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London Borough of Enfield -IVANAs version

Children, young people & education scrutiny panel - 20th October 2021

Subject: Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme in Enfield

Cabinet Member: Cllr Mahtab Uddin

Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou

Purpose of Report

1. The report provides an update to the panel in relation to the implementation of the DfE (Department for Education) funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. The report highlights the local delivery arrangements and the uptake of eligible children with the Easter and Summer 2021 programmes, including lessons learnt from the evaluation and the plans in place for delivery during the winter holiday in 2021.

Relevance to the Council Plan

2. The HAF programme supports the following key priorities set out within the Council's plan:
 - Safe, Healthy and Confident Communities
 - A lifetime of opportunities for everyone
3. The programme contributes to the delivery of in response the following recommendations within the Enfield Poverty Inequality Report (2020):
 - "poverty proofing schools, providing subsidised holiday activities;
 - ensuring that children from poorer families are not disadvantaged because of their lack of familial resources; and
 - the poorest pupils are healthy and ready to learn"

Background

4. The DfE has made £220million available to expand its existing food and holiday programme of activities to Local Authorities. The DfE has accepted Enfield Council's expression of interest to deliver the programme in December 2021. The Council has been awarded a grant of £1,493,520. A

further £192,480 of contingency funding has subsequently been made available.

5. The funding is expected to cover the provision of the free holiday places and the coordination of the programme locally.

Key aims of the HAF programme set out by the DfE are to:

- provide free holiday activity places to children eligible for free school meals for the minimum four hours a day, four days a week, six weeks a year;
 - cover four weeks in the summer holidays and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Winter holidays 2021;
 - ensure the programme provides eligible children with nutritious meal a day and daily physical activities that meet the required standards; and
 - incorporate within the programme nutritional education, training and advice for parents/carers, including signposting to other services and support that would benefit the children who attend their provision and their families.
6. The DfE sets out the expectation for each local authority to map existing holiday activities provision, carry out a procurement process, award funding, provide support to providers and promote development of sustainable provision. Each local authority awarded the funding is expected to provide a regular performance report to the DfE in line with the terms and conditions of the grant.

Main Considerations for the Panel

7. Overview of the programme model of delivery and impact

Enfield Council has assumed responsibility for coordination of delivery arrangements. It has used a proportion of the grant, (up to 10% allowed), to support coordination of the programme, using available internal capacity as well as appointing a locum into the coordinator's role. A partnership steering group has been established to ensure:

- the delivery of the programme is supported by good local governance arrangements;
- effective partnership work; and
- a coordinated approach that maximises capacity within the providers' market and use of existing resources

The partnership steering group has been meeting on a regular basis since March 2021 and includes internal Council departments, (public health, early years, youth services, education and communication departments), alongside external partners such as third sector and schools' representatives.

The option of outsourcing the coordination and delivery of the programme on behalf of Enfield to a third party was considered. However, given the capacity within the local providers' market and the DfE requirements to mobilise the programme swiftly, this was not deemed viable. Enfield Council was well placed to coordinate and lead on the delivery of the programme due to the following:

- having experience of delivering similar programmes and capacity to scale these programmes up such as Summer University;
- working closely with schools who were well placed to identify and reach children eligible for free school meals; and
- expertise of public health to promote healthy living

The distribution of funding was based on the local free school meal population profile from Oct 2020, when there were 12,499 children in receipt of free school meals consisting of:

- primary school age 7328 (59%)
- secondary school age 5,171 (41%)

8.Easter programme delivery performance

The Easter HAF programme was mobilised successfully at very short notice. A small-scale delivery was piloted, tapping into existing well-established school partnerships, (Edmonton Community Partnership, Enfield Town Schools Partnership and Oasis Community Hub), and the Youth Development Service.

Overall, 556 children and young people attended the Easter programme that provided diverse activities and the provision of hot food. Of the 556 children, there were:

- 385 primary school age children; and
- 171 secondary school age children

The programme of diverse range of activities was delivered across 15 locations over a nine-day period, (see table 1 in the Appendix). Activities were delivered face to face with Covid safety measures in place.

Children and young people have been able to access and enjoy a range of enriching activities such as : graffiti art, football workshops, dance, photography, rap and rhyme, music videos, team building, tie-dye fashion, canvas arts, design and create, creative writing, space themed activities, Brazilian soccer, circus skills, multi sports, track and field athletics, dodge ball, gymnastics, innovative games, performing arts workshops, drama games, trips to the park, martial arts, canal walk and swimming. Providers put in place extra support and tailored activities for children with additional needs.

Catering was provided by external companies as we did not have a centralised catering offer. A key challenge was the cost of catering and complying with school food standards. Learning taken forward from the Easter programme was

to source a central food provider to achieve economies of scale and consistent food quality.

Examples of feedback from some of the parents:

“I just wanted to say that [Child’s name] absolutely enjoyed the camp so much he wanted to attend everyday! He would come home and tell me about all the activities he did and the new friends he made.”

“Thanks for organising the camp. I have to say I was quite nervous sending [Child’s name] as he is only in reception and not many kids from his class were going on the days he was. Despite my reservations he had a great time and was excited about coming back for future camps. He said everyone was very friendly and he liked the activities and getting to spend time with older children. He has already told friends in his class to come next time!”

Key challenges within the implementation of the Easter programme delivery included:

- a lack of sufficient lead up time to allow good planning
- an initial lack of guidance provided by the DfE to local authorities; and
- a lack of support for LAs due to a delay in the DfE’s procurement of the contractor to provide this function.

Many Local Authorities opted out of the Easter delivery as there was not enough lead up time. Enfield Council embraced the challenges and used the Easter to pilot a small-scale programme to inform summer delivery arrangements

9. Summer programme delivery performance

The invitation of expression of interest for potential providers to deliver the HAF summer programme was disseminated through the following mechanisms:

- Enfield Council website
- Early Years communication channels and links with the existing private holiday club providers
- Headteachers forums to schools
- Briefing workshops for potential providers
- Enfield Voluntary Action Newsletter
- Steering group members contacts

In total, 21 bids were received. The bids were assessed by a panel against the requirements from the DfE. 19 providers were selected to deliver the programme.

In total, 32,581 free holiday activities spaces were created. We had capacity to cater for 2,036 individual children and young people based on an entitlement of 16 days for each child and young person in receipt of free school meals.

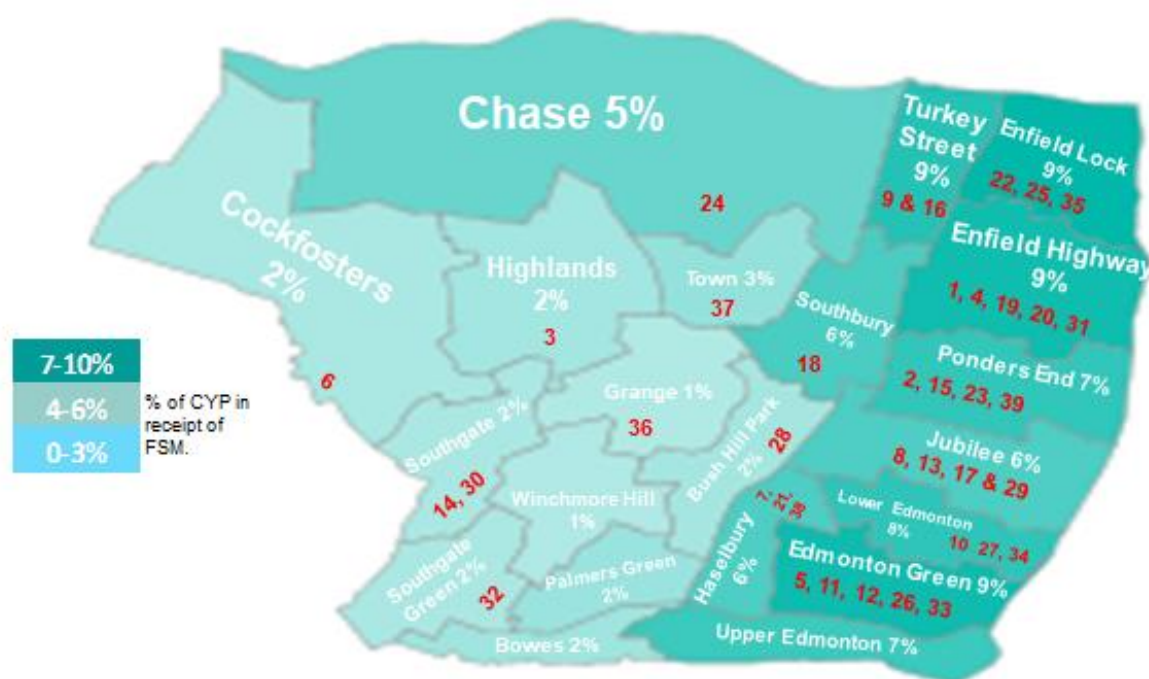
Our evaluation highlights 2,739 eligible children and young people accessed the provision during the summer. This included 1,935 children from primary school and 804 young people of secondary school age. The programme reached 598 children with SEND needs. Each child or young person attended for an average of 4 days a week.

Providers carried out their own local marketing that was supported by the Council's centralised marketing campaign that included:

- digital brochure shared with all schools
- the hub
- Facebook
- Enfield Council website
- Enfield Voluntary Action
- Steering group members contact list

The HAF programme was predominantly made available in the wards with the highest prevalence of children eligible for free school meals. The map* below lists all the HAF locations and providers. See table 2 in the appendix for the index of the providers.

Map of HAF programmes



* the % on the map represents the distribution of the children eligible for free school meals. The numbers in red are linked to the index of the providers delivering the provision which can be found in the table 2 in the appendix.

The Summer HAF programme provided a diverse range of healthy and enriching activities. Example of the diversity of activities are reflected in the table 3 in the appendix.

Enfield Catering service provided meals and snacks to 60% of providers. All food from Enfield Catering met the School Food Standard. The other providers used private caterers.

The Felix Project was used to support 15 providers with weekly food deliveries. The providers used some of the Felix delivered food for cooking with children and young people and the rest was given to families to take home. The Felix project is a London-based food redistribution waste charity who rescues surplus food, which is good quality and nutritious. This food is then distributed to schools, frontline charities and holiday programmes.

All providers delivered daily nutritional education to the children and young people and weekly sessions to parents / carers. Weekly newsletters were also distributed to parents, including recipes, healthy living tips and signposting to support services such as food banks and housing support. All providers distributed to parents the 'Worrying about Money' leaflet designed in partnership by Public Health.

Examples of feedback:

"They are more relaxed and calmer – they love to come home and tell me what they have been getting up to." (Parent)

"One of my favourite things to do is to learn about the calories... Also, the fitness is one of my favourites." (Young person)

"Most children have more confidence during PE lessons, children are excited to speak to other children to tell them what they did over the summer, which helps with communication skills." (Sports coach)

Key challenges within the delivery of the summer HAF programme were:

- The pandemic impact on the attendance and delivery of the provision
- Capacity within the local providers market to deliver the ambitious programme in line with the specification of the DfE
- Hot food provision – meeting the needs of all stakeholders

Overall, the summer programme was a success, positively engaging the eligible children and their families, meeting the DfE's expectation of 20% of reach.

10. Quality assurance

A comprehensive quality assurance process was implemented to ensure the programme was delivered to required standards. The following measures were put in place:

- Assessment of providers' systems and processes to run the programme such as safeguarding policies and seeking references
- Provision of workshops to brief providers on the required standards and providing them with guidance and support
- Robust contractual arrangements in place for each provider setting out the parameters of the programme
- Quality assurance visits during the summer programme to all providers (95% of provision was quality assured)
- Weekly monitoring data submissions required from all providers
- Evaluation has been sent to all providers to inform learning and future programme coordination and delivery improvements

We will be building an expectation on providers to consistently seek feedback from children and their families participating in the programme to inform future service delivery. Whilst this is not a current expectation from the DfE, we are committed to involve children and their families in co-production and co-design of future service offer.

11. Winter holiday planning

Evaluation of the providers' capacity to deliver the winter programme is currently being undertaken through discussion and the provider's survey. The steering group is meeting regularly to drive the planning and coordination of the winter programme delivery.

12. Conclusions

Overall, the programme benefited a significant number of children in need of support. The summer programme was successful in engaging 22% of the eligible cohort of children, exceeding the DfE's expectations to reach at least 20% of children and young people eligible for free school meals. The programme has delivered the following positive outcomes:

- support with children from vulnerable families;
- enriching and diversionary activities thus reducing boredom during the summer holiday, particularly for those children who could otherwise engage in risky behaviour; and
- reducing food poverty and hunger during the school holidays.

Substantial learning has been taken from the pilot and summer delivery and will lead to further developments and improvements for the winter and future programmes. The steering group will embrace feedback from the DfE and seek learning from best practice across the country.

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Appendix

Table 1

Location	Ward
Oasis Academy Hadley	Ponders End
Oasis Academy Enfield	Enfield Lock
Oasis Community Hub	Ponders End
Fleecefield Primary School	Edmonton Green
Houndsfield Primary School	Jubilee
Wilbury Primary School	Upper Edmonton
Millfield Theatre	Haselbury
Bush Hill Park Primary School	Southbury
St Andrews Enfield	Town
De Bohun Primary School	Cockfosters
Merryhills Primary School	Highlands
Craig Park Youth Centre	Edmonton Green
Croyland Youth Centre	Lower Edmonton
Ponders End Youth Centre	Ponders End
Alan Pullinger Youth Centre	Southgate

Table 2

1.	Anytime childcare	14.	Get with the kids vibe	27.	Success Club - Eldon School
2.	Axis Tuition	15.	Heron Hall Academy	28.	Time for Change
3.	Blanco - Merryhills School	16.	Honilands School	29.	Woodpecker Academy
4.	Blue Bears	17.	Houndsfield School	30.	Allan Pullinger Youth Centre
5.	Brettenham School	18.	Hub Sports -Bush Hill Park School	31.	Bell Lane Youth Centre
6.	Centre 404 - Oaktree School	19.	Kingfisher Academy	32.	Broomfield Park
7.	Churchfield School	20.	Learning Hive - Brimsdown School	33.	Craig Park Youth Centre
8.	Cuckoo Hall Academy	21.	Millfield Theatre	34.	Croyland Youth Centre
9.	Enfield Heights Academy	22.	Oasis Academy Enfield	35.	Enact Community Centre
10.	Eldon School	23.	Oasis Academy Hadley	36.	Enfield Town Library
11.	Fleecefield School	24.	Pro Touch - Orchardside School	37.	Enfield Town Park
1	Fusion -Edmonton	25.	Sport Works - Keys	38.	Millfied House

2.	Leisure Centre		Meadow School		
1 3.	Galliard School	26.	St John & St James School	39.	Ponders End Youth Centre

Note: blue highlighted includes delivery sights for Summer University.

Table 3

Physical activity	Healthy eating and wellbeing	Arts/craft	Performing arts	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blindfold football • Kayaking • Wheelchair basketball • Inflatables • Football • Basketball • Golf • Table tennis • Volleyball • Sports Leadership intro • Swimming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoga • Cooking • Produce a cookbook • Mindfulness • Sensory blindfold activity • Blind food tasting • Poetry • Healthy eating on a budget • Food quizzes • Board games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soap making • Fidget spinner making • Lavender doorstops • Tie-dye socks! • Lego workshops • Scent making • Spray can art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music workshop • Circus skills • Drama workshop • Rap & rhyme • Music band • Public speaking skills • Film making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day trips to parks, golf club, crazy golf, Herts Young Mariners, Go Ape • Python coding • First aid • Fire engine visit • Mad Science