

**Report of** Deputy Head of Customer Contact

**Report to** Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare

**Date:** 22nd October 2020

**Subject:** Healthy Holidays Programme Funding to Leeds Community Foundation

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## Summary

### 1. Main issues

- The purpose of this report is to request a total funding of £100,000 to be paid to Leeds Community Foundation, from Customer Access and Welfare Budgets for Healthy Holidays programme 2021/22. This will consist of £50,000 from the Social Inclusion Fund, and £50,000 from the Local Welfare Support Scheme.
- Social Inclusion and Local Welfare Support budgets are designed to support the city's anti-poverty agenda and projects have been focussed in areas of deprivation

### 2. Best Council Plan Implications (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

- The Healthy Holidays programme contributes to the Best Council Plan focus of tackling poverty and reducing inequalities, and achieving the council's ambition for a strong economy and compassionate city. The activities set out in this report support the Best City Priorities of Safe, Strong Communities, Inclusive Growth, Health & Wellbeing, Child-Friendly City, Age-Friendly Leeds and Housing.

### **3. Resource Implications**

- In terms of funding, approval is sought for £100,000 provided by Communities and Environment, consisting of £50,000 from the Social Inclusion Fund and £50,000 from Local Welfare Support Scheme.

### **Recommendations**

- a) The Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare is requested to authorise £100,000 of Customer Access and Welfare funding.
- b) The Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare agrees a combined payment of £100,000 of from the Social Inclusion Fund and Leeds Welfare Support Scheme to Leeds Community Foundation.
- c) It is requested that the funding is allocated to LCF with the acknowledgement that due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic throughout the UK, the Healthy Holidays programme may need to be delivered in a different way than seen in previous years, in order to adhere to the changing advice, guidance and recommendations of National Government.

#### **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to allocate £100,000 of funding from Customer Access and Welfare to Leeds Community Foundation (LCF), to deliver funding for projects aimed at dealing with holiday hunger across Leeds.

#### **2. Background information**

- 2.1 In April 2017, a report by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Hunger published a report highlighting the issue of Holiday Hunger, revealing that children were returning to school in poor physical and mental condition after school holidays, as families struggled to meet the costs of feeding their children during this time. The report found that a quarter of parents had skipped a meal to feed their children and concluded that holiday hunger was having a detrimental impact on children's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as their educational attainment.
- 2.2 The Council has supported Healthy Holiday programmes since 2018 and has recognised the importance of this work at a cross-directorate level. This work has also brought together support from the third sector and private sector and is an example of how the city is coming together to tackle food poverty and insecurity and support families out of poverty.
  - 2.2.1 During 2020, funding for Healthy Holiday Projects totalled £841,787, with Leeds Community Foundation (LCF) managing the delivery. The Healthy Holidays Covid-19 Response delivery funded 32 projects that reached 15,489 unique children and 5,496 unique adults. The Healthy Holidays Summer delivery funded 51 projects which reached 4,995 unique children and 592 unique adults.
- 2.3 To comply with Covid 19 restrictions, the programmes provided meals, food parcels and a range of online and offline activities, delivered directly to families at home. During summer, some activities that were able to be delivered in small groups while observe social distancing were also able to take place.
  - 2.3.1 Leeds City Council utilised £80,000 for the purchase of 97 iPads (9.7 inch 32GB) with 2 years data and managed service protection, for the purpose of delivering

Healthy Holidays digital activities to digitally excluded families/children. (£40,000 provided by Leeds Community Foundation and match funded by Children and Families Directorate)

- 2.4 The approach during 2020 used a mixed model of provision, from a range of third sector, local authority and school based projects. This mixed model of provision was found to add value through allowing services to engage families in a range of ways.
- 2.5 18 projects have been funded for autumn, winter and spring provision in 2020/21 which is yet to take place.

### **3. Main issues**

- 3.1 Leeds Community Foundation (LCF) has been a key partner in Leeds's development of the Healthy Holidays Programme over the last 3 years. LCF has overseen the management, funding and delivery of the programme. Leveraging additional resources from the private and third sectors.
- 3.2 For 2021/22, in addition to the funding provided by LCC, Leeds Community Foundation will seek funding from a combination of donors, including a further request for funding from the HAF fund (DfE).
- 3.3 Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic throughout the UK, the Healthy Holidays programme delivery will need to be flexible, in order to adhere to the advice, guidance and recommendations of National Government as the situation changes. It is requested that the funding is allocated to LCF on the basis that the programme will be adapted, in order to best meet the demands of the current circumstances.

### **4. Corporate considerations**

#### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 Strong partnerships have been the basis for the success of previous programs in 2018, 2019, and helped shape adapted 2020 programme.
- 4.1.2 Key stakeholders include Catering Leeds, representatives from LCF, Children and Families, Active Leeds and Financial Inclusion Team.

#### **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 A key focus of the Healthy Holidays programme is to support people suffering hardship, poverty and inequality, and therefore issues of equality, diversity, cohesion and integration are key aspects of this work. Projects and initiatives outlined in the report are reviewed annually as part of the annual Equality Improvement Priority updates.
- 4.2.2 According to evaluations of Healthy Holiday Programmes in 2018, and 2019 children participating in Healthy Holidays projects experience a reduction in social isolation and ASB as well as reduced risks of violence, neglect, grooming and crime.

- 4.2.3 In addition, Healthy Holiday Programmes in 2020, were able to address hunger, isolation, inactivity and digital exclusion issues which specifically related to the Covid 19 pandemic for both children and their families.
- 4.2.4 Healthy Holidays helps to foster positive relations and community cohesion between people from different groups through participation in fun activities and projects as well as food provision.

### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- 4.3.1 The Healthy Holidays programme directly relates to many of the Best Council Plan priorities, including: tackling poverty, helping everyone benefit from the economy to their full potential, reducing health inequalities and supporting active lifestyles, making Leeds the best city for children and young people to grow up in, keeping people safe from harm and promoting community respect and resilience.
- 4.3.2 The scheme brings together partners from all sectors building successful effective partnerships for the benefit of the city and its residents. This integrated approach to delivering services also contributes to the city's strategic priority of delivering joint action in order to build safe and strong communities.
- 4.3.3 This work supports the delivery of the Inclusive Growth Strategy, one of the three pillars that underpin the Best Council Plan, and reduces the impact of poverty and inequality. Additionally, the work supports the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 4.3.4 Although the key participants in all aspects of the programme are children in deprived areas, the aim of the project is to be inclusive to all - sustainable funding will allow future projects to be planned, delivered, resourced and promoted to support even more families throughout the city. The long term ambition is to have consistent and co-ordinated provision for the school holidays.

#### Climate Emergency

- 4.3.5 A key aspect both in relation to poverty and the Climate Emergency is the redirection of surplus food to foodbanks. Waste food is a contributor to climate change as it results in methane emissions which have a greater impact on climate change than the equivalent amount of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- 4.3.6 Food Provision for Healthy Holidays is provided in conjunction with Fareshare, and Rethink Food which work to redistribute surplus food in the city.
- 4.3.7 In 2020, Healthy Holidays projects have collaborated with the Uniform Reuse project coordinated by Zero Waste Leeds, to help more families access free, good quality second hand uniform.
- 4.3.8 In Leeds, 4000 tonnes of clothing is sent to household waste bins every year. 163,000kg of CO<sub>2</sub> could be saved if every new starter in primary and secondary school in Leeds this year had one second-hand skirt or pair of trousers.

### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

- 4.4.1 The council has funded Leeds Community Foundation to deliver its Healthy Holiday Programme since 2017. Council support has helped Leeds Community Foundation leverage match funding through the private sector and Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food Programme and recognises how healthy holiday projects help engage whole families in wider support networks, beyond food - to help break the poverty cycle.

4.4.2 The proposed total funding of £100,000 is requested from existing available funds via Customer Access and Welfare Budgets.

#### **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

4.5.1 There are no specific legal implications or access to information issues with this report.

#### **5. Risk management**

5.1.1 Due to the recent outbreak and pandemic of Coronavirus (Covid-19) Leeds City Council has implemented and closely follows the guidance outlined and measures implemented by the National Government and Public Health.

#### **6. Conclusions**

6.1 The Healthy Holidays programme remains a necessary measure to support vulnerable children and families in the city by alleviating hunger.

#### **7. Recommendations**

7.1 The Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare is requested to authorise £100,000 of Customer Access and Welfare funding.

7.2 The Chief Officer Customer Access and Welfare agrees payments of £50,000 from the 2020/21 Social Inclusion Fund and £50,000 from the Leeds Welfare Support Scheme to Leeds Community Foundation.

7.3 It is requested that the funding is allocated to LCF with the acknowledgement that due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic throughout the UK, the Healthy Holidays programme may need to be delivered in a different way than seen in previous years, in order to adhere to the changing advice, guidance and recommendations of National Government.

#### **8. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.