

Annual Report 2024

BURY HOLIDAY Activities & Food Programme





Contents

1. Introduction
 2. Budget v's Spend
 3. Provision
 4. Our providers
 5. Booking system
 6. Spring
 7. Summer
 8. Winter
 9. HAF Overview
 10. Feedback
 11. Summary
 12. Forward planning
 13. Conclusion
- 

1. Introduction

The Holiday, Activity, and Food Programme (HAF), funded by the Department for Education, operates in Bury during the Spring, Summer, and Winter during school holidays. It is a vital initiative funded by the Department for Education. Its mission is to support children during holiday periods by providing enriching activities and nutritious meals. Since its inception in 2018, the HAF Programme has made a positive impact on children and families across England.

Background

The HAF Programme addresses the challenges faced by low-income households during school holidays. Research has shown that these breaks can exacerbate social isolation and lead to an “experience gap” for some children. The programme aims to bridge this gap by offering free holiday clubs that go beyond meals, engaging children in various activities.

Who the Programme Serves

The HAF Programme primarily targets school-aged children from reception to year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals. Local authorities coordinate and provide these services, ensuring that children have access to both healthy food and engaging activities. In Bury we also accept referrals from schools and professional working with vulnerable young people.





Forward from the HAF Team

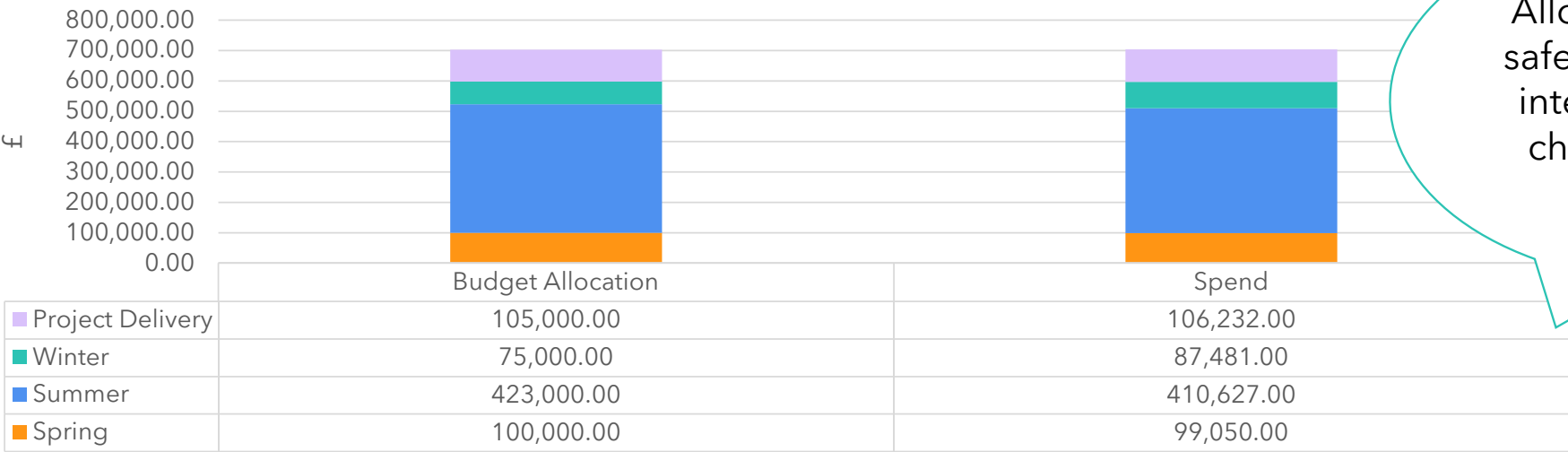
HAF in Bury has gone from strength to strength. With the Let's Do It values embedded throughout, the project endeavours to support young people on free school meals to access exciting and enriching holiday activities and food. Working in partnership with local providers and responding to feedback has enabled an increase of provision based in neighbourhoods and communities, accessible to those children and young people who will really benefit from the high quality of provision on offer. A priority of commissioning is funding provision where young people live. Increased work with our colleagues at the VCFA and 3rd sector organisations, who are embedded within communities, has enabled us to have been able to offer an increase of provision through HAF. Funding provided has supported HAF providers to go from strength to strength and tailor their offer during the holidays and term time which further supports young people across the borough.

A strong partnership approach with schools and support services further enhances the offer to enable access of the scheme with schools supporting promotion and identification of need. Work with colleagues, partners and schools continues to promote HAF and it's benefits to increase access to parents/carers to. By continually reviewing the booking process and responding to feedback, we are providing efficient access to these services.

Despite our concerted efforts, booking figures remain lower than anticipated, which is a point of concern. We recognise the need to engage parents more actively, promoting attendance through targeted communication and community involvement.

We hope the following report shows how HAF has developed and improved during 2024/5, highlighting the strengths of the scheme and the impact reported by parents/carers.

2. Budget vs Spend



Budget vs Spend

Spring Summer Winter Project Delivery

Allowed my child a safe environment to interact with other children and stay active

HAF 2024 Grant Allocation was £703,390. The Summer allocation was lower than forecast due to a higher number of providers not achieving 75% bookings and therefore not receiving their full grant award due to low bookings. Budget Allocation for Winter was set proportionately lower due to the holiday dates however underspend from Summer was added to provide a wider range of provision. Actual spend evidenced that the budget allocations had been well considered but needed to be adjusted after a lower than expected uptake of places. £597,158 (85%) was spent on provision, £106,232 (15%) on delivery and administrations, with overall spend coming just below total award at £703,390.

3. Provision

HAF Provision developed throughout the year, with new providers successfully commissioned, delivering a more varied and exciting HAF programme for Bury. Providers linked to schools, after school clubs, TRAs, nurseries, CICs, private providers, leisure services, alternative provision settings and groups/forums linked to specific cohorts offers Bury's HAF.

Our providers offered a wide range of activities including playschemes, multi sports days, football camps, drama workshops, forest schools, swimming and gym sessions, martial arts, gymnastics, arts and crafts, dance, hikes, day trips, and so much more.

We delivered a programme designed to diversify the offer to meet both need and want across all age ranges - focussing on locality, variety, secondary age and complex SEND need. Providers were also asked to consider the time of day their provision ran to support working parents and encourage increased booking numbers, with more providers offering sessions longer than 4 hours per session.

The commissioning process was managed by the HAF project manager with Expressions of Interest collated through an electronic process, for each holiday period, to enable new providers to come on board through the year. An established steering group made up of Council professionals, VCFA, GMP, SEND experts, and Youth Services scored and decided on allocation.

Enriching activities were encouraged with an expectation of 4 hours of predominantly physical activity



Healthy meals and nutritional education were expected with providers asked to be innovative. Hot food over Spring and Winter were encouraged where possible.

25
providers
in Spring

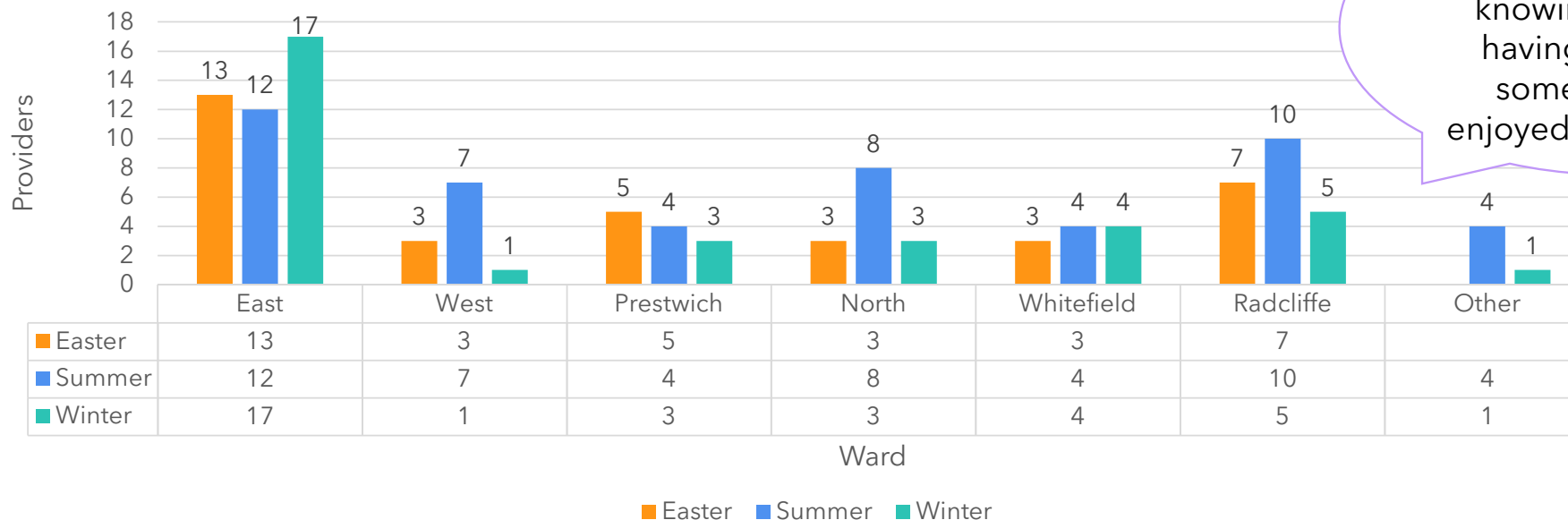
14
providers
in Winter

25
providers
in Summer

15 SEND
Level 2 - 4
providers

33 providers
Across 52 Venues
offered
33,857 sessions in
total

Ward Provision Mapping



Easy to get to, lovely staff, peace of mind knowing child was having fun, doing something they enjoyed and was safe.

One of the aims of the Steering group was to allocate provision to a range of providers to ensure spread across the borough. We endeavoured to offer provision within walking distance of any household with an increase of places where wards had higher numbers of young people on FSM. The North of the borough offered a lot of outdoor activity and therefore increased provision for forest schools and animal care in the warmer months. The South of the borough, Prestwich and Whitefield, in comparison saw low numbers of providers commissioned. This was due to the lack of providers proposing Expressions of Interest, which is something we will continue to address with providers, partner and VCFA partners for 25/26.

4. OUR HAF PROVIDERS

Play and Learn Scheme CIC
Quality Sport Holiday Clubs Ltd
Radcliffe Borough FC
SC Education Ltd
Secret Garden Brandleshome CIC
SportsCool Bury
Superstars Holiday Club Limited
The Enterprise centre limited
The Federation of Jewish Services
The Met, Bury
Tiddlywinks Nursery Group
Topping Fold Youth
We Be Kids CIC

Active Future
Azamrah Youth
BL martial arts
Bury Defence Academy
Bury FC Foundation
Bury Youth Service
Bury Young Carers
Communitree Outdoor Education Ltd
Funtime Activities Sports Ltd
Hindle's Alternative Provision Limited
MaD Theatre Company
NEST Woodland Adventures Ltd
Next level football coaching
Woodbank Oscars

Relationships

We have worked to improve relationships and communication with providers and as expressed through their feedback we have succeeded. We introduced pre-delivery meetings where providers come together to discuss their experiences of HAF provision and share learning and best practice with each other. Feedback from these meeting has been very positive and are now established, and attendance has improved throughout the year. More work was carried out with schools to promote and encourage relationships, with providers offering free activity. A level of flexibility was allowed to alter commissions based on participation during the project, including extending provision to more than 4 hours based on feedback from parents. We also opened provision over the Christmas Holidays for a more inclusive offer to out multi faith community.

All providers are subject to a quality assurance visit which measures their activity, engagement and enjoyment of the children, food, nutritional education, and staff skill to enhance the session for the young people. The providers have reported that they appreciate the opportunity for the HAF Team to observe the work they do, and how much the children enjoy and benefit from their experiences.

Thankyou to the
HAF team,
everything was
straight forward
and easy to use

*HAF where incredibly
supportive with any
guidance required. Easy to
get hold of via email and if
needed over the phone
thankyou for your support*

*The Team has been very supportive
in helping us grow our HAF offer
especially to cater for minority
communities, and we are very
grateful for the support in enabling
us to deliver HAF on Xmas week*



Feedback from Providers

Feedback forms returned by providers have been invaluable in helping to improve the services we deliver to our parents, children and providers. We have worked with our providers to improve our processes and systems to be more user friendly and accessible to them, parents/carers and children. The comments received demonstrate our continued collaboration with Providers is improving the overall outcomes for both Providers and Service users.

- The Bury HAF Team have been very supportive and informative throughout the programmes. They have facilitated meetings with all the Bury HAF Providers and this meant we could share and distribute information on all the HAF activities, which strengthen the provision
- Wonderful experience working with the HAF team - very organised, reliable and great communication
- Networking meetings were very helpful with other providers as they shared helpful strategies
- We are always well supported from the HAF team. They are quick to answer any questions, and it was nice to chat about our activity when they visited
- All very smooth, much better communications this time
- This is our first HAF session, the support and information provided was concise and helpful
- The support from the HAF Team as always has been exceptional and well organised. Always available to help us when required, especially when trying to support families in getting access to the HAF programme. The boxes of cereal was extremely good for the little chi programme we run with lots of baking being completed each day
- This was our first time using the HAF programme, we were delighted with how well it went. We met some fantastic children, and it was great to provide opportunities to those who may never have had the chance to attend our clubs
- We managed to reach more children than expected. This holidays we did a later start time, and it seemed to work well



5. Booking system

The booking system is provided by Holiday Activities and is simple and straight forward to use. It enables us to offer set vouchers to parents/carers, provides access provision information and consent, and book onto activities to enable access in line with the DfE eligibility specifications and reporting requirements.

Holiday Activities continue to be receptive to requests for alterations and remain supportive to our parents/carers when accessing the system. They continue to work with schools to streamline processes which ensures that pupils on FSM in **all** Bury based schools received HAF vouchers. The number of schools who have not opted for automatic upload to Holiday Activities has reduced significantly and it is hoped that by the end of HAF 2025, all schools will be scheduled to upload their child level data automatically.

As children on FSM are the HAF priority their vouchers are automatically sent. Schools and linked professionals can request vouchers for young people in vulnerable categories who would benefit from HAF participation. This has been promoted and enabled us to offer up to 15% for children to also benefit from access to HAF through manual voucher creation, offered a week after the automatic voucher generation.

The reporting has also improved during 2024 to enable us centrally, and providers, to monitor increased breakdown of statistics and data and make alterations over during the year.

Issues raised by stakeholders have reduced due to the development work by Holiday Activities through 2024. Feedback continues to be shared with Holiday Activities to make improvements and is used to improve their data analysis and reporting function on the portal.

Moving into 2025, the return of vouchers when a parent/carer has mistakenly booked continues to be raised as an issue with our providers and parents/carers, as the return relies on the provider and is sometimes slow, causing worry that alternative places will be in short supply.

This issue was raised at Holiday Activities service review meetings. They report that lots of development work is planned and will be prioritised if HAF funding is continued through 2026 to 2028.

6. Spring

Spring HAF ran from 7 April to 17 April 2025

- **7950 HAF Vouchers were sent of which there were**
 - 6,825 Free School Meals
 - 1,125 Vulnerable
- **2,524 Vouchers were redeemed**
- **26 Providers delivered 31 schemes**
- **6,833 sessions offered in total. 304 of which were SEND specific**
- **998 Individual young people booked session of which there were**
 - 577 FSM Primary and Mixed
 - 130 FSM Secondary
 - 291 Vulnerable
- **4,258 sessions were booked**
 - 4007 Primary and Mixed
 - 25 Secondary
- **2,825 sessions were attended of which there were**
 - 2,397 Primary and Mixed
 - 428 Secondary
- **304 SEND Specific session**
 - 226 booked
 - 114 attend
 - 112 unattended



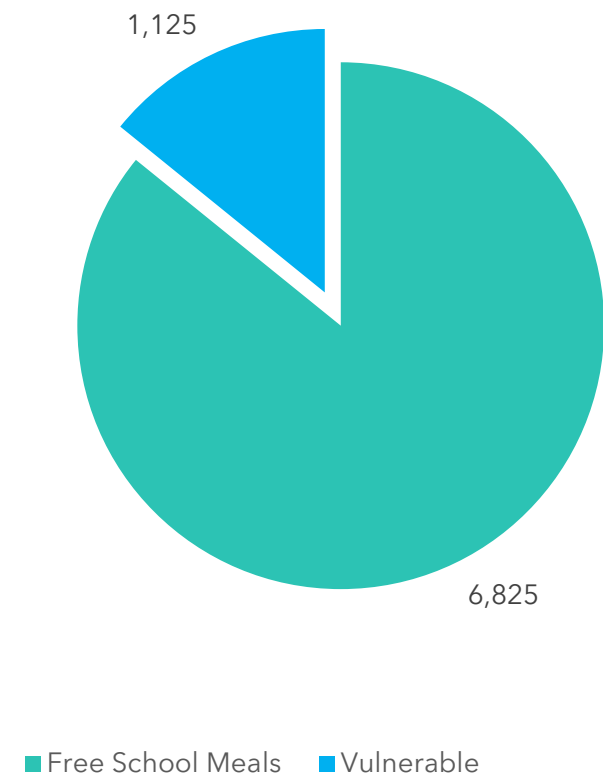
I was able to work whilst my son attended, and he is more confident in himself

Spring 2024 - HAF Vouchers Issued

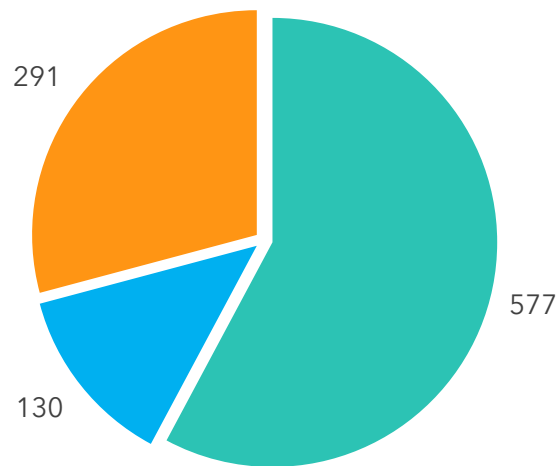
Of the 7,950 HAF Vouchers sent to parents/carers, 6,825 (86%) were for young people identified as in receipt of benefit related Free School Meal and uploaded to WONDE by schools.

There were 1,125 (14%) Vouchers sent to vulnerable young people referred to HAF by professionals or schools to

- Prevent isolation
- Support families on low incomes but not in receipt of free school meals
- Provide activities and food for young people being supported by Children's Services
- Support families with children with SEND
- Encourage routine and structure for young people not attending school to work toward a return to school in the new term



Spring 2024 - Individual Young People booked on sessions



998 young people were booked on to activities.

- 577 (58%) young people booked onto sessions available to primary and secondary school age.
- 130 (13%) young people booked on sessions for secondary age
- 291 (29%) young people booked on sessions for SEND

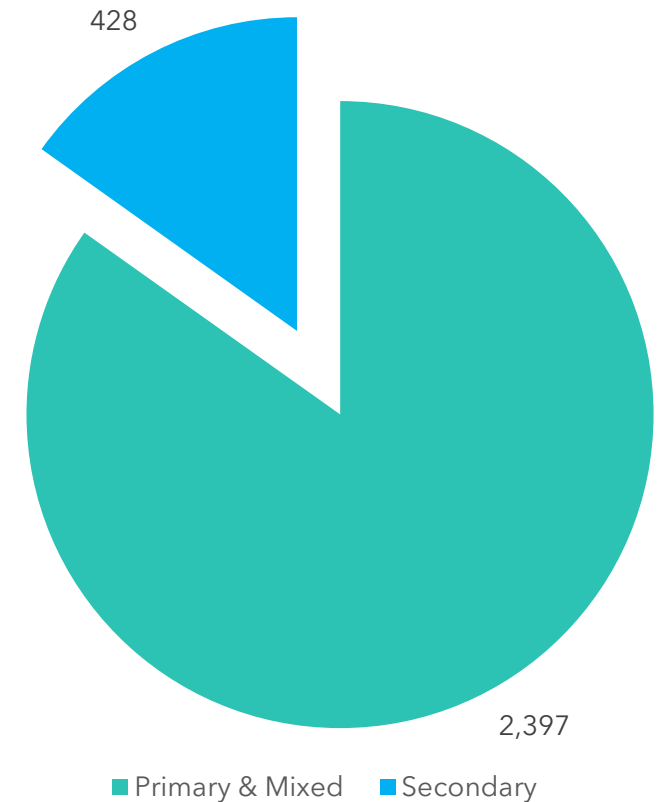
■ FSM Primary & Mixed ■ FSM Secondary ■ Vulnerable

Spring 2024 - Sessions attended

The total number of session attended was 2,825

- 2,397 (85%) were categorised as Primary and Mixed school age sessions
- 428 (15%) were Secondary school age sessions

Of the 2,825 sessions attended, 114 (4%) were SEND specific sessions.





Spring 2024

We offered a wide range of HAF activities to children over the Easter holidays, and feedback from providers and families was positive. However, we had to extend the provision over 3 weeks due to the timing of Easter and Pass Over due to low interest. The take up by families was relatively low. Providers have fed back that they felt that this was due to the timing of the school holidays. There were a high number of non-attended places which was discussed Steering Group to find ways to improve attendance. Uptake for secondary school age rose from 7% in Spring 2023 to 13% in Spring 2024, but more work needs to be done to increase in response to feedback from parents/carers.

The number of young people eligible for Free School Meals has increased by roughly 13% which we factored into the provision, but also meant we needed to ensure value for money to offer the appropriate number of places. Secondary provision was low, and attendance was also low.

We introduced 'Get To Know You' sessions with providers to develop a shared practice network where they could share experiences, successes and failures, help each other improve overall HAF provision. This worked very well and will be incorporated into future sessions.

We had a high number of no shows with some providers. Ways to reduced the low percentage of attendees was discussed at our Summer Steering Group Meeting. One suggestion is to overbook by one or two places on those where less than 75% attended.

Providers were encouraged to undertake more promotional activity, contact schools to give out marketing materials, offer schools free sessions and form relationships with local schools to maintain a presence. Communication with schools needs to be explored to encourage parents to utilise HAF as much as possible. We continued to send posters to schools and community groups, and ALL eligible parents/carers received a HAF letter with information and booking instruction.

7. Summer

Summer HAF ran 22 July to 30 August 2024

- **8,447 HAF Vouchers** were sent of which there were
 - 6,884 Free School Meals
 - 1,515 Vulnerable
- **3,469 Vouchers** were redeemed
- **25 Providers** delivered **43 schemes**
- **22,587 sessions** offered in total **1,121** of which were **SEND specific**
- **1,697 Individual young people** booked session of which there were
 - 967 FSM Primary and Mixed
 - 229 FSM Secondary
 - 501 Vulnerable
- **18,284 sessions** were booked
 - 17,550 Primary and Mixed
 - 734 Secondary
- **13,038 sessions** were attended of which there were:
 - 12,581 Primary and Mixed
 - 457 Secondary
- **1,121 SEND Specific session**
 - 1,012 booked
 - 624 attend
 - 388 unattended



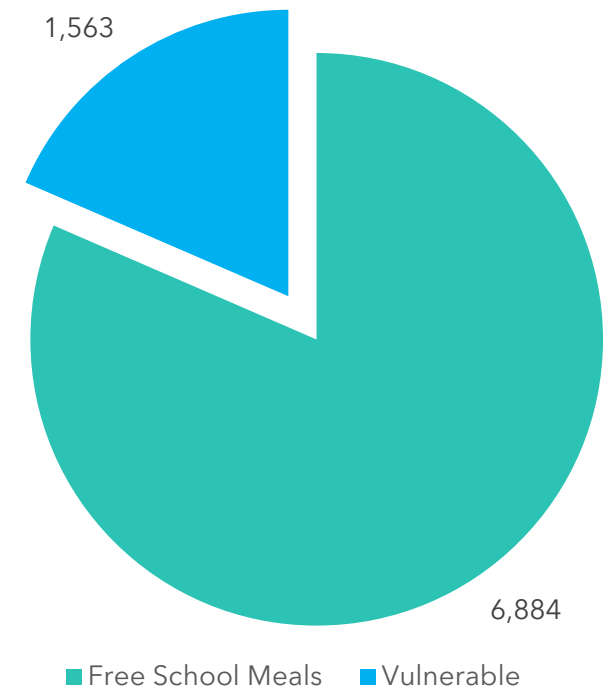
"The HAF summer clubs have taken a huge financial weight off my shoulders and taken the burden off family members, which has allowed me to work without having the anxiety of relying on them."

Summer 2024 - HAF Vouchers Issued

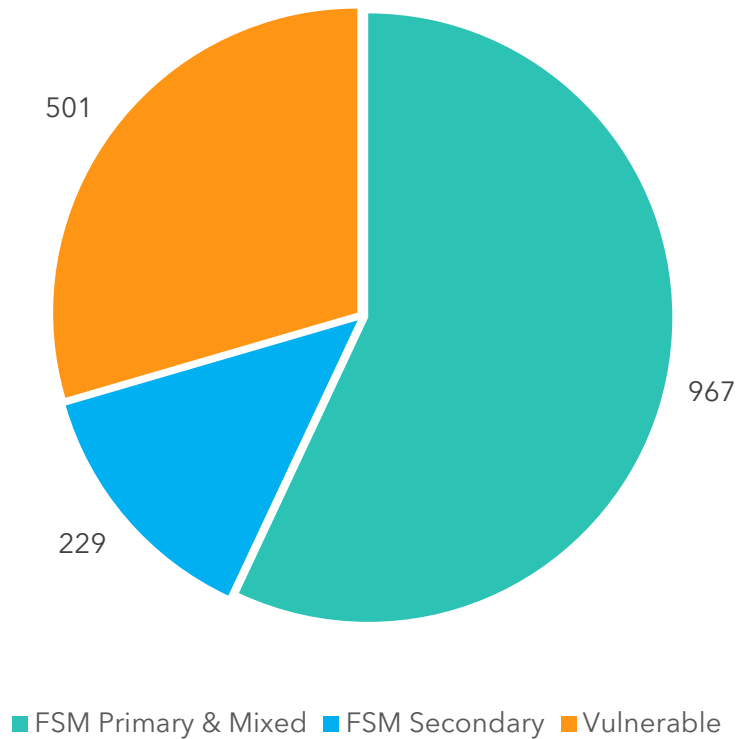
Of the 8,447 HAF Vouchers sent to parents/carers, 6,884 (82%) were for young people identified as in receipt of benefit related Free School Meal and uploaded to WONDE by schools.

There were 1,563 (18%) Vouchers sent to vulnerable young people referred to HAF by professionals or schools to

- Prevent isolation
- Support families on low incomes but not in receipt of free school meals
- Provide activities and food for young people being supported by Children's Services
- Support families with children with SEND
- Encourage routine and structure for young people not attending school to work toward a return to school in the new term



Summer 2024 - Individual young people booked on sessions



1,697 young people were booked on to activities.

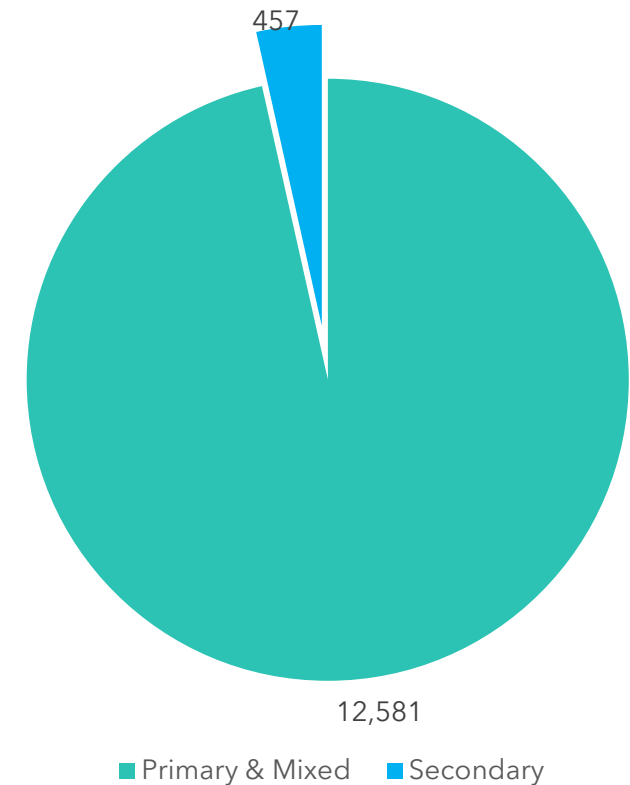
- 967 (57%) young people booked onto sessions available to primary and secondary school age
- 229 (13%) young people booked on sessions for secondary age
- 501 (30%) young people booked on sessions for SEND

Summer 2024 - Sessions attended

The total number of session attended was 13,038

- 12,581 (96%) were categorised as Primary and Mixed school age sessions
- 457 (4%) were Secondary school age sessions

Of the 13,038 sessions attended, 624 (5%) were SEND sessions.





Summer 2024

Uptake on attendance was 58% and increase of 7% on Summer 2023. To increase this, we focussed on an earlier start to the preparations and publicity, more promotion within schools.

A post Summer HAF Provider meeting was held on Tuesday 17th September to discuss how Summer went and to look at how Winter HAF will be delivered. This was well attended, and feedback included:

- The number of 'no shows' remains high, it was suggested to overbook and have a wait list on the Holiday Activities App
- Feedback from parents was very good overall, but parents reported some schools had not uploaded their voucher requests until well after the voucher booking system went live, reducing choice to parents. This was raised with Holiday Activities, and they confirmed that some schools had not signed up for automatic upload. Holiday Activities contact these schools multiple times to remind them to upload, and to recommend signing up to auto upload. This was raised with schools and the number of school not signed up is reducing.
- More details of provision needed on the Bury HAF website
- The new Facebook Page has been great, and bookings did increase once it was launched
- Need confirmation as soon as possible on the future of HAF. This was raised with Childcare Works and the DfE at their cluster meeting in Leeds.



Summer 2024 continued

Parent/Carer feedback on areas for improvement from Summer 2024:

- Cancellation of bookings with providers and reassigning of voucher credits takes too long, providers were asked to make sure they action this more swiftly
- More detailed information was suggested for the Bury HAF website to help with choice of activities available. The website was restructured to make it clearer
- School communication and voucher support is poor. The HAF Team will continue to strengthen relationships with schools and partners
- SEN places remain lower. Bury approved all providers offering SEN places and are working with partners and to try to identify new provider to join HAF
- Attendance at HAF SEND provision was 2% lower than Summer 2023, however the actual number of SEN young people booked on sessions increased by 12%

8. Winter

Winter HAF ran 23 December 2024 to 3 January 2025

- **7,789 HAF Vouchers** were sent of which there were
 - 6,987 Free School Meals
 - 802 Vulnerable
- **2,081 Vouchers** were redeemed
- **19 Providers** delivered 29 schemes
- **4,437 sessions** offered in total 255 of which were SEND specific
- **775 Individual young people** booked session of which there were
 - 420 FSM Primary and Mixed
 - 96 FSM Secondary
 - 259 Vulnerable
- **2,997 sessions** were booked
 - 2,897 Primary and Mixed
 - 100 Secondary
- **2,104 were attended** of which there were:
 - 2,052 Primary and Mixed
 - 52 Secondary
- **255 SEND Specific session**
 - 123 booked
 - 64 attended
 - 59 unattended



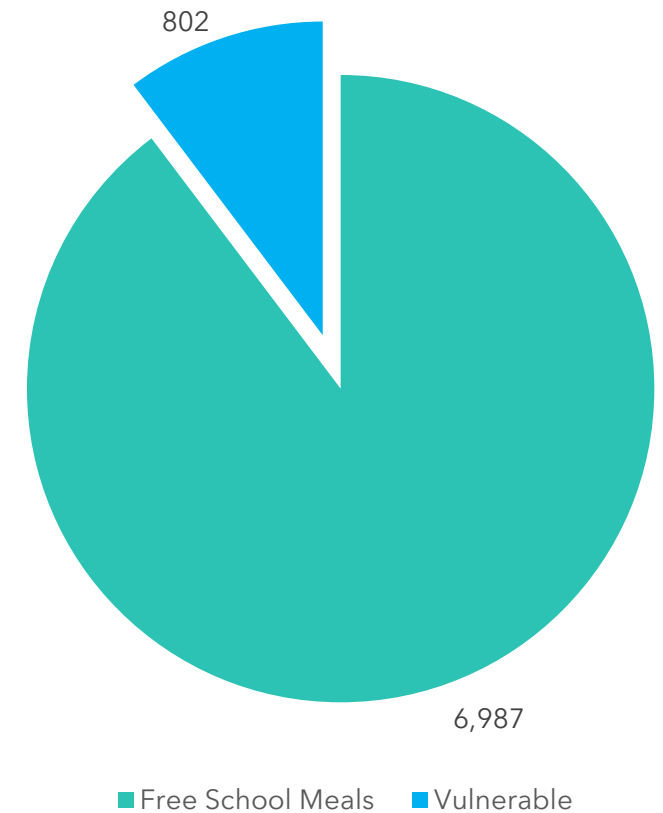
My daughter enjoys sport & craft activities. It was also on at my daughter's school so that made it easier for her to go as she already knew the teacher who was leading the activities.

Winter 2024 - HAF Vouchers Issued

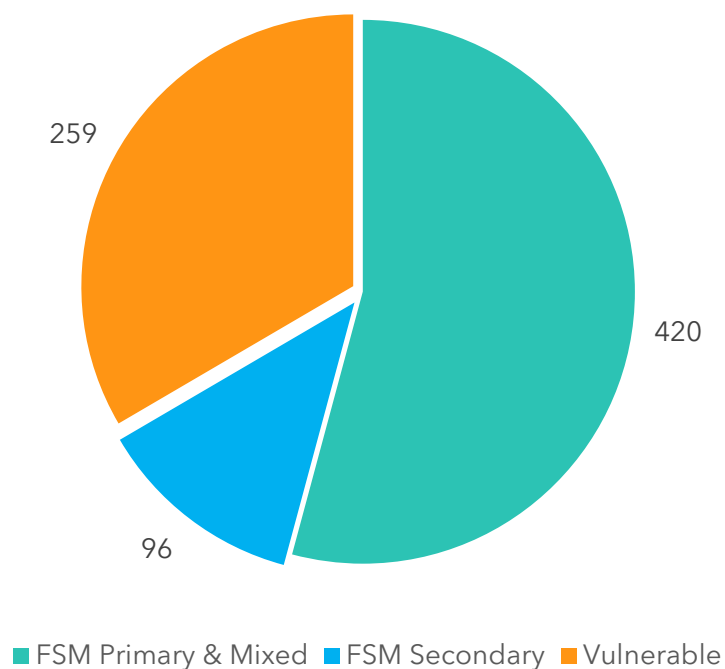
Of the 7,789 HAF Vouchers sent to parents/carers, 6,987 (90%) were for young people identified as in receipt of benefit related Free School Meal and uploaded to WONDE by schools.

There were 802 (10%) Vouchers sent to vulnerable young people referred to HAF by professionals or schools to:

- Prevent isolation
- Support families on low incomes but not in receipt of free school meals
- Provide activities and food for young people being supported by Children's Services
- Support families with children with SEND
- Encourage routine and structure for young people not attending school to work toward a return to school in the new term



Winter 2024 - Individual young people booked on sessions



775 young people were booked on to activities.

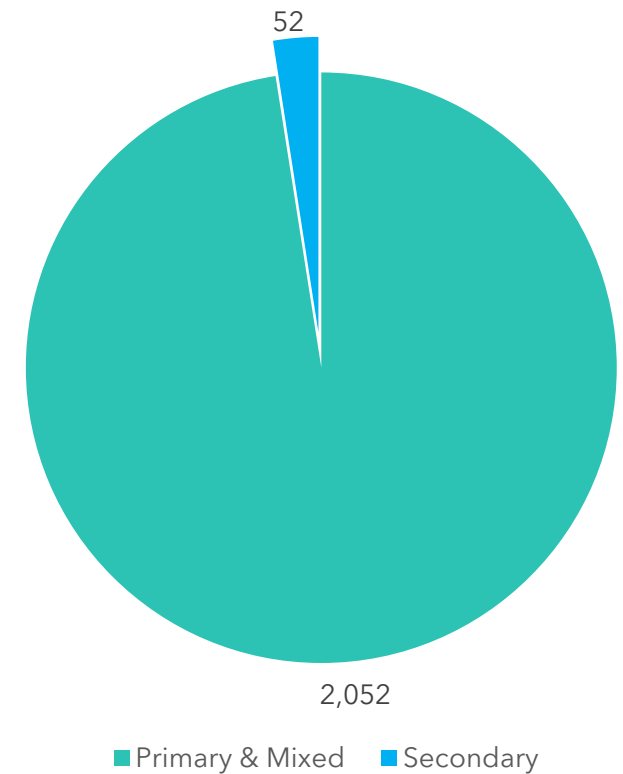
- 420 (54%) young people booked onto sessions available to primary and secondary school age
- 96 (13%) young people booked on sessions for secondary age
- 259 (33%) young people booked on sessions for SEND

Winter 2024 - Sessions attended

The total number of session attended was 2,104

- 2,052 (97%) were categorised as Primary and Mixed school age sessions
- 52 (3%) were Secondary school age sessions

Of the 2,104 sessions attended, 64 (3%) were SEND sessions.





Winter 2024

We provided a range of HAF activities, and hot, hearty food where applicable, to children over the Christmas holidays with more providers able to offer a greater number of places than in Winter 2023. Feedback from providers and families was positive. Attendance was 36% higher than Winter 2023. However, the take up by families was relatively low at 47%, and the proportion of no-shows and cancellations was high. The weather and reports of lots of illness this Winter had a big impact on attendance. This led to some provision having to be cancelled.

Providers have fed back that the timing of the school holidays. Christmas and Boxing Day fell midweek in 2024 limiting the number of days available to deliver HAF over the 2 weeks of the School Holidays. Schools broke up very close to Christmas so there was not the opportunity to offer HAF pre-Christmas activities that there has been in previous years.

Families had other activities they prioritised between Christmas and New Year. In the week after new year, school return dates differed between schools so that some families had booked activities and then realised their children were back in school.

Some providers offered sessions on Christmas and Boxing Day for providers and families not observing this religious festival, which was very well received.

Attendance by secondary age young people increased to by 8% to 13% compared to Winter 2023, however, the number of SEN young people reduced significantly to 33% from 46% in Winter 2023. Providers reported that bad weather and sickness a big contributory factor to this.

9. HAF 2024 Overview

- **22,077 HAF Vouchers were sent of which there were**
 - 20,696 Free School Meals
 - 3,490 Vulnerable
- **8,074 vouchers were redeemed**
- **Providers delivered 103 schemes**
- **33,857 sessions offered in total 1,680 of which were SEND specific**
- **3,470 Individual young people booked session of which there were**
 - 1,964 FSM Primary and Mixed
 - 455 FSM Secondary
 - 1,051 Vulnerable
- **25,539 sessions were booked**
 - 24,454 Primary and Mixed
 - 859 Secondary
- **17,967 sessions were attended of which there were:**
 - 17,003 Primary and Mixed
 - 937 Secondary
- **1,680 SEND Specific session**
 - 1,361 booked
 - 802 attended
 - 559 unattended



Breaks down school breaks and gives the children a chance to socialise and burn off energy

Allowed my child a safe environment to interact with other children and stay active

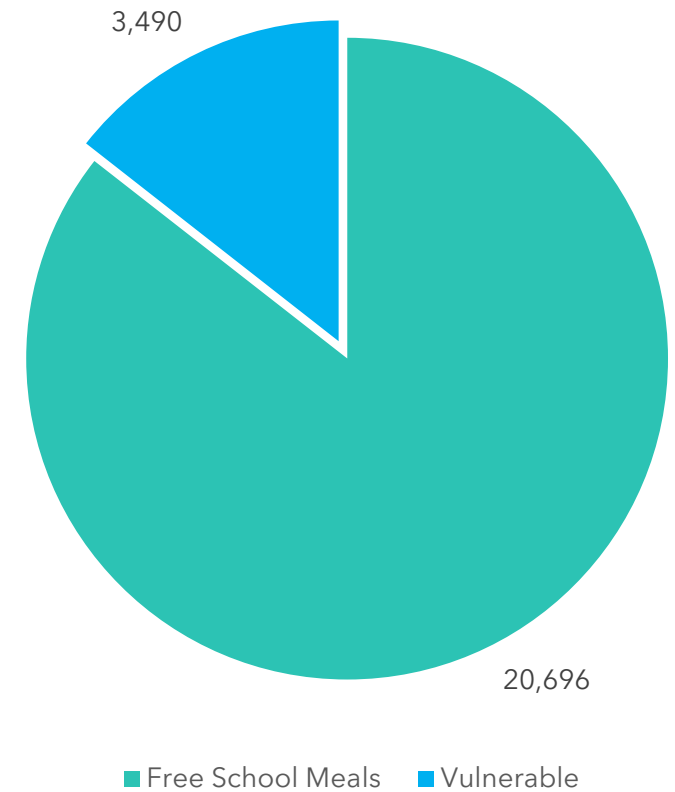
Enabled my children to access activities which they could otherwise not experience

HAF 2024 - Vouchers Issued

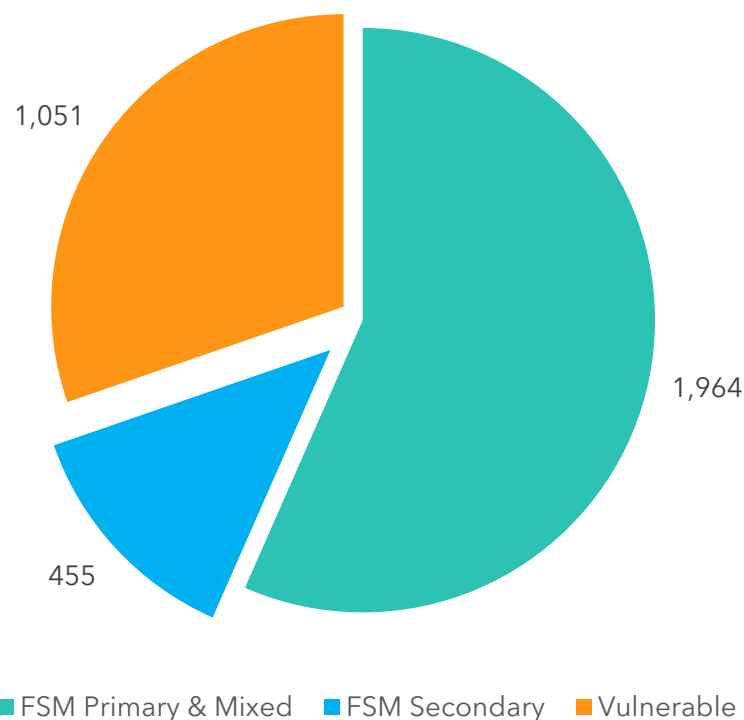
Of the 24,186 HAF Vouchers sent to parents/carers, 20,696 (86%) were for young people identified as in receipt of benefit related Free School Meal and uploaded to WONDE by schools.

There were 3,490 (14%) Vouchers sent to vulnerable young people referred to HAF by professionals or schools to

- Prevent isolation
- Support families on low incomes but not in receipt of free school meals
- Provide activities and food for young people being supported by Children's Services
- Support families with children with SEND
- Encourage routine and structure for young people not attending school to work toward a return to school in the new term



HAF 2024 - Individual young people booked on sessions



3,470 young people were booked on to activities.

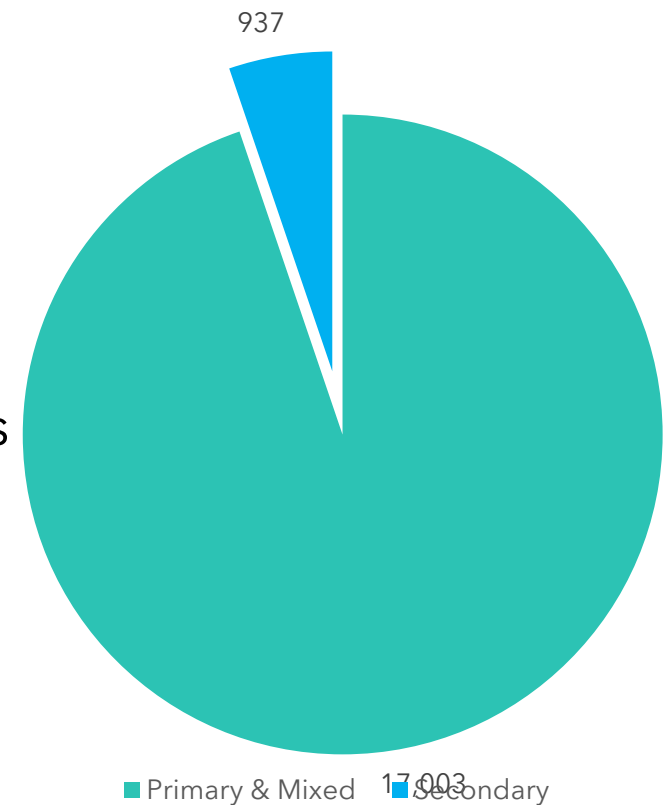
- 1,964 (57%) young people booked onto sessions available to primary and secondary school age
- 455 (13%) young people booked on sessions for secondary age
- 1,051 (30%) young people booked on sessions for SEND

HAF 2024 - Sessions attended

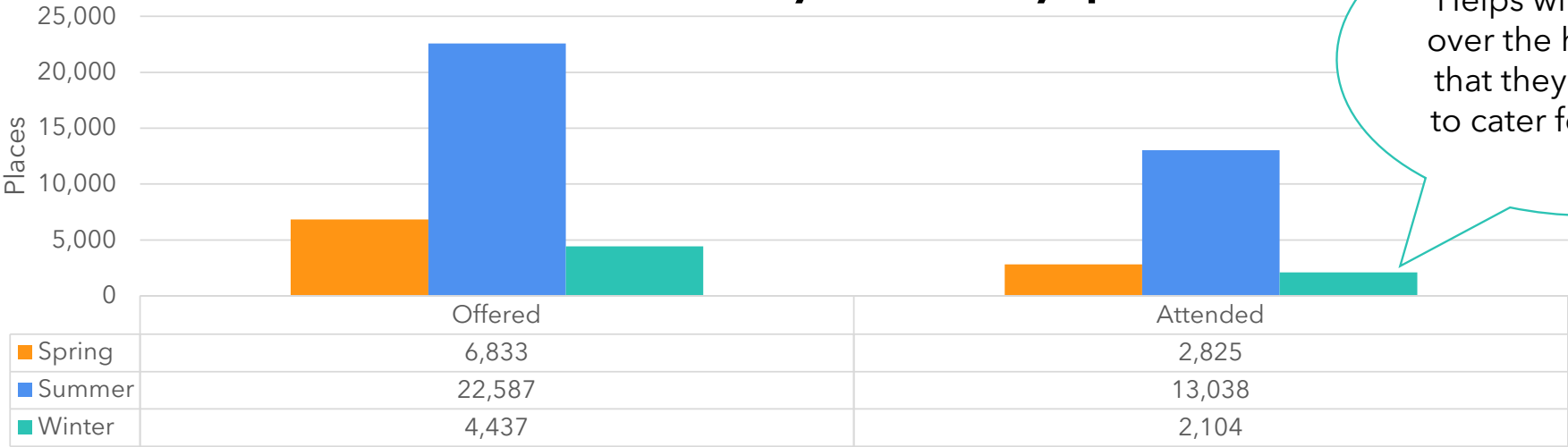
The total number of session attended was 17,967

- 17,003 (95%) were categorised as Primary and Mixed school age sessions
- 937 (5%) were Secondary school age sessions

Of the 17,967 sessions attended, 1,680 (9%) were SEND sessions.



Places offered vs attended by holiday period



Helps with childcare over the holidays and that they are specific to cater for his needs

Attendance of places varied quite widely between holiday periods with 42% for Spring, 57% in Summer and just 47% for Winter. Overall attendance was 53%, a rise of 7% on 2023/4. A contributing factor to this is the Easter holidays as not all school had the same 2 weeks, affecting bookings and attendance. Similarly, the Winter holiday had low attendance as there were only 19 providers offering activities, less choice of activities, and there was a limited choice of days due to Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day being mid-week. Parents booked onto the limited session to avoid missing out, but family commitments over the festive period, and less variety of activities will have affected their decision to attend on the day.



10. Feedback

BURY HOLIDAY Activities & Food Programme

I knew she was doing something fun away from a screen and wasn't bored on her own. She attended two different clubs and loved both

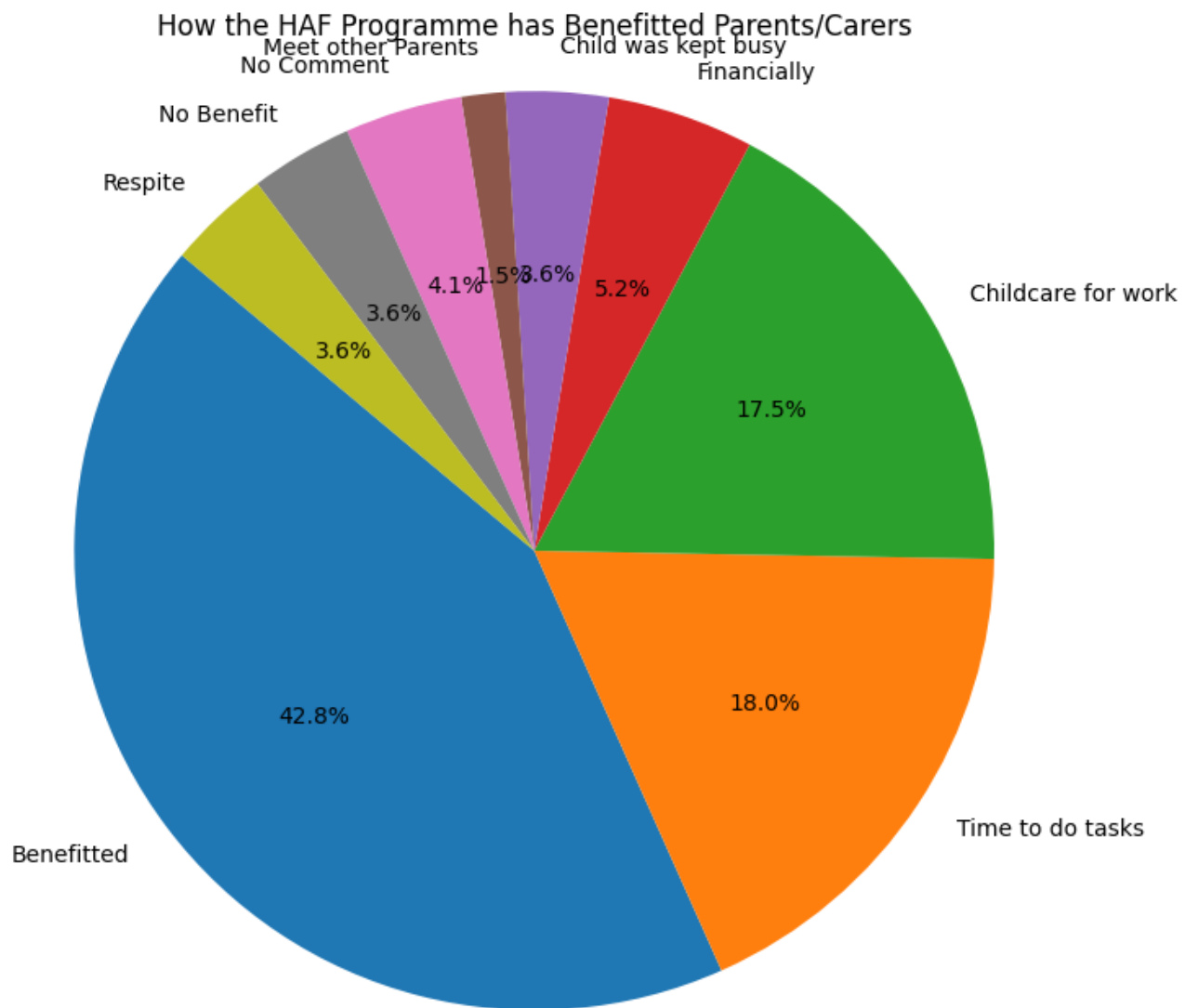
It is already fantastic that a lot of children can participate who wouldn't otherwise because of financial issues

Made me feel relaxed and ensured me that my child isn't missing out nutritionally and educationally, mix with other people and learn social skills

He had many favourite memories he loved the campfires he loved the sports, and he loved just having a bit of freedom to do what he wanted outdoors so of the time

It stops the guilt of not having enough money to do activities they need to progress in life

If I didn't have the help of HAF my child would be inside the house due to safeguarding. My daughter and I are very limited to where we can go where we feel less restricted. Attending the holiday club allows my child to feel free, improve on her social skills and not feel isolated

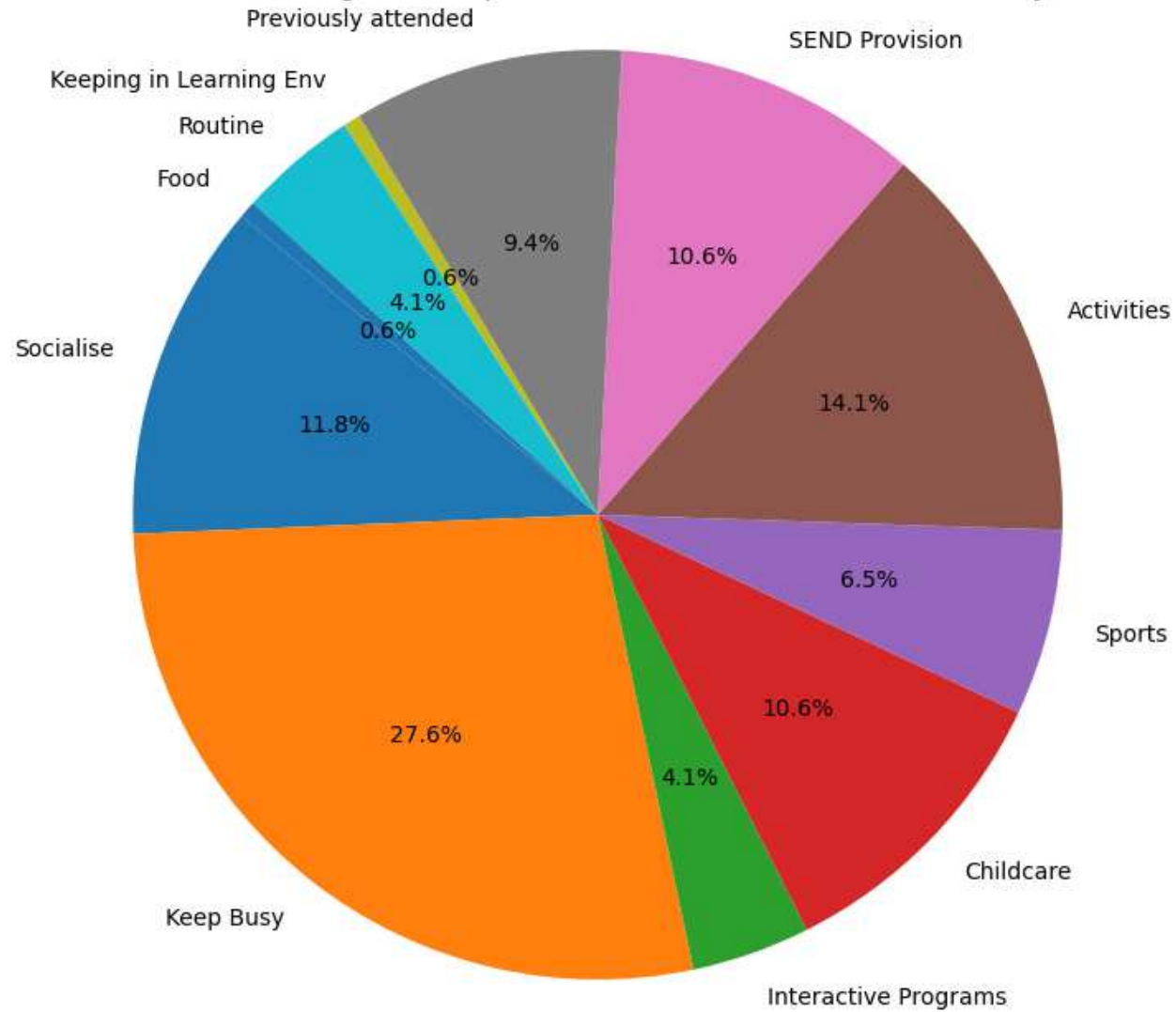


How has the HAF Programme benefited you as a

A word cloud of responses to the question 'How has the HAF Programme benefited you as a'. The words are arranged in a circular pattern around a central point. The most prominent words are 'working' and 'time'. Other words include 'not being with my children', 'school holidays', 'activities for children', 'child care', 'Massively gave', 'children in a club', 'available to children', 'children have some freedom', 'inclusive for children', 'children with send', 'holidays', 'bit more time', 'tough time', 'Enabled me to work', 'easy to do work', 'children', 'able', and 'time to do other things'.

not being with my children
school holidays
activities for children
child care
Massively gave
time to do other things
working
time
children
easy to do work
tough time
bit more time
Enabled me to work
children with send
holidays
children in a club
available to children
children have some freedom
inclusive for children
able

What Encouraged Participants to Book Onto Their Chosen Activity



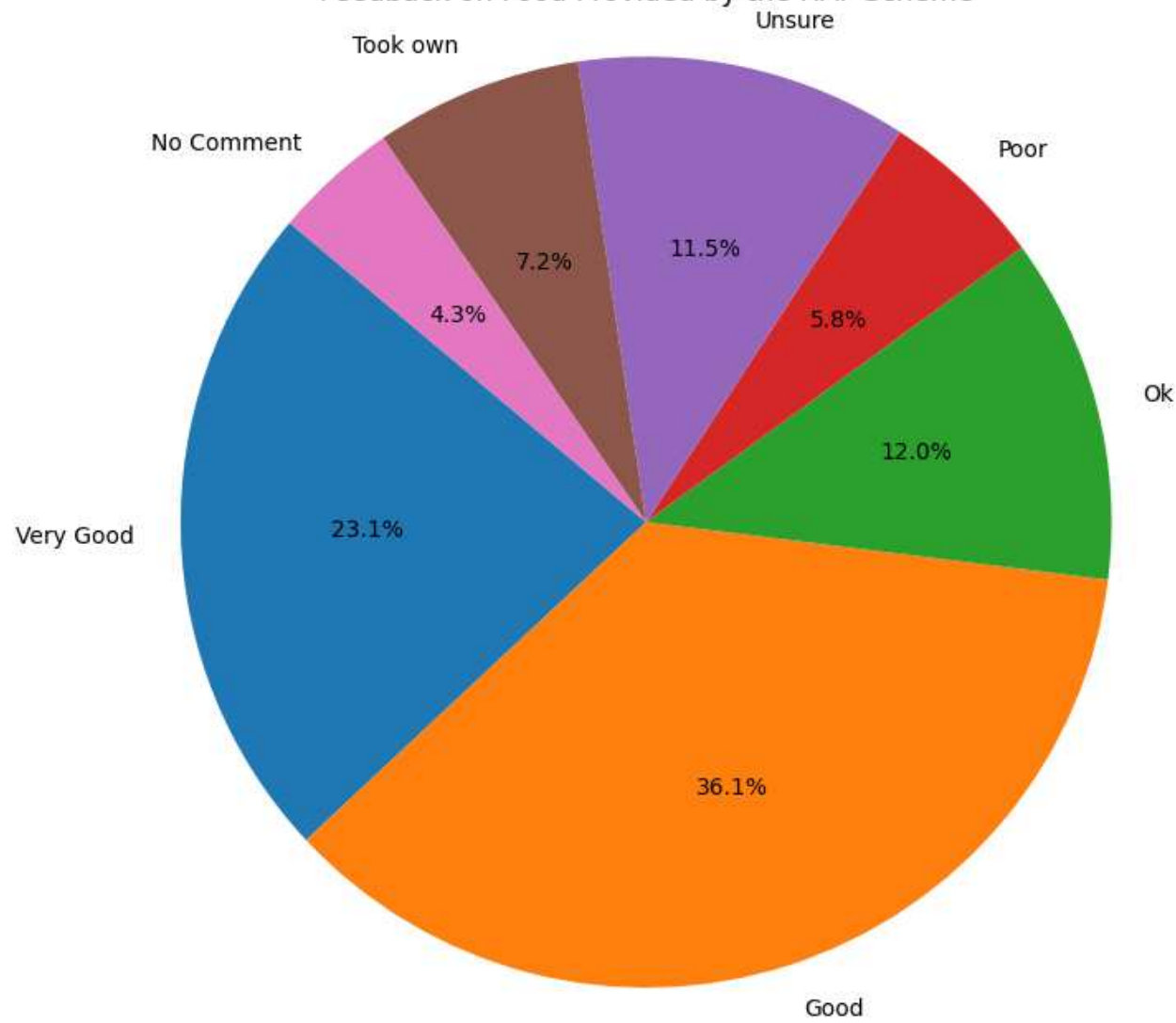
What do you think your child(ren) gained from the HAF activity they attended



A word cloud on a light blue background with a large, faint circular graphic. The words are in various shades of teal and orange. The most prominent word is 'Confidence' in the center. Other words include 'new friends', 'confidence and independence', 'good confidence', 'social skills', 'children', 'Activities', 'different', 'new children', 'new people', 'kids', 'Lynamade friends', 'friendships', 'school', 'social', 'confident', 'children and separation', 'physical activities', 'Better at socialising', and 'confidence in children'.

confidence and independence good confidence
social skills children Activities different new children
new people **Confidence** kids Lynamade friends
school social friendships
confident **new friends** children and separation
confidence in children Better at socialising physical activities

Feedback on Food Provided by the HAF Scheme



What did you think about the food on offer to your child(ren) at the HAF scheme?

A word cloud visualization of feedback about the food on offer at the HAF scheme. The word 'Good' is the largest and most prominent, centered in the cloud. Other words are arranged around it in various sizes and orientations, representing different pieces of feedback. The words include: 'food was great', 'Good options', 'selection of food', 'pack lunch', 'need', 'children', 'little', 'vegetarian food', 'happy with the food', 'good choice', 'sandwich', 'food was different', 'choices', 'daughter', 'ok', 'son', 'food that was on offer', and 'kid'.

food was great Good options selection of food
pack lunch need children
food that was on offer daughter ok Good food little
choices son sandwich vegetarian food
food was different good choice happy with the food
kid



11. Summary

Information from the school Census showed children receiving Free School Meals increased by 1,031(12%) between April 2023 and April 2024.

£597,158 (85%) was spent on provision across the year offering 33,857 places, a reduction of 5% of places against 2023. The increase in staffing, food and ancillary expenses contributed to this. £106,232 (15%) was spent on delivery and administrations, with overall spend coming just below total award at £703,390.

We were able to cover all locality townships across the borough and able to meet specific need (including SEND) and increase our secondary provision with offers including:

Forest schools, multi sports play schemes, trips, specific sporting activity, drama, arts and crafts, enterprise, environment/nature and animal care.

17,967 (53%) of the 33,857 places on offer were attended, which is an increase of 7% on 2023/4 attendance. Attendance once again was directly affected by the timing of religious festivals in Spring and especially Winter.

Of the 33,857 sessions offered, 1,680 (5%) of which were SEND specific. Of the 4,255 offered only 802 (48%) were attended, 24% than in the previous year 2023/4. 45% of our Providers offer SEND supported places within their universal sessions.



12. Forward planning

We have a wide range of excellent provision, but not all places were utilised. Plans implemented to improve access were successful and will be continued into 25/26 These included:

- Build on the improvements made in 2024/5 in marketing and promotion. Continuing to engage Education and Public Health colleagues to work together to increase information sharing
- Encourage Providers to increase their promotion of HAF, and work with the HAF Team to develop a broader and more robust promotion plan
- Develop systems with schools and providers to support and enable parents access the Holiday Activities portal to book on to activities
- Continue to improve communication with internal and external partners to gain a greater understanding of benefits of HAF
- Continue to monitor areas of need within the borough to tailor provision to meet the needs of each locality to ensure travel is not a barrier accessing HAF
- Continue to source more innovative and engaging activities for secondary age pupils
- Continue to work with providers to reduce costs, but expand offers, to enable us to fund a maintained level of provision and better meet need as provision costs continue to rise
- Work with local charities and smaller community-based activity providers to better understand needs and encourage them to apply for HAF funding.

13. Conclusion

During 2024 we expanded reach, offered provision across all localities of Bury, delivered a wider range of activities and improved the communication and experience of our providers, partners, parents/carers and young people.

Attendance remains an issue, but measures have been identified by reviewing provider and service user feedback and collaborating with providers to improve promotion of HAF. Focus will continue to be on increasing publicity of activities within schools, professionals and settings; improving communication with parents and young people; and widening the media spread.

The increase of involvement from the steering group, provider forums and access to regional groups has supported the sharing of good practice and support to drive improvement.

Quality assurance activity and feedback mechanisms have shown us that our providers are increasingly getting it right and truly understand the ethos of HAF.

In summary, the HAF programme in Bury continues to evolve, reaching more children, promoting inclusivity, and enhancing their well-being during school holidays. The changes implemented during 2024 improved the offer, but more is still needed to increase reach.



They had the opportunity to make new friends. It's given me the opportunity to meet other parents in similar circumstances. The service is already fantastic



Thank
you

**Bury Holiday Activities
and Food Team**

HAF@bury.gov.uk

30/06/2025

HAF 2024 Annual Report

45