



Doncaster Council

Date: 16 March 2022

To the Chair and Members of the Cabinet

Department for Education – Holiday Activity and Food Programme

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Lani-Mae Ball Cabinet Member for Education Skills and Young People	All	Yes
Cllr Rachael Blake Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this paper is to give consideration to the Section 31 Grant Determination for the Holiday, Activity and Food programme (HAF) 2022. The Department for Education has allocated Doncaster Council £1,364,470.00 to offer free places at holiday clubs in the Easter, Summer, and Christmas school holidays for children in the local authority area, who are eligible for and receive benefits-related free school meals. In addition the DfE has given flexibility for Local Authorities to utilise 15% of the allocation for other vulnerable groups.
2. To delegate decisions around how to allocate the grant within its terms and conditions to the Assistant Director: Partnerships, Early Intervention & Localities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities.
3. In 2021, Doncaster successfully delivered the Holiday Activity and Food Programme, providing activities over the Easter, Summer, and Christmas, with lots of positive feedback from residents and providers. The model for delivery is to support and build capacity across the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector, working with some of larger partners. This is seen as best practice by the Department for Education.
4. One of the principles of the Doncaster Offer, which is the new Youth Strategy is that there will be an annual calendar of holiday activities. The HAF programme has supported the delivery of this for eligible children and young people.

EXEMPT REPORT

5. There is no exempt information contained in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. To accept the grant totalling £1,364,470.00 to deliver the Holiday Activity and Food Programme across Doncaster in line with the Department for Education Grant Determination.
7. Agree to delegate decision making regarding the allocation of the grant to the Assistant Director: Partnerships, Early Intervention & Localities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Young People and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Communities and Equalities
8. To align delivery of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme to the wider Doncaster Offer.

REASON FOR URGENCY

9. It has not been possible to provide the full 28 days' notice on this decision, due to the need to accept the grant with sufficient time, to notify the DfE of our proposed programme delivery or allow sufficient time to commission partners to support the delivery. If the urgency provisions for decision making were not applied, there is a risk that the grant is not accepted and the programme not be delivered in the timescales.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

10. Acceptance of the grant will allow the council to coordinate and facilitate a high quality holiday activity and food programme which provides healthy meals and enriching activities for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals.

The programme also offers local businesses and smaller VCF organisations who hold existing relationships with children and families opportunities to benefit from grant funding to sustain the service and work they undertake in communities.

BACKGROUND

11. The DfE have awarded the Council a further £1,364,470.00 to coordinate and provide free holiday provision including healthy food and enriching activities for 2022. Much of the necessary infrastructure is in place to make the programme successful, including partnerships with the local community groups, schools and businesses.
12. The Grant Determination also now allows Local Authorities to utilise 15% of the grant for other vulnerable groups and therefore free holiday activities and food will be offered to a wider group of families over 2022.
13. The HAF programme was first successfully delivered in Doncaster during 2021. Over the three holidays periods of Easter, summer and Christmas over 5300 children and young people participated in the programme.
14. The model for delivery in 2021 was to work with and commission key partners to support, and incubate some of the smaller voluntary, community and faith organisations.

15. For the summer programme this saw 5 key partners working alongside 95 voluntary community and faith sector organisations.
16. At Christmas 17 key partners were commissioned to deliver the food and activity programme, and they worked alongside a further 87 smaller organisations.
17. The Young Commissioners are involved at all stages of the programme to ensure the programme and individual providers are delivering a child and young person focused activity and that they are providing good value for money.
18. Whilst COVID has had some impact on the delivery of the programme, alongside changes in the COVID related guidance and legislation, the success of the programme has continued. An increase in the number of providers to deliver and the support the smaller groups will enable the programme to engage with a higher number of children in 2022.
19. Activity will be mapped to ensure there is delivery across all areas of the borough, as well as a wide range of enriching activities to support children and young people physical and emotional wellbeing.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

20. There are no alternative options considered.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

21. To enable Doncaster Council in line with the DfE Grant Determination to deliver an enriching holiday activity and food programme across the borough for eligible children and young people.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

- 22.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities 	<p>The Holiday Activity Programme will deliver a range of enriching activities alongside healthy food. It will also support children and young people to develop new skills.</p>

	<p>through Physical Activity and Sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>Alongside enriching activities children and young people will develop skills which will support their lifelong learning.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>The programme is available to those eligible to free school meals, in addition there is also the flexibility to use the grant to provide free holiday places for other vulnerable groups.</p>
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>The delivery of the programme is very much based on a locality approach ensuring there is activity available locally wherever possible.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

23. Funding isn't devolved down to local Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations to deliver the activities.

Mitigation: The Doncaster Offer (local Youth Strategy), was agreed by Cabinet in October 2021 and is overseen by a young person led Youth Advisory Board. A

key strand within this strategy is to build capacity across the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector. The HAF programme has allowed us to do this. For the summer programme, 5 key partners worked alongside 95 voluntary community and faith sector organisations. This remains the ethos of delivery and overseen by the lead Assistant Director. Therefore, we are confident that the majority of the funding will be devolved.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NJD Date 18th February 2022.]

24. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with a general power of competence, allowing the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do.

Education Act 2002 and the Children Act 2004 place obligations on the Council to promote the welfare and improve the well-being of children.

The grant must be used for the purpose it has been given for as set out the in the Grant Determination Letter from the Department for Education, for a Holiday Activity and Food programme. Failure to do so can result in clawback.

Any contracts and or grants offered by the Council, using the grant received from the Department of Education, should comply with the conditions of Grant, the Councils contract procedure rules and finance procedure rules.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: LJS Date: 18/02/2022]

25. Doncaster MBC is to receive £1,364,470.00 for the HAF programme. A payment of up to 80% of the Authority's total 2022/2023 allocation will be made in April 2022 to the Authority by the Department following satisfactory receipt by 1 March 2022 of a report to the Department setting out:

- How the Authority's 2022/2023 programme will work
- How many children the Authority expects to work with in 2022/23.

A payment of up to the remaining 20% of the Authority's total 2022/23 allocation will be made in April 2023, to the Authority by the Department following satisfactory submission to the Department by 15 February 2023 of a report setting out:

- The actual number of children the Authority worked with during delivery of the programme at Easter, summer and Christmas in 2022.
- If the Authority has not spent and does not plan to spend the initial payment of 80% of the Authority's initial allocation, the Department will seek to recover the unspent funding from the Authority.
- Up to 10% of the funding allocated on the costs associated with running the programme, i.e. administration costs. The remaining 90% should be used to fund places for FSM eligible children and this 90% can be used flexibly.
- No more than 2% of the overall expenditure can also be used to purchase equipment for the programme, however only if the expenditure meets the criteria for classification as capital expenditure.
- Voluntary, community and faith sector, charities and local businesses will apply through an application form developed by colleagues in commissioning for funds to enable them to deliver activities and food as part of the programme. If

their bid is successful, they will be given a funding agreement to sign.

- The funding will be administered using a locally defined criteria and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant in consultation with the Director of Learning Opportunities and in consultation with the Major.
- This HAF programme is ring-fenced and any unspent funding will need to be repaid. This grant in full covers expenditure incurred between the Easter break to the Christmas break 2022. A final return is due on or before the 15 February 2023 covering the whole period of the grant.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials CR Date 21/02/2022]

26. There are no direct HR Imps in relation to this report, but if in future staff are affected or additional specialist resources are required then further consultation will need to take place with HR.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RL Date 22/02/2022]

27. Funded holiday activities and food will provide opportunities for children to enhance and maintain wellbeing, peer relationships and learning through the summer holiday period. Without this funding, some families would be unable to afford childcare, activities or healthy food over the school summer holiday period. Support is available from Public Health for smaller VCS organisations to develop strong bids for portions of the available funding and we would encourage activities that promote health and wellbeing and healthy food choices. Access and transport needs should be considered when awarding funding as well as ensuring accessible provision for children with disabilities and culturally and religiously appropriate food options where required.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initial.....PW...Date...18.02.22]

28. There are no anticipated technology implications in relation to this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initial RM Date 21/02/2022]

29. COVID-19 has had a greater impact on more deprived communities and in Doncaster we have seen an increase in the number of families eligible for free school meals. This grant will provide food and activity opportunities for our families entitled to free school meals, thus helping to reduce the financial burden placed upon such families during school holidays.

In addition, with the flexibility to utilise 15% of the grant for other vulnerable groups will allow us to reach more families and provide holiday activities and food over the school holiday period.

CONSULTATION

30. Consultation has been undertaken with children and young people regarding the range and type of activity they would like to see delivered as part of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Holiday activities and food programme 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

HAF - Holiday, Activity and Food programme

DfE - Department for Education

VCF - Voluntary, Community Faith

VCS - Voluntary Community Sector

FSM – Free School Meals

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