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#### DARLINGTON HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

The Darlington Holiday Activities & Food Programme (HAF) offered places to those children and young people in receipt of benefit related free school meals at Easter, Summer and Christmas 2023.

The aims of the HAF programme were to encourage children and young people to:

- Eat healthier over the school holidays
- Be active during the school holidays
- \* Take part in enriching and engaging activities, have fun and meet new friends
- Fell safe and secure
- Develop a greater understanding of food, health and nutrition
- Be engaged with school and other local services









In Darlington we have over 4,000 children on benefit related free school meals. In 2023 The HAF Programme offered the equivalent of 7 weeks provision for eligible children and young people during the specific holiday periods, Easter, Summer and Christmas.

To enable us to reach the maximum amount of children eligible, we undertook a mapping exercise to guarantee an excellent geographical spread.

Looking back on our 2023 programmes, we are extremely pleased with the high-quality provision offered to the children and young people of Darlington.









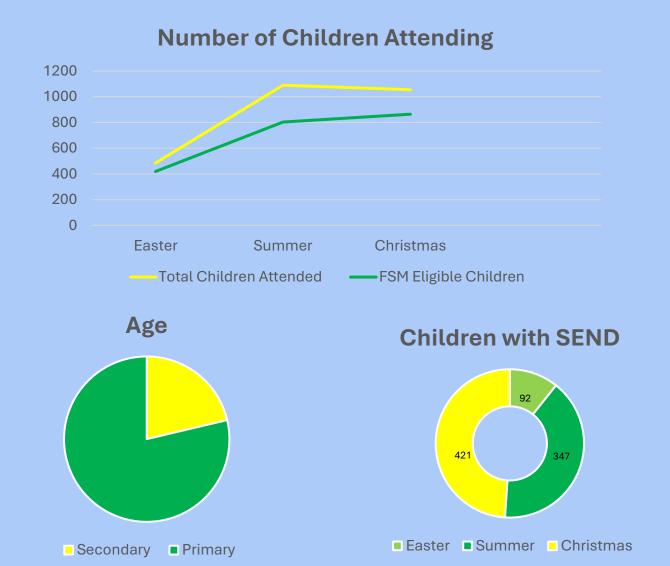


#### **Key Data and Information**

4,397 children and young people within Darlington were eligible for benefit related free school meals in 2023/2024.

The HAF provision achieved the following:











#### **Providers**

Darlington HAF worked with providers to ensure a varied and exciting programme for the children and your people. These providers were made up of local sports clubs, charities, local food companies, private organisations and companies.



Providers delivered high quality physical or enrichment activities during the programme and quality assurance visits were carried out on each provider to ensure the provision was in line with the DfE requirements.

Providers signpost and refer families to services within the town.







# **Programme Range**

## **Physical Activities**

Skate Park

Local organisations supported the physical activity delivery, we partnered up with 4motion Skate Park, IBEX Bouldering, DC Bowl and NE Wake Park amongst others

Golf Bowling

Multi Skills

Martial Arts

**Tennis** American Football

Football

High Ropes

Bouldering

Archery

**Foot Golf** 

Water Park

Dance

Surfing



Cricket







## **Programme Range**

## **Enriching Activities Activities**

Drama

**Pottery Painting** 

Cooking Classes

Theatre Trips

Gaming Lounge

Escape Room

**Music Sessions** 

Dogs Trust

Circus School

**Forest School** 

**Travelling Pantomimes** 

**STEM Based Activities** 

Animal Encounters

Arts & Crafts

Feedback from a pantomime trip

Just to say thank you again for the pantomime trip yesterday. He hadn't been to a big one before, absolutely loved it, and has been talking constantly about it ever since. He was amazed to be in the second row too.

Thank you again and I hope you and all the team have a lovely Christmas.







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Police Dogs





#### **Nutritional Education & Food**

Each programme offered a healthy meal which met the school food standards. Menus were prepared with the food providers before each provision and changes made, as necessary. Fruit was provided at each programme and supermarkets donated healthy snacks to the scheme which we shared out between the programmes so the children could have a morning snack.

Food bags were provided for the children and young people to take home which included ingredients to make a healthy meal and desert as well as some household essentials.



Smoothie making and Cookery classes were offered as part of the programme



HAF Facilitators delivered nutritional education to the children and young people attending and information was sent home to the families.









#### **Quotes and Feedback**

I just wanted to say that Move More this week and last week has been really good. Especially with the animal visits and outdoor activities. Both my children have really enjoyed it and its made me feel a little less guilty about not being able to do much with them over the holidays this year with the rising costs. The food bag today was hugely appreciated and all things we can use which is a huge help.

So thanks to all involved.

The holiday clubs have been amazing this year. Our weather has been poor so the activities have been a blessing. All staff have been so helpful and kind. My children love them.

The amount of different activities I personally couldn't provide. They have made so many memories and experienced things they would of never done, achieving so much and giving them confidence. Food also provided!!

Please keep it going. The funding you get is essential for children these days who are constantly put in front of technology

We'll done to you all:)

I'd just like to give some positive feedback for the holiday club my children have attended yesterday and today.

My twins who are both autistic have attended the club at The Hippodrome and have thoroughly enjoyed it. Usually they struggle with these sorts of activities and only last the first day, they've both came away extremely happy and are keen to return tomorrow. The buffet style lunch has also been welcomed by both as due to their condition they can be extremely rigid when it comes to food. It's a shame it was only on for the 3 days this week, I hope for future holidays you would consider having more sessions there as it's been good for my children - the surroundings seem to be more comfortable for them. It's nice to see them attending something that they would usually avoid.

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#### **Funding**

Darlington Borough Council received £468,150 from the Department of Education to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food programme. The grant is calculated based on the number of children eligible for and in receipt of benefits-related free school meals in Darlington.

The DfE recognises that there are administration cost with setting up and running the HAF programme. As such, local councils are able to use up to 10% of their total allowance to cover such costs.

As the number of Free School Meal recipients continue to grow, there is huge need for a programme like HAF that brings young people together, promotes healthy eating & being active, develops social inclusion and connects families with other services.











# **Key Information and 2024 Strategies**

Darlington Holiday and Activities & Food Programme is managed by the Move More Team, there is a dedicated team in place to develop and deliver the programme.

Our steering group is made of the Move More team, local councillors and partners.

Details of the HAF programme 2024 will be sent out to eligible families by their school. The information will contain a unique code which will be required to book onto events.

For any information on Darlington's HAF Programme please visit www.darlington.gov.uk/HAF

#### Plans for HAF 2024

- Continue to develop the HAF Programme
- Increase the reach, engage as many eligible FSM children as possible
- Increase our social media presence within the town & promotion of the programme
- Develop the SEND offer
- Expand steering group to include more partners and school staff for a varied approach
- Source additional funding to enhance the HAF offer
- Work with more providers to strengthen the variety of the programme
- Ensure the HAF programme supports the wider outcomes and priorities within the town.





