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## Section 1 - LA details

*Which local authority is this report about?*

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| Hartlepool |

### Section 2 – Overview

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| For the calendar year of 2023, Hartlepool Borough Council received £601,950.00 to commission and deliver activities and food under the name Hartlepool Holiday Fun as part of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme funded by the Department for Education.  Funding was spent as follows:  Administration costs including salaries = £60,195.00  Activities = £528,391  Other costs including printing, equipment, booking system and marketing = £13,364  To look at the programme in terms of children we have worked with please see the below breakdown’s by holiday period:  Easter 2023 = 1,488 unique children (237 SEND) reached with 4,170 individual attendances  Summer 2023 = 2,656 unique children (361 SEND) reached with 13,268 individual attendances  Christmas 2023 = 847 unique children (181 SEND) reached with 1,612 individual attendances  To offer provision to the children and young people of Hartlepool, we worked with 37 organisations and offered a total of 26,763 spaces across 117 clubs. Organisations worked with for 2023 delivery are:   * Rossmere Academy * Simon Carson Sports School * RepeaT for Kids * Something Positive Solutions CIC * Kilmarnock Road Children & Young People Family Resource Centre * HBC Community Hubs * Lets Pretend and Play CIC * St John Vianney Primary School * Seaton Carew Community and Sports Club * North East Cycling Academy * Eden Academy Trust * Hartlepool Art Studio * Hartlepool United Community Sports Foundation * Belle Vue Sports Community and Youth Centre * HBC Youth Service * Gamers@Hart * LilyAnne’s Wellbeing * The Wharton Trust * Harbour Support Services * HBC Mill House Leisure Centre * School’s Out, Sport’s In * Lisa McGee Education * West View Project * Springwell School * Hartlepool Wadokai * We Make Sound * The Sensory Spot * English Martyrs School and Sixth Form * Communities of Hope, Hartlepool * Hartlepool St Francis * Hartlepool Rovers * HBC Resettlement Team * Aeronauts Trampoline Club * HBC Participation Team * Live it & Get Active * National Elite Sports Coaching * The Thrive Hive   The 2023 Steering Group for Hartlepool Holiday Fun was comprised of the following organisations:   * The Director of Children’s and Joint Commissioning Services as Chair (HBC) * The HAF Programme Manager (HBC) * The HAF Programme Coordinator (HBC) * Two Head Teachers of Hartlepool schools (Golden Flatts Primary School and English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College) * Representative from the HBC Communications Team (HBC) * Representative from Public Health (HBC) * Representative from the SEND community (Community Led Inclusion Partnership) * Representative from the Hartlepool Food Council (Hartlepower) * Representatives from the Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Authority * There will also be elected provider representatives from the Local Authority (HBC), private sector (Gamers@Hart Ltd and Lisa McGee Education Ltd and the voluntary and community sector (LilyAnne’s Wellbeing and The Sensory Spot CIC)   Across the year, changes were made to the management of the system to enable HBC to come further into line with the target aims of the programme as well as being able to provide greater accuracy in data. Following summer provision, it was clear that we needed to make a change to our process in order to meet the terms of funding from the Department for Education. The aims of the programme are to offer provision to children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, with the option to also spend up to 15% of our funding on children not eligible for the programme facing other vulnerabilities. For both Easter and summer 2023, we were falling within the 30-40% range on this.  As such a new booking system was employed starting at Christmas 2023 to enable us to pre-eligibility check participants. This move was approved by our Steering Group and was partially rolled out. This partial rollout saw some provisions use the new system, whilst some remained as “closed” groups and handled their own bookings. This led to a reported figure of 78.87% of children who accessed provision at Christmas being in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. We have continued this work moving into 2024 and now have all providers using the booking system. |

### Section 3 – Children and families feedback

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| Below is a selection of feedback from across 2023 from children and families as well as a video showcasing some of the excellent work that took place over Christmas 2023 <https://www.facebook.com/HartlepoolHolidayFun/videos/827462712480634>:  "Excellent scheme for the children!"  "Such a well thought out and organised event overall for kids. Would love to see  options for activities expand as time goes on. I don’t think enough people know about it though despite efforts to advertise. Maybe also opt to include children outside of government funding at a cost? I have other friends with children not eligable for the voucher scheme but would love to send them to clubs and would be willing to pay."  “Best day ever, really enjoyed never tried this before, would never eat this food but  loved it, best day of my life, didn’t think cooking was this easy.”  “We moved last month, this course has helped our child get used to his new  school and community for September.”  “A little annoyed my younger children don’t get to attend, the staff did try and accommodate and they did explain why. I just think there should be funding for all children, not just school age”  “It has meant the world to me and my children, we have been able to take part in activities in a safe environment and children haven’t missed out due to the financial impact. The staff are amazing” |

### Section 4 - Food

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| All children who attended the programme were provided with at least one healthy and nutritious meal per session they attended. Alongside these “main meals” providers also offered snacks including fruit as well as offering food and nutrition activities as part of the children’s day.  We know that children can often struggle with changing their diets and incorporating healthy food, and this was a challenge that all providers took on. Examples of this would be providers using Quorn mince in a Spaghetti Bolognese and having the discussion with children after the meal explaining what they had eaten. Fruit was a major part of the programme in 2023, with many providers offering activities such as fruit kebab making or “Bushtucker Trials” where children did blindfold fruit tasting.  It can be an extremely lengthy process to have a child change their eating habits, but this work has been carried across the year with examples of children trying and liking new, healthy foods being reported across most provisions. |

### Section 5 – Enriching Activities

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| We offered an extremely wide range of enrichment activities to try and offer something for everyone. We had forest school activities, general sports courses, mindfulness and wellbeing, play schemes, STEM activities, imaginative play, cycling, art, youth clubs, Pokémon and Harry Potter activities, role-playing games, swimming, boxing, karate, music, sensory play, football, rugby, trampolining, parties and panto trips, visits from Santa and more.  We had numerous reports of children trying some of these activities during the HAF programme and continuing them into their life beyond the holidays by signing up to regular groups and sessions.  In 2023 we were very provider led in terms of the types of activities we had to offer. We were very lucky because it covered such an excellent array of activities without overlapping and overcrowding an area. As such, we did not need to interfere and request additional provisions or decline any for being too similar. |

### Section 6 – Physical Activities

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| All our activities included the minimum standard of 60 minutes of physical activity per session, with most clubs going well above this. The range of physical activity stretched from boxing to meditation, football to dancing and much, much more as detailed in section 5. In most settings, even when children were not engaged in a specific activity aimed at being a physical activity, they were engaging in free play which was doing the same job.  Once success was a provider who was unsure how they would be able to accommodate physical activity into their day and so, following a meeting with our Coordinator, they incorporated daily walks into their provision with children visiting different sites around their local area and collecting items to use in crafts sessions. |

### Section 7 – Nutritional Education and the promotion of healthy living/lifestyles

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| Again nutritional education is something we require from all of our providers. This varies depending upon space, equipment and level of expertise. Some providers offer specific nutrition workshops where children have a hand in preparing their own meal. Others look at fun and engaging activities such as fruit kebab making or using a smoothie bike to blend their own fruit smoothie. We also have some who use arts and crafts to offer nutritional education with healthy plate activities on offer.  Our families have also been referred to local low and no cost food venues as well as being provided with links to the Hartlepool Food Network. |

### Section 8 – Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

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| All of our provisions are accessible to children with special educational needs and disabilities to varying degrees. We worked hard on our previous system as we felt that It did not meet our need in supporting and offering children with SEND needs to access certain provisions. The new system we have in place does not have the option for providers to state that they will not accept children with additional needs.  In terms of SEND specific programmes, this is something that we would like to see increase. For the calendar year of 2023, we had two specialist SEND providers including one specialist school. We also have a small number of providers who offered SEND specific sessions within their offers. |

### Section 9 – Key challenges

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| The key challenge for our programme was to ensure that we came further into line with the requirements of the programme regarding eligibility. We struggled with this for some time using our old booking system and, when it became apparent that we would be unable to make any further progress, the decision was made to move on. In 2023 this improved our figures in terms of meeting the requirements of the Department, but did see a drop in overall attendance which we anticipated. The key challenge moving into 2024 will be to continue the positive element of maintaining the integrity of the programme, whilst also growing the provision.  Using this learning, we have determined that we need to reduce the number of spaces for 2024 as we had almost 8,000 unused spaces in 2023. Alongside this reduction in spaces, we need to ensure that communications and marketing are improved both internally and with our providers.  We have already seen new, yet eligible, names and faces coming into the programme since the introduction of our new booking system. This new system is based around voucher codes and so some families who potentially did not see the marketing materials are now receiving their codes direct. |

**Section 10 – Marketing and Communication?**

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| Throughout 2023 we communicated with our families using flyers, school apps and advertisements in local written press. Just prior to Christmas 2023 we also introduced our own Facebook page. This was not able to bear much fruit at Christmas as it went live too close to activities beginning. |

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