

# Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Annual Report 2024-25



## Executive summary

This document provides a summary of activities and achievements delivered under the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme, as conducted during the period covered by the financial year 2024-25.

Details are provided of the programme delivered, the providers engaged, the volumes of children and young people supported and budget expenditure. The food and nutrition aspects of the programme are presented. The key challenges and development activities for the 2025-26 programme are explored along with developments to improve service provision, data collation and reporting.

## HAF overview

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is fully funded by the Department for Education (DfE). The programme seeks to offer children who are entitled to benefits related free school meals the opportunity to attend participating holiday activity clubs, improve their understanding and education around nutrition and health and receive a free meal. The programme delivers activities for set periods within each of the principal school holiday periods – Christmas, Easter, and Summer.

Benefits-related free school meals (FSM) are available to pupils if their parents are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits and have a claim verified by West Sussex County Council.

The HAF programme is operational for one week at Easter, four weeks during the Summer and one week at Christmas. Eligible children can attend their chosen HAF provision for a maximum of four days per week within each of these set periods.

As a result of this programme, we want children who attend this provision 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.

We also want to ensure that the families who participate in this programme are able to:

- develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting
- are signposted towards other information and support, for example, health, employment and education.

## HAF Programme 2024-25 overview

During the financial period covering 2024-25, the WSCC HAF programme worked with 67 unique partners covering all districts and boroughs across the county. Of these, 64 providers delivered face to face activities, with an additional 3 food providers delivering meals to those activity partners that were not able to provide this service directly.

Table 1 below shows the number of providers who delivered face to face activities for each of the holiday periods in 2024. Figure 1 illustrates the breakdown of provision showing how many holiday periods providers delivered in through the year.

HAF Season	Easter	Summer	Winter
Number of unique providers per period	54	62	38

Table 1: Unique providers delivering HAF related activities or food through the periods of the financial year 2024-25.

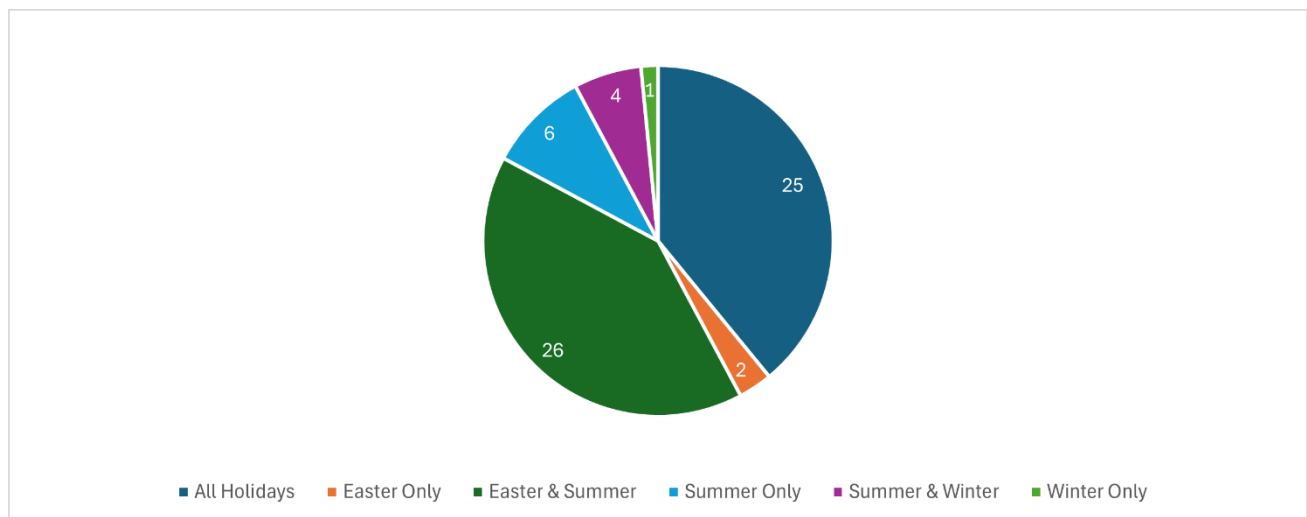


Figure 1: Breakdown of provider delivery based on number of periods engaged through the financial year 2024-25.

During the period across 2024-25, West Sussex had a total of 19,946 children eligible for benefit related Free School Meals. Crawley continues to have the highest number of free school meal children, with 22% of all eligible children living in Crawley, but proportionally this has seen a 2% decrease from 2023. Worthing has seen a slight increase of 1% in the number of eligible Free School meal children. The chart below in Figure 2, shows the breakdown of FSM children per district and borough.

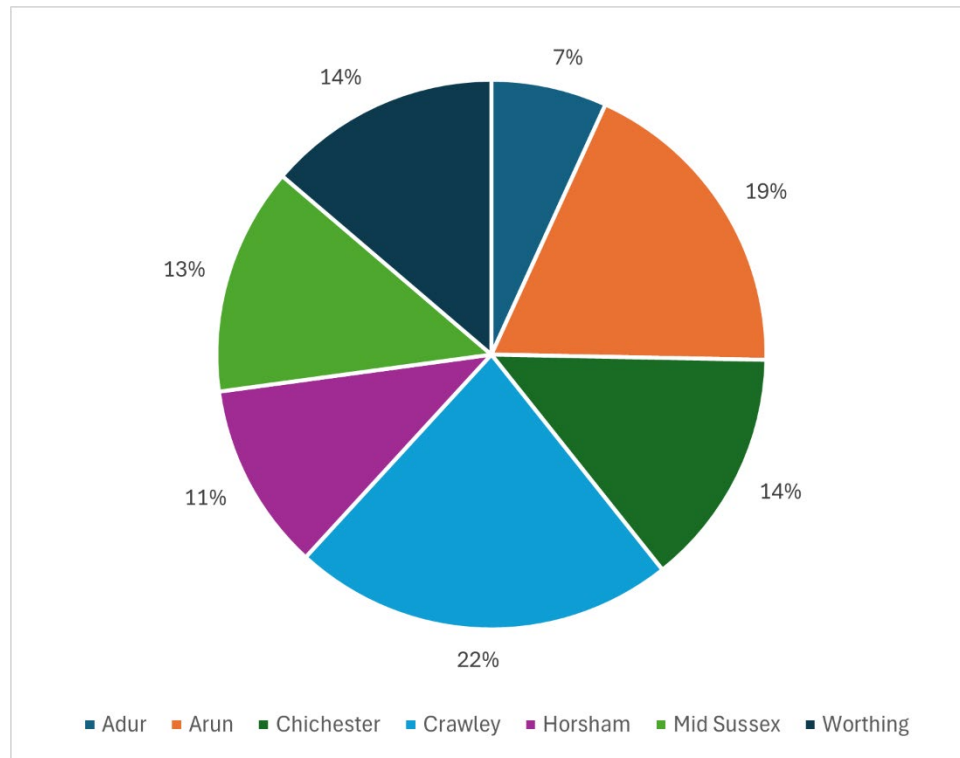


Figure 2: Figures for the percentage of FSM eligible children by District and Borough across West Sussex as at the end of the 2024-25 period.

## Funding allocation and usage

The West Sussex HAF programme was allocated a total grant value of £1,862,380 by the Department for Education for expenditure within 2024-25. The West Sussex programme had a total expenditure of £1,766,280 with the sum of £1,596,465 distributed to providers via grant agreements to deliver the HAF programme. The below Table 2 shows the breakdown of funding used by holiday period.

HAF Season	Easter	Summer	Winter
Funding Amount Allocated by value and percentage of budget	£292,351.05 (17%)	£1,099,917.09 (66%)	£202,475.99 (12%)

Table 2: Funding allocation breakdown by holiday period of the financial year 2024-25.

To deliver the HAF programme, WSCC used 10% of the allocated funding to cover essential management and administrative expenses including operational costs for the online booking system and engagement with HAF providers.

Within West Sussex there have been distinct challenges in realising and accessing a sufficient number of appropriate providers with capacity and provision suitable within specific Districts and Boroughs. This has resulted in a capacity challenge in achieving the desired volume of HAF spaces for children within key geographic areas. The Borough of Crawley has the highest number of free school meal children in the county. However, identifying suitable HAF providers within this locality has been difficult. Through 2024 we have focused on increasing the volume percentage of HAF places available within Crawley to bring this in line with percentage of Free School Meal children within the area. By doing this we have a proportional decrease in the percentage of HAF places available in some districts and boroughs such as Chichester and Arun. The changes have improved alignment of spaces to volume of eligible children in each region and also resulted in fewer unused HAF spaces across the county.

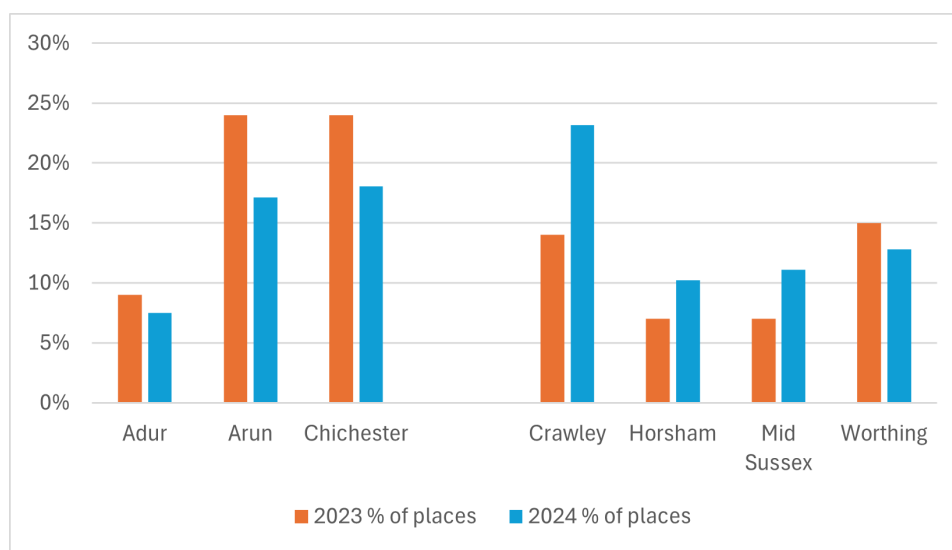


Figure 3: Shows the percentage of HAF spaces available in 2024 by district and borough compared to 2023.

When considering the allocation of funding for the HAF programme to deliver equitably across the county, we divided the budget available between our districts and boroughs in direct proportion to the number of FSM children on role in those areas. We then identified the providers delivering in those areas and assigned funding based on activity, capacity, and duration. Any subsequent unallocated budget assigned to the Area in question was then reallocated to alternative areas based on demand.

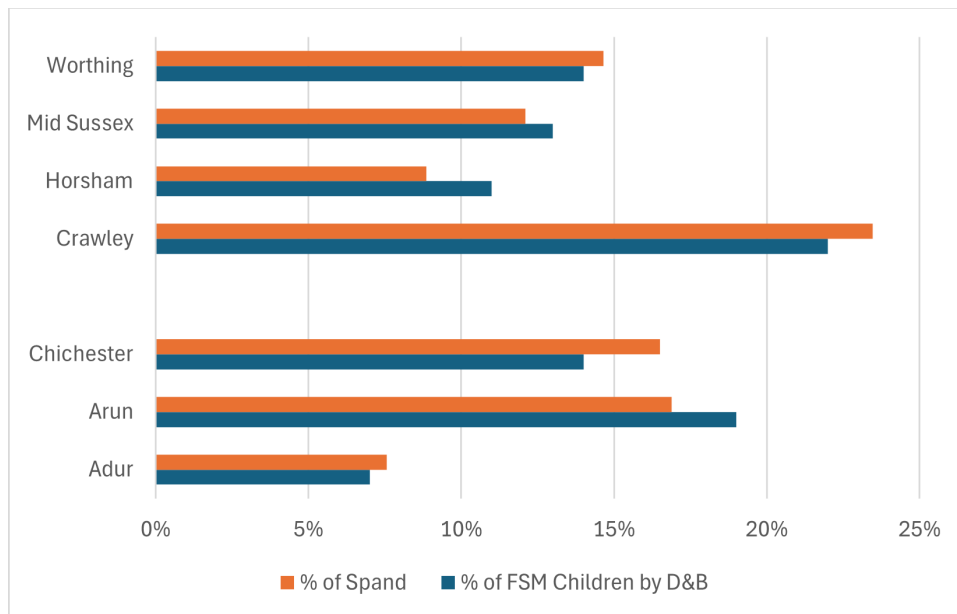


Figure 4: Allocation of HAF funding by District and Borough across West Sussex relative to volume of FSM children within the locality.

## Engagement and usage

In 2024-25 the West Sussex HAF programme provided a total capacity of 42,551 HAF spaces over the three HAF holiday periods.

A total of 40,097 spaces were booked across all periods. Of these, 5590 sessions were cancelled in advance of delivery enabling these sessions to be readvertised to families with 188 spaces rebooked. This therefore totalled 34,695 sessions booked. Out of the 34,695 sessions booked, 27,726 sessions were attended by 3317 unique children, of which 3086 were eligible for benefit related FSM children. In 2024 we had a 10% increase in the number of free school meal eligible children accessing the HAF programme over the previous delivery year.

Of the session booked, 12,371 sessions were not attended or cancelled by 2741 children, within that some 6781 places were booked and not attended. The average attendance rate was 80% over the 2024/25 HAF period. The holiday with the lowest attendance rate was Winter with a total of 77% of booked places attended. The Easter HAF programme had the highest attendance rate of 82%.



A total of 218 children accessed the HAF programme who were not eligible for benefit related FSM or could not be traced using the information provided, this is a 68% decrease from the 2023/24 HAF programme. The chart in Figure 5 shows the percentage of non-eligible children who accessed the HAF programme by category, with 25% of non-eligible children accessing the HAF programme referred by a professional due to being at risk or vulnerable. The definition of 'Not Eligible' are those children who could not be traced, or eligibility has changed during the period.

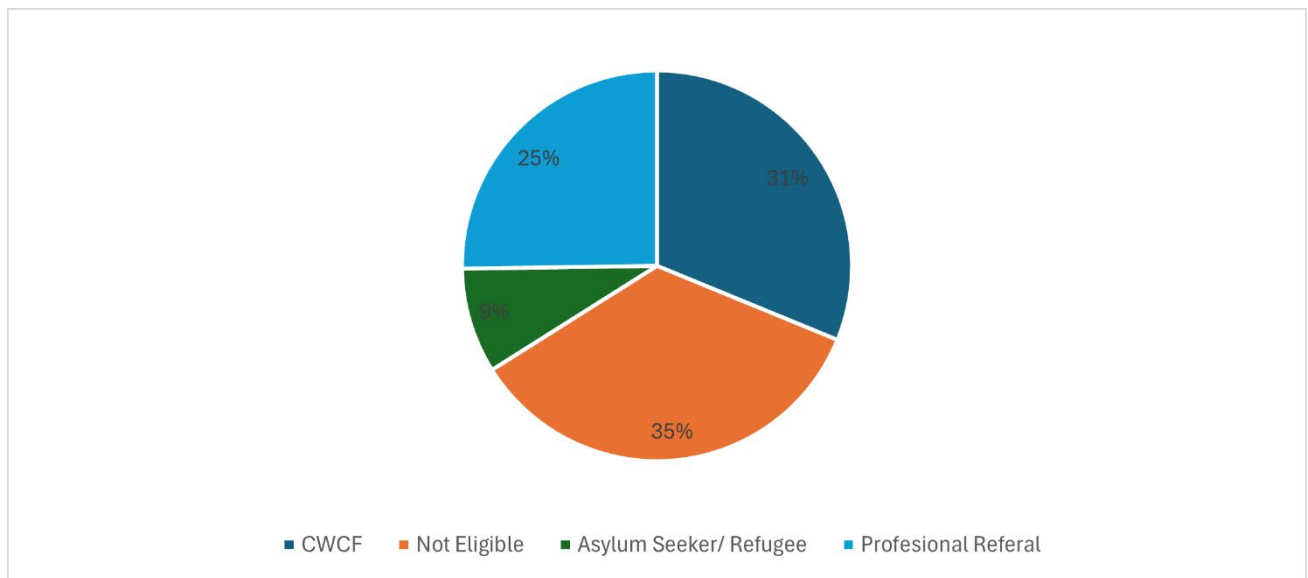


Figure 5: Percentage of non-eligible HAF children who accessed HAF by Category.

Through 2024-25, primary school age children accessed an average of 8.6 days' worth of HAF activities. Secondary age children attended an average of 6.5 days.

The chart in Figure 6 below shows the breakdown of the average number of days attended for each holiday by Primary and Secondary aged children.

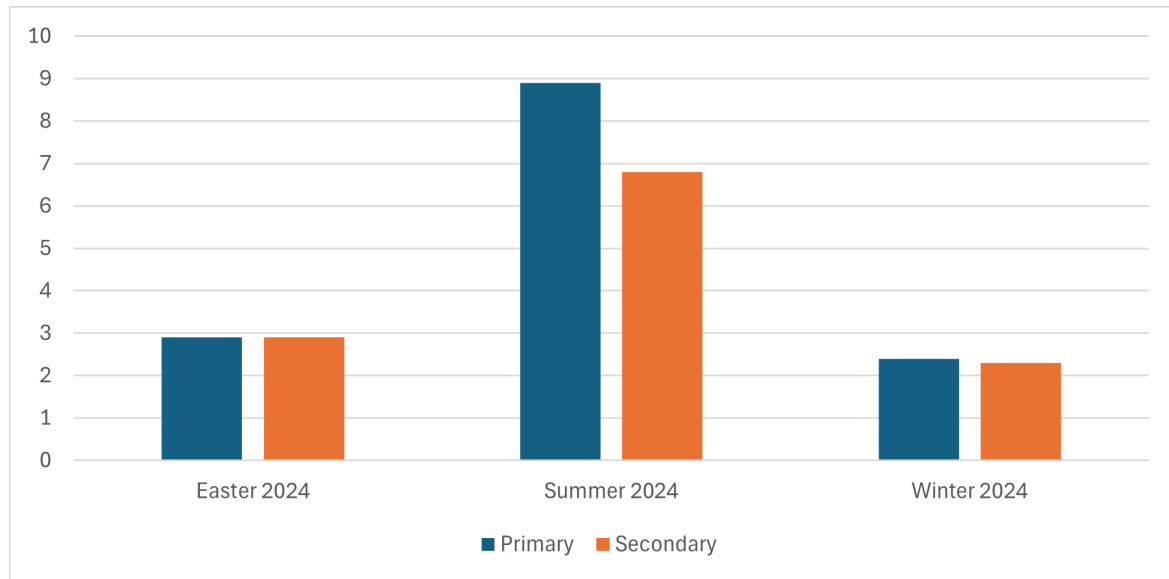


Figure 6: Attendance illustrating average number of days per child by Primary or Secondary phase at HAF related activities by holiday period.

In 2024-25, the West Sussex HAF programme focused on increasing the number of confirmed HAF eligible children accessing the West Sussex programme. The introduction of the HAF booking system in Summer 2023 has helped to improve the HAF eligibility rates by implementing key information checks against all children eligible to access the HAF programme and providing high quality data that can be used to track HAF attendances.

The Chart in Figure 7 shows the number of unique children accessing HAF per holiday period and the number of those that were eligible for the HAF programme.

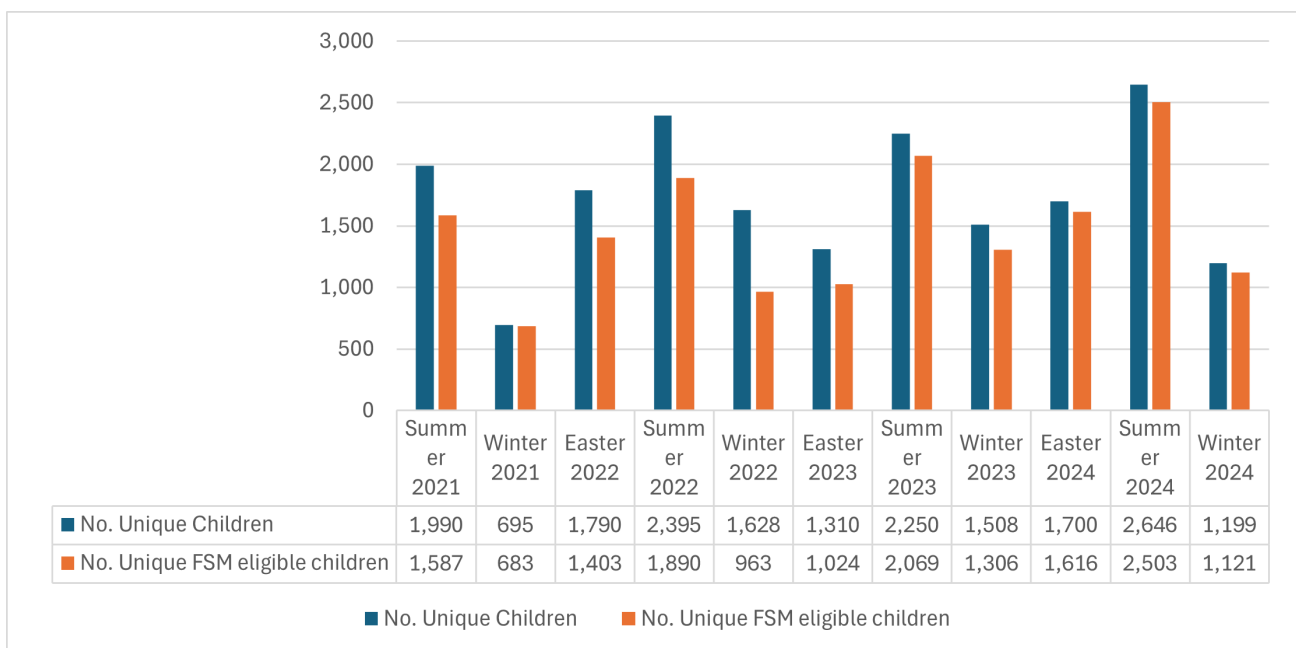




Figure 7: Comparison of volumes of unique children against confirmed eligible children by delivery period.

Further to the development, introduction and operation of our bespoke online booking system, we have seen a notable reduction in the number of non-eligible HAF children accessing the HAF programme. Each individual HAF account is authorised by a member of the team. We have improved systems and processes with council colleagues and partners to allow the tracing of our non-eligible children accessing HAF, including those that we provide temporary HAF codes to.

If a child is not eligible for benefit related free school meals but would benefit from accessing the HAF programme, professionals can complete a referral for non-eligible HAF children who would benefit significantly from attending the HAF programme. Each referral is reviewed on merit, providing each child with a unique HAF code valid for 1 holiday period only. This has allowed us to monitor the number of non-eligible children accessing the HAF programme, ensuring that it does not exceed the allotted 15% limit whilst allowing us to support vulnerable children who would benefit from the HAF programme. As part of the 15% non-eligible children who can access the HAF programme, we also allow Children We Care for access on a continuous basis until such time as their status may change.

In 2024-25 we have had 68 Children We Care For, 19 Refugee and Asylum Seeker Children, 55 vulnerable children and 76 not eligible children access the HAF programme. A total of 1495 sessions were attended by 218 children. The graph in figure 8 shows the number of sessions attended by each group.

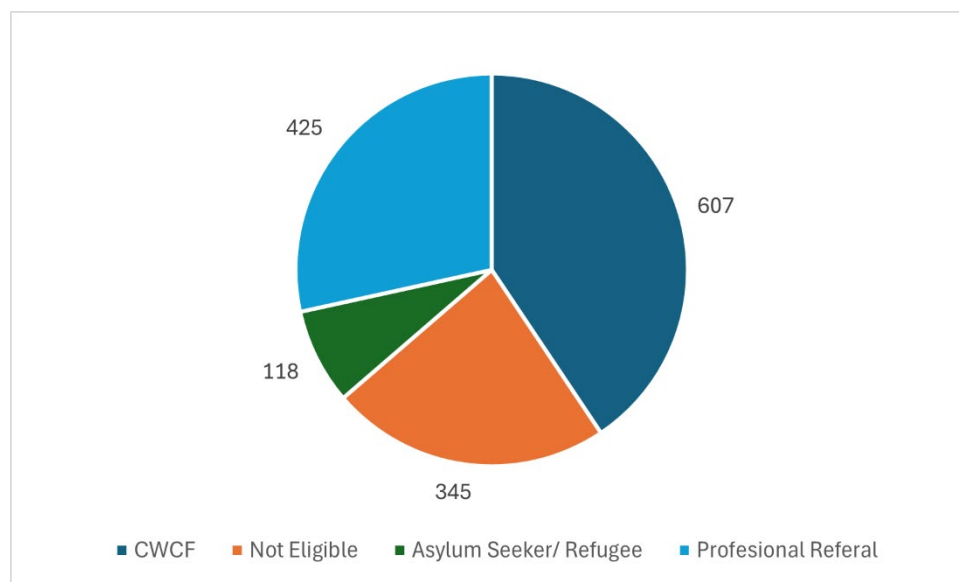


Figure 8: Comparison of volume of sessions attended.

For the 2024-25 HAF programme we continued to have exceptional difficulty finding specialist SEND providers who wished to deliver the HAF programme. To ensure we offered an accessible and inclusive programme with SEND provision, we ringfenced a

level of funding which providers could use to fund additional staffing where necessary. This system worked well and 33% of the children that accessed the HAF programme had a known SEND diagnosis. This is 1% higher than HAF 2023/24. Over £29,000 was spent on providing additional 1-2-1 or small group support for HAF children to enable them to access the provision.

During 2024 we planned a family engagement day to promote the HAF programme, raise awareness within a key community and increase the take up of HAF families. Our Winter HAF Family Day was planned in partnership with UK Harvest, a regional charity, and was held in Bognor Regis, an area of noted depravation with large numbers of Free School Meal children. The event provided families with the opportunity to try 18 activity groups, access a breadth of support agencies in a single venue and receive a free hot meal. In addition, families were able to take home an activity pack, have access to a fresh food bank and were able to take home a free toy, kindly donated by the listeners of V2 Radio.

On the day we saw over 370 people attend the event with over 500 hot meals being served throughout the day. Some 200 children received a HAF pack. This included an activity pack, links to online videos and the ingredients and instructions to make pizzas at home. The satisfaction rate of the event by attendees was 9.73 out of 10, and Figure 9 shows a word cloud was created using the words families used to describe the event which can be seen below. A copy of the full report can be requested from the West Sussex HAF team.



Figure 9: Word cloud created by attendees for the HAF Winter Family Fun Day.

## HAF Online booking system

In Summer 2023 we commissioned and introduced a bespoke HAF booking system. The aim of the booking system was to minimise the number of non-eligible HAF children accessing the programme, as well as managing families booking activity to prevent excess booking on more than 4 Sessions in Easter and Winter and 16 at Summer. We also invested to ensure that the booking system would allow us to improve the quality of the data for reporting and the strategic development of the HAF provision. The Graph in Figure 10 shows the percentage of children who attended the HAF programme that were eligible for Free School meals.

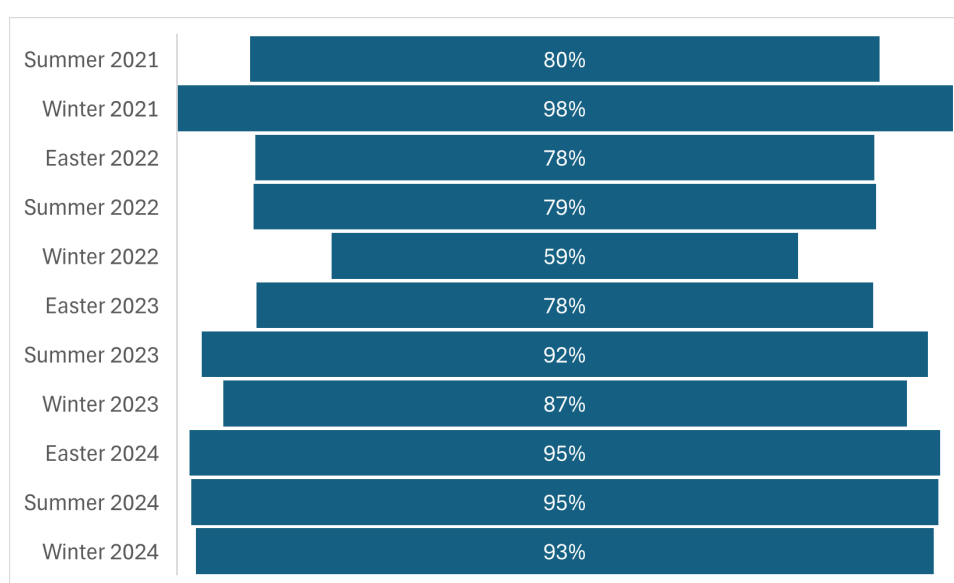


Figure 10: Percentage of children attending the HAF programme that were eligible for Free School Meals.

The booking system has also provided the ability to accurately monitor booking rates and the number of bookings each provider receives in the lead up to the holiday period. The graph in Figure 11 shows the percentage of places booked via the booking system broken down by week.

For Easter 2024 the booking system was live for 4 weeks prior to the Easter holidays and for Summer and Winter the booking system was live for 6 weeks before the start of the holidays. As the Easter 2024 HAF programme was launched later than usual the number of bookings received within 24 hours of the booking system going live was much higher than other holiday periods. However, the booking levels then slowed down and within 1 week of the booking system going live a similar percentage of places were booked compared to other holiday periods. This information has enabled us to work with providers to manage and optimise communications and marketing activity based on when families are inclined to book places.

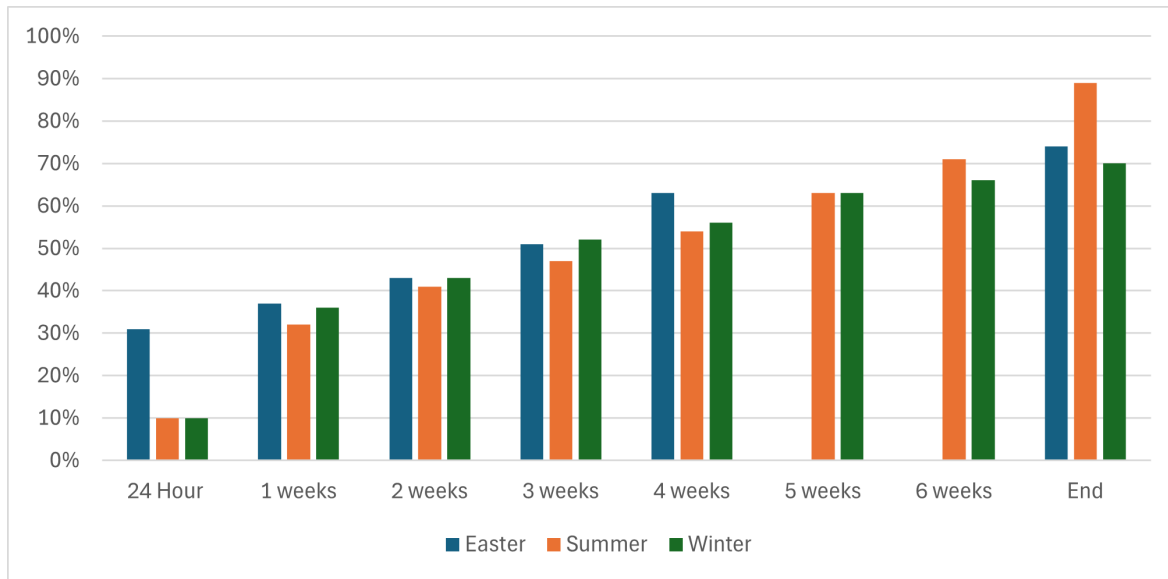


Figure 11: Comparison of percentage of places booked from booking system going live to end of delivery period.

The introduction of the bespoke HAF booking system has meant that we are able to track the number of bookings made at each of our HAF clubs in the lead up to delivery. This has enabled us to support targeted promotion of any club where bookings are lower than required and identify any trends in bookings. During 2024/25 over 40,000 engagements (bookings and cancellations) went through the booking system for over 3,300 children. Of those engagements 33,710 bookings were made via the booking system, resulting in 27,726 attendances by over 3317 children.

Figure 12 shows the booking rates of clubs by session category. This level of detailed insight and information has allowed us to manage the number of places available in each category and reduce the number of places available for some sessions. The chart shows that sessions delivered directly by schools have the best booking rates, potentially influenced by families being more familiar with the locations and staff running clubs so feel more confident in accessing these clubs.

Our lowest booked sessions are our soft play sessions. These sessions provide access to family sessions for those families who are wanting activities that the whole family can join in on, primarily for younger children. For range of families that this type of provision may suit is potentially limited, as many families access HAF sessions that enable them to continue working whilst HAF support their child. However the soft play sessions do provide wider accessibility and inclusivity to a niche group that supports wider family engagement and are only paid for on an as used basis.

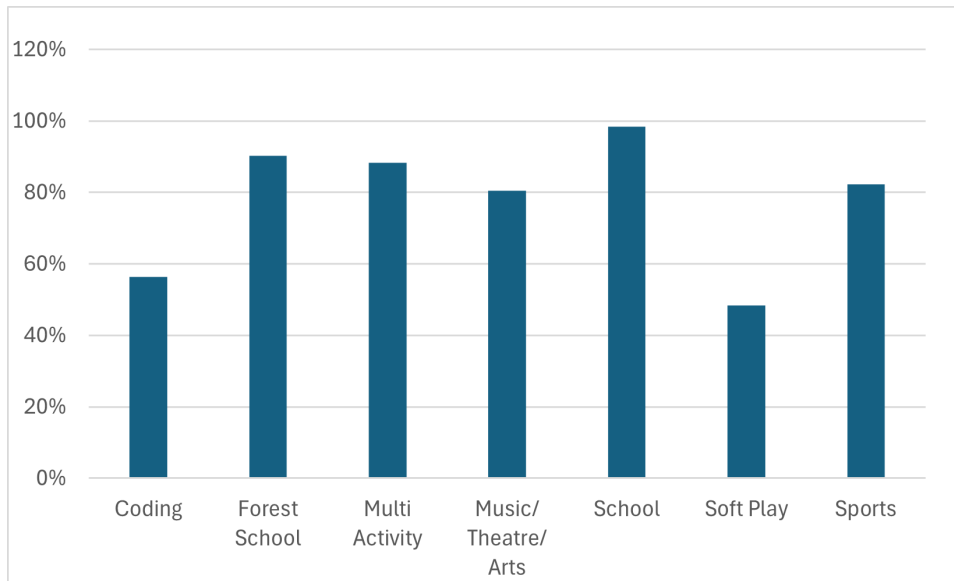


Figure 12: Percentage of available places booked by session category.

## Partners and providers

Through the duration of 2024-25 across all holiday periods, WSCC contracted with 63 unique providers to deliver activity-based provision. The activities were selected to provide a wide range of types to ensure a broad appeal to as wide an audience as possible delivering against accessibility and inclusivity need. The chart in Figure 13 illustrates the number of clubs operated within each main category of type of provision.

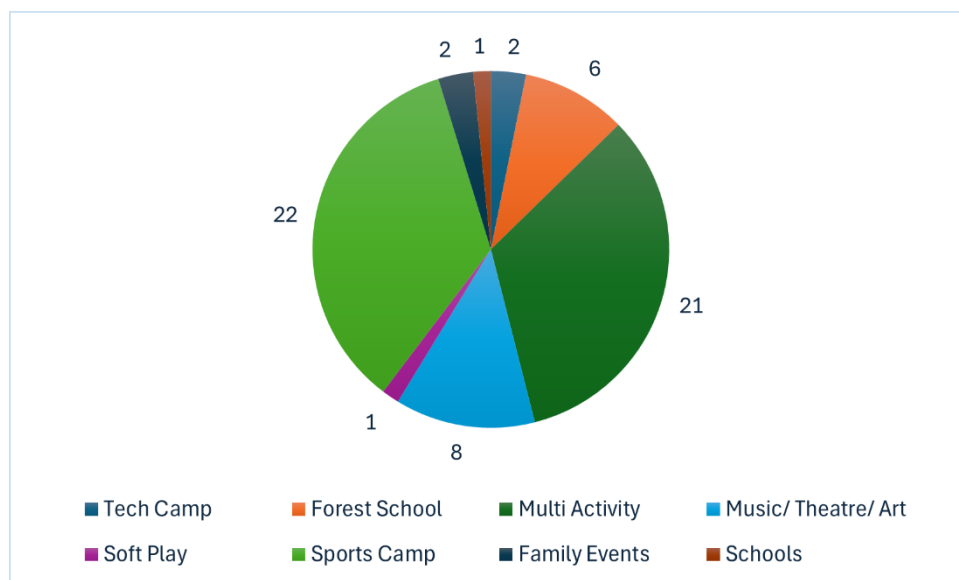


Figure 13: Categorisation of types of activity intervention and volume of clubs delivering.

The figures indicate that 35% of the providers we worked with were categorised as sports clubs. This included multi sports camps, football clubs, skateboarding and Outdoor Adventure sports such as Rock Climbing and Archery. The clubs offered the children opportunities to try new sports or improve their skills in a specific area. Our sports clubs also integrated activities to educate the children to understand healthy eating and the nutrition needed to stay fit and active. Some 33% of providers delivered multi-activity camps. Typically delivered by wrap around care providers, they offered children the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including crafts, cooking and sports. Our multi-activity camps focused on encouraging and engaging children to try lots of different activities each day and catered to those children who may not have been sports focused. These clubs offered children opportunities to engage in multiple different craft activities including painting, model making and festive decorations.

We also worked with several Music, Theatre or Arts groups with 13% of providers delivering sessions with this as the prime focus. In 2024 we also started working with our Early Help team to deliver a SEND Family play Session. This session offered families who may be anxious or unable to attend other HAF clubs the opportunity to access an activity and receive a free meal.

The graph in Figure 14, shows the breakdown of places available for each of the HAF provider prime categories. Over 53% of the places available during 2024-25 were delivered by sports providers. These clubs were very popular as they offered children the opportunity to take part in multiple different sports each day. Activities on offer included traditional sports such as football, tennis, and cricket as well as more specialist opportunities including swimming, skateboarding, abseiling and zorbing.

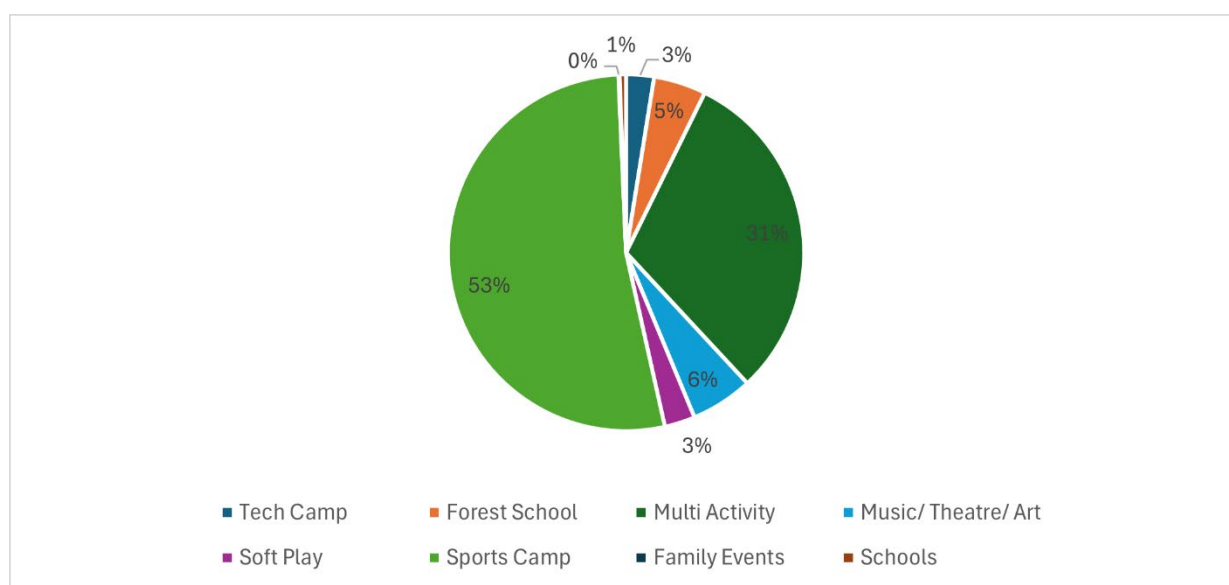


Figure 14: Volume of places offered by activity category.

We worked with 6 forest school providers during 2024-25, offering children the opportunity to spend time outdoors and learn about the environment. Children and



young people had opportunities to learn about the natural world around them, plant and pick fruit and vegetables, and learn how to light and cook over an open fire. We also continued to offer a beach school, offering children the opportunity to explore the local coastline and better understand the natural world within the coastal environment. We also worked directly with one school who delivered HAF sessions to their students helping to target the families who would most benefit from the programme.

## Food and nutrition

Within West Sussex, HAF providers can source their own food provision, or they can choose to be paired with one of the food providers the council has identified and qualified as appropriate. Of the 63 providers who delivered during 2024-25, 8 providers were paired with a food provider by West Sussex County Council. The 56 remaining providers either delivered food in house or worked with a partner agency to deliver the food.

Wherever possible, we encouraged providers to deliver hot food as part of the HAF programme. All providers were required to submit a sample menu when bidding for funding to ensure that all food provided aligns closely with the school food standards. The food element of the bids from each provider was reviewed by subject matter experts within WSCC, with experience of food standards required for school age children. Quality assurance visits to providers by the HAF team checked the delivery of food provision as part of the overall assessment.

## Delivering information, advice and guidance

During 2024/25, HAF providers offered additional support and information to families that attended their sessions on the importance of healthy eating and nutrition for all. Providers offered both universal support to all families and tailored support where needed. All families accessing the HAF programme were provided with Change for Life packs and signposted to the wide variety of activities and advice this service provided. Providers also shared information on low-cost recipes, details of local food banks and, during the winter HAF programme, information on where families could access local warm spaces. All families were also signposted to our local Family Information Service website where they are able to find more information on childcare provision, the Household Support fund and information and support around budgeting.

Throughout the programme, WSCC colleagues from our Early Help service arranged visits to HAF clubs to be present and accessible at the beginning and end of sessions. This enabled parents to have time to talk to professionals about the help available to them whilst their children were accessing sessions.

Providers were also able to offer tailored support to families in need. This included referrals to Family Hubs and Early Help, the Citizens Advice Bureau, and local housing associations. Providers also proactively signposted families to access other providers or activities that were not involved in the HAF programme such as youth organisations, Parent and Carer Forums and the West Sussex Local Offer.

All providers were provided with access to and were required to complete the 'Make Every Contact Count' training. This training is designed to support professionals working with families to have positive conversations around health-related topics including, healthy weight and nutrition, stopping smoking and alcohol.

We have established a termly newsletter that is sent to families registered on our booking system. The newsletter contains information on upcoming HAF programme activity as well and links to useful resources and recipes.

## Governance and steering group

In June 2022, we launched our HAF steering group. The group is formed from a cross-organisational group of senior officers and partners across a number of specialist disciplines and considerations. A full list of representatives can be found in Appendix 1. The Steering Group is designed to guide the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme with the principle aims of the group defined as:

- Oversee the programme and championing the aims and outcomes within the representing organisation
- Align with other initiatives within West Sussex and add value where appropriate through collaboration and partnership
- Create links to providers and drive the market to ensure a wide range of options for children to engage with
- Consider issues or risk and advise on solutions or mitigations e.g. food, take-up

The HAF Steering Group meets three times a year between the school holidays. It assesses and reflects on the delivery of the programme for the previous holiday period to identify successes, best practice, challenges and areas of development. It will then look toward the next period, considering any actions necessary to improve programme accessibility, delivery and impact. The steering group will also advise on any issues and approve any proposals taken to the group by the HAF Coordinator.

## Development Outcomes: HAF 2024-25

In the 2024-25 HAF period we focussed on increasing the reach of the HAF programme. This was achieved by increasing the wider promotion of the HAF programme and increasing the direct communication we have with HAF families through attending local community events.

In May 2024 we started a dedicated HAF newsletter which was sent to any person who has signed up to receive the publication including registered HAF families and wider families. With currently over 4,000 families registered and an opening click rate of 57% the HAF newsletter has been successful in promoting the HAF programme to families.

We also started sharing the percentage of Free School Meal children accessing the HAF programme at each school within West Sussex. This has helped highlight the take up rate of HAF with individual schools and has encouraged them to increase the amount of promotion they have done with eligible children. Prior to this many schools believed that the take up rate for HAF was high within their school, when in many schools it was only around 15%.

The quality of the data provided via the booking system has given us a greatly increased understanding of the requirements and preferences of our HAF families. For instance, we know that if the weather is poor in the lead up to a holiday period the booking rates of our forest schools will be lower than normal. We can now also see where families are traveling from to access specific HAF camps and can see that families are willing to travel, with some families willing to travel up to 18 Miles to attend a camp. This information will be used to help plan provision across West Sussex and make sure that there are a mix of options for families to access in the local area.

## Looking forward: HAF 2025-26

The development of the 2025-26 HAF Programme will take the evidence and insights, experience and learning from the preceding years performance to hone its continuing focus on increasing its reach and supporting more children to access the programme.

To achieve this, we will focus on improving links with schools to support the promotion of the HAF programme directly to their families. We will also encourage more schools to become direct HAF providers by sharing the positive outcomes that have been seen by current schools delivering HAF.

We will also use the evidence from HAF 2024-25 to better understand the needs and trends of HAF families. This will help us better plan HAF promotion across our Districts and Boroughs and make sure that we are providing the right mix of activities in each area.

We aim to increase the take up of HAF spaces with Secondary School children through increasing the provision of dedicated sessions for key stage 3 and 4 children only. We also hope to increase the mix of clubs that provide activities for primary and secondary aged children in the hope that they will continue to access the clubs that they have enjoyed as they grow.

We continue to aim to improve support for SEND Children to access the HAF programme. Although we have a high proportion of children with SEND needs accessing the HAF programme, we are aware that large numbers of children, particularly those with more complex needs, are not currently able to access HAF due

to a lack of appropriate provision. We will continue to work with partners to identify ways to increase provision for these families.

## Family feedback and case studies

In addition to the quantitative feedback gathered in relation to attendance and engagement, we also seek to collect qualitative feedback from participants, providers and families. This information provides the contextual evidence of the impact of the programme on those it is designed to support. The following are quotes and case studies received through feedback extolling the positive reception and impact the WSCC HAF programme has had through 2024-25.

### Parent Survey

In 2024 we continued to ask parents feedback on the Holiday Activity and Food Programme after each delivery period. In total we received 364 responses to our survey. As part of the survey, we asked parents if they agreed or disagreed with several statements, including if their child had a good time and if they made friends. The feedback was exceptionally positive from responding parents, with 96% of parents saying their child had a good time. The Graph in Figure 15 shows the statements parents were asked to respond and the responses.

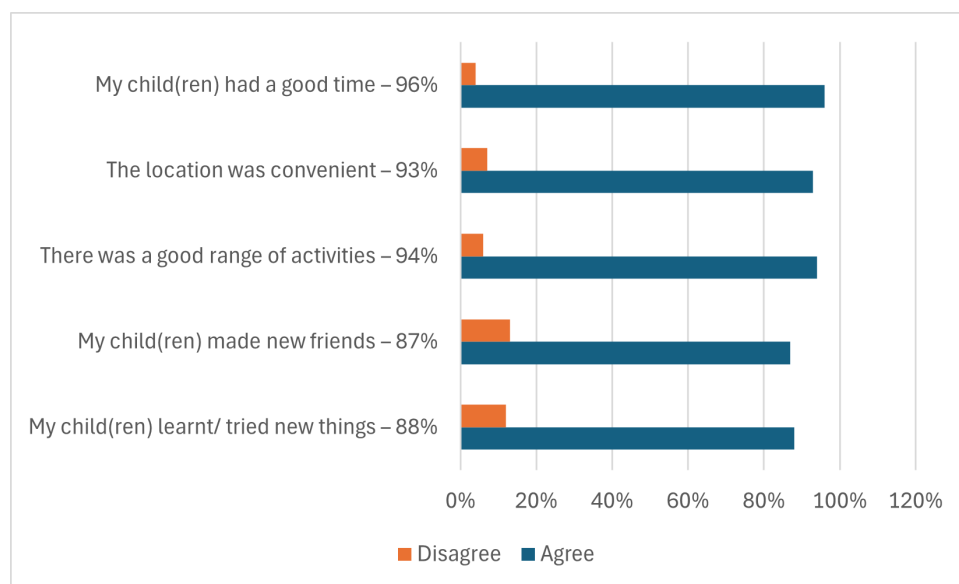


Figure 15: The agree or disagree statements asked to parents and the percentage that agreed or disagreed with the statement.

As part of our survey, we wanted to better understand why families were accessing the HAF programme so that we can make sure that the services we deliver are meeting their needs. Figure 16 shows the responses from parents by holiday period. We found that the most popular reason for accessing the HAF programme for families was to try

different activities and to keep active, whilst the least popular reason was to receive a free meal. These findings tie into the feedback we have received from providers, that many families choose to bring a packed lunch to the sessions instead of having the meal provided.

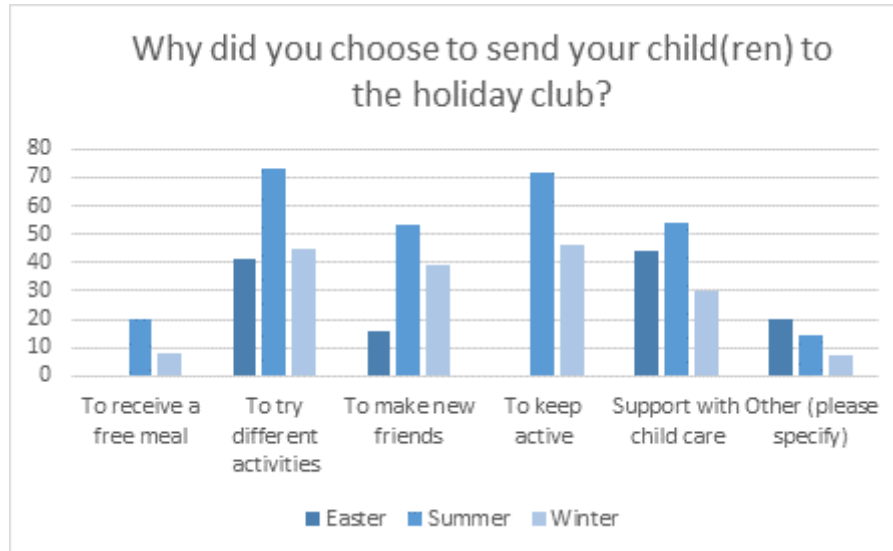


Figure 16: Why parents chose to Access the HAF programme by holiday period.

We also asked what activities their children had taken part in. Figure 17 shows that 41% of parents responded that their child had taken part in sport or physical activity. This aligns with the fact that 53% of HAF camps in West Sussex are Sports camps and all HAF camps provide some physical activity every day. The second most popular answer was arts and crafts. Interestingly, only 6% of HAF camps have a specific focus on the arts although many camps do have some form of art activity delivered through the day. This leads us to believe that although art is not a focus of many HAF camps these activities are incorporated successfully and enjoyed by the children that attend.

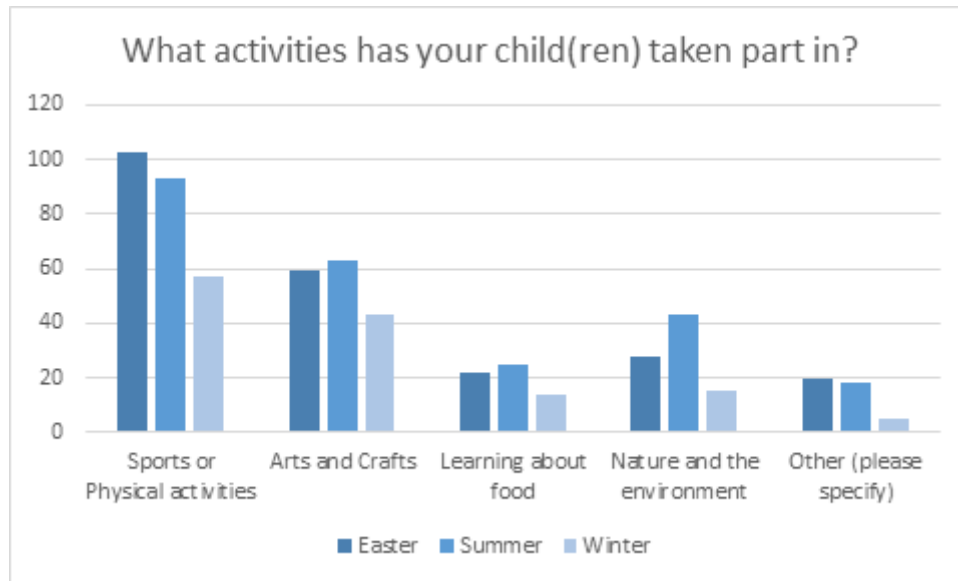


Figure 17: What activities children took part in by holiday period.

With the possibility that the HAF programme would be ending at the close of the 2024-25 funding period, we asked parents to share the impact the HAF programme had had on their family. Parents fed back that accessing the HAF programme had helped with their child's development by helping them improve social skills and become more confident. Families also fed back that their children would be more sedentary if they could not access the HAF programme and many parents fed back that their children would have a higher amount of screen time.

### Quotes from parent/carers

*'Thank you so much for A's place at Kudize over Easter. She had such an amazing time. The staff were so friendly and supportive, she made some lovely new friends and has so much fun. I also loved how she came home with lots of information on how to stay healthy, particularly when faced with a mountain of chocolate eggs!! She will definitely be back soon. I always feel so reassured when she's in your care.'*

*'My daughter was very apprehensive about going to The Juno Project, as she never enjoys social groups and finds it difficult to interact with her peers. However, she came back from the first session absolutely buzzing with confidence and wouldn't stop talking about all the fun she had, and the friends she made - which doesn't normally come easily to her - and she asked to sign up for all the sessions! She has had the BEST time at the Juno Project and has really come out of her shell. I've never seen her enjoy a social group like this before. It is clear that the team really know what they are doing and have a gift and understanding to instil confidence in girls to see them grow into their potential. Thanks for giving my daughter a boost.'*

*'My 9 year old, K, has been attending the Woodland Activity Sessions for the last couple of years. The sessions allow her to explore the outdoors in a safe way, that is*



*child led with the experience and guidance of the team when needed. She really enjoys the crafts she makes while there, along with working on fire lighting skills and not forgetting toasting marshmallows. My daughter has tried other groups over half terms, but this is the only one she will happily go to. She always comes away feeling confident and happy, having made new friends and she looks forward to the next session.'*

*'We travel from Bracklesham to come to your camp, because my children love it so much. I have really noticed L's confidence soaring and to see her choosing to talk to trusted adults in your setting is great.'*

*'My son joined in with the Easter club at Southway primary with Danni. xxx has adhd. I just wanted to say a massive thank you to her for understanding his needs and getting to know him so quickly which made his week successful! She gave him safe spaces and other opportunities to get things right.'*

*'I've never seen them so happy to go into a club for the day and eager to see friends. Thank you for making her feel comfortable and working with them so that they feel able to join in'*

## Quotes from children

*'I never thought I'd enjoy it as much as I did. This club was for me too! I learnt that it's ok to just be me and let go. Also, being with my own ages but also being around the younger kids and sharing things like Father Christmas was so cute. I have loved the day and made me feel christmassy and happy as I've felt in a long time now'. "It's been so fun. I wish you worked in my school. When can I come back?'*

*"I thought that this wasn't going to be much fun, but it was actually so good. Am I definitely coming back tomorrow?"*

*"I've had a great week and made loads of new friends"*

## Case study one

When the young person (aged 12) arrived at our HAF camp for girls and young women they were bubbly and welcomed what was planned for the day. Mum was concerned the YP didn't have anyone to talk to about their feelings, experiences in school and home life. The YP spoke a great deal about their sexuality and gender fluidity and exploration, as well as their experiences in school, and with other people's behaviour, as well as that of the teachers. They also talked about their mental health and preferences for diet and exercise. The YP participated in everything, encouraging other people to interact and engage. As the sessions went on, the YP was pleased to have some consistency with the adult running it and felt that they had been listened to and could present their authentic self to the group, which encouraged others in the group to do the same. Mum was pleased that her child had been given the opportunity to speak to another emotionally available adult and was grateful for the activities that they did together, as well as the open forum to discuss and explore thoughts, feelings

and experiences. Mum was also pleased about the wider interactions with a range of peers that her child would not usually have the chance to interact with.

## Case study two

The child (6 years old) arrived at their first Goodwood Education Trust session quite anxious and quiet, not wanting to leave Mum. They were paired up with a child of a similar age who had been before, and given lots of choice about the activities they might want to do, with lots of invitations to play, allowing staff to gauge the child's interests. Staff 'checked in' with the child throughout the day. The child's confidence grew – by the third session they became a 'leader' as they had a great idea about the direction the small world play would take and recruited others to help the idea come to life by making things and playing together. The child had talked non-stop about 'Fairy Land' and had been recreating it at home. They described themselves as 'the manager', thrilled with the opportunity to lead, kind and generous with it and included everyone so they felt valued.

## Case study three

The young person (age 14) has social care involvement, a history of neglect and is under CAMHS. The family were keen for the YP to attend HAF activities and communicated well with The Sid Youth Seniors team prior to the sessions starting. The YP has gaps in their development and presents younger than their chronological age, finding friendships with their peers challenging. The YP was invited to the junior HAF one day as staff were aware they would enjoy the 'Slime Making' activity. Staff spoke to the YP and their parents about coming along as a junior helper for the morning, to support the younger children. This gave the YP an opportunity to build their confidence by being able to support others and share their skills and knowledge, as well as developing communication skills. Staff noticed that the YP, despite their difficulties with friendships, was able to meet and make new friendships with other YP who had similar interests. They were welcoming towards other new YP and were heard to invite the others to join in with activities. The parents emailed to thank staff and say the YP had a great week and it's been lovely to see how excited they have come home. Young Person Feedback: Made new friends, confidence has grown 4/5. They felt they ate healthy meals and learned about being healthy. The activities meant they could try something new and they enjoyed all of it. The YP ending comments were 'it was fun and amazing, I loved it!'

## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **HAF Steering group representation**

Head of Service, Commissioning & Contracts, Children's and Young People

HAF Project Co-ordinator

HAF Administrator

Service Manager Early Help

Senior Advisor Childcare Sufficiency

Head of Service- Integrated Front Door

Public Health Lead - Start Of Life

Senior Press Officer Children & Education

Research Assistant, Data Analysis

Area Education Adviser Disadvantaged children

Education Adviser - Learning outside the Classroom

Voice and Participation Team Manager

SEND Commissioning and Contracts Manager

Active Sussex, External Provider stakeholder

Team Manager (SEND IAS)

Head of Catering Services

Senior Catering Officer

Head of Prevention Fire Service

Project Manager Partnerships & Communities Team

Senior Adviser - Information and Customer Access

Short Breaks Commissioning Manager

Police

## APPENDIX 2:

### List of HAF providers engaged in 2024-25

Provider Name	Activity Type	School Phase	Holiday Period
Absolute Sport	Sports	Both	All Holidays
Activ8 For Kids Ltd	Sports	Both	All Holidays
Active Stars	Multi Activity	Both	Easter/ Summer
ActiveMe 360	Sports	both	All Holidays
Audio Active	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Secondary	All Holidays
Barracudas	Multi Activity	Both	Easter/ Summer
Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation	Sports	Both	All Holidays
Busy Lizzie's Holiday Club	Multi Activity	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Camp Glide LTD	Multi Activity	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Cherrytree Childcare	Multi Activity	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Chichester College Holiday Club	Multi Activity	Both	All Holidays
Chichester Forest Schools	Forest School	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Crimsham Farm CIC	Forest School	Both	Summer Only
Code Kids	Coding	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Creation Station	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Primary	Summer Only
Drama Kids	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	All Holidays
Esteem	Multi Activity	Secondary	Easter/ Summer
Football Fun Factory Mid Sussex	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
Football Fun Factory Crawley	Sports	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Freedom Leisure (Arun)	Sports	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Globe Fit	Multi Activity	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Goodwood Education Trust	Forest School	Primary	Summer Only
Horsham Sports Services	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
JC Sports	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
Jungle Mania	Soft Play	Primary	All Holidays
Junior Adventures Group	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Kids All Star Sports	Sports	Both	Easter/ Summer
Kudize Club Ltd	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Melting Pot	Multi Activity	Primary	Summer/ Winter
Next Thing Education Ltd	Coding	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary School	School	Primary	Summer/ Winter
Pioneer Childcare	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Places Leisure	Sports	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Poponin	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	Easter/ Summer
The Russell Martin Foundation	Multi Activity	Both	Easter/ Summer

SB Sports Coaching Ltd t/a Premier Education	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
Shalom Childcare LTD T/A Totz2teenz Child Care	Multi Activity	Primary	Easter/ Summer
South Coast Sports Coaching Ltd	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
South Downs Leisure	Sports	Primary	Easter/ Summer
South Coast Skate Club	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
Southeast Kids Camps	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Sport4Kids	Sports	Primary	Summer/ Winter
SportsCool Brighton	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
Stagecoach	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	Easter/ Summer
Summer Adventure Camp	Sports	Both	Easter/ Summer
Sussex Forest Activities	Forest School	Primary	Easter/ Summer
West Sussex Fire and Rescue	Multi Activity	both	All Holidays
Teddy Wilf's Nurseries	Multi Activity	Both	Easter/ Summer
The Adur Centre	Sports	Both	All Holidays
The Juno Project	Multi Activity	Secondary	Summer Only
The Sid Youth	Multi Activity	Both	All Holidays
VIM Camps Ltd	Multi Activity	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Ward Holiday Club	Sports	Primary	Easter/ Summer
West Sussex Early Help	Family Day	Primary	Summer Only
Worthing Theatre and Museum	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Primary	All Holidays
West Sussex Music Trust	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	All Holidays
West Sussex West SSP	Sports	Both	All Holidays
Whizz Kids Holiday Club	Multi Activity	Primary	Easter/ Summer
Woodland Wonders Forest School	Forest School	Both	Easter/ Summer
Woods for Learning CIC	Forest School	Both	Summer/ Winter
Active8 Minds	Sports	Primary	Easter
Kitchen Sink Productions	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Secondary	Easter
UK Harvest	Family event	Both	Winter