



COUNCIL CABINET
13 July 2022

ITEM 10

Report sponsor: Strategic Director of People Services.

Report author: Physical Activity & Sport Manager

Derby Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Purpose

- 1.1 This Report seeks approval to accept funding from the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) fund from 2022/23 to 2024/25 to deliver activities and food across Derby for children eligible for Free School Meals and for that funding to be allocated through a mixed delivery model in partnership with Community Action Derby, Derby City Council departments, schools and other organisations who can support delivery of the HAF programme.
- 1.2 The Department for Education award for 2022/23 is £1.357m. The Government has indicated that annual allocations of HAF will also be made to the Council in 2023/24 and 2024/25 ("Programme Period")
- 1.3 Overall allocations of the funding throughout the year will be developed from the programme undertaken in 2021/22. The funding will be allocated to Community Action Derby via a grant, to council provisions and schools, with the remaining utilised to add provision and purchase services or activities which will be shared across the three elements of the programme.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources to accept all HAF funding allocations from the Department for Education, subject to agreement of acceptable grant conditions, over the Programme Period.
- 2.2 To agree to the adoption of a mixed delivery model for the Derby HAF programme for the Programme Period whereby Community Action Derby will be grant funded to administer, fund and liaise with VCSE providers across the city to deliver specified elements of the programme, and the Council will work with schools and children's centres to deliver specified elements of the programme. This model will be used to deliver the HAF programme from Summer 2022 onwards.
- 2.3 To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for People Services following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Skills to agree specific elements of the annual delivery model for the HAF programme in Derby for each year of the Programme Period.

- 2.4 To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for People Services following consultation with the Strategic Director for Corporate Resources and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Skills to agree the annual allocation of HAF funding to be awarded to Community Action Derby for each year of the Programme Period.
- 2.5 To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for People Services to agree the terms of and enter into an annual grant agreement with Community Action Derby in relation to the HAF programme in each year of the Programme Period.
- 2.6 To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for People Services to agree the terms of and enter into all such agreements necessary to allow the delivery of the HAF programme in Derby in each year of the Programme Period.
- 2.7 To note that, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, a grant of £0.226m to Community Action Derby was approved on 11 March 2022 to allow delivery of the HAF programme over Easter 2022; this funding forms part of the total £1.357m allocation for 2022/23.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 The 2022/23 to 2025 HAF programme in Derby will build on the success of previous years and follow the same mixed delivery model. This will involve Community Action Derby focussing on the third sector provision across the city, and the Council delivering through schools and council provisions. This will ensure all areas of the city can be reached in a coordinated and targeted way.
- 3.2 This approach will be adopted for future years subject to the Department for Education's funding principles and outlines remaining comparable, and contingent on the legal agreements being fulfilled.

Supporting information

- 4.1 In 2021/22, the Department for Education expanded the HAF programme to all local authorities in England. The programme provides food and activities for Free School Meal eligible children and young people over the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays. Derby has received a maximum of £1.168m in funding in 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 4.2 On 27 October 2021, the government announced a further investment of over £200m per year over the next 3 financial years for the HAF programme which follows the successful roll out of the programme across England in 2021/22. The funding is for the 152 upper tier local authorities to coordinate and provide free holiday provision, including food and enriching activities.
- 4.3 This holiday provision is for school aged children from Reception to Year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals. Local authorities have discretion to use up to 15% of their funding to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals but who the local authority believe could benefit from HAF provision.

- 4.4 Local authorities are asked to ensure that the offer of free holiday club provision is available for all children eligible for free school meals (approximately 11,425 children in Derby), though there is no expectation that all eligible children will participate. Free places must be made available for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week and for six weeks a year, covering four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays.
- 4.5 Derby will be receiving £1.357m to run programmes over Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2022/23 for children who are eligible for Free School Meals.
- 4.6 The DfE have stated that the key objectives of the programme are for children who attend provision to:
- eat healthily over the school holidays;
 - be active during the school holidays;
 - take part in engaging and enriching activities, which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with wider educational attainment
 - be safe and not to be socially isolated;
 - have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition; and
 - be more engaged with school and other local services.
- 4.7 The DfE also want to ensure that the families who participate in this programme:
- develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting; and
 - are signposted towards other information and support, for example, health, employment and education
- 4.8 Overall allocations of the funding throughout the year will be developed from the programme undertaken in 2021/22. The funding will be allocated to Community Action Derby via a grant and to council provisions and schools, with the remaining utilised to add provision and purchase services or activities which will be shared across the three elements of the programme.
- 4.9 Reports detailing the plans for delivery for each holiday period are required by the Department for Education. Funding breakdowns for each period will also be included within the reports.
- 4.10 The HAF programme contributes to delivery of Council Plan “resilient” outcome, focusing on tackling poverty and reducing inequalities, working with our communities to improve health, wealth and opportunities. Working in partnership with Community Action Derby demonstrates our ‘better together’ ethos.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Strong partnerships have been the basis for the success of the 2021/22 programme and have shaped the programme for 2022/23 and subsequent years. Key stakeholders include: Community Action Derby, VCSE provider organisations, Department for Education
- 5.2 A steering group of relevant officers and partners was established in 2021/22 to oversee the development and delivery of the programme, and this group will be continued in 2022/23.

- 5.3 Regular regional meetings with the Department for Education have been conducted to develop local approaches

Other options

- 6.1 The Council could run the administration of the entire 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 and the resources required; it is considered that Community Action Derby are better placed to ensure the distribution of HAF monies to the VCSE sector as the voluntary sector infrastructure organisation in Derby.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 Derby City Council has been allocated £1.357m ringfenced funding from the Department for Education's Holiday Activities Funding to deliver healthy holiday activities targeting children entitled to Free School Meals across the city for school holiday periods in 2022/23. Any underspend will be clawed back in line with the DfE funding conditions.
- 7.2 Payments will be made in the following instalments on completion and submission of satisfactory planning reports;
- April 2022 – up to 80% of the total 2022/23 allocation
 - April 2023 – up to 20% of the remaining 2022/23 allocation
- 7.3 Funding will be allocated to deliver a mixed model approach through Community Action Derby, Derby City Council provisions and schools, and for food, activities, and wider support to be used across all settings.
- 7.4 Derby City Council will create a new role, HAF Coordinator, to coordinate project works. This will be a £0.045m annual commitment funded through the DfE grant.
- 7.5 The grant award to Community Action Derby will be done through individual grant agreement for each holiday period, i.e., Easter, Summer and Winter, to ensure that the size of the grant is accurately profiled.
- 7.6 The funding allocation for 2023/24 and 2024/25 has not been confirmed for Derby however, this allocation is based on the number of eligible free school meals children and therefore it is anticipated that this will not be reduced.

Legal implications

- 8.1 A grant agreement, based on the Council's standard form grant agreement will be put in place to govern the arrangements between Community Action Derby and the Council in respect of the HAF programme. It is anticipated that a new grant agreement will be entered into for each year of the Programme Period. The grant agreement will require Community Action Derby to monitor key delivery outputs that the Council is required to measure under the terms of the HAF grant agreement from the Government to the Council.
- 8.2 To the extent further agreements are required in relation to the HAF programme, Legal Services will advise on legal documentation required.

Climate implications

- 9.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment will be conducted, the outcome of the assessment will be used to inform final proposals.

Other significant implications

- 10.1 In late 2021, the government announced funding for the programme for another three years, from 2022 – 2025, with the funding levels to be confirmed on a year-by-year basis therefore future years funding is unconfirmed.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Emily Feenan	12/04/2022
Finance	Janice Hadfield	14/04/2022
Service Director(s)	Pauline Anderson	11/04/2022
Report sponsor		
Other(s)		

Background papers:
List of appendices: