

HAF Programme Recommendation Lead Update

Mandie Rowlands

Service Lead – School Support and Sufficiency



Holidays Are Fun – who is in the team?



Service Lead – School Support and Sufficiency

Mandie Rowlands

Team Manager – School Support

Jane Williams

Lead Adviser – HAF Programme

Katie Newton

HAF Programme Development Officer

Lily Gordon

Holidays Are Fun Programme – what is the programme

DfE funding covers Easter, Summer and Christmas and the provision should be 4 hours a day for at least 4 days a week. In 2026 it was announced that we can use up to 5% of the budget for half terms, in SOT that equals approx. £42k

Aims of the Programme:

- Provide enriching activities including:
 - Physical activities
 - Creative activities
 - Experiences
 - Free play
- Increase awareness of healthy eating, healthy lifestyles and positive behaviours through:
 - Getting children involved in food preparation and cooking
 - Growing fruit and vegetables
 - Create opportunities to discuss personal safety
 - Workshops around raising aspirations and economic wellbeing
- Signposting to the right support services for families
- Returning to school feeling engaged and ready to learn



Holidays Are Fun Programme – DfE funding

Local Authority	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	% decrease
Hartlepool	601,950	582,610	573,640	557,020	7.5
Middlesbrough	1,067,410	1,060,030	1,047,070	1,053,170	1.4
Redcar & Cleveland	688,040	669,340	667,250	649,850	5.5
Stockton-on-Tees	916,790	902,890	883,540	857,480	6.5

Free School Meal eligibility has increased year on year in England:

2023 – 23.8%

2024 – 24.6%

2025 – 25.7% (January 2025 = 2.2million)

Spring 2026 Census

Ward pupil resides	Pupils on Roll	FSM Eligible	Percentage of POR who are eligible for FSM
Total	31,186	9,040	29.0%

Ward pupil resides	Pupils on Roll	FSM Eligible	Percentage of POR who are eligible for FSM
Newtown	791	516	65.2%
Mandale & Victoria	1496	736	49.2%
Norton Central	880	423	48.1%

Ward pupil resides	Pupils on Roll	FSM Eligible	Percentage of POR who are eligible for FSM
Ingleby Barwick North	2462	170	6.9%
Ingleby Barwick South	1527	129	8.4%
Billingham West & Wolviston	633	59	9.3%

Holidays Are Fun Programme – who is eligible

We must ensure that the offer is available for all children in receipt of benefits related free school meals. This does not mean we expect all to attend, as the provision is voluntary and therefore, we have up to 15% of the funding available to offer other vulnerable children a place.

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, who are also:

- ✓ Children eligible for benefit-related free school meals (TARGETED)
- ✓ 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

There are over 9,000 children eligible for the programme, therefore our ongoing work is to increase take up.

The changes to the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme for Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026 include:

Eligibility: HAF will remain targeted at children from households receiving Universal Credit, with a household income threshold of £7,400. This means that children from households with a household income above this threshold will not automatically qualify for HAF.

Expansion of FSM: Starting from September 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, regardless of household income. **However, HAF eligibility will not expand in line with this change**

Holidays Are Fun Programme – Activity (R1 & R4)

	Easter						Summer						Christmas		
	2025			2026			2025			2026			2025		
	Booked	Attended	%	Booked	Attended	%	Booked	Attended	%	Booked	Attended	%	Booked	Attended	%
Primary Universal Spaces	4426	3484	79%	3247	2761	85%	10508	8369	80%	10421	8328	80%	2368	1985	84%
Secondary Universal Spaces	931	688	74%	1235	1070	87%	3363	2590	77%	4172	3291	79%	1065	947	89%
Primary SEND Specialist Spaces	154	114	74%	106	91	86%	655	377	58%	361	257	71%	87	71	82%
Secondary SEND Specialist Spaces	20	11	55%	30	26	87%	156	108	69%	137	111	81%	23	21	91%
TOTALS	5531	4297		4618	3948		14682	11444		15091	11987		3543	3024	
Spaces available	6309	6309		5677	5677		16249	16249		15266	15266		4320	4320	
	88%	68%		81%	70%		90%	70%		99%	79%		82%	70%	

Summer 2026 provider including SEND Providers (R2, R6 & R9)

General

Active Futures
BCT Aspire
Champs Camp - MMA
Eastern Ravens Trust
Five Lamps
Groundwork
Iron Guidance
Musical Theatre - AJ Stage School
Ninja Warrior – SEND Session
Outdoor Ambition
Roseberry Community Consortium
ReGenerate
Stainsby Gymnastics
Stainsby Stud Horse Riding
Sporting Chance
Stockton Libraries – LEGO
Tees Active Holiday Club

Schools

Bowesfield Primary- delivered by Active Futures
Harewood Primary sports hall - delivered by Active Futures
High Clarence Primary - delivered by Active Futures
Ingleby Manor Secondary - delivered by Active Futures
Layfield Primary - delivered by LIGA
Mill Lane Primary - delivered internally
Tilery Primary - delivered by SOSI

Family

Family Action
Local Family fun day
Showcase Cinema
Tees Active Family Airtrail
Tees Active Family Ice skating

Teen

Cook Stars
Daisy Chain Chill Club
Ninja Warrior
Stockton Globe – work in theatre
Stockton Library – LEGO Build and code
SOSI – Sports Leaders
Stockton Riverside College
Tees Active Gym inductions
Tees Active Swimming
Tees Active Ice skating
Tees Active Airtrail
Tees Active Go Climb

Summer 2026 SEND specific (R2)

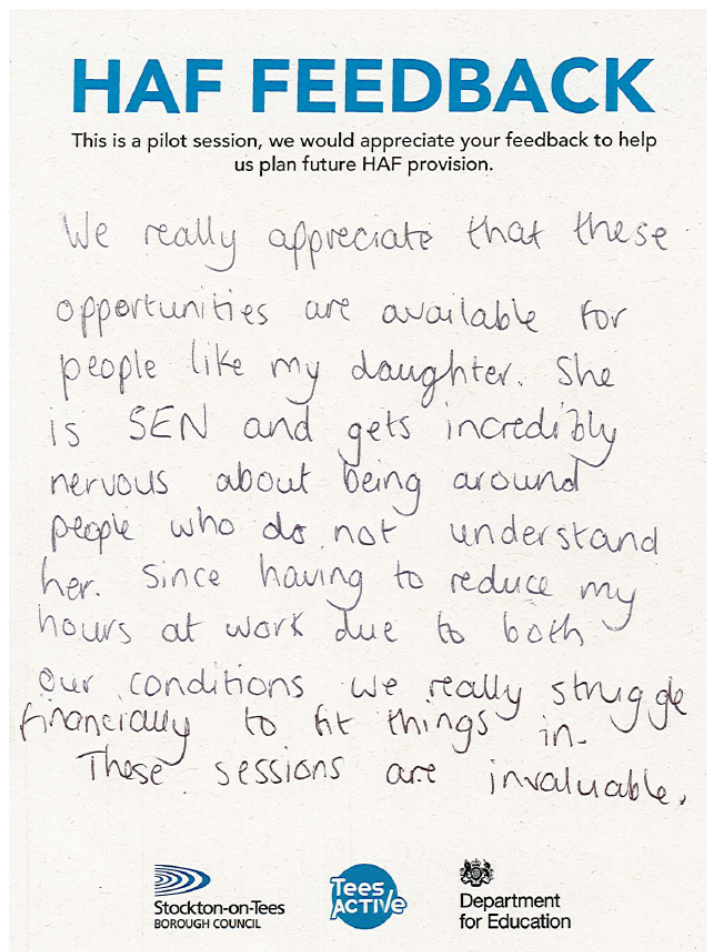
HAF summer 2026 specific SEND offer: (600 spaces)

- ✓ Daisy Chain
- ✓ Regenerate
- ✓ Five Lamps Sparkle and Shine
- ✓ Tees Active SEND go climb (parents stay)
- ✓ Tees Active SEND Bio Bounce (parents stay)
- ✓ Tees Active SEND watersports session (parents stay)
- ✓ Ninja Warrior SEND session (parents stay)

Additionally, families of children with SEND needs can access the following family activities:

- ❖ Preston Park museum pass
- ❖ Family Action – two locations
- ❖ Community days in Thornaby, Redhill, High Clarence
- ❖ Showcase Cinema
- ❖ Play factory
- ❖ Family ice skating event
- ❖ Family Airtrail event
- ❖ Parent and child darts tournament

Holidays Are Fun Programme – Feedback (R2)



Volunteering Day – Lynne Brumpton

Lynne Brumpton - Corporate Governance Manager – took her DfE volunteering days in Stockton HAF Summer programme AGAIN.

Feedback:

Dear Clare and colleagues,

I wanted to send my thanks for welcoming me yesterday and giving me the opportunity to volunteer with your team.

I was incredibly impressed by the facilities available to the children and the wide range of activities on offer throughout the day. It was wonderful to see so many opportunities for the children to learn, develop new skills and, most importantly, have fun in such a supportive environment.

What stood out most, however, was the kindness, patience and dedication shown by everyone I met. It was clear how much care and thought goes into supporting each child, and it was a real pleasure to witness first-hand the fantastic work being undertaken at Daisy Chain.

Thank you again for making me feel so welcome and for allowing me to be part of the day. It was a genuinely rewarding experience, and I have come away with a real appreciation for the difference your team makes to the children and families you support.

Feedback from children and young people

We have received a number of comments back from children and young people who have participated in Holiday Are Fun (HAF).

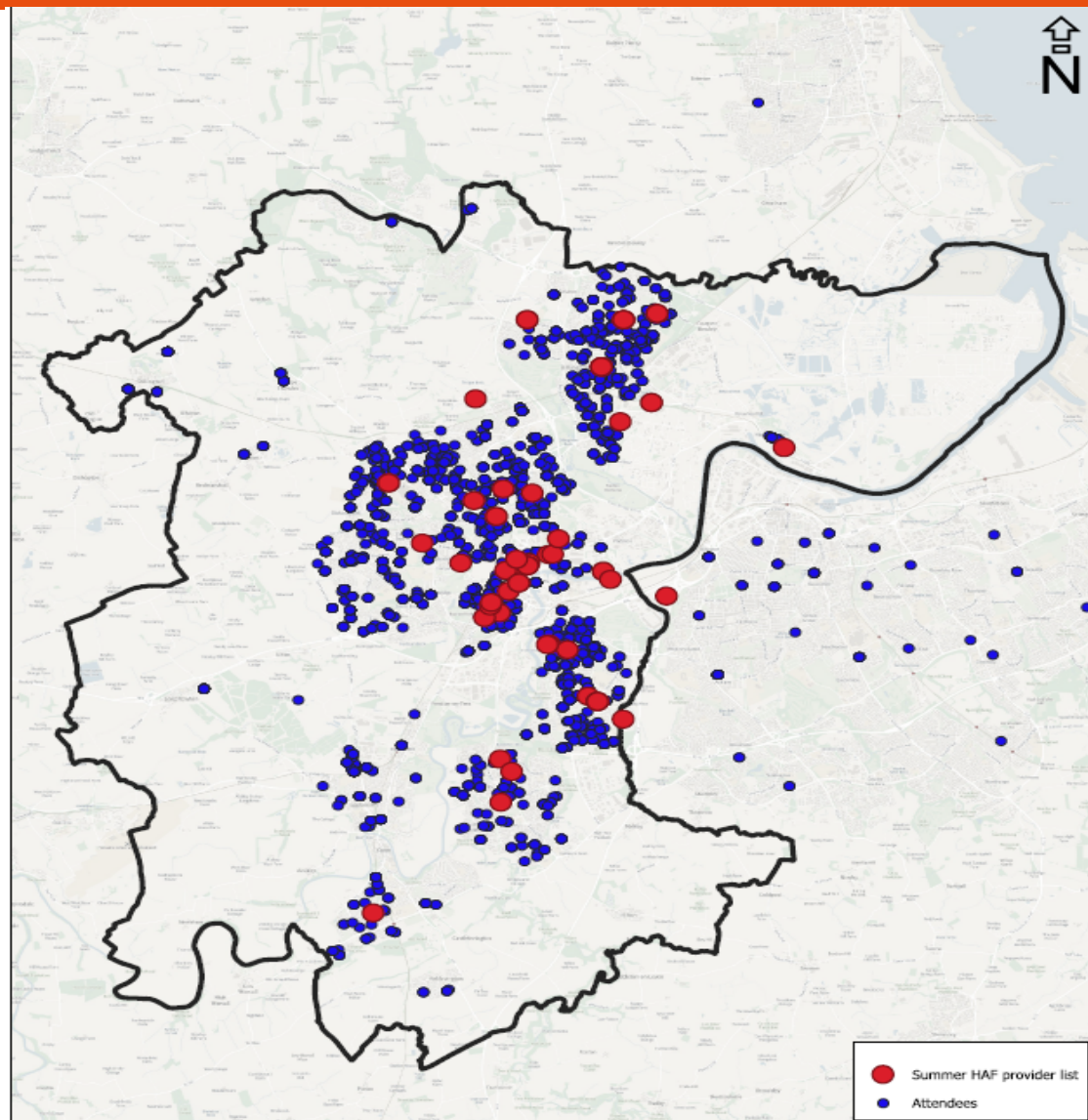
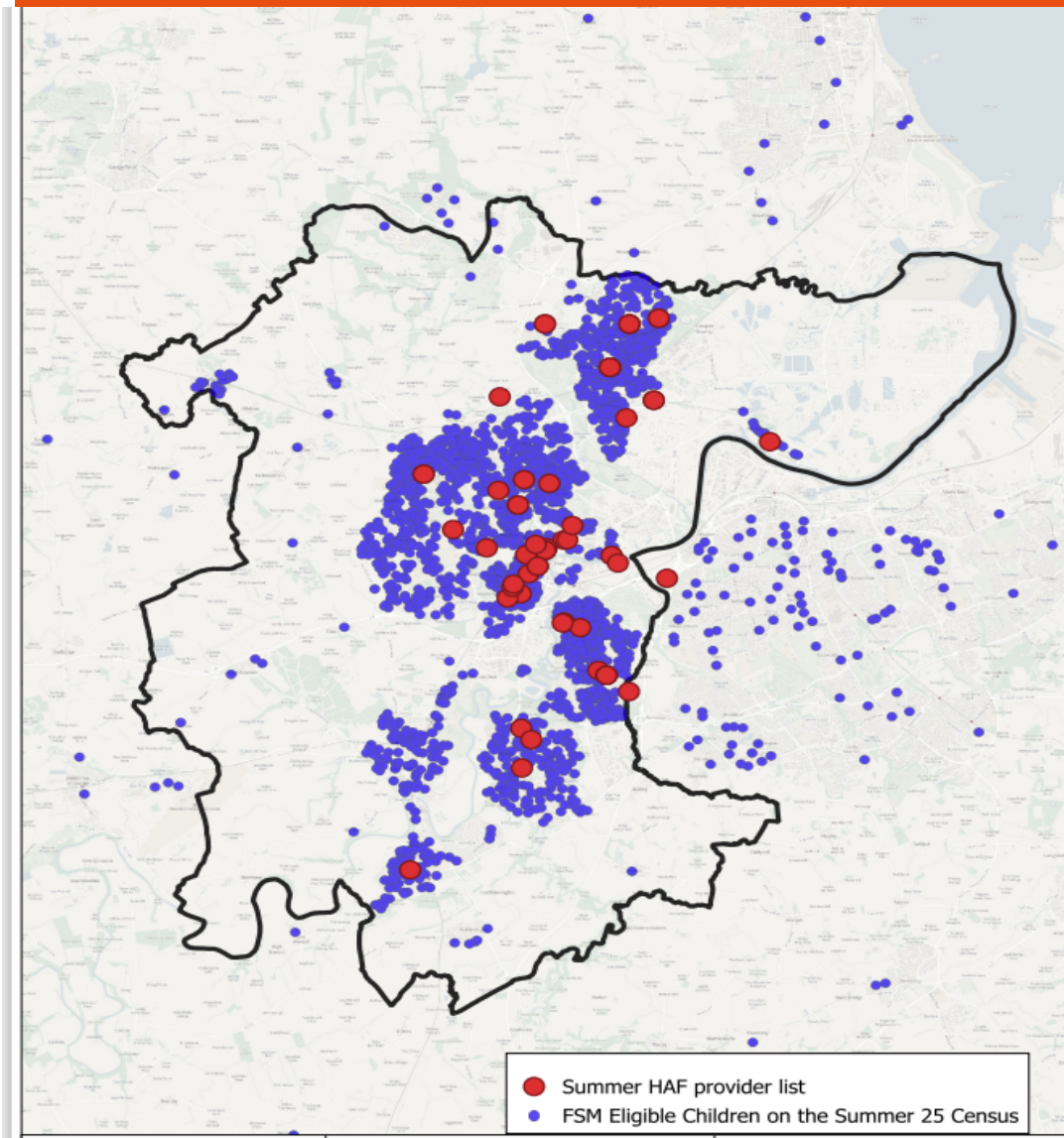
Young Person A said:

“ This week was so fun and educational, I learnt a lot about the hard work that goes into productions and what jobs there are. Josh and Marina were so nice and welcoming you really felt comfortable around them. We had a go at playing with the lights and at acting. I would definitely go again.

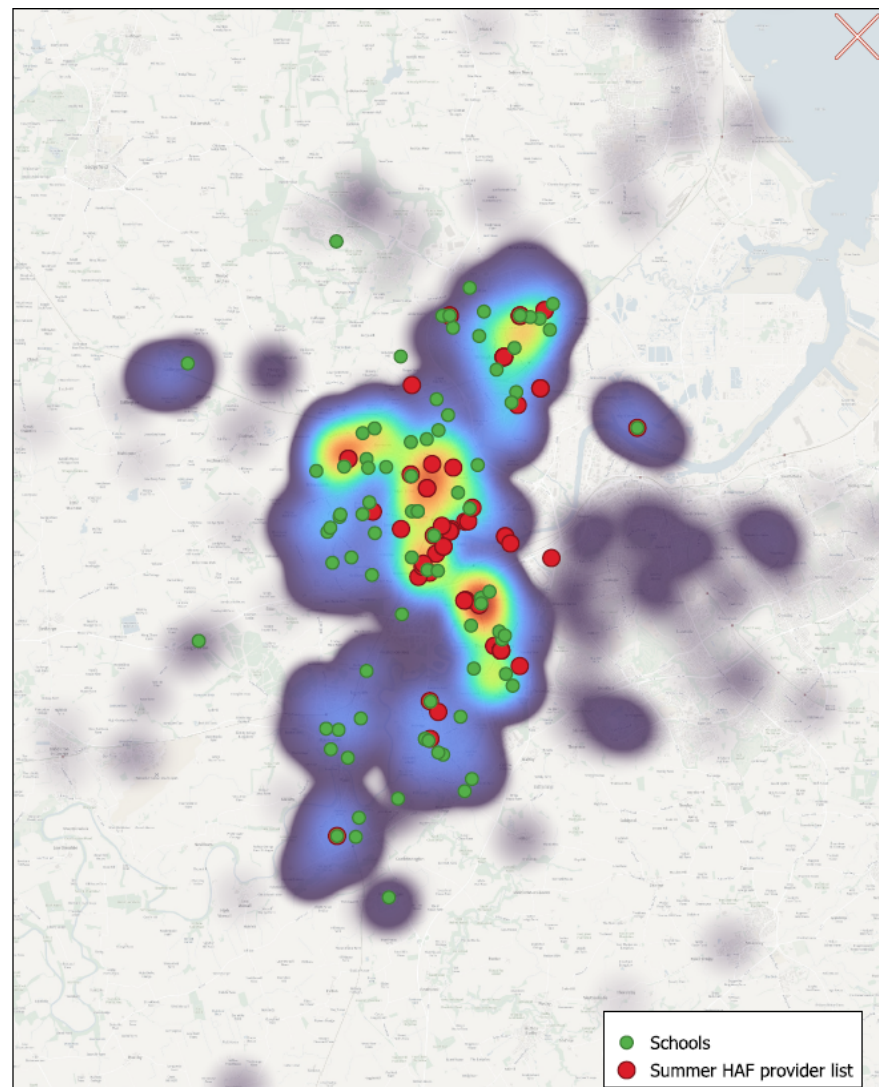
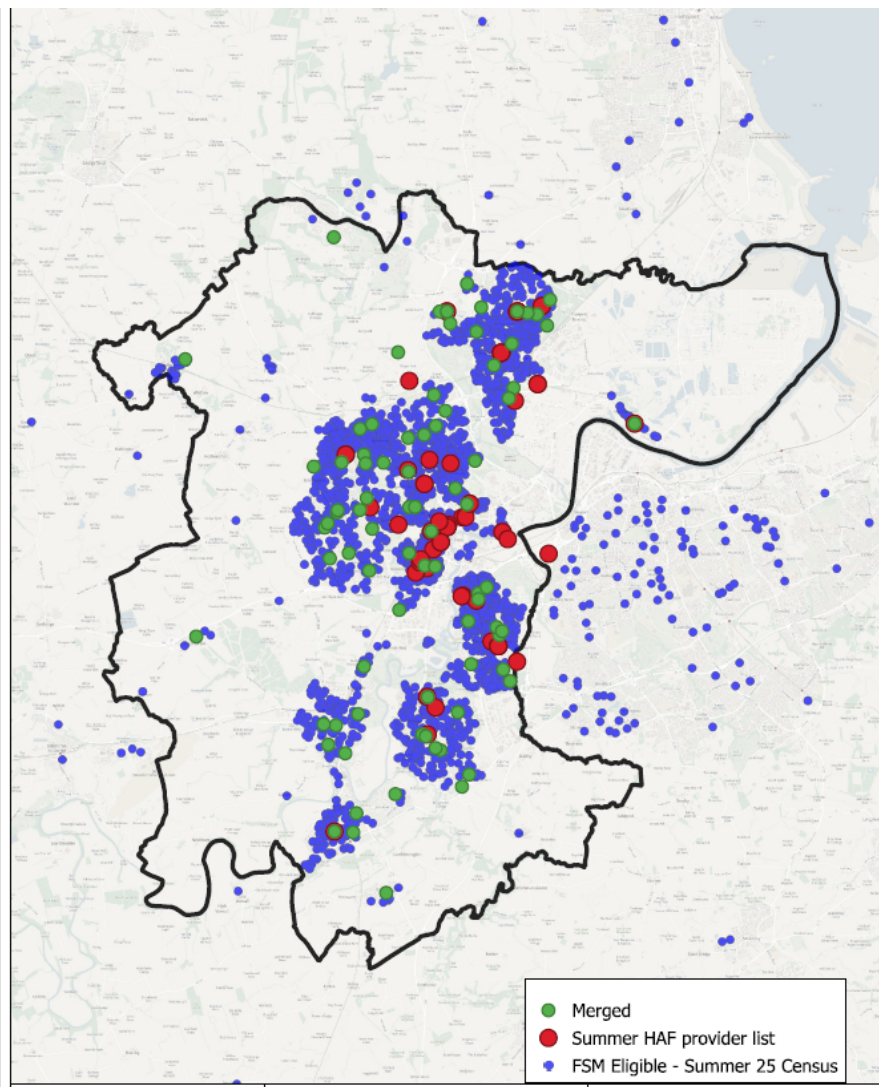
Child A said:

“ I've made so many friends at HAF. I don't see them at school so it's nice to see them every holiday when I come back!

Holidays Are Fun Programme – Mapping (R4, R6 & R14)



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Holidays Are Fun Programme – Activity (R1 & R4)

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Holidays Are Fun Programme – Paid Places (R5)

Mapping provision, demand and creating a local plan

We expect each local authority to use local data in planning and delivering a local plan.

The starting point is mapping supply (the holiday provision and other related ***school-age childcare*** available in an area) and the potential demand for HAF (the number of FSM eligible children in an area). Local deprivation data, schools census as well as historical delivery information are all useful when planning future delivery, identifying gaps and ensuring provision is targeted where it is most needed.

This guidance is for all local authorities in England.

Local authority school-age childcare leads and other colleagues working on childcare-related activities should use this guidance when securing and delivering school-age childcare in their area. This includes colleagues working in:

- the holiday activities and food programme
- the free breakfast clubs programme
- wraparound childcare

School-age Childcare Sufficiency (including Local Authority Capacity Funding 2026-27)

Holidays Are Fun (HAF) paid places - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Holidays Are Fun Programme – Booking System (R7)

Programme performance overview

Filter for the dates of the delivery to see historic data. Check your Provider page to see if any Providers need reminding to take their registers.

ELIGIBLE APPROVED		
Total approved sessions in period 15091	Average sessions attended 5.4	Unique attending learners 2203
FREE Free sessions attended 11987	PAID Paid sessions attended 131	
CANCELLED Total sessions cancelled by Provider 429	CANCELLED Total sessions cancelled by booker 4364	DECLINED Total sessions declined 1755

New attendees within the date period 1 July – 10 September 2026

The numbers below count attendees up to 18 years

Unique all time attendees Count 4405	Unique all time FSM eligible attendees Count 2276 of 4405	Unique FSM eligible first time attendees for the selected date range Count 830 of 2276 Percentage 36.47 %
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Holidays Are Fun Programme – Booking System (R7)

COUNCIL	% % FSM + Discretionary booked	% % FSM + Discretionary Attended	% % FSM Booked	% % FSM Attended	Providers	Child per Provic	Listings	Child per Listing	Unique FSN	Growth %
COUNCIL 30	26.62	22.29	23.45	19.63	67	245	193	85	962	10.57
COUNCIL 3	24.05	22.02	22.94	21.06	26	100	46	57	161	12.44
COUNCIL 10	22.84	19.96	19.32	16.98	62	655	154	264	1239	14.98
COUNCIL 54	48.10	42.19	19.30	17.40	57	263	152	99	1705	40.14
COUNCIL 64	23.01	22.10	18.55	17.97	73	223	142	115	1173	18.53
COUNCIL 51	22.52	20.51	17.46	15.86	31	309	71	135	709	32.9
COUNCIL 13	20.33	19.38	16.80	16.07	64	248	130	122	871	17.91
COUNCIL 38	16.65	15.36	16.16	14.89	44	383	63	267	1020	20.71
COUNCIL 37	16.04	14.82	15.98	14.77	81	387	201	156	1639	19.85
COUNCIL 7	23.79	21.46	15.90	14.47	37	249	162	57	852	15.96
COUNCIL 11	22.41	20.64	15.83	14.50	60	149	127	71	522	21.1
COUNCIL 29	21.09	18.16	15.42	13.26	54	231	162	77	1112	21.77
COUNCIL 41	17.73	16.39	15.12	14.02	44	295	107	121	586	9.41
COUNCIL 4	16.29	14.76	14.64	13.32	45	189	101	84	306	7.7
COUNCIL 48	17.10	16.28	14.48	13.81	25	302	51	148	419	19.92

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COUNCIL 29	21.09	18.16	15.42	13.26	54	231	162	77	1112	21.77

Holidays Are Fun Programme – Lifelong Learning (R9)

Please rate how well you feel the provision is meeting each of the HAF standards, based on your observations and utilising the framework of guidance. (If any providers scored less than 3 for any section please highlight to HAF team asap so this can be addressed.)

HAF Standards	1 Very poor	2 Poor	3 Acceptable	4 Good	5 Excellent
Healthy Food Provision					
Healthy lifestyle awareness					
Enriching activities					
Physical activities					
Signposting and referrals					
Accessibility and inclusiveness					
Environment and Sustainability					
TOTAL SCORE					

Any other comments / feedback from provider or children/young people?

Company	Ofsted registered	Specialist SEND	Completed by	Healthy Food	Awareness Healthy lifestyle	Enriching Activities	Physical activities	Signposting	Accessability and inclusivity	Sustainability and environment	Total Score
Average Scoring				4.2	3.6	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.2	3.7	28.5

Holidays Are Fun Programme – Opportunities for Young People (R10 & R11)



			Stockton Riverside College	UNIVERSAL PROVISION
			14 - 16	
			Stockton Riverside College	UNIVERSAL PROVISION
			14 - 16	



Contribution to the HAF Community

Jake and Aaron make a significant contribution to the overall success and atmosphere of the HAF programme. As young volunteers, they bring a relatable and engaging presence that enhances the experience for children and families alike. They help to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where participants feel comfortable, valued and able to enjoy their time. Their impact is recognised not only by staff but also by partner organisations and the families we support.

In summary, Jake and Aaron are outstanding young volunteers whose contribution extends far beyond practical support. Their dedication, strong teamwork and positive impact on the HAF community make them truly deserving of this recognition.

Holidays Are Fun Programme – Whole family support (R12)

Feedback from parents

We have received a number of comments back from families who have participated in Holiday are Fun.

Parent A said:

“ A feels safe to be herself at DC, unmasking and asking questions without fear of judgement.

Parent B said:

“ HAF has been a real lifeline for me over summer, I don't know what I would have done without it!

Parent C said:

“ The holidays are really hard for us. HAF gave my kids something exciting and fun to do, learning new skills and keeping healthy, making friends. It took a lot of stress and worry off me financially.

Parent D said:

“ My children are always full when they come home from here! It takes the pressure off me in holidays as I struggle with the food shopping on my own.

[\(2\) Video | Facebook](#)

Holidays Are Fun Programme – Training Needs Analysis (R13)

Developing a highly confident and competent local workforce

- ✓ Better equip the workforce to deal with challenging behaviour
- ✓ Better equip the workforce to deal with safeguarding issues
- ✓ Better equip the workforce to deal with supporting young people with SEND
- ✓ Better equip the workforce to engage a wider demographic of young people

Upskilling local young people as the next generation of leaders

Young people as activity deliverers, event organisers, peer researchers and decision makers

StreetGames Training Recommendations

Key areas identified for support include enhancing providers' confidence in delivering youth work and effectively engaging older young people (aged 12-16) within their HAF programme. Over a quarter of those surveyed highlighted these as areas they need to develop. This could be supported through workshops such as our '[Introduction to Doorstep Sport](#)' and '[Understanding Young People from Underserved Communities](#)' workshops.

There is also demand for further training in supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing. While the majority feel confident in this area, 28% of your providers feel they need to develop their current knowledge, which could be achieved through our '[Youth Mental Health](#)' and/or '[Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma Informed Practice](#)' workshops.

While the majority of your providers feel confident delivering physical activities to young people, some providers mentioned they would like ideas on how to deliver fun and interactive practical sessions across a range of different sports. This could be achieved through one of our sports activators such as our [Multi Skills Activator](#) or any of our [sport specific activators](#).

44% of organisations identified our '[Understanding Behaviour that may Challenge](#)' as being a workshop that they feel their workforce would benefit from and 39% of providers said that they would find our '[Inclusion Activator](#)' valuable.

As well as the above workshops, a third of organisations said that they feel they would benefit from our '[Engaging Inactive Young People](#)' and '[Activator Essentials](#)' workshops.

Holidays Are Fun Programme

**Thank You
Any Questions?**

Mandie.rowlands@stockton.gov.uk