

REPORT FROM: **DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

TO: **EXECUTIVE**

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2024/25 PROGRAMMES PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an annual update to the Executive on a number of key programmes overseen by the Policy Team (Holiday Activities & Food programme, Household Support Programme, Together an Active Future, Healthy Weight Collaboration)

RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the 2024/25 update for the 4 programmes covered in this report.

To receive a separate report in July on Together an Active Future plans for the next phase, and the implications this is likely to have on local delivery.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To recognise the impact of the programmes in contributing to the health and wellbeing of Pendle's residents.

Background

1. The Policy Team oversees several externally funded programmes, many of which are reported to the Executive annually. These reports have now been consolidated into one report, providing an overview of progress for each one.
2. The programme updates provided in this report are for:
 - Holiday, Activities and Food Programme
 - Household Support Fund
 - Together an Active Pendle (delivered by PLT)
 - Healthy Weight Collaboration (delivered by PLT)

Holiday Activities & Food Programme

3. Since 2021, Lancashire County Council (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.
4. 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 progress 2024/25

5. District allocations are based on Free School Meal (FSM) levels. There are 3,800 recipients in Pendle, 9.3% of Lancashire's FSM total.
6. Pendle's 2024/25 allocation was £376,586, 7% less than the previous year. In 2024/25, LCC top sliced all district allocations by 7%, awarding this to the LCC Targeted Youth Service for them to provide the 12- 16 year old HAF provision.
7. Three programmes were delivered throughout 2024/25: one week over Spring, four weeks over Summer and one week over Winter.

	Spring		Summer		Winter		TOTALS	
	Age 4-11	Age 12-16	Age 4-11	Age 12-16	Age 4-11	Age 12-16	Age 4-11	Age 12-16
FSM-eligible / non-SEND	388	19	740	34	388	140	1,516	193
FSM-eligible / SEND - in universal settings	30	9	145	19	30	13	205	41
FSM-eligible / SEND - in SEND Specialist provision	32	0	43	0	32	0	107	0
Non-FSM-eligible / non-SEND	24	2	9	0	24	2	57	4
Non-FSM-eligible / SEND - in universal provisions	30	0	2	0	30	2	64	2
TOTAL number of attendees	504	31	939	53	506	157	1,949	240

8. Over 2,000 children and young people benefitted from Pendle's 2024/25 HAF programme, attending more than 12,000 places between them. 197 more children and young people engaged in HAF in 2024/25 compared to the previous year.
9. Pendle's HAF model was similar to the previous year, utilising the Fun Vibes Active Lives branding and commissioning a range of experienced providers.
10. 16 different providers delivered Pendle's 2024/25 HAF programme, operating from up to 27 different venues across Pendle. They offered a wide range of activities from multi-sports to arts and craft to performing arts. All, except one provider (Pennine Oaks) delivered high quality, successful provision aligned to the HAF objectives and quality assurance standards.

11. 2024/25 saw the roll out of the LCC central booking system. Prior to this, Pendle commissioned Spring North to administer a booking platform. The LCC booking system is aligned to the Free School Meals (FSM) voucher platform, issuing unique codes to FSM families via schools. It was partially introduced for the Summer scheme, with full roll out over Winter. All HAF data is collated and monitored centrally now, following the introduction of the centralised booking system over Winter 2024 HAF.

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

Item	Cost (£)
Face-to-face holiday club provision	321,996
SEND Specific provisions.	12,300
Publicising the scheme to eligible families and other communications.	2,856
Management and administration of the programme by the LA.	35,729
Other costs (e.g., translations, transport, provider staff training, booking systems etc.).	3,705
TOTAL	376,587

13. Quality control processes were in place to ensure adherence to the HAF objectives and support high quality provision. Monitoring reports were submitted to LCC after delivery of each of the schemes.

Plans for 2025/26

14. Pendle's 2025/26 allocation is £380,607. As agreed by the Executive in January 2025, work has now commenced to transfer day to day management and coordination of HAF to PLT. We are currently in the transition phase, with PLT working closely with PBC, to understand the programme and systems with a view to transferring the delivery budget to PLT later this year. An SLA is in place with PLT, along with a monthly Project Review Group, to oversee the transition process. The HAF Board comprising of PBC, LCC and PLT (and which now replaces the Pendle HAF Steering Group) meets quarterly to consider strategic developments and challenges.

Household Support Fund

15. The Household Support Fund (HSF) has been operating since September 2021. The funding is to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford household essentials including energy and water bills, food, and wider essentials.

16. Funding is allocated via LCC; the total awarded to PBC for HSF 2024/25 was £834,000. The 2024/25 grant was allocated in 2 rounds (HSF 5 and HSF 6)

Pendle Household Support Fund progress 2024/25

17. The total number of households benefitting from 2024/25 HSF exceeded 6,000, the breakdown of which is below:

2024/25 HSF Grant	Number of awards	Demographics of who received the award (by family type, in the following categories: couples with children, couples without children, single with children and single without children)
£830,000	6,707	Households with children = 2704
		Households with a pensioner = 2814
		Households with a disabled person = 168

		Households with a care leaver = 66
		Other households = 955

18. The 2024/25 HSF schemes consisted of the following elements:

Elements	Spend (£)
Direct payments to those on CTS	327,485
Community support	360,990
Application based scheme (administered by East Lancas Citizens Advice)	60,000
Discretionary Housing Payment top up	20,000
Admin	65,577
TOTAL	834,052

19. 40% of the 2024/25 HSF grant was allocated to direct awards, the target cohort being those of pensionable age and in receipt of Council Tax Credit. Cash vouchers of £75 were sent out directly to eligible households in both HSF rounds, which could then be redeemed at a local Post Office. PBC awarded 2,833 and 2,795 vouchers to eligible households in HSF 5 and 6 respectively. 90% of all vouchers were redeemed.
20. The community support element of HSF is reliant on our community and voluntary partners to deliver. We commissioned 12 local organisations in 2024/25, all providing a range of services from on-line food shopping support, supermarket vouchers, food parcels, hot meals, budget management sessions and welfare advice and support.
21. A prerequisite of the HSF scheme is an application scheme open to the public- as with previous years, this was delivered by East Lancashire Citizens Advice on behalf of PBC.
22. All community providers submit monthly returns, indicating the number and volume of households supported. Quarterly returns are submitted to LCC.

Plans for 2025/26

23. Since the Executive approved delegating authority for HSF 2025/26 to the Leader and Director of Resources in March 2025, PBC has since been notified of it's grant allocation from LCC. PBC has been awarded £320,000, which is a reduction of 61% from 2024/25 total.
24. At this stage, LCC has not committed to a further funding round to be introduced later this year. (In 2024/25, HSF was awarded in 2 tranches. For 2025, only one funding round for districts has been confirmed). Districts have been requested to plan a 12 month programme with their confirmed allocation, which is 77% of the 6 month 2024 allocation.
25. A much-reduced HSF programme is currently being planned. As per the Executive report in March 2025, the focus of the HSF programme will be on community support, rather than awarding direct payments to a particular cohort.
26. The HSF7 programme will consist of food support, Preventative support (such as welfare and debt advice) and the prerequisite application scheme. The draft programme will be shared with the Leader and the Director of Resources for their approval prior to any launch.

Together an Active Future

27. Blackburn with Darwen Council is the overall accountable body for Pennine Lancashire's Together an Active Future (TaAF), one of twelve place partners Sport England has been investing in and working closely with since 2018. The twelve place partners have shared a funding pot of £100M to explore how system change, investing in people and creating capacity to think and do things

differently could make it easier for people to be more active and reduce the high prevalence of inactivity and low levels of participation

28. Operating across Pennine Lancashire, TaAF aims to tackle inactivity and reduce health inequalities through system change to embed physical activity into everyday life. Since its inception, circa £5.56m has been allocated across the Pennine Lancashire districts.
29. Pendle's programme, Together an Active Pendle, is delivered by Pendle Leisure Trust, with PBC awarded the funding from BwD. The 2024/25 TaAF allocation to PBC, which was then passported directly to PLT was £219,000.
30. We are now in the Accelerator phase of the programme (2022-25), which runs until December 2025. The next phase of the programme is Deepening (2026- 28), which, given the timescales, is likely to result in a funding shortfall for the Lifestyle Hub. This will be considered in a separate report to the Executive in July.

Together an Active Pendle progress 2024/25

Beat the Streets

31. Beat the Street is a community development tool which works by using gamification to incentivise people to make small behaviour changes to their lifestyle, such as travelling actively to school or work, spending more time outdoors and discovering the assets of their local community.
32. Beat the Street Pendle took place across 6 weeks in Autumn 2024 and 10,063 people from across Pendle took part, collectively travelling over 71,303 miles. 38 schools and 54 community groups took part in this mass participation initiative, using the game to discover and explore their local community.
33. Immediately after the 6 week game, participants reported increases in physical activity levels, improved mental health and wellbeing and also increased their use of green and blue spaces. In addition, there was a decrease in car use with a further increase in people walking for leisure and fun.
34. PLT has continued to communicate and work with participants and stakeholders since the game ended to ensure people have opportunities to stay active. A follow up survey was sent out to players six months after the Beat the Street game to find out whether behaviour changes seen after the game had been sustained. The findings show that 87% of respondents felt they had continued to be active in the months since the game ended. 62% of participants agreed that the programme continues to have a positive impact on themselves, their friends/family or community. 46% of people continued to engage in active travel after the game.

Active Practice

35. A key workstream for TaAP, this is about embedding physical activity opportunities within Primary Care setting, working with staff to build capacity and confidence to support those with long term health conditions to move more. There are projects happening in both Pendle's PCN (Primary Care Network) West and East, with PCN West more engaged than PCN East. An event took place at the Leisure Box last year and was well attended by NHS teams as part of protected Learning time

Lifestyle Hub

36. The Lifestyle Hub remains a single point of access across East Lancs, where people can self-refer alongside health and care professionals for support on becoming more physically active. Originally established in 2016 as part of the Up and Active programme, its now supported through TaAP and delivered in partnerships with PCNs. Over the last year this has seen around 500 people referred into the Up and Active scheme linked through the Lifestyle Hub.

Healthy Weight Collaboration

37. The Healthy Weight Collaboration between Lancashire County Council (LCC), Pendle Borough Council (PBC), and Pendle Leisure Trust (PLT) is a strong example of effective partnership working to improve health outcomes. It takes a wider approach to tackling obesity and combines funding and support from LCC with local delivery by PLT, coordinated by PBC.
38. The programme focuses on both adults and families through two main services: an adult weight management programme and the family-friendly PASTA (Play and Skills at Teatime Activities). These have now been brought under one agreement to make delivery more joined-up. The funding awarded to PBC in 2024/25 was £77,000.
39. The partnership aims to reduce obesity, improve health, and tackle inequality in Pendle. It listens to the community and supports long-term changes in lifestyle.
40. Going forward, the PLT team will look at how the programme is working, build stronger links with local groups, and improve how people are referred to the service. The collaboration will also align with broader strategies such as the Healthy Weight Declaration and the Pendle Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, ensuring that healthy weight services continue to evolve in line with local and national priorities.

Healthy Weight Collaboration progress 2024/25

41. The programme consisted of two Weight Management programmes:

ADULT WEIGHT MANAGEMENT (Eat Well, Keep Well): a free educational programme (there is no physical activity) suitable for anyone who wants to learn and understand about food and how to develop a healthier relationship with it. This programme ran for 10 or 12 weeks included emotional wellbeing and support, topics and tips about food, drink and physical activity. There were up to 10 places available for each programme.

157 clients attended the Adult Weight Management courses (client has attended at least one session)

FAMILY WEIGHT MANAGEMENT (Eat Well, Play Well): Fun free family time, get togetherness with food and play. A free 6 week programme for families to learn a better understanding of food, food growing, cooking tasting, yoga and games.

FOOD SAFARI: A 6 week course at the Good Life Project, sessions included food growing, food safari (venturing around the allotment), cooking and exercising. Families were able to take home plants, food bags & recipes.

27 families attended the Family Weight Management courses.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The programmes outlined above are integral delivery of the Council Plan 2025-28 and contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Pendle.

Financial: All programmes are reliant on external funding.

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 the report

Community Safety: None arising from the report

Equality and Diversity: All programmes aim to reduce inequalities.

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS