

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 03 March 2022

TITLE	Grant determination for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme 2022		
Ward(s)	City Wide		
Author: Tommy Jarvis	Job title: Education Partnership and Programme Manager		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Asher Craig	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member			
Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To seek approval from Cabinet to accept and spend a Department for Education (DfE) grant of £1,803,840 to fund holiday activities and food programmes for school age children entitled to free school meal (FSM) for the main school holidays (not including half-terms) during the 2022/23 financial year. 			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of Covid-19 has 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 is an area of concern in Bristol - Food Equality Strategy for Bristol has been developed to address this. Based on October 2021 school census data there are currently 16,715 school age FSM children in Bristol. 2021/22 funding from the DfE was used to build on the healthy holidays model. The 2021/22 programme was planned and delivered in partnership with Playful Bristol, Bristol Association for Neighbourhood Daycare (BAND) with each organisation receiving an allocation of £12,000 to support the planning, communication, evaluation and monitoring of activities leading up to and over the holiday periods. Feeding Bristol and Fareshare provided support to deliver the food element of the programme. Work was carried out to develop the Your Holiday Hub (YHH) brand for Bristol. This presents an opportunity to build a long-term model and brand for Bristol's holiday club offer. In total the YHH programme delivered over 2,000 holiday activities during the Easter, Summer and Winter holidays. Over 13,000 children attended these sessions, which included over 1,400 with additional needs over the summer. Summer activities predominately included a cold packed lunch provided by FareShare, whereas the winter sessions included hot meals as standard. The continuation of the DfE HAF grant until 2025, provides an opportunity to build on this existing work. Further development will support the delivery of the Food Equality Strategy and the Belonging Strategy which represent key One City strategies. Development in 2022 will include a dedicated YHH website, a training package for community chefs, an increase in local food sourcing and production and improvements to safeguarding practices during the school holidays. Bristol City Council, like all LAs in England, are expected to begin the 2022/23 programme with face-to-face provision during Easter 2022 school holidays. It is proposed that BCC officers will continue to work in partnership with key delivery partners (to be formalised) to deliver a grants programme to scale capacity in priority areas of high deprivation working with schools, community, and voluntary sector organisations. It is anticipated that the funding split across the three holidays will be - Easter (£324,691) Summer (£974,073) Winter (£324,691). The division of amounts across the different organisations has yet to be determined. As outlined in the grant guidance, up to 15% of the funding can be used to cover the cost of non-FSM children including children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and those with no recourse to public funds. Currently there are 2,298 children in Bristol with an EHCP. The intention is to use this 15% to increase access to holiday clubs for vulnerable children not currently entitled to FSM. 			

12. The grant guidance states that up to 10% of the budget can be used for administrative purposes. This £180,384 will be used to cover core delivery costs including, but not limited to management costs, grant coordination, partner contributions, marketing and communications, website development, delivery partner training and auditing. BCC management costs and a grant coordinator post will be funded through this element.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

1. Authorises acceptance of the Department for Education (DfE) grant of £1,803,840 to fund holiday activities and food programmes in 2022/23;
2. Authorises the Executive Director - People in consultation with the Cabinet Member -Children Services, Education and Equalities to take all steps required to spend the funding including procuring, granting, funding 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
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.
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. Providing enriching holiday activities will support disadvantaged children and reduce the impact of Covid 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 are 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. Strategic planning for 2022/23 delivery will take place in early 2022. Planning will be collaborative with stakeholders taking into consideration key city strategies including the Belonging Strategy and the Food Equality Strategy. The Children and Young People board, part of the One City Partnership will provide support, guidance, and challenge.

Background Documents:

1. Belonging Strategy
2. Food Equality Strategy (draft)

Revenue Cost	£1,803,840	Source of Revenue Funding	Central Government Funding
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input checked="" 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:** The Department for Education (DfE) has made funds available to every local authority in England to

coordinate free holiday club/activity provision, including healthy food and enriching activities, for children receiving benefits-related free school meals for the Easter, summer, and Christmas holidays.

The Grant allocated to Bristol City Council to deliver the holiday activities and food programme in 2022/23 is c£1.804 million.

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, but provision should remain in line with the framework of standards set out in the grant conditions. The guidance does however, suggest that if the Authority cannot hold face-to-face holiday clubs as a result of COVID-19, the Authority may be permitted to operate flexibly to ensure that eligible children still receive the type of support needed.

Local authorities are able to use up to a maximum of 15% of their programme funding to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals but who are considered by the local authority to be in need of this provision.

This flexibility also allows the Authority to spend up to a maximum of 10% of its allocation on its administration costs for the local coordination of the Programme

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt, 05/01/2022

2. Legal Advice: The funding being received from central government will, as was the case last year, be distributed to local voluntary and community organisations by way of grants. There is nothing in the grant conditions (Annex B to the determination letter) to prevent this approach and it is implicitly encouraged in the accompanying guidance.

With £1.8m being distributed to the various organisations, it is necessary to consider the application of the subsidy control regime. Whilst the distribution of this money via grants will constitute a subsidy, the provision of these activities does not take place within a market and therefore there can be no distortion. The subsidies should though be recorded on the transparency database and assistance can be provided in relation to the registration of this information once the amounts awarded to each organisation have been granted.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, 7 January 2022

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regards to this activity.

IT Team Leader: Gavin Arbuckle – Head of Service Improvement and Performance 06/0/2022

4. HR Advice: The report is seeking approval to accept a DFE Grant to fund holiday activities and food programmes in 2022/23. There are no HR issues arising from this report.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing, 06/01/2022

EDM Sign-off	Hugh Evans	05/01/2022
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Asher Craig	17/01/2022
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	28/01/2022

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal 1. Belonging Strategy 2. Food Equality Strategy (draft)	YES
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