

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 09 March 2021

TITLE	Grant determination for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme 2021		
Ward(s)	City Wide – although particular emphasis will be placed on providing provision in wards with high levels of deprivation		
Author: Tommy Jarvis	Job title: Education Partnerships & Programme Manager		
Cabinet lead: Cllr. Anna Keen	Executive Director lead: Jacqui Jensen		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member			
Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approval from Cabinet is required to accept and spend a Department for Education (DfE) grant to fund holiday activities and food programmes for school age children who are entitled to free school meal (FSM). The grant is to cover the main holidays (Easter, Summer and Winter), but does not include half terms. The scheme will be delivered in financial year 2021/22. Funding total is £185,930 for 2020/21 (carry forward) and £1,662,920 2021/22 – Total amount of grant £1,848,850. (Appendix 1) 			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The DfE defines disadvantaged children as pupils in education who have been eligible for FSM at any point in the last six years, or those looked after by a Local Authority (LA), or who have previously looked after by an LA. The impact Covid-19 restrictions and missed education on disadvantaged children and young people is disproportionately worse than the impact on their peers. A recent Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) highlighted the impact on pupil attainment based on the first lockdown which estimated that 10 years of progress to narrow the attainment gap had been lost. A recent UNICEF report highlighted the additional impact on child nutrition with more children and families facing food insecurity and potential food shortages linked to the loss of family income and the impact of lost FSM provision. The impact of Covid-19 has further highlighted the economic divide in the poorest areas, and for the poorest families in Bristol, placing further pressure on a system that was already stretched. Food poverty for children has been an area of concern for Bristol leaders for some time and much has been done in the past two years to provide a collaborative response to this issue. As outlined in the impact reports for 2019 and 2020 (appendix 2a & 2b) the Feeding Bristol partnership were able to reach and feed thousands of children and young people during the holiday period. In addition, it was able to provide activities that were beneficial to the physical and mental wellbeing of those who participated. Much of this has been achieved through charitable donations, the good will of partners and without any central government funding. This DfE funded grant, provides an opportunity to build on this existing work. With a budget ten times more than that of previous years a collaborative approach will improve provision and increase access, so that as many of our FSM children (14,401 October 2020) can access food and activities during school holidays. Bristol City Council, like all LAs in England, are expected to start delivering provision for Easter 2021 school holidays. For the Easter holidays it is proposed that BCC will work with the existing Feeding Bristol infrastructure to deliver a small grants programme to scale capacity in areas of deprivation working with existing providers. It is anticipated that there will be an allocation of between £200k and £250k to support the sector and provide food and activities in areas of highest need. Some of this budget will be used to market and communicate available provision and how to access it. In line with the grant guidance (Appendix 3), which states up to 10% of the budget can be used for administrative purposes, the education and skills department will recruit a dedicated programme manager to support delivery in the new financial year. Planning for Summer and Winter holidays will take place in April and May 2021. BCC will ensure that a wide range of health, social care, education, and voluntary & community sector organisations are involved in what will be a One City approach to delivery. 			

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Authorises acceptance of the Department for Education (DfE) grant of £1,848,850 to fund holiday activities and food programmes in 2020/21
2. Authorise the Executive Director People in consultation with the Cabinet Member Education and Skills to take all steps required to spend the funding including procuring and awarding contracts where necessary to implement the activities and programmes.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Empowering and caring – this grant allocation will provide holiday provision to families in Bristol who have been disproportionately affected by the impact of Covid-19. Free holiday places will empower parents and carers by giving them the time and space to find employment or take part in training and skills development. It will help provide a caring and safe environment for children to rebuild their confidence and social skills after months of restrictions.
2. Fair and Inclusive – this programme will provide disadvantaged children and young people with access to activities and food in line with what is available to their non-disadvantaged peers. This will help to create a fairer system for our children and young people who will now no longer have to go hungry during school holidays
3. Well Connected – this grant will be used to expand existing partnership efforts to eradicate food poverty in Bristol. This One City approach will ensure Bristol can continue to build networks and relationships with partners in all sectors.
4. Wellbeing – activities will focus on improving physical and mental wellbeing of children and young people. Emphasis will be placed on providing engaging activities, nutritional information, and outdoor play to ensure children and young people learn through play.

City Benefits:

1. The children and young people of Bristol are our City's most important resource. Due to the impact of Covid-19 many have become isolated from friends and family, missed education, faced food shortages, or been exposed to increased adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) or suffering mental health issues. Taking positive and collaborative action now will help to smooth their transition back to a normal life and reduce the impact on their mental health and wellbeing. This will have a positive impact in future years as this group enter adulthood.
2. By working in a One City way we can ensure that activities delivered in a way that improves children and young people's understanding of the world around them, including the environment and food production.
3. Social Value will be created by working with and funding Bristol based partners where possible, mitigating some of the impact of lost revenue due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions.
4. By working with key One City partners we aim to access further funding and partner contributions to increase access to provision for key equalities groups that usually miss out on holiday provision, for example those with special educational needs or those from BAME communities

Consultation Details:

1. Following the delivery of the Easter provision BCC will organise a partnership workshop, as well as work with parent/carer groups and young people workshop to inform the delivery model for Summer and Winter delivery

Background Documents:

Revenue Cost	£1,848,850	Source of Revenue Funding	Central Government Funding
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	e.g. grant/ prudential borrowing etc.
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: Bristol City Council (BCC) will receive a maximum grant allocation of £1,848,850 (£185,930 in 2020/21 and £1,662,920 in 2021/22) in relation to the Holiday Activities and Food Programme to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities, for children who receive benefits-related free school meals. Grant funding will fully fund the spending proposals outlined in the report including the costs of a programme manager post from the 10% element of the grant, which is permitted to be spent on administration.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt, 24 February 2021

2. Legal Advice: There are no specific legal implications arising from acceptance of the grant funding. The procurement process

must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the grant funding agreement, the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, 24th February 2021

3. Implications on IT: No implications from IT

IT Team Leader: Gavin Arbuckle, 24th February 2021

4. HR Advice: The report is seeking approval from Cabinet to accept and spend a Department for Education (DfE) grant to fund holiday activities and food programmes in Bristol. This does not present any significant HR implications for Bristol City Council employees.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing, 24th February 2021

EDM Sign-off	Jacqui Jensen	25 February 2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Anna Keen	1 March 2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	1 March 2021

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	No
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO