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**To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Subject: Coventry Holiday Activities and Food programme**

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 This note provides an update on the Coventry Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
- 1) To note the information in the report about the Coventry Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.
  - 2) To promote the Coventry HAF programme and to enable the programme to continue to develop and to contribute to the national HAF Framework case for continued funding post March 2025.

**3 Overview of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

- 3.1 The Holiday Activities and Food programme is a national initiative, aimed at addressing holiday inequalities through a blend of free positive activities and experiences coupled with health food and support to families. (See: [DfE HAF guidance](#)).
- 3.2 Coventry City Council receives an annual Department for Education grant (for 2023/24 with a further £100,000 Coventry Building Society investment) and leads a multi-agency partnership to deliver activities in the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays. (Search in web-browser: "Coventry HAF" or see: [Coventry HAF](#)).
- 3.3 The core eligibility criteria are school-age children (reception to year 11 inclusive) on benefits-related free school meals. Local Authority areas have discretion to broaden eligibility and Coventry have extended this to: child in need, child protection plan, child looked after and children assessed (through an early help assessment) to be in financial hardship or part of the Ukrainian Family Scheme (Professionals can refer appropriate children).
- 3.4 The national roll-out of HAF took place in 2021, with the first Coventry face-to-face delivery taking place in the 2021 summer holiday. HAF funding is committed until 31 March 2025, with Christmas 2024 currently being the last funded holiday. Coventry City Council is part of the national HAF network and there is a key focus on building the case for funding to be continued post-2025 in the context of increasing needs.

## **4 Summer 2023 delivery**

- 4.1 The 2023 school summer holidays were the most recent, and largest, Coventry HAF holiday programme with c.4,000 unique eligible children attending plus family members, c.18,000 sessions attended, and c.20,000 meals provided. The programme included approximately 125 different types of clubs, activities.
- 4.2 The summer programme was delivered by approximately 100 organisations (40 directly grant-funded, see Appendix 1: Summer holiday providers). Providers are assessed according to a range of standards including their activities, provision of healthy food, nutritional education, safeguarding, health and safety, information to families. This assessment is made prior to awarding grant funding and post-delivery (based on delivery performance, visits, feedback from parents/carers and children).
- 4.3 Activities were held at a wide range of locations including primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, community centres, leisure centre and sports facilities, arts facilities, parks and other locations. (See Appendix 2: Where activities took place).
- 4.4 There was significant promotion of the summer programme through provider and programme marketing including: brochures and letters to eligible households, promotion through schools, social media, texts, promo-videos and other means.
- 4.5 An aim of the summer programme was to have inspiring activities that any eligible child or young person would want to participate in. (See: Appendix 3: Types of activities included in the summer programme). Food education is a focus for HAF activities, and this has included cooking sessions for children and family groups at some clubs.
- 4.6 There was extensive feedback from parents/carers, children and young people on the programme. We received circa 700 responses with 96% saying they would recommend the activities. The average rating of food provided was “very good” (i.e. rating 4, based on a scale of 1 (very poor) through to 5 (excellent)). Coventry has also received positive feedback on its programme from Childcare Works who are working with the DfE on the national HAF programme.

## **5 Inclusion and activities for children with additional needs**

- 5.1 Approximately 30% of children who attended summer HAF activities were identified as children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- 5.2 The following areas were considered when focusing on Inclusion and activities for children with additional needs:
  - Up-skilling activity providers in SEND awareness through training provided by the SEND specialist service;
  - Supporting parents/carers to find activities that best fitted their child’s interests and needs;
  - Additional funding for providers to accommodate the needs of individual children; and
  - Contributing to Our Special School pilot programme (see below).

## **6 Special School Pilot programme – Summer 2023**

- 6.1 As part of our focus on activities for children with additional needs, there was a partnership approach between the HAF programme and Coventry's special schools which was funded through Coventry Building Society investment. This resulted in 6 out of the 8 Coventry special schools hosting or partnering with other organisations to deliver a wide range of activities including: swimming, crafts, outdoor games, horse riding, cooking, sensory play, sports, trips (e.g. Cadbury World, Lego Discovery etc.)
- 6.2 Key points of feedback on this pilot from parents/carers, children/young people and staff:
- the opportunities students had to forge new friendships;
  - the unique experiences pupils were able to have;
  - the comfort families and students felt being in a familiar 'safe space' with staff members with whom they had established and trusting relationships;
  - the complexity of needs that were able to be catered for with 1:1 or 2:1 staff to student ratios and inclusive school venues which are not typically available through mainstream holiday clubs;
  - parents and carers valued the experiences their children had during the holidays.

## **7 Winter programme**

- 7.1 The Coventry HAF winter programme (school Christmas holidays) opened for bookings on 7<sup>th</sup> December. As at 8<sup>th</sup> December over 1,700 children had been booked on over 3,800 sessions for 60 different bookable sessions delivered by 27 directly-funded organisations.

## **8 Areas of focus for Coventry HAF in 2024**

- 8.1 The key areas of development and focus for 2024 include:
- Further development of our offer to children and young people with additional needs;
  - Further development of our secondary school and skills-based offer in partnership with secondary schools, the Coventry Youth Partnership, Coventry and Warwick universities and others; and
  - A continued increase in attendance at HAF activities.

## **9 Health Inequalities Impact**

- 9.1 Addressing inequalities is a key part of the HAF programme and the programme has a positive impact on health inequalities through positive activities, healthy food, and food education.

Appendix 1: Summer holiday providers

Appendix 2: Where activities took place

Appendix 3: Types of activities included in the summer programme

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## **Appendix 1: Summer holiday providers**

The following providers were directly funded:

All Saints C of E Primary School, Aptitude, Arts a Riot, Ascension Dance Company, Baginton Fields School, Barr's Hill School, Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Canley Community Centre, Coventry Boys and Girls Club, Coventry Outdoors, Coventry Rugby, Coventry SDA, Cre8fun, Creative Optimistic Visions, CV Life/Culture Coventry, Edgewick Primary, Empowr-U/Energ!se, Epic Academy/SCCU, Feeding Coventry, Guardian Ballers, Guiding Young Minds, Highly Sprung, Holbrooks Community Care Association, Holy Family Primary School, Kingsbury School, My Activities, Onside Coaching, PlayPals (St Christophers), Rising Stars, Riverbank School, SDH Academy, St John the Divine Church, Sky Blues in the Community, Staffordshire Winter Sports Club (Planet Ice), Tiverton School, University of Warwick Holiday Scheme, Vanny Radio, WATCH/Hillz FM, Willenhall Community Forum and Woodfield School.

## Appendix 2: Where activities took place

Activities took place in the following locations:

- **Primary schools:** Aldermans Green, Aldermoor Farm, All Saints, Allesley Hall, Charter, Edgewick, Good Shepherd, Gosford Park, Grangehurst, Henley Green, Holy Family, John Gulson, Little Heath, Longford Park, Manor Park, Our Lady, St Christophers, St Johns, Stoke Heath, Templars, Walsgrave C of E
- **Secondary schools:** Barrs Hill, Cardinal Newman, Cardinal Wiseman, Grace Academy, President Kennedy, Sidney Stringer
- **Special schools:** Bagington Fields, Kingsbury, Riverbank, Tiverton, Woodfield
- **Community Centres/facilities:** Broad Horizon Enterprise Centre, Canley Community Centre, Coventry Boys and Girls Club, Coventry Central SDA church, Eastern Green Village Hall, Foleshill Community Centre, Foleshill Community Centre, Hagard Community Space (Willenhall Community Forum), Holbrooks Community Centre, Holbrooks Community Care Association, St James church, St John the Divine, Stoke Aldermoor Community Centre, Stoke Heath Community Centre, Stoke Park Youth Centre, The Crez (Jubilee Crescent Community Centre), WATCH, Wood End Community Centre
- **Leisure Centres/sports Facilities:** The Wave, Alan Higgs, AT7 Centre, Coventry Rugby (Butts Park Arena), Moat House Neighbourhood and Leisure Centre, Planet Ice, XCEL Leisure Centre, Coombe Abbey Go-Ape!
- **Arts:** The Albany Theatre, Coventry Transport Museum, Daimler Powerhouse, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Warwick Arts Centre
- **Parks:** Coombe Abbey Country Park, Edgewick Park, Gosford Green
- **University:** University of Warwick
- **Other locations:** Aztec Adventure, Barry Island, Brewers Fayre, Cadbury World, Cardiff Met University/Archers Basketball club, Conkers, Drayton Manor, Moor Farm stables, National Space Centre, Skegness, Ten-pin bowling, Western-Super-Mare

### **Appendix 3: Types of activities included in the summer programme**

Activities across the summer programme included the following: animation, archery, art master classes (creative journaling, floral watercolours, illustration skills, oil painting, street art murals) Aztec adventure, BBQ, badminton, basketball, bouncy castles, breakfasts, broadcasting, bushcraft and survival, chef academy, coding, circus skills, climbing, combat archery, cooking, crafts (tie dye, quilling, origami, gemtastic jewellery and fabric), creative journaling, cricket, dancing, drama, drawing, DJ-ing, fitness, football, forest school, fun days, giant board games, go- karting, Go-Ape, gadgets, gaming, gardening, gym, horse riding lessons, ice-skating lessons, inflatable air track, inflatable bungee, karaoke, lacrosse, laser tag, lego building, lava lamp making, MicLab (sustainable stations, stop motion animation, stitch in time, connections and innovations), movies, movie making, multi-activity clubs (crafts, sports, arts etc.), music workshops, netball, pantomime, performance (parkour, free running and contemporary dance), performing arts, photography, physical theatre, podcasting, pool, pottery, radio, rap, robotics, roller skating,rounders, rugby, singing, science, skateboarding lessons, stable management, sports day, stop-motion animation, swimming lessons, team building, tennis, trampolining, tree-top adventure, tug-of-war, The Wave, trips (Western Super Mare, Drayton Manor, Go-Ape, Cadbury World, Cardiff Met University, Conkers, Space Centre, Warwick Arts Centre etc.), ultimate frisbee, videography, water sports, watercolour/ink painting, zip wire and much more...