

SOUTH TYNESIDE

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD (HAF)

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2023-MARCH 2024

Funded by



South Tyneside Council

Introduction

South Tyneside's Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is a positive collective example of bringing together the exceptional organisations within the borough to deliver enriching, engaging and fun activities for children, young people and families.

2023/24 saw us deliver more events and activities than ever with a staggering 28,603 sessions available across the spring, summer and winter school holidays with 6250 children and families attending at least 4 activities. Set against a backdrop of the cost of living crisis HAF proved to be a much needed resource for social activities and nutritious meals during the school holiday period.

This annual report for 2023/24 celebrates our united innovation in the borough and highlights our achievements. It recognises the strength of continued partnership working in both our planning and delivery.

Thank you to all providers and to the many departments within the council that made HAF the success it was in 2023/24, and as we look forward to 2024/25 we will continue to strive for the very best offer we can provide to enable the very best outcomes for our children.

Context

Funded by the Department for Education (DfE) the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) provides support to children and young people aged 5-16yrs and up to 18yrs with SEND who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals (FSM).

The aim is to improve outcomes for children and young people by offering healthy food, and opportunities to participate in a range of physical and creative activities during the school holidays.

The HAF programme provides easily accessible enrichment activities utilising a wide range of partnerships and connections across the borough influenced by children, young people and families' views, experiences and feedback.

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.

Local Authorities receive funding from the DfE to deliver activities and food, during Easter, Summer, and Winter school holidays.

Commissioned through South Tyneside Council (STC), the HAF programme provides support to eligible children and their families in a fun and positive way.

Since receiving funding, South Tyneside have appointed a dedicated full-time Coordinator and a Business Support Administrator to oversee the programmes and support providers. We continue to build on our successes and experiences with both longstanding and new providers to deliver a varied offer of activities.

As the programme continues to evolve the offer has developed to meet the changing needs of families. Dental hygiene, environmental activities, mental health awareness and other Early Help support organisations have all played a part in ensuring families receive a holistic approach to health and wellbeing by signposting and utilising a think family approach in meeting their needs.

Mapping provision

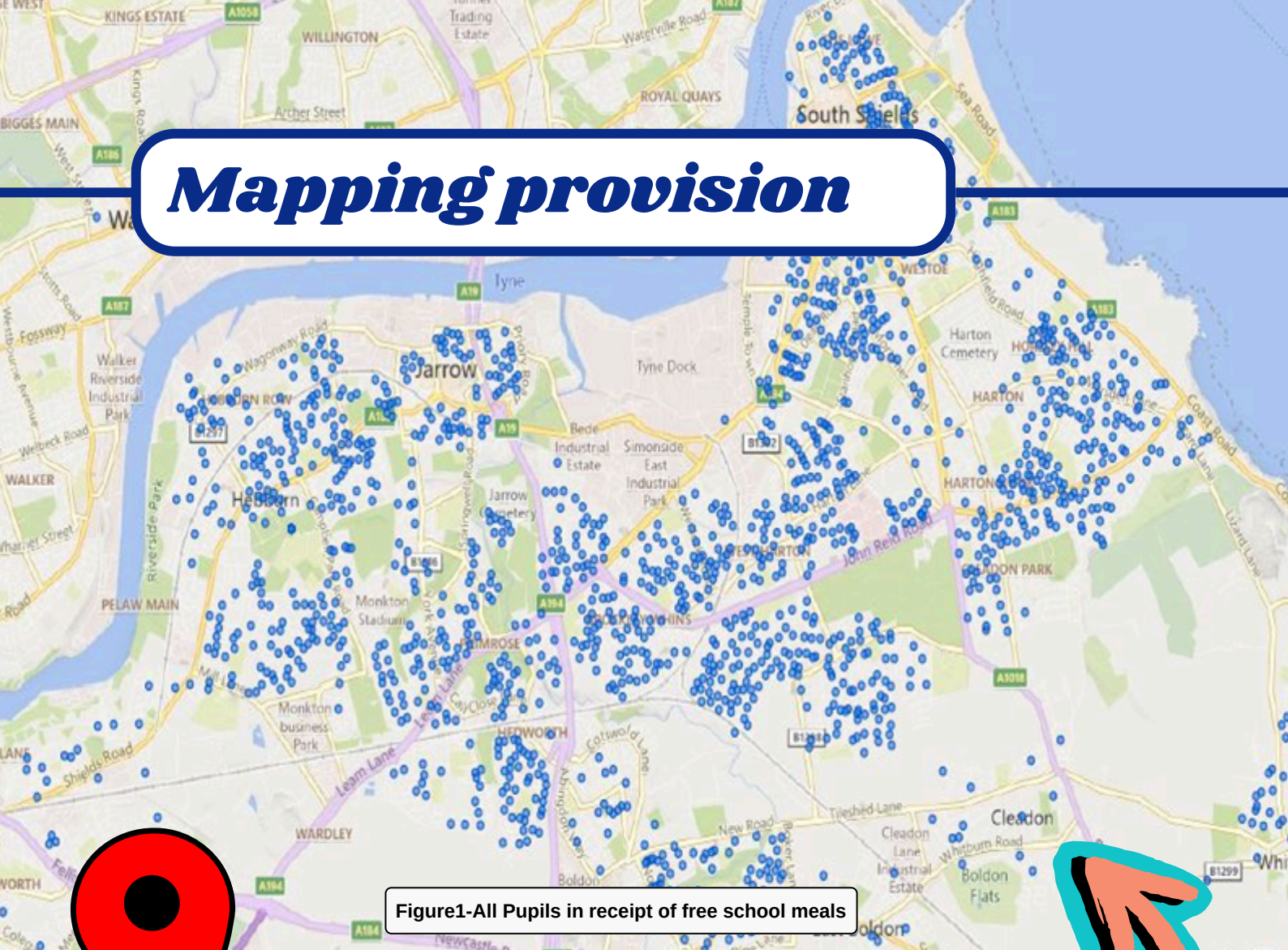


Figure1-All Pupils in receipt of free school meals

To inform commissioning, South Tyneside utilise mapping software, cross referencing the postcodes of children across the borough who are entitled to Free School Meals to determine need and geographical spread of provision.

This process ensures that activities are provided in areas of greater need based on the highest number of eligible children, whilst continuing to deliver a full offer across the borough.

Updated in December 2023 the map above has been included in the revised guidance documentation inclusive of online application processes for prospective providers of activity delivery.

Governance

Governance arrangements for HAF delivery and quality assurance is provided by a multiagency steering group, responsible for overseeing the implementation of the HAF programme throughout the year. This includes commissioning, monitoring, eligibility and reporting.

The steering group ensures effective oversight and due diligence of the commissioning process, and programme delivery that meets and supports the 'holiday experience gap' relating to children's health and family food security.

Additional support provided by South Tyneside Council includes finance, data, catering, marketing and promotion.

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

Standard Membership

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

Melanie Soutar - Operational Manager Adolescent Services

Alex D'Ambrosie - Outdoor Education, Youth Services & HAF Team Manager

Charlotte Sayers - HAF Coordinator

Rachael Dickinson - HAF Business Admin (Minutes)

Laura Liddle - Anti-Poverty Strategy Coordinator

Ellie Forrester – Senior Public Health Advanced Practitioner

Andy Ritchie – Service Manager - Access and Inclusion

Bridget McCulla – School Catering Manager

Gemma Davison – Senior Marketing and Social Media Officer

Claire Jones – Senior Finance Officer

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. South Tyneside January 2023 census identified circa 7000 eligible 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 implementation and delivery of the HAF programme, with a discretionary 10% of the total allocation to cover these costs. In addition, funding can also be used to purchase equipment for the programme.

For the financial year March 2023-April 2024 STC was awarded £759,540 for programme delivery.

Expenditure Type	Amount
Administration Expenditure	£61,595
Capital Expenditure	£6,089
Programme Delivery	£684,074
Other (Publicity and Programme Costs	£7,782
Total Expenditure	£759,540

Quality of Provision

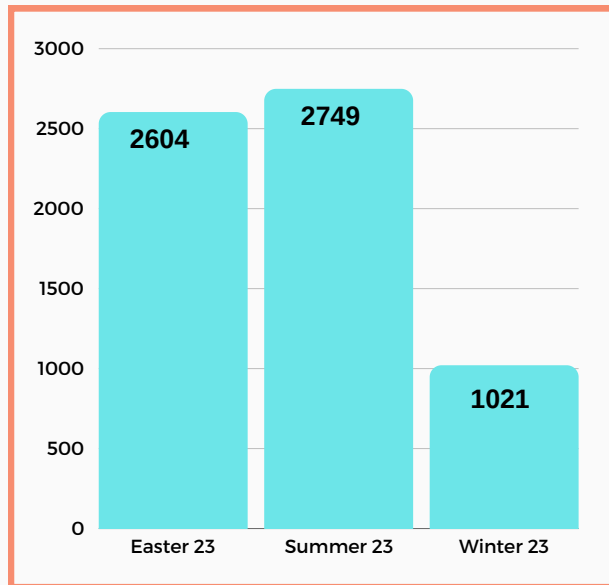
Robust due diligence and monitoring ensures delivery is of the highest standard. Minimum operating requirements are in place focusing on the providers organisational policies/procedures, insurance, standard of food provision, safeguarding and signposting. The standard framework determines strengths and areas for development, ensuring all providers meet the levels of acceptable performance.

This quality has been recognised in the 23-24 South Tyneside staff awards, with the HAF team reaching the shortlist in the 'supporting health and wellbeing' category, for the second year running.

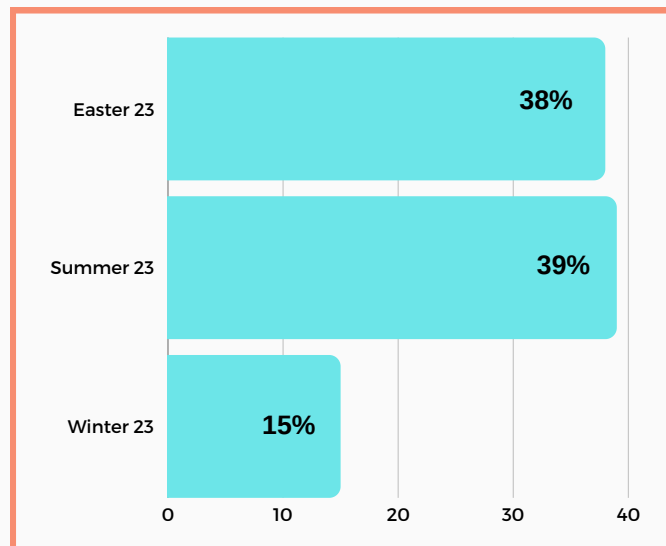


Headline achievements

The total number of children and young people attending HAF activities steadily increased from Easter to Summer 2023. Figures subsequently fell in Winter due to the dates when the holidays landed, with families stating they had less need for alternative provision.



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

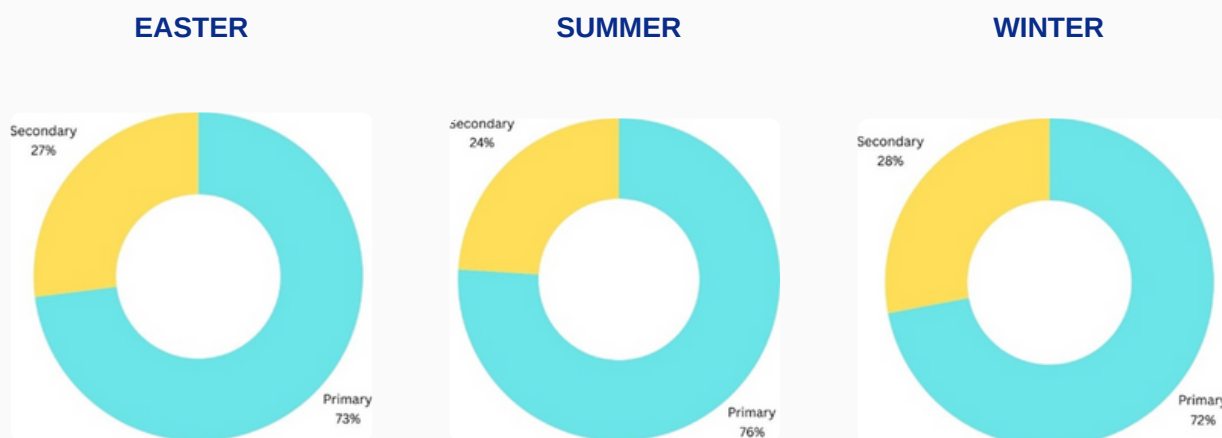


GOALS!

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 children attending HAF.

Percentage take-up of HAF activities by Primary and Secondary aged children:



Provision is offered for children with special educational needs and disabilities in both inclusive activities and targeted sessions provided by specialist organisations.





28,603

**HAF activity
places were available
in 2023/24;
all included a
nutritious meal**

HAF Providers

The HAF Coordinator is based within the council's Family Help and Adolescent Services (Learning and Early Help). This presents ready opportunity for networking with colleagues and identifying families who will benefit from the programme and signposting them to the relevant opportunities.

The network of clubs and activities associated with HAF include voluntary and charity sector organisations, private organisations, schools and the faith sector which enables collaborative partnership arrangements.

Providers who delivered HAF funded activity during 2023-2024:

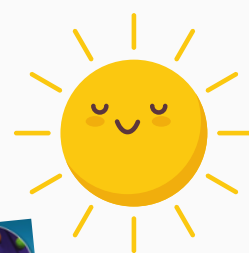
Active Future South Shields	McKenzie Dance
Active Kids	Mosiac Federation
Al-Azhar Mosque	NECA Community Garden
Allure	Noah's Ark
Autism Able	Ocean Road Community Centre
Battle Ready	Override Skatepark
Beds Helping Hands	Peanuts Talent Ltd
Bilton Hall Community Trust	Parish of Jarrow and Simonside
Bliss Ability	Sarah Howe Cookson School of Dance
Clegwell and Hartleyburn CIO and RRKC	Simonside Outdoor Adventure
Creative Seed	South Shields & Westoe Cricket Club
CREST	South Shields FC Foundation Ltd
Dunes Bowling	South Shields Surf School
Epinay Business and Enterprise School	South Shields & Westoe Squash Club
Fit Belli Deli Catering	South Tyneside Sport & Leisure
Groundwork South and North Tyneside	South Tyneside Culture and Leisure Services
Harton Academy	South Tyneside Youth Service
Hebburn Helps	SportsKing Coaching
hebburn Town Football Club	STAMP
Hedworthfield Community Association	Start2Finish Sports Coaching
ignite Cheerleading	St Joseph's Catholic Primary
JJ Sports Coaching	TEN North East Ltd Young Carers Project
Jumbo Jim Soft Play	Thurston Outdoor Education Centre
KAYAKS	The Customs House
Key Project	Ultimate Fun Coaching
Lesley Doughty PE and Sport Consultancy	Whitburn C of E Academy




Publicity & Promotion

Communication and promotion of HAF takes place through council and partner channels, including network groups, schools and Family Hubs. 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 includes information for both providers and families.



Family Story



The HAF activities are amazing. My two children (boy 9 and girl 8) went to different activities, and they absolutely loved it. They even made friends who they have since stayed connected with. Knowing that it was run by vetted adults and was in a safe place gave me peace of mind.

With the cost of living getting higher and higher parents are unfortunately unable to pay for out of school clubs and holiday activities, so having this fully funded option is the best alternative. It enables the children to not only socialise but have fun, this is essential to both their development and mental health.

The fact a meal is also provided is a weight off parent's minds.

I know several other parents whose children use these facilities, and they have all said how essential it is. The children all talk about the activities they have been involved in and what they want to do the next holiday. Seeing the children so happy and enthusiastic is lovely to see as a parent and shows how essential it is to them all.

During Covid children lost out on so much - social interaction being a big one. Having activities like this is so helpful to children and allows them to be kids, to have fun, to make friends and to make happy memories.

Having access to all these different types of activities is just amazing and in my opinion one of the best things funded by the council and shows their understanding and compassion for those who couldn't normally afford this for their children.

I know my husband and myself are thoroughly thankful for this service as are so many I know and without this service I believe it would be detrimental to all those who access it. I hope that this service continues long term, for the sake of both children and parents.

Parent



Providers Story

South Shields Cricket Club

As Chairman of South Shields Cricket Club; we are very active in our community running programmes to engage primary aged children from disadvantaged backgrounds with the benefits of the great game of cricket and being part of our club. We are situated in South Tyneside which is one of the most deprived boroughs in the country and our club is surrounded by many areas that rank among the most 10% deprived nationally.

In 2023 we ran 23 sports camps during the six weeks summer holidays. These camps are free of charge and a healthy hot lunch is provided. We know that there are many in our community who might be working and face real challenges from the “cost of living” crisis who really benefit from these camps. Feedback from parents, carers, visitors and coaches has been consistently positive.

While our cricket club runs our camps, we work closely with our partner rugby, tennis and squash clubs in terms of providing coaches, facilities and a wider range of activities. A local café has provided hot healthy lunches, and the owner has said that without our business last summer that she would have had to close, therefore also helping the local economy.

Here's some of the parent comments we've received:

“It helps my son to stay active in a safe environment as he loves to play out, and as a single parent it helps with childcare whilst i am working”

“My daughter loved it - she's never been interested in any sports until she went to camp. She then fell in love with cricket, joined the team and came more out of her shell due to socialising.”

“Aside from the physical and mental goodness that sport provides, camp created an opportunity for a safe, fun, and friendly environment for my son to meet and play with other children.”

Patrick William - Powlet - Chairman



Children & Family Feedback

"Having the opportunity to run holiday camps over the year has been awesome, the children have thrived and further developed their social and interaction skills through play and teamwork - a truly valuable experience for children with SEND."

**Chris Rue, Head Teacher,
Epinay Business and
Enterprise School**

"The best thing is being able to socialise with other-people & do something totally different to her usual schedule."

"My son enjoyed the panto, boxing sessions, and override skate park. The sensory element at Sarah's Cook's school of dance was amazing."

"It was brilliant to get 4 children out for free activities during the holidays."

"He loved the 4 day sports camp he was so happy on a morning going."

"My child enjoyed the variety of activities available at the event. She particularly enjoyed the dance performances, which were both traditional and modern, and the interactive workshops where she could try her hand at different crafts and skills. She also liked the cultural displays that provided insights into the history and traditions of different countries. The event was well-organized and provided a safe and enjoyable environment for children to explore their interests and develop their skills."

