

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	22 June 2022
Executive Member:	Councillor Leanne Feeley – Executive Member (Education and Achievement)
Reporting Officer:	Tony DeCrop - Assistant Director of Children's Services
Subject:	HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD FUNDING GRANT (HAF)
Report Summary:	The report sets out proposals to agree the spending for the continued HAF Grant, which has been allocated to the Local Authority from the DfE to fund local co-ordination of free holiday activities and healthy food for disadvantaged children during 2022 (covering Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays). This is a continuation of the funding allocation received 2021. As this is a continuation of funding, the grant is also included at Budget setting meeting
Recommendations:	That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The HAF grant to be spent on supporting vulnerable families who are eligible for 'free school meals' in the holiday period. (ii) To continue the secondment for the HAF coordinator, from Active Tameside, to oversee the project and coordinate activity and planning for school holiday periods. (iii) To continue with the current arrangements with Active Tameside to deliver activity and to deliver the food element with the nutrition team across the holiday periods. (iv) That the remaining allocation for 2022/23 to be spent on HAF project over the holiday periods as outlined within the HAF grant conditions. (v) TMBC to pay external providers that are on the preferred provider list for delivery of the programme through the school holidays 2022.
Corporate Plan:	Supporting low income households, particularly low income families with children links to all of the priorities within the Corporate Plan which are impacted upon by Covid.
Policy Implications:	The proposal aligns to the Councils key policies in supporting the most vulnerable families in our community
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	The DfE have confirmed the extension of the HAF grant 22 December 2022 with an allocation of £1.175m. The activity in this report will all be need to be managed from within the allocated grant.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	This report is proposing an extension to the arrangements already in place for the initial delivery of the HAF grant. Those arrangements were put in place on a short term basis in ensure that the maximum benefit could be derived from the funding. The project officers need to ensure that they continue to work

closely with STaR to ensure that the arrangements are compliant and fit for purpose.

The project officers also need to ensure that the terms of the grant agreement are complied with. Legal services have not been sighted on the terms of the grant agreement from the DfE but no doubt there will be clawback provisions in relation to misuse of the funds and poor management. Therefore robust management and monitoring is essential.

Risk Management:

The risk is that we have only secured further funding for 12 month and if we don't continue with the current offer then we are at risk at having the grant allocation will be withdrawn or do not deliver. To approve the exemption request mean that we can continue to work with partners to build upon the existing provision which has proven to be successful to date

Access to Information:

Access to any information in relation to this paper can be inspected by contacting Lorraine Hopkins, Head of Early Help, Early Years & Neighbourhoods

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Lorraine Hopkins, Head of Early Help, Early Years & Neighbourhoods



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1. INTRODUCTION

Holiday Activity and Food Grant

- 1.1 On 8 November 2020, the government announced that the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme, which has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018 will be expanded across the whole of England in 2021.
- 1.2 Tameside was allocated **£1,162,030** to deliver the requirements of the HAF programme 2021.
- 1.3 The programme was successfully delivered and outcomes met. In October the DfE announced further funding was to be allocated to existing Local Authorities to cover one week at Easter, 4 weeks over summer and one week at Christmas holidays in 2022.
- 1.4 Tameside 2022 allocation is **£1,174,560**.
- 1.5 All children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals are eligible .

2. CONDITION OF GRANT (APPENDIX 1)

- 2.1 Payments will be made by the Department for Education at the following milestones
 - A payment of up to 80% of the Authority's total 2022/2023 allocation will be made in April 2022 to the Authority by the Department following satisfactory receipt by 1 March 2022 of a report to the Department setting out:
 - How the Authority's 2022/2023 programme will work
 - How many children the Authority expects to work with in 2022/23
 - A payment of up to the remaining 20% of the Authority's total 2022/23 allocation will be made in April 2023 to the Authority by the Department following satisfactory submission to the Department by 15 February 2023 of a report setting out:
 - The actual number of children the Authority worked with during delivery of the programme at Easter, summer and Christmas in 2022.
- 2.2 DfE specify that the holiday club places will be available for the equivalent of at least 4 hours a day, 4 days a week, 6 weeks a year. This covers four weeks in the summer, plus a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays.
- 2.3 Local authorities have flexibility about how they spend this grant and deliver this provision to best serve the needs of the children and families in their areas
- 2.4 DfE recognise and greatly value the important role that community, voluntary organisations have played in the delivery of support for families over COVID, and holidays and the DfE encourage all local authorities to work with a wide range of partners in the delivery of the programme.
- 2.5 Where LAs work with community and voluntary organisations whether as a coordinator or as a delivery partner, the DfE expect this to be done on a cost recovery basis so that these organisations are fully funded for the work they undertake.
- 2.6 The clubs should meet the DfE programme standards (as set out in the published guidance) will meet the following core aims and objectives:
 - **Healthy meals:** holiday clubs must provide at least one healthy meal a day and must meet the School Food Standards throughout the day.
 - **Enriching activities:** holiday clubs must provide fun and enriching activities that provide children with opportunities to develop or consolidate skills or knowledge, to consolidate existing skills and knowledge. Clubs must also provide physical activities which meet the Physical Activity Guidelines on a daily basis.
 - **Nutritional education:** holiday clubs must improve children's knowledge and awareness

of healthy eating and offer advice and training to parents on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious and low-cost food.

- **Signposting and referrals:** clubs must be able to provide information, signposting or referrals to other services and support that would benefit the children who attend their provision and their families.
- **Policies and procedures:** clubs must be able to demonstrate and explain their safeguarding arrangements and have relevant and appropriate policies and procedures in place in relation to: safeguarding, health and safety, insurance, accessibility and inclusiveness. Where appropriate, clubs must also be compliant with the Ofsted requirements for working with children.

2.7 The Local Authority can spend up to 10% of its funding on its administration costs for the local coordination of the Programme. At least 90% of the funding must be spent on the provision of free holiday club places & nutritional support for eligible children.

2.8 The DfE recognise that due to the limited timescales Local Authorities are taking various approaches across Greater Manchester and England in how they plan to deliver on the HAF programme.

3. PROPOSED TAMESIDE OFFER

3.2 In Tameside we have established a multi- agency steering group to oversee and support the implementation of the HAF programme.

3.1 A HAF coordinator secondment to Tameside MBC from Active Tameside has been appointed. The HAF coordinator works with schools and providers across Tameside to develop a plan to enable the full delivery of the programme to all eligible families.

3.2 In addition, the post will identify gaps within workforce development, put a plan in place to ensure the activities become embedded and sustainable going forward.

3.3 The current success of the programme is aligned to the coordinator having an existing understanding of Tameside offer and relationships with partners and schools.

3.4 Active Tameside are already a key partner within the delivery of the programme and we are requesting this to continue with the grant arrangement coming to the Local Authority from the DfE and work with Active to implement the programme to ensure the consistency and success of the programme. This will ensure all targets and outcomes are met to ensure the funding is drawn down.

3.5 On advice from STAR a Preferred Provider list has now been established and the HAF coordinator will continue to work with STAR procurement to further develop the preferred provider list. This will ensure that all aspects of the criteria to enable the Local Authority to purchase free places for children and young people across the school holidays are met and are fully compliant.

3.6 This approach will allow us to continue to deliver an enhanced offer that will reach all eligible families the given time frame and provide Tameside with a robust plan for 2022 school holidays . This will also allow us to work around sustainability longer term for vulnerable families

3.7 The coordinator will be responsible for the data collection and report requirements of the funding alongside the named responsible officer within the Local Authority

3.8 The Head of Service for EH,EY & N will continue to oversee the program and manage the HAF coordinator to ensure that it complies with the terms of the grant agreement. In addition the HAF multi agency steering group, which has TMBC finance representation, will continue to

agree holiday provisions and have oversight of the delivery planning through bi-monthly meetings to ensure transparency and robust management and monitoring is essential

3.9 The performance reporting and monitoring will also continue to be through TMBC Childrens Leadership team on a quarterly basis.

4. RISKS & MITIGATION

4.1 A number of risks sit around the distribution of the grant within the timeframes given:-

- Sufficiency of places
 - We will be working in partnership with schools, community clubs and faith organisations to support the capacity and delivery across the Borough. Targeting identified areas following the mapping.
- All eligible families accessing the support
 - There will be a co-production to develop varied accessible offer across the Borough; Games bags, videos, nutritional foods and holiday provision across the age span.
- Sustainability
 - As part of the project planning there will be additional 'in kind' contributions from Active Tameside, Youth services and Early Help to support sustainability of delivery (approximately £250,000).
 - This was support from a range of partners to developing the programme from existing resources
 - We are looking to develop a training and development opportunity for a number of KS4 young people to be the workforce of the future
- Procurement
 - We will continue to work with STAR procurement to establish a Preferred Provider list of suitable quality providers that can deliver across Tameside against the HAF criteria

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 As set out on the front of this report