

Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board
09 September 2022

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| Report Topic: | Sandwell Holiday Activities and food Programme |
| Contact Officer: | Samantha Harman |
| Link to board priorities | <p>Please include in your report how your work links to one or more of our board priorities:</p> <p>Aims of the programme</p> <p>As a result of this programme, the Department for Education (DfE) want children who attend this provision to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eat healthily over the school holidays • be 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 <p>They also want to ensure that the families who participate in this programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting • are signposted towards other information and support, for example, health, employment, and education <p>1. We will help keep people healthier for longer All activity must include at least one meal a day (breakfast, lunch or tea) and all food provided (including snacks) must meet school food standards and most of the food served by providers should be hot. (with some exceptions on occasion for a cold food offer)</p> |

Link to board priorities

Food provision in Sandwell is multi- faceted and tailored to the different delivery models to ensure choice, range and diversity.

Sandwell funded HAF providers are expected to provide advice on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious and low-cost food as part of their activity schedules.

Holiday provision must provide fun and enriching activities that meet the physical activity standards and that provide children with opportunities to:

- develop new skills or knowledge
- consolidate existing skills and knowledge
- try out new experiences
- have fun and socialize

Sandwell HAF is delivered by a broad range of partners to ensure that there is something to inspire and excite children and young people and encourage participation across the ages.

2 - We will help keep people safe and support communities

All HAF funded provision are expected to train all staff in safeguarding and child protection provided free of charge by the Sandwell's Quality Early Years and Childcare Team (SQEYCCT) as part of the HAF training programme. Additional support is provided via a toolkit specifically detailing the referral routes and support services linked to Sandwell Safeguarding Board

HAF funded providers are routinely monitored throughout the year, using a range of mechanisms and providers must submit their safeguarding policy and procedures; health and safety policy; equality and inclusion; insurances and staffing and recruitment with the grant application form to be considered for funding.

3. We will work together to join up services

We are building relationships and growing connections across various services that help support families that may benefit from Holiday Activities such as Childrens Centres, Citizens Advice, Brushstrokes, Sandwell Parents Voice and SCVO. We are also working closely with schools and Public Health Development Offices who have strong relationships with families and the community.

4. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services

Holiday Activities brings together a range of organisations and providers from different sectors who are passionate about doing their very best for children across Sandwell and who deliver the aims,

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| | <p>goals and ethos and co-ordinate activity to increase opportunities, tackle inequality and reduce isolation at a hyper local level</p> |
| <p>Purpose of Report:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness and celebrate the holiday activity programme and share the impact that it has on children, young people and their families. |
| <p>Recommendations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandwell Health & Well Being Board are invited to join us during the Winter to see firsthand the difference holiday activities make to children, young people and their families and to see the quality of the provision on offer. • Sandwell Health & Well Being Board support delivery of the holiday activities, celebrate what we are trying to achieve, and become an advocate for sharing this as widely as possible and encourage the opportunity for further partnership working. |
| <p>Key Discussion points:</p> | <p>School holidays are a period of real concern for some families because of increased costs and reduced incomes. For some children this can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from disadvantaged families less likely to access organised out-of-school activities and more likely to experience holiday hunger and social isolation.</p> <p>There are 54,163 children and young people aged 5-16 years living in Sandwell, with over 18,903 children receiving free school meals (June 2022) with a likely increase over the coming year. There is a need to ensure we are working with families to close the outcomes gap between more and less disadvantaged children.</p> <p>The Department for Education committed investment that delivered free healthy meals and fun activities to support children in low income families. The Holiday Activities and Food programme was expanded in 2021 with an investment of up to £220 million delivered through grants to all local authorities. This is to provide Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) to cover the Easter, summer and Christmas Holiday periods for 2022-25 for school aged children (reception to year 11) including SEND who are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals.</p> <p>Sandwell governance for the programme remains with the Children and Young People's Strategic Commissioning Partnership and is coordinated in- house to maximise the spend potential for direct activity whilst building on the lessons learnt from HAF2021 aiming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To further strategically align a quality centred approach that encourages children, young people and their families, who |

meet risk criteria relating to FSM to participate in activities that stimulate growth and reduce inequalities.

- To continue to connect partners to people with accessible activities and food provision that improves physical health outcomes for children, young people and families.
- To continue the partnering with the VCS in Sandwell and support a quality localised offer providing a range of provision across Sandwell which is accessible and sustainable.
- To future proof Sandwell HAF to support sustainability, alignment with corporate priorities, resilience and business planning for post 2025.

In Sandwell we believe that every child across our borough should have the opportunity to take part in enriching holiday activity and we have a strong and robust existing universal offer the Go Play provision and the Play is Making a difference funding.

We are working with over 60 providers to offer HAF provision which is both free or has a subsidised cost attached. Promoting a blended offer that ensures there is something for every child no matter what their circumstance or situation. By taking this approach we are reducing stigmatisation, increasing inclusion and ensuring sustainability. Connecting families and children to hyper local organisations means they are supported in a holistic way all year round and often for many years.

Sandwell Holiday Activities

- Offer great value to everyone
- Are Fun! Fun is at the heart of all our activities, we want children to make memories that last a lifetime
- Offer opportunity for our children to choose and experience a wide range of new activities
- Can be trusted – all our activities are safe and monitored
- Are welcoming – we want everyone to feel accepted, happy and valued

Sandwell Holiday Activities offers a wide range of opportunities to help children make the most of their school holidays. Parents have shared with us the difference this programme makes to them and their children.

We need help to ensure the programme is recognised and promoted widely. We want as many families as possible to know about the programme and access activities which are right for them and their children. We want to celebrate widely the quality of our activities and the providers we have across Sandwell. We want to understand the difference this programme makes, the impact it has on families and the challenges it helps them overcome and feed this back into the wider system.

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| | <p>Families and children are at the heart of everything we do, we are building holiday activities with them, we are empowering them to be involved through our champion programme, children are having a voice and being heard, helping plan activities that they want to see happen next year. Sandwell Holiday Activities is about making life easier, its about choice, its about trying new things, learning new skills, making new friends, growing in confidence, getting active, having loads of fun and making those memories that will last a lifetime.</p> |
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Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme is a direct grant from the Department for Education for the sole purpose of delivering Easter, summer and winter holiday activities for families in receipt of benefit related free school meals or those with protective characteristics.

Go Play and Play is Making a Difference grant funding is ringfenced for grant awards to the voluntary and community sector for provision of free holiday activity but has no eligibility/ access criteria attached enabling a universal offer irrelevant of family circumstances.

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| <p>What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?</p> | <p>We are constantly seeking opportunities to engaging with partners and families to raise awareness of Holiday Activities. We regularly engage through schools through attending partnership meetings and with parents through attending school events. We engaged directly with over 1000 families over the summer through attendance at Playday and the roadshows in local parks.</p> |
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