



**Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children’s Services**

Report to:	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>02 December 2022</b>
Subject:	<b>Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) Summer 2022 Update</b>

**Summary:**

Since 2018, the Government has funded the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme to support children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals through holiday periods. The pilot programme was rolled out to all upper unitary local authorities in 2021 and the Government confirmed funding for the HAF programme for at least a further three years.

A report was presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on the proposed commissioning arrangements for the HAF Programme on 22 April 2022, which was subsequently presented to the Executive on 4 May 2022.

The Executive agreed to the proposed commissioning arrangements and this report provides an update on the delivery of the HAF Programme during Summer 2022 to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

**Actions Required:**

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to review and comment on the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme for Summer 2022.

## **1. Background**

### Purpose of the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Grant for 2022

The purpose of the HAF grant is for local authorities to make free places at holiday clubs available in the Easter, Summer, and Christmas school holidays in 2022. This will be made available to children in the local authority area who receive benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM).

The Council received a grant for £2,638,890 for the 2022/23 financial year for the HAF programme. The guidance is available on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

## Eligibility

- The free holiday club places must be targeted at children and young people who are receiving benefits-related free school meals.
- Number of children and young people eligible from 5-16 years of age on 10 May 2022 in maintained schools, Academies and Free schools was 25,504.

Up to 15% of the HAF budget can be utilised for free or subsidised holiday club places. During Summer 2022, places were made available for children who were not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. Criteria included:

- children assessed by the local authority as being in need, at risk or vulnerable
- young carers
- looked after children or previously looked after children
- children with an EHC (education, health, and care) plan
- children who have low attendance rates at school or who are at risk of exclusion
- children living in areas of high deprivation or from low-income households who are not in receipt of free school meals
- children in transition phases between nursery and primary school or primary and secondary school
- elective home educated children
- youth offenders
- Ukrainian and Afghanistan refugees

## Volume of delivery for the HAF Programme

At least four hours per day of delivery should be made available to eligible children and young people, four days a week, six weeks a year (four weeks in the summer and one week each at Easter and Christmas).

## Delivery requirements

Local authorities have flexibility about how they spend this grant and deliver this provision to best serve the needs of the children and families in their areas. The clubs are required to meet the following core aims and objectives:

- **Healthy meals:** holiday clubs must provide at least one healthy meal a day and must meet the School Food Standards throughout the day.
- **Enriching activities:** holiday clubs must provide fun and enriching activities that provide children with opportunities to develop or consolidate skills or knowledge, to consolidate existing skills and knowledge. Clubs must also provide physical activities which meet the Physical Activity Guidelines daily.
- **Nutritional education:** holiday clubs must improve children's knowledge and awareness of healthy eating and offer advice and training to parents on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious and low-cost food.

- **Signposting and referrals:** clubs must 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.
- **Policies and procedures:** clubs must be able to demonstrate and explain their safeguarding arrangements and have relevant and appropriate policies and procedures in place in relation to: safeguarding, health and safety, insurance, accessibility, and inclusiveness. Where appropriate, clubs must also be compliant with the Ofsted requirements for working with children.
- **Developing Families understanding** of nutrition and food budgeting.

#### Administration costs

10% of the grant funding in 2022 can be attributed to administration costs for the local coordination of the Programme.

#### Delivery summary 2022

Following the Executive’s agreement to the proposed future commissioning arrangements for HAF, the HAF Open Select List (OSL) was established to commission third party providers to support the delivery of the HAF programme from Summer 2022 for up to at least three years. In addition, an expression of interest process took place for schools and academies and early years settings that provided before and/or after school provision and/or holiday provision to school-aged children and young people. This resulted in 11 new third-party providers supporting the HAF summer programme. Overall, there were 24 third party providers, several of which delivered HAF over several sites to provide a broader geographical reach.

Since Summer 2021 the number of HAF clubs has grown significantly, from 53 clubs to 96 clubs in Summer 2022. The number of eligible children and young people accessing HAF clubs also grew by 48.5% in Summer 2022 compared to Summer 2021:

	Summer 2021 - 16 sessions available to eligible children and young people	Summer 2022 – 16 sessions available to eligible children and young people
No of Primary school children	2341	3344
No of Secondary school children	218	408
Number of HAF clubs	53	96

All HAF club places in Lincolnshire for Summer 2022 have been delivered face to face. We expect Christmas will also be all face to face. However, all providers must have in place Covid contingency planning in case any delivery is virtual.

## Marketing and promotion of the HAF programme

A multi-faceted marketing programme has been utilised with flyers, communications to schools, HAF providers promoting their clubs via social media, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) communications via SchoolNews, Twitter, Facebook, radio, article in the Primary Times, newspaper articles, Lincolnshire Show, Inspire+ mini Olympics, voluntary service workshops, young carers, word of mouth, attendance at the Head teacher briefings, governor workshops as well as attendance at meetings with LCC teams within Children's Services, Early Years and Public Health.

In addition, two short films are on the LCC website: -

1. Showcasing HAF Christmas 2021
2. Headteacher views on the importance of the HAF programme

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-pupil-support/holiday-activities-food-programme>

## Delivery Model

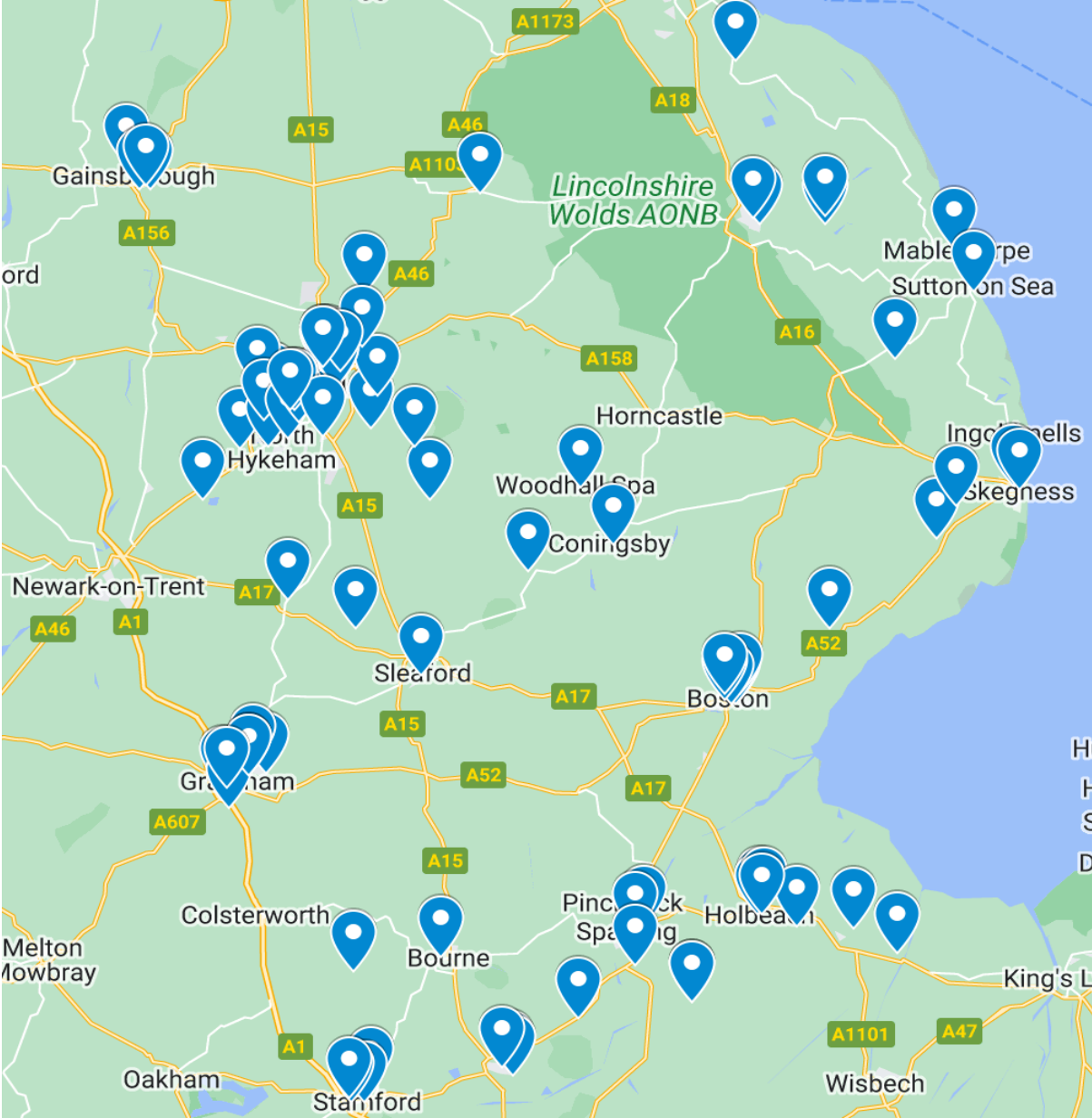
The Summer HAF delivery has all been face-to-face with a mix of HAF funded and paid places available. The range of venues have included school sites, early years settings, community venues such as leisure centres, village halls, and sports facilities i.e., football, rugby and cricket clubs. Most clubs have offered a minimum of four hours per session, with some clubs offering up to six hours which has enabled parents to work. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision has been flexible to meet the needs of SEND children.

Schools have shown more interest in the programme for the Summer 2022 provision with ten schools offering HAF with their own staff and third-party providers utilised 44 school sites. There were 52 clubs on non-school sites.

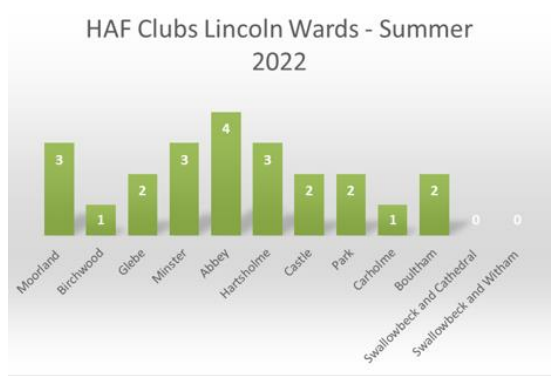
An area for continued future development is further engagement with special schools and secondary schools. All special schools have been contacted by the SEND team to raise the awareness of HAF. As special schools have excellent facilities for SEND children/young people, it is felt that more engagement is required from the schools.

The gaps identified geographically for primary aged pupils have mostly been filled. There were four new third-party providers delivering SEND specific clubs. However, this is an area which requires further provision especially as many of the clubs have reported that they have provided more places for SEND children than in previous holidays.

The map below shows the geographical spread of HAF across Lincolnshire during Summer 2022:



The graphs below show the spread of HAF across the different localities/wards within Lincolnshire during Summer 2022:



## Case Studies

GoGro – 20 free cooking sessions were very well received with children and young people able to access fun, interactive cooking lessons where new skills, tastes and foods were prepared and tasted. Please see **Appendix A – GoGro Project Report**.

A new HAF club which has proved popular and has increased secondary girls' participation is LN Crossfit and the 'Strong Girl Club'. This club has been more than about physical activity, but also has enabled secondary aged girls to make new friends, socialise and positively impact on their mental wellbeing. Please see **Appendix B - Case Study Crossfit**.

## Feedback from children and families

Feedback on the HAF Programme for Summer 2022 has been extremely positive. Families are now becoming more aware that HAF includes a healthy meal and health snacks as well as access to drinking water. Children have also enjoyed a wider variety of food groups and positive feedback from children included: -



## Grant Funding Allocation

Spend against the grant allocation for the 2022 programme was £1,994,879.03, although at the time of writing there were some payments for providers for Summer 2022 still to be reconciled which could increase grant expenditure slightly. This leaves c. £643,120 for Christmas 2022 delivery of which c. £333,000 has already been committed, leaving c. £310,000 to grow the HAF provision for Christmas 2022 (subject to final reconciliations for Summer 2022). It is anticipated that the HAF grant funding will be fully utilised by the end of the current financial year.

## Additional donations

Work undertaken by the HAF Team with other organisations to support the delivery of the HAF 2022 programme meant that a more enhanced and enriching offer was available to children and young people in Lincolnshire. This resulted in donations of £24,375 received to support the HAF programme which included: -

- £11,000 – **Lincolnshire Co-op** – fruit/vegetable vouchers for all HAF clubs (Easter and Summer 2022 only). No funds available for Christmas 2022.
- £5,200 – **Community Dental Services** – toothbrushes and toothpaste.
- £6,000 - **Branston Potatoes** - 20 former Master Chef contestant cooking sessions (with an assistant and included all ingredients and equipment) plus 3 tonnes of potatoes.
- £975 – **ASDA** – this funding has been saved for Christmas 2022 as it was received too late for the Summer programme.
- **8 free oral health workshops** – 128 children accessed provision to learn how to brush and look after their teeth.
- £1,200 - 15 free bowls workshops funded by the **Bowls Development Alliance** (funded by Sport England) – a sport that children and people of all ages and abilities can actively enjoy recreationally through to elite competition – approximately 450 children.
- **20 free healthy eating/cooking/nutrition sessions** – 351 children and young people accessed.

## 2. Conclusion

The HAF Summer 2022 delivery has grown compared to Summer 2021 and work continues to take place to grow the provision further for Christmas 2022 and beyond.

The feedback from children and families has been very positive with real tangible examples of the benefits of attending HAF clubs. Children and young people have attended clubs which have provided a range of activities to accommodate different needs and interests.

HAF has allowed children to participate in many activities which they would not normally have access to. A particular favourite has been learning about food and participating in cooking. This also has a positive impact on relaying healthy messages and recipes home.

The health and wellbeing packs have been well received by children, families and HAF providers. Similar packs will be available for Christmas with themed activities, information for signposting and referrals for additional support. It has been reported that the toothbrushes and toothpaste have proved beneficial for many children as some children advised that they did not have a toothbrush at home.

SEND specific clubs is an area which requires further provision especially as many of the clubs have reported that they have provided more places for SEND children than in



previous holidays. More work is being undertaken to encourage more flexible provision for children with SEND.

There are still gaps in provision for secondary aged young people and this continues to be a focus for Christmas 2022 and onwards. There also needs to be more flexibility in the HAF offer for secondary aged pupils to provide different kinds of activities and trips to keep them engaged. Clubs which are held on secondary school sites for secondary-aged pupils continues to be challenging to engage and once booked on, ensure they attend. More work is also being undertaken to encourage greater flexibility of provision for secondary aged pupils.

### **3. Consultation**

#### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

### **4. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

### **5. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	GoGro Project Report
Appendix B	Case Study: Cross Fit

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