



Report sponsor: Andy Smith, Strategic Director
of People Services
Report author: Pauline Anderson, Director
Learning, Skills and Inclusion

ITEM 2

Implementation of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Purpose

- 1.1 In January 2021 Cabinet agreed to implement a support package to ensure access to food support for children at risk of food poverty. The Department for Education Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme was at the centre of the approach, with the design of the programme ensuring that a meal a day is provided for children eligible for free school meals and who attend provision on designated days over the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays.
- 1.2 The first element of the HAF programme was delivered over Easter 2021 which was a combination of virtual and direct activities and was deemed to be a great success. Planning is now underway for the summer programme and the Council was notified on 2 June 2021 of an additional £1.195m allocated for 2021/22. Approval is now required for the Council to accept this funding.
- 1.3 There has been a multi-agency steering group in the design and implementation of the HAF programme, and the plan is to use Community Action Derby (CAD) to administer, fund and liaise with delivery partners to ensure access to holiday activities and food support for children who are eligible for free school meals across the summer holidays. Approval is now required to allow the Council to award a grant of up to £0.700m of HAF monies to CAD

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To accept a Department for Education (DFE) grant of £1.195m for the Holiday Activities and Food Programme Grant 2021 for the Summer Programme.
- 2.2 To agree that Community Action Derby will administer, fund and liaise with delivery partners to ensure access to holiday, activities and food support for children at eligible for free school meals and approve the award of a grant of up to £0.700m to CAD.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 School holidays can be pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes. For some children that can lead to a holiday experience gap - with children from disadvantaged families less likely to access organised out-of-school activities; more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health; and more likely to experience social isolation. We know that returning to school in poor physical and mental condition can have a detrimental impact on children's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as their educational attainment.

Supporting information

- 4.1 **Holiday Activity Fund Grant (HAF) from the DFE**
This government initiative is in line with the November 2020 announcement relating to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. The aims of the initiative is to provide healthy food and enriching activities to children who are in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM). The funding will cover 4 weeks in the summer and 1 week at Christmas 2021. This funding from the DFE is to coordinate this free holiday provision.
- 4.2 The City Council has recently been advised that £1.195m has been allocated for 2021/22. This funding has been made available to Derby City Council to enable local groups to provide holiday activities including food to children eligible for free school meals in Derby.
- 4.3 There has been a multi-agency steering group in the design and implementation of the HAF programme, and the plan is to use Community Action Derby (CAD) to administer, fund and liaise with delivery partners to ensure access to holiday activities and food support for children who are eligible for free school meals.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Engagement has taken place with Community Action Derby, Schools and Food4Thought Alliance.

Other options

- 6.1 The Council could run the administration of the HAF programme itself, running a grant competition to allocate funding to partners and to schools. However, this is not considered a viable option given the timescales available; it is considered that CAD are better placed to ensure the distribution of HAF monies to partners in time for the school summer holidays. Furthermore, the Council considered working with schools to deliver the HAF programme but schools do not currently have the capacity to deliver this additional programme.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The DFE Grant of £1.195m requires no additional or ongoing revenue costs once the funding ends.

Legal implications

- 8.1 The Council will enter into a grant funding agreement with CAD in relation to the HAF monies. The grant funding agreement will be on the Council's standard grant funding terms. Given the value of the grant award this is a key decision and therefore requires Cabinet Approval.

Climate implications

- 9.1 There are no climate implications arising from this report.

Other significant implications

- 10.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Emily Feenan, Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services	8 June 2021
Finance	Janice Hadfield, Head of Finance, People Services	8 June 2021
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Andy Smith, Strategic Director, People Services	8 June 2021
Other(s)		

Background papers:
List of appendices: