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Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Annual Report 2025-26



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 2025/26.

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 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 (FSM) 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, for the first time also delivered HAF during the February Half Term as part of the DfE pilot.

Benefits-related FSM are available to pupils if their parents are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits and have a claim verified by WSCC.

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, an additional 2 days of HAF provision was also offered during February Half Term.

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 2025/26 overview

During the financial period covering 2025/26, the WSCC HAF programme worked with 83 unique partners covering all districts and boroughs across the county. Of these, 79 providers delivered face to face activities, with an additional 4 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 2025/26. Figure 1 illustrates the breakdown of provision showing how many holiday periods providers delivered in through the year.

Table 1: Unique providers delivering HAF related activities or food through the periods of the financial year 2025/26.

HAF Season	Easter	Summer	Winter	Feb Half Term
Number of unique providers per period	53	76	51	30

Figure 1: Breakdown of provider delivery based on number of periods engaged through the financial year 2025/26.

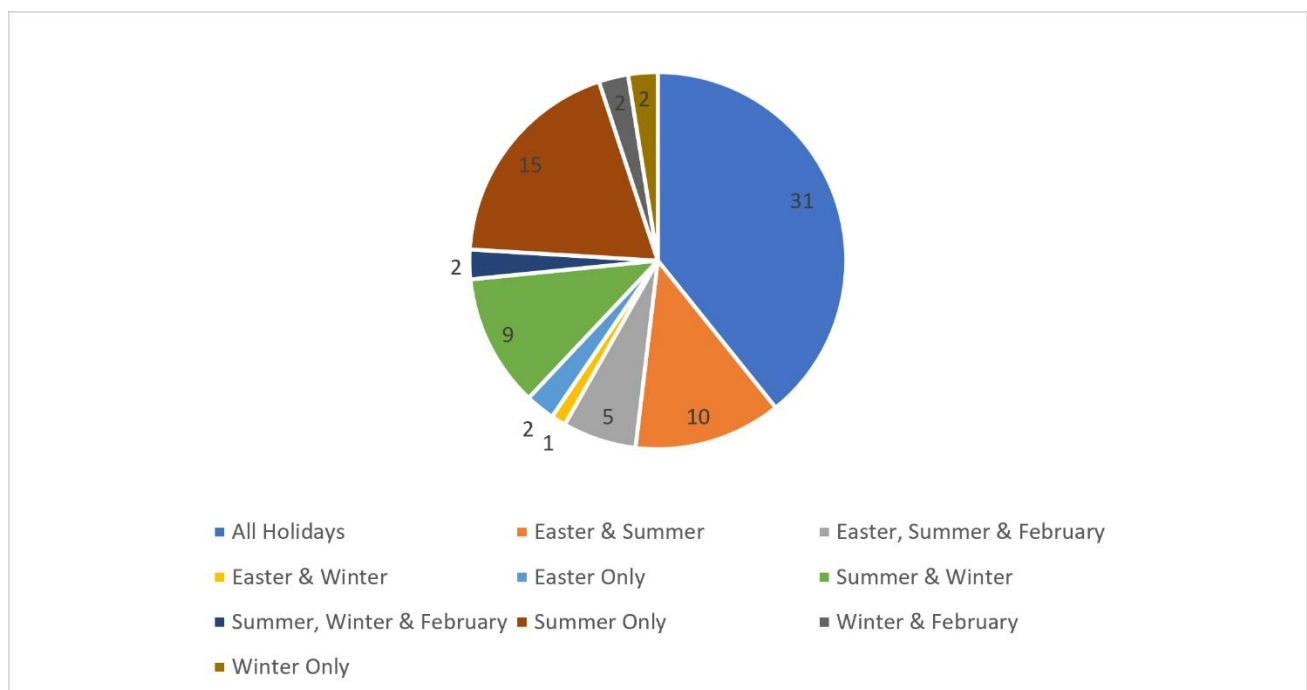
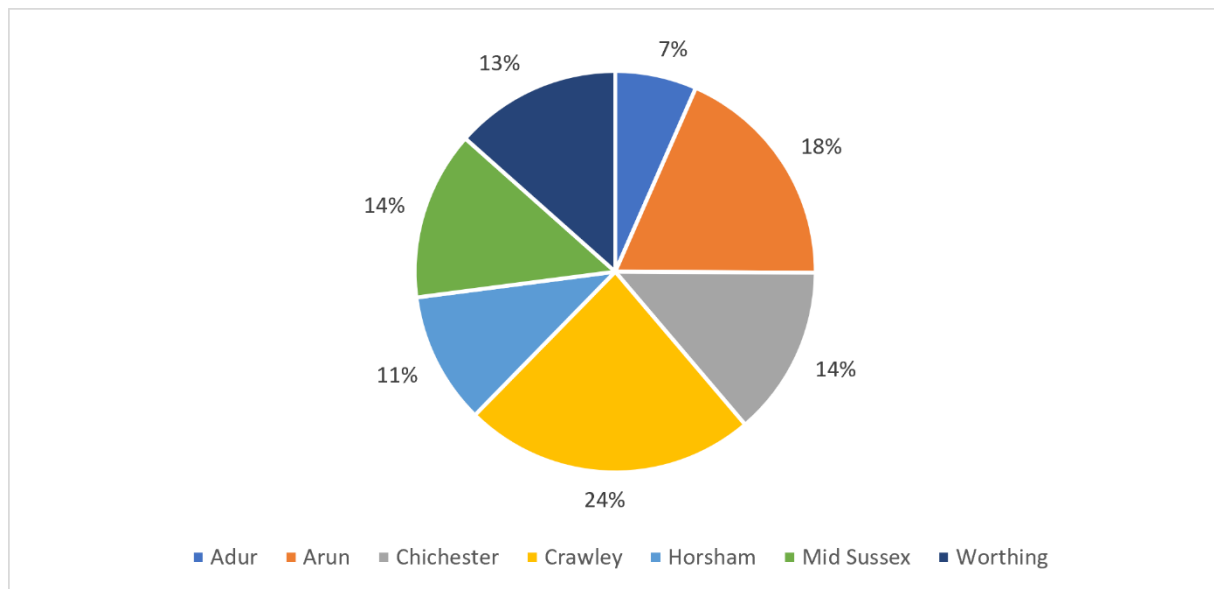


Figure 2: Figures for the percentage of FSM eligible children by District and Borough across West Sussex as at the end of the 2025/26 period.



During the period across 2025/26, West Sussex had a total of 19,282 children eligible for benefit related FSM. Crawley continues to have the highest number of FSM, with 24% of all eligible children attending a school here.

Funding allocation and usage

The West Sussex HAF programme was allocated a total grant value of £1,846,750 by the DfE for expenditure within 2025/26. The West Sussex programme had a total expenditure of £ 1,836,274 with the sum of £1,642,039 distributed to providers via grant agreements to deliver the HAF programme.

Table 2: Funding allocation breakdown by holiday period of the financial year 2025/26.

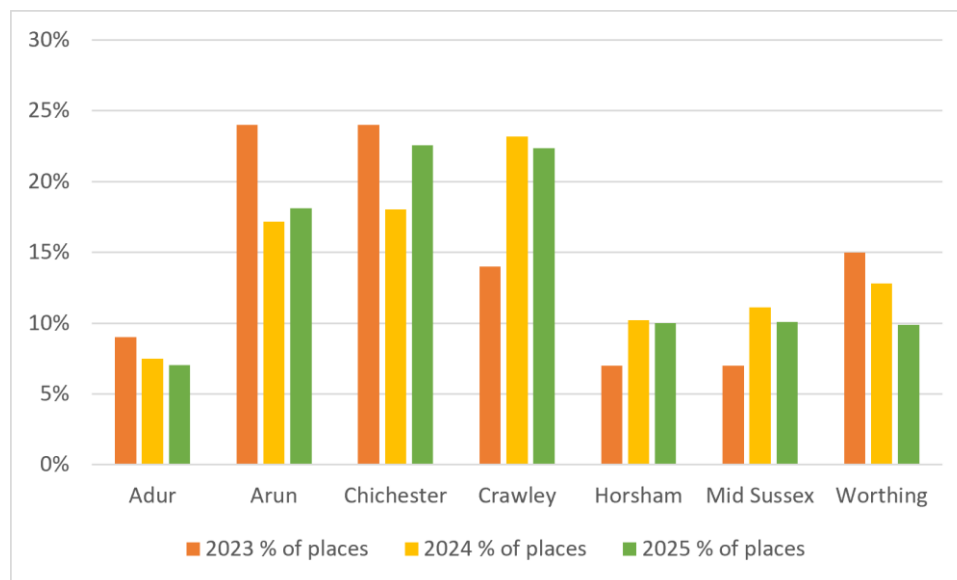
HAF Season	Easter	Summer	Winter	Feb Half Term
Funding Amount Allocated by value and percentage of budget	295,745	1,090,309	206,146	49,839

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 previously 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 previously resulted in a capacity challenge in achieving the required volume of HAF spaces for children within key geographic areas. During the 2025/26 HAF programme the focus was to align provision more closely with the percentage of FSM children within districts and boroughs, meaning that there was a better spread of places across West Sussex, which was achieved.

There are, however, still challenges in providing HAF provision within the most rural areas of the county and this an ongoing focus.

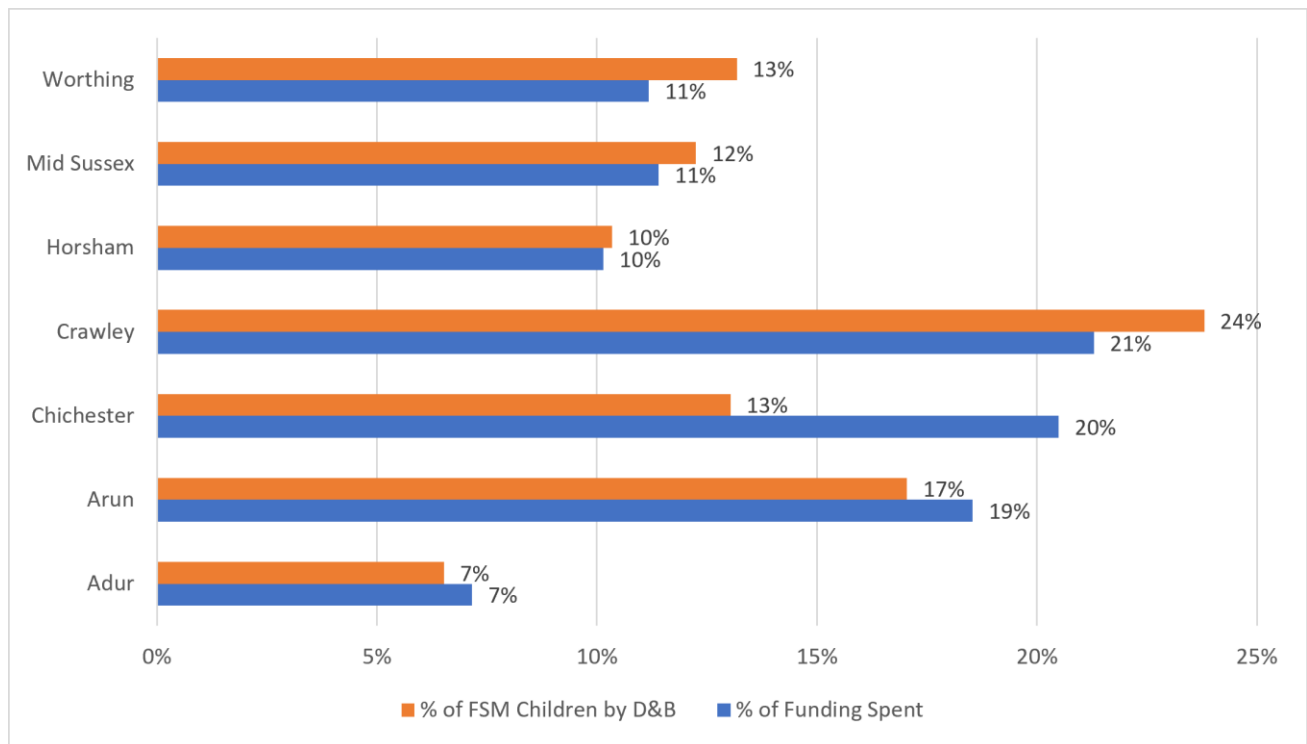
Figure 3: Percentage of HAF spaces available in 2025/26 by district and borough compared to 2023 and 2024.



When considering the allocation of funding for the HAF programme to deliver equitably across the county, the budget was divided between the districts and boroughs in direct proportion to the number of FSM children in those areas. Providers delivering in those areas were identified 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. The chart in Figure 4 shows the level of HAF spend in each of the districts and boroughs compared with the percentage of FSM children.

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 2025/26 the West Sussex HAF programme provided a total capacity of 42,314 HAF spaces over the four HAF holiday periods. A total of 41,756 spaces were booked across all periods.

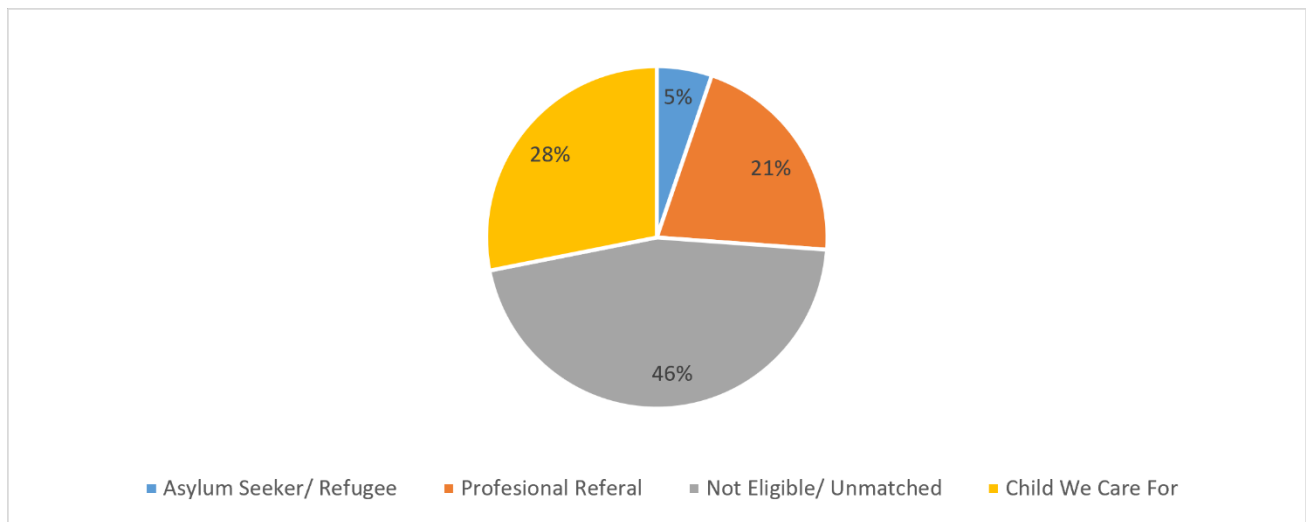
Of these, 5174 sessions were cancelled in advance of delivery enabling these sessions to be readvertised to families. This therefore totalled 36582 sessions booked. Out of the 36582 sessions booked, 29,958 sessions were attended by 3346 unique children, of which 3219 were eligible for benefit related FSM children. In 2025/26 we had a 4% increase in the number of FSM eligible children accessing the HAF programme over the previous delivery year.

Of the session booked, 11,797 sessions were not attended or cancelled by 2675 children. 6623 sessions were booked and not attended.

Over the 2025/26 HAF period, the average attendance rate was 82%. This was a 2% increase from 2024/25 HAF Programme.

The holiday period with the lowest attendance rate was winter with a total of 77% of booked places attended. The February half term had the highest attendance rate of 87%. Easter and summer both had an attendance rate of 82%.

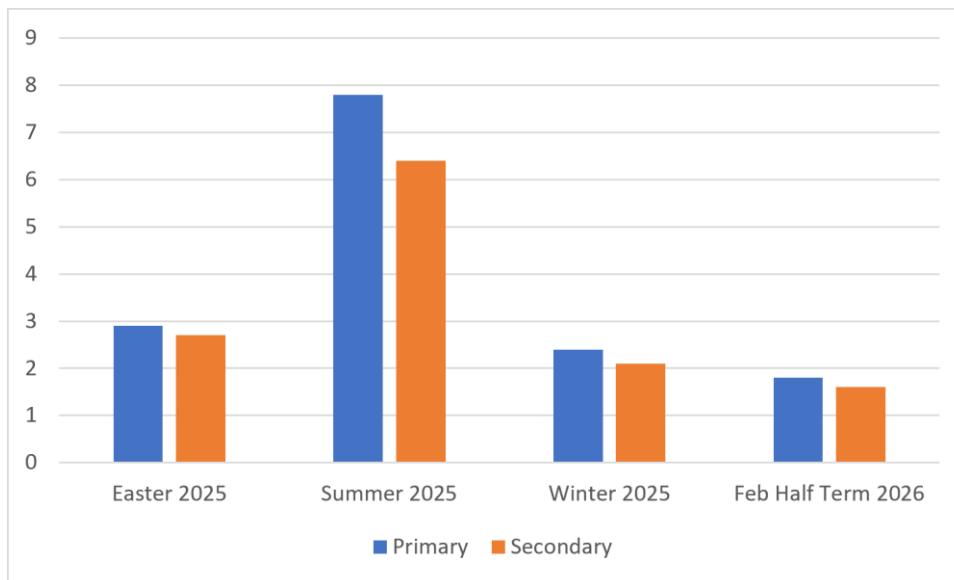
Figure 5: Percentage of non-eligible HAF children who accessed HAF by Category.



A total of 147 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 reduction of 33% from HAF 2024/25. 21% of non-eligible children accessing the HAF programme were referred by a professional due to them 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.

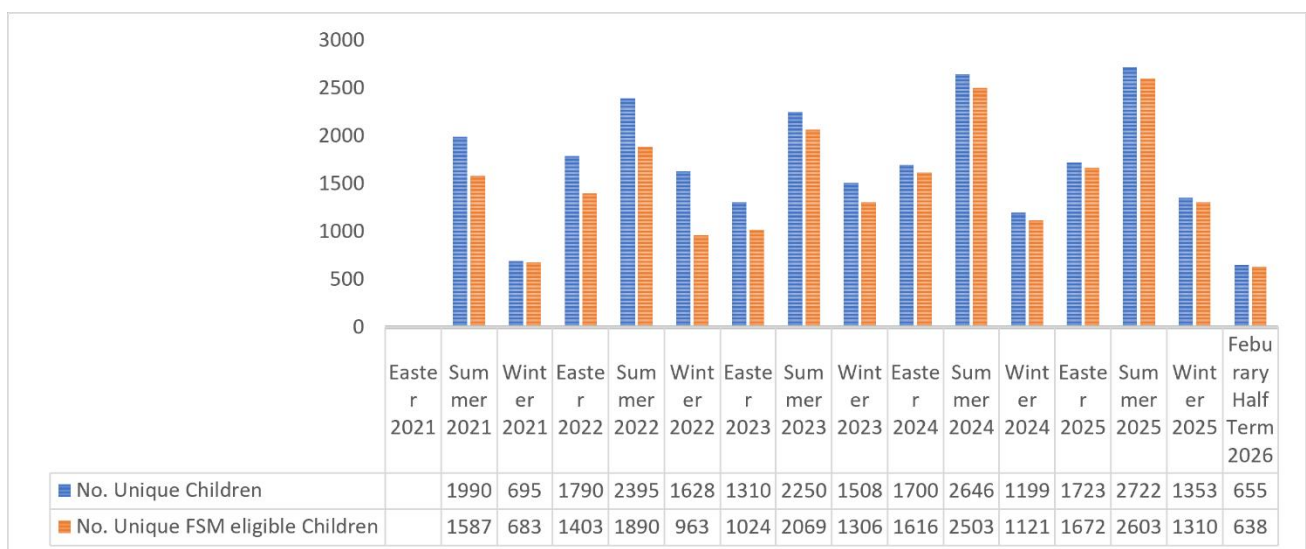
Through 2025/26, primary school age children accessed an average of 9.27 days' worth of HAF activities. Secondary age children attended an average of 6.2 days. This is a slight increase in Primary aged children by 0.5 of a day, secondary school aged children average attendance has reduced by 0.3 of a day.

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



In 2025/26, the West Sussex HAF programme continued focusing on increasing the number of confirmed HAF eligible children accessing the 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 programme and providing high quality data that can be used to track attendances.

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



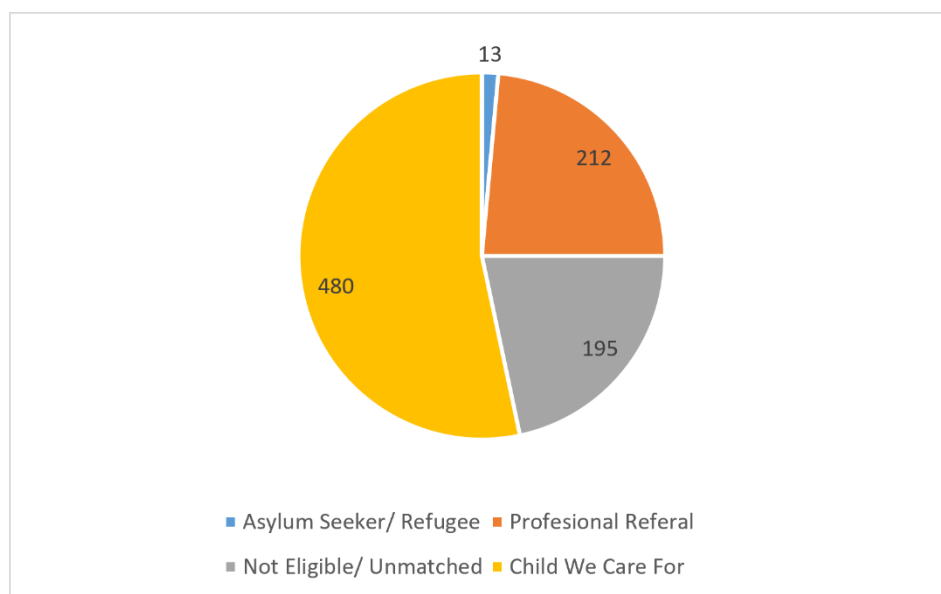
Further to the development, introduction and operation of a bespoke online booking system, there has been a notable reduction in the number of non-eligible HAF children accessing the HAF programme. Each individual HAF account is authorised by a member of the team. Improved systems and processes with council colleagues and partners has enabled the tracing of non-eligible children accessing, including those who have been provided with temporary HAF codes.

If a child is not eligible for benefit related FSM but would benefit from accessing the HAF programme, professionals can complete a referral for non-eligible children who would benefit significantly from attending the programme.

Each referral is reviewed on merit, providing each child with a unique HAF code valid for 1 holiday period only. This has allowed the monitoring of non-eligible children accessing the HAF programme, ensuring that it does not exceed the 15% limit whilst allowing identified vulnerable children who would benefit from attending to do so. As part of the 15% non-eligible children who can access the HAF programme, Children We Care For access on a continuous basis until such time as their status may change.

In 2025/26 there were had 43 Children We Care For, 8 Refugee and Asylum Seeker children, 32 vulnerable children and 70 not eligible children access the HAF programme. A total of 900 sessions were attended by 153 children.

Figure 8: Comparison of volume of sessions attended



For the 2025/26 HAF programme there have been challenges with identifying and working with specialist SEND providers to deliver the HAF programme. To ensure an accessible and inclusive programme with SEND provision, funding was ringfenced for providers could use to fund additional staffing where necessary. 38% of the children that accessed the HAF programme had a known SEND diagnosis. This is 5% higher than HAF 2024/25. Over £65,000 was spent on providing additional 1-2-1 or small

group support for over 120 HAF children to enable them to access the provision, this is 4% of the HAF delivery budget.

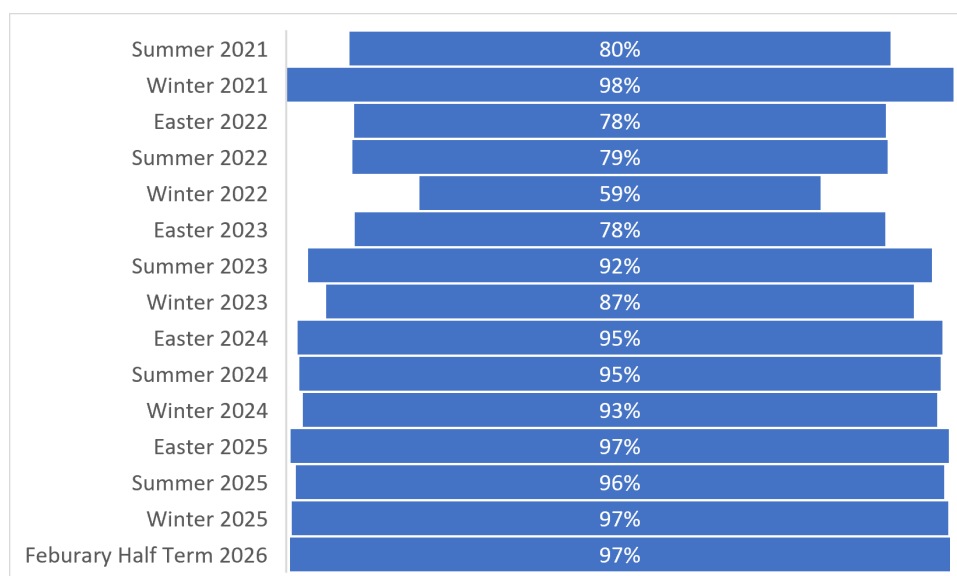
In 2025/26 the West Sussex HAF programme also ran in the February Half term. This was part of the DfE pilot for the widening of the HAF Programme. WSCC sought permission to use up to £50,000 underspend to deliver 2 days' worth of HAF provision to eligible children. To provide as many spaces as possible for the funding available the costs of HAF places was capped at £35 per person per day, including the cost of food. A total of 1358 HAF spaces were funded for the February Half Term HAF programme totalling £44,809. An additional £5030 was used to cover additional food costs and 1-2-1 support.

Of the 1358 sessions that were available 102% of sessions were booked, 87% of booked spaces being attended by 655 individual children, this is the highest attendance rate for any holiday period.

HAF Online booking system

In Summer 2023 WSCC 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. The booking system supports improved quality of data for reporting and the strategic development of the HAF provision.

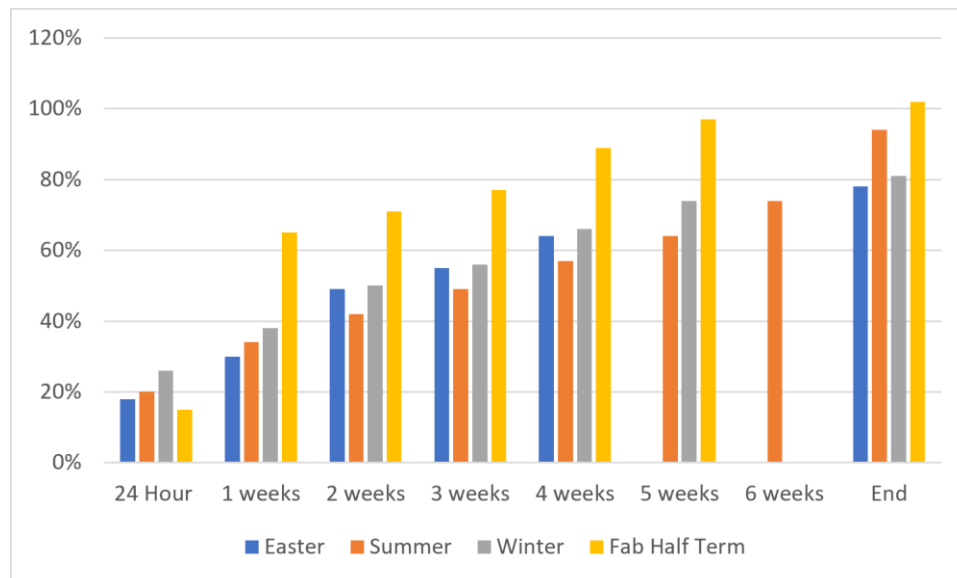
Figure 10: Percentage of children attending the HAF programme that were eligible for FSM.



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.

For Easter 2025 the booking system was live for 4 weeks prior to the Easter holidays and for Summer the booking system was live for 6 weeks before the start of the holidays and for Winter and February half term the booking system was live for 5 weeks. This information has enabled WSCC to effectively work with providers to manage and optimise communications and marketing activity based on when families are likely to book places, as well as better predicting provider booking rates.

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 accurate tracking of the number of bookings made at each HAF provider in the lead up to delivery. This has enabled targeted promotion of any club where bookings are lower than required and to identify any trends in bookings. The information provided via the booking system enabled places to be funded in line with demand.

During 2025/26 over 40,000 engagements (bookings and cancellations) went through the booking system for over 3,400 children. Of those engagements 34,939 bookings were made via the booking system. This is a 6% increase in the number of bookings places via the booking system, resulting in 28,465 attendances.

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

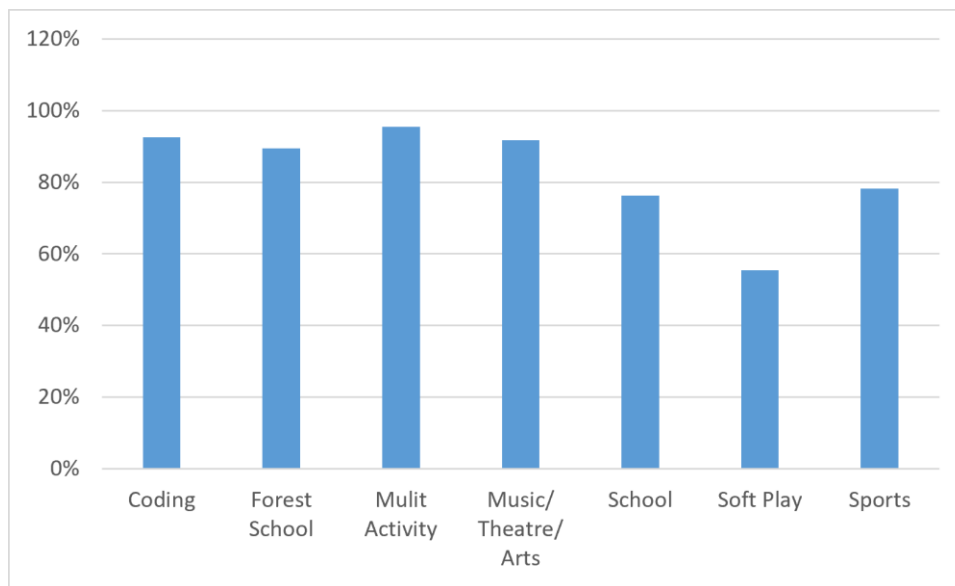


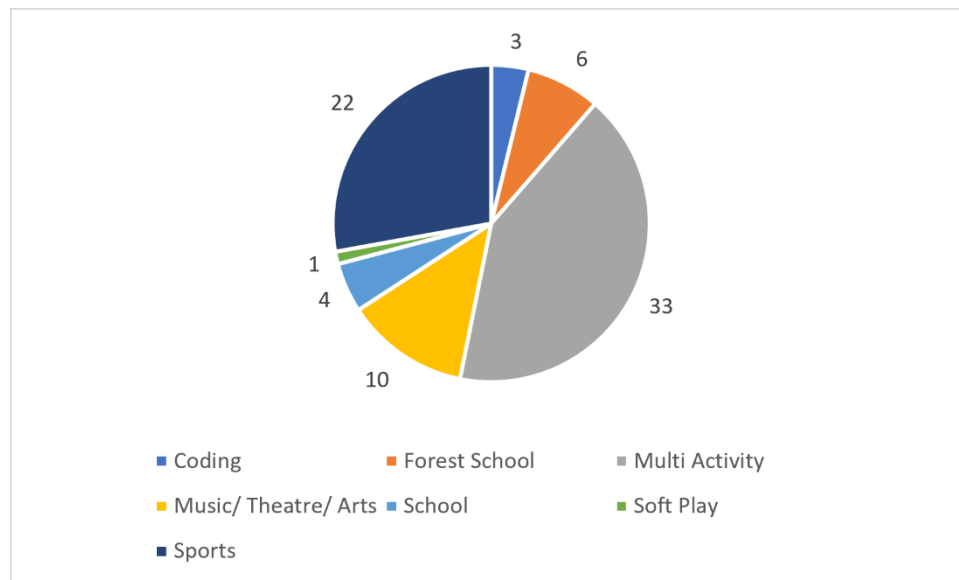
Figure 12 shows the booking rates of clubs by session category. This level of detailed insight and information has allowed us to manage the number of places available in each category and reduce the number of places available for some sessions. The chart shows that Coding sessions have high booking rates, which has changed since HAF 2024/25 when booking rates were less than 60%.

The lowest booked sessions were the soft play sessions; these sessions were only delivered during Easter HAF 2025 after which time the provider decided not to continue to deliver HAF sessions due to poor take up.

Partners and providers

Through the duration of 2025/26 across all holiday periods, WSCC contracted 79 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.

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



28% of the providers were categorised as sports clubs, this is a decrease of 7% from HAF 2024/25. 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. The sports clubs also integrated activities to educate the children to understand healthy eating and the nutrition needed to stay fit and active.

42% of providers delivered multi-activity camps, this is an increase of 9% from HAF 2024/25. Typically delivered by Ofsted registered wraparound care providers, they offered children the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including crafts, cooking and sports. The multi-activity camps focused on encouraging and engaging children to try several 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.

13% of providers delivered music, theatre or arts groups sessions. This allowed children access to take part in clubs including rap and DJ workshops and learning and performing a play in a week.

Figure 14: Volume of places offered by activity category.

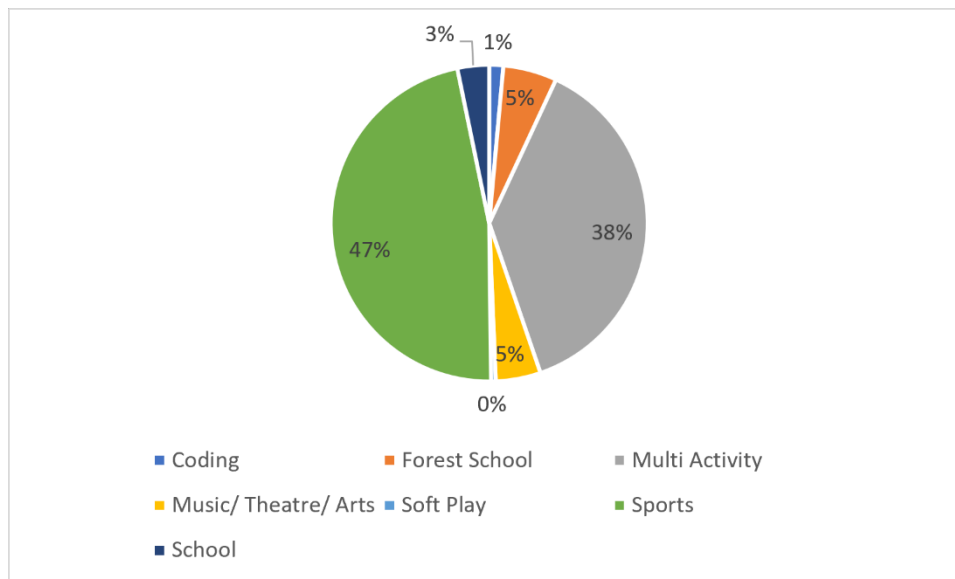


Figure 14 shows the breakdown of places available for each of the HAF provider prime categories.

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 canoeing.

There were 6 forest school providers offering places during 2025/26, 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. There were also places funded at a beach school, offering children the opportunity to explore the local coastline and better understand the natural world within the coastal environment. 4 schools directly 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 79 providers who delivered during 2025/26, 13 providers were paired with a food provider by WSCC. The 66 remaining providers either delivered food in house or worked with a partner agency.

Wherever possible, providers were encouraged to deliver hot food. 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 2025/26, 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 the 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 the 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 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.

A dedicated HAF newsletter was started in May 2024, which was sent to any person who has signed up to receive the publication including registered HAF families and wider families. With currently over 6,700 families registered and an opening click rate of 85% the HAF newsletter has been successful in promoting the HAF programme to families as well as signposting them to useful resources and recipes.

Governance and steering group

In June 2022, the West Sussex HAF steering group was launched. 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 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 2025/26

In the 2025/26 HAF period the primary focus was increasing the reach of the HAF programme. To achieve this, the team focused on improving links with schools to support the promotion of the HAF programme directly to their families. Schools were encouraged to become direct HAF providers by sharing the positive outcomes that have been seen by current schools delivering HAF. As a result, the number of schools delivering the HAF Programme directly has increased from 1 to 4 in 2025/26.

There was also a focus around increasing the take up of HAF spaces with Secondary School children. This was through increasing the provision of dedicated sessions for key stage 3 and 4 children only. In 2025/26 there was an increase of 57% in the number of secondary school aged children accessing the HAF programme, with 15% of all available sessions being attended by secondary School aged children. This is an increase of 5% from 2024/25. There will continue to be a focus on increasing the number of secondary school aged children accessing the HAF Programme in 2026/27.

The quality of the data provided via the booking system has enabled an increased understanding of the requirements and preferences of HAF families. For instance, it is now possible to evidence that if the weather is poor in the lead up to a holiday period the booking rates of the forest schools will be lower than normal. There is now data to show where families are traveling from to access sessions and can see that families are

willing to travel, with some families willing to travel up to 20 plus miles to attend a specific 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 2026-27

The development of the 2026-27 HAF Programme will take the evidence and insights, experience and learning from the preceding years performance to continue to focus on increasing reach and supporting more children to access the programme.

In September 2026 FSM Eligibility will be changing and this will have an impact on HAF families. There will be a focus on ensuring that this information is communicated clearly with all families so they understand the impact this may have on them. The HAF team will work closely with FSM colleagues to identify families who may lose their HAF eligibility and will help signpost them to other forms of financial support, such as Tax Free Childcare.

Evidence from HAF 2025/26 will be used to better understand the needs and trends of HAF families. This will be used to plan HAF delivery and promotion across the districts and boroughs and make sure that there is the right mix of activities in each area.

WSCC continue to aim to improve support for SEND Children to access the HAF programme. Although there is already a high proportion of children with SEND needs accessing the HAF programme, there is an awareness that some children, particularly those with more complex needs, are not currently able to access HAF due to a lack of appropriate provision. WSCC will continue to work with partners to identify ways to increase provision for these families.

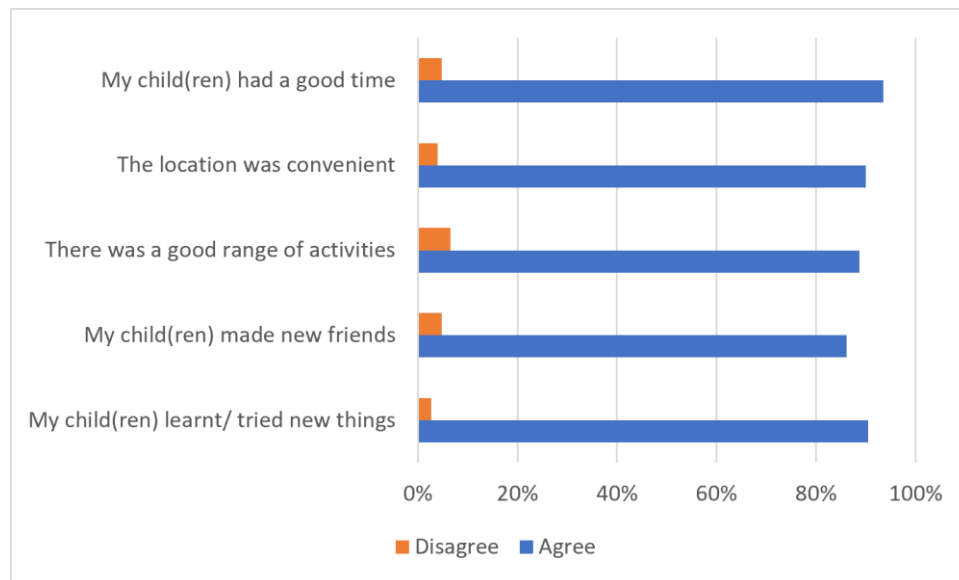
Family feedback and case studies

In addition to the quantitative feedback gathered in relation to attendance and engagement, WSCC 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 2025/26.

Parent Survey

In 2025/26 parents feedback was requested on the HAF Programme after each delivery period. In total, 262 responses were received. As part of the survey, parents were asked 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 93% of parents saying their child had a good time.

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



As part of the survey, it was hoped to gain a better understanding around why families were accessing the HAF programme to ensure that the services delivered are meeting their needs.

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

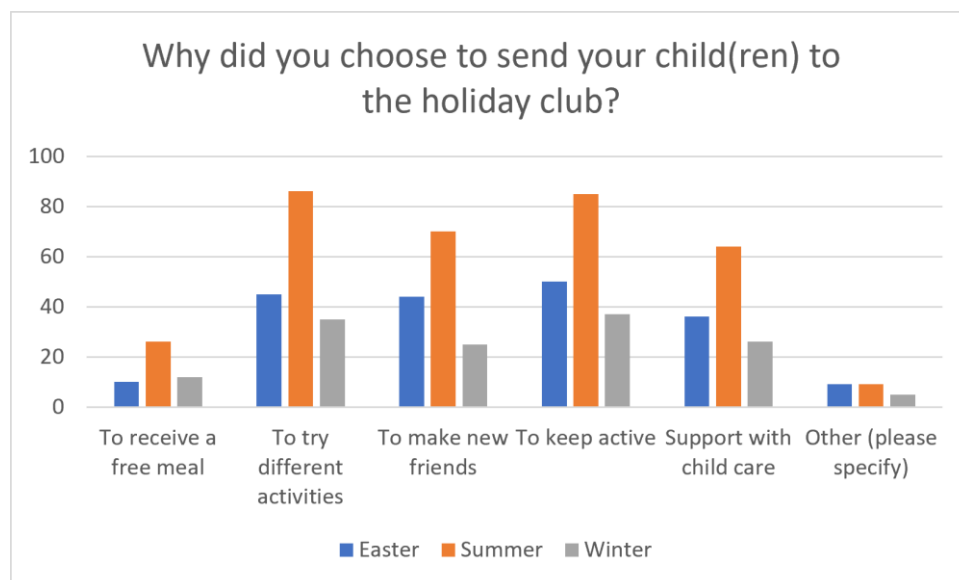
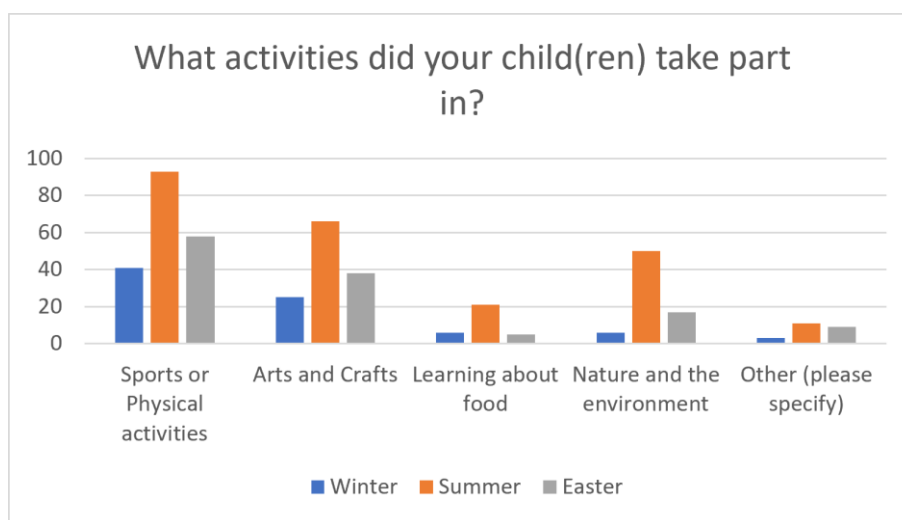


Figure 16 shows the responses from parents by holiday period. The survey found that the most popular reasons for accessing the HAF programme for families was to try different activities and to keep active, whilst the least popular reason was to receive a free meal. These findings tie into the feedback received from providers, that many

families choose to bring a packed lunch to the sessions instead of having the meal provided.

The survey also asked what activities their children had taken part in. 43% of parents responded that their child had taken part in sport or physical activity. This aligns with the fact that 47% 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 5% of HAF camps have a specific focus on art although many camps do have some form of art activity delivered through the day. This could suggest 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.



Quotes from parent/carers

"Over the years, it's massively helped my son who has extreme ADHD and autism learn to become more integrated with his peers and have a better understanding of social dynamics and feelings. This is through the staff that have always been available to help in these transitions with clear instruction. Being around other children and social cues. I really couldn't be more grateful and thankful for this support over the years."

"It really gave the children something to look forward and helped keep them away from the internet, phone or television."

"It has really helped with getting them a full nutritional meal during the day and given me some respite as they are both neurodivergent."

"The child had a great time playing various games, trying something new and interesting. He loves it very much, and also made childcare easier during the winter holidays"

"It has relieved me of guilt that my children are still socialising and being active in the summer holidays. It has also helped break up the days/weeks"

" The children look forward to going, it definitely helps them interact with others and for us it is invaluable, without it i don't know how we would navigate the holiday."

"It's great as my child has the chance to do an activity that they would not otherwise be able to do if I had to pay for it. Also, it's a load of my mind that my child is safe, occupied, fed and happy for the sessions."

"I'm a lone, unemployed parent with one SEN child. I've limited capability to work with a long term condition. HAF gives me the chance to focus on applying for part-time work. Amy also eats well when sometimes I physically can't always prepare a meal (she doesn't go hungry)."

"The children meet people from different town/villages. They experience new things in a relaxed environment. They love being in the woods making things and cooking over a fire which we don't usually do. I get a break and time to myself and needed. It's good not to be with each other all the time."

"We started using the HAF program for the first time last summer with our daughter who has autism, we first booked the family send session and she has a great love for outdoor experience and being a family session we could stay too. The activities are really good and she loved making different things out of wood and took a massive interest in the hammock and the swing, also food that was provided was the best, to be honest better than mine and she enjoyed helping to prepare the food. After such a positive experience we were told about drop off session, we were very nervous to do this as she has had separation anxiety, but we took the leap and wow, all the staff were amazing and she felt very comfortable after a little wobble and stayed for the whole season. We have continued to use Woodland Wonders Forest School during the Christmas HAF and again, what an amazing experience we have had. We used Woodland Wonders again for this whole summer using as many HAF sessions as possible with them and to us it was the company who actually took time to understand my daughters needs and overcome her separation anxiety. I would also like to add regarding the amazing food, my daughter has food related issues but has found there's also something for her to eat, she has been eating what's been cooked when she's dropped off, which is a win win for us and she is even trying new food with them."

Quotes from children

"I like the activities and that im never bored here, there is always something to do"

"Thanks for my camper of the day award Mr.B, I've been trying so hard today and now I've got it!"

'I loved the camps. I really liked doing Parkour.'

"I have enjoyed my time here, it is definitely my favourite club ever, there are so many fun activities and I love making new friends."

" I haven't whittled before, and I like that I got to make something cool"

Case study one

This young person (aged 15) attended all four Esteem Easter HAF activity days for the first time. As a consequence, His Mother was rather cautious and nervous about how their child would deal with this brand new experience and whether they would cope and be able to establish themselves into a totally new group of young adults, as well as entering into a completely new environment with unfamiliar staff members. Perhaps understandably, this young adult was extremely nervous and shy when attending their first HAF session at the start. Yet it soon became apparent that they would swiftly settle and fit in with the group by demonstrating some good social skills and kindness towards both other young adults and staff. Initially this young adult was given a lot of support and encouragement by staff to help them feel more comfortable and gradually improve their confidence as an established member of the group. The support provided encouraged them to engage with the group in all the various Easter HAF activities. It was also evident that this young adult in particular was inspiring other members of the group to get involved and on occasions to take the risk of participating of activities that they were not so familiar with or confident at doing. The child's mother was absolutely delighted with their positive engagement and their subsequent increased confidence levels after attending the Esteem Easter HAF Activity Programme.

Case study two

The child (10 years old) Struggled with attendance in school and was a school refuser. Have worked with agencies including Pupil Entitlement, the schools our own Education Welfare Officer and the Thoughtful Team. Through combined efforts, pupil agreed to attend the school run HAF club. The child enjoyed sessions and built confidence but also relationships with school staff. The school provided a relaxed start to the day, offered transport to and from camp, although this was not taken up, as well as bespoke delivery of activities, allowing pupil to access more of their chosen sessions. The club received positive feedback from the family, and the school saw an improvement in school attendance, with child in school every day, for at least some learning time.

Case study three

At the start of the Christmas holiday provision, the child presented as extremely shy and withdrawn. They were reluctant to speak to staff or other children and found it difficult to separate from familiar adults. The child initially avoided group activities and preferred to observe from the side rather than participate. Staff identified that the child required additional emotional reassurance and support to help them feel safe, included, and confident within the holiday club environment, particularly during busy and unfamiliar situations. Staff focused on building a trusting relationship with the child by

offering consistent support and reassurance throughout each session. Clear explanations were given before activities started, and the child was encouraged to take part at their own pace without pressure. The child was gradually supported to join small group activities and paired with familiar peers where possible. Staff used positive reinforcement to celebrate participation, no matter how small, and ensured the child had opportunities to experience success in a calm and supportive setting. Parents were kept informed of progress and reassured about how the child was being supported to settle and engage. Over the course of the Christmas holiday club, the child made clear progress in confidence and engagement. They began to take part in activities alongside peers rather than observing and gradually became more comfortable interacting with both staff and other children. By the end of the provision, the child was able to independently join group activities, communicate their needs to staff, and show enjoyment in shared experiences. Their confidence increased noticeably, and they demonstrated improved social interaction and willingness to try new activities.

Parent feedback:

"We saw a real change in confidence over the Christmas holidays. The support and reassurance from staff made a big difference, and our child was much more settled and happy."

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 2025/26

Provider Name	Activity Type	School Phase	Holiday Period
Absolute Sport	Sports	Both	All Holidays
Activ8 For Kids Ltd	Sports	Both	All Holidays
Active Future Crawley	Multi Activity	Primary	Summer & Winter
Active Stars	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Active8 Minds Chichester Ltd	Multi Activity	Primary	Summer & Winter & February
ActiveMe 360	Sports	Both	All Holidays
Barracudas	Multi Activity	Both	Easter & Summer
Bersted Green Primary School	School	Primary	Summer Only
Boredom Busters	Multi Activity	Both	Easter & Summer & February
Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation	Sports	Both	All Holidays
Busy Lizzie's Ltd	Multi Activity	Primary	Easter & Summer
Camp Glide	Multi Activity	Primary	Easter Only
Cherrytree Childcare	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Chichester College Holiday Club	Multi Activity	Both	All Holidays
Chichester Forest Schools	Forest School	Both	All Holidays
Christina marks school of performing arts	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Primary	Winter Only
Cobnor Activities Centre Trust	Sports	Both	Summer Only
Code Kids	Coding	Both	Easter & Summer
Country Mice Pre School	Multi-Activity	Primary	Summer Only
Crawley Community Youth Service	Multi Activity	Primary	Summer & Winter
Creation Station - Chichester	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Primary	All Holidays
Creative Beatz JAM CIC	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	Summer & Winter
DRAMA and DANCE CLUB, SUSSEX	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	All Holidays

Elite Sports Coaching CIC	Sports	Both	Summer & Winter
Enterprise For Enriching Lives CIC (Running Enriching Lives Pre-school)	Multi Activity	Primary	Summer Only
Esteem	Multi Activity	Secondary	Easter & Summer & February
Everyone Active	Sports	Secondary	Summer & Winter
Football Fun Factory Mid Sussex	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
Freedom Leisure	Sports	Primary	Easter & Summer
Genius tuition	Multi Activity	Both	Summer Only
Globe Fit	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Hellcats Cheerleaders Ltd	Sports	Both	Summer & Winter
Horsham Family Hub	Multi Activity	Primary	Summer Only
Horsham Sports Services	Multi Activity	Primary	Easter & Summer
Imagineers Crafts	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	Summer Only
Inspire Holiday camps	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	Winter & February
Jam Coding Reigate	Coding	Primary	Winter Only
JC Sports	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
Jungle Mania	Soft Play	Primary	Easter Only
Junior adventure Group	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Kiddo Club Ltd.	Multi Activity	Primary	Summer & Winter
Kids All Star Sports	Sports	Both	Easter & Summer & February
Kudize Club Ltd	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Mariposa Languages Limited	Multi Activity	Primary	Summer Only
Next Thing Education	Coding	Primary	Easter & Summer
Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary School	School	Primary	All Holidays
Pioneer Childcare	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Places leisure	Multi Activity	Primary	Summer Only
poponin	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	Easter & Summer & February
Premier Education - SB Sports Coaching	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
Shine for Life CIC	Forest School	Secondary	Summer Only
south coast skate club c.i.c	Sports	Primary	Summer Only
South Coast Sports	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
South Downs Leisure - Worthing Leisure Centre	Sports	Primary	Easter & Summer
Southeast Kids Camps	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School	School	Primary	Summer & Winter

Stagecoach	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	Easter & Summer
Summer Adventure Camp	Sports	Both	Easter & Summer
Sussex Forest Activities	Forest School	Primary	Easter & Summer
The Football Fun Factory Crawley	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
The Goodwood Education Trust	Forest School	Both	Summer Only
The Mill Primary Academy	School	Primary	Summer & Winter
The Russell Martin Foundation	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
The Sid Youth	Multi Activity	Both	All Holidays
Totz2teenz	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
VIM Camps	Multi Activity	Primary	All Holidays
Ward Holiday Club	Sports	Primary	All Holidays
West Sussex Fire and Rescue	Multi Activity	Both	All Holidays
West Sussex Music	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	All Holidays
West Sussex West SSP	Sports	Both	All Holidays
Whizz Kids Holiday Activity Club	Multi Activity	Both	Easter & Summer & February
Willow Tree - Cherry Lane	Multi Activity	Primary	Summer Only
Wiz kids	Multi Activity	Both	Summer & Winter & February
Woodland Wonders Forest School	Forest School	Primary	All Holidays
Woods for Learning CIC	Forest School	Both	All Holidays
Worthing Table Tennis Club	Sports	Primary	Summer Only
Worthing Theatre and Museum	Music/ Theatre/ Arts	Both	Easter & Winter
Worthing Thunder Basketball Club	Sports	Both	Winter & February
YMCA East Surrey	Multi Activity	Both	Summer Only