

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)

Annual Report

April 2022 – March 2023



South Tyneside Council

Holiday,
Activities
+ Food
...across South Tyneside



Department
for Education

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"What an amazing opportunity for the children and young people of South Tyneside"

Dominick Gray, Headteacher, Beacon Centre



Welcome

Funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and commissioned by South Tyneside Council (STC), the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provides support to children and their families during the school holidays in a fun and positive way.

The programme is offered to children eligible for benefit-related free school meals (FSM) and offers a nutritious meal alongside a variety of activities delivered by a range of local providers across the three main holiday periods of Easter, Summer and Winter.

2022-2023 saw us work in partnership with schools, charities, the faith sector, community associations and businesses ensuring the best possible outcomes for this programme.

This report highlights some of our fantastic achievements in recognition of that strength of partnership working in both our planning and programme delivery.

Thank you to all providers and to the many departments within the council that continue to contribute to the HAF programme, ensuring the best outcomes for our children and young people, across the Borough.

Steve Reddy
Director of Children's Services (interim)
South Tyneside Council



Background

HAF is a national programme for children and young people aged 5-16 years receiving free school meals (FSM). Local Authorities receive funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver HAF activities and food, during Easter, Summer, and Winter school holidays.

HAF aims to improve outcomes for children and young people by offering healthy food, and opportunities to participate in a range of activities during the school holidays.

The HAF programme has 6 key objectives for children:

- To eat more healthily over the school holidays
- To be more active during the school holidays
- To take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment
- To be safe and not to be socially isolated
- To have greater knowledge of health nutrition
- To be more engaged with schools and other local services.

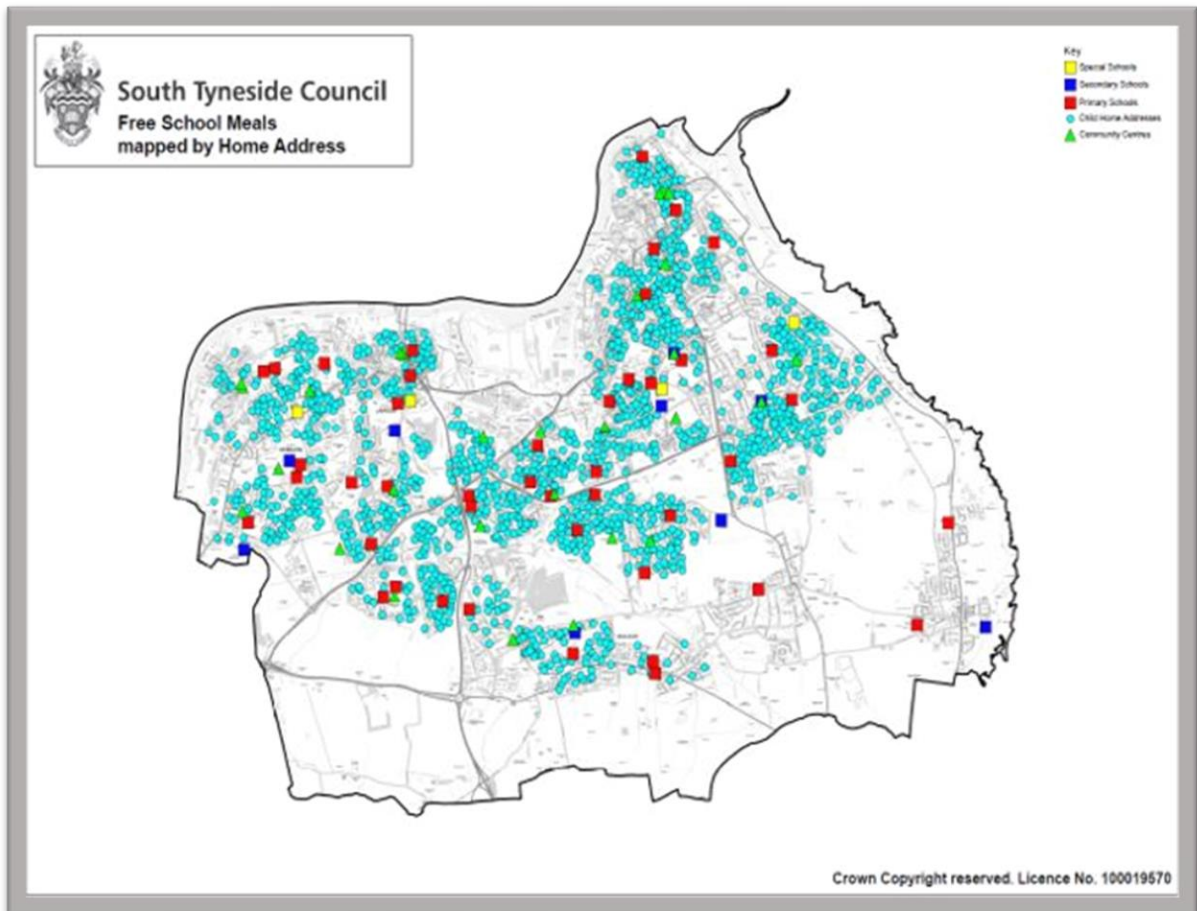
Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some families. For some children this can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from low-income households being:

- less likely to access organised out-of-school activities
- more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health
- more likely to experience social isolation

Our HAF programme aims are to provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities utilising a wide range of partnerships and connections across the borough, and inclusive of children, young people and families' views and feedback.

Mapping Provision

The postcodes of children across South Tyneside who are entitled to Free School Meals are mapped using mapping software to inform decisions around the commissioning process. This helps to ensure that activities are provided in areas where there is the highest number of eligible children whilst continuing to deliver a full offer across the borough.



Governance

A multi-agency steering group oversees the implementation of the programme throughout the year, including commissioning, monitoring, quality assurance, eligibility and reporting. Additional support is provided through South Tyneside Council regarding finance, data, catering, marketing and promotion

The group also ensures that HAF programme delivery effectively meets the requirements of DfE guidance for eligibility, enriching activities and healthy meals.

This governance ensures effective oversight and due diligence in the commissioning process, inclusive of a comprehensive, coordinated delivery that meets and supports the 'holiday experience gap' relating to children's health and family food security.

Standard Membership:

Jess Barclay-Lambert (Chairperson) Service Manager - Family Help and Adolescent Services

Melanie Soutar - Operational Manager Adolescent Services

Alex D'Ambrosie - Outdoor Education and Youth Services Team Manager

Charlotte Sayers - HAF Coordinator

Fiona Pearce - HAF Business Admin (Minutes)

Rory Sherwood-Parkin - Corporate Lead - Policy and Insight

Ellie Forrester - Public Health Practitioner

Andy Ritchie - Service Manager - Access and Inclusion

Bridget McCulla - School Catering Manager

Gemma Davison - Senior Marketing and Social Media Officer

Alan Foster - Head of Finance

Guest Invites:

Invites are extended on an Ad Hoc basis to additional/expert members as required.

Finance

The DfE grant funding is calculated on the number of children eligible for, and in receipt, of benefits-related free school meals in South Tyneside. The DfE used the school January 2022 census which informed us of the eligibility of 6900 pupils.

The funding is provided to achieve:

- provision of free holiday places;
- coordination of the programme locally.

The DfE recognises that there are administrative costs associated with setting up and running the HAF programme. As such, local authorities can use up to 10% of their total allocation to cover these costs. In addition, funding can also be used to purchase equipment for the programme. STC was awarded £752,650 for the financial year March 2022 - April 2023.

Expenditure Type	Amount
Administration Expenditure	£60,738
Capital Expenditure	£18,057
Programme Delivery	£670,027
Other (Publicity and Programme Costs)	£4,651
Total Expenditure	£753, 473

Quality of Provision

Robust diligence and monitoring ensures delivery is of the highest standard. Minimum operating requirements are in place focusing on the delivery partner's organisational policies/procedures, insurance, standard of food provision, safeguarding and signposting.

This quality has been recognised in the 22-23 South Tyneside staff awards, with the HAF team reaching the shortlist in the 'supporting health and wellbeing' category.

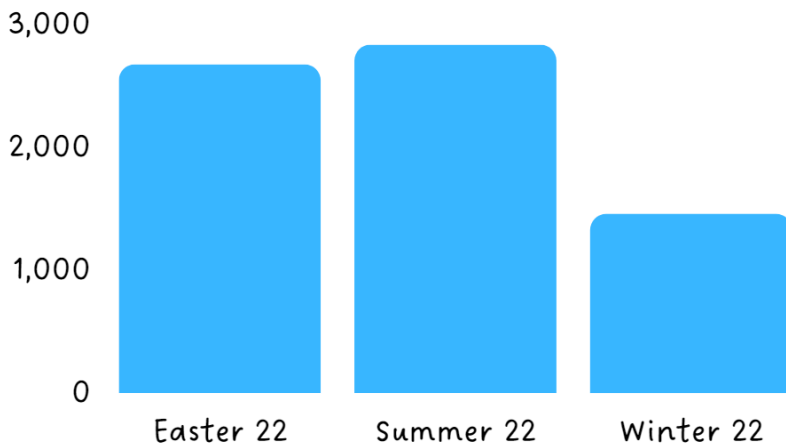
In terms of providers - NECA Community Garden (based at Brockley Allotments) were nominated in the first ever DfE HAF Awards, and received their Regional Champion certificate at a presentation at the House of Commons in May 2023.



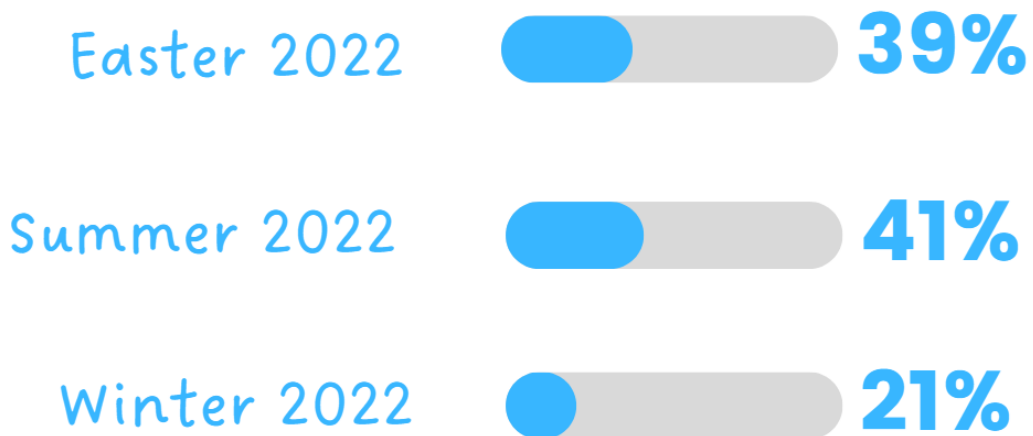
Headline Achievements

HAF programme attendance steadily increased from Easter to Summer. Figures subsequently fell in Winter due to the dates when the holidays landed, with families stating they had less need for alternative provision.

Total number of FSM children attending the holiday provision:



The percentage of all FSM eligible children attending at least one HAF activity session, across the year:



Headline Achievements

Activities have been tailored to the needs of participants, in terms of age, and other characteristics, e.g., SEND following feedback from young people. This has resulted in an increase in the number of secondary age young people attending HAF.

Take up of HAF activities by Primary and Secondary aged children:

Easter 2022

Primary 79%
Secondary 21%



Summer 2022

Primary 78%
Secondary 22%



Winter 2022

Primary 74%
Secondary 26%



915 children with SEND and/or additional support needs accessed HAF across the year



21,529 HAF activity places were available in 2022/23; all included a nutritious meal

HAF Providers

The HAF Coordinator role is based within the council's Family Help and Adolescent Services (Children's Services Directorate). This presents ready opportunity for networking with colleagues and identifying families who will benefit from the programme.

South Tyneside has a strong network of clubs associated with the voluntary and charity sector organisations, private organisations, schools and the faith sector which enables excellent partnership arrangements. Partnerships have also been created with several of the main Supermarkets, Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service and a local utility company - all helping with the supply of food and additional resources.

Providers who delivered HAF funded activity during 2022-2023:

- Active Futures South Shields
- Active Kids
- Al-Azhar Mosque
- Allure
- Autism Able
- Bedes Helping Hands Food Bank
- Bilton Hall Community Trust
- BLISS=ABILITY
- Clegwell and Hartleyburn Community Hub
- Creative Seed
- CREST
- Dunes Adventure Island
- Epinay Business and Enterprise School
- Fit Deli Beli catering
- Groundwork South and North Tyneside
- Harton Academy
- Hebburn Helps
- Hebburn Town Football Club
- Hedworthfield Community Association
- JJ Sports Coaching
- Jumbo Jim Softplay
- KAYAKS
- Key Project
- NECA Community Garden
- Noah's Ark Forest School
- Ocean Road Community Centre
- Ocean Beach Pleasure Park
- Beach Pleasure Park
- Parish of Jarrow and Simonside
- Park View School
- Peanuts Talent Ltd
- Perth Green CIO
- Sarah Howe Cookson School of Dance
- Simonside Outdoor Adventure
- South Shields FC Foundation Ltd
- South Shields Surf School
- South Tyneside School Catering Services
- South Tyneside Leisure Services
- South Tyneside Sports Development
- South Tyneside Youth Service
- Sports King Coaching
- SportWorks
- St Mark and St Cuthbert Cleadon Park
- Start2Finish Sports Coaching
- TEN North East Ltd Young Carers Project
- Thurston Outdoor Education Centre
- The Customs House
- Ultimate Fun Coaching
- YMCA

Publicity and Promotions

Communication and promotion of HAF takes place through council and partner channels, including network groups.

All providers receive a communications toolkit developed alongside the council's communication team - this provides consistency of theme and brand.

Promotional merchandise and activity packs are available and a dedicated page on the STC [website](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/holidayclub) includes information for both providers and families.



Family Story- NECA Garden Project

Mary and her grandchildren have been coming to the NECA Garden Project to access HAF activities for the past few years. Mary describes the project as a lifeline for them.

The children say they had nothing to do but play in the street, the house they live in does not have a garden and they were struggling to cope with financial pressures so unable to attend outdoor activities. Mary describes the sense of relief coming to the Garden. She was grateful that they were also receiving a meal. As a family they pick produce at the Garden and take it home so Mary can cook them all a well-balanced meal that includes fruit and vegetables. They are continually learning new things from their visits such as growing and harvesting.

They enjoyed making bug hotels, they have been involved in sports and dance, all winning medals for taking part. They have demonstrated empathy and nurturing, learning all about caring for the chickens, and they have engaged well with other children, understanding the ground rules of mutual respect expected from all families attending the project. The children have shared their experiences of the Garden at school and have been able to teach others some of their new skills.

Mary has found support and friendship; she has connected with other parents and carers, she has been signposted to other support from housing to food banks to uniform exchange, she has been able to relax without having to worry about where the children are or what they are doing, but most importantly for her she has not had the worry about cost or replacing missing school meals.

"The staff and volunteers take pride in making sure children and parents have the best time. They are very helpful and friendly particularly as some children have physical and mental health needs. There is always loads to do and the children are safe and happy. Thank you so much."

Mary, Grandmother to Tom aged 4 and Ellie aged 8

Provider Story -

Sarah Howe Cookson School of Dance

The sessions delivered by the school involve using different styles and techniques of dance to accentuate the strengths of young people. The classes are designed to be fun and friendly with the aim of achieving physical fitness and dance ability.


Two young people joined this programme for this first time in 2022/23. They got on really well with all the other students and stated that they had never taken part in any sport outside of school before. The improvement they made in terms of their flexibility, stamina, and belief in their own ability was huge compared to them walking in on the first morning, looking very nervous! They have since grown in confidence, so much so that they now join the regular classes and look forward to their first performance.

Sarah also welcomed a 5 year old girl to the classes who has a tracheostomy, a heart condition and a hearing impairment. During her time with Sarah she regularly kept practicing her forward roll and to start with was frustrated at not being able to achieve it. The students and Sarah kept reassuring her and over time she managed it. Her perseverance was enabled by the encouragement of Sarah and the other students.

"The HAF scheme really does open doors to children who without it, may never have had the opportunity to improve upon their fitness and find a hobby they may grow to love. This is particularly important for teenagers who we all know spend a great deal of time focusing on social media, on their phonesgiving them the chance to interact with others and improving their fitness is vital!"

Sarah Howe Cookson, School of Dance

Children and Family Feedback

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and dark pants, is climbing a blue rope on a playground structure. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The structure has large, colorful circular openings in the background.

"Thank you so much for an amazing day."

"Absolutely love coming here. Friendly, happy, helpful staff."

"Keep doing what you're doing."

"A must for the community and families."