

REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

TO: EXECUTIVE

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PROGRESS REPORT- PENDLE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME 2022/23

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Executive of the 2022/23 Pendle Holiday Activities & Food programme and outline plans for the 2023/24 programme.

To seek agreement to delegate authority to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to undertake decision making for the 2023/24 Pendle Holiday Activities and Food programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To note the 2022/23 update and the proposed delivery approach for 2023/24.
- (2) To delegate authority to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make final decisions regarding the development of the 2023/24 Pendle Holiday Activities and Food programme.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To support vulnerable children/ young people and their families over the three main school holidays.

Background

1. Since 2021, LCC has received government funding to roll out the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme to provide healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children and young people throughout the main school holidays.
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
- 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
 - The free HAF provision targets 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. The scheme also accommodates SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) children and young people.

Pendle Holiday Activities & Food programme

- In 2022/23, LCC awarded PBC £376,498 HAF grant to coordinate and develop Pendle’s HAF (known as Fun Vibes, Active Lives). District allocations are based on Free School Meal (FSM) levels. There are 3,367 recipients in Pendle, 9.3% of Lancashire’s FSM total.
- Three programmes were delivered throughout 2022/23: one week over Easter, four weeks over Summer and one week over Christmas.
- A total of 1,530 children and young people benefitted from Pendle’s 2022/23 HAF programme, attending more than 10,000 sessions between them. The majority of participants (1,320) were primary school children (4-11 year olds), with 210 12-16 year olds involved in the programme.

	Easter 2022		Summer 2022		Christmas 2022	
	Primary-aged	Secondary-aged	Primary-aged	Secondary-aged	Primary-aged	Secondary-aged
FSM-Eligible / Non-SEND	264	21	582	21	281	11
FSM-Eligible / SEND	24	7	12	6	42	3
Non-FSM-eligible / non-SEND			25	98	33	35
Non-FSM-eligible / SEND			51	7	6	1
TOTAL number of HAF-funded attendees	288	28	670	132	362	50

- Pendle’s HAF model was similar to the previous year, utilising the Fun Vibes Active Lives branding and commissioning existing providers.
- Over summer 2022, a dedicated teen provision, the Xchange Here! scheme was also introduced to enable young people (12-16 year olds) access to independent activities. It offered experiences such as paddleboarding, archery, fishing, swimming and gym provision. For the Christmas Xchange Here! scheme, Burnley activities (cinema, ice skating and bowling) were offered. The Xchange Here! leaflet was distributed through all Pendle High schools, the targeted youth service, police and detached youth workers who were all tasked with giving out the leaflets to those considered vulnerable and eligible for HAF support. Along with activity vouchers, food tokens were also issued to the young people, the food provider being the cafes at PLT sites.

10. 15 different providers delivered Pendle's 2022/23 HAF programme, operating from up to 20 different venues across Pendle. They offered a wide range of activities from multi-sports to arts and craft to performing arts. All, apart from one provider (Nelson FC in the Community) delivered high quality, successful provision aligned to the HAF objectives and quality assurance standards. Nelson FC in the Community delivered over Easter 2022 but due to poor quality provision, were omitted from future schemes.
11. To enhance the enriching offer, In-Situ was commissioned to coordinate and deliver a central creative resource package which was made available to all providers. This included cultural day trips, music sessions, outdoor pursuits, forest schools and bespoke arts workshops. This approach proved a great success and was popular with the HAF providers.
12. Pendle introduced a central booking system in 2022, administered by SpringNorth, to enable better management of bookings and attendance. This has proved invaluable in understanding demand across the various schemes, assessing school engagement and streamlining the monitoring process.
13. In 2022, Pendle also commissioned Food Active to support the healthy eating element of the programme. Food standard and nutritional education training was a requirement for all Pendle activity and food providers. The training was well received by all providers and resulted in a much improved food offer across all providers.
14. Recipe for Health, an LCC quality standard scheme for food business and caterers, was also utilised for Pendle's 2022 HAF. With Pendle a pilot for the roll out of the Recipe for Health scheme, HAF provided an incentive for business engagement in the Recipe for Health scheme as these businesses could potentially benefit from a food HAF contract. This was considered an example of good practice and LCC was keen to replicate this model across other districts.
15. Additional dedicated SEND provision was included in the 2022 programme, with SEND specific sessions delivered at 2 sites.

Programme management and governance

16. PBC remains the accountable body for HAF with the Localities & Policy Team managing the programme. The Pendle HAF Steering Group meets quarterly to oversee progress and monitor each of the three schemes. This is a multi-agency Steering Group, consisting of representatives from Pendle schools, LCC Family Wellbeing Service, Street Games, LCC, PLT, CVS, In-Situ, Positive Action in the Community (PAC) and Pendle food banks.
17. PLT and Positive Action in the Community (PAC) were commissioned to provide additional support; PLT led on comms and publicity, hosted the webpage and provided much needed operational support; PAC led on Xchange Here! and coordinated the provider training.
18. The following partners were also key in the delivery of Pendle's 2022 HAF programme:
 - SpringNorth- commissioned to develop and manage the central booking portal.
 - In-Situ- commissioned to coordinate a central creative resource offer
 - Food Active- commissioned to support with the food element of the programme.
 - Wellocks (a national, Pendle based food distributor)- donated 420 food hampers for Christmas HAF

2022/23 Spend breakdown

19. The majority of spend was allocated to delivery costs, as highlighted in the table below:

	HAF spend
Face-to-face holiday club provision (including provider costs, holiday club staff, venue costs, activity costs, food/meal costs and other costs directly associated with the provision of free holiday club places directly funded through the HAF programme).	346,214
Publicising the scheme to eligible families and other communications	5,675
Management and administration of the programme by the LA	21,059.03
Other costs (e.g., translations, transport, provider staff training, booking systems etc.)	3,550
TOTAL	376,498
PENDLE HAF GRANT TOTAL	376,498.00

20. Provider costs varied from £20 per head to £31 per head. This was dependent on the type of provision on offer with the more bespoke activities such as performing arts, resulting in higher costs.
21. Some providers included a healthy meal in their offer. On average, per holiday, 7 providers sourced the food themselves and their per head costs included food. For the other providers unable to source food internally, several local caterers (with the Recipe for Health accreditation wherever possible) were commissioned to prepare and distribute hot, healthy meals.

2023/24 HAF programme

22. Pendle has been allocated £405,746 for this year's HAF programme.
23. Given the success to date, the intention is to continue with the existing delivery model. Existing HAF providers will be commissioned to deliver the 2023 programme, and new applications from other potential providers will also be considered. We will continue using the central booking system, refining it wherever possible, and developing a central enrichment offer.
24. A review of costings will be undertaken as part of the commissioning process for the Summer to better streamline grants across the providers and ensure Pendle HAF costs align with other Lancashire districts.
25. Up to 10% of the grant can be utilised for admin and management costs (previously, this was 6%). The HAF programme to date has been delivered within existing resources in the Localities & Policy Team but given the scale of the programme and the workload it generates, some additional resource within the Localities & Policy Team will be made available in 2023. Additionally, PLT and PAC will both be commissioned to continue their support role in the management of HAF.

IMPLICATIONS

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

Financial: Pendle 2022/23 HAF allocation of £378,000 supported delivery of free holiday provision over the three main school holidays for eligible children and young people. The 2023/24 HAF grant is £405,746. 10% of the grant will be utilised to provide additional PBC support for the management of the 2023 HAF programme.

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