

DECISION TITLE: Grant Funding to providers of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme
ENTER NAME OF CABINET MEMBER EXERCISING DELEGATED POWERS: Councillor Katy Cole, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
ENTER MONTH IN WHICH DECISION IS BEING TAKEN: August 2024
Deadline date: August 2024

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Councillor Katy Cole, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services Chris Baird, Interim Director of Education
Is this a Key Decision?	YES If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan: YES Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan: KEY/01JULY24/01
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO

RECOMMENDATIONS	
The Cabinet Member is recommended to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise grant funding for a total maximum amount of £870,000 to service providers, outlined in Appendix 1, for delivery of the holiday activities and food programme. 2. Delegate authority to the Director for Education to authorise funding to be paid to additional service providers as required. 	

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.1 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph 3.4.9.

2. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some families. For some children that can lead to a holiday experience gap. Children from low-income households are:

- 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.

3.2 The holiday activity and food programme is a response to this issue. Evidence shows that free holiday clubs can have a positive impact on children and young people. 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.
- Use local partnerships and connections, particularly with the voluntary and community sector organisations sector.

Peterborough HAF Programme

3.3 Peterborough HAF Programme, locally called Healthy, Happy Holidays, is part of the government funded programme. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has been providing support to children in receipt of free school meals during holiday periods in Peterborough since 2021. The HAF programme aims to address the challenges faced by children from low-income households during school holidays, including limited access to organised out-of-school activities, nutrition-related issues, and social isolation.

3.4 Healthy, Happy Holidays is due to be delivered during Summer 2024, and over the Christmas period 2024. The following will be delivered:

Over summer:

- 4 weeks of holiday activities, for 4 hours per day, face to face provision, with children accessing up to 16 sessions.

Over Christmas holidays:

- 1 weeks of holiday activities, for 4 hours per day, covering 4 sessions in total.

3.5 The programme, though aimed at children in receipt of benefits related free school meals (FSM), is not exclusively for them and local authorities are able to use up to 15% of the funding to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits related free school meals but who the local authority believes could benefit from HAF. In Peterborough, a number of cohorts of children and young people are funded to access the programme:

- Children in Care
- Children with a Child Protection Plan or Child in Need Plan
- A child/young person at risk of social isolation due to parental / sibling illness
- Young carers
- Child/young person who is living in a home with possible/known domestic abuse or other safeguarding risk
- Child/young person who has been recommended via the Multi Agency Support Group.

Holiday and Activities Providers

3.6 A range of different providers applied to deliver the HAF programme in Peterborough. In order to be accepted providers must meet a number of requirements which include:

- Are a registered business, charity, or registered with Ofsted, with a proven track record of working with children and young people, in a capacity that supports their HAF application.
- Application includes details of how the provider will deliver enrichment activities, physical exercise and a healthy meal [preferably hot]
- Evidence of appropriate policies – including safeguarding, health and safety and food preparation
- Ofsted compliance and registered with Environmental Health [where appropriate].
- Confirmation of secured venue

3.7 New applications are considered throughout the year from potential new providers, and when considering new applications, as well as the above, consideration will be given to the location and the supply/demand in a particular area, as well as whether the proposal offers new opportunities for children and young people.

3.8 All HAF providers receive a quality assurance visit to ensure that they are meeting the standards outlined in the HAF framework, a document that lays out the expectations of all providers delivering activities as part of the HAF programme. This ensures that all children and young people receive a quality holiday experience.

4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 The recommendation links to the following of the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Our Places & Communities: The Holiday Activity and Food Programme provides a healthy and safe environment for our more vulnerable children, in which they can engage in a range of activities that support their learning and physical health through the school holiday periods.

Prevention, Independence & Resilience: - The programme provides an environment to support children and young people to learn independence and resilience – developing skills through a wide range of activities that are offered through the programme.

Carbon Impact Assessment: The CMDN seeks approval for the spend of the HAF funding, to pay for providers to deliver holiday activities and a meal for school aged children who are

in receipt of free school meals. The programme will be delivered for a total of five weeks, over the summer and Christmas period. The programme has been providing support to children in receipt of free school meals during holiday periods in Peterborough since 2021. It is not anticipated that the delivery of this programme will have any environmental impact as the project represents a continuation of an existing service.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Whilst the decision does not require any consultation, we have established a HAF Steering Group, to enable us to engage with local partners, and discuss ideas about delivering HAF services.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 There are many benefits for children who attend the HAF programme. We want to encourage all HAF providers 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
- returning to school feeling engaged and ready to learn
- Reducing holiday isolation and vulnerability factors

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Approval of the funding will ensure that the Council can continue to deliver the HAF Programme over the next two holiday periods.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 Whilst an alternative option would be not to fund the Holiday Activities and Food Programme, the Local Authority would not be fulfilling its obligation to deliver the programme.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Financial Implications

The Local Authority has been allocated funding to ensure the delivery of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme from the Department of Education. A maximum of £870,000 has been allocated to deliver the programme for the Summer and Christmas period.

Legal Implications

9.2 The Subsidy Control Act 2022 sets out the rules when a public body provides financial or other forms of assistance to an organisation. A review has been undertaken to establish whether the grant funding to providers constitutes a subsidy within the Act. The view is that the grants to providers would not constitute a subsidy. The external funding is for service providers within Peterborough and therefore would not or capable of having an effect on competition within the UK.

Equalities Implications

9.3 No equalities implications have been identified.

10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

10.1 None

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 The following documents have been used in the preparation of this report

[Holiday activities and food programme 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 - Providers delivering Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Appendix 1

Providers delivering Holiday Activities and Food Programme

- Breakthrough Therapy Solutions Ltd
- Bright Bambini Montessori
- Busy Bunnies Nursery
- City of Peterborough Sports Club [CoPSC]
- Eastern Angles Theatre
- Eye C of E Primary School
- Family Action
- Families First Peterborough
- Fulbridge Academy
- Gladstone Connect Ltd
- Herlington Pre School
- Jungle Tots Day Nursery
- Just Do Sport
- Little Miracles
- MACCA Sports Academies Ltd
- Newark Play Association Ltd
- Oak Activities Ltd
- One Touch Football Soccer School
- PARCA
- Peterborough Limited
- Play House Pre School and Out of School Club
- Premier Education
- Schools Out Werrington
- Skillz Sports
- Stars Day Nursery, Oakdale
- St Michael's CE [A] Primary School
- The Dogsthorpe Den
- Thomas Deacon Education Trust
- Westraven Community Café and Garden
- Youth Dreams Project Limited
- Zig Zag Day Nursery