



Department
for Education



HAF 2022 Local Authority Annual Report: Cambridgeshire

HAF 2022 Programme Spend:

Overall funding spend on HAF Programme	£1,925,976.70
Administration Costs (included in above spend):	£115,089 or 5.98%
Breakdown of Administration costs:	
Staffing	£114,004
Staff Professional Development	£800
Printing	£285

Children and Young People reached:

	Easter 2022	Summer 2022	Christmas 2022
Unique children	2021	3345	1634
Primary	1772	2802	1385
Primary %	88%	84%	85%
Secondary	249	543	249
Secondary %	12%	16%	15%
SEND	190	339	189

Section 1 - LA details

LA Name	Cambridgeshire County Council
LA HAF Co-Ordinator	Allison Box
Marketing for the 2022 HAF programme included regular updates to the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAF Parents webpage • HAF Provider webpage • HAF Providers • Eligibility vouchers to families in receipt of Benefits-Related Free School Meals 	

- Parent Information letter (distributed by schools)
- Parent Information poster
- School key contacts
- School briefing sessions
- Social Media
- Press release
- Cambridgeshire County Councillors
- Cambridgeshire District Councillors
- Cambridgeshire District Council Refugee support teams
- Cambridgeshire Parish Councils
- Families Information Service
- Children's Social Care and Targeted Support Services
- Family Hubs
- Food Banks
- Housing Societies
- Job Centre Plus
- Libraries

Programme challenges:

Attendance:

Supporting providers to achieve strong attendance was a priority for the HAF team. We have learnt quickly that attendance is highest where individual providers maintain communication with parents and build trusting relationships. Attendance rates for Easter and Summer 22 were 93%, these dipped for Christmas to 87% and reflected increased reported illness in families including flu Norovirus and Covid.

Inclusion:

The inclusion of all eligible children into the HAF programme highlighted some challenges for our providers. Our aim was to offer a range of specialist and mainstream HAF holiday schemes for families with children who have SEND and support mainstream HAF providers to develop the knowledge and skills to offer inclusive provision where it was possible to make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of the child or young person.

To meet this aim we implemented the following:

- Provider Network meetings: Held twice a term, included a regular focus on inclusion and provider duties under the Equalities Act 2010. Practical examples of good inclusion practice were shared.
- Provider CPD: Two training courses were developed for mainstream HAF managers and staff in partnership with an LA specialist holiday scheme. The aim is to upskill staff and increase their confidence with working with children with a range of additional needs.

- Ongoing inclusion support is offered to HAF providers from the HAF Team and LA SEND specialist.
- Additional funding: Providers can apply for Childcare Access Funding (CAF) for 1:1 support for children with an EHCP where required. The HAF team fund this where applications for CAF are too late or the child lives out of county.
- Families Information Service: We worked in partnership with the FIS who now broker HAF placements for families who approach them for support.
- Specialist HAF provision: we also identified and engaged with specialist providers to build further HAF place capacity for children with higher level needs. This resulted in a pilot with one provider to offer additional specialist places which was successful and is being built on for 2023.

Quality Improvement:

We identified the needs to continuously build the quality of the HAF offer to families. Our HAF provider training is growing year on year as a result to ensure providers receive timely training to improve and develop practice. Through 2022 we offered the following fully funded training: safeguarding, inclusion, understanding behaviour, food hygiene, the power of play, risk in play and supporting newly arrived refugee families.

Safeguarding Practice:

Our minimum expectations with regards to safeguarding is for Designated Persons for Child Protection (DP) and staff to have a robust knowledge and understanding of safeguarding, including Cambridgeshire's policies and procedures. During 2022 we identified a variance in knowledge and therefore arranged and funded DP training, validated by the Cambridgeshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Board, for 2 staff per venue. Additionally funding for basic child protection training for 3 staff per venue was available (providers could fund additional places). Both are continuing during 2023. All providers are encouraged to complete this training and are asked to confirm a minimum level of knowledge for the teams prior to each HAF programme. This enables a baseline of county specific knowledge in all HAF schemes.

Additionally, a safeguarding evaluation tool, a deep dive into practice is required to be completed and submitted to the HAF Team annually. The HAF team supports providers with implementing identified areas for development and follows up during monitoring visits and post scheme surveys.

The 2022 Steering Group included representatives from the following:

- Early Years and Childcare Service Senior Management Team representative: Cambridgeshire County Council
- *Early Years and Childcare Service Senior Management Team representative: Peterborough City Council
- Finance Team: Cambridgeshire County Council
- Place Planning Children, Education and Families Education Welfare Benefits Service: Cambridgeshire County Council
- Communities Service: Cambridgeshire County Council

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Communications and Information Team
- *This representation ended in early 2023 due to the separation of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Education Services.

Section 2 – Highlights of 2022

DfE HAF Award Regional and national recognition:

All Seasons Children’s Play, a HAF provider operating from Chatteris in the Fenland district of the county, won two awards. They were awarded Regional HAF Winner for the East of England and gained national recognition, coming joint second, at the DfE inaugural HAF awards.

All Seasons Children’s Play was commended for its high-level engagement in the Fenland area, particularly with vulnerable groups.

The regional media are planning to develop an article highlighting this achievement during summer 2023.

Take and Make Bags:

1200 Take & Make bags full of non-perishable food items, to the value of £35, were compiled by our Christmas HAF providers. These were given to families who attended face to face provision to support them in January. Each bag contained sufficient food for a family of 5 to create a main meal and multiple breakfasts and lunches.

Parent feedback:

- The Take and Make bags have really helped us out. It’s all stuff the kids really like. Honestly, I can’t thank you enough, not just for this but for everything.
- Thanks so much for the food hamper we received. It is so timely because really this whole month I've had to make hard choices to either buy food or buy fuel.
- Thanks to the people who have collected this food and those that have donated it. I am very grateful. I was very scared on how we were going to manage this winter and feel so lucky to have accessed so much food.

Attendance at HAF Programme:

Good relationships were built with families engaging with the HAF holiday scheme providers. This resulted in a 93% attendance level across the Easter and Summer schemes. This dipped slightly to 87% over the Christmas HAF programme due to seasonal illness.

HAF Provider Professional Development:

Cambridgeshire County Council has high expectations of HAF registered providers. As a result, we are committed to supporting providers with enhancing their professional development. A wide range of courses were funded by the HAF team in 2022, including safeguarding and child protection, inclusion, understanding and supporting children’s behaviour and food hygiene. This has seen an increase in the quality of the holiday scheme provision offered to local families.

Ofsted registration:

In line with the national HAF guidance, Cambridgeshire County Council are working with HAF providers to encourage and support registration with Ofsted where possible.

- 59% of providers were registered with Ofsted by December 2022.
- The remaining providers are either on the registration pathway or are registration exempt.

Section 3 – Children and families' feedback

Please provide any social media links, testimonials or feedback that you have received concerning your 2022 HAF Programme

Children and Young Peoples survey feedback during 2022:

- My mum has disabilities, so it was really positive to do activities.
- Cooking was fun, I helped to make the food, this made me want to eat it. I did not dislike anything.
- Inclusive, understanding and very kind people who run the club.
- Having something fun to do during the holidays.
- I enjoyed making the sketch books because it was my own ideas. We had lots of materials and resources and I enjoyed that.
- I played outside a lot; I like to play outside.
- There were so many great things to do and loved doing things with my friends!!!!
- We had a wicked time, we played games, dancing, singing, cooking, went for nature walks and to the shops.
- Enjoyed the hands-on cooking experience and yoga session. Also making slime and science themed day!
- I really enjoyed all of it as it was fun and interesting. I practiced my sewing skills as there was a lady who helped us. I liked cooking and making smoothies.

Parent/Carer survey feedback during 2022:

- My children are learning a set of core values, and this is reducing the number of arguments they have at home.
- My child is so fortunate to be able to broaden her horizons and I feel very lucky to have found out about the HAF scheme.
- My child's confidence is so much better, his communication skills have improved, and his anger has reduced.
- The scheme has been a lifeline in so many different ways, it is a relief knowing my children had a meal.
- My children loved the social aspect of the scheme and making new friends.

- My son is autistic, and they could not have done any more than they did. They made him so happy to the point he did not want to leave.
- This was my child's first every holiday club I was apprehensive as she has separation anxiety, but the staff made the transition as smooth as possible and after the first day she asked to go so an excellent experience.
- My daughter is 4 yrs. old so was one of the youngest. She had a brilliant time. She was made to feel safe and welcome from the second she arrived. Very professional and friendly team.
- My daughter had the best time and was able to take part in some amazing experiences which I wouldn't be able to give her such as the pony experience. I have loved seeing and hearing how excited she has been about talking about all the fun stuff she has done and the friends she has made.

Section 4 – HAF Providers list 2022

- 20Twenty Productions
- Cambridge United Holiday Activity Scheme
- Abington Annexe Holiday Scheme
- Active Camps @ The Leys School
- Active Play Education @ Isle of Ely Primary
- All Seasons Children's Play
- Aspire Learning Trust Whittlesey
- Barneys Holiday Club
- Barracudas Holiday Scheme
- Bassingbourn Out of School Club Holiday Scheme
- Cambridge Kids Club
- Cambridge Russian School
- Cambridge Junction
- Come and Play Holiday Scheme
- CamPlay Holiday Club - SEND
- Careclubs Holiday Club
- Crackerjacks DN and SplatZ Holiday Club
- Crosshall Kids Club
- Dawn until Dusk Holiday Scheme
- Fenland Youth Radio
- Fireflies Forest School
- Football Fun Factory
- Foxes Holiday Club
- Fun Times Holiday Club
- Fusion Family and Youth Projects
- Grafham Water Centre - Discovery Club
- Grow With Us Holiday Scheme
- Happy Hens Childcare
- Homerton Early Years Centre – Owlets

- Head in the Clouds Holiday Scheme
- Inspire Holiday Scheme - SEND
- JLR Play Holiday Scheme
- Jordan Gill Next Generation Boxing Scheme
- Just Do Sport
- Kids Club Ely Holiday Scheme
- Kids R Us Holiday Scheme
- KidsZone Holiday Scheme
- Limitless Sports & Activities
- Little Hands Holiday Scheme
- MACCA Sports Academies
- Morley Holiday Club
- Multi-Active Holiday Scheme
- Next Thing Education
- North Cambridge Academy Holiday Scheme
- Norwich City Football Club RDP
- Oak Activities
- Parkside Pool and Cambridge Ice Arena
- Premier Education
- Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust
- Romsey Mill Youth Scheme
- Smarties Holiday Club
- Sport2day Holiday Club
- The DX Club
- The Fitzwilliam Museum Holiday Scheme
- The Kite Trust Youth Scheme
- The Newcroft Club Holiday Scheme
- TJ Kids Home from Home in the Community
- Total Insight Theatre
- University of Cambridge Holiday Playscheme
- Walsoken Community Action Group
- Waterbeach Youth Club (WAY)
- Wisbech Adventure Playground
- Yaxley Out of School Club
- Young People March
- Young Technicians Academy
- Youths of Fenland Wisbech
- Childminders x 11

Section 5 - Food Provision

All registered HAF providers in Cambridgeshire offered children and young people a nutritious meal daily along with snacks. Some providers also offered children breakfast on arrival to meet the needs of some children who were arriving hungry.

Post scheme surveys gave us insight with regards to the children and young people's views on the food provided. 75% said they enjoyed the food offered. 19% said it was ok and 6% didn't enjoy the food. All feedback is passed to providers so they can review and improve their food offer to children as needed. Further review of the food offered is gained during monitoring visits completed during every scheme with development advice given where required.

Section 6 – Enriching Activity

The enriching experiences offered to children and young people during 2022 ranged from sports, creative arts, play based opportunities, youth schemes, forest school, science, technology engineering and Maths (STEM), swimming, theatre trips, visits from animal organisations, local support service visits such as the police, off site trips to local amenities and further afield on residential to woodland parks

Our providers reported a positive impact observed when children and young people engaged in new and exciting experiences. A new sense of confidence and pride was demonstrated as comfort zones were extended and new skills and knowledge was learnt.

Skills required for day-to-day living were also gained in abundance by children and young people who learnt how to plan, prepare and cook their own meals, manage money when purchasing ingredients and plan their own experiences within a budget.

Parents also reported that their children felt safe and valued when attending schemes. This supported their underpinning psychological needs and enabled them to relax and have fun with their peers. Parent quote, Summer 2022 HAF 'my children felt safe and really happy'.

Recently arrived refugee families were welcomed to the HAF Programme through 2022 and into 2023. A Cambridgeshire playscheme support a Ukrainian child to attend their Summer 2022 HAF Programme for 64 hours, the parent's employer funded additional hours to enable Mum to continue working.

The child's class teacher noted the significant transformation in the child's spoken English observed between July (first started school) to September. The child is continuing to attend the playscheme and looks forward to coming each time. The child also helped another child learn English during the summer as she became more confident.

Section 7 – Physical Activity

From initial registration for each scheme our HAF providers were planning the physical activity offered to children and young people. This ranged daily from a variety of sports including swimming, cricket and football to playing outside, running, jumping and climbing. Children participated in local trips which involved walking to local parks, allotments and exploring nature reserves.

Our HAF providers are supported by the HAF Team to ensure they adapt the physical activity opportunities to ensure each child can successfully participate.

The child's input in planning physical activities is key for successful physical activity provision as engagement has been shown to increase the more the child's voice is embedded in practice.

Section 8 – Nutritional Education and the promotion of healthy living/lifestyles

Nutritional education was embedded in all HAF schemes that operated during 2022. The majority of this was presented in a play-based form to ensure a relaxed approach with the highest likelihood of engagement.

A range of resources to support HAF providers and families were developed by the HAF Team in partnership with Peterborough Environmental City Trust (PECT) and can be [found here](#). The resources have been further expanded for 2023 to include an environmental awareness focus.

HAF Providers reported a range of positive impacts as a result of their work with children during the 2022 programmes. Several providers noted that children were willing to try new whole foods that they had previously declined when offered by parents such as pineapple, coconut, and olives. Games such as fruit bingo encouraged children to try a colourful rainbow of fruit and vegetables. Participation was helped by their peers having a go, taking a risk, and enjoying the result.

Providers also included children in their meal preparation by purchasing food locally within a budget and following a recipe to cook a meal and eat it with their peers. The impact was very positive on children and young people's ability to plan a meal within a budget and consider the implications of overspending.

Section 9 – Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

Within Cambridgeshire we ask all HAF providers to ensure reasonable adjustments are made to include eligible children within their schemes subject to being able to meet the needs of children and availability of places.

A number of specialist HAF providers also offered places for children and young people with SEND, this is being increased, within budgetary tolerances, for 2023. There were 2 specialist HAF providers during 2022 offering places at 10 venues. All mainstream providers were asked to consider the reasonable adjustments required, on an individual basis, to accept children with SEND subject to availability of places and sufficient notice to make adjustments such as recruit additional staff.

The HAF Team worked in partnership with the Cambridgeshire Families Information Service (FIS) to broker HAF placements for families who approach them for support.

The Cambridgeshire HAF Team engaged with providers and parents and aimed to support inclusion through identifying appropriate registered venues where the child's needs can be met, supporting with additional funding where required (subject to budget availability) and funding professional development for holiday scheme staff. We recognise that there is more that can be done to support the inclusion of children with SEND within HAF provision and budget permitting, we aim to progress this into 2023.

Parental feedback:

Watching my child playing, interacting, and working with other children was amazing. No one would have thought they have autism. The BIG thing for me was to see my child interacting with and very happily playing with other children as they not do it much at school. That gave me something very precious – a bit more hope! Thank you so much. It is difficult to organise the one-to-one support my child's needs. The scheme worked their socks off to do it. It is the care and know-how of the people that makes it special.

Section 10 – Signposting & Referrals

HAF providers demonstrate that they know their area well and the services available locally. Relationships are built from the first interaction with parents to encourage trust. In turn this supports parents with the confidence to ask for support as needed. Many parents return to the same scheme for each HAF programme which enables relationships to grow and further support and guidance to be offered.

A comprehensive document is compiled and regularly reviewed by the HAF team which includes key signposting information for HAF providers to offer to parents relating to health, safeguarding, SEND, financial and emotional support.

Additionally, the HAF Parents webpage includes links to key information for families: [Cambridgeshire Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme 2023 - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Section 11 – HAF Programme 2023/24

The Cambridgeshire HAF Aims for 2023:

- Continue to build attendance levels on booked places.
- Increase places for secondary school aged children.
- Increase SEND places:
 - Increased support to providers via our training offer and communications with parents encouraging early booking and full disclosure of needs.
- Further increase Ofsted registration with HAF providers
- Build on quality and expectations with HAF providers.
- Develop greater environmental awareness expectations with HAF providers, offering support and the sharing of good practice already embedded.