



## HAF Report 2024



Move



Create



Explore



Eat well



# Sheffield Healthy Holidays Programme Report 2024

In 2024, children and families across Sheffield benefited from another year of the Healthy Holidays Programme (HAF). Across the Easter, Summer and Winter school holiday periods, our commissioned HAF providers delivered a wide range of high-quality, inclusive activities, along with nutritious meals. Children were given safe, engaging environments to play, learn, and thrive, while families received much-needed assistance during challenging times.

The programme continued to champion physical wellbeing and enriching activities, while encouraging healthy lifestyle choices—ensuring that children enjoy meaningful, positive experiences.

As more families face financial pressures and the number of children eligible for benefits-related free school meals continues to rise, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provides much-needed support. By offering high-quality, inclusive provision during school holidays, HAF helps ensure children have access to nourishing food, enriching experiences, and opportunities within their local communities that might otherwise be out of reach.

## OUR VISION:

### Healthy food, fun activities and meaningful experiences

At the core of the Healthy Holidays programme is a commitment to providing safe, welcoming environments in which children can thrive. Each club offers nutritious meals alongside a broad range of physical and creative activities designed to support wellbeing, development and inclusion. Families consistently highlighted the value of locally delivered provision. In 2024, HAF activities were delivered from within well-established community settings and schools, ensuring that venues were familiar, trusted and accessible to those who stand to benefit most.



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## A Place-Based Approach: Hub and Spoke Model

We continue to deliver HAF through a hub and spoke model that harnesses the strength of local partnerships:

- Local VCFS Anchor Organisations coordinated provision in each school locality. These anchors leveraged deep community knowledge and trusted relationships to deliver programmes tailored to local needs.
- Citywide provision complemented this approach, with specialist provision such as swimming lessons, music production and ice -skating.
- Schools Provision: In 2024, we worked directly with approximately 30 schools - either hosting or delivering HAF activities. Delivering HAF in school settings made it easier to reach the children who needed support most. Teachers also noted that it helped pupils transition smoothly back into school after the holidays.



## EASTER

13,392	PLACES COMMISSIONED
10,974	PLACES FILLED
2,316	NUMBER OF CHILDREN FSM (self- declaration of FSM by families)
1,426	NUMBER OF NON / FSM OR NO MATCH (self- declaration of FSM by families)
131	NUMBER OF PROVIDERS
140	NUMBER OF CLUBS



## SUMMER

38,940	PLACES COMMISSIONED
32,601	PLACES FILLED
3,930	NUMBER OF CHILDREN FSM
1,337	NUMBER OF NON / FSM OR NO MATCH
161	NUMBER OF PROVIDERS
197	NUMBER OF CLUBS



## WINTER

5,153	PLACES COMMISSIONED
4,430	PLACES FILLED
1,573	NUMBER OF CHILDREN FSM
340	NUMBER OF NON / FSM OR NO MATCH
83	NUMBER OF PROVIDERS
90	NUMBER OF CLUBS

## Communications

- **Unique HAF Codes:** In summer 2024, we introduced individual HAF codes for each eligible child across the city to ensure funding was reaching eligible families and to provide clearer tracking of programme uptake.
- **Invitation by Letter:** All eligible families received invitation letters encouraging their participation in the HAF programme.
- **Active Promotion:** Schools and frontline professionals played a key role in promoting HAF clubs, helping to boost engagement across communities.
- **Digital Presence:** Our dedicated website - [www.sheffieldhealthyholidays.org](http://www.sheffieldhealthyholidays.org) - along side active social media channels, ensured consistent communication and updates throughout the programme.
- **Direct Support Channels:** We maintained a dedicated phone line and email inbox to offer direct assistance and respond to enquiries from families accessing HAF.

## Department for Education

### HAF Framework of Standards

**Keeping Active:** Children engaged in a broad range of sports and physical activities—from team games like football and multi sports, to more mindful movement such as yoga. These opportunities supported physical health, encouraged social interaction, and helped build confidence through participation and play.

**Creative and Enriching Experiences:** A diverse programme of creative workshops and engaging activities - including arts and crafts, music production and performance-enabled young people to explore new interests, develop new skills, and express themselves in ways that nurtured personal growth and enjoyment.

**Nutritious Food and Food Education:** Each club provided balanced, healthy meals to support children's wellbeing. Some providers ran cooking sessions and food activities that helped children learn about healthy eating. It gave them a chance to try new foods, build useful skills, and make better choices about what they eat.

## HAF Funding & Expenditure

Funded by the Department for Education (DfE), Sheffield City Council was awarded £2,712,580.00 for programme delivery. The breakdown is as follows:

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Face-to-Face Holiday Club Provision	£2,301,137.00
Capital Expenditure (e.g., equipment)	£0
Management & Programme administration including marketing	£180,120
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£2,481,257.00</b>



[www.sheffieldhealthyholidays.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldhealthyholidays.org.uk)

## Quality Standards & Provider Support

All providers met the HAF DfE framework standards, including:

- High-quality food provision
- Enriching and physical activities
- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Referrals and family support
- Robust safeguarding and operational policies

Voluntary Action Sheffield played a crucial role in preparing HAF providers with essential training courses including:

- Food Safety Level 2
- Introduction to Allergens
- Paediatric First Aid

## Future Priorities

- Expand and enhance the HAF programme throughout 2025/2026
- Boost participation among eligible children in the HAF programme
- Strengthen and broaden the provision for children with SEND
- Develop a sustainability strategy to secure the long-term legacy of the programme

Sheffield City Council wishes to express sincere thanks to all HAF providers, schools, partners and community stakeholders.

Your dedication and collaborative efforts continue to ensure that the Healthy Holidays programme delivers meaningful opportunities for children and families across the city.

## CHILDREN SAID:

Aged 9

"I liked going as I didn't have to stay at home bored. I got to do fun stuff instead."

Aged 11

"We did cooking and made smoothies - which tasted lovely."

Aged 9

"I loved going to the holiday club because I got to play with my friends every day!"

## PARENTS SHARED:

"It gave my son a chance to make friends, try new activities."

"The HAF programme was a lifeline for us over the holidays. My children loved going."

"Without HAF, the holidays would have been really tough. It made a huge difference to our family."