

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:	Holiday Activities and Food Update (HAF Fun Pompey)
Date of meeting:	13 th December 2022
Report by:	Sarah Daly - Director of Children Services and Education James Hill - Director for Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services
Authors:	Alison Critchley - Head of Sufficiency and Resources Nicola Clannachan - Head of Housing Community Services
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by

- 1.1. This report was requested by Councillor Suzy Horton Deputy Group Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. To provide an update on the HAF Fun Pompey programme that has been running in the City since 2021 across the Easter, Summer and Christmas Holidays.

3. Introduction

- 3.1. The government introduced the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme in late 2020 through which children eligible for benefits-related free school meal families receive healthy food and an enriching programme of activities. The scheme was expanded nationally in 2021.

In 2021 PCC were awarded £953,060
In 2022 PCC have been awarded £948,830

The Portsmouth programme is administered by the Play, Youth & Community Service (PYC) Housing Neighbourhood & Buildings Services, in partnership with Education and delivered through strong partnerships.

The success of the programme requires partnership and collaborative working between the local authority, the voluntary and community sector and businesses

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)

across Portsmouth. The report outlines how those partnerships and collaboration have evolved and it is a credit to the HAF Fun Pompey team that there has been a drive to enhance the core programme offer to maximise the impact for communities across Portsmouth, with focus given to the increased needs driven by the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.

3.2. HAF Fun Pompey has the following aims:

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

3.3. In the HAF report to Cabinet in November 2021 it was noted that there was great opportunity 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.

4. How HAF has developed during 2022

4.1. HAF Fun Pompey is now working with over 45 providers across the City from across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Children and young people are given the opportunity to try a range of new activities, from art and drama; to dance and land based and water-based sports, and media and tech; linking in with more and more local partners, services and initiatives.

4.2. The HAF team have worked closely with our Library Services, and they were able to host their own family focused provision this summer, having played a supporting role in summer 2021.

4.3. All PYC adventure playgrounds and youth clubs are now delivering on-site HAF activities, broadening the already high-quality offer and have further enhanced their programme by delivering new and unique HAF activities off-site, e.g., with trips to the Peter Ashley Centre, Queen Elizabeth Country Park and Lymington Lido. This addition has also created closer links with providers in the City having a better understanding of what PYC offer and vice versa paving a way for future collaborations.

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)

- 4.4. The HAF team have supported the Museums and the Aspex Art Gallery to successfully collaborate this summer to provide a lovely family offer and will continue to deliver for subsequent delivery periods.
- 4.5. By partnering with The Andrew Simpson Foundation, HAF were able to contribute towards the purchase of a keel boat that could be used as part of the HAF offer for all children in the City as well as for PYC to access as part of the water safety programme. The Foundation offers sailing sessions for young people to increase water confidence and water awareness, which feeds into the wider city approach to tackling tomb stoning.
- 4.6. The HAF team have been working closely with our Active Travel colleagues Bikeability and Pedal Power to create an additional offer for children and their families to increase their confidence and skills to cycle safely. Sessions have been integrated into the HAF family provision as part of the physical activity criteria, with families enjoying the sessions and it is anticipated that this will be a regular occurrence to encourage families to cycle more.
- 4.7. HAF providers are proving to be strong role models, and the children and young people respond very well to the leaders and practitioners. The relationships between regular families and providers are developing with families benefitting from a consistent and trustworthy provision.
- 4.8. Our HAF providers are well skilled and knowledgeable in supporting additional needs. Enableability has been key to our learning and development in this area. Whilst a significant amount of the HAF provision is open to all we are seeking to build on our specialist SEND provision with provision run from a specialist school.
- 4.9. A HAF and SEND toolkit that has been sent to all Local Authorities from the Department for Education sees Portsmouth heavily featured as an example of recommended practice. The HAF team worked closely with the Council for Disabled Children to collate the toolkit and provide live examples from our programme.
- 4.10. HAF family days are offered, which are inclusive, and are continuing to grow and develop with an even spread across the City. These events have been well attended with families enjoying a range of activities, offering opportunities for new experiences and activities that encourage bonding between family members during the school holidays.
- 4.11. Having identified that some providers were missing opportunities to integrate nutritional education into their offer, and that there was an opportunity to build awareness of local services and support agencies, the HAF team organised a provider event. Providers were able to share and increase knowledge and to build relationships. Partner agencies attended to promote their work and answer any

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)

questions. Providers are now better placed to signpost families for agency support and have increased confidence in nutritional education.

- 4.12. The quality of food is generally improving with increasing understanding of the importance of nutrition. In developing positive relationships with food providers in the City we have also opened the opportunity for activity providers to work with them in partnership to further develop a good quality food offer. Through the additional support and training opportunities offered by the HAF team providers are now more creative with their food options and are offering hands on food experiences for children. Many providers who previously did not include food in their usual activity offer now appreciate the inclusion of food for children, with a number of them looking at embedding a snack or meal provision outside of the HAF programme.
- 4.13. Providers have been awarded one-off grant payments to support with the purchase of equipment to enhance their resources around physical activity and nutritional education delivery which will benefit year-round, not just in the HAF delivery periods.

5. Monitoring

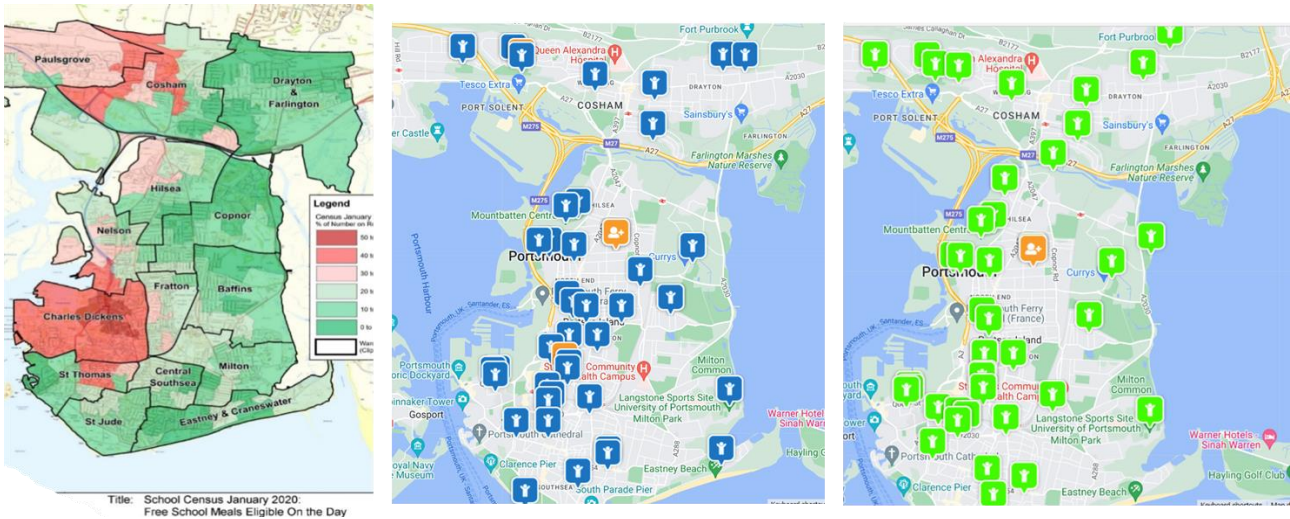
- 5.1. All HAF Fun Pompey providers must complete an extensive Expression of Interest and evidence relevant case studies before being approved as a HAF provider. This is then followed up by our HAF team who perform due diligence checks including checking policies and procedures.
- 5.2. The HAF team have established a thorough reporting process which includes a RAG rated monitoring assessment alongside announced and unannounced monitoring visits by HAF team assessors. The process highlights the importance of evolving with the range of HAF criteria and supports the providers in offering improvements and celebrating achievements. HAF providers also are required to complete a provision report that includes data, evidence, feedback from families and participants, achievements and areas to improve.

6. This year's HAF programme

- 6.1. The HAF programme has been rich in different activities, well spread and is meeting more of our 11-16 demographic than in 2021. There has been good attendance and advance booking demonstrating that activity choices are meeting the demands and needs of families.
- 6.2. There has been increased provision in our second hotspot in Paulsgrove / Wymering / Cosham and we will continue to ensure this area is well covered.

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)



- 6.3. 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 2022, and that in Summer 2022. 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.
- 6.4. It is estimated that over 3,000 individual children have attended the HAF provision this year. We know that some children attended places with more than one provider so there will be some overlap on the figures detailed below.
- 6.5. Easter 2022
Across the Easter programme we worked with 22 providers to make available 200 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.

Breakdown of children and young people attending HAF provision		
	Primary Aged	Secondary Aged
FSM eligible, non-SEND	1024	302
FSM eligible, with SEND	141	54
Non-FSM eligible (agency referred), non-SEND	182	39
Non-FSM eligible (agency referred), with SEND	31	15
TOTAL NUMBER OF HAF FUNDED ATTENDEES	1378	410
Free spaces offered through other funding	246	7
Paid for spaces	529	8
TOTAL number	2153	410

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)

6.6. Summer 2022

Over the school summer holidays we worked to substantially increase provision, working with 37 providers to make available 17503 sessions of provision, over 70 different projects.

Breakdown of children and young people attending HAF provision		
	Primary Aged	Secondary Aged
FSM eligible, non-SEND	2989	819
FSM eligible, with SEND	270	136
Non-FSM eligible (agency referred), non-SEND	502	115
Non-FSM eligible (agency referred), with SEND	18	10
TOTAL NUMBER OF HAF FUNDED ATTENDEES	3779	1080
Free spaces offered through other funding	25	19
Paid for spaces	963	123
TOTAL number	4767	1222

6.7. Winter 2022

HAF activities will be running during the Christmas Holidays, with sessions available for bookings listed on the PYC website <https://www.pycportsmouth.co.uk/> In addition to activities, some providers will be offering food parcels to the families of children and young people accessing their provision as an additional support during the winter months. HAF are working closely with the cost-of-living support team to ensure that providers working over the Christmas holiday period are able to sign-post families attending to further support.

6.8. Feedback from children and young people:

- "This is the best thing I have done this summer; I wish I could carry on! I have made new friends and learnt so much; I would love to return and do this again; the theatre trip was amazing! HAF is amazing!"
- "Incredible, I had a whole week to express myself."
- How would you describe your week: "Good energy."
- What did you gain most this week: "Confidence and happiness."
- "It was great! It was the coolest thing I've ever done."
- "Fun to walk around the Zoo with friends and learning to cook."
- "I enjoyed doing the street cooking and bowling."
- "My favourite part was using the tools." "I love tomatoes, my favourite vegetable is cucumber. I eat everything!"
- "The best bit was going to the beach."
- "I like creating, I love acting and history. We have done it all here."
- "I had lots of fun and wish we could do it every day."

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)

7. The Future

- 7.1. Work with The City of Sanctuary has proven to be successful, with good attendance by the young people. The HAF team worked in conjunction with the coordination team to tackle the barriers with language, transport, sunscreen provision and general needs of the families, considering the trauma and existing mental health issues impacting on integration into the community. This has now given the families a higher level of confidence to engage with communities within and externally to HAF and is a piece of work we will continue to develop and grow.
- 7.2. HAF partnered with Active Leaders to pilot a leadership through sport training course for young people in secondary schools that would connect with our HAF providers provision and give the attendees active work experience opportunities that could lead to paid work in the future. The course was attended by 17 enthusiastic young people who have been matched with a HAF provider of their choice and will be volunteering through the HAF programme. We look forward to supporting them moving forward and will be potentially delivering another course next year.
- 7.3. John Lewis/Waitrose in Southsea have offered contributions from their funding for "organisations who provide activities for children during the school holidays". They identified HAF Fun Pompey as meeting the criteria and contributed £400.00 towards the nutritional education element of the programme. HAF would like to build on local business partnerships to help support and enhance the offer to families.
- 7.4. There is current work focus on our communications strategy as it has been identified that there is a need for stronger branding with a greater emphasis on reaching secondary school aged young people. In process are the creation of assets and the development of a dedicated social media platform, with a plan to have a stronger social media presence overall.
- 7.5. Different needs in the wards have been identified and families in the Paulsgrove / Wymering / Cosham area seem more reluctant in booking on to the HAF programme despite the high level of free school meal families in the area. In seeking to build confidence there are plans for a Family Day via a collaborated approach with a few providers working together to create a blend of activities that would entice interest and engagement. We are also looking to further work with the local schools so that they can support with the promotion of HAF and potentially look to host more activities on their premises to encourage general engagement.
- 7.6. The HAF team are seeking to support providers to register for Ofsted and will be exploring private sponsorship for the sustainability of the programme post the 2024 allocated funding period.

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)

7.7. The HAF team are looking to commission a central booking system which will support the visibility and control needed to reduce admin, add value, and improve impact in a secure, all in one platform. A small trial will be taking place this winter with the plan to have a platform ready for Easter delivery next year.

8. Financial information

- 8.1. In October 2021 the government announced investment of over £200 million per year over the following 3 years for the holiday activities and food programme taking the holiday activity delivery period to the end of 2024.
- 8.2. DfE have yet to confirm how much HAF funding allocation Portsmouth will receive for 2023.
- 8.3. A request for extension funding up until March 2023 has been submitted in order to help enhance the winter offer further and fund training and other support to the programme.

9. Summary

- 9.1. This is the second year that Portsmouth has been funded to deliver a Holiday Activities and Food programme. HAF Fun Pompey now 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.
- 9.2. The HAF team are developing strong performance and a core HAF programme which, given HAF Fun Pompey is only in its second year, is testament to the providers in the city and the team and processes behind the programme.

.....
Signed by James Hill - Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building 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)

Signed by Sarah Daly - Director of Children Services and Education

Appendices:**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
HAF Fun Pompey - Cabinet 2 nd November 2021	HAF Fun Pompey.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)