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## Hampshire

# Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme Annual Report

April 2025 – March 2026





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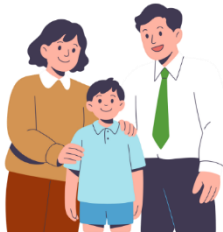





*I just wanted to say how truly thankful we are for HAF. My eldest started going five years ago and she looks forward to every one - she even checks in periodically to ask when there are more!*

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# National Overview of the HAF Programme

What is HAF?	Who is it for?
<p>Funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and administered through Local Authorities, the HAF programme provides...</p>  <p>...free holiday clubs for children during the Easter, summer, and winter holidays that include...</p>  <p>...healthy meals and enriching activities, benefitting their health, wellbeing, and learning.</p> 	<p>Primarily for low-income families with school-aged children from Reception to Year 11 in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.</p>  <p>Some discretionary places can be made available to other vulnerable children that may benefit from the HAF programme.</p> 
Intended Aims	
<p>The HAF programme aims to support children to...</p> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p>...receive nutritious meals...</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p>...maintain a healthy level of physical activity...</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p>...take part in fun and engaging activities that support their development and well-being...</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;">  <p>...and develop a greater understanding of health-related issues.</p> </div> </div>	



# HAF in Hampshire

## Councillor Roz Chadd

Executive Lead Member for Children's Services



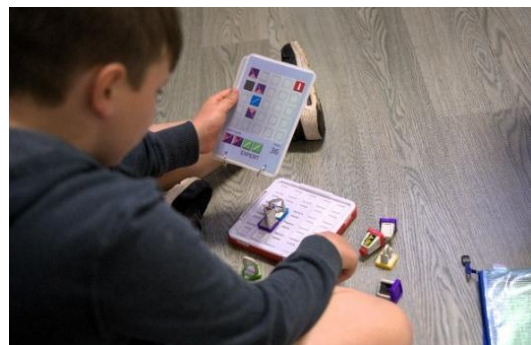
Each year, the ongoing cost of living crisis continues to place real strain on families across Hampshire. Rising household costs, reduced incomes, and increasing demand for support mean that school holidays are especially challenging. With more than 38,000 children eligible for Free School Meals, the level of need is clear and underlines the importance of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.



For many families, HAF provides essential support by helping to reduce food costs, easing childcare pressures, and offering children safe, welcoming spaces where they can stay active, build friendships and enjoy positive experiences during the holidays.

Since the national rollout of HAF in 2021, the programme in Hampshire has developed into a strong and well-established offer. Each year, we have expanded a trusted network of experienced providers delivering high-quality schemes across the county, with a clear focus on areas of greatest need. These organisations are valued not simply as commissioned providers, but as genuine partners. This collaborative approach has enabled us to co-design activity, respond to local need and continually strengthen quality while delivering value for money.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the programme has been seeing children return year after year, effectively growing up with HAF. Over time, many have built confidence, improved their wellbeing, developed friendships and become more active as a direct result of their participation.



During 2025-26, we remained focused on expanding the number of schemes available while continuing to invest in voluntary and community organisations whose impact extends well beyond the holiday period. As children's needs have evolved, particularly for those with additional needs, we have strengthened our

approach. This has included providing enhanced guidance, resources and support to ensure provision remains inclusive, responsive and of a consistently high standard.



We closed the year on a positive note with the Government’s recommitment to three more years of HAF funding. This stability gives us confidence to build on our achievements and continue supporting Hampshire families in the years ahead.



# Thank You

Our providers are at the heart of our delivery and make the HAF experience so special for children in Hampshire – thank you!



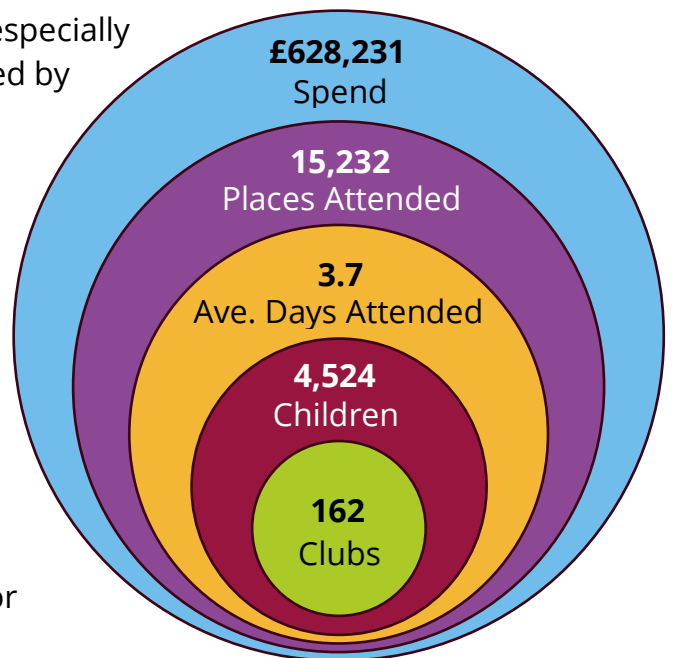
# Impact Through Numbers

Every number in this section represents a person, a family, or a moment when support made a difference. Behind the data are real stories of challenge, resilience, and change. Together, these numbers show how our work touches lives across the communities we serve.

## Easter 2025

Our Easter HAF programme delivered well, especially given the tight mobilisation timescales caused by late funding confirmation. Even within those constraints, the programme reached 4,524 individual children.

Quality of delivery was a real strength throughout. All 162 clubs met safeguarding, health and safety, and insurance requirements. Rather than simply aiming for the minimum four-hour offer, we had a clear emphasis on extended-day provision, which made the programme more accessible and practical for working families.

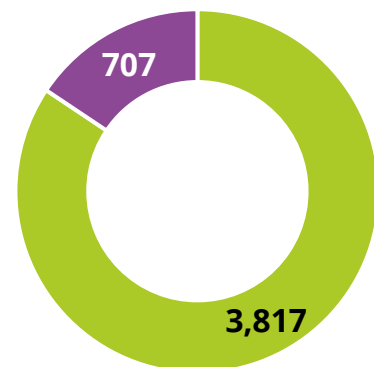


The programme also stood out for its strong inclusion of children with SEND, alongside an impressive range of innovative partnerships. Working with libraries, sports organisations and health charities helped broaden the offer and added genuine social value to the overall programme.



*Over the past five years you've consistently given my girls a safe place to be children with other children. They've never been punished or separated because of their additional needs. Because of HAF she has the confidence to follow other dreams and join other activities too.*

Attendees by school-age



■ Primary ■ Secondary

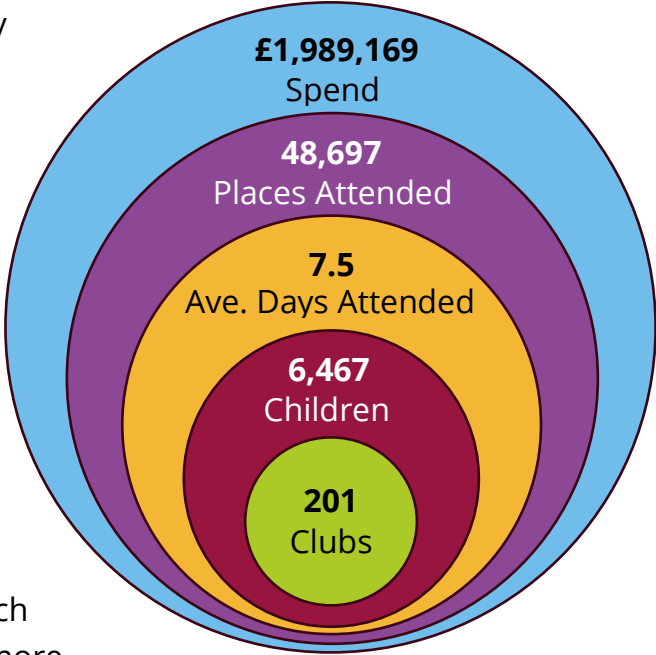
# Summer 2025

The summer HAF programme is significantly longer than other holiday periods. Attendance patterns are less predictable in summer, whilst seasonal factors such as hot weather, transport availability, and the need for varied, engaging activities across age groups also add complexity to delivery.

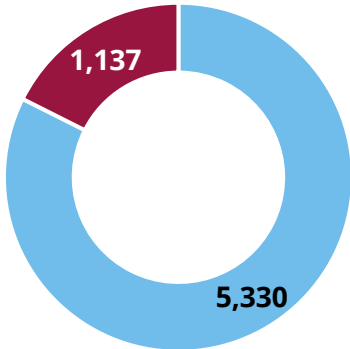
Our summer programme continued to go from strength to strength, supporting a record 201 schemes. It reached 1,556 children with SEND, while the HAF Lite library offer extended the programme’s reach to a further 1,502 children, helping ensure more families could take part and feel included in their communities.

We carried out 94 site visits, covering nearly half of all schemes. These visits provided strong oversight and gave us valuable insight to support ongoing improvement. Encouragingly, positive feedback from councillors and MPs helped reinforce wider confidence in the quality and impact of the programme.

The Summer Den Makers challenge was a great example of effective co-production in action, bringing together creativity, collaboration, and a shared sense of identity across the programme, and playing a clear role in boosting engagement.



**Attendees by School Age**



■ Primary ■ Secondary



*My son would have been passed around friends and family while I worked, and he would have been very bored. The HAF Programme really takes the stress out. Thank you!*

# Winter 2025

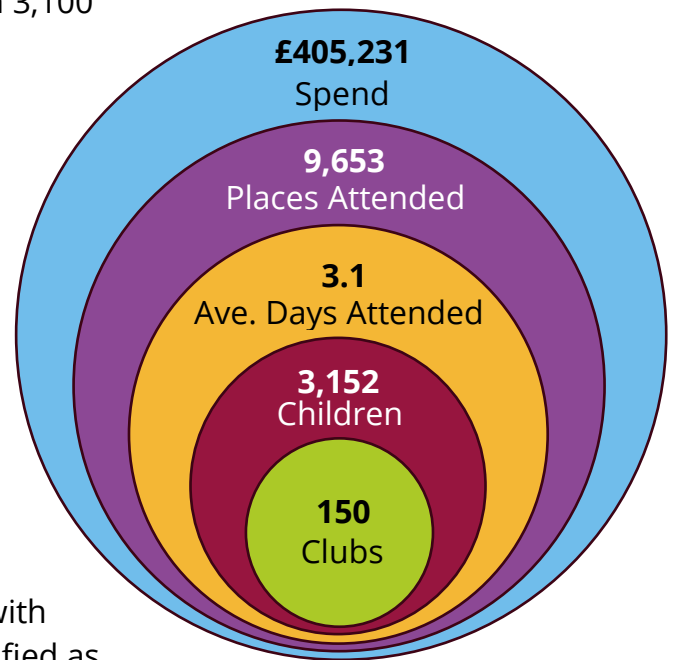
The winter programme reached more than 3,100 HAF-funded children across 150 schemes.

Christmas HAF can be more challenging because the holiday period is shorter and fragmented, limiting delivery days, while families often face increased financial pressures. Additionally, changing care arrangements and a stronger family focus over Christmas can lead to irregular attendance and a need for more flexible provision compared with other holidays.

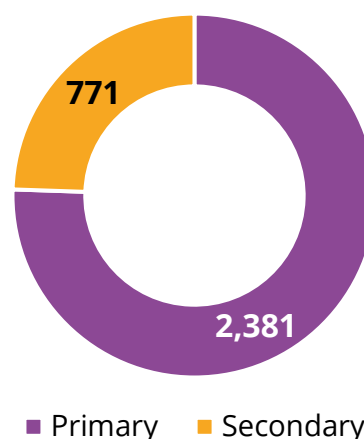
Inclusion was again a particular strength, with around 30% of participating children identified as having SEND – especially within specialist secondary provision – ensuring support was reaching those who needed it most.

Strong partnerships continued to play a big role over the festive period. Working alongside libraries, Bikeability, Barnardo’s and Southern Health helped open the door to a wider range of cultural, physical and wellbeing activities for children and young people.

Family and teen offers were especially impactful during the winter period, giving families access to activities they might otherwise have been unable to afford. Programme quality remained consistently high, backed up by 33 monitoring visits, while the attendance of over 3,000 additional non-HAF funded children – through paid or other free routes – clearly demonstrated the programme’s wider benefit to the community.



**Attendees by school-age**



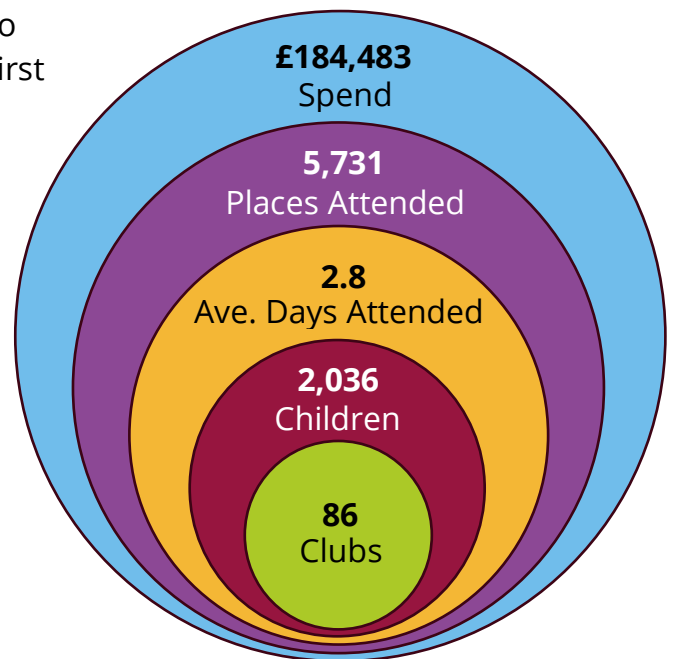
*At an already expensive time of year this is invaluable to me as a parent. Father Christmas made her whole day. Thanks for the pre-Christmas treat.*

# February Half Term 2026

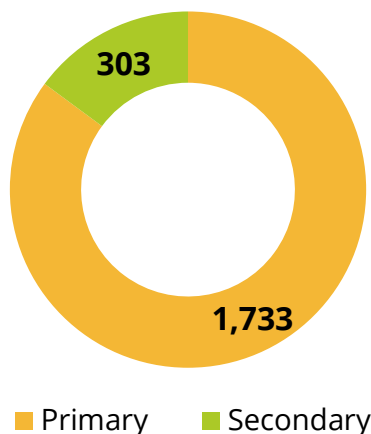
Thanks to increased flexibility in the Department for Education guidance, Hampshire was able to offer a half-term programme for the very first time. While the main focus of HAF funding continues to be the longer school holiday periods, this new opportunity was supported by a capped allocation of £189,000 for the half-term offer.

Conversations with our provider network highlighted February half-term as a particularly valuable break for financially vulnerable families, helping to identify when this additional support would have the greatest impact.

In total, the half-term programme supported just over 2,000 unique children across 86 clubs, adding real value to the main HAF holidays offer and showing the positive difference even a shorter holiday programme can make.



**Attendees by School-Age**



*We are foster carers and our young people can be challenging at times, but the club lead took time to talk to us, find out about them and the warmth, understanding and positivity he showed was not only refreshing but also exemplary. No wonder the children love going. Amazing!!*

# Use of Hampshire's Grant

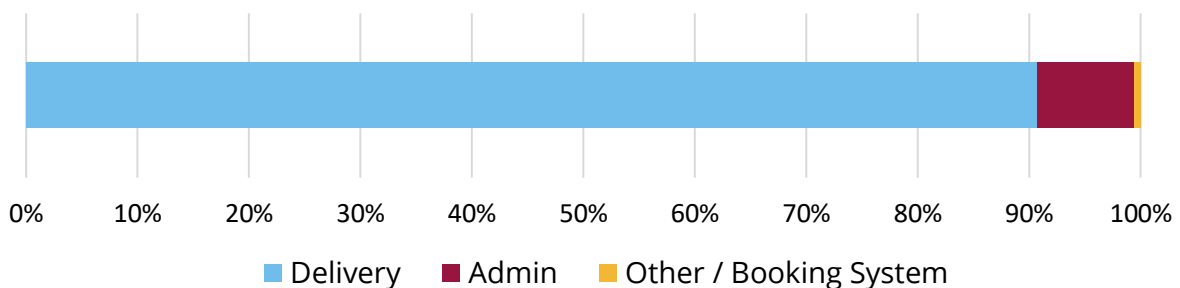
Funding from the Department for Education makes the HAF programme possible right across Hampshire. It ensures that children who receive benefits-related Free School Meals can continue to access free activities and nutritious meals during the school holidays, when that support is needed most.

This funding doesn't just pay for thousands of free holiday places for children – it also ensures there is enough capacity for the local management and coordination of the programme.

For 2025/26, Hampshire received £3,599,700 to deliver this support. A small portion of this funding is used to cover the essential costs of organising and running the programme, helping to ensure it reaches the children and families who can benefit from it the most.

## 2025-2026 Expenditure by Area of Spend

Category	Value	Percentage of total
Delivery	£3,266,713	90.7
Local Management and Co-ordination (Administration)	£312,875	8.7
Other / Booking System	£20,112	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,599,700</b>	<b>100%</b>



# Inclusion and SEND

Inclusion sits at the heart of our HAF programme. We want every child and young person to feel welcome and supported, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Our commitment is to make sure children can access great quality holiday provision in ways that work for them as individuals. Following Department for Education (DfE) guidance, we offer a considered mix of both universal and specialist provision.

Our universal settings are designed to be friendly, inclusive spaces where children with additional needs can join in alongside their peers. Providers are encouraged to make reasonable adjustments, use inclusive approaches, and work closely with families so that each child feels supported. This helps children build confidence, independence and friendships while enjoying shared experiences with others.

“

*My son is autistic and it has been very difficult to find a childcare provider that can make reasonable adjustments for his needs, but he has thoroughly enjoyed every minute of these camps.*

At the same time, we recognise that some children benefit from more tailored support. Our specialist settings provide bespoke opportunities, with activities shaped around children's strengths, interests and specific support needs. These sessions offer the right staffing, environments and approaches to help children feel safe, comfortable and truly engaged. We work closely with Hampshire's Short Breaks programme to deliver many of these specialist opportunities, ensuring a consistent, high-quality experience for families.

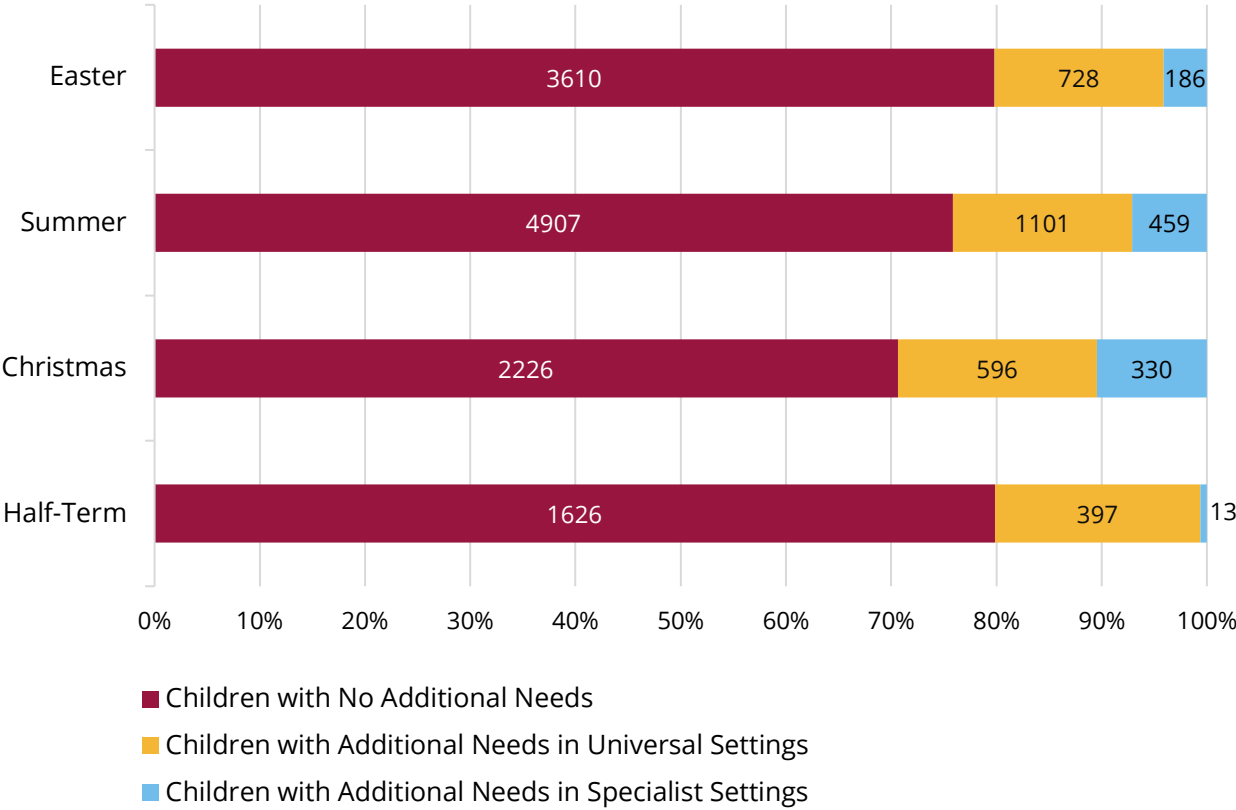
By offering this balanced approach, our HAF programme aims to give families more choice, promote inclusion, and create positive, enjoyable holiday experiences for all children.

## Children with Additional Needs

Looking across attendance during the Easter, Summer, Christmas and Half Term holidays, it's clear that children with additional needs are a consistent part of HAF provision. In fact, when all holiday periods are taken together, around 24% of children attending HAF schemes had identified additional needs. That's almost one in four children, showing that inclusion isn't an add-on to the programme – it's central to how HAF is delivered.

Most children with additional needs take part in universal HAF settings, which really highlights the importance of inclusive practice, skilled staff and thoughtful adjustments in mainstream provision. At the same time, a smaller but crucial group of children access specialist settings, which continue to play an important role for those with more complex needs. This combination points to a balanced delivery model - one that prioritises inclusion while also ensuring targeted support is available where it's needed most.

**Number of Children with Additional Needs attending HAF**



Overall, inclusion stands out as a real strength of the Hampshire HAF programme. A significant and sustained number of children with additional needs are being supported across every holiday period. Keeping a strong focus on inclusive universal provision, alongside the right level of specialist capacity, will be key to continuing to meet need fairly and effectively.



*All the SEN sessions I have attended with my son who has down syndrome have been amazing. The helpers and staff are so understanding, and the activities have been spot-on for children who prefer a quieter and calmer environment.*

## Case Study: Portchester Holiday Club



The Portchester Holiday Club run by Castle Early Birds provides a strong example of how inclusive holiday provision can improve outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), while supporting families who often face significant barriers during school holidays. Delivered through the connect4communities HAF programme, the club placed SEND inclusion at the centre of its design and delivery.

A key impact was improving access to mainstream holiday provision for children with SEND. Many families experience limited choice during school breaks due to concerns around staffing, sensory environments or lack of appropriate adjustments. At Portchester, flexible activity planning, responsive staff support, and a willingness to adapt enabled children with a wide range of additional needs to participate safely and confidently. This reduced exclusion and ensured SEND needs were treated as a standard consideration rather than an exception.

The Holiday Club also supported positive social and emotional development for children with SEND. Inclusive group activities helped children build friendships, develop communication skills, and increase confidence alongside their peers. A structured but adaptable environment supported emotional regulation and independence, allowing children to experience success and enjoyment in a community setting.

For families, the impact was significant. Parents and carers reported feeling reassured that staff understood their child's needs and could respond appropriately. Access to free holiday childcare reduced stress and financial pressure, particularly during periods that can be isolating for families of children with SEND. This support improved family wellbeing and trust in local provision.

Beyond individual families, the programme strengthened community capacity for SEND inclusion. Staff developed skills and confidence in making reasonable adjustments, while collaboration between providers, schools and local authority teams helped embed inclusive practice more widely. This legacy supports more accessible holiday provision in the future.



*A big thank you to Castle Early Birds for creating such an amazing holiday club! My son always comes home with a huge smile and can't wait to go back.*

# Partnerships and Collaboration

Working closely with partners opened up lots of opportunities to strengthen the support available to families whose children take part in HAF schemes. By coming together, partners helped create richer experiences for families and made a real difference to the impact of the programme.

## **Local Children's Partnerships**

These district-based networks play an important role in spreading the word about Hampshire HAF schemes. They help promote HAF locally, connect families to opportunities, and link providers with organisations that can offer more targeted advice and support when it's needed most.

## **Hampshire Libraries**

Libraries across the county hosted a range of HAF-funded activities throughout the year, offering fun, enriching experiences for children while also helping families feel more connected to their local library services. In 2025, more than **1000** children from low-income families took part alongside their parents or carers, with food provided to make the sessions more welcoming and accessible.

## **Barnardo's**

Barnardo's worked alongside family-focused HAF schemes to support children's health and wellbeing. This included delivering tailored workshops for families with children aged 0-5, offering parents and carers practical guidance during some of the earliest and most important years of development.

## **Public Health Nursing / School Nursing Service**

The School Nursing Service played a valuable role in supporting children's health both in schools and in the community. By attending a number of family-focused HAF schemes, the team was able to chat with parents, offer practical health advice and share road safety guidance in a relaxed, informal setting. In 2025, this support was expanded further to include sexual health drop-in sessions for young people in specific areas, making it easier for them to access specialist advice.

“

*Thank you also for having the school nurse there, this was really beneficial to talk to them.*

## **Citizen's Advice**

Citizen's Advice regularly supported HAF in 2025 by attending family-focused schemes and provider briefing sessions. This helped families access advice more easily and ensured they knew where to turn for support with wider challenges they may be facing.

## **Winchester Science Centre**

Winchester Science Centre worked with the Hampshire HAF team to develop hands-on STEM activities that could be used across different schemes. These resources were included in Christmas take-home packs, helping families continue to enjoy science-based learning together at home. The team also delivered a face-to-face STEM workshop at a scheme in an area of high deprivation, bringing the experience directly to children and families.

“

*We love the STEM activities for older children, we loved building a roller-coaster! Thank you for my allergy friendly pasta.*

## **Bikeability**

The partnership between the Hampshire HAF team and Bikeability has gone from strength to strength since 2022. By delivering Learn to Ride and Level 1 Bikeability sessions at HAF schemes, the team made sure every child could take part by providing bikes, helmets and all the necessary safety equipment. Sessions are planned throughout the year, using learning from previous deliveries to focus support where it's most needed.

## **The Vyne**

This National Trust venue offered families a really special opportunity through a collaborative package that included transport, free family day passes, outdoor games and family-friendly challenges, as well as a voucher to cover the cost of a family lunch. This made a memorable day out possible for families who might not otherwise have been able to take part.

## **KOOTH**

KOOTH supported the programme by offering mental health and wellbeing support for young people. Promotion of the KOOTH app by HAF providers has been of direct benefit to young people unable to access support services during the long holiday periods.

“

*I learned so much about people, and how adults can understand peoples' feelings too.*

## **Chartwells**

Through the partnership with Chartwells, providers were supported to promote healthy eating in a practical, engaging way. This included visits to schemes and access to a range of resources available through the HAF Moodle portal, helping consistent messages about nutrition reach families.



“

*My child never eats fruit and today he's tried melon and pineapple!*



# Case Study: Oral Health Education



BrightBites played a key role in supporting Hampshire's Summer 2025 HAF programme by delivering targeted oral health education to children from low-income families during the school holidays. Working in partnership with Hampshire County Council through the connect4communities HAF network, the initiative addressed a known gap in preventative health education that often widens during holiday periods.

The programme focused on fun, interactive sessions designed to engage children attending a wide range of HAF activity settings across the county. BrightBites educators used age-appropriate resources and practical demonstrations to help children understand the importance of good oral hygiene, healthy food choices, and regular toothbrushing. Each session reinforced simple, memorable messages that children could take home and apply with their families, supporting longer term behaviour change beyond the summer holidays.

A core strength of the BrightBites approach was its alignment with the wider aims of the HAF programme. By linking oral health with nutrition and wellbeing, BrightBites complemented the provision of healthy meals and physical activities already being delivered through HAF. This holistic approach helped ensure that health education was not treated as a standalone topic but embedded within a broader conversation about healthy lifestyles.



***Food Poster Resource – BrightBites***

Feedback from providers highlighted the value of having specialist support that could reach large numbers of children in a short time, particularly in areas of higher deprivation. For many participants, the BrightBites sessions provided their first structured oral health education outside the school setting. The programme also strengthened local partnerships, demonstrating how voluntary and charitable organisations can add significant value to council led holiday provision.

Overall, BrightBites' contribution to Hampshire's Summer 2025 HAF programme showcased how targeted, preventative health initiatives can enhance holiday provision, improve children's knowledge and confidence, and support positive health outcomes during critical school holiday periods.

“  
*Learning about and reinforcing the importance of proper teeth brushing was great.*”



# Spotlight: Youth Engagement

Engaging young people is a really important part of the programme, but it comes with both exciting opportunities and some practical challenges. Unlike younger children, many secondary-age young people – especially those aged 14 to 16 – don't need childcare and are comfortable making their own, spur-of-the-moment decisions. Because of this, traditional childcare models and formal booking systems don't always work for them. Instead, what's needed is provision that feels flexible, easy to access and able to respond to what young people are interested in and motivated by.

“

*My son thoroughly enjoyed the teen project Easter camp. The really great thing about it was that the kids were all around his age or a bit older, and all the activities were fun and engaging and targeted to his age range. He is very keen to go to future camps organised by the teen project.*

Across delivery periods, secondary-age participants typically make up around 18% of overall take-up. In Hampshire, this engagement is supported through a blend of open-age sessions and dedicated youth-focused provision, helping to create opportunities that are inclusive while still offering targeted support where it's needed.

## Holistic Wellbeing

Building on what works best across Hampshire's youth-focused programmes, HAF funding has a real opportunity to support young people's wellbeing in a genuinely joined-up way. It brings together good food, opportunities to be active, emotional support and personal development – all delivered in settings that young people already know and trust.

“

*My son went from refusing school to thriving after attending the HAF club.*

A great example of this can be seen in New Milton, where the HAF-funded offer was about much more than meals and activities. The programme took a youth-work approach, prioritising strong relationships with young people who were at risk of drifting away, feeling isolated or struggling with their mental health. Alongside food, the programme offered structured sports, creative arts, music, and media sessions to capture a wide range of interests. Crucially, experienced youth workers were on hand to offer mentoring, emotional support and safe, welcoming spaces where young people could talk openly about issues such as mental health, substance misuse or antisocial behaviour.



This layered, relationship-based approach helped young people build confidence, develop healthier routines, strengthen self-advocacy skills and form positive friendships. At the same time, it reinforced connections with families and the wider community, creating longer-term benefits that extended well beyond the programme itself.

## Novel and Memorable Experiences

Young people naturally gravitate towards experiences that feel fresh, exciting and a bit special – the kinds of activities that are a break from the usual routine. Trips out together, like travelling on a minibus to an off-site venue or having a go at something completely new such as glow-in-the-dark sports, laser tag, or climbing a high wall, build a real sense of buzz and anticipation. Sharing these moments helps young people feel more confident, encourages friendships and makes it easier for those who find new situations difficult to get involved.

“

*Not only was this some of the first time the children have visited London Natural History Museum but also some of the parents' first time – great opportunity for them.*

When opportunities like this are offered through funded schemes, they provide experiences that families might otherwise not be able to afford. Our schemes that are providing unique experiences, days out and trips are providing a spark of engagement that keeps young people coming back.

“

*The bowling trips are her favourite part of the time off! Again, thank you for ensuring she can attend these trips, they are huge to her, I cannot thank you all enough!*



## Case Study: Creating Positive Change

Motiv8 is a well-established youth charity working across Portsmouth, Havant, Gosport and Fareham to create safer communities and unlock brighter futures for young people and their families. Using a place-led, person-centred approach, Motiv8 focuses on building trusted relationships, providing safe spaces, and improving young people's emotional health, wellbeing and life chances.

“

*My daughter isn't always very confident with doing things on her own but she did amazing and loves being able to go. The Motiv8 staff are absolutely amazing, and make my girls feel safe and supported.*

A key strand of this work is Motiv8's delivery of the HAF programme. Motiv8's HAF offer combines enriching activities, sports, creative sessions and nutritious meals, ensuring young people are supported both socially and physically during the school holidays.

Across the year, Motiv8 delivered HAF provision to 59 young people during the Easter holidays, 165 young people over the summer, and 35 young people during the February half-term. These figures reflect both the scale of need in local communities and Motiv8's ability to engage young people who may otherwise become isolated during school breaks.

The impact of this work is evident through individual experiences. One 15-year-old who did not attend school full-time and experienced high anxiety and limited friendships was supported intensively to access HAF activities. By receiving transport support and gentle encouragement, the young person was able to take part in activities such as rowing and archery and try new, healthy meals for the first time. Over time, their confidence grew, they formed new friendships, and they expressed interest in accessing future holiday and after-school activities.

“

*I use Motiv8 because the kids feel safe, have a great time meeting with friends, and staff are always happy to make the children feel welcome. The children get a lot out of coming and it keeps them busy so they are not bored in the holidays.*

Another young person, aged 13, struggled with self-confidence and social cues, which affected her mental wellbeing. Attending HAF sessions for the first time allowed her to enjoy new experiences, build friendships and engage positively with peers and staff. Both the young person and her parents reported improvements in confidence and wellbeing, with the programme also providing valuable respite for the wider family.

For a 14-year-old who was home-educated due to anxiety, HAF sessions offered a safe and supportive stepping stone back into social environments. With consistent support, the young person progressed to attending independently, stating simply, “I feel safe here”.

Together, these outcomes demonstrate how Motiv8’s HAF provision reaches significant numbers of young people while delivering meaningful, lasting impact – reducing isolation, improving confidence, supporting wellbeing and helping young people feel safe, included and hopeful about their future.

“

*Motiv8 allows me to rest whilst knowing my children are in a safe environment and safe hands. They’ve demonstrated to us how much they care for young children, adhering to many children’s emotional needs and offering tailored activities specifically to support those at need throughout the year. As a family, we are truly grateful for Motiv8’s endless support.*



# Quality and Improvement

The quality of the Hampshire HAF programme is overseen by the HAF Board, which plays a key role in making sure the programme continues to meet the needs of children and families. The Board brings together a wide range of local authority services, including the Programme's Service Manager and HAF Programme Manager as well as representatives from the Household Support Fund, Services for Young Children and School Age Childcare, Libraries and Community Hubs, Food Insecurity, and Adults Health and Care.

The Board is also strengthened by wider education, health, and voluntary sector voices, which are formally represented through the Chair of the Local Children's Partnerships (LCPs). This broad mix of perspectives helps ensure decisions are well-informed and supports ongoing learning, collaboration, and continuous improvement across the programme.



## Monitoring Delivery

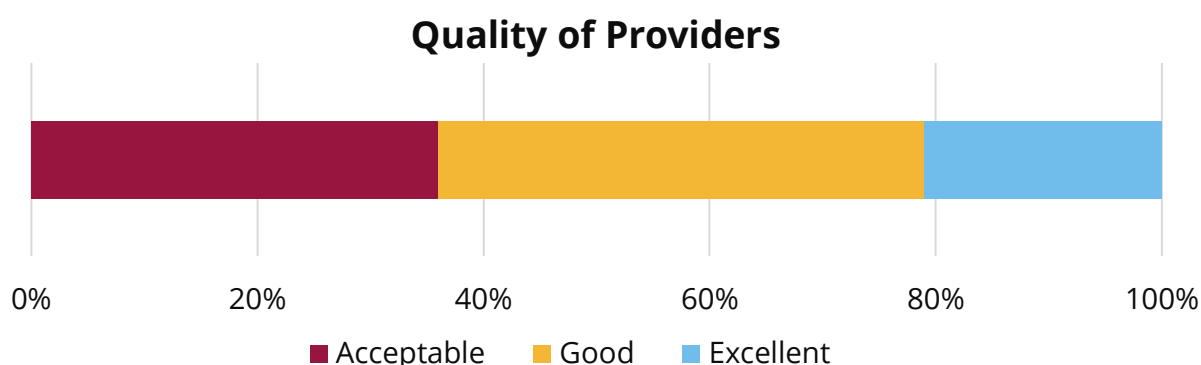
To keep the Hampshire HAF programme running at a consistently high standard, Hampshire County Council has put a clear and supportive monitoring framework in place. This framework focuses on eight key areas that reflect Department for Education (DfE) standards, including providing healthy and nutritious food, promoting healthy lifestyles, offering clear signposting and referrals, delivering fun and engaging activities, creating opportunities to be active, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility, encouraging environmental sustainability, and maintaining strong policies and safeguarding practice.

“

*A well-organised, professionally run camp that provides a perfect balance of fun, learning and personal growth.*

Providers within the HAF network are monitored using a simple five-point rating scale, ranging from very poor and poor through to excellent. This approach sets clear expectations while encouraging providers to strive for high quality across every aspect of their offer. It also helps us understand what's working well, identify where extra

support or improvement is needed, and recognise and share examples of really strong practice across the programme.



*No providers were assessed as Very Poor or Poor.*

## Annual “State of Play” Survey

In September 2025, we ran a survey to hear directly from families about their experiences of the HAF programme during the Summer 2025 school holidays. Families who had signed up to the programme and met the eligibility criteria were invited to take part via email. To make sure as many eligible families as possible had the chance to share their views – including those who may not have taken part – the survey was also promoted through social media, school communications, and the County Council’s “other ways to have your say” webpage.

In total, we received 489 responses, with around 80% coming from families who had used the programme.

As in 2024, feedback from HAF users was overwhelmingly positive. Families consistently rated the programme highly, often highlighting the wide variety of activities on offer, the friendly and welcoming staff, valuable social opportunities, and the way the programme helped give children a positive routine during the holidays.

Where families shared less positive feedback, this most often related to experiences of inexperienced or inconsistent staffing, limited support for children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND), or activities feeling repetitive or too heavily focused on sport.

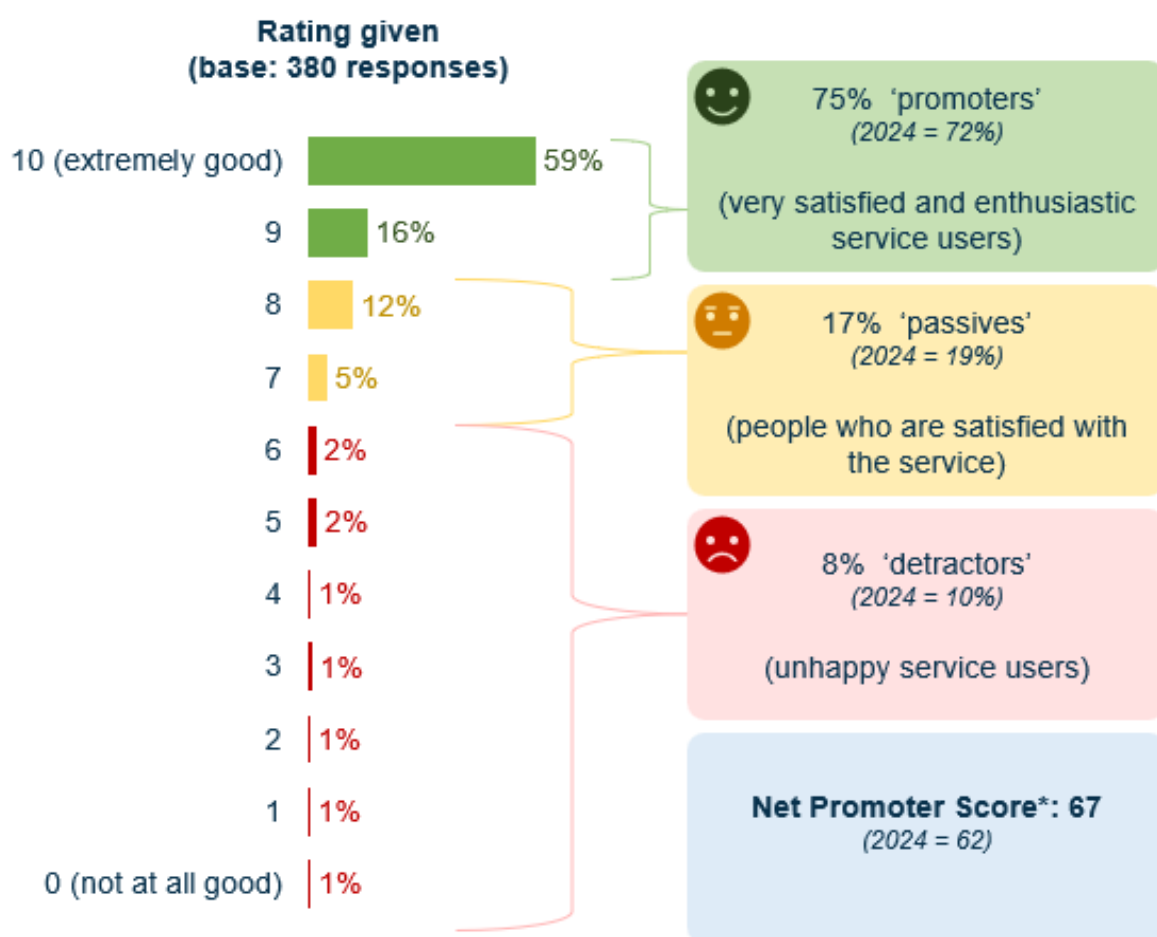


*The manager understood my child's needs and made sure she was settled.*

Encouragingly, the majority of respondents felt that all of the programme's aims were met well. The most common barriers to attendance were linked to session availability and lack of awareness of the programme. Compared to 2024, concerns around session availability were noticeably lower, while families more often cited alternative activities as a reason for not attending.

Overall, user ratings of the HAF programme remained very strong and consistent with last year, with families continuing to value the range of activities, positive staff relationships, social experiences, and the structure the programme provides during the school holidays.

*HAF gave my children the routine they need and just really helped our household.*



# Looking Ahead

## Future Priorities

Having three years of confirmed funding from the Department for Education gives us a real opportunity to think both short-term and longer-term about how the programme can continue to grow and improve.

“

*Keep doing what you're doing! It's brilliant and my children are always wanting to come back.*

Drawing on what we've learned from our management information, reporting data, monitoring visits, feedback from providers, and insights from the parent survey, we've identified a number of areas where we plan to make further improvements.



One key focus is making sure we maximise the reach of the programme by increasing the number of unique children who take part. We know that filling 100% of places can be challenging, particularly when new schemes or providers are introduced into communities. It's also recognised that even when places are booked, attendance won't always be 100% – especially where activities are free and where factors such as illness or weather can play a part, particularly sunny beach weather. To address this, we'll focus on commissioning places where there is strong evidence of demand, improving and better targeting how we promote schemes using live booking data, tackling over-booking and double-booking, and encouraging simple, positive behaviours such as timely cancellations, the use of waiting lists, and gentle reminders to support attendance.

To support this further, a new Bookings and Information Management System will be introduced. This will automate eligibility checks, bring data into one central place, allow real-time tracking of bookings, send automated attendance reminders, and – most importantly – provide a smoother, more user-friendly experience for families.

Alongside this, we are committed to continuously strengthening our offer for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This responds directly to both the growing number of children with SEND accessing HAF and the increasing complexity of need we are seeing.

Planned improvements include:

- Offering increased payments to providers who can support children with mild to moderate additional needs within universal settings.
- Growing a network of bespoke provision over the three-year funding period for free school meal-eligible children with more complex needs, working more closely with Hampshire's special schools.
- Championing and providing additional training for providers and their frontline staff around inclusive practice, including opportunities such as Inclusion in Physical Activity training.
- Further refining our partnership with Hampshire's Short Breaks Programme to ensure strong alignment with HAF outcomes.

Together, these improvements aim to ensure the programme continues to be inclusive, well-targeted, and responsive to the needs of children, families, and communities across Hampshire.

“

*My son has been coming for three years now, he always looks forward to it. He's made so many new friends, we even see them outside club!*





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