



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

Date: 28th November 2024

Subject: Coventry Holiday Activities and Food programme

1 Purpose of the Note

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

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended:
- 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 support the national case for continued HAF funding post-March 2025.

3 Overview of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme

- 3.1 The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is a national initiative, aimed at addressing holiday inequalities through a blend of free positive activities and experiences coupled with healthy food and support to families.
- 3.2 The national aims of the programme are to ensure a high-quality experience that will result in children:
- receiving healthy and nutritious meals
 - maintaining a healthy level of physical activity
 - being happy, having fun and meeting new friends
 - developing a greater understanding of food, nutrition and other health related issues
 - taking part in fun and engaging activities that support their development and well-being
 - feeling safe and secure
 - getting access to the right support services
 - returning to school feeling engaged and ready to learn

Families should also be able to benefit from this support, and this could be through:

- providing opportunities to get involved in sessions, for example cookery classes
- ensuring they are signposted towards other sources of information and support, such as health services or employment and education opportunities

- 3.3 Coventry City Council is in receipt of an annual Department for Education grant (£1,587,840 for 2024/25 with a further investment of £50,000 from Coventry Building Society) and leads a multi-agency partnership to deliver activities in the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holiday periods.
- 3.4 The core eligibility criteria is statutory school-age children (reception to year 11) who are entitled to benefits-related free school meals. Local Authority areas have discretion to broaden eligibility and Coventry have extended this to include children assessed through a Children and Families assessment, undertaken by Children's Services, as in need, on a child protection plan, in care, assessed to be in financial hardship (through an early help assessment), or referred via the Migration and Resettlement teams. Children and young people in years 12-13 are eligible if they are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals (FSM) and have an Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP) or are receiving special educational need (SEN) support at their place of education. There is also discretion for parents to refer appropriate children.
- 3.5 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. This has included wider support through in person events in the build up to going live for the Summer 2024 HAF Programme, including a live cooking demonstration, support to the resettlement team event and in person booking support for families across the city.
- 3.6 HAF funding is in place until 31 March 2025, with Christmas 2024 currently being the last funded holiday. Coventry City Council is part of the national HAF network which is focusing on building the case for funding to be continued post-2025 in the context of increasing needs (e.g. Cost of living).
- 3.7 Further information on the national programme is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>
- 3.8 Further information on the Coventry HAF offer is available at <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/haf>.

4 Summer 2024 delivery

- 4.1 The 2024 school summer holiday programme was the most recent and most successful Coventry HAF holiday programme delivered. The following key statistics from the summer programme illustrate this:
- c.4,200 eligible children and young people benefitted (including c.1,400 children with SEND) plus thousands of other family members;
 - c.22,500 meals were provided;
 - c.22,500 sessions were delivered (an increase of 26% compared to summer 2023);
 - 120 different activities/clubs were delivered;
 - 43 providers were directly funded (see Appendix 1) with a further 50 sub-providers/partner organisations;

- 87% of funded places provided, were attended (up from 78% in summer 2023); and
- Families gave a 4.4/5-star feedback rating on the activities

4.2 Other key highlights from our Summer 2024 programme included:

- Use of a wide range of venues and locations including 20 primary schools, 8 secondary schools, 5 special schools, 1 university, 12 community centres, 10 leisure centres/sports facilities, 7 arts venues, 3 parks, 15 other locations/venues (see Appendix 2);
- An increase in the diversity of activities in line with our principle of “something for everyone” with the inclusion of plumbing skills, trauma therapy etc. (see Appendix 3 for the range of activities provided);
- Stronger partnership working with family hubs including family cooking sessions, and a SEND-specific activity bus at Families for All, Park Edge and Moat House Family Hubs;
- Improvements in the quality of food provided through partnership working and the support of our HAF Project Support Officer food nutritionist. Family feedback on our food offer was 4/5-star feedback rating; and
- Holy Family Larks and Owls Club (One of our Coventry HAF providers won Best HAF Provision in the Club Central Out-of-School Club Awards 2024)

4.3 Coventry HAF has a strong focus on inclusion and on children with SEND. Approximately one third of those who participate in the programme have SEND. This has been achieved in the following ways:

- Training and up-skilling of HAF providers;
- Communication with parents/carers and providers - ensuring the specific needs of individual children are shared through an “All about me” focus;
- Additional funding for providers for staffing to increase ratios;
- SEND family experiences – benefitting 382 families with 8 different experience providers; and
- SEND special school initiative – funded by Coventry Building Society for a second summer and working with 5 of our Coventry Special Schools – benefitting 128 eligible children plus family members.

4.4 Providers are assessed according to a range of standards including their activities, provision of healthy food, nutritional education, safeguarding, health and safety, and information shared with families. This assessment is both prior to awarding grant funding and post-delivery (based on delivery performance, visits, feedback from parents/carers and children).

4.5 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.

4.6 A video capturing the HAF summer 2024 programme has been produced – please see the link <https://vimeo.com/1028618184/2447db9978> to view this.

5 Winter 2025 programme

- 5.1 The Coventry HAF winter programme will have opened for bookings on the 18th November. This will offer children and their families a wide range of activities over the school Christmas holiday period, building on our previous Christmas holiday programmes.

6 Areas of focus for Coventry HAF 25/26

- 6.1 Coventry HAF is a well-developed programme, with very positive feedback. Subject to a continuation of funding for HAF, the programme will continue to develop and build on its strong foundations, with a continued focus on our youth offer (in partnership with secondary schools, the Coventry Youth Partnership, Universities and others). There will also be a continued focus on the development of our offer to children and young people with SEND, food (including nutritional education), and increasing the take-up / reach of the offer.

7 Health Inequalities Impact

- 7.1 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. The Summer 24 programme has had a focus on food quality as highlighted above.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Summer Holiday Providers

Appendix 2: Locations and Venues

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:

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 Music, 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 (Larks and Owls club), Jam Coding, Kingsbury Academy, My Activities, Onside Coaching Plumb Learning, Project Number 5, Razzamataz Theatre Schools, Rising Stars, Riverbank School, SDH Academy, Sport Works, Sprint Active Education, Sky Blues in the Community, Staffordshire Winter Sports Club (Planet Ice), Tiverton School, Tribe: Cheer, Dance and Fitness, University of Warwick Holiday Scheme, Vanny Radio, WATCH/Hillz FM, and Woodfield School.

Appendix 2: Locations and venues

Activities took place in the following locations:

- **Primary schools:** Aldermans Green, Allesley Hall, Charter, Edgewick, Frederick Bird, Gosford Park, Grangehurst, Henley Green, Holy Family, John Gulson, Keresley Grange, Leigh C of E, Manor Park, Our Lady, Ravensdale, Sidney Stringer Primary, Stoke Heath, Stretton, Southfields, Walsgrave C of E
- **Secondary schools:** Barrs Hill, Cardinal Newman, Cardinal Wiseman, Finham Park 2, Grace Academy, Lyng Hall, President Kennedy, Sidney Stringer
- **Special schools:** Bagington Fields, Kingsbury, Riverbank, Tiverton, Woodfield
- **Community Centres/facilities:** Bethel Church, Broad Horizon Enterprise Centre, Canley Community Centre, Coventry Boys and Girls Club, Coventry Central SDA church, Eastern Green Village Hall, Foleshill Community Centre, Holbrooks Community Centre, Holbrooks Community Care Association, Stoke Park Youth Centre, The Crez (Jubilee Crescent Community Centre), WATCH
- **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! Tamworth Snowdome, Warwickshire Shopping Park (Tribe RLS Elite – Dance)
- **Arts:** The Albany Theatre, Coventry Transport Museum, Daimler Powerhouse, FarGo, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Lunt Roman Fort, Macready Theatre, Warwick Arts Centre
- **Parks:** Coombe Abbey Country Park, Edgewick Park, Gosford Green, Holbrooks Park
- **University:** University of Warwick
- **Other locations:** Aqualand, Ash End House Children's Farm, Aztec Adventure, Cadbury World, Cliff Lakes Aqua Park, Electric Wharf (Plumb Learning), Drayton Manor Theme Park, Hatton Farm/Adventure World, National Space Centre, Perkisound Recreational Centre, Sealife Centre, Red Kangaroo Trampoline Park, Skegness, Spencer's Retreat SEND Care Farm, Ten-pin bowling, Twycross Zoo, Western-Super-Mare, York Railway

Appendix 3: Types of activities included in the summer programme

The following are examples of the types of activities included in the programme:

Animation, archery, art master classes (creative journaling, floral water-colours, illustration skills, oil painting, street art murals) Aqualand, Aztec adventure, BBQ, badminton, basketball, bouncy castles, breakfasts, broadcasting, bushcraft and survival, chef academy, cheerleading, choreography, 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, gadgets, gaming, gardening, gymnastics, horse riding lessons, ice-skating lessons, inflatable air track, inflatable bungee, karaoke, inflatable assault course, 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, ninja warrior, paintballing, performance (parkour, free running and contemporary dance), performing arts, photography, physical theatre, picnics, podcasting, plumbing lessons, pool, pottery, radio, rap, robotics, roller skating, rounders, rugby, singing, science, SEND sensory corner, 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, Hatton Park, Red Kangaroo, Cliff Lake Aqua Park, Tamworth Snowdome, Warwick Arts Centre, York Railway, Skegness, London, West Midlands Safari, National Space Centre, Lunt Roman Fort, Ash End Farm), ultimate frisbee, videography, water sports, water-colour/ink painting, zip wire and much more...