

# Report to Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

**Monday 29 November 2021**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Holiday Activities and Food Programme</b>
<b>Director:</b>	Acting Operational Director Children and Education Melanie Barnett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Samantha Harman, Play Strategy Manager Samantha_harman@sandwell.gov.uk

## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Scrutiny Board considers and comments upon the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) scheme midterm evaluation attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 That the Scrutiny Board receives the midterm evaluation regarding the Holiday Activity and Food outputs 2021-2022.
- 1.3 That the Scrutiny Board receives further information relating to future funding recently announced by the Department of Education following the comprehensive spending review for 2022-2025.

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Sandwell HAF delivery is currently underway and a report on impact and outcomes will inform future delivery plans.
- 2.2 The Board has an important role to play in monitoring the effectiveness of delivery and the success 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 School holidays are a period of concern for some families. The negative impact summer holidays may have potentially makes the HAF important in closing the outcomes gap between more and less disadvantaged children in Sandwell.</p>
	<p>People live well and age well The involvement of families and children in accessing healthy food and enrichment activities will support families to live well.</p>
	<p>Strong resilient communities Sandwell HAF is embedded within a community offer and delivered at a local level which aims to build resilience of children, families and neighbourhoods.</p>
	<p>A strong and inclusive economy The use of local providers to support the delivery of the HAF reinforces Sandwell's ambitions for community wealth building.</p>

### 4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 In summer 2018, the Department for Education invested £2 million in seven summer holiday pilots across England. Summer 2019 saw an investment of £9 million in 11 local authority areas, to improve coverage, joint-working, promotion, consistency and quality and the summer of 2020 saw an investment of £9 million investment covering 17 local authority areas, including projects that covered more than one LA.

The Holiday Activities and Food programme was expanded in 2021 so that children on free school meals in England could be offered free healthy meals and enriching activities over the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays. With an investment of up to £220 million delivered through grants to all local authorities.

4.2 Sandwell was awarded a grant of £1,932,480 for the period of the programme. The DfE have informed us that based on the success of the HAF21 programme further funding will be available year on year to 2025 further details in terms of allocations will be in due course.



- 4.3 Notification of extended funding should enable Sandwell to now work towards a more sustainable model of delivery which will enable more children and families to engage with the programme.
- 4.4 Overall the HAF21 programme was a success with a varied range of different activity taking place across all parts of the borough.

The partnerships with the voluntary, community and private sector provided the backbone of the programme and reach would not have been achieved without our community partners. 48 partners were grant funded to deliver totalling £499,798.

An additional £62,166 council funding was identified which allowed a universal offer to enable our “#summerofplay” programme to be delivered over the summer, and supported organisations to continue delivery during term time and October half term.

- 4.5 Management information returns suggest that 6934 children and young people have attended HAF Easter and summer activity representing 39% of the FSM population in Sandwell. Of those HAF eligible 75% were of primary school age and 25% of secondary school age.

We had a cumulative total of 18359 attendances across the summer delivered through 893 sessions and resulting in a total of 59989 hours delivery which we are pleased with on the whole.

More importantly the figures show that we have attendances from every ward in the authority with the average ward attendance being 15% and the highest being 43% in a ward where historically take up hasn't been high.

Our figures show that the take up overall is in line with previous holiday and food programmes that we have delivered, and the continued challenge is to drill down and identify how we gain traction with families which convert to attendance.

- 4.6 Overall considering time and economies of scale we are pleased with the overall outcomes particularly as Sandwell was still experiencing high levels of infection over the summer and many events had to be scaled down to ensure we were supporting public health with their messages.



## 5 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	The HAF programme is a restricted grant for the purpose of restricted activity and cannot be used for any other purpose other than that set out in the grant determination letter.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	The HAF Programme is DfE grant funded and it is restricted for the purpose of this activity only as set out in the grant determination letter.
<b>Risk:</b>	Scrutiny will consider risk implications associated with this project.
<b>Equality:</b>	An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) initial screening has been undertaken. The screening identified that there will be no adverse impact on people or groups with protected characteristics.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	The HAF programme has had a positive impact on those participating and will continue to do so
<b>Social Value</b>	The HAF programme encourages the use of private and voluntary sector engagement and is seen as a conduit to boost local business whilst seeking to ensure wider investment from other parties.

## 6 Appendices

Appendix 1: Evaluation report – draft

Appendix 2: HAF presentation

## 7. Background Papers

Sandwell Easter Evaluation

