

REPORT FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TO: POLICY & RESOURCE COMMITTEE
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Report Author: Gill Dickson
Tel. No: 07870 971114
E-mail: gill.dickson@pendle.gov.uk

PENDLE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform P&RC of the Holiday Activities & Food programme and the approach we are adopting in Pendle to support the co-ordination and delivery of the programme.

RECOMMENDATION

To note the approach, as set out in the report, to ensure effective planning and delivery of the Pendle Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To deliver health benefits for vulnerable children/ young people in Pendle over the 2021 Summer and Christmas holiday period.

Background

1. In 8 November 2020, the government announced that the holiday activities and food programme will be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. The programme has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children and young people since 2018.
2. School holidays can be particular pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes. For some children that can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from disadvantaged families:
 - less likely to access organised out-of-school activities
 - more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health
 - more likely to experience social isolation

3. Free holiday clubs are a response to this issue and evidence suggests that they can have a positive impact on children and young people and that they work best when they:
 - provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities
 - cover more than just breakfast or lunch
 - involve children (and parents) in food preparation
4. The free HAF provision is to be targeted at 4- 16 year olds who are eligible for and receiving benefits-related free school meals. 15% of the programme can also be used to provide places for children/ young people who are considered vulnerable or in need of provision.

Aims of Holiday Activities & Food programme

5. The aims for those children and young people who attend this provision are to:
 - eat more healthily over the school holidays
 - be more active during the school holidays
 - take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment
 - be safe and not to be socially isolated
 - have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition
 - be more engaged with school and other local services
6. HAF aims to deliver the following for the families who participate in this programme:
 - develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting
 - are signposted towards other information and support, for example, health, employment and education

Lancashire Holiday Activities & Food programme progress

7. LCC has received £4.2m government funding for Holiday Activities and Food Programme over 2021. This is the first year that Lancashire has received funding under this programme, and we are keen that as many children and young people as possible benefit from it.
8. LCC is working with a wide range of partners including district councils, third sector and private organisations to deliver the HAF programme. The programme was delivered as a centralised, on line offer over Easter given the Covid-19 restrictions that were in place at that time.
9. Going forward, HAF will now support local provision over four weeks in the summer holiday and one week at Christmas. The funding will cover a minimum of four hours a day, four days a week of activities, with food provided for the eligible children and young people who attend.

District Holiday Activities & Food programme Offer

10. The Lancashire HAF Team, led by LCC, has developed a framework for the development of the summer offer, consisting of a central county-wide offer and local district offers.

11. The funding is being devolved to Districts to enable the development of a more localised offer over the Summer and Christmas holidays.
12. District allocations are based on Free School Meal levels. There are 3,367 FSM recipients in Pendle, 9.3% of Lancashire's FSM total. Pendle's allocation is £294,863.25.
13. Additional to each district allocation, LCC is allocating funding to each district for a 3 day week co-ordinator role to support local planning and delivery. Up to 10% of the grant can be allocated to admin/ management costs. The district coordinator budget equates to circa 4% of the total LCC grant. Pendle has requested 5% of its district allocation for programme management and currently awaiting to hear approval from LCC on this.

Pendle Holiday Activities & Food programme approach

14. At the time of writing this report, Districts were still awaiting the grant offer letter and terms of conditions from LCC. Recognising the urgency to commence planning to enable effective delivery of HAF from week beginning 26th July, districts have been keen to progress the work despite the absence of any grant agreement. The grant offer letter and agreement is now expected week beginning 17 May.
15. LCC has been supporting and encouraging districts to progress and there are fortnightly LCC/ District HAF meetings and weekly District cluster meetings.
16. Districts were informed of the localised HAF model over the pre-election period. As such, a delegated decision was made by the Chief Executive to endorse an approach, recognising the pressing need for Pendle to respond quickly in light of the expected delivery timescales.
17. It was agreed that PLT would host the co-ordinator role, given their expertise and experience in planning and delivering large scale community initiatives, including holiday provision. PBC remains the accountable body and manages the programme. A Pendle HAF Steering Group has been established, which currently meets weekly, to monitor and oversee progress.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: Delivery of Pendle HAF programme will contribute to improved health outcomes for our vulnerable children and young people.

Financial: Pendle HAF allocation of £294,863 will support delivery of free holiday provision over 4 weeks in the summer holidays and 1 week over Christmas for eligible children and young people. Additional to this allocation, we will receive £9,500 for a part time co-ordinator, to be hosted by PLT. PLT will co-ordinate the programme on PBC's behalf with PBC retaining the management of the programme. 5% of Pendle's allocation (£14,000) has been requested for admin/ management costs.

Legal: None arising from the report

Risk Management: None arising from the report

Health and Safety: None arising from the report

Sustainability: None arising from this report

Community Safety: None arising from the report

Equality and Diversity: Targeting priority wards will help address Pendle’s health inequalities.

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS