

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Holidays are Fun

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Holidays are Fun
Link Officer/s:	Mandie Rowlands
Action Plan Agreed:	June 2025

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 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.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands HAF Team SEND Assessment and Review Team Communications Team
Date:	March 2026
Agreed Action:	Take baseline figures to determine take up for last 3 years Attend school assemblies, parents evening and community activities to promote and sign up Undertake a pupil and parent/carers survey to determine baseline knowledge of the programme Youth Forum consultation Develop appropriate materials to meet with individual needs; • Culture • Language • Age Appropriate • SEND
Agreed Success Measure:	20% Increased uptake in the overall programme year on year 50% Increased uptake by young people aged 13years plus 10% Increased uptake by children with SEND year on year Parents/carers and Children are aware of the programme Schools identify targeted families who will benefit from the programme
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Increased uptake of unique number of children Increased uptake of spaces for secondary aged children – Easter 36%, Summer 21% Increased attended for SEND children (9%) Attending school-based events eg open evening for Y6-Y7, parents' evenings

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Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Decreased numbers of 'did not attend' Awareness of programme has increased when talking to parents Increased knowledge in workforce

Recommendation 2:	That the offer for SEND and secondary school children is further developed and promotional materials refreshed to target these children.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands SEND Assessment and Review Team HAF Team Communications Team
Date:	July 2026
Agreed Action:	Complete a needs analysis of gaps in provision Identification of SEND specific providers Work with SEND colleagues who have links with SENCO's Create a young person focus group to gather the views of young people Link with the SEND young person focus group Refresh the TEEN offer – using a festival style approach Provider CPD Training to be identified
Agreed Success Measure:	Mainstream providers are inclusive and flexible Increase in SEND providers by 4 Production of materials that will inform children and young people with SEND about the offer 50% Increased uptake by young people aged 13years plus
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	SEND provision has increased in both universal offer and SEN specialist providers Feedback from Stockton Parent Carer Forum informed the programme Children feedback evidenced inclusivity Quality Assurance visits evidenced inclusive provisions across the borough
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Increase number of new children to the programme – Summer 2026 we had 600 new children Provider feedback includes increased staff confidence in working with a broad range of children DfE feedback (Lynn Brumpton) who spent a day with Tees Active "I wanted to extend my gratitude for allowing me to visit the HAF Go Climb provision for children with SEND at Billingham Forum last Friday. It was truly a delightful experience, and I could see firsthand how welcomed and safe the children felt, this sense of security undoubtedly contributed to a positive and enjoyable experience for them"

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Recommendation 3:	That communications with town and parish councils are reviewed and strengthened.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands Communications Team HAF Team Mandie Rowlands HAF Team
Date:	February 2026
Agreed Action:	Meet with internal comms and marketing team to discuss options All HAF promotional materials are shared with councillors and cabinet members All HAF promotional materials are shared with link person in town and parish council office All social media posts to be shared by councillors
Agreed Success Measure:	HAF programme PowerPoint is delivered at members briefing Comms plan is produced and implemented HAF Team meet with link person in all wards who can lead in the promotion of the programme
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	HAF materials have been revised, taking into consideration the corporate guidelines Promotional materials are emailed to all councillors through the council-maintained distribution list Town and Parish council email distribution list has been created and used at every holiday programme launch date
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1- Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Raising the profile of the programme Children and Young People Cabinet member participated in quality assurance visits Other lead members have participating in quality assurance visits

Recommendation 4:	That the Council works with providers to increase up take in all wards and decrease non-attendance.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands HAF Team
Date:	March 2026
Agreed Action:	Procure new booking system that has built in reminders Work with schools, HAF and youth providers to promote the HAF programme Monitor non-attenders and work with families to understand the barriers
Agreed Success Measure:	20% Increased uptake in the programme

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	50% Increased uptake by young people aged 13years plus 10% Increased uptake by children with SEND
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Provider numbers are increasing with new providers, including schools, now participating in the programme Established providers have expanded there offer to be fully inclusive Workforce training has been offered to offer providers
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Increased confidence in the workforce delivering HAF Increased confidence in parents/carers booking children on to the programme Feedback from children has evidence that the programme has improved their friendship groups and reduced social isolation

Recommendation 5:	That consideration be given to how paid for places could be introduced to help make the programme sustainable.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands A Fairer Stockton Team HAF Team
Date:	March 2026
Agreed Action:	Undertake a needs analysis across the borough to identify the need and gaps in provision Understand which children would benefit from paid or subsidised places – discretionary spaces Gather community knowledge and what provision is offered on a paid place basis
Agreed Success Measure:	Identification of wards that have high need and low provision – sufficiency Creating affordable spaces for families who do not qualify under the current criteria The local authority has an overall picture of all holiday activity
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	School aged childcare programme identified HAF as a potential area for expansion for working parents Eight providers offering paid places in line with the agenda around school aged childcare Providers are working with Ofsted to become registered New webpage to promote paid places Mapping exercise undertaken to identify gaps in provision across the borough
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved This piece of work is ongoing and further 2 years DfE funding has been announced to support this work.
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	More providers have Ofsted registration More children have access to the programme of activities

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	More working parents can access funding to support childcare
Recommendation 6:	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).
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands School Support Team HAF Team Healthy Schools Team
Date:	October 2025
Agreed Action:	Undertake a mapping exercise to identify the schools with the highest level of FSM – Primary and Secondary Undertake a mapping exercise to identify the wards with the highest level of FSM Heat map the two sets of data to identify targeted schools Work within the cluster model to identify schools that could be lead delivery partner Work with schools that are offering HAF onsite and understand the logistics of running your own HAF Engage the schools with an ARP/SEND unit
Agreed Success Measure:	Increase schools partaking as delivery partners by 2 year on year Increased provision in wards with the most need Increased uptake by children who attend local school and live locally
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Heat map exercise undertaken (Summer 2025) Increased number of school sites with HAF provision Collaboration between maintained and trust school personnel and community providers Ongoing discussions with trusts and PVI – this is now core business
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Children have access to good quality provision within their community Quality Assurance visits have highlighted the quality when on a school site Better understanding of the challenges for school sites to offer HAF
Recommendation 7:	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.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands Digital Solutions Team

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	Children Services Systems Team HAF Team
Date:	October 2025
Agreed Action:	Undertake an options appraisal of the available booking systems that conform with G-Cloud Framework Partake in 3 demos and appraise each system Procure new system Work with suppliers to maximise the outputs from the system
Agreed Success Measure:	Providers are providing positive feedback Parents/carers are providing positive feedback Increase in bookings each holiday period 25% reduction in children not brought to activity year on year Identification of children eligible for programme and not accessing
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	New booking system procured in April 2025 Live launch in May 2025 All bookings are now managed through the system Paid places can also be managed through the system
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Feedback gained from parents – all positive Children not brought have reduced Providers feedback how easy and user friendly the system is The system provider continues to take on LA feedback and improve the system The system provider can provide metrics and rankings across all LA's that are using the system Neighbouring LA's use the same system, making it easier for parents/carers

Recommendation 8:	That one grant application form be introduced for providers for all holiday periods.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands Digital Solutions Team HAF Team
Date:	January 2026
Agreed Action:	Work with digital solutions team to provide a fit for purpose form Explore other options that may provide an alternative solution
Agreed Success Measure:	Providers will have access to a portal that will improve the customer experience Feedback from providers will confirm improvements
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council are now fully responsible for the grant process One form/one portal has been implemented

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	Providers have worked with SBC to improve the process – testing and learn process
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Streamlined procedure has improved the timeliness of the application process More providers have been recruited Multiple holiday periods can be launched within the one grant application

Recommendation 9:	That opportunities to link the programme to the curriculum and promote lifelong learning for all the family are enhanced.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands School Support Team Careers Team Adult Learning and Skills Service
Date:	January 2026
Agreed Action:	Undertake exercise to identify current activities provided and categorise them into key headings: ➤ STEM ➤ Physical ➤ Work related ➤ Learning ➤ Recreational Identify gaps and over subscription in categories
Agreed Success Measure:	Varied offer across the borough Improved offer for whole family activities Increased uptake in family learning courses
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Stockton has one of the best offers in the country – this was discussed at a recent award ceremony Our family activities offer is well attended, and we are working with Family HUBS to improve the offer The range of providers we have available is now approx. 60 and we are able to align with the needs of the area
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	SBC and Stockton Riverside College trialled two taster courses in Summer 2026 Ongoing conversations within the Post 16 partnership about HAF and colleges One provider is delivering HAF in Stockton Sixth Form College Two providers have recruited young people to volunteer on HAF programme as part of their studies

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Recommendation 10:	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).
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands Careers Team Employment and Training HUB Team
Date:	July 2026
Agreed Action:	Arrange a workshop with key stakeholders to look at a model of delivery for school aged children Identify providers who can offer a volunteer placement that could lead into paid work placement funded through the HAF programme Develop the offer through work experience/taster placements
Agreed Success Measure:	Young people develop life skills that will enable them to evidence experience within the workplace Young People are in paid employment during the holiday periods
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Post 16 partnership discussion – linking curriculum and work experience with opportunities within HAF Stockton Riverside College taster courses Providers identifying young people to take a lead role in activities
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved This piece of work is ongoing, and we have seen two providers using this model over Summer 2026, we are building on this model
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Quality Assurance visits evidenced providers are working with young people to take a lead role Young people are shaping the programme and how it can help them develop life skills One Provider had a recruitment campaign to offer paid employment for young leader roles to support the HAF Programme

Recommendation 11:	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.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands Careers Team Employment and Training HUB Team
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	Arrange a workshop with key stakeholders to look at a model of delivery for post 16–19-year-old young people Work with providers to develop a sport leader award scheme Identify providers who can offer a work placement under the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer

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	Develop the offer through work experience/taster placements
Agreed Success Measure:	Young People are in paid employment during the holiday periods Providers have increased capacity to secure more places within the programme
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Post 16 partnership discussion – linking curriculum and work experience with opportunities within HAF Stockton Riverside College taster courses Providers identifying young people to take a lead role in activities Training needs gap analysis undertaken across all providers
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	One provider works with Bede College and takes students as sports leaders which enables the pupil to provide evidence for their qualification Training courses offered to all providers to upskill workforce including volunteers and work placement staff Two young people were nominated in the HAF Awards and got through to the final

Recommendation 12:	That the Council works with providers to extend whole family support outside of the school holidays.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands HAF Team A Fairer Stockton Team YUSA Citizen Advice Bureau
Date:	October 2025
Agreed Action:	Gather information on what family activities are available in each community Map the offer against the provision and identify any gaps Design a development and training programme for providers to upskill staff in what is available in the local community Identify how HAF Programme provides Family Help through the Social Care Reforms
Agreed Success Measure:	Staff will feel confident in providing Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Families will have access to good quality support services Families will engage with support services at the earliest opportunity
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Collaborative work with A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Team to signpost Attend 'Here to Help' events All providers have information to signpost to key agencies Provider forums link with community organisations e.g CAB Family days/events are held in community venues that have access to help and support services
Assessment of Progress (October 2026):	1 - Fully Achieved

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(include explanation if required)	
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	HAF Providers are confident in giving advice and/or signposting Leaflets and information were evidenced at QA visits Links with Best Start In Life Family HUB launch strengthened links with the community

Recommendation 13:	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
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands SEND Assessment and Review Team HAF Team
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	Create a guide for providers to reference for information and support Procure new booking system to gather the relevant information on children's needs Design a development and training programme for providers to upskill staff in child development and safeguarding
Agreed Success Measure:	Staff will be prepared for the cohort of children attending the programme each day Staff will feel confident in providing care for all children regardless of need Children will feel supported when attending HAF
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Training needs gap analysis undertaken across all providers Specialist SEND providers recruited Representation at SEND Operation Group Work with Stockton Parent Carer Forum to implement approaches to children with diverse or complex needs
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 - Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	The programme is flexible and inclusive, and the range of providers evidences the capacity and confidence within the programme The booking system allows parents to share the child's needs and complexities so providers are fully prepared when children arrive

Recommendation 14:	That a mapping exercise is undertaken to ensure that provision is represented across all wards across the whole borough, especially those rural areas.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands HAF Team Healthy Schools Team Public Health Team

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Date:	February 2026
Agreed Action:	Pull together a list of provider/activities/locations Create a survey to be completed by eligible children and young people to gather their views on what activities could be provided Provide taster sessions in areas with no or limited provision Identify providers that can deliver in areas with no or limited provision
Agreed Success Measure:	20% Increased uptake in the overall programme year on year Survey completed by at least 50% of registered children Survey completed by at least 20% of eligible children
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Mapping exercise is complete Verbal surveys are undertaken with children at QA visits Individual provider surveys are completed with children and families HAF booking system allows a waiting list for popular activities
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved Surveys approach is ongoing, we are working with SBC colleagues to create surveys on new platform
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	The HAF programme is always evolving to meet the needs of the children and young people Additional activities are approved when we have significant numbers on waiting lists Children are consistently feeding back through providers, schools and parents

Recommendation 15:	That the potential to explore utilising in house community transport during the school holidays be explored.
Responsibility:	Mandie Rowlands HAF Team A Fairer Stockton Team
Date:	October 2025
Agreed Action:	Meet with colleagues in community transport to explore options Meet with partners to explore opportunities within the voluntary driver scheme Obtain map of local bus routes to identify areas with no regular transport links
Agreed Success Measure:	20% Increased uptake in the overall programme year on year Children will report feeling safe when travelling to HAF
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Working with colleagues to look at independent travel training for Year 9 onwards Met with Catalyst to discuss the voluntary driver scheme Bus passes purchased and distributed to families who needed support with transport costs

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Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Mapping exercise identified areas for new provision within walking distance Ongoing analysis of area hot spots Mode of transport continues to be monitored

Recommendation 16:	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.
Responsibility:	HAF Team Post-16 Strategic Group SEND Assessment and Review Team
Date:	December 2025
Agreed Action:	Link in with colleges and universities to identify courses that are linked with cookery and catering Link in with the supported internship scheme to identify potential young adults who could have paid employment Map local community groups that provide community kitchens across the borough Link in with local business that provide food products eg Warburtons to utilise surplus products within the student kitchen Identify funding opportunities for local enterprise and sponsorship
Agreed Success Measure:	Young People undertaking a hospitality course will participate in paid work experience Stockton will have a sustainable model in accordance with the DfE guidelines for the food element
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Met with Stockton Sixth Form College Met with Stockton Riverside College Met with providers to discuss current approach
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved This piece of work has commenced; we need to consider the impact on local food suppliers who have had a long-term relationship with HAF providers
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	We understand the landscape We acknowledge the potential of having this approach We are progressing a test and learn pilot

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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