

<b>Item No:</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 24 February 2021	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety
<b>Report title:</b>		Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme – Easter of Food and Fun grant recommendations	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety approves the use of £103,810 for 18 providers identified for the Easter of Food and Fun Holiday Programme as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for 2021. The recommendations are set out in Appendix 1.
2. That the Cabinet Member approves the use of the remaining £16,190 of the Easter grants budget to support providers to make places available for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Since 2018, the Department for Education has invested in local programmes that deliver healthy meals and fun activities to disadvantaged children during the summer holidays. In summer 2020, they invested £9 million in 17 local authorities, including the Southwark and Lambeth Summer of Food and Fun which took place across the two boroughs and was facilitated by a partnership between Kitchen Social (a Mayor's Fund for London charity), Southwark Council and Lambeth Council.
4. During summer 2020, the number of holiday provision hubs increased from 7 to 26 providers. These partners delivered 35 different programmes which reached 2115 individual children including 36 children with SEND needs. 67.5% of these children were eligible for free school meals (FSM). Over the course of the summer 28,355 nutritious meals were provided by the hubs and 32,372 healthy meals were cooked at home using Take and Make recipe boxes.
5. The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme has expanded in 2021 enabling all English local authorities to offer free healthy meals and enriching activities to local children eligible for FSM over the Easter, Summer and Winter holidays. The funding can only be used to support children between the ages of 5 and 16 years old. The Department of Education's investment of £220m will be delivered through grants to all local authorities.

6. Southwark Council has been allocated funding to cover the cost of coordinating and delivering the programme over Easter, Summer and Winter school holiday periods in 2021. £154,870 is available to spend in 2020/2021 and £1,383,160 is available for 2021/2022 dependent on plans submitted to the Department for Education. This is a significant increase in funding from 2020 and the intention is to scale up provision over the course of the year to reach more children in need of support, with a particular focus on trying to increase the availability of provision for 12-16 year old age groups.
7. The maximum funding allocation for financial year 2020/2021 is £154,870 which will be awarded by the Department for Education in March 2021. The Easter grants programme will be funded out of this 2020/2021 budget.
8. The programme's objectives are to encourage eligible children to:
  - Eat more healthily
  - Be more active
  - Take part in engaging and enriching activities
  - Be safe and not isolated
  - Have greater knowledge of health and nutrition
  - Be more engaged with school and other services
  - Have greater knowledge and awareness of holiday club provision
9. The Department for Education also requires that:
  - Provision is inclusive and accessible
  - Provision is offered to all FSM children in the local authority
  - Ideally provision is offered four hours a day, four days a week, for four weeks in the Summer and for one week at Easter and Winter

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Easter of Food and Fun grants: assessment and funding recommendations**

10. The first funding round of the Southwark HAF 2021 programme is for Easter only and funding is being allocated through a closed application process, with funding prioritised for the 26 holiday hub providers from last summer's programme.
11. We have decided to run a closed application process for Easter for the following reasons:
  - Due to the Department for Education's timeline, we have been given a very tight timescale to recruit providers to the Easter programme. This has curtailed our ability to give enough time to promote the grants, give a reasonable window for applications, and to deliver the required training sessions for new providers.
  - Hubs from last year's programme have received the required training to deliver a Department for Education funded programme, including delivery, impact measurement, nutritional standards, mental wellbeing etc. They will be provided with a refresher training pack, but will not

require repeat virtual face to face training sessions until Summer 2021.

- Hubs from last year's programme have already submitted all the Quality Assurance documentation required and these have been verified already (although we may request updated copies of some, for example COVID-19 related policies, and will check to ensure we have all documents and that they are up to date).
12. Subsequent funding rounds for the Summer and Winter holidays will be widely advertised and the application process will be open to all eligible organisations.

### **Criteria**

13. The grant criteria are designed to ensure all providers meet the required standards of both Southwark Council and the Department for Education.
14. Organisations applying for Easter grant funding are required to meet **all** the following general and specific criteria.

### **General criteria**

- Registered charity and / or registered not for profit company and / or other form of registered not for profit organisation
- Based in and / or providing services within borough of Southwark
- Operate from fit for purpose premises and show evidence of ability to adapt services during the COVID 19 pandemic to ensure they continue to meet the needs of their clients
- Quality assurance measures in place

### **Specific criteria**

- The programme will be free of charge for eligible families
- Providers must include the following in their programmes every day:
  - Food and nutrition skills aimed at improving knowledge and awareness of healthy eating
  - Structured physical activity for at least 60 minutes each day
  - Enriching activities which offer children the opportunities to develop new skills or knowledge or have different experiences
- Hubs must be able to provide at least one meal a day and all food provided, inclusive of snacks, must meet school food standards. Support will be provided for those hubs who state they are unable to prepare food onsite in their application form.
- Providers must be running or linked to an Ofsted registered child provision if children of 8 years or below are attending (where their parents/carers are not on the premises) for:
  - More than 2 hours per session
  - More than 14 days a year
  - Unless their programme is exempt if the club is registered as an activity-based setting offering no more than two types of activities

## Cross-programme criteria

15. The following criteria have been applied when considering applications to ensure the Easter of Food and Fun programme as a whole is inclusive and caters to the level of need in the borough.
  - The Easter programme as a whole has sufficient geographical spread across the borough with a focus on areas of higher need in terms of food insecurity and mapped against the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)
  - The Easter programme as a whole caters to the full age range stipulated by the Department for Education (5-16 years old)
  - There is sufficient provision available to support eligible children and young people with SEND requirements
16. Providers were asked to provide details of the number of days they can operate over the Easter period and how many places they can provide per day. This information was then used to calculate how many places on a holiday programme each hub could make available over the Easter period.
17. Based on feedback from last summer's holiday programme and the budget available for Easter, we have decided to base grant allocations on a funding level of £10 per child per day.
18. The applications received are summarised in the table below:

Total number of applications	18 providers for 25 holiday programmes
Applications that meet the criteria	18
Applications that don't meet the criteria	0
Hubs that are able to provide SEND provision	15
Approximate total number of individual children who will be supported over Easter	1920
Total number of holiday club places for children over Easter applied for	10,381
Total amount of grant funding allocated	£103,810

19. Officers have assessed applications based on the criteria stipulated above. Applications need to meet all the required general and specific criteria to be considered for funding. Applications were then assessed as a group to ensure cross-programme criteria were also satisfied.

20. The attached allocations recommend that all applicants are awarded funding because all have met the required criteria, funding all providers enables us to best meet the cross-programme criteria, and the total amount of grant allocation falls within the total allocated budget for Easter.
21. Grant funding allocations for each organisation are based on the following information provided in the application form:
  - Number of days their holiday programme will be running over Easter
  - Number of children that providers stipulated they could provide face to face provision for (apart from 2 providers who only provided figures for children reached by remote provision: Camberwell and Dulwich Children and Family Centre and Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Children and Family Centre)
22. Providers also specified how many places they could provide for children if they deliver only remote provision. The total number of places available for children if all hubs only provide remote holiday programmes was 12,260. However, our allocated budget for Easter does not stretch to fund all these places, hence, grant funding has been allocated on the figure given for face to face provision.
23. Providers will be responsible for ensuring they deliver a COVID-secure holiday programme dependent on the COVID-19 government restrictions and guidance for the Easter holidays. It has not yet been confirmed whether the holiday programme will be allowed to be face to face, virtual, or a hybrid model. The Public Health department will support providers to ensure their COVID-19 risk assessments are accurate and up to date, and that the relevant guidance is adhered to. We anticipate that most providers will need to have a hybrid model or be fully remote to ensure their provision is COVID-secure.
24. 15 providers have confirmed that they can make places available for children with SEND needs. We have allocated the remaining grants budget for Easter (£16,190) to provide additional funding for those who provide places for children with SEND needs. This budget will be allocated based on hubs registration and attendance data and will be an addition to the base grant funding provided. We will verify the details of children eligible for additional SEND funding with the relevant team in Southwark Council.
25. The 18 providers and 25 programmes are well distributed across the borough according to areas of high need.
26. Full details of the recommended allocations for grant funding can be found in appendix 1.
27. To ensure the programme meets the Department for Education standards, Southwark Council will also be directly procuring the following:
  - Weekly [Take and Make Boxes](#) through Kitchen Social, distributed to children each week. These are healthy recipe-kit boxes that support

families to cook nutritious meals together at home, supported with physical recipe cards and online videos. The budget for this is £24,000.

- Nutritious pre-prepared meals option for providers who are unable to make meals on site. Southwark Council will secure a contract with a local food provider, and hubs who select this option will have the cost per meal deducted from their grant allocation based on the child per day funding figure.

### **Conditions of Grant Funding**

28. Organisations awarded grant funding are subject to monitoring through the council's Conditions of Grant Funding (COGF). Schedules to these cover the key areas of: governance and employment; finance; employment practices and monitoring and information. In addition to a requirement to comply with these conditions, organisations are subject to an annual monitoring visit, and the monitoring framework includes a monitoring checklist, which assesses each of the areas covered within the COGF as well as service delivery.
29. Where any significant issues are identified during monitoring which could give rise to a breach in the COGF, the council will write to the relevant organisation and set out what action needs to be taken. In such cases they will be advised that the funding continuation is subject to their taking the necessary remedial action to address concerns. Failure to do so may result in the council taking the appropriate action to terminate the funding by way of a further report.

### **Policy implications**

30. The HAF 2021 programme directly contributes to Southwark Council's Fairer Future Commitments of tackling health inequalities and ensuring all children have the best start in life by providing children who are eligible for free school meals with nutritious meals and a safe and enriching environment during the school holidays<sup>1</sup>.

### **Community Impact statement**

31. This grants programme intends to provide targeted support to children, young people and families vulnerable to food insecurity to access nutritious food and enriching activities over the school holidays in 2021.
32. The 2019 Survey for Londoners highlighted the stark issue of food insecurity in Southwark. 23.5% of people over 16 years and 25.8% of children surveyed were food insecure, equating to approximately 75,000 of residents over 16 years and over 15,000 Southwark children<sup>2</sup>. Food insecurity for both adults and children is worse in Southwark than the London average (21% for adults and 17.5% for children).
33. In 2019, there were clear inequalities that existed within those struggling with food insecurity in Southwark. People of Black ethnicity, people living in social

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<sup>1</sup> [Southwark Council. 2020. Council Plan 2018-2020. Council Plan Refresh.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Tackling Household Food Insecurity. Southwark's JSNA. Southwark Council: London. 2019.](#)

housing, families with dependent children, unemployed or low paid adults, and those in debt were identified as priority groups more vulnerable to food insecurity<sup>2</sup>.

34. The pandemic has clearly exacerbated the issue of food insecurity across the country. The Food Foundation's survey series on the impact of coronavirus on children's food has continually demonstrated that families with children have suffered significantly. Their most recent data published in September 2020 highlighted that 14% of adults living with children reported experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity in the last 6 months, equating to four million people including 2.3 million children<sup>3</sup>. Black and mixed ethnicity households with children continue to experience higher levels of food insecurity than their white counterparts<sup>3</sup>.
35. The school holidays can be a pressure point for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced household incomes. For some children, this can lead to a holiday experience gap – with children from low income 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. COVID-19 is likely to have increased the need for this provision, with more families experiencing reduced household incomes and increased food insecurity.
36. The Easter of Food and Fun programme intends to benefit a cohort of Southwark's most vulnerable children and young people, contributing to the reduction of health inequalities over the long term. A Joint Equalities and Health Impact Assessment has been completed for the grants programme and can be found in appendix 2.
37. Grant funded VCS organisations are required as part of the COGF to ensure all subcontractors and service providers pay workers the London Living Wage as a minimum. The council has achieved Friendly Funder Accreditation with the Living Wage Foundation. Living Wage Friendly Funders support charities to pay the real Living Wage that meets the cost of living through their grant-making.

### **Resource implications**

38. Public Health staff have been managing the grants programme, with the support of a freelance holiday coordinator.
39. Please see financial implications section for impact on financial resources.

### **Legal implications**

40. See comments from the Director of Law and Governance at paragraphs 48 to 49.

### **Financial implications**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/new-food-foundation-data-sept-2020/>

41. The total amount of grant available from the Department for Education in 2020/2021 is £154,870. The total budget available for grants is £120,000 including funding for SEND provision. £24,000 has been budgeted to procure Take and Make boxes which will be provided to children who attend the programme each week. A maximum of £10,870 has been allocated for coordination and promotion costs.
42. The recommended total grant funding amount is £103,810. This comes within budget and leaves up to £16,190 available to be allocated across the hubs who make provision available for children with SEND needs. Allocations for SEND will be dependent on providers providing the registration details of children with SEND, with these details cross-checked and verified by Southwark Council.

### **Consultation**

43. During and after the Summer of Food and Fun programme in 2020, stakeholders were engaged to understand their experience of the holiday programme and areas for improvement were identified for the future.
44. Stakeholders consulted included holiday hub providers, children and families, the holiday provision coordinators, and the Southwark Holiday Provision network which comprises both providers and staff from relevant council departments who are involved in supporting holiday provision.
45. Feedback and insights gained from last year's programme have directly influenced planning for 2021.
46. The Holiday Provision Network continues to meet and will be consulted throughout the 2021 programme.
47. For 2021, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme Steering Group has been set up with the involvement of Councillor Evelyn Akoto and Councillor Jasmine Ali and representatives from public health, education, children's services, youth services, leisure and communications. Two long-standing Southwark holiday providers also sit on the steering group. The group will be regularly consulted and will provide oversight for the 2021 programme.

### **Supplementary Advice from Other Officers**

#### **Director of Law and Governance**

48. This is a decision the cabinet member is permitted to take in accordance with Part 3D of the council's constitution.
49. The cabinet member is reminded of the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, and when making decisions to have regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct; (b) to advance equality of opportunity; and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic



and those who do not share it. A Joint Equalities and Health Impact Assessment for this recommendation is attached at Appendix 2.

### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance**

50. This report is requesting approval from the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety of the recommendation to fund Easter Food and Fun Holiday Programme as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for 2021.
51. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the total ring-fenced funding of £154,870 is available from the Department for Education in 2020/2021 to fund this programme
52. Staffing and any other costs connected with these recommendations are to be contained within pre-allocated and existing departmental revenue resources.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
None	N/a	<a href="mailto:Nikita.sinclair@southwark.gov.uk">Nikita.sinclair@southwark.gov.uk</a>

### **APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	Easter of Food and Fun recommended grant allocations
Appendix 2	Joint Equalities and Health Impact Assessment

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Caroline Bruce, Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure	
<b>Report Author</b>	Nikita Sinclair, Public Health Policy Officer for Healthy Places	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	23 February 2021	
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		23 February 2021