**Hartlepool Borough Council**

**Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2022 (HAF)**

1. **Introduction**

The Department for Education is providing funding to local authorities to coordinate free holiday provision including healthy food and enriching activities during the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2022 - 2025. This builds on the delivery of the programme that was offered in 2021 and provides local areas with sustainability of funding to develop, strengthen and refine their local programme.

The programme recognises that school holidays can be particular pressure points for some families because of increased costs (such as food and childcare) and reduced incomes. For some children that can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from disadvantaged families:

* less likely to access organised out-of-school activities;
* more likely to experience ‘unhealthy holidays’ in terms of nutrition and physical health;
* more likely to experience social isolation.

The HAF programme is aimed at children who receive benefits-related free school meals. Hartlepool Borough Council will receive grant funding to deliver the HAF programme and the maximum allocation for Hartlepool for 2022/23 is £595,500. This funding is expected to cover the total costs of delivery of the programme and the provision of free holiday activities and food for eligible children, for at least four hours per day and four days per week during the school holidays. The expectation is that children and young people will be offered four weeks provision in the summer holiday and a week in both the Easter and Christmas holidays.

Applications are encouraged from a wide range of organisations including schools and academies and voluntary and community sector organisations.

1. **Outcomes of the programme**

Schools and other providers wishing to access funding from this programme must ensure that their provision aims to support children and families to achieve the following outcomes:

* eat healthily over the school holidays;
* be active during the school holidays;
* take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment;
* be safe and not to be socially isolated;
* have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition; and
* be more engaged with school and other local services

The programme also aims to ensure that the families who participate in this programme:

* develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting; and
* are signposted towards other information and support, for example, health, employment, and education
1. **DfE framework standards – Criteria for funding**

Applications for funding will need to evidence how your provision will meeting the following DfE Framework Standards criteria:

* Applications must address the outcomes listed above.
* Applications must provide additionality. Funding cannot be used to replace core funding for existing provision.
* Applications must specify how many eligible children the provision will engage.
* Applications must explain what the offer is and what funding will pay for.
* Applications must deliver at least four hours per day and four days per week.
* Providers must deliver at least one meal per day (breakfast, lunch or an evening meal). Applications must explain how this will be delivered and how it will meet School Food Standards <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools>. The expectation is that that the majority of food served will be hot, although there will be occasions when this is not possible.
* Providers must identify how their provision will include an element of nutritional education each day aimed at improving the knowledge and awareness of healthy eating for children.
* Providers must identify how their provision will include food education training and advice sessions for families and carers at least weekly covering advice on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious low cost meals.
* Providers must specify how they will signpost and refer those engaged with the programme, children and their families, to other services and support that would benefit them.
* Providers must identify how they will deliver enriching activities that provide children with opportunities to develop new skills or knowledge, consolidate existing skills and knowledge or try new experiences.
* Providers must specify how they will meet the Government Physical Activity Guidelines <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/physical-activity-guidelines>
* The provider must demonstrate and explain that they have all the relevant and appropriate policies and procedures in place in relation to safeguarding, health and safety, insurance, accessibility and inclusiveness and where appropriate Ofsted requirements for working with children.
* The provider must agree to submit data related to their provision for the purpose of evidencing the effectiveness of the provision in meeting the outcomes listed above.

Under the 2022 – 2025 programme, Hartlepool Borough Council will appoint a Project Coordinator who will lead on the development, implementation and monitoring of the programme; working collaboratively with providers through establishing a provider network. This will include the development and delivery of a training and development offer to support providers to ensure they meet the above standards and the monitoring of the quality of provision.

All proposals must take into account the potential impact of any COVID-19 restrictions.

1. **How the programme will work**

Applications should be submitted on the Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2022 (HAF) Application Form. Provider can now apply to deliver a HAF programme across all three main school holidays during 2022; it is anticipated this will assist providers to plan longer term regarding how they will deliver the programme, promote their offer and have some surety of funding to ensure the above standards can be met in full.

A panel of steering group members will assess the application against the programme outcomes (section 2) and make decisions based on ability of the provider to meet the DfE Framework Standards Criteria (section 3).

Funding agreements will be provided and agreed funding paid directly to the provider by Hartlepool Borough Council.

1. **Monitoring & evidence**

Each approved application will be required to submit financial and performance monitoring information demonstrating delivery against the identified outcomes and criteria.

1. **Timeline**

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 09 March 2022.