**Additional Holiday Activity Clubs with Food Provision**

**Closing date: Friday 11th October 2024**

**Background Information**

On 8 November 2020, the Government announced that the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF), which has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018, will be expanded across the whole of England in 2024. The programme will cover the Easter, Summer, and Christmas holidays in 2024. The Holiday Activities and Food Programme enables children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) to access healthy food and take part in fun activities over the school holiday periods. The programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE).

The funding from the DfE has come directly to Local Authorities for 2024 delivery and will cover the provision of free holiday places and the co-ordination of the programme locally. The aim of the programme is to make free places available to children eligible for free school meals for the equivalent of at least 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, 6 weeks a year. The funding should cover 4 weeks in the summer and a week’s worth of provision in the Christmas holidays.

Cheshire West and Chester Council is seeking providers to deliver elements of the programme, specifically provision for SEND children and young people.

**Minimum standards and delivery provision**

The DfE have minimum standards that need to be considered. They wish for children attending clubs to:

* Eat more healthily
* Be more active
* Take part in engaging and enriching activities
* Be safe and not isolated
* Have greater knowledge of health and nutrition
* Be more engaged with school and other services
* Have greater knowledge and awareness of holiday club provision

Provision must be delivered locally

* Grants can be awarded to enhance existing provision
* Where paid provision is in place the fund can provide an agreed number of additional places for eligible FSM young people.
* Groups must have a signed consent form for each child attending the provision
* Groups must record ALL daily attendance data on the data sheet provided by the Local Authority
* Once an award is agreed, compulsory HAF basic training must be completed prior to any funds being issued
* Once delivery has been completed a short project evaluation must be completed

Provision must include:

* Physical activity – This can range from yoga, forest school, treasure hunts, as well as adventure activities and more common activities such as football, rounder’s and dance etc.
* Wellbeing activity – Arts and crafts, music playing or making, playdough, storytelling, Drama etc.
* Nutritious meal - must be included as part of the offer.  Please note that all meals must meet the food school standards.
* Nutritional Education – this does not need to be formal, it could as simple as trying new foods, growing vegetables, understanding colour codes on cereal boxes.  We seek family engagement in this area wherever possible and welcome family cooking sessions.

**What can and cannot be funded**

The DfE have stipulated what can and cannot be funded through the HAF fund.

What can be funded:

* Additional staff hours
* Basic equipment (max £1,500)
* Resources such as art and craft materials
* Nutritious Food
* Activity instructors
* Room hire
* Transport
* Relevant training for staff
* Awards and badges for children
* Residential activity for youth groups where benefits are clearly identified

What cannot be funded:

* existing provision (only new or expansion to core offer)
* provision that does not target children and young people who meet the criteria
* projects that do not bring benefits to our local communities
* political objectives

**Data collection required as stipulated by the DfE**

Data collection

Groups will be requested to collect the following data:

* Childs Name
* Childs Date of Birth
* Childs Gender
* Childs Postcode
* Childs School attending March 2024
* Is the child eligible for Income related Free School Meals (not universal FSM)?
* Is the child recognised as SEND

Groups will be required to record the following

* Daily Attendance registers for each child
* Numbers of parents/carers benefiting from the project
* Financial costs
* Feedback from children/young people and their parents and carers

Cheshire West and Chester Council are inviting numerous submissions to this funding for 1 week’s provision during the Christmas holidays, this can be delivered 4 days in 1 week or 2 days in each of the 2 week Christmas holidays, but should be for a minimum of 4 hours and must include food.

Consideration will be given to submissions that meet the needs to the children and young people attending with the allocation of heathy food at each session. We need you to detail within your submission what can be delivered and achieved within the financial limitations.