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| Item No: | Classification: Open | Date: 19 May 2021 | Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing |
| Report title: | | Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme – Summer of Food and Fun grant recommendations | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure | |

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing approves the use of £775,404 for 41 providers identified for the Summer 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 £50,000 of the Summer 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. 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 Christmas holidays. The funding can only be used to support children between the ages of 4 and 16 years old. The Department of Education's investment of £220m will be delivered through grants to all local authorities.
5. Southwark Council has been allocated funding to cover the cost of coordinating and delivering the programme over Easter, Summer and Christmas school holiday periods in 2021. £154,870 was available to spend in 2020/2021 and £1,385,160 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.

6. The maximum funding allocation for the 2021/2022 financial year is £1,385,160, which is to cover both the summer and Christmas holidays. For summer, we have budgeted £1,126,406 to cover the provision of 64,617 places across the 5 week holiday period. For Christmas, we have budgeted £237,600 to cover provision over the 2 week holiday period. More providers operate over the summer than over Christmas as expressed during the summer application process supporting this decision.
7. Within the extremely tight timescale imposed on us due to the Department for Education's timeline, we ran a closed application process for the Easter of Food and Fun programme, where we invited hubs from last summer's programme to apply for funding. These hubs had already received the required training to deliver a Department for Education funded programme, including delivery, impact measurement, nutritional standards, mental wellbeing etc. Before Easter, we held a refresher training session, sent out a training pack of information and checked all the quality assurance documents received from providers for last year's programme. We also requested updated copies of some of these documents for example COVID-19 related policies, Food Hygiene Level 2 certification and First Aid Certification.
8. During Easter, 18 holiday provision hubs delivered 28 different programmes, which reached 1,702 individual children including 53 children who provided evidence of SEND needs. 77.8% of these children were eligible for free school meals (FSM). Over the course of the Easter holidays 10,657 nutritious meals were provided by the hubs and 11,696 healthy meals were cooked at home using Take and Make recipe boxes.
9. 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
10. 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

Summer of Food and Fun grants: assessment and funding recommendations

11. The second funding round of the Southwark HAF 2021 programme is for the Summer 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

12. The grant criteria are designed to ensure all providers meet the required standards of both Southwark Council and the Department for Education.
13. Organisations applying for Summer 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

14. The following criteria have been applied when considering applications to ensure the Summer of Food and Fun programme as a whole is inclusive and caters to the level of need in the borough.
 - The Summer 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 provision.

- The Summer programme as a whole caters to the full age range stipulated by the Department for Education (4-16 years old). 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
15. Providers were asked to provide details of the number of days they can operate over the Summer 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 Summer period.
16. We have amended our base grant funding levels based on the feedback from previous holiday programmes, meal suppliers we've worked with and the budget available for Summer. We have increased the funding level to £12 per child per day. This £12 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. We are also raising the amount allocated for the cost of each meal provided by Southwark's chosen food supplier, as we want to align the food offer with Southwark's objectives around sustainability, social value, commitment to the London Living Wage and the HAF programme's objective to deliver high quality, nutritious, culturally appropriate meals. We expect hubs arranging their own meals for the programme to do the same and we will support them with further guidance and training to do this. The increase in funding level per child, per session will offset this increase in meal cost.
17. The applications received are summarised in the table below:

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| Total number of applications | 42 providers for 54 holiday programmes |
| Applications that meet the criteria | 41 |
| Applications that don't meet the criteria | 1 |
| Hubs that are able to provide SEND provision | 34 |
| Approximate total number of individual children who will be supported over Summer as estimated by holiday club providers | 5,801 |
| Total number of holiday club places for children over Summer applied for | 64,617 |

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| Total amount of grant funding allocated | £775,404 |
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18. 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 Summer 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 Summer period.
19. Due to the number of applications received, we are unable to fund all places applied for. To ensure the allocation of funding amongst eligible organisations was fair, individual programmes were capped at 200 places per day. Based on the feedback received from hubs at Easter, it was important to raise the base funding level to £12 per place per day. Providing this cut off of 200 places enables us to fund all eligible providers for the entirety of their summer programmes and enables us to budget a base funding level of £12 per place per day over the Christmas period.
20. The attached allocations recommend that 41 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 Summer.
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 Summer
 - Number of children that providers stipulated they could provide provision for per day
22. An application was received from Skipz Productions CIC for 3 programmes. This provider is based outside of the borough, showed no history of holiday provision in Southwark and was unable to confirm the locations of their prospective programmes. Without a confirmed location, we were unable map their programmes to ensure they are in an area of high need. For these reasons, their application for this funding round was rejected, however we welcome this provider to apply for funding in the future.
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 Summer holidays, including following recommendations for considering group sizes in their settings.
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 allowed to operate face to

face, fully remotely or through a hybrid model as this was the case over the Easter holidays.

25. 34 providers have confirmed that they can make places available for children with SEND needs. We have allocated the remaining grants budget for Summer (£50,000) 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**. 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 41 providers and 51 programmes 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:
 - 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 £168,400.
 - 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

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 implications

31. 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 holidays¹.

Community Impact statement

32. This grants programme intends to provide targeted support to children, young people and families vulnerable to food insecurity to access healthy, nutritious food and enriching activities over the school holidays in 2021.
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).
34. In 2019, there were clear inequalities that existed within those struggling with food insecurity in Southwark. People of Black ethnicity, 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 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 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 isolation. COVID-19 is likely to have increased the need for this provision, with more families experiencing reduced household incomes and increased food insecurity.

¹ [Southwark Council. 2020. Council Plan 2018-2020. Council Plan Refresh.](#)

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

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

37. The Summer 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.
38. 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

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

Legal implications

41. Please see the concurrent report from the Director of Law and Governance from paragraph 50.

Financial implications

42. The total amount of grant available from the Department for Education in 2021/2022 is £1,385,160. The total budget being made available for summer grants is £825,404 including funding for SEND provision. £168,400 has been budgeted to procure Take and Make boxes which will be provided to children who attend the programme each week. A maximum of £102,602 has been allocated for training, coordination, contingency planning and promotion costs and £30,000 has been allocated to fund a culture and wellbeing offer for the summer where holiday providers will access free tickets from local cultural organisations across the borough to enhance their programmes.
43. The recommended total grant funding amount is £775,404. This comes within budget and leaves up to £50,000 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.
44. In the application for Summer funding, providers were asked about their plans for the Christmas holidays in order for the team to plan the Christmas budget ahead. A total of £237,600 of the grant available from the Department for Education in 2021/2022 is being ringfenced for the Christmas of Food and Fun.

Consultation

45. During and the Food and Fun programme in Summer 2020 and Easter 2021, stakeholders were engaged to understand their experience of the holiday programme and areas for improvement were identified for the future.
46. Stakeholders consulted included holiday hub providers, preprepared meals suppliers, children and families, the holiday provision coordinators, and the Southwark Holiday Provision Network, which comprises of both providers and staff from relevant council departments who are involved in supporting holiday provision.
47. Feedback and insights gained from previous programmes have directly influenced planning for the rest of 2021.
48. The Holiday Provision Network continues to meet and will be consulted throughout the 2021 programme.
49. 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

50. This report seeks approval to allocate funding to 41 providers identified for the Summer of Food and Fun Holiday Programme as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for 2021. The funding is to be drawn down from a budget which is to be made available for summer grants, including funding for SEND provision.
51. 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.
52. 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.
53. 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 (EL21/005)

54. This report is requesting that the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety approves the allocation of £775,404 to 41 specified providers for the Summer of Food and Fun Holiday Programme as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for 2021.
55. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that total ring-fenced funding of £1,385,160 is available from the Department for Education in 2021/2022 to fund the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme and the summer component of the HAF is budgeted at £1,126,406 of which a total of £825,404 is earmarked for grants.
56. Staffing and any other costs connected with these recommendations are to be contained within pre-allocated and existing departmental revenue resources.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|--|---|--|
| Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme – Easter of Food and Fun grant recommendations- February 2021 https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7312 | Southwark Public Health Department, Environment and Leisure | Charlotte Pollins – charlotte.pollins@southwark.gov.uk |
| Department for Education, SECTION 31 GRANT DETERMINATION FOR THE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME 2021: No 31/5325. | “ | “ |
| Department for Education, HAF 2021 Guidance for Las – February 2021 | “ | “ |

APPENDICES

| No. | Title |
|------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | Summer of Food and Fun recommended grant allocations |
| Appendix 2 | Joint Equalities and Health Impact Assessment |

AUDIT TRAIL

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| Lead Officer | Jin Lim- Consultant in Public Health | |
| Report Author | Charlotte Pollins, Programme Support Officer, Public Health Division | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 19 May 2021 | |
| Key Decision | Yes | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comments Sought | Comments included |
| Director of Law and Governance | Yes | Yes |
| Strategic Director of Finance and Governance | Yes | Yes |
| Head of Procurement | N/A | N/A |
| Cabinet Member | Yes | Yes |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Team | | 3 June 2021 |