**03/07/2023**

**Lancashire Holiday Activities and Food Programme – Summer 2023**

It is likely that you will already have received information from our district teams about the Holiday Activities and Food Programme for the summer, what the timetable of activities is in your area and how families can book a place for their children. If not, please look out for it.

Each holiday period we are increasing the number of children who take up a HAF place which is great news, but I think we still have some way to go in ensuring the children who most need a place are the ones that book early so they don't miss out and also get the support and encouragement they need to take that place up.

Schools are absolutely crucial in getting this information to families and children, as this offer is available to those eligible for Free School Meals you are in a position to be able to target the information to the right pupils. We know in schools where there is active promotion of HAF, engagement with parents to encourage take- up and where they have a good knowledge of what the local offer is, bookings and take- up are high. Conversely where HAF is not given a high profile in schools, we know there will be less pupils benefitting from the programme.

What the HAF guidance tells us is that in households where there is a low-income, holidays can be a stressful time and children are:

* **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**

This impacts how they return to schools after the holidays, with their ability to settle back into routines and be ready to learn impaired. I have attached a letter here from the DfE to schools explaining the importance of HAF for pupils with low attendance, evidence seems to be suggesting that attendance at HAF clubs can support improved school attendance.

 The aims of the programme are to ensure children are.

* r**eceiving healthy and nutritious meals**
* **maintaining a healthy level of physical activity**
* **being happy, having fun and meeting new friends**
* **developing a greater understanding of food, nutrition and other health-related issues**
* **taking part in fun and engaging activities that support their development**
* **feeling safe and secure**
* **getting access to the right support services**
* **returning to school feeling engaged and ready to learn**

The Lancashire programme provides a great range of activities and clubs and is becoming more and more successful, we have a growing library of case studies and testimonies evidencing the positive impact HAF is making on children's lives.

**Invitations**

Please pass the HAF invitation provided with this message to the families of all FSM pupils in your school, either electronically or as printed paper copies and encourage them to follow the links which are are all live on our webpage to find out what is offer and how to book.

 [Holiday activities and food programme (HAF) - Lancashire County Council](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities/)

There are an increasing number of districts using a central booking system which generates codes, these are sent out to schools for you to allocate to pupils eligible for FSM. Please add the name(s) of the child(ren) and their code where relevant to the invitation and save as a PDF before sending to parents. Districts may also provide promotional materials for you to pass on to families, please include this invitation to send out at the same time.

Children who are not be eligible for FSMs, but who may need a HAF place as a result of other vulnerabilities or risk factors could still qualify as we are able to offer 15% of our total places to such children. Some areas are giving additional codes on request for these pupils, if you believe a child in your school has an additional need, or a risk factor that means they would benefit from a HAF place please contact your district HAF co-ordinator.

We do still have a problem with children not turning up when they have a place booked for them, it is very likely that there will always be an element of this as places are free and the nature of family life means taking up a place is not always possible, however where there is a large number of did not attends the reputation of the programme is damaged, resource is wasted, and some children are denied a place when they could have attended. Please encourage parents to only book a place that they intend to use and to cancel that place if their child is unable to attend. We know that it is often families with greatest need living in challenging circumstances that make getting children to holiday provision difficult, wherever you can please support these pupil's attendance or work with partner agencies who can help.

If you are interested in your school being used as a venue for HAF provision or would like your Holiday Club to provide places please contact your HAF Co-ordinator to discuss this, by increasing the number of venues we have we are helping to support increased take up. For more information about the Holiday Activities and Food Programme please visit:

[Holiday activities and food programme 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2023)

We also have a short film to promote HAF please cascade this link to parents and other agencies your school works with

[Holiday Activity and Food Programme - YouTube](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DRK88ELzcZ4g%26t%3D8s&data=05%7C01%7CHelen.Armstrong%40lancashire.gov.uk%7Cc2ee19f9a87f40cdd4f808db7e36545f%7C9f683e26d8b946099ec4e1a36e4bb4d2%7C0%7C0%7C638242544023272120%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hLGRK1zvRVomVoXe68MV3AjKwHKibWj8%2FffRQEoT%2BqU%3D&reserved=0)

**HAF district co-ordinators**

The approach to HAF processes and booking system varies across districts. You and your families may get information from district co-ordinators, including how to book places or use vouchers. This letter is to supplement the information provided at a district level, not to replace it.

The district contacts are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Chorley** | Laura Hendi  | Laura.hendi@chorley.gov.uk |
| **Preston** | Alysia Moorhouse | alysia.moorhouse@springnorth.org.uk |
| Charlotte Riley  | Charolotte.riley@springnorth.org.uk |
| **Burnley** | Catherine Swift  |  cswift@burnley.gov.uk |
| Lynne Blackburn | Lynne\_participationworks@yahoo.co.uk |
| **Fylde** | Edyta Paxton |  edyta.paxton@fylde.gov.uksusan.barratt-crane@fylde.gov.uk |
| Suzie Crane |
| **Wyre** | Jake White | Jake.white@wyre.gov.uk |
| **Wyre**  | Carol Southern  | Carol.southern@wyre.gov.uk |
| **Pendle** | Gill Dickson | gill.dickson@pendle.gov.uk |
| **Ribble Valley** | Dave Potts | david.roefield@live.co.uk |
| **South Ribble** | Jonathan Garston  | jonathan.garston@southribble.gov.uk  |
| **Lancaster** | Peter Santar  |  ptsantar@lancaster.gov.uk |
| **West Lancs** | Kevin Davidson | Kevin.davidson@shareslancashire.co.uk |
| Mark Forster | m.forster@endeavourlearning.org |
| **Hyndburn** | Aisha Brotherton | Aisha.brotherton@hyndburnleisure.co.uk |
| Stacey Bowie | Stacey.bowie@hyndburnleisure.co.uk |
| **Rossendale** | Paul Gallagher | paul.gallagher@rltrust.co.uk;  |

Thank you for your continued support. Please contact me if you have any HAF queries.

Helen Armstrong

Central Programmes Team Manager (HAF)

Children and Family Wellbeing Service

Lancashire County Council

M: 07974617115

E: helen.armstrong@lancashire.gov.uk