancs HAF Co-ordinator. This information was used to report to the DfE and to target additional support if identified in action planning. The framework was well received, engagement was high, people were pleased to have a framework to guide good practice, and support improvement. We now have a consistent and recognised framework to measure quality across all of the districts, this will continue to be used and embedded.
- Collaboration with the Targeted Youth Service (TYS) – In Lancaster, Wyre and Fylde planning is taking place jointly with TYS and HAF co-ordinators to bring together performing arts organisations, food providers, sports clubs and venues, activity providers, community based groups and support services to create special events and hopefully attract a large number of young people with smaller locally based sessions held prior to the main events to galvanise engagement and promote attendance. This is building on similar events held by TYS in previous years but adding value with the addition of HAF funding and providing value for money with collaborative working.

In other districts TYS detached work will be linked to HAF sessions and youth zone venue-based activities can be amalgamated with HAF with the provision of food and food-based activities. TYS will work closely in all areas to target engagement with HAF and promote attendance, for example the giving out of Leisure Facility Vouchers. We envisage that numbers for the 12+ age group should greatly improve this summer

- Opening Schools Initiative - Information about which schools have been funded through the Opening School Initiative have been sent to districts co-ordinators, this initiative has grant funded schools to open their buildings to facilitate community involvement in physical exercise and the adoption of healthy lifestyles. There is so much overlap with the aims of HAF but as of yet little collaboration so a lot of effort in the lead up to the summer holidays and beyond will hopefully rectify this.



- Links with Short Break providers – Some of our short break providers also deliver HAF, but there are quite a few who do not, information has been sent out to districts so they can make contact to hopefully increase SEND specialist HAF places. Conversations are also taking place with the Specialist Schools to see if partnerships can be developed to increase SEND HAF provision.

SEND provision has increased this year, we now have 10 SEND specific clubs, for example in Lancaster an arts-based community interest company in partnership with a Quaker group in Kendal and HAF have provided an overnight camp for young people with SEND that allowed them to experience a whole range of outdoors activities, both fun and challenging, develop their independence and develop friendships. This will be delivered again in the summer.

If you would like any further information about the Lancashire HAF programme please email CFW-HAF@lancashire.gov.uk

Or look on our website

Holiday activities and food programme (HAF) - Lancashire County Council

