

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Subject:	HAF Fun Pompey
Date of meeting:	2 November 2021
Report by:	Alison Critchley
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by: Cllr Suzy Horton

2. Purpose

2.1 To provide information about the HAF Fun Pompey programme that has been running in the City in the Easter and Summer Holidays 2021 and will also run at Christmas 2021.

3. Introduction

3.1 At the end of 2020 the government announced that the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, through which children from disadvantaged families receive healthy food and an enriching programme of activities was to be expanded nationally in 2021.

3.2 Grant allocations were announced on 8 February 2021, with Portsmouth being allocated £95,840 in the 2020/21 financial year to pay for the Easter programme and £857,220 in the 2021/22 to meet the costs of the Summer and Christmas programmes. An additional £15,800 from the Winter Covid Grant Scheme was added to the Easter programme to provide additional food support.

3.3 In Portsmouth we branded this as HAF Fun Pompey, with the following specific aims:

- 3.3.1 to find ways of encouraging more healthy eating;
- 3.3.2 to facilitate more active and enriching opportunities;
- 3.3.3 to make communities more resilient; create opportunities to promote and support wellbeing and character of the whole family;
- 3.3.4 to make communities safer, more sociable and combat isolation;
- 3.3.5 to have greater knowledge of what our communities and our families need; have those conversations with the beneficiaries.
- 3.3.6 to be more engaged with school and other local services.

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)



3.4 The maps above show proportions of children eligible for free school meals (areas highlighted red have higher proportions of children eligible for free school meals), the location of providers at Easter 2021, and that in Summer 2021. Our aim has been to have complete coverage across Portsmouth, recognising that there are children eligible for free school meals living across the City, but to target provision in areas with higher proportions of children eligible for free school meals.

3.5 Across the Easter programme we worked with 14 providers to make available 3,371 days of activities for children eligible for free school meals at venues across the City, with provision focused in areas with higher numbers of children eligible for free school meals.

3.6 Over the school summer holidays we worked to substantially increase provision, working with 36 providers to make available 13,925 days' worth of provision.

3.7 We are currently reviewing applications to provide HAF activities during the Christmas Holidays. Not all providers are able to offer provision at this time, and some venues will be closed, but we hope to work with around 20 providers.

Uptake and feedback from children and families

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

3.8 Over 90% of places were booked in advance, and overall we had attendance of 82% for the summer term provision. The 82% figure is higher than the national average reflecting the fact that where provision is free families may decide not to take up their places at the last minute. Some providers were able to manage this skilfully by over-booking or having waiting lists, which is something we would want to expand to other providers in future years.

3.9 We estimate that over 3,000 attended HAF provision, which would be over 37.5% of the free school meals eligible population of around 8,000 pupils. The detailed breakdown below shows 3123, although we know that some children attended places with more than one provider so there will be some overlap.

Breakdown of children and young people attending HAF provision		
	Primary Aged	Secondary Aged
FSM eligible, no SEND	2306	487
FSM eligible, with SEND	195	55
Non-FSM eligible (agency referred), no SEND	53	16
Non FSM eligible (agency referred), with SEND	8	3
TOTALS	2562	561

3.10 We were pleased to be able to have over 500 secondary aged pupils take part in the programme, as this group is traditionally harder to reach. 261 places were taken up by children with SEND, representing around 8% of the places offered. These included places for children with special needs in "mainstream" as well as specialist settings.

3.11 Some providers offered additional places that were either free or parent funded alongside HAF funded places. These provided a further 660 places, mainly for primary aged children.

3.12 It was clear from feedback from providers, children, and families that this free HAF provision was reaching children who would not normally benefit from paid for holiday provision.

Feedback

3.13 The range of activities that young people participated in, and the enjoyment and learning that they got from the HAF Fun Pompey Programme, is best captured in the short film that is on the HAF Fun Pompey website (<https://youtu.be/605-FqmPc8Y>)

3.14 The case studies below illustrate how the provision met our six key aims.

To find ways of encouraging more healthily eating;
At one of our community projects, they made overnight oats for the next day's breakfast (after one participant said they have McDonalds every morning!) and salmon and

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

cucumber wraps to take home. All the children loved making the food and 'getting their hands dirty'; some tried salmon for the first time, one child gave it 9.5/10.

To facilitate more active and enriching opportunities;

At our watersports centre one young man explained how he got his cousin to drive him because his Mum and Dad were still in bed but he said: "I didn't want to miss it - normally I don't get out of bed until 2pm but this has changed my thoughts of what I should be doing and my love of the water will make me a gold medallist in years to come.

To make communities more resilient; create opportunities to promote and support wellbeing and character of the whole family;

At the Artwork end of week showcase a highlight was watching one family support their daughter. They had a toddler with them who wasn't the easiest to keep still. The staff offered some colouring but the mum ended up having to take him out to watch the performance through the large window which was very conveniently alongside the hall. Having been very anxious before the performance the young girl who was performing transformed in the spotlight. Seeing her toddler sibling run up to her straight after the bows was a joy to see. They were all very proud.

To make communities safer, more sociable and combat isolation;

At a wrap-around it was a joy to see a large group of children (HAF and paid places) enjoying all the experiences presented to them, whether it be basketball or an open bus to the local lido. It is a fantastic example of an inclusive setting where children of all abilities, needs and backgrounds can come together for a collective childhood summer experience

To have greater knowledge of what our communities and our families need; have those conversations with the beneficiaries.

We had some wonderful feedback from a Young Carer's mum who said because her daughter was engaged with all these (HAF) activities it enabled me to build the relationship more with her son with additional needs at home - they had quality time together which they haven't had in a long time. The Young Carer has had historic issues with their weight and is embarrassed with how they look. But Mum has reported back that as direct impact of HAF their attitudes have changed and they now say "can we not buy that type of food, can I make lunch next time". They are now informing what they buy and make at home. They have had a clear change in their perception of food and a lot more confidence.

To be more engaged with school and other local services.

At the girls only swimming at the first session one 7 year old girl was in tears as she didn't feel comfortable and didn't have a friend with her but by the final session she was the chattiest young lady and showing off her skills and what she can now do in the water. It was wonderful to see her confidence grow and she told her Mum she has to

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

keep swimming. The leisure centre are also introducing girls only swimming into their regular timetable following the success of the HAF project.

Financial information

3.15 We are currently finalising the DFE return setting out the costs of the summer programme, and reviewing proposals from providers for the Christmas programme. We expect to have spent of the order of £840,000 of the £953,000 allocated to Portsmouth (88%), £140,000 to the Easter programme, £560,000 for the Summer, and around £140,000 for Christmas 2021.

Key learning

3.16 This is the first year that Portsmouth has been funded to deliver a Holiday Activities and Food programme. We have moved quickly to work with a very wide range of partners to put on a diverse and well-received programme of activities for Portsmouth children and young people, and establish a strong sense of partnership and common purpose with and between partners.

3.17 DFE have yet to confirm whether and how much HAF funding Portsmouth will receive, but we stand ready to move quickly should funding be confirmed as part of the government's Autumn budget.

3.18 Assuming some funding is provided there will be scope to further develop and increase the opportunities for children and families in Portsmouth, working both with external providers and a range of internal and external partners including schools, Play Youth and Community, Portsmouth Museums, leisure, arts and cultural venues.

.....
Signed by Mike Stoneman (Deputy Director)