

Healthy Holidays 2022

Date: 5th January 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

- In 2021, the Department for Education expanded the Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) to all local authorities in England. The programme provides food and activities to Free School Meal eligible children and young people over the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays. Leeds received £3,832,000 in funding for 2021. Leeds City Council and partners have significant experience of running Holiday Activities and Food programmes, having supported healthy holiday activities since 2018.
- On 27 October 2021, the government announced a further investment of over £200m per year over the next 3 financial years for the holiday activities and food programme (HAF) which follows the successful roll out of the programme across England in 2021. This funding is for the 152 upper tier local authorities to coordinate and provide free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities.
- This holiday provision is for school aged children from Reception to Year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals. Local authorities have discretion to use up to 15% of their funding to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals but who the local authority believe could benefit from HAF provision.
- Local authorities are asked to ensure that the offer of free holiday club provision is available for all children eligible for free school meals (approximately 31,000 children in Leeds), though there is no expectation that all eligible children will participate. Free places must be made available for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week and for six weeks a year, covering four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays in 2022.
- Leeds will be receiving £3,491,510 for 2022, to run programmes over Easter, summer and Christmas holidays for children who are eligible for Free School Meals.
- The 2022 Holiday Activity and Food Programme in Leeds 'Healthy Holidays' will build on the success of previous years and follow the same mixed delivery model undertaken since 2018. This will involve Leeds Community Foundation focussing on third sector provision across the district, and the Council delivering through schools and council provisions. This will ensure all areas of the city can be reached in a coordinated and targeted way. This approach will be adopted for further years subject to the Department for Education's funding principles and outlines remaining comparable, and contingent on legal agreements being fulfilled.

- The DfE have stated that the key objectives of the programme is for children who attend provision is to:
 - eat healthily over the school holidays
 - be active during the school holidays
 - take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment
 - be safe and not to be socially isolated
 - have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition
 - be more engaged with school and other local services
- The DfE also want to ensure that the families who participate in this programme to:
 - Develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting
 - Are signposted towards other information and support, for example, health, employment and education
- Full details of how the programme should be delivered and its remit including details on coordination, funding, eligibility, partnership and standards are attached in the guidance document in appendix one of this report. The guidance for the scheme is broadly in line with previous years and the best practice elements recommended have been adopted in Leeds over the last four years.
- Overall allocations of the funding throughout the year will be based on the programmes undertaken since 2018. Approximately a third of the funding will be allocated to Leeds Community Foundation, a third to council provisions and schools, with the remaining third utilised to add provision and purchase services or activities which will be shared across the three elements of the programme.
- Reports detailing the plans for delivery for each holiday period are required by the Department for Education. Funding breakdowns for each period will also be included within the reports.
- The Department for Education's Holiday Activities Funding 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 Healthy Holidays activities support the Best City Priorities of Safe, Strong Communities, Inclusive Growth, Health & Wellbeing, Child-Friendly City, Age-Friendly Leeds and Housing

Recommendations

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is recommended to;

- a) Accept the £3,491,510 Holiday Activities and Food funding from the Department for Education for 2022.
- b) Accept all future funding from the Department for Education for the Holiday Activity and Food programme.
- c) Agree to the mixed model delivery approach whereby Leeds Community Foundation commission third sector provision across the district, and the Council deliver through schools and council provision. This approach will be used every year subject to funding outlines and the fulfilment of legal agreements.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 This proposal is being put forward to accept £3,491,510 of the Department for Education's Holiday Activities funding to deliver activities and food across Leeds for children eligible for Free School Meals, and to accept all future funding from the Department for Education for this scheme.
- 2 In addition, this report is seeking approval for the funding to be allocated to a mixed delivery model in partnership Leeds Community Foundation, Leeds City Council departments, schools and other organisations who can support the infrastructure of the model. This

model has been used successfully for four years and has delivered fantastic provision to thousands of vulnerable children.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 3 The Department for Education's Holiday Activity and Food programme funding of £3,491,510 will provide support to vulnerable children and young people over Easter, summer and Christmas 2022. The programmes across Leeds provide healthy food and a wide range of engaging and fun activities to children eligible for Free School Meals, and a small amount of children who are not eligible for Free School Meals but who are otherwise vulnerable.
- 4 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.
- 5 According to evaluations of previous Healthy Holiday Programmes 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. In addition the programmes 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.
- 6 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.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 7 Strong partnerships have been the basis for the success of previous programs and will help shape the programme for 2022 and subsequent years. Key stakeholders include Catering Leeds, representatives from LCF, Children and Families, Active Leeds and Financial Inclusion Team. A steering group of relevant officers and partners was established last year to oversee the development and delivery of the programme, and this group will be continued in 2022.
- 8 All relevant Executive Members have been briefed on the guidance and remit of the funding and the proposed approach for 2022.
- 9 Regular regional meetings with the Department for Education have been scheduled throughout 2022 to clarify approaches.

What are the resource implications?

- 10 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 Free School Meals across the district for school holiday periods in 2022.
- 11 Payments will be made in the following instalments on completion and submission of satisfactory planning reports;
 - April 2022- up to 80% of the total 2022 allocation
 - April 2023- up to 20% of the remaining 2022 allocation
- 12 Funding will be allocated to deliver a mixed model approach through Leeds Community Foundation, Leeds City Council provisions and schools, and for food, activities and wider support to be used across all settings.

13 Funding for 2023 and 2024 from the Department for Education will be announced on a yearly basis.

What are the legal implications?

14 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 will be put in place between Leeds City Council and Leeds Community Foundation for the 2022 Healthy Holiday's programme.

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

15 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.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

16 The funding supports the Best City Priorities of Child Friendly City, Safe, Strong Communities, Inclusive Growth, and Health & Wellbeing.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

17 None

b) How will success be measured?

18 The programme will provide funding to schools, council provisions, and third sector organisations across Leeds, who will provide programmes to children eligible for Free School Meals. Success will be measured through evaluation reports, reports to the Department for Education, organisations reached, programmes provided, the uptake of the programme and additional benefits that the programme provides.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

19 From 5th January 2022 until 31st December 2022.

Appendices

20 None

Background papers

21 Department for Education Holiday Activity and Food programme guidance for local authorities.