

APPENDIX B – CASE STUDIES AND FEEDBACK

Highlights are given below of some of the very positive experiences children and families had from participating in Easter HAF schemes.

Case Studies from Easter HAF Providers.

- A and his two sisters attended all four days. On the morning of day one, A initially sat at the side and said that he did not want to be there and was forced by mum to come. After some positive support from the staff and some adaptations to the theme within the dance, drama element, A began to engage. By the afternoon he was fully engaged with the drama and by day two, after a small outburst of frustration due to one of his siblings, he took a lead role in the performance and read a page of script for parents and carers later that day. Mum had disclosed that he had some anger issues, but, during his time on the programme, A worked hard to control any outbursts and became a very active member of the group.
- One of the families that attended had a daughter, B, who suffered with severe anxiety and separation issues. We worked with B and mum to encourage and support gradual participation and helped B to gain the confidence to go from just walking in the door on the first day, to attending a full morning's session. Whilst she did not join in with the core group, we were able to provide her with differentiated activities that were less frightening to her and matched her interests. She was buddied with another child and had a great morning of arts and crafts. Mum picked her up at lunch time, but then B returned to watch her sibling in a short presentation outside just an hour later. Her mum said that this was a breakthrough for B and a positive step moving forward.
- We received a telephone call from S's Mum to enquire about the Easter project and she told me the, although S is in mainstream school, S has mild cerebral palsy and finds it hard to join in with some groups and activities and, although S had tried swimming and other school activities, S found it hard to fit in. Mum wanted to know if she could send S along for a trial, just to see what our sessions were like. S arrived and, from day one, loved the activities and although staff assisted S with food cutting and on some other activities, staff made sure any support offered was discreet, respectful and that S was empowered to engage with all activities. S had a wonderful time and her Mum said that she had never fitted in so well in any other places. S, as a result, has decided to join the local theatre group and I am sure we will see her confidence soar, and she will now feel part of an inclusive group.
- One child is on a reduced timetable at school (1.45 hours a day) and mum was anxious to see how her child would cope, being with us for 4 hours a day. The mum has a medical condition that causes her to have seizures and mum reported that when her child was in school, she was having around 30 seizures a day but because the child was attending our setting for 4 hours a day she only had 3. She feels it was because they both had respite from each other and both were more relaxed and happy.

Parental Feedback

- “It was the first time my children had attended any form of holiday club and they were apprehensive and didn’t know what to expect. To see their faces beaming at the end of the day with happiness and enthusiasm simply tells me I made the right choice. Thank you so much for offering a fantastic and engaging schedule. The children really enjoyed their time with you and are looking forward to attending again. Thank you to all the staff for making my children’s experience a super positive memorable one. We are looking forward to returning in the summer“.
- “My daughter has benefitted so much from being able to go out somewhere and do something fun. We are not able to do that a lot due to lack of money and of late, Covid”.
- “M really enjoyed the activities during the Easter half term. At the beginning of the week M was a bit reluctant to go to fun club as he hadn’t been for a while. Each day he would come home more and more excited, telling me all about how much fun he had and all the different games he got to play. Yoga, PE being outdoors which he loves. By the end of the week he was disappointed it had finished. It would be a great idea to offer these activities or similar activities in the other holidays as well. It’s a great idea and M loved it”.
- “Thank you for everything. I suffer with anxiety and sometimes it is hard to get out and do things. This group has helped me and my son “.
- “My son and I have really needed this week to re-group and enjoy ourselves”.

Feedback from Children and Young People

- “I made new friends!”
- “What I have enjoyed the most is the football, dodgeball, go – karts...well, everything!”
- “If I hadn’t come here, I would’ve been playing Xbox, watching Tik Tok or sleeping”.
- “We did balanced diet menus and sorted cards into the right food groups”.