

HAF

IN HARROW



Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) **Programme for HARROW**

MID-YEAR 2023 REPORT



Department
for Education



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Easter Programme Summary

In total, we distributed **£107,217 in direct grants** for the HAF Easter 2023 programme. Grants were awarded to **23 organisations** with varying grant sizes. This offered a wide range of opportunities right across Harrow targeted a diverse range of children and young people, including Romanian, Iranian, Afghan and Tamil communities.

Our Easter programme was a success, with more participants (1931) engaged compared to last year (1482). We were expecting around 1000 children and young people to fill the HAF funded spaces, and are pleased to say more than 1400 spaces were filled with a few left to spare. We continue to grow our reach every year and this Easter demonstrates that we continue to meet (and exceed) targets.

This year we introduced secondary school age drop-in sessions, allowing providers more flexibility and enabling secondary-aged young people to have more control over their participation in the programme. This was well received and resulted in a 27% increase in attendance.

We continue to strengthen our relationships with SEND specialist schools and providers. We offered more places for SEND provision this Easter and had great success in attracting 370 young people with SEND. This is more than double the number of young people that participated in Easter 2022 (166), testament to our dedication to providing quality SEND education and support.

Easter 2023 was delivered by:

10

YHF Member organisations

5

YHF Associate members

7

Private providers

1

School

The programme supported:

1931

Children and young people in total

1556

Primary

375

Secondary

373

– SEND

Easter Programme Summary

The DfE required a minimum of 16 hours provision over 3 days this Easter, and Harrow provided:

3372

total number of days attended by FSM eligible primary-aged participants

1576

total number of days attended by FSM eligible secondary-aged participants

We are committed to making the sign up process for HAF as accessible and straightforward as possible for parents and carers. We made changes on YHF's HAF website pages to reflect the feedback and learning from previous programmes and will continue to do so for future programmes. From 1 March to 30 April 2023, we increased engagement on our website for HAF related pages and enquiries as follows:

15200

More HAF page views this period compared to HAF Easter 2022, this is almost double the number of page views received

7x

More project enquiries through HAF pages this period compared (756) to HAF Easter 2022 (100)

40

% more unique visitors to the HAF pages this period (9169) compared to HAF Easter 2022 (3680)

Our focus for enhancing future HAF programmes

We are planning to launch a new booking management system to help monitor all the requests made to our providers and ensure they respond in a timely manner. More details about the trial and results will be included in the HAF Summer programme impact report.

We also hope to increase the SEND offer through working with specialist schools and companies.

Summer Programme Summary

We funded **£360,000 in direct grants** for the HAF Summer 2023 programme. These grants were allocated to 23 diverse organisations, each receiving varying grant amounts. This funding facilitated the creation of more than **15,460 programme slots**, each offering a minimum of six hours of provision, including a nutritious meal. The Summer HAF programme spanned across Harrow reaching children and young people and their families from different backgrounds that make up the Harrow Borough.

During this programme, more than 2422 children and young people attended several days over their summer holidays. While the HAF programme has historically focused on supporting children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), thanks to match funding from private donors such as the DVS Foundation and Help Harrow, we were able to allocate 221 programme slots for vulnerable children and young people who do not meet the FSM criteria but benefit greatly from this opportunity.

Our work to engage more secondary school aged young people is gradually progressing, having introduced the more flexible offer to providers in Easter of this year. This Summer, we are pleased with having 23% of participants from the secondary school age group. This is a noteworthy percentage, considering that there are a higher number of primary pupils on FSM than in secondary school.

We also piloted a new central booking system, which provided us with improved oversight of bookings. This allowed us to prevent double bookings, manage waiting lists efficiently, and monitor response times.

Summer 2023 was delivered by:

14

YHF Member organisations

4

YHF Associate members

4

Private providers

1

School

The programme supported:

2422

Children and young people in total

2022

Primary

400

Secondary

198

– SEND



Summer Programme Summary

The DfE required a minimum 64 hours across the holiday period. DfE expected programmes to operate over a minimum of 10 days (they do not need to be consecutive and can be spread across the full holiday period) but must be NO LESS than 4 hours per day and include a meal. Harrow provided:

69.7

hrs on average for primary-aged participants

19313

total number of days attended by FSM eligible primary-aged participants

59

hrs on average for secondary-aged participants

3920

total number of days attended by FSM eligible secondary-aged participants

We continue to strengthen relationships with SEND specialist schools and providers, although this remains an area where challenges persist. Although we are pleased with the number of SEND children and young people that participated this Summer, we are constantly striving to increase engagement with this group given that many families with disabled children have so little respite or choice. The main challenge centers around identifying suitable provision capable of accommodating individuals with the highest level of needs. Factors such as individual risk assessments, budget constraints, and the scarcity of highly trained staff contribute to the complexities of engaging SEND provision. Our efforts to collaborate with organisations that offer 'short breaks' comes with the additional challenge of avoiding duplicate funding, which we continue to address.

12

% of the total children and young people reached are with SEND

Summer Programme Summary

Piloting the new HAF booking system

We made significant changes on YHF's HAF website pages to reflect the feedback and learning from previous programmes. This involved creating a new system to be able to control our bookings, cancellations, and double bookings. This system resulted in positive results and benefited both YHF and our HAF service providers.

We received a total of 458 booking requests on our new HAF booking system. Of those 187 were double-booking requests from 70 people; most of these people sent two bookings, but on one rare occasion we received 8 requests from the same user. We managed to avoid all of the double-booking requests under this new system.

Additionally, the new booking system allowed us to actively manage the issue of no-shows and cancellations. There were 162 no-shows and we managed to reallocate 66 spaces to individuals on waiting lists, which resulted in only 96 unused slots. We are committed to bringing this number down as we continue to use the new booking system.

8297

Total YHF HAF project page visits during Summer 2023 compared to 4931 page visits during Summer 2022, this is almost double the number of page visits received

2x

Almost double the number of users engaged with YHF's HAF webpages this year (11018) compared to Summer 2022 (5672)

812

project enquiries compared to 582 enquiries during HAF Summer 2022

Harrow Outcomes

Eat more healthily (hot meals where possible)

On average our children and young people had more than 4 days' provision all of which included a nutritious lunch for our Easter programme, and minimum of 10 days provision for our Summer programme, which also included hot nutritious meals. Furthermore, just over 70% of our funded programmes also included breakfast and regular healthy snacks trying new foods, with a focus on different types of fruits - some fruits that the participants have never had access to before. HAF programmes also included learning and group discussion on the importance of healthy eating.

Be more active

All our HAF participants have a minimum of 2 hours of physical activities or more at each session. They were encouraged to try new sports and new games designed to keep them active. During Summer, we observed that some children and young people were not keen on traditional sports. To overcome this participation barrier, our HAF providers creatively introduced a range of captivating games to ensure that children and young people enthusiastically engaged in over two hours of physical activity, often without even realising.

Take part in engaging and enriching activities

Our local providers there is an extensive variety of activities to suit everyone. All of our programmes promote healthy eating and being physically active. Children and young people tried new foods, made new friends, played sport, got involved in singing, dancing and exploring the great outdoors. One of our SEND schools working with high level needs used a company specialising in sailing over Easter which offered them a unique and amazing experience.

Be safe and not isolated

Even now the most common feedback from young people on what they enjoyed most from the HAF programme is meeting new people and making new friends. They are happy not to be at home and want to be trying new things, and creating fantastic memories. The ongoing cost of living crisis has significantly affected a substantial portion of our community and their living environments. The additional stress stemming from these financial challenges is impacting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. These issues reinforce the importance of HAF programmes and for more face-to-face interaction.

Have greater knowledge of health and nutrition

Harrow HAF providers have made a lot of effort to improve their snack and lunch provision. Our HAF programmes are designed to offer a wide range of activities and enjoyable games that educate our children and young people about healthy lifestyle. All funded programmes have a daily health and nutrition theme in their scheduled timetables. Additionally, we have supported parents and carers to have access to food banks and created food videos on cooking on a budget. YHF continues to provide Health Activity Packs to our HAF providers in Harrow. Additionally, for the first time over Summer, we introduced games aimed at promoting and enhancing the mental wellbeing of children and young people.

What did children, young people, parents and carers say about Easter?

Here are some snippets of what children, young people, parents and carers fed back to our HAF providers regarding the Easter programme:

"I loved the camp, I could play with my friends. I loved the smoothie making, it was good. Coming to Cedars allows me to be sporty"

Easter 2023 Participant

"The activity was very beneficial for our daughter, and it offered break in the routine during the Easter holidays. She was very enthusiastic about the sessions and attended with great level of engagement. Leroy was able to get the message across about the importance of good nutrition and physical activity and we see positive change in our child's behaviour and attitude following the sessions."

Parents of Easter 2023 participant, aged 15

"We appreciate what your organisation is doing to help us cope in this difficult times hard to deal with, we as a family are extremely grateful"

Mum of 2 Easter 2023 attendees

"I enjoyed the cooking with chef Doug, and how to make the vegetable cakes"

Easter 2023 Participant

"I loved coming and seeing my friends again from last time. Oxygen was really fun, and I liked making my own pizza"

Easter 2023 Participant

"The Beacon Centre PlayScheme has been a lifeline for my children."

Parent of Easter 2023 participant

Disclaimer: The quotes presented are directly sourced from the participants and their families, and have been included in their original form without any editing. The authenticity and accuracy of the quotes are maintained as per the participant's expressions, hence might contain lack of context and some grammatical errors.

What did children, young people, parents and carers say about Summer?

Here are some snippets of what children, young people, parents and carers fed back to our HAF providers regarding the Summer programme:

"We are very happy indeed with the programme felt very welcomed and included, we are not a Muslim family and still felt very welcome and this meant so much to us."

Parent of Summer 2023 participant

"Thank you to you and all of your team for what you have put on for the kids. I have never been able to afford to send them on camps and this one is just amazing. My kids have come home every day so excited to tell me all about the activities they have done that day."

Parent of Summer 2023 participant

"Alsa and Cyra came last year to the summer workshops, they absolutely loved it and couldn't wait to get back this year. I came to the show on Friday I have never seen such a brilliant show and just after two weeks."

Parent of 2 Summer 2023 participants

"My favourite part of playscheme was going to Go ape at Black Park because at first I was scared because the nets were high up but I got used to it and got less scared."

Summer 2023 participant

"I loved the soft play bus wouldn't leave and came in the next day asking if the soft play bus was there."

Summer 2023 participant

"I never go to the cinema – it is too expensive – I love this!"

Summer 2023 participant

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Gray Family

“

“It didn’t matter that we’d not been on a holiday, because he had such a good summer”

”

Paula Gray is grandparent and guardian to Kye, who is 13 years old and lives in Harrow.

Kye had a great experience with HAF last year, and so he was excited to spend another Summer with Metropolitan Police’s Programme in Harrow.

“It’s such a great camp, he gets to try so many things he hasn’t before and I’m so happy he’s active and having fun.”

Paula is registered disabled and so she knew she would struggle to give Kye an active summer with fun and adventure.

“If I didn’t have HAF, Kye would have spent the summer on his Xbox. To know that he was having a great time, making friends and coming home happy, just meant everything to me.”

Kye also attended St Albans camp, and he walked in not knowing anyone else there.

“He was nervous about not knowing anyone, but the camp leader was so aware and supportive that it didn’t take long for Kye to really come out of his shell.”

The food provision was particularly helpful for Paula this year – as it meant that she didn’t have to provide it.

“It was great because it was easier, and I also had the reassurance that he was eating healthy and not overeating and snacking on rubbish, which is what he’d be doing if he had been at home.”

Kye had so much fun because of HAF that Paula says..

“it didn’t matter that we didn’t have a holiday this Summer!”

Kye attended Metropolitan Police Camp and St Albans Summer Camp

Shared Learning from Easter

Strengthening support for SEND, has led to a significant increase in engagement and impact

We continue to enhance our support for individuals with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including establishing stronger connections with specialist schools. In this regard, a total of 370 attendees from the SEND community participated in the program. This is more than double the number of young people that participated in Easter 2022 (166), testament to our dedication to providing quality SEND education and support.

Our HAF providers continued their partnerships with local supermarkets and charities for food waste reduction

Although YHF and Harrow Council do not work directly with supermarkets, we encourage HAF providers who are delivering the programme to connect with their local stores. Almost 90% of our organisations have partnerships with local supermarkets. Additionally, London's Community Kitchen (who delivered programmes this Easter and will be our key food partner for HAF summer 2023) strive for zero food waste and have connections with supermarkets as well as with Amazon Fresh. They are also involved in Harrow Council's food hub/food bank project.

Filling bookings took more time than anticipated

The process of filling spaces and bookings took more time than anticipated. This led to some constructive feedback from organisations expressing their concerns around the system and management. This is one of our core focuses for HAF Summer. Additionally, the timing of Ramadan coincided with the holiday period, affecting the overall scheduling. To address this, secondary school age drop-ins were introduced, offering providers greater flexibility and accommodating a larger proportion of attendees. This was well received and resulted in a 27% increase in attendance.

Focus in the future

We hope to increase the SEND offer through working with a specialist secondary school.

We are also committed to making the sign up process for HAF as accessible and straightforward as possible for parents and carers. We made changes on YHF's HAF website pages to reflect the feedback and learning from previous programmes and will continue to do so for future programmes.

We are also planning to launch a new YHF booking system for HAF Summer 2023 to help monitor all the requests made to our providers and ensure they respond in a timely manner.



Shared Learning from Summer

Piloting the new HAF booking system

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We received a total of 458 booking requests on our new HAF booking system. Of those 187 were double-booking requests from 70 people; most of these people sent two bookings, but on one rare occasion we received 8 requests from the same user. Fortunately, the new system was effective in flagging these issues and we were able to communicate with those users and resolve in a timely manner.

The new booking system allowed us to actively manage the issue of no-shows and cancellations. There were 162 no-shows and we managed to reallocate 66 spaces to individuals on waiting lists, which resulted in only 96 unused slots. We are committed to bringing this number down as we continue to use the new booking system. Overall, this new system proved successful and enhanced our operational efficiency, and it is popular with our HAF providers.

Feedback from families and HAF providers is positive, but the ongoing cost of living crisis remains a challenge for all

As part of our continued effort to improve the HAF programme in Harrow, we send out feedback surveys to all the participating families and providers. The feedback is essential in shaping our future programmes. The results from the feedback surveys have been really positive confirming that we are managing to not only reach high numbers of vulnerable children and young people, but also delivering the programme to a high standard and meeting local needs. The only concern raised from HAF providers is that we have not been able to increase our funding offer so they struggle to fit within the limits on offer, especially given the high increase in the cost of living, and in particular food, which remains the key element of this programme.

We continue to target secondary-aged and SEND children and young people

We offered a total amount of 108,411 hours during the Summer programme, of which 12% of the numbers reached were children and young people with SEND and 23% secondary school age group. We are working to increase engagement from these two groups and have seen improvements in numbers recently.

Funding Partners

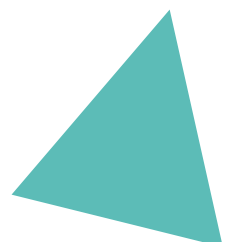
We continue to follow the model of securing additional private funds to support families in Harrow that are facing disadvantage and struggling but not specifically in receipt of FSM.

Last Easter (2022) programme we worked with a new partner, the DVS Foundation, a private family foundation established in 1985 by Dhuru V Shah. Since then, our partnership with the DVS Foundation has strengthened and they have also committed to supporting this year's programme. Our partnership with the DVS Foundation will ensure we can continue to support local organisations with additional funding to include children from families facing disadvantage who may not otherwise be eligible to attend.

Our partnership with Help Harrow has been instrumental in broadening the spectrum of support we offer to the community. In addition to delivering food parcels to any family in Harrow in need of assistance, we now provide valuable advice regarding benefits and other support services available within our community. This multi-faceted approach ensures that we address not only immediate food needs but also work towards sustainable support. So far, we have been able to invest a further £24,865 into our HAF programmes thanks to the DVS Foundation and Help Harrow partnership.

For Summer 2023, YHF secured in-kind donations in the form of free venue access from Harrow School and John Lyons School. This generous contribution has not only provided invaluable support to our service providers but has also granted our young beneficiaries the privilege of utilising high-quality facilities with state-of-the-art amenities. The in-kind venue space donations from the two private schools equates to £4,000, which two of our HAF providers were able to benefit from.

To attract and reach as many children and young people across Harrow, we funded seven private providers in Easter and four in Summer. The private providers delivered to children receiving FSM as well as children who weren't in receipt of FSM. This really helped broaden the reach and ensure a good geographical spread across Harrow. One thing to note is that as part of end-of-grant monitoring we ask for numbers of paid places from our providers but not all are happy to share/complete this section. Our funding does not cover that aspect of their business delivery. We are aware that the non-FSM numbers are high which results in more children and young people living in Harrow in enjoying activities and having fun during holidays. We are aware that the number of paid places will be nearly double this Easter, but we should not let this undermine the benefit of private providers delivering to FSM eligible kids and bringing together children from diverse economic backgrounds.



HAF Harrow Delivery Partners



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