

## ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Debbie Andre, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills
<b>Date:</b>	27 May 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Grant Recommendations Summer 2021
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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#### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for grant awards to organisations offering holiday activity and food schemes to benefits eligible Free School Meal (FSM) children during the Summer 2021 school holidays, funded by the Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme.

#### 2. Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves the award of HAF Summer Grants to the organisations identified in Appendix 1 to this report up to a total value of £274,674.

4. In the event that a provider is unable to fulfil the funded number of places or has to amend its offer in the light of Covid, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to reallocate any underspent Summer HAF grant funding to ensure an Isle of Wight wide offer, within the grant allocation for Summer of £274,674. Any such reallocations will be agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

#### Executive Summary

5. The Department for Education (DfE) have provided every local authority in England funding to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities for children eligible for benefits related free school meals.

The programme covers the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021. Isle of Wight County Council (the Council) were awarded up to £407,660.

6. During May 2021 the Council invited grant applications from organisations able to provide holiday activity and food schemes during the 2021 summer holidays (Monday 26 July to 30 August 2021). Applications had to demonstrate their capability to deliver to the DfE HAF programme outcomes.
7. A total of 12 applications were received from 12 organisations and were evaluated by a panel of Council officers and a representative from a local community organisation, resulting in recommendations contained in this report for 12 grant awards up to a total value of £274,674.
8. Successful organisations will need to submit monitoring to the Council to ensure that the funding is reaching the target cohort of children and young people and that the provision is of good quality.
9. Applications for Christmas holiday provision between 20 December 2021 to 4 January 2022 will also be sought from organisations in the coming months. Following an evaluation process, recommendations for grant funding will be brought to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills.

### **Contextual information**

10. On 8 November 2020, the Government announced that the HAF programme, which has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018, would be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. Grant allocations and requirements were published by the DfE on 8 February 2021.
11. The HAF programme covers the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays in 2021, and the DfE will make up to £220m available to local authorities for the programme. It will be available to children in every local authority in England and will build on the success of the local holiday programmes that the Government have been funding since 2018.
12. The Isle of Wight Council have been allocated funding of up to £407,660.
13. School holidays can be particular pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes. For some children that can lead to a holiday experience gap - with children from disadvantaged families less likely to access organised out-of-school activities; more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health and are more likely to experience social isolation.

14. Free holiday clubs are a response to this issue and evidence suggests that they can have a positive impact on children and young people. It also shows they work best when they provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities, when they offer more than just breakfast or lunch, and when they involve children (and parents) in food preparation.
15. The aim of the HAF programme is to make free 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. Organisations will also be able to offer additional places to fee paying families.
16. Across the Isle of Wight, there are currently 3,276 children who are potentially eligible to access holiday places on the HAF programme based on actual Free School Meal eligibility numbers from school census information. It is anticipated that this number could increase by circa 10% because of more families meeting the FSM criteria due to the economic recovery from Covid 19, and the effect on employment.
17. The desired outcomes of the programme are to encourage children and young people to:
  - 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 education attainment;
  - d) To be safe and not to be socially isolated;
  - e) To have greater knowledge of health nutrition;
  - f) To be more engaged with school and other local services.
18. The HAF programme also aims to ensure that the children and families who participate in the programme develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting as well as being effectively signposted towards other information and support for example health, employment and education.
19. The Council seeks to achieve these aims through the provision of holiday clubs and activities. Organisations will be grant funded to provide free of charge places at their schemes for eligible children and will be required to provide a healthy meal as part of their core delivery. They will provide a range of activities for the children and young people to engage with and participate in, with a focus on healthy eating and healthy lifestyles as a common theme. Organisations will also be expected to support the wider family and signpost to other key community resources as required.

## **The Isle of Wight's Approach**

20. The Holiday Activity and Food grant initiative will be delivered under the 'connect4communities' programme of work:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities>

21. The funding for the summer holidays will be allocated across two different grant streams:

- Grant Type A – For childcare places in existing schemes/clubs or new schemes/clubs being proposed in priority and rural areas;
- Grant Type B – For Summer holiday events, short activities, innovative projects and initiatives targeting priority and rural areas, older children & young people (11–16-year-olds), and families.

22. Applications were invited against these two grant streams via the connect4communities website. Organisations were able to apply for one or more of the grants available depending on the type of activity they were seeking to deliver.

## Finance

23. The Isle of Wight grant allocation from the DfE is up to £407,660. The table below reflects the actual and recommended spend to date, and the balance remaining for Christmas.

### 24. Table 1:

1.1.

<b>A</b> <b>Total Budget*</b>	<b>B</b> <b>Easter grants</b>	<b>C</b> <b>Summer recommendations</b>	<b>D</b> <b>Balance for Christmas</b>
£407,660	£44,633.00	£274,674	£47,587

*\*The total grant is £407,660 less £40,766 (10% admin costs) = £366,894 available for providers.*

## Performance

25. All funding granted to third party organisations (including schools, and early years providers) will be supported by a grant agreement setting out the conditions of the funding as well as reporting requirements.

26. Third party organisations will be required to report to the Council on how they have spent the funding provided, in line with the DfE grant criteria.
27. The Council has developed a monitoring approach which will embed and drive quality from the outset of the project. Monitoring is completed in three phases with the first being a self-assessment process mapping provider planning against HAF standards.
28. In phase two, the HAF Project Officer will review, assess, and evidence the self-assessment, challenging providers where needed and highlighting and sharing exemplar practice. Phase two will include monitoring visits and cumulates in a HAF profile and score.
29. The final phase will pull together qualitative data to include the views of children and participating families. In this phase will identify and highlight the most significant changes made to individuals, families and communities. This will form the basis for our own evaluation by the DfE.

### **Consultation and Equalities**

30. These grants will have a positive impact on the following protected characteristics:
- Age - children and young people and their families will benefit from these grants.
  - Disability – services provided will be inclusive.
31. The grants will also have a positive impact on rural and poverty considerations as provision will be targeted where there are currently gaps in rural areas and provision will be free of charge to benefits eligible free school meals children.

### **Other Key Issues**

32. As part of the application process, organisations were asked to detail their Covid risk assessments. They were also asked to provide contingencies to their delivery plans should face to face sessions not be possible. Online activities and resources, and home food deliveries will enable organisations to mitigate against further restrictions if necessary, whilst still offering a level of support to eligible children and their families.

### **Conclusions**

33. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member approves the award of grants to the organisations identified in Appendix 1 to this report to a total value of £274,674.
34. In the event that a provider is unable to fulfil the funded number of places, or has to amend its offer in the light of Covid, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member delegates approval to the Director of Children's Services to reallocate any underspent Summer HAF grant funding to ensure an Isle of Wight wide offer, within the grant allocation for Summer of £274,674. Any such reallocations will be agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

## Appendix 1 – Recommended Grant Awards

### Grant Type A – Places in existing or new clubs/schemes

Locality	Organisation	Project title	Maximum Grant Recommendation	Recommended places
Lake	Sallywags	Sallywags Holiday Club	£25,750.00	750
Newport	Island Riding School	Junior Riding Club	£6,200.00	160
Newport	Nine Acres Primary	Summer Holiday Support Provision	£13,500.00	600
Ryde	Aspire	Aspire Fun and Food Summer Club	£15,000.00	1,000
Ryde and Newport	Theatre Educational	Theatre Educational	£18,840	440
Sandown	YMCA	YMCA Daycamps	£24,960.00	750
Totland	West Wight Nursery	West Wight Nursery	£5,280.00	200
Ventnor	Ventnor Community Early Years	Ventnor Holiday Activity Club	£6,912.00	192
<b>Total</b>			<b>£116,442.00</b>	<b>4092</b>

### Grant Type B – Family/Community/Youth Events/Activities

Locality	Organisation	Project title	Maximum Grant Recommendation	Recommended Places
Ryde	Aspire	Carnival Club	£1,000.00	60
Brading	Brading Youth & Community	The Brading Bunch 8-11	£7,500.00	180
Brading	Brading Youth & Community	The Brading Bunch 11-18	£7,500.00	180
Newport	CM Sports	CM Sports	£69,300.00	1800
East Cowes	CM Sports	CM Sports	£31,500.00	900
East Cowes	Community Action	Unknown	£3,696.00	96
East Cowes	Community Action	Unknown	£3,696.00	96
Newport	Island Riding School	Senior Riding Club	£6,200.00	160
Ryde and Newport	Theatre Educational	Theatre Educational	£18,840	440
Ventnor	Ventnor Town Council	Ventnor Holiday Play Scheme	£9,000.00	300
<b>Total</b>			<b>£158,232.00</b>	<b>4212</b>

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Isle of Wight maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes
<b>People on the Isle of Wight live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People on the Isle of Wight enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes
<b>People on the Isle of Wight enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

Document

Location

None

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The Isle of Wight Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

#### **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

Name of project or proposal (required): Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Grant Programme

Is this project a Transformation project? (required): Neither

Name of accountable officer (required): Suzanne Smith

Email (required): [suzanne.smith2@hants.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.smith2@hants.gov.uk)

Department (required): Children's Services

Date of assessment (required): 25/05/21

Is this a detailed or overview EIA? (required): Overview

Describe the current service or policy. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):

The Department for Education (DfE) has provided every local authority in England funding to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities, for children eligible for benefits related free school meals. The programme covers the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021. The Isle of Wight County Council have been awarded a total of £407,660. This EIA covers Summer 2021 provision.

Geographical impact (required): All Isle of Wight

Describe the proposed change. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):

The County Council are distributing their DfE allocation via 2 grant streams for summer provision;

Grant Type A – For childcare places in existing schemes/clubs or new schemes/clubs being proposed in priority and rural areas;

Grant Type B – For Summer holiday events, short activities, innovative projects and initiatives targeting priority and rural areas, older children & young people (11–16 year olds), and families.

Who does this impact assessment cover? (required): Service users

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? (required): Yes

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):

Market engagement was undertaken with a range of providers to ensure that they were aware of the opportunity for funding and could apply for a grant. Particular focus was given to areas with known gaps in provision such as rural areas.

Successful applicants will receive a briefing on the HAF principles and other key topics such as safeguarding.

Age (required): Positive

Impact (required): Children and young people (and their families) will benefit from the HAF grant programme as the funding is directed at school age children and young people.

Disability (required): Positive

Impact (required): Organisations funded by HAF are expected to offer inclusive provision so that children and young people with additional needs can attend.

Sexual orientation (required): Neutral

Race (required): Neutral

Religion or belief (required): Neutral

Gender reassignment (required): Neutral

Gender (required): Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership (required): Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity (required): Neutral

Poverty (required): Positive

Impact (required): The HAF funding is directed at children who are benefits eligible for Free School Meals. The funding will mean that they will be able to access free holiday activities and food during Summer 2021.

Rurality (required): Positive

Impact (required): The HAF funding is to support holiday activities throughout the county. This includes rural areas where activity schemes may not have traditionally operated. Funding will be used to prioritise these areas to encourage organisations to deliver in pockets of the county where there is a lack of existing provision.

Any other brief information which you feel is pertinent to this assessment (optional): N/A

Please confirm that the accountable officer has agreed the contents of this form (required): Yes