

**Date:** Wednesday 16 April 2025 at 5.00 pm

**Venue:** Democratic Services Meeting Room, First Floor, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1UE

**Cllr Carol Clark (Chair)**  
**Cllr Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair)**

Cllr Robert Cook  
Cllr David Reynard  
Cllr Emily Tate  
Cllr Katie Weston

Cllr Ray Godwin  
Cllr Stephen Richardson  
Cllr Sally Ann Watson

## **AGENDA**

- 1 Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 8)
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Minutes**  
To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 12 February 2025. (Pages 9 - 12)
- 5 Monitoring of Recommendations - Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment** (Pages 13 - 24)
- 6 Scrutiny Review of Holidays are Fun (HAF)**  
To consider the draft final report. (Pages 25 - 58)
- 7 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme** (Pages 59 - 60)

**Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting**

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

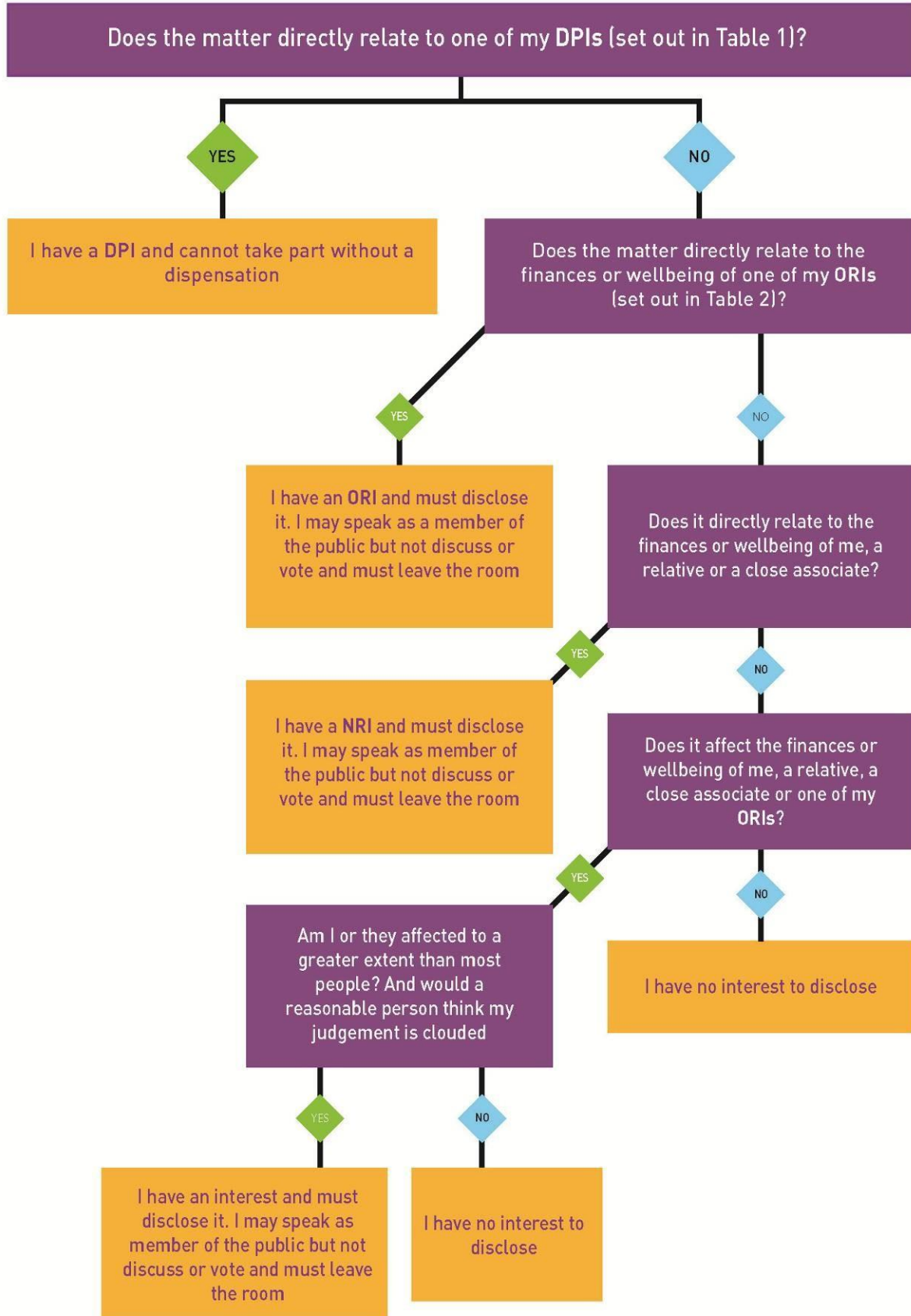
Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

Contact: Judy Trainer, Democratic Services Manager on email [judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk)

**KEY - Declarable interests are:-**

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

**Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance**



**Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Subject	Description
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
<b>Contracts</b>	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
<b>Land and property</b>	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
<b>Licences</b>	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
<b>Corporate tenancies</b>	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
<b>Securities</b>	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

\* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

\* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

## Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
  - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
  - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
  - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

This page is intentionally left blank

## **Democratic Services Meeting Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Municipal Buildings** **Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping**

If the fire or bomb alarm should sound please exit by the nearest emergency exit. The Fire alarm is a continuous ring and the Bomb alarm is the same as the fire alarm however it is an intermittent ring.

If the Fire Alarm rings exit through the nearest available emergency exit and form up in Municipal Buildings Car Park.

The assembly point for everyone if the Bomb alarm is sounded is the car park at the rear of Splash on Church Road.

The emergency exits are located via the doors to the right and left of the democratic services meeting room. All key coded emergency exit doors will automatically disengage when the alarm sounds.

### **The main staircase at the reception atrium MUST NOT be used unless there are no alternative escape routes available**

- Everyone must evacuate the building in a calm and orderly manner and proceed to the Assembly Point.
- Staff and Visitors should leave the building by the nearest available protected fire evacuation route and exit unless prevented by smoke or fire.
- The central feature staircase is NOT a protected escape route and should NOT be used, unless necessary.
- Lifts must not be used during a fire evacuation unless it has been identified that the evacuation lift in the Library is to be used for those persons with mobility issues.
- Members of the public, visitors and contractors should be escorted out of the building.
- Staff / visitors should stand together in teams at the Assembly Point.

### **Toilet**

Should you require the toilet please inform the concierge at Reception who will contact a member of staff to escort you to the nearest facility. Alternatively, if you are in the meeting please inform the Chair or a member of staff.

## **Microphones**

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when invited to speak by the Chair, to ensure you can be heard by the Committee and those in attendance at the meeting.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

A meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee was held on Wednesday 12 February 2025.

**Present:** Cllr Carol Clark (Chair), Cllr Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Emily Tate, Cllr Sally Ann Watson and Cllr Katie Weston.

**Officers:** Majella McCarthy, Vanessa Housley, Mandie Rowlands, Jane Williams, Claire Tiffany, Amit Law (ChS) and Judy Trainer (CS).

**Also in attendance:** None.

**Apologies:** None.

### **CYP/33/24 Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was noted.

### **CYP/34/24 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **CYP/35/24 Minutes**

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **CYP/36/24 Monitoring of Recommendations - Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment**

The Select Committee received action plans in respect of:

- Recommendation 2 – Forge Positive Relationships
- Recommendation 5 – Managing Emotions
- Recommendation 12 – Strengthen Transition Arrangements
- Recommendation 14 – Review Behaviour Policies

Key issues highlighted and discussed:

- The importance of getting feedback from all schools. Officers confirmed that there was a positive working relationship with all schools
- Work was underway to analyse suspension data to understand if there was a correlation with behaviour policies. Some policies were less relational whilst others were more influenced by trauma informed practice. Officers were also working with the Virtual School to understand how much consideration was being given to Children in our Care in Behaviour Policies
- The importance of influencing Academy Trusts and Central Government was highlighted. Officers advised that regular meetings were taking place with the

- DfE; these meetings provided an opportunity to share the ongoing success of the Appreciative Inquiry regionally and nationally
- Members requested details of the local retention of Stockton students in post 16 pathways compared to students educated out of Borough. Officers did not have the information to hand but undertook to provide this to Committee Members.
  - The Council was working with providers to design a strategy to promote post 16 provision to Stockton Secondary Schools. Some pupils were being drawn in by marketing of out of Borough providers although there were equivalent courses on offer in Stockton

AGREED that the action plans be noted.

## **CYP/37/24 Scrutiny Review of Holidays are Fun (HAF)**

The Committee were advised that confirmation had been received from the DfE that all local authorities would receive funding to continue to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food programme into 2025. The Council had received its allocation which was slightly less than the previous year.

The Committee received a presentation setting out feedback from the provider survey and also discussed and agreed questions for consultation and engagement with children and young people during the half term HAF provision.

The presentation on provider feedback outlined:

- Provider survey context
- The survey questions
- Satisfaction with the programme
- The providers
- What's working well
- Improvements
- Future providers
- Feedback from the Celebration Event

Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:

- The provider survey had been sent to 43 providers past and present, 31 responded
- 11 providers worked across Tees Valley and had highlighted things that had worked well in those areas as:
  - Communication
  - Booking System
  - Grant allocations rather than a contract
- Officers were also engaging with Middlesbrough Council to seek ideas on improving and extending reach
- Key improvements highlighted by providers included:
  - Improving the booking system
  - Reviewing the costs per head (for example a tiered approach could be adopted)
  - Ensuring that we are reaching those in most need
  - Reducing none attendees

- Considering funding for children who are not eligible
- Creating opportunities to promote best practice
- Having one application form for all holiday periods
- Improved communication around SEND children so providers can respond to an individual child's needs
- Increasing attendance
- Of the 31 provider responses, 26 said that they would apply for future funding for with HAF or both programmes. Provider reach needed to be improved taking into consideration the feedback
- Stockton Parent Carer Forum had fed back additional comments to inform the approach with children with complex needs
- Auto enrolment of Free School Meals pupils was now being implemented and this would help to identify more eligible children
- Transport to activities was identified as a potential problem and Members discussed how community transport provision might be utilised

The next meeting of the Committee would be an informal session to review the summary of evidence. Further feedback would also be considered at that meeting from:

- Parent Carer Forum
- Northshore Careers Fair
- Engagement with Middlesbrough Council
- Half Term provision

AGREED that the presentation be noted.

**CYP/38/24 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme**

AGREED that the work programme be noted.

Chair.....

This page is intentionally left blank

## Agenda Item

### Children and Young People Select Committee

16 April 2025

## **MONITORING OF RECOMMENDATIONS – SCRUTINY REVIEW OF NARROWING THE GAP IN EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

### **Summary**

Members are asked to consider the approach to monitoring actions in relation to the Appreciative Inquiry into Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment.

### **Detail**

1. The Committee's final report of the Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment was considered by Cabinet in October 2024 who accepted all the recommendations.
2. The benefit of the AI approach has been in the awareness raising of the issues. It has also brought all stakeholders together at events and secured support for agreed objectives and future action.
3. The review culminated in a report setting out 17 recommendations, as follows:

That Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council works collaboratively with partners and key stakeholders to deliver the following shared objectives:

#### **1. Improve attendance**

Support schools to improve attendance:

- Encourage school leaders' use of the Attendance Self Evaluation Toolkit to identify what is working well, and areas which could be developed
- Promote an inclusive and relevant curriculum - where a young person wants to attend
- Work with the Team Around the School Service.
- Ensure that schools are equipped to deal with health issues.
- Identify individual barriers to attendance to better target support and intervention with specific reference to young carers

#### **2. Forge positive relationships**

Ensure that school culture proactively forges positive relationships between pupils, staff and parent/ carers:

- Promote respectful behaviours from all partners including teachers.
- Involve parents in school life.
- Extend opportunities for enhanced transition.

#### **3. Improve communication**

Design, deliver and support parent/carer communication strategies:

- Use new technologies and apps.

- Implement communication strategies early ensuring that good communication is embedded across the school community.
- Consider single points of contact and how best to communicate (not relying on technology alone).
- Offer parent/ carer engagement training for all staff.

#### **4. Identify and support young carers**

- Raise awareness of young carer identification and support for pupils.
- Extend the range of opportunities for young carers to link with others socially.

#### **5. Managing emotions**

Strengthen environment and opportunities for pupils to manage emotions:

- Engage with the Healthy Schools Programme and Healthy Settings Programme
- Design and delivery of courses to meet pupil need and support parents, with specific reference to:
  - managing behaviour effectively.
  - supporting mental health and wellbeing – especially to de-escalate heightened behaviour or to reduce stress levels.
  - positive parenting skills.
- Strengthen the use of pupil voice to support development of school environments which better support them to manage their emotions.

#### **6. Refine teaching strategies**

Further refine teaching strategies to improve lesson enjoyment, encourage speaking and listening and strengthen understanding also ensuring that teaching is tailored to the needs of the individual child.

#### **7. Developing speaking and listening skills**

- Ensure the curriculum and school clubs provide opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills, for example through debating clubs.
- Raise awareness of regional and national opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills

#### **8. Extend enrichment offer**

Strengthen and extend curriculum enrichment offer which better matches pupils needs and interests:

- Extend enrichment to include kick-boxing; boxing; coding; cooking clubs; sports clubs and story.
- Extend and promote the Tees Active Offer to include First Aid, paddle boards (team building) and extend offer within school holidays.
- Engage with the Healthy Schools Programme and Healthy Settings Programme

#### **9. Celebrate achievement**

Extend the range of opportunities to celebrate achievement including recognition for out of school activities and engagement with local, regional and national awards and competitions.

#### **10. Enhance curriculum development**

Work with partners and labour markets, making more explicit links to future employment.

- Innovate a local curriculum.

### **11. Strengthen understanding of career pathways**

Clarify pathways to careers early in school life:

- Design and delivery of courses to clarify current career pathways for pupils and parents, including vocational careers and options other than traditional routes.
- Employment & Training Hub to link with schools to notify parents of apprenticeships events.
- Promote aspirational/motivational approaches.
- Strengthen links between schools/parents/careers advisor.
- Share best practice regarding "careers" evenings/ events in primary and secondary schools.
- Invite parents into school who have unusual careers.
- Educate parents on opportunities post 16.

### **12. Strengthen transition arrangements**

Ensure that transition arrangements better fits bespoke pupil needs, with specific reference to vulnerable pupils:

- Ensure plans are put in place well in advance of any transition.
- Consider transition to post-16 and post-18/19 as well as primary and secondary and school readiness.
- Consider transition between year groups as appropriate.

### **13. Enhance skills to respond to special needs**

Increase range of opportunities to enhance skills in mainstream schools to respond to Special Educational Needs (SEN), Child Protection Plans (CPP) and Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA):

- Share best practice of integrating SEN pupils into mainstream schools.
- Promote vocational opportunities.

### **14. Review behaviour policies**

Review behaviour policies to ensure that they are appropriate and proportionate and that inclusion policies align with behaviour policies:

- What happens when a young person is removed from the classroom. Where do they go? What teaching takes place?

### **15. Embed and extend pastoral support**

Embed and extend pastoral support in schools targeted to need.

- Engage with the Healthy Schools Programme and Healthy Settings Programme.

### **16. Strengthen support for parent/carers to develop language and reading skills**

Design and deliver courses and activities to develop reading and language skills.

- Promote Functional English Courses.
- Invite parents/ carers to support reading groups at primary school.
- Promote reading through free Enrichment/after school clubs.
- Ensure parents understand the importance of reading.
- Use school social media to help parents/carers learn
- Ensure materials are easy read/jargon free to involve parent/carers.
- Key messages being shared from antenatal contact.
- Work with Read Easy Charity - helping people learn to read.

**17. Review cost of living responses to diminish impact**

Review Cost of Living responses to diminish its impact, with specific reference to period poverty, food poverty and school uniform:

- Work with Child Poverty Network.
  - Work with schools to better promote/communicate Cost of Living interventions.
  - Encourage all schools to 'Poverty Proof the School Day'.
4. Given the breadth of the work, a recommendation lead has been identified for each objective and it is the intention that progress updates will be provided at each future Select Committee meeting on particular recommendations with the relevant recommendation lead attending each meeting.
5. At the April meeting, an update will be provided in respect of recommendation 17 (Action Plan attached).

**Name of Contact Officer:** Judy Trainer

**Post Title:** Democratic Services Manager

**Telephone No:** 01642 528158

**Email Address:** [judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk)

**Scrutiny Review Narrowing the Gap of Educational Attainment – Appreciative Inquiry Recommendations Action Plan**

**Recommendation Lead: Haleem Ghafoor**

**Recommendation 17: Review cost of living responses to diminish impact**

**Accountability: CYP Committee Meeting dates**


**Impact Review dates: CYP Select Committee 16 April 2025**

Council Plan objectives being supported:

Creating A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees and reducing inequality

- [Priority one - The best start in life to achieve big ambitions](#)
- [Priority two - Healthy and resilient communities](#)

<b>Strategy</b>			
Proposed Actions / Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date
<p>1. Review Cost of Living responses to diminish its impact, with specific reference to period poverty, food poverty and school uniform:</p>	<p><b>STRATEGY A – ANTI-POVERTY</b></p> <p>The Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan were approved by Cabinet in July 2024 and are a key component of the Council’s Powering Our Futures Communities Mission, which supports the Cost of Living responses.</p> <p>The Strategy 2024 to 2027 can be accessed here:  <a href="https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/15890/Foreword">https://www.stockton.gov.uk/article/15890/Foreword</a></p> <p>The Action Plan can be accessed here:  <a href="https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s8168/Action%20Plan.pdf">https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s8168/Action%20Plan.pdf</a></p> <p>A two-page ‘easy read’ version of the strategy has also been developed.</p>	<p>HG</p>	<p>Sept 2025</p>

	 <p>A list of measurements outlining what will be achieved can be seen in the action plan.</p> <p>A cost of living <a href="#">booklet</a> has also been updated and over 15k copies distributed. The online <a href="#">hub</a> is also regularly updated.</p> <p><b>STRATEGY B – FOOD &amp; HYGIENE/ COST OF LIVING EXAMPLES OF APPROACHES</b></p> <p><b>Food &amp; Hygiene Winter Fund 2024/25</b>          The Food &amp; Hygiene Winter Fund 2024/25 is a Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council grant that offers financial help to projects that provide food, household and personal hygiene products to Stockton-on-Tees residents, and whose on the ground work or activities are based in our local authority area. This includes foodbanks, food clubs, food pantries, community cafés, VCSE organisations and churches for example.  <a href="http://www.stockton.gov.uk/food-aid-fund">www.stockton.gov.uk/food-aid-fund</a></p> <p>To date nearly 50 applications will an allocation of funding.</p> <p>TBBT- The Bread-and-Butter Thing offers high-quality, low-cost food to residents in Stockton-on-Tees.          For £8.50, you can pick up 3 bags of food worth roughly £35 including fresh fruit and veg, chilled food for the fridge, and cupboard staples like cereal. You can also pay just £5 for an individual bag or £17 for a six bag 'family' deal.</p>	<p>HG</p>	<p>March 2025</p>
--	--	-----------	-------------------

	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Hub Location</th> <th>Day</th> <th>Collection Time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Teesside Vineyard Church, Acklam Road <b>Thornaby</b></td> <td>Monday</td> <td>2 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Salvation Army, Palmerston Street <b>Stockton</b></td> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>1.30 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New Life Family Resource Centre, Low Grange <b>Billingham</b></td> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>1 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Redhill Family Hub, Redhill Road <b>Roseworth</b></td> <td>Thursday</td> <td>1 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newtown Community Resource Centre <b>Newtown</b></td> <td>Friday</td> <td>1 p.m.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A Scrutiny review has also taken place on the Cost of Living approach.</p> <p>All SFPN <a href="#">leaflets</a> have also been shared with the Education &amp; Inclusion Team to share with schools to help support them with food and hygiene products and the COL booklet.</p> <p>A new cost of living of living <a href="#">booklet</a> has been developed and circulated. This year a further 10k copies have been distributed. The online cost of living <a href="#">hub</a> also continues to be updated and developed.</p> <p>As a result we have seen a reduction in foodbank usage.</p>	Hub Location	Day	Collection Time	Teesside Vineyard Church, Acklam Road <b>Thornaby</b>	Monday	2 p.m.	The Salvation Army, Palmerston Street <b>Stockton</b>	Tuesday	1.30 p.m.	New Life Family Resource Centre, Low Grange <b>Billingham</b>	Wednesday	1 p.m.	Redhill Family Hub, Redhill Road <b>Roseworth</b>	Thursday	1 p.m.	Newtown Community Resource Centre <b>Newtown</b>	Friday	1 p.m.		
Hub Location	Day	Collection Time																			
Teesside Vineyard Church, Acklam Road <b>Thornaby</b>	Monday	2 p.m.																			
The Salvation Army, Palmerston Street <b>Stockton</b>	Tuesday	1.30 p.m.																			
New Life Family Resource Centre, Low Grange <b>Billingham</b>	Wednesday	1 p.m.																			
Redhill Family Hub, Redhill Road <b>Roseworth</b>	Thursday	1 p.m.																			
Newtown Community Resource Centre <b>Newtown</b>	Friday	1 p.m.																			
<p>2. Work with Child Poverty Network.</p>	<p><b>STRATEGY C - CHILD POVERTY</b></p> <p>The Fairer Stockton-on-Tees &amp; Community Engagement (FSOT &amp; CE) team continue to attend a range of events, webinars and training relating to poverty and the cost of living.</p> <p>The FSOT Team coordinate the Stockton Child Poverty Network, which brings together key Council Officer and external partners to address the main issues affecting the borough’s children and families. Quarterly network events are held in person and guest speakers have included Zarach, bed charity, the North East Child Poverty Commission and the Junction Multibank.</p>	<p>HG</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>																		

	<p>In addition, a member of the FSOT Team is also the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council representative on the North East Child Poverty Commission and sits on the Executive Group. This has provided an opportunity to feed into regional and national discussions on child poverty issues, including the development of a national child poverty strategy.</p> <p>The FSOT &amp; CE Team continue to work with other Local Authorities and relevant external partners on projects. Most recently, there has been ongoing consultation with other Local Authorities, Policy in Practice and the North East Child Poverty Commission throughout the Free School Meals Auto-enrolment project. This will be rolled out early 2025. (Over 300 new children will be benefiting from FSM as a result and schools across the borough will benefit from an annual increase in pupil premium of over £400,000). This also means that more children can access the Holidays are Fun (HAF) programme. Information and updates have been provided to school staff and governors throughout the pilot project and this will continue as the project moves into the next phase.</p> <p>As part of the Christmas Gift nearly 700 parcels were given to families in need. Alongside donating the majority of the gift boxes to the SFPN, requests also came in from a number of organisations who had heard about the project, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Patricks Primary School – identified a family who were going to be spending Christmas in a hostel. We were able to provide this family (and many of the other families identified through schools) with a huge range of toys which we had donated from Dunelm Mill.</li> <li>• Moses Project</li> <li>• Looked After Children</li> </ul>		
--	--	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care leavers</li> <li>• 40 boxes provided to the Homeless event</li> <li>• 15 boxes provided to the Dementia hub</li> <li>• A number of Families identified via schools across the borough</li> </ul> <p>We are also supporting the work of the <a href="#">Multibank</a> which allows professionals to access free goods for families who they may need to support.</p> <p><b>Kit out Campaign</b> – an initiative with Multibank, Children’s Services and FSOT/CET. Aim is to provide donated, new sports equipment and clothing to help families take part in sporting activities together. Multibank are providing the equipment which will be distributed to families via local primaries, again identifying families in need who would not otherwise be able to afford these items and who are missing out on enriching activities that can benefit the family unit and also their physical and mental health.</p> <p><b>Poverty Proofing Prom</b> – a project set up in partnership with the Positive Living Forum, FSOT, BMBF, Children’s Services, Catalyst and local businesses to provide a preloved prom clothing shop, fashion show event, pamper packs, hair demos and vouchers to help young people cover the cost of e.g. getting their hair done for their prom. This is aimed at reducing clothing waste, but also preventing young people from being excluded from their proms because they can’t afford the costs. We are working with schools to identify families who would benefit from such as hair vouchers, so that the support reaches the right people.</p>		
<p>3. Work with schools to better promote/communicate Cost of Living interventions.</p>	<p><b>STRATEGY D – WORKING WITH SCHOOLS</b></p> <p>The Cost of Living <a href="#">booklet</a> has been shared with all schools through the Education &amp; Inclusion team.</p>	<p>HG</p>	<p>Sept 25</p>

	<p>A school uniform <a href="#">action plan</a> has also been drawn up and is being delivered.</p> <p>An update has also been provided to quarterly governors briefing</p>		
4. Encourage all schools to 'Poverty Proof the School Day'.	All schools have also been written to request that recommendations from the review and encouraged to re-evaluate school uniform policies to increase affordability.	HG	April 25
<b>Communication</b>			
Proposed Actions / Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date
	Added value - Regular Cost of Living quarterly newsletters are shared with the Education & Inclusion team to be shared with schools.	HG	Ongoing
<b>Events</b>			
Proposed Actions / Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date
	<p><b>STRATEGY E – EXAMPLES OF EVENTS HELD WITH COMMUNITIES</b></p> <p><b>Going for Gold – July 2024</b>                      Around 1500 residents attended this event on the High Street, accessing support from over 30 agencies. Around 300 items of preloved school uniform distributed, plus 150 brand new items, 500 hygiene products, 500 children’s books. Community Transport brought in 25+ residents from the Clarences.</p> <p><b>Stockton on Tees Health and Wellbeing Festival – Nov 2024</b>                      The festival enabled visitors to gather information on health support, volunteering opportunities, creative activities, wellbeing services, social groups and opportunities to stay active. Over 70 organisations attended the festival to provide valuable advice to the public on a large variety of topics.</p>	HG	MARCH 25

Something New For You

Another Here to Help event will take place focusing on Mental Health & Wellbeing in Billingham in Jan 2025.

We will continue to review / evaluate and put on new events according to need. The next Summer event will be held in the High Street on the 19 July 2025, targeting children and young people through arrange of stalls, arts and creative activities etc.

Ongoing work to help bring communities together through activity such the Community Spaces and Warm Welcomes (as below) where services support our communities, as well as addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness.



Area	When	Where
Roseworth	Mondays 1pm-3pm	Hope Church Centre Ragwort Lane, Roseworth, TS19 9AT
Thornaby	Tuesdays 10am-12pm	Thornaby Pavilion Wrightson House, Thornaby, TS17 9EW
Billingham	Tuesdays 10:30am-12:30pm	Billingham Forum The Causeway, Town Centre, TS23 2LU
Stockton	Wednesdays 10:30am-12pm	<b>NEW LOCATION STARTING 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - 5 WELLINGTON STREET WELLINGTON SQUARE, TS18 1JX</b>
Hartburn	Wednesday 10am-12pm	Hartburn: All Saints Hartburn Village, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 9EB
Thornaby	Thursdays 1pm-3pm	Thornaby Pavilion Wrightson House, Thornaby, TS17 9EW
Newtown	Fridays 10am-1pm	Newtown Community Resource Centre 123, Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 6DE
Salters Lane	Fridays 10am-12pm	Salters Lane Community Centre Hunwick Walk, Stockton on Tees, TS19 8AF

This page is intentionally left blank



## Scrutiny Review of Holidays are Fun

Children and Young People Select Committee, April 2025



# Contents

<b>Select Committee – Membership</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Cllr Carol Clark, Chair</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Original Brief</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>1.0 Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Key Findings.....	8
Recommendations.....	10
<b>2.0 Introduction</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>3.0 Background</b> .....	<b>11</b>
What is the Programme?.....	11
Who is eligible? .....	12
<b>4.0 Evidence</b> .....	<b>12</b>
HAF delivery and organisation .....	12
Expenditure .....	13
Spaces available .....	14
How do we promote the programme?.....	14
Promoting HAF through the Corporate Facebook Account.....	15
Who is participating and how can we maximise attendance by these groups? .....	16
Target Groups .....	16
Barriers .....	16
Early Years and Education Settings.....	17
Booking System.....	17
Providers .....	18
Activities and Food .....	20
Wider Benefits - Links with the Council Plan.....	21
Wider Benefits - Creating Opportunities for our Future Workforce. ....	21
Wider Benefits - Support Outside of Holidays.....	21
Feedback.....	22
Provider Survey.....	22
Feedback from Stockton Parent Carer Forum .....	25
Feedback from Northshore Careers Fair.....	25
Feedback from February 2025 Half Term Provision. ....	26
<b>5.0 Key Findings and Recommendations</b> .....	<b>26</b>
Key Findings.....	27
Recommendations.....	28
<b>Appendix 1</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>Glossary of Terms</b> .....	<b>31</b>



# Select Committee – Membership

**Councillor Carol Clark (Chair)**

**Councillor Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair)**

**Councillor Ray Godwin**

**Councillor David Reynard**

**Councillor Stephen Richardson**

**Councillor Paul Rowling**

**Councillor Emily Tate**

**Councillor Sally Ann Watson**

**Councillor Katie Weston**

## Acknowledgements

The Select Committee thank the following contributors to this review:

- **Mandie Rowlands, Service Lead – School Support and Sufficiency**
- **Jane Williams – Team Manager, School Support**
- **Katie Newton – HAF Co-ordinator**
- **Lucy Owens – Catalyst**
- **Clare Besford - Catalyst**
- **HAF Providers**

Contact Officer

NAME: Judy Trainer, Democratic Services Manager

Tel: 01642 528158

Email: [judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk)

# Foreword

[Add in]

Cllr Carol Clark, Chair



**Councillor  
Carol Clark**  
  
**Chair –  
Children and  
Young People  
Select  
Committee**



**Councillor  
Barbara Inman**  
  
**Vice-Chair –  
Children and  
Young People  
Select  
Committee**

## Original Brief

### Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

Supporting 'our people' to live healthier lives:

- Raising aspirations of our children and young people to achieve economic wellbeing
- Supporting the local economy using local providers to deliver.
- Supporting schools to work during holiday periods, supporting their local communities offering healthy meals and activities to children and young people
- Offer specific and focused provision for children and young people with special educational needs.
- Supporting vulnerable groups such as, children in our care, children in need of help and support, children with additional needs and young carers.

### What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?

HAF is a DfE funded programme that provides activities and healthy meals to children and young people during holiday periods, predominantly for those on benefit related free school meals. It is delivered in partnership through SBC and Catalyst. It involves a range of providers, including schools, delivering a variety of activities.

The programme is aimed at those most in need. Holiday times can be difficult for families especially under the current cost of living crisis. Offering a safe place to go, with fun activities alongside a healthy nutritious meal will help families during long and difficult times of the year. Therefore, it essential that the funding allocated is maximised and provides value for money. The programme is delivered alongside longer term, appropriate support for families.

The money is allocated as a grant for a specific purpose and spend is monitored by the DfE. The programme should offer the opportunity to help more families at an early stage offering help and support beyond the holiday periods leading to short- and longer-term savings. Having a safe place for children to go during holiday periods helps parents who are working to reduce childcare costs, and it also offers the opportunity to work with families who need support to return to work. The Scrutiny Committee could consider if HAF is inclusive of and attended by those families who most need it and the impact that the programme has had on family health and social and economic wellbeing. Other considerations could include:

- How the programme can maximise the involvement of schools and education providers
  - How elected members can promote and encourage eligible members of their communities to engage with the programme
- If the programme is offering value for money as it moves into its final year of national funding

### The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

1. What target groups is the HAF Programme aimed at reaching? Who is participating and how can we maximise attendance by these groups? How can we ensure that the programme is inclusive and maximise impact for children that need it most?
2. What are the barriers to the children with the most need attending?
3. Are we achieving Borough-wide reach? Do we have the right provision in the right area? What is the geographic breakdown of eligible take up and discretionary take up?
4. How can the programme maximise the involvement of schools and education providers?
5. How can elected Members promote and encourage engagement with the programme?

6. What impact has the programme had? What does feedback from families tell us?
7. How are providers chosen? Do we have the right providers and how is this assessed?
8. What feedback has been received from providers, families and children?
9. Do contract management arrangements provide value for money? Could the contract be managed differently?
10. What, if any, improvements should be made to the booking system?
11. How is the programme funded and what are the options for future delivery should central government funding cease?
12. Can the programme support other Council objectives, for example, the promotion of lifelong learning, career aspirations, links to future employment and making sure our young people are work ready?
13. Can our young people, including children in care and care leavers be involved in delivery?
14. Are agencies working together to provide help and support for families who access HAF outside of holidays?
15. Are paid for places making the scheme sustainable and are charges appropriate? Could the programme be extended to those not currently eligible?

**Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:**

- To increase the number of individual children and young people on the uptake of HAF
- To improve offer of the HAF programme ensuring that eligible young people are enabled to attend and are offered fun and appropriate activities, along with a balanced nutritious meal
- To maximise the role of schools and education settings in the planning and delivery of the HAF programme
- To ensure the project is value for money and develop a plan for sustainability beyond current funding
- To ensure provision covers the whole borough and offer is accessible by children in rural areas
- To increase provision for eligible children with additional needs
- To improve provision for eligible young people aged 13 years and over
- To understand how agencies are working together to provide help and support for families who are eligible and accessing HAF, beyond the holiday periods

# 1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is funded by the Department for Education and the Holiday Enrichment Programme (HEP) is funded by Public Health. The Stockton-on-Tees HAF team held a competition to rename the programme and selected “Holidays Are Fun” to remove some of the stigma some parents associated with holiday hunger.
- 1.2. HAF is offered free to school aged children from reception to year 11 who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals.
- 1.3. The two programmes cover the following holiday periods:

Holiday Activities and Food – DfE funded – covers Easter, Summer and Christmas and the provision must be 4 hours a day for at least 4 days a week

Holiday Enrichment Programme – Public Health funded – covers May, October and February and the provision must be 2 hours a day for at least 4 days

## Key Findings

- There are strict criteria from the DfE that 85% of places have to go to those children and young people in receipt of free school meals, and that the prime objective is to ensure that they receive a meal each day during school holidays.
- Criteria from DfE stipulates that the offer is available for all children in receipt of benefits related free school meals. This does not mean all are expected to attend, as the provision is voluntary; the Council therefore has up to 15% of the funding available to offer other vulnerable children a place.
- Funding from public health stipulates that there should be a focus on providing places for those in the top 10 most deprived wards.
- Catalyst had a three-year contract with the Council (which ended on 28 February 2025) to manage providers of the programme. This element of the work has now been brought in house, and it is anticipated that this will generate savings which can be utilised to support additional provision.
- Over 40 local providers have been contracted to provide a variety of activities; some providers have been able to offer multiple provisions meaning there are often over 50 different activities on offer.
- Marketing and engagement activities are carried out by the Council’s Communications Team. Providers, including Roseberry Community Consortium and the Globe also make their own videos and use these to promote their activities.
- The inhouse booking system is not fit for purpose. Through feedback we know:
  - Parents/carers cannot book multiple activities at once. This is time consuming, and frustrating for those with multiple children booking multiple activities.
  - The layout of the booking system is not user friendly, and parents cannot see a list of providers easily, functionality is limited.
  - Parents/carers cannot make ‘accounts’ and receive multiple emails rather than within one place. This is a problem for parents/carers who have booked multiple provisions for different children.
  - Parents/carers and support workers would benefit from making family group booking for providers who are closed provisions – e.g. Harbour

- Take up amongst secondary age children and SEND is low nationally and locally. To work towards addressing this in the Borough, the Council has sought to identify provision for the older age range and introduced SEND only sessions.
- The roll out of auto-enrolment of free school meal programme will help to identify eligible children. There are an additional 340 eligible children to date following implementation of auto enrolment.
- Barriers to participation include:
  - Awareness of programme: professionals and residents still don't know about it, people unaware of eligibility
  - Providers marketing: not tailoring it to align with their own branding and targeting it at their families.
  - Booking system – the booking system does require some basic IT skills and whilst it is simple to use, feedback tells us it is time consuming and not user friendly
  - Household vulnerabilities – households can be chaotic, and parents forget they have booked or do not bring the child
  - Pride/sense of shame accessing the program - some families don't want others to know they receive FSM/benefits/are struggling
  - Physical/logistical barriers – transport, location of activity, choice of activities for whole family
  - Practicalities - e.g. duration of activities. 2- 4 hours might not fit with parent's work/life balance and collecting midway through day could be difficult
  - School attendance and emotional wellbeing – post covid some children have social emotional mental health concerns and not attending school refusers which also prevent them attending HAF
- The team continue to remove barriers for schools being primary delivery partners in HAF, although the practical and logistical challenges of opening during holidays are recognised. One suggestion made by a school was through the programme employ a key holder to take responsibility for the premises, and some staff may choose to take extra hours to support the programme on their premises.
- Partnership working between providers has proved successful to promote lifelong learning
- Some providers have identified ways of extending support outside for the school holidays. For example, Eastern Ravens Trust linked with Roseworth Big Local were able to fund a Family Link Worker position, Iron Guidance continue to provide hampers outside of the holiday period and Billingham Boxing Academy and Budo for Change offer free memberships to talented individuals who would not otherwise be able to take part.
- Providers suggested the following key improvements:
  - Improvements to the Booking System
  - Ensuring that the programme is meeting the children in most need
  - Reviewing costs per head for example with a tiered system better reflecting levels of need
  - Reducing the number of non-attendees
- Other provider feedback included:
  - Funding for children who are not eligible
  - Identify opportunities to promote best practice
  - Introduce one grant application form for all holiday periods
  - Improve communication around SEND children
  - Increase attendance
- Stockton Parent Carer Forum have made suggestions for improving the SEND offer, including the use of specialist schools, shorter sessions and SEND only provision

## Recommendations

1. That the Council continues to develop and promote the HAF programme to the residents of the Borough to ensure that the programme is meeting the needs of children in most need.
2. That the offer for SEND and secondary school children is further developed and promotional materials refreshed to target these children.
3. That the Council works with providers to increase up take in all wards and decrease non-attendance.
4. That consideration be given to how paid for places could be introduced to help make the programme sustainable.
5. That the Council works with schools to remove the barriers to them being primary delivery partners (for example, through the employment of a key holder to take responsibility for the premises, and staff choosing to take extra hours to support the programme on their premises).
6. That the in-house booking system is replaced with a bespoke fit for purpose booking system with functionality to capture appropriate demographic information, including which school the child attends and that this information is used to identify gaps in provision, analyse take up and inform future targeting of promotional activities.
7. That one grant application form be introduced for providers for all holiday periods.
8. That opportunities to link the programme to the curriculum and promote lifelong learning for all the family are enhanced.
9. That a summer school programme is developed with the Careers Team, to create opportunities for young people aged 13 plus to participate in paid employment (within the law).
10. That opportunities are created for post 16 young people to take an active leadership role in the programme, linking in with local colleges who are delivering T levels thereby making the programme more sustainable.
11. That the Council works with providers to extend whole family support outside of the school holidays.
12. That the Council considers how best to collect information around SEND children attending activities to ensure that providers are properly prepared, and children's needs are met when attending sessions.
13. That a mapping exercise is undertaken to ensure that provision is represented across all wards across the whole borough, especially those rural areas.
14. That the potential to explore utilising in house community transport during the school holidays be explored.
15. That the possibility of creating a 'free holiday meals' element of the programme in line with the DfE guidance, utilising our own facilities that are in place during term time be explored along with the opportunity of creating our own 'student' kitchen to provide the meals.

## 2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 This scrutiny topic was proposed by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and was added to the work programme by Executive Scrutiny Committee in March 2024.
- 2.2 The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is funded by the Department for Education and the Holiday Enrichment Programme (HEP) is funded by Public Health. The Stockton-on-Tees HAF team held a competition to rename the programme and selected “Holidays Are Fun” to remove some of the stigma some parents associated with holiday hunger.
- 2.3 HAF is offered free to school aged children from reception to year 11 who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals.
- 2.4 In Stockton-on-Tees there are two programmes:
- Holiday Activities and Food – DfE funded – covers Easter, Summer and Christmas and the provision must be 4 hours a day for at least 4 days a week
  - Holiday Enrichment Programme – Public Health funded – covers May, October and February and the provision must be 2 hours a day for at least 4 days

Both are known locally as the Holidays Are Fun Programme.

- 2.5 The programme is now in its fifth year with funding of £883,540 plus £73,000 from Public Health being confirmed for 2025.

## 3.0 Background

### What is the Programme?

- 3.1 The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is funded by the Department for Education. The Stockton-on-Tees HAF team held a competition to rename the programme and selected “Holidays Are Fun” to remove some of the stigma some parents associated with holiday hunger.
- 3.2 HAF is offered free to school aged children from reception to year 11 who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals. Recognising that families are struggling in the current cost of living crisis, the HAF offer was expanded in Stockton-on-Tees to also include families in receipt of universal credit or in financial difficulty. In addition, vulnerable families open to Children’s Services HAF have been offered places if referred by their support worker. This allows vulnerable children the opportunity to experience enriching activities in holiday periods, whilst also ensuring they are not hungry when they are not able to access a school meal.
- 3.3 There are strict criteria from the DfE that 85% of places have to go to those children and young people in receipt of free school meals, and that the prime objective is to ensure that they receive a meal each day during school holidays.

3.4 The funding from public health stipulates that there should be a focus on providing places for those in the top 10 most deprived wards.

3.5 The aims of the Programme are to:

- receive healthy and nutritious meals
- maintaining a healthy level of physical activity
- being happy, having fun and meeting new friends
- developing a greater understanding of food, nutrition and other health-related issues
- taking part in fun and engaging activities that support their development
- feeling safe and secure
- getting access to the right support services
- returning to school feeling engaged and ready to learn

3.6 HAF is delivered through the main school holidays and offers six weeks of provision with the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week:

- Easter – one week, face to face, minimum of four days
- Summer - at least four weeks, face to face, minimum of 16 days
- Christmas – one week, face to face, minimum of four days

### Who is eligible?

3.7 Although criteria from DfE stipulates that the offer is available for all children in receipt of benefits related free school meals. This does not mean all are expected to attend, as the provision is voluntary; the Council therefore has up to 15% of the funding available to offer other vulnerable children a place.

3.8 The target groups for the programme to reach in Stockton-on-Tees are:

- Children who are in Reception to Year 11 in school, and reside in Stockton-on-Tees
- Children eligible for benefit-related free school meals
- Children who live in our top 10 deprived wards
- Children whose parents/carers are working and in receipt of universal credit or in financial difficulty
- Children who are open to Children Services and vulnerable

## 4.0 Evidence

### HAF delivery and organisation

4.1 In Stockton-on-Tees there is a well-established HAF Steering Group with representation from the Council's Children's Services, Finance, Public Health, Community Engagement, Communications and Marketing, Information Governance.

4.2 The team is structured as follows:

#### **Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council:**

Team Manager – School Support

HAF Programme Co-ordinator

HAF Support Worker  
Admin Support

**Catalyst (up to February 2025):**

Community Projects Manager  
HAF Projects Co-ordinator

4.3 Catalyst had a three-year contract with the Council (which ended on 28 February 2025) to manage providers of the programme. The work with providers is now managed by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

4.4 The HAF Team also work with schools and early years providers.

**Expenditure**

Stockton-on-Tees were granted £916,790 to deliver HAF in 2023-2024. The table below details the breakdown of the actual spend of the funding.

Administrative Expenditure	£88,374
Capital Expenditure	Nil
Programme Expenditure	£788,904
Other Expenditure	£32,408
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b> <b>(For 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)</b>	<b>£909,686</b>

**Grant funding for 2024/25 = £902,890**

**Grant funding for 2025/26 = £883,540**

## Spaces available

Holiday Period	Spaces	No of CYP
Easter 2024	6000	1580
May 2024	700	360
Summer 2024	11000	1700
October 2024	1000	420
Christmas 2024	2500*	680

\* At Christmas pantomime tickets are offered as one day of provision

## How do we promote the programme?

- 4.5 Communications material in 2023 to 2024 included a school communications toolkit, news releases, social media posts, adverts in a local “positive news” newspaper, targeted emails to parents who have previously booked HAF, direct emails to staff working with children and families, printed leaflets, posters and pull up banners displayed in community venues, and adverts on digital screens in Stockton high street and Tees Active leisure venues.
- 4.6 The programme has also been promoted on the Council’s website, in the Keeping You in Touch weekly staff newsletter, and through regular stakeholder communications to town and parish councils. The HAF programme is also highlighted on the Councils cost-of-living advice webpage.
- 4.7 In 2023 the Council commissioned a HAF promotional video, and this has been used extensively to promote the programme since Summer 2023. The video features a range of activities and can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/842802441>
- 4.8 Providers, including Roseberry Community Consortium and the Globe make their own videos and use these to promote their activities.
- 4.9 The programme is promoted through:
- Schools and Early Years (wraparound) settings
  - Attendance at events
  - Family HUBS
  - Providers
  - Social Media
  - Leaflets and posters



## Promoting HAF through the Corporate Facebook Account

4.10 The Council’s Corporate Facebook account has 35,000 followers which have been built up over the last 10 years. A review of data/insights of previous HAF posts demonstrates the posts are getting up to 20,000 reach (this is how many unique users saw the post). Although all these followers won’t be the target audience for HAF, many of them will have family and friends who are interested. Followers regularly tag other people in the comments section of the posts. This means the content is getting shared far and wide, further than the Council’s 35,000 followers.

4.11 Data accessed shows the follower v non follower interaction and up to 60 per cent of interaction on HAF posts is by people who do not follow the SBC Facebook Account. This is because the Council has so many followers who don’t just scroll though, they are actively engaging with the channel and sharing posts with family and friends who aren’t followers.

4.12 A dedicated HAF Facebook account was not recommended because:

- It takes many years to build up a Facebook following
- Regular year around content is needed to keep followers engaged and Facebook’s algorithms favour pages that post regularly
- A dedicated account would only be followed by people who are already interested and engaged with HAF. It wouldn’t effectively reach wider audiences
- If a dedicated account were to be established, it would need to be resourced effectively to ensure comments were responded to in a timely manner and this would be a significant time commitment from the HAF team particularly when bookings were live and the team would be needed operationally

## Who is participating and how can we maximise attendance by these groups?

	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
	<i>EASTER 2023</i>		<i>SUMMER 2023</i>		<i>CHRISTMAS 2023</i>	
FSM-eligible / Non-SEND	771	136	1248	276	523	133
FSM-eligible / SEND	148	32	239	43	129	20
Non-FSM-eligible / Non-SEND	69	29	191	91	99	14
Non-FSM-eligible / SEND	20	0	54	22	25	12
<b>TOTAL HAF funded attendees</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1732</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>TOTAL HAF funded as a %</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>TOTAL SEND attendees as a %</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>18%</b>

- 4.13 Secondary aged young people take up was low both nationally and locally - using this information partners had been asked to identify provision that could provide activities for the older age range only (e.g. Billingham Boxing & Tees Active).
- 4.14 Children and young people with SEND is another area with low take up and working with local providers Daisy Chain and Five Lamps, SEND only sessions were introduced. This had more than doubled the offer for SEND children. Training sessions and online awareness for SEND had been offered to all providers and the Stockton Parent Carer Forum had helped to educate on inclusivity. An additional one to one support fund had also been made available for all providers to support children with complex needs

### Target Groups

- 4.15 The programme is free to all eligible children, and the Council continue to identify children who would benefit from the funded places. This will be further supported by the roll out of auto-enrolment of free school meal programme. There are an additional 441 eligible children to date following implementation of auto enrolment.
- 4.16 As further funding is confirmed by the Department of Education the eligibility criteria may be changed, and the Council would need to adapt the programme accordingly.
- 4.17 Consideration could made for paid places to make the programme sustainable and enable parents to move towards being work ready.

### Barriers

- 4.18 Identified barriers to participation included:
- **Awareness of programme:** professionals and residents still don't know about it, people unaware of eligibility
  - **Providers marketing:** not tailoring it to align with their own branding and targeting it at their families

- **Booking system** – the booking system does require some basic IT skills and whilst it is simple to use, feedback tells us it is time consuming and not user friendly
- **Household vulnerabilities** – households can be chaotic, and parents forget they have booked or do not bring the child
- **Pride/sense of shame accessing the programme** - some families don't want others to know they receive FSM/benefits/are struggling
- **Physical/logistical barriers** – transport, location of activity, choice of activities for whole family
- **Practicalities** - e.g. duration of activities. 2- 4 hours might not fit with parent's work/life balance and collecting midway through day could be difficult
- **School attendance and emotional wellbeing** – post covid some children have social emotional mental health concerns and not attending school refusers which also prevent them attending HAF

## Early Years and Education Settings

4.19 The Council's HAF Team sits within the School Support Team, which means that the two teams work together to promote HAF within schools. The team continue to remove barriers for schools being primary delivery partners in HAF, although the practical and logistical challenges of opening during holidays are recognised. The team are working to build relationships with key staff members, and this remains a high priority. In the main summer holiday period schools often have maintenance or building work undertaken, plus staff are employed term time only. One suggestion made by a school was employ a key holder through the programme to take responsibility for the premises, with some staff choosing to take extra hours to support the programme on their premises.

## Booking System

4.20 There is currently a digital in-house solution, with a call back service. The HAF team also attend events to book children onto the activities. Bookings open approx. four weeks before the holiday period and all bookings are verified using the eligibility criteria.

4.21 It is recognised that the booking system is not fit for purpose, and the Council have started the market engagement process. The Council continuously review and revise the customer journey, and a recent example was the wording around SEND and eligibility, including a dedicated space for SEND activities. Through feedback we know:

- Parents/carers cannot book multiple activities at once. This is time consuming, and frustrating for those with multiple children booking multiple activities.
- The layout of the booking system is not user friendly, and parents cannot see a list of providers easily, functionality is limited.
- Parents/carers cannot make 'accounts' and receive multiple emails rather than within one place. This is a problem for parents/carers who have booked multiple provisions for different children.
- Parents/carers and support workers would benefit from making family group booking for providers who are closed provisions – e.g. Harbour

4.22 Some feedback from parents has been actioned and search features have been added such as filter by age, nature of activity, provider name, location and date. This is working well and helps the families find the right activity for their child.

## Providers

- 4.23 The Council previously worked with Catalyst to identify potential providers and contracted with over 40 local providers who offer a variety of activities, some providers were able to offer multiple provisions, meaning there was often over 50 different activities to offer.
- 4.24 Applications are made through an online process and a panel agree or decline the application based on the criteria. All providers have quality assurance visits throughout the holiday periods.
- 4.25 These providers include schools, family hubs, charities, childcare providers, and private companies.
- 4.26 The HAF providers worked hard providing engaging, enriching activities in safe, welcoming environments where children had fun and could make new friends.
- 4.27 Community groups who run well attended activities are actively identified within deprived areas/groups. Upon receipt of applications from providers, a panel is held where the location and type of activity is considered.
- 4.28 Provision is assessed based upon previous quality assurance visits and utilisation of places. Provider forums are held after each holiday where the opportunity is given to those involved to identify not only gaps in their offer, but the programme itself. Monitoring arrangements also seek feedback from families and young people to understand what they would like to see offered.
- 4.29 There was a wide range of activities on offer for children and young people in Stockon-on-Tees, including:
- Horse riding
  - Martial arts and boxing
  - Swimming
  - Arts and crafts
  - Dance
  - Football
  - Ice skating
  - Go Climb
  - Bushcraft
  - Paddleboarding
  - Film making and podcasts
  - Music
  - Cinema club
  - Sports



Horse Riding at Stainsby Stud

Archery at School Our Sport In



Arts and Crafts at Hardwick In Partnership

Cooking at Outdoor Ambition

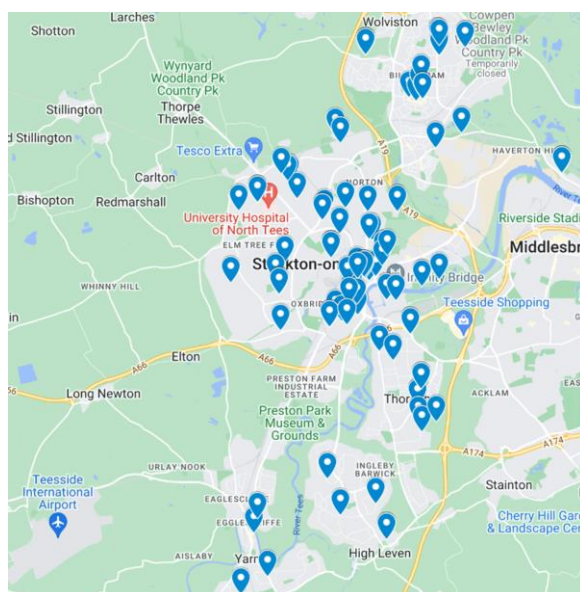


4.30 Warburtons have donated thousands of bread products and The Globe offer young people in year 9 and up a unique and hands-on experience in the world of theatre.

4.31 Providers in 2023/34 are set out below:

ARC Stockton	Outdoor Ambition
BCT Aspire	ReGenerate - Hope for Autism CIC
Billingham Boxing Academy	Roseberry Community Consortium
Budo For Change	Purple Door Studio
Cornerhouse	School's Out Sport's In
Daisy Chain	School's Out Sport's In Shine
Eastern Ravens Trust	Simon Carson Sports School
Family Action	Sporting Chance
Family Hubs	Stainsby Gymnastics
Five Lamps	Stainsby Stud Riding School
Football Fun Factory	Tees Active
Groundwork NE and Cumbria	Rosedene Nurseries
Harbour Support Services	Mill Lane Primary
Hardwick In Partnership	Tilery Primary School
Iron Guidance	High Clarence Primary School
Lisa McGee Education Ltd	Bowesfield Primary School
Live It and Get Active	Layfield Primary School

4.32 The following map illustrates the spread of provision across the Borough:



## Activities and Food

- 4.33 All providers involved in the HAF programme were asked to offer enriching activities, a minimum of 60 minutes physical activity per session and a hot (where possible) nutritious meal that met the school food standards. In addition, providers were asked to deliver education around healthy lifestyle and food choices. Providers met these requirements, and some went over and above, delivering cookery sessions or food workshops or sending home simple recipe cards or meal ideas for children and young people to follow with parents. During the summer HAF provision, children also received a PotGang home growing kit to take home and grow their own vegetables.
- 4.34 Stockton-on-Tees were fortunate to be supported generously by Warburtons during 2023-2024 which allowed providers to offer an extra meal or snack and carry out a food education activity with children such as making pizzas and sandwiches. Providers also accessed donations and support from other organisations including major supermarket chains and local food providers.
- 4.35 All providers who helped deliver HAF during 2023-2024 ensured signposting and referrals were made for families and their children and young people where applicable. Providers displayed information, had leaflets or flyers for distribution and some made folders of information about local services.
- 4.36 To ensure all providers met the requirements of the programme they were visited by both Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Catalyst during each holiday period, with quality assurance checks carried out to ensure all guidelines were being adhered to. If there were areas for improvement these were noted and fed back to providers.

### Wider Benefits - Links with the Council Plan

4.37 Partnership working between providers has proved successful to promote lifelong learning with subjects such as money management, cooking, costume design, first aid, managing mental health and many more. Great examples of this are:

- [Groundwork Moneywise partnership](#)
- [Family Action link with Barclays Life Skills programme](#)
- [Simon Carson Sports Schools Game of Actual Life \(GOAL\) programme](#)
- [HIP slow cooking courses](#)
- [Emily Wratten Dance costume and set design](#)

4.38 There are plans to develop a work experience programme within the Careers Team, to create opportunities for young people aged 13 plus to participate in paid employment (within the law).

### Wider Benefits - Creating Opportunities for our Future Workforce.

4.39 Schools Out Sports In (SOSI) run a Young Leaders programme with past attendees who have aged out of the activity offer who have expressed an interest in being involved with a level of responsibility.

“We have really enjoyed being sports leaders again this summer, I like helping all the coaches set up new activities and joining in with all the other children in all the games. I enjoy helping the young children play games on a breaktimes and over lunch”

"Beatrice has come home full of confidence every day. Thank you for supporting her this summer, the change in her has been incredible.”

### Wider Benefits - Support Outside of Holidays

4.40 Eastern Ravens Trust through their work during HAF recognised a significant need to extend their work with families in Roseworth outside of the holidays. Catalyst linked them in with Roseworth Big Local who were able to fund a Family Link Worker position.

4.41 Iron Guidance have continuously provided hampers to support families beyond the holidays with items such as winter warmers, food and household items. By working alongside Billingham Town Council they have identified families most in need and have been able to continue a strong relationship with them.

4.42 Billingham Boxing Academy and Budo for Change are organisations who have recognised talented individuals both inside and outside their facility that wouldn't be able to normally afford sport and have offered reduced and free memberships to them.

4.43 Our providers understand the importance of linking and referring families into other agencies for support outside of HAF where necessary. The Providers Forums are utilised to provide regular

updates and information regarding services available in the area and providers are encouraged to share with parents where appropriate.

- 4.44 It is important that the Council continues to respond to the needs of the families as circumstances change.

### Feedback

- 4.45 As part of the review, feedback was sought from children and families as well as providers. The Stockton Parent Carer Forum was also asked for their views. Details are set out below. In addition, comments from children and families collated are set out at Appendix 1.

### Provider Survey

- 4.46 A Provider Survey was sent to 43 providers past and present. The Consultation ran November 2024 to 31 January 2025

- 4.47 31 responses received, of which:

- 0 had delivered Holiday Enrichment Programme (HEP) (Public Health funded) only
- 14 had delivered Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) (DfE funded) only
- 17 had delivered HAF and HEP

- 4.48 Of the 14 providers who had delivered HAF only, five had delivered 8 or more holiday provisions (from 2021). Of the 17 providers who had delivered HAF and HEP, eleven had delivered 8 or more holiday provisions (from 2021). 8 providers have delivered 4 or less HAF and HEP holiday provisions

- 4.50 The survey questions were:

- Who did you liaise with regarding the Holidays Are Fun Programme?
- Rate your satisfaction for communication and relationship?
- What organisation type are you?
- Have you worked with other LA's?
- What worked well in other LA's?
- What works well in Stockton-on-Tees?
- Could we improve the service in Stockton-on-Tees – 18 options including other?
- Do you plan to apply for future funding?
- Provide additional feedback
- Can we contact you – if so, how?

- 4.51 Of the 31 providers, 27 had worked with Catalyst and further analysis shows:

Relationship with Catalyst

22 – Very satisfied

2 – Fairly satisfied

1 – Neither satisfied or dissatisfied

1 – Fairly dissatisfied

1 – Very dissatisfied

Communication with Catalyst

22 – Very satisfied

2 – Fairly satisfied

2 – Fairly dissatisfied

1 – Very dissatisfied

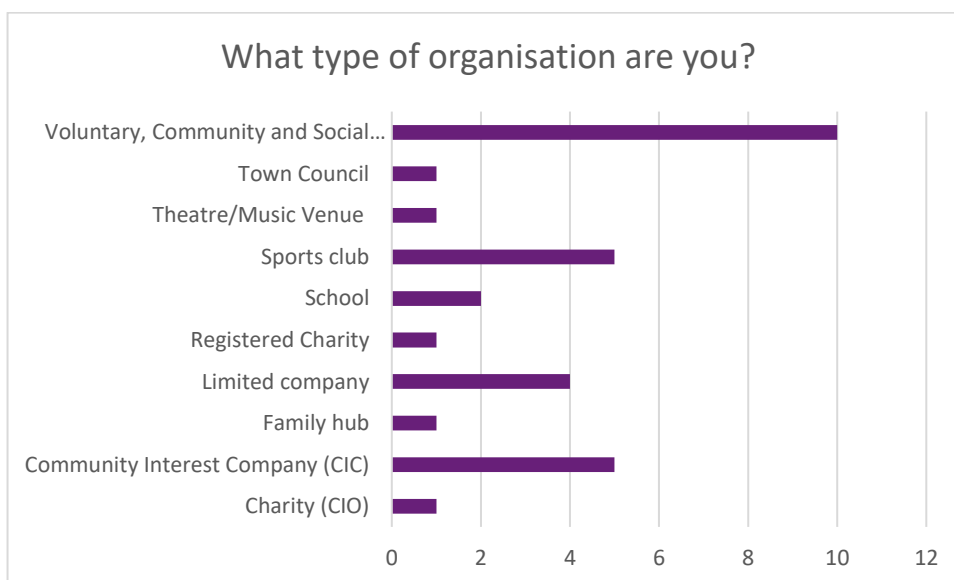
4.52 Of the 31 providers, 4 had worked with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and further analysis shows:

Relationship with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

4 – Very satisfied

Communication with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

4 – Very satisfied



4.53 11 providers had worked across the Tees Valley with 6 working across all 5 Local Authorities. Feedback about what is working well in other Local Authorities included:

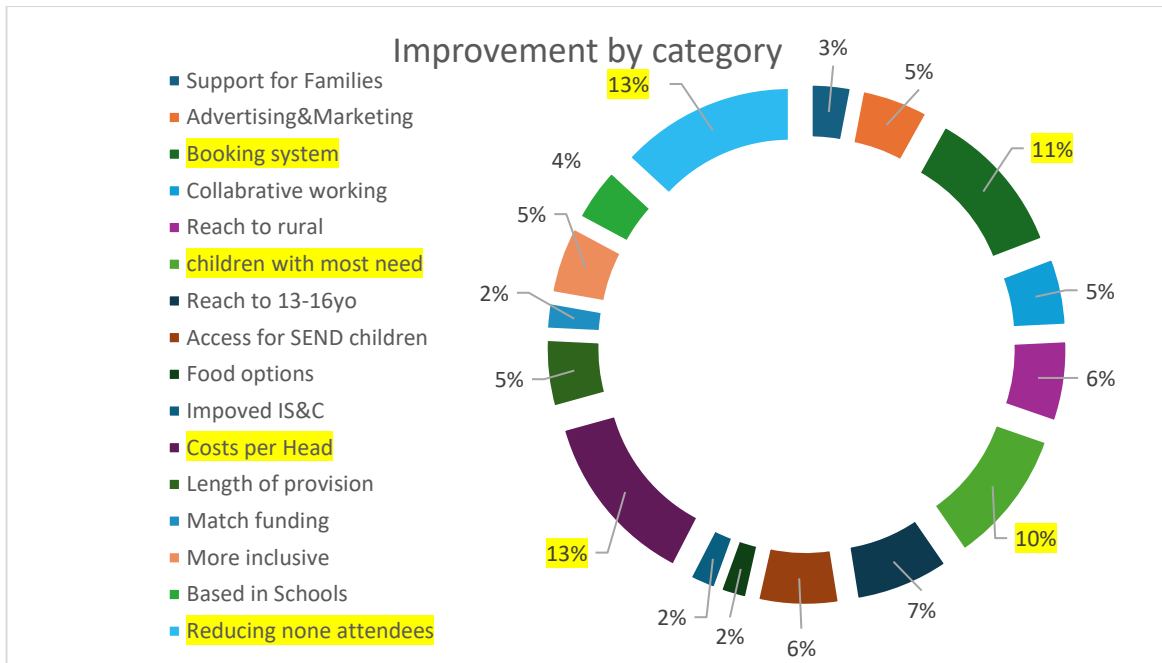
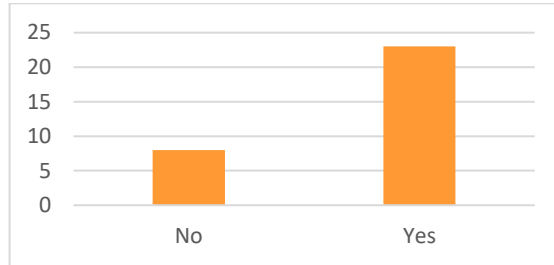
- Communication
- Booking system
- Grant allocations

4.54 The following was working well:

- Making a difference to children and young people who need the provision
- Working in partnership with other providers
- Networking meetings to share ideas
- We have a great variety of providers – which we can build on
- Knowing I can pick the phone up and speak to a member of the HAF Team
- High quality providers

- Fantastic opportunities for families
- Warburtons donations
- Being able to move the provision to where the demand is
- Enriching activities that would not ordinarily be available to all children

4.55 Could we improve the programme?



4.56 Other feedback included:

- Funding for children who are not eligible
- Opportunity to promote best practice
- One grant application form for all holiday periods
- Improved communication around SEND children
- How can we increase attendance

4.57 Of the 31 provider responses, 26 said they will apply for future funding for either HAF or Both programmes. We need to improve our provider reach taking into consideration the feedback.

## Feedback from Stockton Parent Carer Forum

4.58 The Parent Carer Forum commented that access to SEN specific activities appeared to be targeted at the same parents / children who attend, which is an issue for parents whose children cannot access the closed booking system. They also suggested approaching specialist schools to run a HAF programme or work in partnership with an outside provider. Other suggestions included:

- Swimming pool SEND sessions only
- Gymnastics – SEND sessions only
- SEND only sessions available for booking
- Velocity – Billingham
- Soft play – anywhere specific SEND sessions
- Two-hour sessions support more children attending and be more accessible to more children
- The ability to book paid places would be appreciated
- Booking system needs to be more accessible to look for activities by area

4.59 As a result of feedback, discussions took place in March 2025 with Tees Active. Following these discussions, Tees Active will offer:

- Quiet Swim session
- Quiet bio bounce
- Quiet climb
- Calm paddle board

4.60 The Council is also in discussion with Stainsby Gymnastics regarding summer provision.

## Feedback from Northshore Careers Fair

4.61 The opportunity is taken to seek feedback from children and young people at other events. For example, at the Northshore Careers Fair in February 2025, the following activities were suggested for future HAF programmes:

- Arts and crafts
- Netball
- Law session
- ICT
- Basketball
- Rugby
- Football
- Table Tennis
- Badminton
- Charity football tournament
- Pool
- Darts
- Rowing
- Baking
- Cookery
- Concert
- Go carting
- Jump 360
- Ninja Warrior
- Indoor skiing Indoor ski diving

- Hair and makeup
- Paddleboarding

### Feedback from February 2025 Half Term Provision.

4.62 In February half term, the team engaged with 143 children and young people: age range 6-16 years. Headline feedback revealed for following:

How do you like to spend your time in the school holidays?

- 32% Sports
- 28% Socialising
- 14% Relaxing

Are there any activities you can't usually access that you would like to do in the school holidays?

- 27% Gym
- 17% Football/Sports
- 10% Makeup/Hair styling

How do you get to the HAF programme?

- 38% Walk
- 30% Get dropped off
- 13% Public transport

Are there any holiday activities you would like to attend that you think would help with employment in the future?

- 31% Volunteering
- 23% Sports Leader
- 10% Customer Service/Hospitality

## 5.0 Key Findings and Recommendations

- 5.1. The HAF programme provides much needed support to children and families in need over holiday periods and feedback illustrates that the programme is highly valued. Work continues to ensure that the programme is meeting the needs of children in most need and it is encouraging that auto-enrolment of free school meals is helping to identify eligible children. Providers have a good working relationship with the Council and children benefit from taking part in a wide variety of activities, many of which they would otherwise be unable to due to cost. In addition, the programme offers the opportunities for lifelong learning and has been a vehicle for providing support outside of holiday periods.
- 5.2. The Select Committee acknowledges the contribution from Public Health which enables the programme to also operate during half term periods. The Select Committee are also mindful that ongoing Government funding is uncertain and consideration needs to be given making the programme sustainable in the longer term, for example, through the introduction of some paid for places.

## Key Findings

- There are strict criteria from the DfE that 85% of places have to go to those children and young people in receipt of free school meals, and that the prime objective is to ensure that they receive a meal each day during school holidays.
- Criteria from DfE stipulates that the offer is available for all children in receipt of benefits related free school meals. This does not mean all are expected to attend, as the provision is voluntary; the Council therefore has up to 15% of the funding available to offer other vulnerable children a place.
- Funding from public health stipulates that there should be a focus on providing places for those in the top 10 most deprived wards.
- Catalyst had a three-year contract with the Council (which ended on 28 February 2025) to manage providers of the programme. This element of the work has now been brought in house, and it is anticipated that this will generate savings which can be utilised to support additional provision.
- Over 40 local providers have been contracted to provide a variety of activities; some providers have been able to offer multiple provisions meaning there are often over 50 different activities on offer.
- Marketing and engagement activities are carried out by the Council's Communications Team. Providers, including Roseberry Community Consortium and the Globe also make their own videos and use these to promote their activities.
- The inhouse booking system is not fit for purpose. Through feedback we know:
  - Parents/carers cannot book multiple activities at once. This is time consuming, and frustrating for those with multiple children booking multiple activities.
  - The layout of the booking system is not user friendly, and parents cannot see a list of providers easily, functionality is limited.
  - Parents/carers cannot make 'accounts' and receive multiple emails rather than within one place. This is a problem for parents/carers who have booked multiple provisions for different children.
  - Parents/carers and support workers would benefit from making family group booking for providers who are closed provisions – e.g. Harbour
- Take up amongst secondary age children and SEND is low nationally and locally. To work towards addressing this in the Borough, the Council has sought to identify provision for the older age range and introduced SEND only sessions.
- The roll out of auto-enrolment of free school meal programme will help to identify eligible children. There are an additional 340 eligible children to date following implementation of auto enrolment.
- Barriers to participation include:
  - Awareness of programme: professionals and residents still don't know about it, people unaware of eligibility
  - Providers marketing: not tailoring it to align with their own branding and targeting it at their families.
  - Booking system – the booking system does require some basic IT skills and whilst it is simple to use, feedback tells us it is time consuming and not user friendly
  - Household vulnerabilities – households can be chaotic, and parents forget they have booked or do not bring the child
  - Pride/sense of shame accessing the program - some families don't want others to know they receive FSM/benefits/are struggling
  - Physical/logistical barriers – transport, location of activity, choice of activities for whole family
  - Practicalities - e.g. duration of activities. 2- 4 hours might not fit with parent's work/life balance and collecting midway through day could be difficult
  - School attendance and emotional wellbeing – post covid some children have social emotional mental health concerns and not attending school refusers which also prevent them attending HAF
- The team continue to remove barriers for schools being primary delivery partners in HAF, although the practical and logistical challenges of opening during holidays are recognised. One suggestion made by a school was through the programme employ a key holder to take responsibility for the

premises, and some staff may choose to take extra hours to support the programme on their premises.

- Partnership working between providers has proved successful to promote lifelong learning
- Some providers have identified ways of extending support outside for the school holidays. For example, Eastern Ravens Trust linked with Roseworth Big Local were able to fund a Family Link Worker position, Iron Guidance continue to provide hampers outside of the holiday period and Billingham Boxing Academy and Budo for Change offer free memberships to talented individuals who would not otherwise be able to take part.
- Providers suggested the following key improvements:
  - Improvements to the Booking System
  - Ensuring that the programme is meeting the children in most need
  - Reviewing costs per head for example with a tiered system better reflecting levels of need
  - Reducing the number of non-attendees
- Other provider feedback included:
  - Funding for children who are not eligible
  - Identify opportunities to promote best practice
  - Introduce one grant application form for all holiday periods
  - Improve communication around SEND children
  - Increase attendance
- Stockton Parent Carer Forum have made suggestions for improving the SEND offer, including the use of specialist schools, shorter sessions and SEND only provision

## Recommendations

1. That the Council continues to develop and promote the HAF programme to the residents of the Borough to ensure that the programme is meeting the needs of children in most need.
2. That the offer for SEND and secondary school children is further developed and promotional materials refreshed to target these children.
3. That the Council works with providers to increase up take in all wards and decrease non-attendance.
4. That consideration be given to how paid for places could be introduced to help make the programme sustainable.
5. That the Council works with schools to remove the barriers to them being primary delivery partners (for example, through the employment of a key holder to take responsibility for the premises, and staff choosing to take extra hours to support the programme on their premises).
6. That the in-house booking system is replaced with a bespoke fit for purpose booking system with functionality to capture appropriate demographic information, including which school the child attends and that this information is used to identify gaps in provision, analyse take up and inform future targeting of promotional activities.
7. That one grant application form be introduced for providers for all holiday periods.
8. That opportunities to link the programme to the curriculum and promote lifelong learning for all the family are enhanced.
9. That a summer school programme is developed with the Careers Team, to create opportunities for young people aged 13 plus to participate in paid employment (within the law).
10. That opportunities are created for post 16 young people to take an active leadership role in the programme, linking in with local colleges who are delivering T levels thereby making the programme more sustainable.
11. That the Council works with providers to extend whole family support outside of the school holidays.

12. That the Council considers how best to collect information around SEND children attending activities to ensure that providers are properly prepared, and children's needs are met when attending sessions.
13. That a mapping exercise is undertaken to ensure that provision is represented across all wards across the whole borough, especially those rural areas.
14. That the potential to explore utilising in house community transport during the school holidays be explored.
15. That the possibility of creating a 'free holiday meals' element of the programme in line with the DfE guidance, utilising our own facilities that are in place during term time be explored along with the opportunity of creating our own 'student' kitchen to provide the meals.

# Appendix 1

## What children have said:

"I love coming here because it's like a family and I even have a NEW best friend here!" – age 8

"I love it that there's other teenagers here and we can do classes that are for our age group. I have learned lots and I'm definitely fitter and stronger now, I think it's been really good because normally I would be bored or sitting at home and this summer I have kept really fit and made new mates at camp" – age 14

"I love it that we get to help make the food because I learned how to make lots of new healthy meals and snacks! The training and all of the activities are really fun!" – age 12

"I didn't think I could get a job that I liked when I'm older really. But I think if I do something like designing phones I might actually like working. Don't want to just do something boring. But it's good to know that like, I can be able to do something bigger!"

'I have LOVED every day of this week! I loved our movie, and I do hope that this continues. Thanks everyone! 'This HAF project is amazing! Usually experiences like this are rare and unaffordable so please continue to fund HAF!'

## What parents have said:

"It's lovely to see activities that older children and teenagers can enjoy. There's not usually much for them. They always come out looking happy and sweating! "

"I haven't seen my daughter this happy in a long time. It's been so good for her mental health"

"Just to say thanks to you and others involved in organising the summer holiday programme - my son attended various different activities and thoroughly enjoyed the experience"

"I have noticed a visible improvement in my teenager's mental health, keeping active and being around other kids, their own age is so important. They had so much fun and would love to come back!"

"Holidays can be a struggle financially and mentally. It's hard to keep them entertained because everything costs money, especially when you have more than one child. It was so nice to know the kids were having fun with their friends, keeping fit and learning new skills, having a good meal and just enjoying their holidays. It was a huge weight off my shoulder. The provider made the whole family feel very welcome."

## Glossary of Terms

<b>DfE</b>	<b>Department for Education</b>
<b>HAF</b>	<b>Holiday, Activities and Food Holidays are Fun</b>
<b>HEP</b>	<b>Holiday Enrichment Programme</b>
<b>SBC</b>	<b>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council</b>
<b>SEND</b>	<b>Special Educational Needs and Disability</b>



This page is intentionally left blank

**Children and Young People Select Committee  
Work Programme – 2025-2026**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Attending</b>
16 April 2025	Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Monitoring  Scrutiny Review of HAF Final Report	Haleem Ghafoor Vanessa Housley  Mandie Rowlands
14 May 2025	Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Monitoring  Additionally Resourced SEND Provision – Scope and Project Plan	Mandie Rowlands Vanessa Housley  Elisha Dyball
11 June 2025	Scrutiny Review of HAF – Action Plan  Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Monitoring  Additionally Resourced SEND Provision - Evidence	Mandie Rowlands  Kellie Wigley Vanessa Housley  Elisha Dyball
16 July 2025	Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Monitoring  Additionally Resourced SEND Provision – Evidence	Craig Taylor Vanessa Housley  Elisha Dyball
17 September 2025	Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Monitoring  Additionally Resourced SEND Provision – Evidence	Mandie Rowlands Vanessa Housley  Elisha Dyball
15 October 2025	Additionally Resourced SEND Provision – Evidence	Elisha Dyball
12 November 2025	Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Monitoring  Additionally Resourced SEND Provision – Draft Recommendations	Gill McCleave Vanessa Housley  Elisha Dyball
17 December 2025	Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Monitoring  Additionally Resourced SEND Provision – Final Report	Sharon Stevens Vanessa Housley  Elisha Dyball
14 January 2026	Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Monitoring	Claire Tiffany Vanessa Housley

11 February 2026	Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Monitoring	Mandie Rowlands Vanessa Housley
11 March 2026	Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment – Monitoring	Haleem Ghafoor Vanessa Housley

**Items to be scheduled each year**

**Annual**

Overview of Children and Young People’s Services and Annual Safeguarding Report

**Quarterly**

Children and Young People Performance Reports

**Progress Updates**

Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Relationships TBC  
Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment - Ongoing