

Individual Executive Decision

Report title	Holiday Activity Fund, HeadStart and #YES Grant awards	
Decision designation	GREEN	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Cllr Beverley Momenabadi, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work	
Wards affected	(All Wards);	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
Originating service	Partnerships and Strategy	
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Report to be/has been considered by		

Summary

The report sets out the process that has been followed in order to grant award the services of voluntary/community sector organisations to contribute to the summer offer.

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 17 March 2021, approved the establishment of supplementary budgets totalling £1,870,890 fully funded by grant and delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services to make payments in line with Government guidance and approve any necessary virements under the Holiday Activities Programme.

In July 2021, the Department of Education increased the allocation for Wolverhampton by £154,750, taking the revised total grant allocation to £2,025,640. This report therefore seeks approval to build in additional supplementary budgets of £154,750 fully funded by grant taking the total budget for the Holiday Activity Programme to £2,025,640.

This report seeks approval to award grants to the organisations as outlined in paragraph 3.8 to deliver activities under the Holiday Activities Programme.

Councillor Momenabadi
Cabinet Member Children and Young People

Date: 27 July 2021

Emma Bennett
Director Children's and Adult Services

Date: 27 July 2021

Councillor Hardacre
Cabinet Member Education and Skills
Date: 27 July 2021

Signature
Name of Director

Signature
Name of Cabinet Member
Date:

Signature
Name of Director
Date:

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 8 November 2020, the Government announced that the holiday activities and food programme, which has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018, will be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. The programme will cover the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays in 2021, and makes up to £220 million available to local authorities for the programme.
- 1.2 The City of Wolverhampton has been allocated £1,870,890 until March 2022. On 17 March 2021, Cabinet (Resources) Panel approved the establishment of supplementary budgets totalling £1,870,890, fully funded from grant and delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services to make payments in line with Government guidance.
- 1.3 In July 2021, the Department of Education (DfE), allocated an additional £154,750, taking the total allocation to £2,025,640. In line with the delegation outlined in the Councils Constitution, this report seeks approval to increase the budget to the Holiday Activities Programme to £2,025,640 fully funded by grant.
- 1.4 The aim of the programme is to make free places available to children eligible for free school meals for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week, six weeks a year. This would cover four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision in each of the Easter and Christmas holidays.
- 1.5 Another key focus is ensuring that sufficient, adequate provision is available across for children with special educational needs/ disability (SEND).
- 1.6 The aims of the programme is for children who attend the provision;
 - a) to eat more healthily over the school holidays,
 - b) to be more active during the school holidays,
 - c) to take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment,
 - d) to be safe and not to be socially isolated,
 - e) to have greater knowledge of health and nutrition; and
 - f) to be more engaged with school and other local services.

2.0 Progress

- 2.1 The Holiday Activities Fund (HAF) Programme builds upon existing plans and council investment including:

- #YES, and the voice of the young people to shape the offer.
- WV Holiday Squad launched in 2019.
- WV Virtual Squad in response to Covid.
- DWP Winter Grant Scheme - Supporting vulnerable households with food on the table and other essentials, so every child will be warm and well-fed.
- HeadStart community offer - Supporting children, young people and families by providing wellbeing activities in the local community

2.2 Due to lockdown restrictions in place, the Easter offer focused on providing food parcels, activity packs, online activities and face to face activities for vulnerable young people (in line with National Youth Agency Guidance). The Easter programme achieved:

- Blended offer of virtual, face to face and activity packs.
- Delivery of 7979 food parcels and activity pack to families by City of Wolverhampton Council.
- 212 engaged in face to face activities (in line with restrictions due to Covid).
- 200 activity packs delivered to young people with SEND.
- 10 local providers commissioned (2 SEND organisations).

2.3 The summer offer, YO festival is part of the relighting the City. Coproduction has ensured the activities have been developed in response to wishes of children young people and families. Young people have shaped the teenage offer for the relight festival.

2.4 A Steering group has been established oversee the summer programme. This is chaired by the Director of Communications.

2.5 The Youth Engagement Strategic Board developed a small grants scheme and have approved projects and activities.

2.6 Weekly meetings are being held with Voice 4 Parents resulting in a broad SEND offer, with activities five days per week over the summer holidays.

2.7 As part of the 'keeping it local' commitment, webinars have been arranged for local providers, advising on criteria, providing support with grant applications and advice on being Covid safe.

2.8 Providers have been asked to submit application forms, detailing their offer, along with all risk assessments. The HAF support team assess the grant applications which are then endorsed by the Steering Group.

2.9 HeadStart funding has been utilised to ensure the offer can reach as many young people as possible.

3.0 Grant process

- 3.1 As part of the 'keeping it local' commitment, webinars have been arranged for local providers, advising on criteria, covid safety and the grant process.
- 3.2 The grants process was open early June and finishes 30 July 2021.
- 3.3 Providers were asked to submit details about their proposed activity along with Covid risk assessments.
- 3.4 Environmental Health checked food standards was adhered to. Where providers struggled with food provision, Internal caterers agreed to provide packed lunch
- 3.5 The events teams supported providers with getting approval for using parks and greenspace.
- 3.6 The HAF support team assessed the grant applications which are then endorsed by the Steering Group.
- 3.7 As part of #YES work plan, the Youth Engagement Strategic Board developed a small grants scheme and have approved projects and activities from their #YES budget
- 3.8 The table below shows the organisations approved to grants from HAF, HeadStart and #YES:

Name of Organisation	Amount £	Grant
Real Arts Workshops (RAW)	9,800	HAF/ #YES
Wolves Foundation	69,900	HAF
Let us Play	7,945	HAF/ #YES
WV10 Consortium	117,680	HAF/ HeadStart
YMCA Black country group	4,500	HAF
Revolution Dance	7,200	HAF
Voice for Parents (SEND)	6,500	HAF
Newhampton Arts Centre	4,000	HAF
TLC	5,685	HAF
Switch	4,353	HAF
Sarbat	1,980	HeadStart
New Park Village Activities Network	21,600	HAF
Joe Jackson	6,910	HAF
EYES	9,340	HAF/ #YES
WV Active	80,000	HAF
Relight Festival (6160 tickets and meals)	173,803	HAF
RUOE (Reach and Unite, Outreach and Empowerment) CIC	15,000	HAF
The WAY	55,000	HAF
InPower/ Wrestling Club	46,622.50	HAF/ #YES

Name of Organisation	Amount £	Grant
Strive	25,000	HAF
SEND various activities, bowling, cinema, horse riding, sponsonic, music, outdoor pursuits	33,000	HAF
Spurgeons	3,870	#YES
Aspire and Reach	4,746	#YES
The Way	55000	HAF
Central Youth Theatre	5,000	#YES
Friends of Di's Kitchen	1,104	#YES
Magical Mind Coaching	3,600	#YES
City Radio FM	1,280	#YES
Positive Participation	49,500	HeadStart
TOTAL	774,918.50	

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

4.1 Our commitment has been to 'keeping it local' This means priority is given to local community and voluntary organisations. This is in line with priorities set out in #YES (Youth Engagement Strategy).

5.0 Reasons for decision

5.1 The delegated authority is to award grants to the local providers to deliver the summer offer. The impact of not awarding grants will result in free activities being unavailable to children and young people. A commitment has been made to ensure no young people goes hungry during the summer. The Holiday Activity Programme provides a meal with all activities.

5.2 Providing young people things to do and places to go, is a commitment of the Leader and Council. The grant awards will ensure there is a diverse range of activities during the summer holidays.

5.3 The Department of Education has made funding available to support vulnerable young people. If the money is not spent, it will need to be returned.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 In February 2021, Department of Education (DfE) awarded the Holiday Activity fund to the amount of £1,870,890. Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 17 March approved the establishment of supplementary budgets totalling £1,870,890, fully funded from grant and delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services to make payments in line with Government guidance.

- 6.2 In July 2021, DfE announced an additional allocation of £154,750, taking the revised total allocation to £2,025,640. In line with the delegation outlined in the Councils Constitution, this report seeks approval to increase the budget to the Holiday Activities Programme to £2,025,640 fully funded by grant. This grant is to cover a minimum of one week in Easter, four weeks over the Summer and one week at Christmas.
- 6.3 The Council has also allocated £100,000 from the Headstart budget and £100,000 from #YES to support the Holiday Activities Programme.
- 6.4 The report also seeks approval to allocate grants to the organisations outlined in paragraph 3.8. These grants are funded by from the Holiday Activities Programme grant, Headstart Grant and general fund - #YES budget.

[AS/27072021/D]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 The grant will be spent in line with the conditions as set out by the Department for Education.

8.0 Equalities implications

- 8.1 The aim of the HAF programme is to make free places available to children eligible for free school meals and ensuring that sufficient, adequate provision is available for children with SEND/additional needs
- 8.2 Utilising #YES funding and HeadStart will ensure the offer is broader. It will have a beneficial impact on children, young people and families by providing opportunities for them to engage in positive activities thereby improving wellbeing, having a sense of community and raising aspirations.

9.0 All other Implications

- 9.1 The Covid risk is being mitigated by:
- Focus on outdoor events and activities
 - Engagement and webinars with providers on covid compliance
 - Covid security part of terms and conditions
 - Clear guidance on YO! Website
 - Includes promoting regular testing
 - Helpline managed by Public Health (similar to school's helpline)

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 None