

Bristol City Council Equality Impact Assessment Form

(Please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance when completing this form)



Name of proposal	Grant determination for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme 2021
Directorate and Service Area	People – Education and Skills
Name of Lead Officer	Tommy Jarvis

Step 1: What is the proposal?

Please explain your proposal in Plain English, avoiding acronyms and jargon. This section should explain how the proposal will impact service users, staff and/or the wider community.

1.1 What is the proposal?

Bristol City Council has been granted £1.8million by Central Government to provide school holiday places to children and young people entitled to free school meals for one week at Easter, four weeks in the Summer and one week in the Winter. Sessions should last for a minimum of four hours a day, offer at least one meal (preferably hot), provide physically and mentally stimulating activities, educate children about nutrition and provide signposting to support family services. To deliver this programme the Council will work with existing providers and partners in education, health and social care to scale up provision and target support to areas of the city with the highest need.

Step 2: What information do we have?

Decisions must be evidence-based, and involve people with protected characteristics that could be affected. Please use this section to demonstrate understanding of who could be affected by the proposal.

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

According the October 2020 school census data there are 15,401 children and young people in Bristol who are entitled to free school meals. This is around 25% of the school population in Bristol. Guidance from the Government states that *local authorities are asked to ensure that the offer of free holiday club*

provision is available for all children eligible for free school meals in your area though we would not expect all eligible children to participate.

2.2 Who is missing? Are there any gaps in the data?

The data for children entitled to free school meals is particularly accurate in key stages 2, 3 and 4 of education. As all children in Reception and Early Years are entitled to free school meals, there may be gaps in this data and children who are entitled to holiday school places may miss out. There are also children who come from families that are not entitled to means tested benefits and are in low income employment. These children would not currently meet the requirements for free holiday places. Covering this cost over holiday periods is likely to increase the financial strain on low income families.

2.3 How have we involved, or will we involve, communities and groups that could be affected?

The existing partnership network, which includes Playful Bristol, Feeding Bristol and Fairshare have been working with communities and families in areas of high deprivation since 2019. This group has successfully worked with thousands of children and families in the last two years. Bristol City Council will work with this existing infrastructure and educational settings to target provision to areas of need for Easter. Working with education settings will allow us to target communications and marketing of holiday places and support to children entitled to free school meals.

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts on people with protected characteristics must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts in this section, referring to all of the equalities groups as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

Going forward not all provision offered as part of this programme will be accessible to all children. For example, some outdoor physical activities may not be suitable for children and young people with physical disabilities or those with complex learning needs. In addition, there is some concern that children entitled to free school meals will feel stigmatised by the free access they are provided with for holiday places

3.2 Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? If so, how?

We can mitigate these impacts working with a broad range of providers to ensure there are sufficient activities across the holiday periods to provide

inclusive and accessible access to all children and young people who need them. We also intend to work with providers to ensure they have the right training and understanding to support an inclusive and safe environment for all children and young people.

3.3 Does the proposal create any benefits for people with protected characteristics?

Offering nutritious and healthy food, fun activities, and a safe space to play during the school holidays will create a significant benefit for children of low income families, particularly those in areas of high deprivation that statistically have higher numbers of people with protected characteristics

3.4 Can they be maximised? If so, how?

The programme also provides an opportunity to engage with the families of these children and young people and offer advice on and, support and access to health, employment, skills, and housing services.

Step 4: So what?

The Equality Impact Assessment must be able to influence the proposal and decision. This section asks how your understanding of impacts on people with protected characteristics has influenced your proposal, and how the findings of your Equality Impact Assessment can be measured going forward.

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?

Considering the EqIA it is clear that more work will need to be done to identify children and young people with protected characteristics who may not currently be in receipt of FSM either because they are in Early Years or Key Stage 1, or their family income currently hovers just above the threshold which leaves them vulnerable to holiday hunger. There is a risk that we will not be able to achieve our intention of ensuring that no child should go hungry during the school holidays unless we do more to promote the importance of applying for FSM in Early Years and Key Stage 1. We must also review the proposed model to ensure there is enough capacity to expand the offer to those at risk of hunger.

4.2 What actions have been identified going forward?

Going forward we will ensure two key actions:

- a. Undertake a marketing and communications campaign to raise awareness of the need to apply for FSM in Early Years/Key Stage 1 – focusing efforts in areas of high deprivation

b. Work with city partners to develop an operating model that goes beyond the Governments minimal expected standard of providing provision to FSM children and young people only. The main focus for this work will be on BAME communities and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured moving forward?

Comprehensive qualitative and quantitative information will be collected throughout the delivery of this project including, but not limited to the number of children reached, areas of high and low take up and number of families that have engaged with support services. Where possible demographic data in line with BCC guidance will be captured and used in line with GDPR compliance.

Service Director Sign-Off:



Date: 26/02/21

Equalities Officer Sign Off:

Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team

Date: 26/2/2021