

Shropshire Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Spring/Easter Overview 2022

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Shropshire HAF (Holiday Activities & Food Programme) Easter/Spring 2022.

The report includes data taken from questionnaires, quotes, and interviews with core provider leads, staff, children and young people (CYP) and parents/carers during the Easter/Spring HAF programme 2022.

Film: A film was commissioned for Easter/Spring, which highlights the huge range of activities which took part across the county and the positive impact the HAF programme had on CYP and their families. To watch the film, please follow this link: [Shropshire HAF Spring 2022 Celebration Film](#)

Thank you to everyone who was involved in delivering another successful HAF programme in Shropshire.

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2. What is HAF?

HAF - The Holiday Activities and Food Programme allows children and young people (CYP) aged 4 to 16, who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals (FSM) to access free holiday activity. There are currently 6,380 CYP in Shropshire eligible for FSM, a number which is rapidly growing, as families face increasing financial challenges.

HAF aims to improve outcomes for these CYP, including healthier eating and increased activity during the school holidays, participation in enriching activities which support school-readiness, increased safety and social inclusion, greater nutritional knowledge, engaging families in nutritional education and further engagement with school and other services.



Shropshire HAF

(Holiday Activities & Food)

Spring/Easter 2022 Overview



Shropshire Council commissioned **34** organisations, to run an exciting programme of holiday activity. During **four days** and **182 sessions**, children and young people took part in a range of fun enriching activities, which happened at **47** venues from across the county.

Activities included: **sports, music, arts, cooking, gardening, forest schools, child led play.**



1,178 places were available for children and young people eligible for free school meals (FSM).



1,233 FSM children and young people took part in the programme
2,506 children and young people took part in total.



Over **4,545** meals were provided to children and young people. The majority of the meals were hot, with many being cooked by the children and young people **themselves** using onsite kitchens and camp fires.



30 programmes were inclusive, with activity for children and young people with **SEND** (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

150 FSM children and young people with **SEND** participated. With a further **80** non FSM SEND children and young people..



99% of children and young people strongly agreed that they had lots of fun taking part in the activities.
98% of children and young people want to attend more holiday clubs in the future.



250 people were employed to deliver the programme, with **33** of these recruited specifically for HAF.

3. What HAF Looked Like in Shropshire during Spring/Easter 2022

Core Provision & Engagement Levels: Shropshire Council commissioned **34** organisations from the private, voluntary and public sectors, to run an exciting programme of activity during the Easter/Spring holidays. £149,990.71 was invested into the programme from the DfE (Department for Education) grant.

1,178 places were available on the programme for eligible CYP. **1,233 CYP aged 4 to 16, took part in the programme, which is 19% of the eligible CYP in the county.**

During four days and 182 sessions, CYP took part in a range of fun enriching activities, which happened at 47 venues from across the county. Activities included sports, music, arts, cooking, gardening, forest schools, child led play and trips to cultural venues. The activities on offer responded to local need and engaged with the wider community.

929 of the children were aged 4 to 12 and 304 were aged 12+.

The total number of CYP who took part in HAF during the holiday, including both those who were eligible and those who paid or were funded as part of another programme was 2,506.

These numbers relate to individual CYP, they have not been multiplied by the sessions or number of days.

Participant Quote: *“This is my safe place. It’s like home to me where I don’t feel anxious”.*

Parent Quote: *‘Please do let me know if there’s anything I can do to help promote this work – it is hugely beneficial for the children to have these experiences outside of school, and a real help to working parents’.*





Food: Over **4,545** nutritious healthy meals were provided to CYP. The majority of the meals provided were hot, with many being cooked by the children and young people themselves using onsite kitchens and campfires.

Participant Quote: *“I know more about food now, I learned no food is bad, just don’t eat too much of it”.*



SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities): **30**

programmes were inclusive, with activity suitable for children and young people with SEND.

150 children and young people eligible for FSM with SEND participated in the programme. With a further **80** non FSM eligible SEND children and young people also participating.

Shropshire Council are working in partnership with the Actio Consortium to improve and increase

opportunities for engagement in the county for CYP with SEND.

Core providers were invited to attend a SEND training session to further develop their skills in engaging and working with SEND families

The session was run by Hannah Prior from Ignition, a local cultural organisation who regularly deliver bespoke training and works with groups who are often excluded from mainstream activities.

Parent Quote: *‘I usually can’t book D into a holiday club because of his extra needs but these guys made it seem no problem at all, he loved it and I know he felt secure’.*

Parent Quote: *‘It is so wonderful that my boys are accepted here even with their difficulties – thank you, they love it’.*

Core Provider Quote: *‘The HAF coordinator gave us great support along the way of delivering this scheme’.*

4. Positive Outcomes Achieved



Children and Young People:

- 1,233 CYP aged 4 to 16, took part in the programme, which is 19% of the eligible CYP in the county. **98%*** of the CYP participating in the programme reported wanting to attend more holiday clubs in the future.

- CYP had fun and enjoyed attending HAF, with **99%*** of participants reporting they had lots of fun taking part in activities.

Participant Quote: *“This is the best day of my life!”.*

- The core providers reported it was fantastic seeing CYP take part and fully engage in activities, particularly those they haven't tried before and seeing the satisfaction, excitement and sense of achievement they experienced at having completed an activity. **87%*** of CYP reported learning new skills during the holiday.

Participant Quote: *“I'm feeling brave enough to try this now”.*

- Core provider staff, parents/carers and CYPs teachers reported seeing an increase in confidence in participants. This was also reported by participants themselves with **86%*** saying they felt more confident as a result of the programme.

Core Provider Quote: *‘To see the positive changes of the children from when they arrived in the morning to leaving has really made my day’.*

- The findings show that attending the HAF programme increases the level of physical activity FSM-eligible CYP take part in during the holidays. **81%*** of participants said they had been more active and enjoyed playing sports more.

Participant Quote: *‘The holiday club really helps me stay healthy and fit’.*



- Findings also showed that CYP who attended HAF became more socially connected, with **96%*** of participants saying they enjoyed spending time with friends and **76%*** reporting making new friends during the holiday.

Participant Quote: 'I have enjoyed the freedom and being outside with my friends'.



- Over the course of the programme CYP tried new foods. Many learnt the basics of cooking and food hygiene as well as how to find out the nutritional value of the foods they eat. **80%*** of participants reported they had learnt more about eating a balanced diet and taking care of themselves. **69%*** say they now know where to find information on nutrition.

Parent Quote: 'my son loved the meals on offer. They loved that they got to plan their meal and are now keen to get in the kitchen at home'.

Parent Quote: 'A life saver, thanks for feeding them'.

* from a survey of 566 children and young people taking part in the Easter/Spring programme.

Local Economy:

- There is positive evidence that HAF provision in the county also helped boost the local economy, through the creation of jobs and direct investment into local businesses. Local businesses were involved in the programme, providing services such as food, venue hire, marketing and publicity, materials and resources. **250** paid staff were employed to develop, run and manage holiday clubs and **33** new staff were recruited specifically for the programme.

- Alongside the paid posts, the programme was supported by **60** volunteers who worked **590** hours between them.



5. Challenges:

- Parents/carers booking onto multiple HAF activities on the same day and time
 - Not enough time for meaningful engagement and conversations with parents and carers
 - General communication with parents / carers
 - Delivering nutritional education programme and catering for fussy eaters
 - Length of 4 hour funded sessions not long enough, particularly for working parents
 - Targeting the eligible children and young people and breaking down barriers to engagement / stigma
 - Delivering activity for a broad range of ages
 - Transport costs
- Engaging some schools and them fully utilising the programme
 - Having enough staff in place to support children and young people with SEND
 - No shows
 - Engaging young people aged 12+
 - Managing challenging behaviour