

Healthy Holidays Programme for Leeds

Date: 10th May 2022

Report of: Chief Officer Community Hubs, Welfare and Business Support

Report to: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- A key decision was taken in January 2022 for Leeds City Council to accept £3,491,510 from the Department for Education's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme to deliver the 2022 Healthy Holiday programme in Leeds. Approval was also gained to adopt a mixed delivery model, which involves Leeds Community Foundation commissioning third sector providers and associated activities, and the Council delivering through schools, council providers and funding additional support. This report sets out further details of the commissioning, procurement and decision-making processes for the Healthy Holidays funding for Leeds.
- The ambition of the DfE's HAF programme is to provide free healthy food and enriching activities to a targeted number of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) across Leeds over the Easter, summer and Christmas school holiday periods in 2022. The programme contributes to the Best Council Plan focus of tackling poverty and reducing inequalities and supports the ambitions of Child Friendly City and Health and Wellbeing.

Recommendations

The Director of Communities, Housing and the Environment is requested to;

- a) Approve the approach set out in this report for allocation of the HAF funding received from the Department for Education for the summer and Christmas school holidays in 2022.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 In order to ensure transparency of decision making this report sets out how Leeds City Council will allocate the funding received from DfE for healthy holiday programmes in the city for the summer and Christmas school holidays.
- 2 The total budget allocated to Leeds City Council by the DfE is £3,491,510 to cover one week's provision at Easter, four weeks in the summer and one week at Christmas.
- 3 Leeds Community Foundation is a charitable company which supports other charities and voluntary groups across Leeds by distributing grants and sharing advice. Leeds City Council and Leeds Community Foundation have run healthy holiday activities in the city since 2018.

- 4 For 2022 the Healthy Holidays programme in Leeds will delivered based on previous experience. For all holiday periods this will require the following actions;
- Working with Leeds Community Foundation to fund third sector organisations who will directly run programmes
 - Funding schools and council providers who will directly run programmes
 - Funding additional support, such as catch-up swimming and food provision
 - Joining up the programme in terms of food provision, training, activities and resources to ensure wider support needs are met
- 5 In order to best undertake these, the following commissioning and decision making processes have been, or will be, adopted;
- Leeds Community Foundation has been funded to run a grant scheme for third sector providers, activities and training. The key decision undertaken in January 2022 approved funding to Leeds Community Foundation, and a subsequent decision was taken for the Council to enter a grant agreement with the Foundation for this activity, the total value of which is £1,000,611. Principally the funding will be distributed in small grants to a wide range of third sector organisation and covers all holiday periods.
 - For Leeds City Council to run a grant process with schools across Leeds. This is a competitive exercise open to all schools, with the decision for funding approved by a panel of internal and external individuals. The total value of this grant will be £1,495,140 for all holiday periods.
 - Through Service Level Agreements for Leeds City Council services including Community Hubs and Libraries, Catering Leeds, Active Leeds, Youth Services to be funded to undertake activities to run or support the programme. The estimated value of this spend will be £577,000 for all holiday periods.
 - For Leeds City Council to provide direct funding to food charities who will provide food to Healthy Holidays providers. This includes:
 - £20,000: Hamara
 - £20,000: Give a Gift
 - £23,700: Rethink
 - £52,500: FareShare
 - For Leeds City Council to provide direct funding to organisations who will provide a range of support the Healthy Holidays schemes, including but not limited to, training, uniform exchanges, and backpack schemes. The total value of this funding will be less than £100,000.
 - For up to 10% of the total funding to be spent on central administration costs.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 6 The approach outlined above maximises the use of Council services whilst allowing for a wide range of providers to be funded to provide free healthy holiday activities in line with DfE guidance. This will give the Council and partners the best chance of engaging children and young people living in low income households.
- 7 A key focus of the Holiday Activity and Food 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. Feedback on Healthy Holiday programmes link the programmes with a

reduction in social isolation and anti-social behaviour as well as reduced risks of violence, neglect, grooming and crime. In addition, the programmes were able to address hunger, isolation, inactivity and digital exclusion issues.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 8 The development of the 2022 Healthy Holidays programme for Leeds has been shaped through regular meetings with officers from a variety of directorates along with representatives from Leeds Community Foundation, who have experience in running healthy holidays programmes.
- 9 The relevant Chief Officers and Executive Members have been briefed on this approach.
- 10 The proposal for the allocation of funding and the methods used to commission and procure services have been reviewed by colleagues in the Council's legal and procurement teams.

What are the resource implications?

- 11 Leeds City Council has been allocated £3,491,510 from the Department for Education's Holiday Activities Funding to delivery healthy holiday activities targeting children entitled to FSM across the district for school holiday periods in 2022.
- 12 The commissioning and procurement processes outlined above will be used to allocate the funding, with up to 10% being used for administration costs.

What are the legal implications?

- 13 The legal power for the Council to make awards from the HAF grant funding is the general power of competence contained in Section of the Localism Act 2011. Subject to certain statutory restrictions, none of which apply in this case, Section 1 gives the Council "power to do anything that individuals generally may do".
- 14 Advice has been sought to ensure that the delivery of the 2022 Healthy Holidays programme adheres to contract procedure rules and that the relevant documentations are completed.
- 15 The Department for Education guidelines stated that they did not require a competitive process to be undertaken for partner organisations, and that local process should be followed which should be mindful of the ambitious timescales. For this reason a key decision was taken to partner with Leeds Community Foundation, with a legal contract put in place.
- 16 The Council has funded Leeds Community Foundation to deliver a Healthy Holiday Programme since 2018. 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. Leeds Community Foundation is therefore a key partner in this programme. A legal agreement setting out the terms and conditions of the funding has been put into place between Leeds City Council and Leeds Community Foundation for the 2022 Healthy Holiday's programme.
- 17 It is not considered that Subsidy Control applies to this programme because the Healthy Holidays programme will be provided free of charge to all children therefore no economic advantage is being provided to any third party organisations involved. Nevertheless Subsidy Control implications will be considered again where necessary before preparing and entering into any formal agreements with the Leeds Community Foundation and any other third parties.
- 18 By accepting the HAF funding the Council has agreed to comply with the conditions set out in the DfE's Grant Determination letter. These include criteria on what is deemed to be eligible expenditure, claw back arrangements where elements of the grant remain unspent, and

reporting and monitoring requirements. The Council will ensure that all agreements with third parties relating to this funding, comply with these conditions where appropriate.

- 19 The Council must consider the public sector equality duty enacted in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Some of the proposals in this report involve the taking of action to assist persons sharing 'protected characteristics' within the meaning of the 2010 Act to overcome or minimise disadvantage or otherwise meet their needs. This is permitted by Section 158 of the 2010 Act.
- 20 This significant operational decision is a direct consequence of a key decision (D52845) taken in January 2022 and therefore not open to call-in.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 21 Leeds City Council and Leeds Community Foundation will ensure that all activity undertaken closely follows the guidance outlined and measures implemented by the National Government and Public Health with regards to COVID-19.
- 22 In terms of the schools grant funding round, the system used does not automatically lock down application returns, as a result there may be potential for challenge. However this system has been used previously with no issues. In order to mitigate the risk, all applications will be forwarded to panel members once the application process has been closed.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 23 The ambition of the DfE's HAF programme is to provide healthy food and enriching activities to a targeted number of children eligible for FSM across the district over the Easter, summer and Christmas school holiday periods in 2022. 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. 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 contributes to the city's strategic priorities of Inclusive Growth and Health and Wellbeing.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 24 The decision to adopt the commissioning and procurement processes set out have been made based on the successful delivery of healthy holiday programmes since 2018. As result no other options have been considered.

How will success be measured?

- 25 Success will be measured through detailed reporting to the Department for Education on the numbers and experiences of children, young people and adults reached through the programme.

What is the timetable for implementation?

- 26 Immediately and until March 2023.

Appendices

- 27 None

Background papers

28 None