

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



Holiday Activities and Food programme

Annual Report 2022/23





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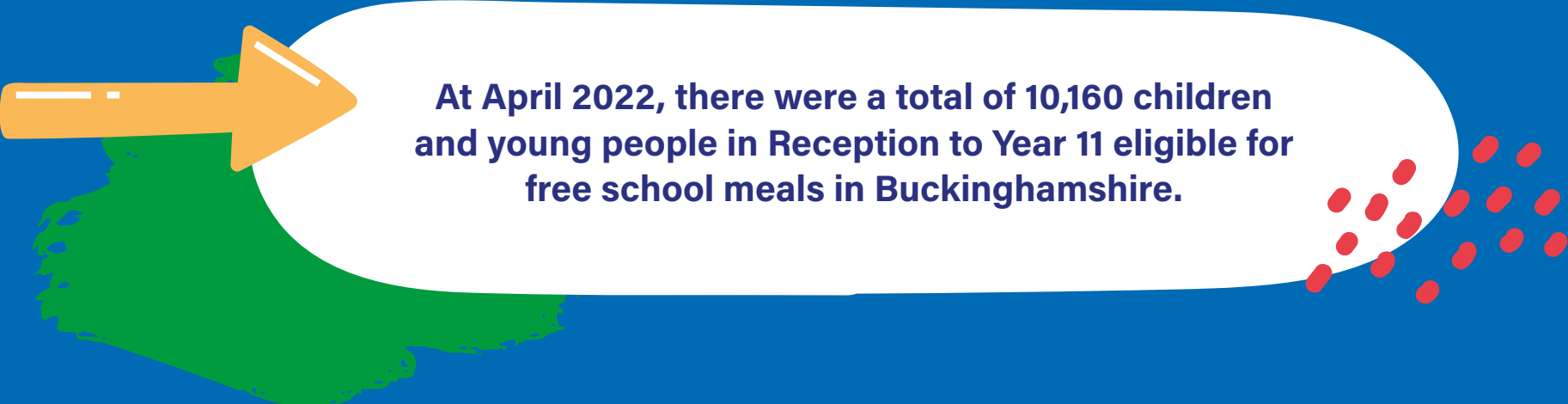
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About the HAF programme

The HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) programme offers free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities, in the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays, for school-aged children in reception to year 11 inclusive who receive benefits-related free school meals.

In 2021, the government announced a three year funding settlement for the HAF programme to March 2025, which follows the national rollout of the programme across England in 2021.

Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some families. For some children this can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from low-income households being 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. The HAF programme aims to respond to this issue.



At April 2022, there were a total of 10,160 children and young people in Reception to Year 11 eligible for free school meals in Buckinghamshire.

The HAF programme in Buckinghamshire

HAF activity places are made available to school-aged children in Buckinghamshire in reception to year 11 inclusive who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM). At April 2022, there were 10,160 children and young people eligible for FSM in Buckinghamshire.

In line with government guidance, from April 2022 local authorities have been able to use up to 15% of HAF programme 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. A referral system is used in collaboration with schools and social care and family support teams to ensure targeted use of the allocation of these places to the children and young people who will benefit most.

About HAF clubs

Children and young people attending HAF clubs and activities enjoy free, high-quality holiday activities and a healthy hot meal at each session they attend.

Holiday sessions run for at least 4 hours a day and are available for:

- 16 days across the Summer 2022 holiday period
- 4 days across each of the Easter 2022 (Spring) and Christmas 2022 (Winter) holiday periods

Children and families choose and book HAF activity sessions from the activity programme published before each delivery period.





Mainstream HAF clubs

Our mainstream HAF clubs offer a mix of enriching activities that enable participants to develop new skills, build on existing skills or try new things, for example drama, forest school, cooking, computer coding and film-making. Clubs also incorporate a wide range of physical activities, for example multi-sports, basketball, football and rollerblading.


Some of our HAF club providers also organised trips to off-site activities for HAF club attendees to experience. Trips and activities in 2022/23 included a trip to the seaside, a walking tour of London, rock climbing, kayaking and trampolining.



Specialist SEND HAF clubs

Our mainstream club providers are keen to support children and young people with additional needs and/or a disability to be able to attend their clubs and make adjustments to their provision to allow children with SEND to participate.

Our specialist SEND HAF clubs for children and young people with special educational needs and/or a disability allow children with more complex needs to also benefit from holiday activities. These clubs also offer a variety of enriching and physical activities which are tailored to suit the needs of the participants. SEND clubs are delivered by staff who have skills and experience in working with children with SEND, with appropriate staffing ratios in place to meet the needs of each child or young person attending.





Added value activities at HAF clubs

Additional enriching activities funded by the HAF programme have bolstered the offer at HAF clubs and allowed children and young people to experience activities such as a roaming farm, beatbox workshops, a gaming bus, roller disco and zorb activities.

All HAF clubs also include:

- a healthy hot meal, meeting school food standards, for each HAF attendee at every session. Meals are usually accompanied by a healthy dessert with healthy snacks also provided at sessions.
- informal nutritional learning that improves participants' knowledge and awareness of healthy eating, for example taste tests, assisting in food preparation or a masterchef challenge.
- from Summer 2022, a bespoke holiday activity booklet given to all children attending HAF clubs. As well as fun activities, fitness and games to do at home, the booklets also include light-touch signposting information for families, on topics such as help with the cost of living, dental care, food banks and childcare.
- appropriate signposting to local support services for attending children and young people and/or their families. Some HAF clubs incorporated drop-in outreach sessions hosted by the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service, who were available to provide information and assistance to family members of children attending clubs.



Engagement with families and carers

HAF providers engage with families and carers of children attending HAF clubs through the food education, signposting and referrals aspect of their clubs.

HAF providers are supported to do this through:

- Signposting information included in HAF activity booklets distributed to children attending HAF clubs.
- Signposting webinars delivered to HAF providers by the HAF team and a signposting toolkit supplied to HAF providers, allowing them to effectively support and signpost families to local services where helpful.
- HAF providers have found that many children and families return to HAF clubs at every delivery period, because of the positive relationships formed between families and providers.



HAF clubs in Buckinghamshire in each of the delivery periods in 2022/23:



Mainstream
Clubs



HAF club
locations



Total places
available



Specialist
SEND clubs



HAF club
locations



Total places
available



Spring

32

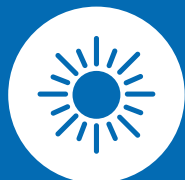
4,843



Spring

2

212



Summer

43

15,236



Summer

4

680



Winter

37

4,520



Winter

5

326



HAF Christmas family events

For the Winter 2022 delivery period, the Buckinghamshire HAF programme funded and coordinated two one-day family pantomime and meal events, open to all eligible children and young people and their parents/carers.

These events, held at Aylesbury and High Wycombe, comprised family tickets to the pantomime at Wycombe Swan and Aylesbury Waterside theatres, followed by a Christmas family meal and entertainment.

The two events were very well attended with 100% attendance at Wycombe Swan Theatre and 93% attendance at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre.

Priority locality areas

A mapping exercise was carried out to better understand the spread and location of children and young people eligible for FSM, to identify geographic areas of greatest need and to inform priority HAF delivery locations.

The map shows all 2022/23 HAF club locations across Buckinghamshire. This includes mainstream and specialist SEND clubs. A few of the locations did not run at all delivery periods.

Locations were selected for each delivery period using registration data from previous delivery periods and in line with FSM mapping.



Promotion and marketing

An ongoing, wide-ranging communications strategy was developed and implemented to promote and celebrate the programme.

This included close engagement with Buckinghamshire schools with a marketing pack issued, meetings with school leads and bespoke letters and flyers sent at every delivery period via schools which were shared with the parents and carers of eligible children.

The communications strategy also included social media campaigns, press releases and promotion across libraries and family centres.

Social media posts



GP screen and Bus station screen

Advert in Primary Times magazine

The videos below showcase the delivery of the Summer and Winter HAF programmes in Buckinghamshire.



(Click  to watch)





Programme coordination

Programme expenditure

Funding of £1,144,780 was made available to Buckinghamshire Council by the Department for Education to deliver the HAF programme during 2022/23.

The total HAF programme expenditure for 2022/23 was £1,096,963.72. This included a proportion of programme funding allocated to programme administration (for staffing and staff-related costs) of £114,478.00.

Steering group

In line with government guidance, a steering group has been established for the Buckinghamshire programme. The role of the steering group is to support the delivery of the programme and ensure that the right partners continue to be engaged with and supportive of the programme.

The Buckinghamshire steering group includes representatives from youth services, public health, safeguarding leads, communications, integrated SEND team, FACT Bucks (the parent and carer forum for Buckinghamshire), Thames Valley Police and local charities and voluntary sector organisations.

The Buckinghamshire HAF steering group meets regularly to support the oversight of the programme.

HAF programme providers

We have worked with a range of different organisations to deliver the HAF programme in Buckinghamshire, including schools, local activity providers, local charities, local community interest companies and national organisations.

As the programme has developed, the number of smaller, local organisations involved has increased.

Providers who have delivered the 2022/23 HAF programme:

- Action 4 Youth
- Active in the Community
- APF Activity Camps
- Camp Beaumont
- Community Youth Ventures
- Elmtree School
- Football Focussed Excellence
- Genius Tuition
- Get Active Sports
- Happy Healthy Kidz
- High Wycombe Rugby Club
- The Highcrest Academy
- Karima Foundation
- Kidz Zone Club
- Lane End Youth and Community Centre
- Mama Bee Group
- Next Thing Education
- The Oasis Partnership
- OurSpace Childcare
- Premier Education
- Proformance Pathways
- Role Models
- Sports4All Group
- Sport4Kids Bucks
- Sport4Kids Ltd
- Sport In Mind
- The Theatre Shed
- Thomley
- Total Insight Theatre
- UDOIT Dance
- Wycombe Wanderers Foundation
- Wycombe Youth Action
- Buckinghamshire Council Youth Offending Service

Key statistics 2022/23

The number of children and young people reached through the HAF programme:

Delivery period	Places available	Places attended	Number of individual children
Easter 2022	5,055	3,507	1,430
Summer 2022	15,916	11,029	1,947
Christmas 2022	4,846	3,133	1,539

The proportion of primary age and secondary age children who have participated in the HAF programme:

Delivery period	Number of primary age children	Number of Secondary age children
Easter 2022	1,172	258
Summer 2022	1,546	382
Christmas 2022	1,148	391

The number of children with SEND or additional needs who have participated in the HAF programme:

Delivery period	Number of SEND Children
Easter 2022	169
Summer 2022	281
Christmas 2022	291

Feedback from families and HAF club providers

Some examples of the feedback we have received from families:

'It was fantastic. My child said it was really nice and she loved it. I met the staff running it and I was instantly confident my child would be safe and happy. She was. She fitted right in and was made to feel welcome, wanted and encouraged. She didn't know anyone there but as an 11-year-old who doesn't always like new groups that she doesn't know, she was happy right away. The activities were exciting, unique and fun. Roller disco and pantomime, with gifts to take home and food she enjoyed. She chose healthy salad veg as part of her meal. Please keep funding this project. Thank you for making it happen!'

'My son has an EHCP as he is registered blind. There is never usually anything accessible for him so I was delighted that this club was available. They had lovely food, helpful staff and great activities including an accessible egg hunt.'

'The club was amazing and the staff went above and beyond to make my son feel happy!'

'I would like to say thank you for these activities - my son absolutely loved it and it's not something I would be able to afford, so you made my son's week.'

'My 2 kids wouldn't stop talking about how much fun they had. I hope they will always have clubs there.'

'Absolutely brilliant camp! My daughter loved every day! Staff were great and really friendly. Honestly can't thank them all enough! Definitely hoping for there to be more in future holidays!!'

'Fantastic clubs and gives me a single mum of 3 a much-needed break. I appreciate the support with the scheme.'

'These clubs are great for my son; he loves them and it gives him something active to do in the holidays when funds at home are short. He also says the food is great.'



'My little girl has special needs and I was really worried that she wouldn't like it as it a change in routine. But she absolutely loves going and adores all the staff!'

'My son is non-verbal but by his reactions he loved it. He also doesn't really eat but sat and ate a meal with encouragement. Very impressed. Happy that they accepted him as a child with SEN!'

'The HAF club has really helped my daughter with her mental health and confidence. She took part in healthy cooking activities there and this has encouraged her to make healthy choices at home. It has also encouraged more fitness and exercise that she wouldn't normally do by herself.'

'Myself and my little family would like to thank you all for the amazing work which went into the family pantomime event at Wycombe Swan. It was amazing from entering the theatre to the end. The meal was lovely, the entertainment was great, everyone there had happy faces. All the Bucks team worked hard and it ran smoothly, all so welcoming. We had never been to a pantomime before due to funds and my son's SEN and disabilities needs, so we would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts, it was a lovely and magical time for us!'

HAF parent/carer surveys



Some examples of the feedback we have received from our HAF club providers:

'We had so many friendship success stories. Children quickly built bonds and looked forward to coming back. One of our attendees was a non-verbal autistic child. One of our HAF participants really took a liking to them, showing empathy, kindness and understanding.'

'We had a fantastic day out in London! We saw some of the main tourist attractions, we saw Houses of Parliament, the Southbank, Big Ben, Downing Street, Horse Guards, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square, China Town. We walked through Piccadilly Circus and Covent Garden. We had a lovely lunch. This was the first time most of the young people had been into London to see the sights and Christmas lights. We walked and laughed for miles!'

'The older students participated in a sports leadership award. It took place over the 3 days. Day 1 was classroom based; on day two they shadowed coaches and learned what should be included in sessions; and on day 3 they had the opportunity to lead a session themselves.'

'On the final day we have an awards ceremony for the players of each group. The award is not awarded solely on football ability; other factors like being a good teammate, helping coaches, working hard in each session and helping others come into consideration. We had a participant who attended our club who excelled. Our club was predominantly a football-based club and he had no real previous experience playing football, so he was a little concerned. Over the course of the 3 days he excelled really well, and his confidence grew to the point that he was awarded the player of the week for his group.'

'We have been supporting lots of children who have autistic spectrum disorder, with some requiring 1:1 support. This did not stop positive social interactions from taking place. It was so warming to see how our children on the programme displayed inclusiveness and understanding to others.'

Key highlights and outcomes

The HAF programme in 2022/23 has ensured that children and young people attending HAF clubs have enjoyed a range of fun, enriching and physical activities to keep them absorbed and active over the three holiday periods. A large proportion of HAF club attendees return to attend subsequent HAF programmes.

As well as providing structured activities, HAF clubs also provided participants with the ability to grow in confidence and make new friends, developing their friendships and social circle.

For parents and carers of HAF club participants, the programme has meant that they have had childcare provision to allow them to work or focus on studies and has helped to reduce financial worries during school holiday periods.

The HAF programme has benefitted the local economy in Buckinghamshire through funding of local activity providers to deliver the clubs, as well as funding of local food businesses who have provided healthy food for the HAF programme.



Facts!

- Increase in specialist SEND clubs countywide from 1 to 5
- Increase in number of HAF club locations from an average of 26 in 2021/22 to an average of 41 in 2022/23
- Increase in number of individual participants attending HAF clubs over the year with 1,430 at Easter, 1,947 at Summer and 1,539 at Christmas, showing solid growth and reach of the programme
- High quality of HAF clubs and breadth of activity offer – clubs, experiences, day trips and events
- Two Christmas family pantomime and meal events, coordinated by the Council's HAF team
- Additional enriching activities funded by the HAF programme have allowed children and young people to experience out of the ordinary activities such as a roaming farm, beatbox workshops, a gaming bus, roller disco and zorb activities
- 500 take-home nature-based wellbeing activity packs and plant growing kits distributed to HAF-funded children via HAF clubs, helping to support children's wellbeing through nature and the outdoors



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



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