

**Select Committee Work Programme
Suggested Review – Pro Forma**

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Holidays Are Fun (HAF) Programme

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

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 families 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

Please be clear about the focus of the review and desired outcome.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

HAF is a holiday activity programme ran across the Borough. It aims to engage children and young people who are eligible for free school meals and offers activities alongside a healthy meal. There are a range of providers involved including schools. Public interest would be based on

- Eligibility criteria (FSM with some scope for parents to pay)
- Spread - are activities reaching all areas of the Borough and are they accessible
- Cost – reassurance that the money allocated by DfE being spent appropriately.
- Healthy Meals – what constitutes a healthy meal and what is being provided.
- Fairness and transparency- how is the money allocated, monitored and evaluated as good value.
- Vulnerable children and young people – is HAF reaching the right young people who are most in need. How are agencies working together to support families to access and what work is being done to offer support after the holiday period.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

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. Alongside this, longer term appropriate support for families.

Council performance, efficiency (identification of savings and reducing demand) in this area:

The money is allocated as a grant for a specific purpose and spend is monitored through 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 cost, it also offers the opportunity to work with families who need support to return to work.

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

No

How does the topic support delivery of the Council Plan?

Supporting 'our people' to live healthier lives:

- 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 would you want the outcome of the review to be?

- To improve delivery of the HAF programme ensuring that eligible young people are enabled to attend and are offered fun and appropriate activities.
- 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 children with additional needs
- To improve provision for young people aged 13 years and over
- To understand how agencies are working together to provide help and support for families who access HAF outside of holidays.