

Report to Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

15th March 2021

Subject:	Holiday Activities and Food Scheme
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1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Scrutiny Board receives the presentation regarding Sandwell's submission to the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme.
- 1.2 That the Scrutiny Board receives a further report in the autumn, following the completion of the Easter and Summer HAF programmes.






2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Sandwell's HAF plans have been submitted for government approval.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Board has an important role to play in monitoring the success and impact of the scheme in Sandwell.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>The HAF scheme will provide children with opportunities to catch up on lost learning, improve their understanding of</p>
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	healthy lifestyles, and spend important time with their peers during the school holidays.
	<p>People live well and age well</p> <p>The involvement of families in healthy food and nutrition activities, as part of the HAF scheme, will support families to live well.</p>
	<p>Strong resilient communities</p> <p>The community-based approach to the HAF scheme will enhance the resilience of children, families and neighbourhoods.</p>
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods
	<p>A strong and inclusive economy</p> <p>Using local providers will reinforce Sandwell's ambitions for community wealth building.</p>
	A connected and accessible Sandwell

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme, has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children in some local authority areas since 2018 via a DfE grant bidding system. It will be expanded across England this year.
- 4.2 The aim of the scheme is to make free holiday activities places available to children eligible for free school meals for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week and for six weeks a year. This would cover four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays in 2021. There are approximately 17,000 children in receipt of free school meals in Sandwell – this has increased by 19% during the Covid pandemic. The scheme can be made available to a wider group of children who would pay for the provision.



4.2 The ambition for children participating in the scheme is as follows:

- a. To eat more healthily over the school holidays;
- b. To be more active during the school holidays;
- c. To take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and well-being, along with their wider educational attainment;
- d. To be safe and not to be socially isolated;
- e. To have greater knowledge of health nutrition; and
- f. To be more engaged with school and other local services.

4.3 The full guidance is attached at Appendix A, but the key elements of the role of coordinating holiday provision involves:

- mapping the holiday provision in the local area to ensure that holiday provision exists and is supporting the areas of greatest need;
- establishing a steering group to support implementation and delivery that should include representatives from a wide range of local bodies, including local police and other uniform services, local public health officials, school leaders, youth services, social services, charities and the voluntary sector;
- drawing in wider support to enhance the local programme, for example bringing in funding from other sources such as philanthropists, sponsors, food providers as well as supermarkets and local businesses providing these organisations fit with the values and aspirations of the programme;
- developing a local plan for provision in the local area, based on what is known about local supply and demand;
- ensuring that sufficient, adequate provision is available across the local area for children with SEND/additional needs;
- awarding funding to holiday club providers in order to ensure there is enough provision to meet demand;



- supporting all providers to meet the DfE framework of standards (including safeguarding requirements and meals that meet school food standards) and to improve the quality of their provision;
- working with families to reduce dependency by providing nutritional education for children and educating families around purchasing and preparing healthy meals on a sustainable basis;
- promoting and advertising provision, including working with local schools and other agencies to encourage the most at need children to attend;
- working with other local services or agencies to ensure a joined-up and efficient approach (e.g. signposting, sharing resources); and
- building local partnerships and sharing learning and good practice among local partners.

4.4 Sandwell has been awarded a grant of £1,932,480 for the period of the scheme (to end of school Xmas holidays 2021/2). The grant determination letter and guidance were issued on Sunday 7th February 2021 with a requirement to submit a delivery report to the DfE on 19th February relating to Easter activity. A multi-agency Steering Group has been established and a submission made for consideration by DfE. At the time of writing this report a response has not yet been received from DfE and so a presentation will be made at the Scrutiny Board meeting which will provide the most up to date position regarding delivery plans.

5 Alternative Options

5.1 A range of options have been considered for the delivery of the HAF scheme and these will be described in the presentation to the Scrutiny Board at its meeting.

6 Implications

Resources:	Financial, staffing, land/building implications
Legal and Governance:	Legal implications including regulations/law under which proposals are required/permitted and constitutional provisions



Risk:	Risk implications, including any mitigating measures planned/taken, health and safety, insurance implications
Equality:	Implications for equality (all aspects and characteristics) including how meeting Equality Duty, equality impact assessments
Health and Wellbeing:	Implications of the proposals on health and wellbeing of our communities
Social Value	Implications for social value and how the proposals are meeting this (for e.g. employment of local traders, young people)

7. Appendices

7.1 HAF guidance document – Appendix A

8. Background Papers

8.1 None

