

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 24 January 2022	Decision Taker: Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Report title:		Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme – Easter of Food and Fun 2022 grant recommendations	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing approves the use of £166,650 for 37 providers identified for the Easter of Food and Fun Holiday Programme as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for 2022. The recommendations are set out in Appendix 1.
2. That the Cabinet Member approves the use of the remaining £25,500 of the Easter grants budget to support providers to make places available for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
3. That the Cabinet Member approves the use of £24,000 of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) budget to support providers to operate COVID-secure programmes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. Since 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) 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.
5. The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme expanded in 2021 enabling all English local authorities to offer free healthy meals and enriching activities to local children eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM) over the Easter, summer and winter holidays. The funding could only be used to support children between the ages of 4 and 16 years old. Towards the end of 2021, the DfE confirmed that the HAF programme will continue to be funded for the 2022 – 2024 school holidays.
6. Southwark Council has been allocated £1,522,530 of grant funding from the DfE to cover the cost of coordinating and delivering the HAF programme over Easter, summer and winter school holidays in 2022. The majority of this funding will be directly awarded as grant funding to local

holiday provision providers to deliver the programme. This grant funding will be paid in two instalments. The first instalment up to £1,218,024 will be received in the 2022/2023 financial year and the second instalment up to £304,506 will be received in the 2023/2024 financial year, dependent on delivery plans and reports submitted to the Department for Education. This is a similar but slightly lower level of funding than what was allocated to Southwark Council for the 2021 programme. Alongside this funding, £24,000 from the COMF budget has been allocated to the holiday programme to help providers reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their settings.

7. For Easter, the HAF team have budgeted £284,000 to cover the provision of 11,110 places across the 2 week holiday period. For the summer and winter holidays, the team have budgeted £1,262,530 to cover provision over the 5 week summer and 2 week winter holidays.
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 Christmas

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Easter of Food and Fun grants: assessment and funding recommendations

10. The first funding round of the Southwark HAF 2022 programme is for the Easter holidays and the application process has been shared widely including amongst the Holiday Provision Network, schools, Ofsted-registered out of school settings and prospective providers who have previously expressed an interest in the programme in order to encourage all eligible organisations to apply.

Criteria

11. The grant criteria are designed to ensure all providers meet the required standards of both Southwark Council and the Department for Education.

12. Organisations applying for Easter grant funding are required to meet **all** the following general and specific criteria.

General criteria

- Organisations eligible for funding include registered charities, voluntary, community or faith organisations, companies limited by guarantee, Community Interest Companies, Social enterprises, Schools, and Parent Teacher Friends Associations. All organisations are required to run a not for profit HAF programme.
- Based in and / or providing services within the London 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
- Have 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.
- 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

13. 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 geographical spread of applicants was checked using Google Maps to ensure all wards within the borough had adequate holiday provision to minimise cold spots.

- The Easter programme as a whole caters to the full age range stipulated by the Department for Education (5-16 years old plus Reception aged 4). A particular focus has been placed on 12-16 year olds as previous holiday periods have shown a lack of sufficient provision for and/or engagement with this age group.
 - There is sufficient provision available to support eligible children and young people with SEND requirements.
 - Delivery is in line with the “gold standard” model as stipulated by the DfE i.e. hubs can deliver provision a minimum of 4 hours a day, 4 days for 1 week during the Easter holiday period.
14. 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.
15. The team have amended the base grant funding levels based on feedback from previous holiday programmes in Southwark, other local authorities, meal suppliers the team have worked with and the budget available for Easter. The base grant funding level has been set to £15 per child per day. This £15 covers a variety of costs associated with the programme including resources for enriching activities, equipment for physical activities, staffing and administrative costs, nutritional education and healthy meals for participants.
16. The applications received for the Easter programme are summarised in the table below:

Total number of applications	38 providers for 60 holiday programmes
Applications that meet the criteria	58
Applications that don't meet the criteria	2
Applications that haven't been recommended for funding	3
Hubs that are able to provide SEND provision	51
Approximate total number of individual children who will be supported over Easter as estimated by holiday club providers	2,790
Total number of holiday club places for children over Easter applied for	11,110

Total amount of grant funding allocated	£216,150
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17. 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. 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.
18. Due to the number of applications received, the team are unable to fund all places applied for. To ensure the allocation of funding amongst eligible organisations was fair, the following rules were applied to the organisations that applied for funding:
- All individual programmes were recommended funding for a maximum of 4 days a week for 1 week over the holiday period as stipulated by the DfE as the “gold standard” model of HAF provision
 - All individual programmes were capped at 200 places per day per location
 - Programmes from new providers and/or new locations were capped at a maximum of 50 places per day as experience from 2021 has shown it can be a challenge for providers new to the holiday programme to reach their projected numbers
 - Programmes that have previously taken part in Southwark’s Food and Fun programme were capped to the number of participants per day that attended previously as evidenced in the monitoring and attendance data from previous programme cycles

Based on the feedback received from holiday clubs during previous programme cycles, it was important to offer a minimum base funding level of £15 per place per day. Applying the above cut offs enable us to fund as many eligible providers as possible for 4 days of provision, which maximises the number of individual eligible beneficiaries the programme can reach whilst enabling us to budget for a base funding level of £15 per place per day over the summer and winter periods.

19. The attached recommended allocations in appendix 1 recommend that 37 applicants are awarded funding because they have met the required criteria, funding these 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.
20. 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 Christmas

- Number of children that providers stipulated they could provide provision for per day

- 21. Applications were received from Millwall Community Trust (at Camelot school) and Spring Community Hub (at Christ Church Peckham) to each run a programme in the Old Kent Road ward/Peckham area. As there is already a lot of holiday provision in this area and as both of these providers have other programme locations with a higher level of places offered per day which have been recommended for funding, these two programmes have not been recommended for funding. This enables funding to be allocated to other new programmes in areas with less holiday provision than previously before, enabling eligible families from those areas to be closer to a Food and Fun programme.

- 22. An application was received from Early Bloomers, a holiday club that took part in the Summer and Winter of Food and Fun 2021. This provider struggled to meet its target number of individual children and number of places per day in summer, with their monitoring and attendance data showing a vast difference in projected and actual figures for this organisation and in comparison to other programmes taking part. Despite a reduction in the number of places applied for to cover the winter period, the gap between projected figures and actual figures widened further. For these reasons, their application for this round has not been recommended for funding. The holiday programme team believe funding other new providers (also based in the south of the borough) instead will lead to more eligible beneficiaries to be reached by the Food and Fun programme.

- 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, including following recommendations for considering group sizes in their settings. £24,000 of COMF funding has been allocated to the holiday programme to support providers to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their settings. This budget will be awarded based on the projected number of children attending per day for each programme and the number of days each programme is operating. This funding can be used to buy PPE (e.g. face masks and hand sanitizer) and extra cleaning equipment and materials and will be paid with payment one before the holiday period.

- 24. 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 providers will be encouraged to operate face to face or through a hybrid model as this was the case over the winter holidays in 2021.

- 25. 31 providers across 51 programmes have confirmed that they can make places available for children with SEND needs. The holiday programme team have allocated the remaining grants budget for Easter (£25,500) to provide additional funding for those who provide places for children with SEND needs, which is an increase of the budget allocated for SEND

provision over Easter 2021. During previous holiday periods, some providers were unable to accept children onto their programmes due to last minute requests from parents and the lack of SEND funding available at the time. This budget will be awarded based on programme registration and attendance data and evidence of SEND-specific expenditure. This will be **an addition to the base grant funding awarded per child** and will be paid with payment two after the holiday period. This funding will be used to support SEND children to access the programme by enabling providers to pay for support workers, specialist activities and specialist equipment. We will verify the details of children eligible for additional SEND funding with the relevant team in Southwark Council.

26. The 37 providers and 57 programmes recommended for funding are well distributed across the borough according to areas of high need and cater to all eligible age groups.
27. Full details of the recommended allocations for grant funding can be found in appendix 1.
28. To ensure the programme meets the Department for Education standards, Southwark Council will also be directly procuring the following:
 - [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 £33,000.
 - Deliveries of fresh fruit from an East Street Market trader to support our providers in offering healthy snacks as part of their programmes. The budget for this is £2,550.

Conditions of Grant Funding

29. 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.
30. 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 framework implications

31. The Food and Fun holiday 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 benefits-related free school meals with nutritious meals and a safe and enriching environment during the school holidays¹.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

32. The Food and Fun holiday 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 2022.
33. 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 children². Food insecurity for both adults and children is worse in Southwark than the London average (21% for adults and 17.5% for children)².
34. In 2019, there were clear inequalities that existed within those struggling with food insecurity in Southwark. People of Black ethnicities, people living in social housing, families with dependent children, unemployed or low paid adults, and those in debt were identified as priority groups more vulnerable to food insecurity².
35. The pandemic has further 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 March 2021 highlighted that 41% of households with children on free school meals reported experiencing food insecurity in the last 6 months, equating to four million people including 2.3 million children³. Black and mixed ethnicity households with children continue to experience higher levels of food insecurity than their white counterparts³.
36. 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

¹ [Southwark Council. 2020. Southwark's Borough Plan 2020-2022. Council Plan Refresh.](#)

² [Southwark Council. 2019. Household Food Insecurity, Southwark's JSNA.](#)

³ [Food Foundation. 2021. The Impact of Covid-19 on Household Food Security.](#)

isolation. COVID-19 is likely to have increased the need for this provision, with more families experiencing reduced household incomes and increased food insecurity.

37. The 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 was completed in 2021 for the programme and can be found in appendix 2. This assessment demonstrates that the holiday programme shows no potential for discrimination and the holiday programme team have taken all appropriate opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people with different protected characteristics.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

38. The joint Equalities and Health Impact Assessment found in appendix 2 was undertaken in order to assess the need for the provision to be delivered as part of the Food and Fun holiday programme and the cohort of children and families who would be most likely to benefit from it. The holiday programme is anticipated to have positive impacts for all children, young people and families that it reaches.
39. Despite the programme being universally advertised to all children eligible for free school meals, as illustrated in the joint Equalities and Health Impact Assessment, particular groups are more likely to experience food insecurity and health inequalities than others. For example, children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) needs are more likely to be eligible for free school meals and thus be at a greater risk of food insecurity than other students. Alongside this, in 2019 a higher proportion of black residents were vulnerable to food insecurity compared to white residents.
40. The Food and Fun programme specifically targets families vulnerable to food insecurity in Southwark through recruiting hubs across the borough with a focus on areas with higher levels of deprivation as well as programmes that deliver SEND provision across eligible age groups. These areas of high socio-economic disadvantage also have a higher concentration of black residents. It's anticipated that the programme will continue to have a positive impact on this community as evidence suggests a higher proportion of children and young people of black ethnicity will be eligible for the programme and the programme locations have been mapped to ensure they're in areas of high deprivation.
41. To ensure the holiday programme is an attractive offer to the diversity of prospective participants, a variety of holiday clubs have been recommended for funding including sports programmes, arts and crafts camps and filmmaking workshops. And all holiday clubs are supported to serve food that is culturally varied and takes into consideration religious preferences.

Health impact statement

42. As described in the joint Equalities and Health Impact Assessment, the Food and Fun holiday programme is anticipated to have positive health impacts for all children, young people and families that it reaches. Providing nutrition education to participants and their families and recipe boxes to every child that attends the programme helps improve the food security of Southwark residents by supplying a meal for 4 people per box to be enjoyed at home. The recipes in these boxes are healthy, low cost and simple to make to encourage families to cook healthy meals easily beyond the scope of the programme which will ultimately improve their health and wellbeing.

Climate change implications

43. To reduce the impact the delivery of the programme has on the environment and climate change, the Take and Make recipe boxes and fresh fruit will be delivered in bulk to the holiday clubs rather than across multiple days. The Holiday Programme team will be looking to ensure that delivery vehicles used to deliver any food to the holiday hubs are low or zero emission.
44. The Take and Make Recipe Boxes contain exclusively vegetarian recipes, which supports the children and families attending the Food and Fun holiday programme to learn to cook, taste and enjoy meat-free meals. Holiday clubs cooking their own meals for the programme are also trained on how to create a more environmentally sustainable menu with more plant-based options. This is likely to contribute to a shift in mind-sets around vegetarian and vegan meals, which may encourage families to eat meat-free options more often. This has benefits for sustainability as meat consumption contributes significantly to the climate emergency.
45. During the 2021 holiday programme, Kitchen Social (the Take and Make recipe box supplier) incorporated education around sustainability into the recipe videos and added information about sustainability into their recipe cards including information on increasing specific food groups to make a meal more planet-friendly and tips on how to reduce food waste. This helps encourage conversations around eating an environmentally sustainable diet which ties into the training new and existing holiday clubs receive about adjusting the food served during the programme to benefit the environment.

Resource implications

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

Legal implications

48. Please see the concurrent report from the Director of Law and Governance from paragraph 57.

Financial implications

49. Southwark Council has been allocated £1,522,530 of grant funding from the DfE to cover the cost of coordinating and delivering the HAF programme over Easter, summer and winter school holidays in 2022. The majority of this funding will be directly awarded as grant funding to local holiday provision providers to deliver the programme. This grant funding will be paid in two instalments. The first instalment up to £1,218,024 will be received in the 2022/2023 financial year and the second instalment up to £304,506 will be received in the 2023/2024 financial year, dependent on delivery plans and reports submitted to the Department for Education. This is a similar but slightly lower level of funding than what was allocated to Southwark Council for the 2021 programme. Alongside this, the £24,000 from the COMF budget that has been allocated to the holiday programme brings the total level funding for Southwark's 2022 holiday programme to £1,546,530.
50. £284,000 has been budgeted to cover the Easter programme. £216,150 of this is being made available for Easter grants including funding for SEND provision and COMF funding to make the holiday programmes COVID-19 secure. £33,000 has been budgeted to procure Take and Make boxes and £2,550 has been budgeted to procure fresh fruit, which will be provided to children who attend the programme each week. A maximum of £27,200 has been allocated for coordination, contingency planning and promotion costs and £5,100 has been allocated to fund a culture and wellbeing offer where holiday providers will access free tickets from local cultural organisations across the borough to enhance their programmes.
51. The recommended total base grant funding amount is £166,650. This comes within budget and leaves up to £25,500 available to be allocated across the hubs who make provision available for children with SEND needs. Allocations for SEND will be dependent on holiday clubs providing registration and attendance data and evidence of SEND-specific expenditure, with these details being cross-checked and verified by Southwark Council.

Consultation

52. During and the Food and Fun programme in Summer 2020, and throughout 2021, stakeholders were engaged to understand their experience of the holiday programme and areas for improvement were identified for the future.
53. Stakeholders consulted included holiday club providers, pre-prepared

meals suppliers, children and families, the holiday provision coordinators, other local authorities running HAF programmes and the Southwark Holiday Provision Network, which comprises of both providers and staff from relevant council departments who are involved in supporting holiday provision.

54. Feedback and insights gained from previous programmes have directly influenced planning for the 2022 programme.
55. The Holiday Provision Network continues to meet and will be consulted throughout the 2022 programme.
56. In 2021, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme Steering Group was set up involving Councillor Evelyn Akoto, 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 continue to meet in 2022 to be regularly consulted about the programme and will provide oversight for the 2022 programme.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

57. This report seeks approval to allocate funding to 37 providers identified for the Easter of Food and Fun Holiday Programme as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for 2022. The report notes that the funding is to be drawn down from a budgetary provision made for Easter grants, including funding for SEND related provision and from a Contain Outbreak Management Fund.
58. The report notes and confirms that a robust and transparent process for inviting and evaluating applications for funding has been followed and that this has been informed both by a consultation exercise and by the joint Equalities and Health Impact Assessment which has been undertaken in order to assess the need for the provision to be delivered in this programme and the cohort of children and families who would be most likely to benefit from the programme.
59. The report also notes that recipients of the grant awards will be required to observe and comply with the council's conditions of grant funding and will be monitored in order to ensure appropriate service delivery and value.
60. It is confirmed that the decision to approve the recommendations in this report is one which is expressly reserved to the Cabinet Member under Part 3D of the council Constitution.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (EL21/132)

61. This report is requesting that the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety approves the allocation of £166,650 to 37 specified providers for the Easter of Food and Fun Holiday Programme as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for 2022. Additionally this report requests that Cabinet Member approves the use of the remaining £25,500 to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and that the Cabinet Member also approves the use of £24,000 from the 2021/22 Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to support providers operating COVID-secure programmes.
62. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that adequate ring-fenced funding of £1,522,530 has been made available from the Department for Education in 2022 to fund the HAF programme and that there is also sufficient COMF funding available to support the COVID-secure programmes.
63. Staffing and any other costs connected with these recommendations are to be contained within pre-allocated and existing departmental revenue resources.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Department for Education. SECTION 31 GRANT DETERMINATION FOR THE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME 2022: 31/5854	Southwark Public Health Department, Environment and Leisure	Charlotte Pollins Charlotte.pollins@southwark.gov.uk
Link: www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme		
Department for Education, HAF 2022 Guidance– December 2021	Southwark Public Health Department, Environment and Leisure	Charlotte Pollins Charlotte.pollins@southwark.gov.uk
Link: www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2021		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Easter of Food and Fun 2022 recommended grant allocations
Appendix 2	Joint Equalities and Health Impact Assessment- HAF 2021 Summer Christmas grants programme

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Jin Lim – Deputy Director of Public Health	
Report Author	Charlotte Pollins – Programme Support Officer, Healthy Places	
Version	Final	
Dated	24 January 2022	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes/No	Yes/No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team / Scrutiny Team		14 February 2022