



# City of Doncaster Council

## Report

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**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**To: Chair and Members of the Cabinet**

**Report Title: Department for Education – Holiday Activity and Food Programme**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Lani-Mai Ball Cllr Rachael Blake	All	Yes

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The purpose of this report 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 £1,390,110.00 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.
- 2 In addition Doncaster will apply the flexibility in the grant determination to utilise 15% of the funding to provide activities to other vulnerable groups. For 2023/24 the list of suggested groups that may benefit from the 15% flexibility and replaced it with a steer that LA's align this area of funding with local priorities.
- 3 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

### EXEMPT REPORT

- 4 There is no exempt information contained in the report.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5 To accept the grant totalling £1,390,110.00 to deliver the Holiday Activity and Food Programme across Doncaster in line with the Department for Education Grant Determination.
- 6 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.
- 7 To align delivery of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme to the wider Doncaster Youth Offer.

## **REASONS FOR URGENCY**

- 8 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?**

- 9 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, as well as other vulnerable groups as determined by the Local Authority.
- 10 The programme also offers local businesses, alongside medium and small grassroots 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 Holiday Activity and Food programme was first successfully delivered in Doncaster in 2021 and then again in 2022. In 2023 the DfE have awarded the Council, £1,390,110.00 to coordinate and provide free holiday provision including healthy food and enriching activities for 2023. This funding is a slight increase from 2022 of around £25,000.
- 12 Over the last two years the necessary infrastructure has been put in place to make the programme successful, including partnerships with the local community groups, schools and businesses.

- 13 The model for delivery will be in line with that developed, whereby Doncaster Council will commission a range of providers to deliver holiday activity in line with the grant determination letter.
- 14 A key element of the commissioning arrangements is that larger providers work alongside smaller voluntary, community and faith organisations to support grass roots providers. This has proved to be successful and now we have a number of smaller providers who have previously been incubated by the bigger organisations now submitting expressions of interest to deliver activities as an individual provider.
- 15 Activity will be mapped to ensure there is delivery across all areas of the borough. In addition we will also map provision to ensure there is a varied range of activity and experiences for children and young people.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED



- 16 There are no alternative options considered.





## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION



- 17 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

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Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 <b>Tackling Climate Change</b>	✓			
Comments: The HAF programme supports children and young people to engage in a range of activities many of these have a green or environmental agenda. Therefore providing children and young people with the education and knowledge to continue to make a positive impact.				
 <b>Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work</b>	✓			

<p>Comments:</p> <p>A key element of the HAF programme is providing children and young people with the skills to take into adulthood, whether that be about health or nutrition or skills such as cooking or swimming.</p>				
 <p><b>Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs</b></p>	✓			
<p>Comments: The commissioning of HAF providers to deliver the programme supports local businesses and voluntary community and faith groups. The grant funds Doncaster providers to deliver the activities in in place where families live, and therefore supporting the local economy.</p>				
 <p><b>Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all</b></p>	✓			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The key aim of the programme is to support health and wellbeing for those children who are eligible for benefits related free school meals. All providers need to ensure they offer healthy meals and therefore is an element of health and wellbeing education in their programme for the children taking part and also their families</p>				
 <p><b>Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs</b></p>	✓			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Through the commissioning of the activities we ensure that wherever possible there is provision in all local areas and therefore limit the amount of travel needed to access them.</p> <p>In addition a number of the activities supports children and young people to contribute to the local area, not just during the holiday period but also all year round.</p>				
 <p><b>Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough</b></p>	✓			
<p>Comments:</p> <p>The Programme is very much centred on our vision to be the most child friendly city. Not only do Young Commissioners have a central role in evaluating and quality assuring providers to ensure there is value for money but also to making sure we are providing the activities that children and young people want.</p> <p>The programme supports some of our most vulnerable children to access enriching activities during holiday periods which will help reduce holiday hunger and alleviate financial pressures on families.</p>				

 <b>Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future</b>	✓			
Comments:				
 <b>Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities</b>	✓			
Comments: The programme provides opportunities for children and young people to engage in a range of cultural and sporting activities, delivered by a range of services. These have provided experiences for children who would not ordinarily have access to.				
<b>Fair &amp; Inclusive</b>	✓			
Comments: The programme is targeted at those who are eligible for free school meals therefore providing access to activities that families may not ordinarily have access to due to finances and location.				

### **Legal Implications [Officer Initials: NC | Date: 07/03/2023]**

- 19 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. The 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 of the grant. 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 Council's contract procedure rules and finance procedure rules.

### **Financial Implications [Officer Initials: LJS | Date: 07/03/2023]**

- 20 Doncaster MBC is to receive £1,390,110.00 for the HAF programme. .A payment of up to 80% of the Authority's total 2023/2024 allocation will be made in April 2023.
- 21 A payment of up to the remaining 20% of the Authority's total 2022/23 allocation will be made in April 2024  
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.

- 22 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.
- 23 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.
- 24 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.
- 25 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 2023. A final return is due on or before the 15 February 2024 covering the whole period of the grant.

#### **Human Resources Implications [Officer Initials: CR | Date: 07/03/2023]**

- 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.

#### **Technology Implications [Officer Initials: PW | Date: 07/03/2023]**

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

#### **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

- 28 **Risk:** Key stakeholders such as voluntary community and faith sector do not engage productively with the programme.

**Mitigation:** We will mitigate this by building relationships with all key stakeholders including VCFS, through consultation and working groups. We have regular meeting with providers to ensure they are supported to deliver activities as part of the programme.

**Risk:** There is not sufficient activity for all the children and young people who are eligible.

**Mitigation:** We map the range of provision available throughout the year to ensure we have sufficient providers across Doncaster. Where there may be fewer providers in some areas we target these through market development events.

**Risk:** Limited buy in from families so take up and attendance is low.

**Mitigation:** Marketing of activities takes place by individual providers as well as through the Council website and also Families Information Service. Schools also target families who they know are eligible and would benefit from the programme.

## **CONSULTATION**

29 Consultation is undertaken with potential and current providers regarding the delivery of the programme. Children and young people are consulted in terms of what activities they would like to see delivered, including venues and days and times of delivery.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

30 None

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

31 FSM – Free School Meals  
VCF - Voluntary Community and Faith organisations  
HAF - Holiday Activity & Food  
DFE - Department for Education

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