



**Agenda for a meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Wednesday, 20 December 2023 at 4.30 pm in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford**

**Members of the Committee – Councillors**

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Fricker Mohammed Regan Thirkill Zaman	Davies Pollard	Sunderland	Sajawal

**Alternates:**

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Alipoor Berry Humphreys I Hussain Walsh	Birch Felstead	Naylor	Elahi

**VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:**

**Church Representative:**

Joyce Simpson

**Parent Governor Representatives:**

Fauzia Raza

**Parent Governor Representatives:**

Shifa Simab

**NON-VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:**

**Teacher Secondary School Representative:**

Tom Bright

**Children's Social Care:**

Dr Samina Karim

**Notes:**

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.

- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.

**From:**

**To:**

Asif Ibrahim

Director of Legal and Governance

Agenda Contact: Kav Amrez / Louis Kingdom

Phone: 07929 070288/07890 416570

E-Mail: [kanwal.Amrez2@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:kanwal.Amrez2@bradford.gov.uk)/[louis.kingdom@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:louis.kingdom@bradford.gov.uk)

## A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

### 1. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

The Director of Legal and Governance will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

### 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(Members Code of Conduct – Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

#### **Notes:**

- (1) *Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:*

<b>Type of Interest</b>	<b>You must:</b>
<i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i> <b>OR</b> <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Affects)</i> <b>OR</b> <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being</i>

*(a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward, and*

*(b) a reasonable member of the public*

*knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest; in which case speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not do not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.*

- (2) *Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (3) *Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (4) *Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

### **3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Kav Amrez / Louis Kingdom – 07929 070228 / 07890 416570)

### **4. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Any referrals that have been made to this Committee up to and including the date of publication of this agenda will be reported at the meeting.



## **B. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES**

### **5. RAISING ATTAINMENT STRATEGY 1 - 10**

The Strategic Director of Children's Services will submit a report (**Document "L"**) which provides an update on the Raising Attainment Strategy following the release of Phonics, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 attainment data 2022/23.

**Recommended –**

**Members are asked to accept the reports and note the final outcomes of the Raising Attainment Strategy implementation.**

(Sue Lowndes – 01274 432009)

### **6. HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME (HAF) 11 - 42**

The Strategic Director of Children's Services will submit a report (**Document "M"**) which provides an update on the Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) delivery across the district.

**Recommended –**

**That the delivery approach to the Holiday Activity and Food Programme and associated outcomes are noted and approved.**

(Sharon Sanders – 07973 982939)

### **7. OVERVIEW OF THE TRAVEL ASSISTANCE SERVICE 43 - 48**

The Strategic Director of Children's Services will submit a report (**Document "N"**) which provides an overview of the Travel Assistance Service together with current costs and how this compares to previous years.

**Recommended –**

**That the report be noted by the Committee.**

(Michelle Pickles – 07582 109012)





## **Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

---

### **Subject:**

**Raising Attainment Strategy**

### **Summary statement:**

**This report provides an update on the Raising Attainment Strategy following the release of Phonics, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 attainment data 2022/23**

### **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

The School Improvement Service promotes equality. When working with commissioned partners it ensures that no individual or group is discriminated against based on race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age, or other protected characteristic. The actions and recommendations outlined in this report have undergone a thorough equality assessment. This assessment ensures that the policies, practices, strategies, services, or functions presented herein are inclusive and do not inadvertently disadvantage any particular group.

The School Improvement Service recognises the importance of the Council's equality objectives. The work presented in this report contributes to these objectives by fostering an environment where every child receives the highest standard of education, protection and care regardless of their background or identity. Specific measures have been implemented to ensure that the work was culturally sensitive and practices and responsive to the diverse needs of our community.

---

Marium Haque  
Strategic Director Children's Services

### **Portfolio:**

Children and Families

Report Contact: Sue Lowndes  
Phone: (01274) 432009  
E-mail: [sue.lowndes@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:sue.lowndes@bradford.gov.uk)

### **Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

Children's Services

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the work of the Raising Attainment Strategy. It provides the final outcome data following the end of the project in July 2023.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Raising Attainment Strategy was intended to be a 5 Year plan. However, budget constraints have meant that the work ceased in July 2023.

- 2.2 This paper focuses on the primary intervention work done during the spring term 2022 and the academic year 2022/ 23 (4 terms in total)

- 2.3 The whole strategy was managed by the Education and Learning Team.

- 2.4 Data from 2018/19 to 2021/22 was initially used to select the schools that were eligible and would benefit from participation in the programme. Criteria included any school below National for English and/or maths in KS1 or KS2, schools with a 'spiky' profile (increase one year decline the next) or any school showing a decline in data over the last 3 years.

- 2.5 The LA commissioned support for primary schools for English and mathematics from local DfE Literacy and Numeracy Hubs – White Rose Maths Hub and Burley Woodhead English Hub to deliver proven programmes of support and intervention for identified schools, and year groups in identified schools. These programmes were intensive and lengthy to ensure impact in schools – 16 weeks' provision. The programmes were delivered by Specialist Leaders in Education (SLEs). It was necessary to train additional Specialist Leaders in Education (SLE) for English to deliver the programme. A programme manager was seconded from her role as deputy headteacher of a primary school for 2 days per week for the academic year to manage the programmes.

### **2.6 Mathematics**

- 20 schools were involved
- Audits of provision were done in all schools
- SLEs worked with the schools either weekly or fortnightly
- A network event was held in spring 2022 providing an opportunity for schools involved to meet.

### **2.7 English**

- 9 schools received English support
- SLEs were trained to ensure that the capacity for support for English was now increased and standardised.
- Schools were audited
- 3 schools received support for both English and Maths

- Regular meetings with Maths and English hubs ensured support from SLE's was standardised

2.8 The capacity of the Hubs to provide support differed. The Maths Hub had a much larger pool of SLE's in comparison to the English Hub. The maths SLE's were contracted and employed by either The Maths Hub or White Rose so had weekly availability to support schools. English SLE's are full time working teachers in Bradford schools so their availability was limited.

2.9 In order to have maximum impact the strategy focused on particular areas for development including leadership support for the maths lead or leads in school, focused support for individual members of staff (eg, Early Career Teachers, Early Years teams, new to school staff, key teachers who needed extra support), Year 6 children, Year 2 children and finally (after completion of SATs), children in the Early Years.

2.10 SLE's were appointed to individual schools and stayed for the duration of the support work to ensure continuity. In a number of schools where early years was identified as needing extra support, early years specialist SLE's were brought in to support both the SLE and teacher working in that phase earlier in the project.

2.11 In January 2023, an offer of extra tutoring for the 7 lowest performing schools was presented by the White Rose Maths Team. The offer comprised of 15 hours of maths tuition, between Jan 23 until the first week of SATs, planned, assessed and delivered by a WRM tutor who would work directly with their allocated school. All 7 schools took this offer – Shirley Manor, Fearnville, Lower Fields, Carrwood, Ley Top, Parkland, St Oswald's

2.12

	High level of support
	Medium level of support
	Light support

## Mathematics Outcomes

Schools	KS1		KS2	
	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23
Appleton		75%	60%	81.4%
Carrwood	48.8%	38.0%	45.3%	43.9%
Clayton Village	50%	63.3%	59.4%	53.8%
Crossley Hall	50%	65.9%	73.2%	62.1%
Fagley	60%	40%	74.1%	76.7%
Fearnville	53.1%	60%	27.7%	45.3%
Green Lane	49.4%	23.2%	61.4%	56.8%
Grove House	63.5%	64.4%	65.5%	69%
Haworth	61.9%	61.9%	52.9%	84.1%
Hollingwood	60.3%	66.7%	83.6%	82%
Hoyle Court	64.3%	78.3%	57.1%	56.1%
Killinghall	60%	60.7%	84.4%	86.7%
Ley Top	71.9%	55.9%	50%	56.4%
Lower Fields	61%	25.9%	53.4%	40%
Myrtle Park	24.1%	70%	46.7%	66.7%

Our Lady of Victories	46.7%	46.7%	83.9%	93.3%
Parkland	42.3%	57.1%	36.7%	33.8%
Ryecroft	57.7%	57.1%	67.5%	63.6%
Shipleigh CE	76.3%	63%	60%	76.7%
Shirley Manor	63.3%	68.2%	35.7%	46.7%
St Oswald's	65.4%	53.6%	50.9%	51.7%
Westminster	57.6%	63.3%	64.8%	51.1%
Whetley	42.9%	31.9%	59.5%	52.2%

## 2.13 English Outcomes

Schools	Phonics		KS1				KS2			
	21/22	22/23	Reading		Writing		Reading		Writing	
			21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23	21/22	22/23
Fearnville	72.9%	77.1%	49%	56%	42.9%	56%	38.3%	48.1%	21.3%	51.9%
Green Lane	73.1%	71.8%	52.9%	40.2%	40%	17.1%	60.2%	48.1%	61.4%	63%
Home Farm	70%	60.3%	60%	53.3%	56.7%	58.3%	54.8%	63.3%	61.3%	65%
Our Lady and St Brendan's	77.4%	82.8%	45.2%	54.8%	41.9%	67.7%	65.4%	53.6%	76.9%	67.9%
Shirley Manor	33.3%	64%	50%	63%	46.7%	54.5%	50%	43.3%	71.4%	63.3%
St Columba's	86%	79.1%	45.3%	75%	45.3%	72.8%	70.4%	60.4%	77.8%	81.1%
St Joseph's RC	47.8%	68.9%	58.1%	60%	58.1%	48.9%	58.3%	72.7%	66.7%	75%
Wilsden	67.4%	87.8%	71.1%	69%	57.8%	57.1%	80.4%	68.8%	68.6%	79.2%

National data:

In individual subjects, attainment increased in maths and writing compared to 2022.

Attainment fell in reading.

In reading, 73% of pupils met the expected standard, down from 75% in 2022.

In maths, 73% of pupils met the expected standard, up from 71% in 2022.

In writing, 71% of pupils met the expected standard, up from 69% in 2022.

## 2.14 Attitudinal impact – Mathematics following 1-3 tuition sessions



## 2.15 Other outcomes - English

- Support in all 8 of the engaging schools was positively received.
- 5 of the schools receiving intensive support from the strategy improved KS1 reading and writing results.
- 5 schools have shown marked improvement in phonics.
- 3 have improved scores in phonics, KS1 reading and KS1 writing.

## 2.16 Other outcomes - Mathematics

- Through observation at the exit reviews, teacher confidence in all RAS schools was visibly improved. All maths middle leaders felt they were better armed to lead their subject and could confidently assess their school's strengths and areas that needed further development
- Strong maths teaching across the school was identified by Ofsted in 3 schools that underwent inspection during their time with RAS.
- 2023 data highlighted gains in many of the project schools:
  - 12 schools improved their KS1 maths results
  - 12 schools improved their KS2 maths results
  - 8 schools improved both their KS1 and KS2 results
- Of the 7 schools receiving WRM tutoring, all children increased their own confidence score from beginning to end of the tutoring programme and 92% of all tutored children made progress from their starting points.
- All RAS schools now have stability in their leadership of the subject. The maths lead in each of the schools will continue to be the lead in this current academic year and is familiar with the expectations required by the Maths Hub. All schools have signed up to continue working with the Hub through a variety of DFE funded programmes – eg. Teaching for Mastery, Sustaining or embedding programmes etc

## 4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 For the year 2022/23 the aggregate sum of:

£116,480 - English

6 SLE's working across 6 schools based on fortnightly support at £480 a day; 3 visits per term including 1 audit day (18 visits a year) plus £200 budget for essential resources	£53,040
5 SLE's working across 5 schools based on fortnightly support at £480 a day 3 visits per term including 1 audit day (12 visits a year) plus £200 budget for essential resources	£29,800
Management time and development days for English Hub 1 day per half term, Hub lead + 2 SLE's at £480 per person per day	£8,640
Additional resource and staff support fund	£25,000
<b>Total for English Hub</b>	<b>£116,480</b>

The aim was to begin the project with 6 SLE's working in the 6 schools with the highest need. Four new English SLE's were recruited to work specifically for the Raising Attainment Strategy and rolled out support in a smaller number of schools. Ideally a further 5 SLE's were to be recruited to start Jan 23 but no suitable applicants were found.



4.2 For the year 2022/23 the aggregate sum of:

£260,800.00 – Maths

24 SLE's working across 24 schools based on fortnightly support at £480 a day; 3 visits per term including 1 audit day (18 visits a year) plus £200 budget for essential resources	£212,160
Management time and development days for Maths Hub 1 day per half term, Hub lead + 2 SLE's at £480 per person per day	£8,640
Additional resource and staff support fund	£40,000
<b>Total for Maths Hub</b>	<b>£260,800</b>

The Maths Hub worked successfully throughout to support 22 schools across Bradford. In January 2023, White Rose Maths worked alongside The Hub to provide extra support in the form of 1:3 tutoring in 7 of the lowest performing schools. This support was delivered at a cost of £20000 and was taken from the allocated £40000 shown above as 'Additional resource and staff support fund'.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

5.1 None.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

Initially there were concerns from the English Hub around payment for support. As the funding from the Hub is obtained directly from the DFE they have to remain as a non-profit making organisation. Hence, it was agreed RAS reimbursed the English SLE's schools directly rather than the Hub.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

Impacts on all children and young people. Specific focus on supporting children to engage with learning and achieve following pandemic disruption.

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

NA

### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

NA

### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

NA

## **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

All children have the right to an education.

## **7.6 TRADE UNION**

NA

## **7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

Looked after children will also benefit from this work.

## **7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

NA

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

8.1 None.

## **9. OPTIONS**

9.1 Not Applicable.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 Members are asked to accept the reports and note the final outcomes of the Raising Attainment Strategy implementation.

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 None.

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

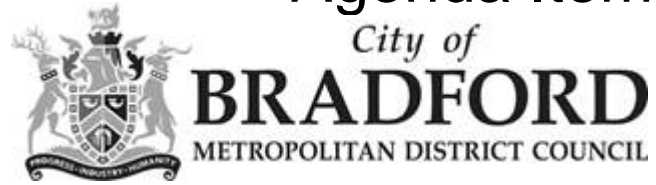
12.1 None.

## APPENDIX

### Glossary

DfE	Department for Education
EY	Early Years – Nursery and Reception classes
KS1	Key Stage 1 – years 1-3
KS2	Key Stage 2 – years 4-6
LA	Local Authority
RAS	Raising attainment strategy
SATs	Standard assessment tests – national tests done in year 2 and year 6
SLE	Specialist leader of education
WRM	White Rose Maths Hub

This page is intentionally left blank



## Report of the Strategic Director Children’s Services to the meeting of Children’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 20 December 2023

**M**

**Subject:**

**Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)**

**Summary statement:**

To provide an update on the Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) delivery across the district

**EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

<b>Equality Objectives</b>	<b>Report Statement</b>
<b>Community:</b>	The HAF programme delivers holiday clubs within communities across the district. The funding enables our Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to deliver the holiday clubs in their locations, and they make up the majority of providers. This funding supports with their sustainability as valued organisations in the district
<b>Services:</b>	The VCSE organisations work with the children and families to develop their offer aligned to the grant requirements. They support families to book places on the clubs and access wider services via signposting. The HAF programme supports collaborative working between the VCSE; Council and other partners to maximise on the benefits to the children and families at a hyper local level. VCSE organisations benefit from free training via the HAF programme enabling them to use those skills in support of their wider work.

Marium Haque  
Strategic Director Children’s Service

**Portfolio:**  
**Children & Families**

Report Contact: Sharon Sanders  
Phone: 07973982939  
E-mail: [Sharon.sanders@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.sanders@bradford.gov.uk)

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**  
**Children’s Services**

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report is to present a progress update to Childrens Overview and Scrutiny Committee around the HAF programme delivery and the impact on children, families and providers.
- 1.2 The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) has strong leadership and assurance measurements in place. Support from Elected Members; Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise organisations; Sport and Leisure; Public Health, Schools; Libraries; Museums and others. Has enabled the programme to improve each year, expanding the opportunities for children and young people across the district during each holiday period.
- 1.3 The programme has embraced mapping technology to enable targeted approaches to delivery for areas with fewer holiday clubs. This approach increased provision and the programme was a finalist in the OJC Awards 2022 under the Community Partnership category. We were the only HAF programme to reach this level.
- 1.4 The HAF Steering committee is a DFE grant requirement and meets quarterly with representatives from Council directorates; public health; VCSE; Police and the Uniform Services. Their role is decision making around grant funding allocation proposals and assurance aligned to grant funding criteria. The committee works well and supports the programme.
- 1.5 The DFE appointed Childcare Works to work with local authorities to assist delivery against the grant criteria and to facilitate support networks; knowledge sharing and best practice. The DFE require HAF Programme Leads to:
  - attend the majority of cluster meetings to support knowledge sharing across local authorities.
  - attend sessions with their appointed delivery adviser as requested.
  - collaborate with their appointed delivery adviser on developing and implementing action plans where required.
  - cooperate with DfE's management information collection requirements and any requests for involvement in research.

Bradford HAF is an active participant in the networks and has been invited by Childcare Works and DFE on a number of occasions to present at events. This is positive as it enables us to profile Bradford and the great work our holiday clubs do in the delivery of HAF and the positive impacts on our children and families.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 On 27 October 2021, the government announced a 3-year funding settlement of over £200 million from the DFE each year for the holiday activities and food (HAF) programme.
- 2.2 The HAF Programme funding is for school age children from Reception to Year 11 (inclusive) who are in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals. Bradford received £2,600,268 for 2021/2022, £3,042,980 for 2022/2023, £2,947,680 for 2023/2024 and we anticipate to receive £2,947,680 for 2024/2025

2.3 The aim of the programme is for delivery of high-quality holiday clubs that ensure children experience the following:

- receiving 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.
- opportunities to cook and share meals with their families.
- ensuring their families are signposted to other information and support e.g., healthcare; debt management.

2.4 Our VCSE organisations in Bradford are integral to the delivery of the HAF Programme. There are 112 HAF providers and 51 are VCSE organisations. Our provision is split across the district as per the table below for 2023.

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Number of Providers</b>	<b>Number Children Supported</b>
Bradford East	30	2,303
Bradford South	15	962
Bradford West	29	2,444
Shipley	7	588
Keighley	20	1,483
District Wide	12	5,747
<b>Total All Areas</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>13,527</b>

2.5 In addition to the providers we also allocated HAF funding to Sport and Culture Service in Dept of Place to deliver HAF Summer of Fun Sessions. These took place in parks across the district.

2.6 During summer 2023 13,000 children participated in 4,355 activities. These included the following:

- 1493 Sport Related
- 162 Nature Related
- 599 Art Related
- 743 Social Related
- 567 Education Related
- 372 Food Related
- 62 Culture Related
- 65 Music Related
- 292 Family Related.

2.7 The introduction of an online booking system has enabled providers to promote their clubs more widely. All providers upload their holiday club details and parents can

then select the club that meets their child's needs. Providers supported parents with limited digital skills or no digital access to register their children, ensuring they had equal opportunity to access a place. Parents can also contact providers directly from the list on the HAF website.

- 2.8 Following direction from the DFE, all families who had children in receipt of benefits related free school meals, had to be issued letters for summer clubs with a booking code for their child. This meant that 30,000 letters were issued at a cost of £18,441 taken directly from the HAF Grant
- 2.8 The letters resulted in over 2,500 calls to the HAF Programme due to people losing the codes: address changes etc. This was challenging for parents/carers/providers and unsustainable for the HAF programme to manage. Following discussions with the DFE we agreed that a new process would be implemented for Christmas 2023
- 2.8 Eligible children and their codes will be added directly into the booking system for Christmas 2023. The system will automatically check if a child is eligible when their information is added into the booking system. In the event the child is not eligible the parents/carers will be directed to the provider to identify if they have non HAF places available. Any saved postal costs will be distributed across the Christmas holiday providers.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 We have 30,000 eligible children in receipt of benefits related free school meals. On that basis the DFE expected us to fill our clubs with eligible children. Therefore, in 2023 we had to advise providers that their HAF funding could only be used to provide free places for SEND and children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals
- 3.2 The removal of the flexibility for our providers to use 15% of their funding allocation, for non-eligible children, was a concern. However, the majority of holiday clubs have managed to accommodate non-eligible children through their own resources or as an exception based on severity of need.
- 3.3 Our implementation of codes identifying eligible children, has increased the number of eligible children attending and evidenced our targeted approach to the DFE. We hope this will allow us to enable providers to use 15% of their funding to support non-eligible children in 2024. However, this will be a DFE decision.

### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 The Holiday Activity and Food Programme is funded from the DFE. There is no use of Council funds for any part of the programme including staffing and delivery.
- 4.2 The DFE have agreed to fund the programme to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Our funding allocation for 2024/2025 delivery will be confirmed by January 2024. We are advised that this is likely to be the same amount we received for 2023/2024 delivery which is £2,947,680.



## 5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 The HAF programme has been operating since 2020 when we were a DFE pilot, and a robust governance process is in place. This includes a Steering Committee as required by the DFE.
- 5.2 Quality assurance visits are made, by the Project Manager and Quality Assurance Officer, to providers to ensure adherence to the grant funding agreement, in addition to observation of holiday club delivery including discussions with families. This approach provides a robust risk management framework.
- 5.3 As places are free to eligible children, providers experience issues with non-attendance. To mitigate this, they subscribe an additional 10% over their planned cohort size. This does not fully resolve the issue. There is a risk that the DFE ask us to move to a pay on attendance model to providers. This could impact on their ability to deliver holiday clubs and we have raised this with the DFE and continue to oppose this approach.
- 5.4 The DFE funding commitment is to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 which means that 2024 could be the last delivery period. In the event that the funding does not continue for 2025, our disadvantaged children will miss out on fantastic opportunities and some of our VCSE providers may cease to operate. We continue to advocate for continued funding.

## 6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 Local authorities receive grant funding to deliver holiday, activities and food programme in their area. Grant funding is calculated based on the numbers of children eligible for and in receipt of free school meals in each area. The [grant determination letter](#) is used to monitor the performance of the local authorities.
- 6.2 It is a requirement that every local authority will appoint or have in place a HAF coordinator who takes responsibility within the local authority for the delivery of the programme. This will be alongside having sufficient staff who are dedicated to working on HAF all year round.
- 6.3 All organisations delivering the HAF programme must be able to demonstrate that they have in place relevant and appropriate policies and procedures for safeguarding, including the recruitment of staff and volunteers e.g., enhanced DBS checks. Health and safety and relevant insurance policies, accessibility and inclusiveness.
- 6.4 All food provided as part of the HAF programme must comply with regulations on food preparation and take into account allergies and dietary requirements.
- 6.5. Holiday clubs may need to legally register with Ofsted depending on the provision they offer, they may also be eligible to register with Ofsted on the voluntary register or they may be [exempt from registration](#) entirely. Local authorities are expected to check with all their HAF providers that they are appropriately registered.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The funding for holiday clubs supports VCSE organisations to keep operating. The 3 year funding has been vital and further funding is essential to maintain the level of club availability.

Holiday club provision enables families to access wider support around skills; employment; education etc. This approach helps to deliver a sustainable approach to personal and family improvement, including health and well being.

### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

Not applicable.

### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

The provision of holiday clubs for children from reception to Year 11 supports in reducing opportunities for children to engage in, or be exposed to, anti-social behaviour or crime. Some clubs for older children operate in the evening to support this.

### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

Not applicable.

### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

Not applicable.

### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme is delivered across the district and applies to eligible children from all wards.

### **7.7 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The HAF Programme ambitions align to Bradfords children and young people strategy.

The Holiday Clubs provide some of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people with access to food; activities and experiences that they would normally not access. The positive impact on both children and families mental and physical health is evident.

Holiday Clubs enable families to continue working during holiday periods knowing their children are safe. Wider support for families is provided by the clubs by enabling access to other services on site or via signposting.

## **7.8 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

No issues identified.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

8.1 None.

## **9. OPTIONS**

9.1 Not applicable.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 That the delivery approach to the Holiday Activity and Food Programme and associated outcomes are noted and approved.

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 Holiday Activity and Food Programme Summer 2023 delivery report. This outlines recent summer delivery and feedback from children, families and providers

11.2 Four Case Studies outlining the holiday club delivery and the impact on children and families.

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

12.1 The DFE Grant Conditions for delivery of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme. [Holiday activities and food programme 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114144/Holiday_activities_and_food_programme_2023_-_GOV.UK.pdf).

This page is intentionally left blank



Department  
for Education

# HAF Presentation Summer 2023



City of  
**BRADFORD**  
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Produced by Sharon Sanders/Kamran Hussain

Email: [sharon.sanders@Bradford.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.sanders@Bradford.gov.uk) –  
[kamran.hussain@Bradford.gov.uk](mailto:kamran.hussain@Bradford.gov.uk)

September 2023



# HAF Programme Requirements

All contracted providers were required to deliver the DfE guidelines in the following categories

**Enriching activities:** clubs must provide fun and enriching activities that provide children with opportunities to develop new skills or knowledge, to consolidate existing skills and knowledge, or to try out new experiences.

**Physical activities:** clubs must provide activities which meet the [Physical Activity Guidelines](#) on a daily basis.

**Food:** clubs must provide at least one hot meal a day (breakfast, lunch or tea) and all food provided at the club (including snacks) must meet [school food standards](#).

**Nutritional education:** clubs must include an element of nutritional education each day aimed at improving the knowledge and awareness of healthy eating for children. These do not need to be formal learning activities and could for example include activities such as getting children involved in food preparation and cooking, growing fruit and vegetables, and taste tests.



**Family Session** for families and carers: clubs must include at least one weekly family session that includes;

- training and advice sessions for families
- advice on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious and low-cost food.
- cook and eat sessions with families
- Have families join in your activities

**Signposting and referrals:** organisations must be able to provide information, signposting or referrals to other services and support that will benefit the children who attend their provision and their families.



# HAF 2023 Summer Delivery By Constituency



Constituency	Number of Providers	Number Children Supported
Bradford East	30	2,303
Bradford South	15	962
Bradford West	29	2,444
Shipley	7	588
Keighley	20	1,483
District Wide	12	5,747
<b>Total All Areas</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>13,527</b>



**Total Value of Summer Activity Contract = £1,833,104**

# HAF Summer 2023 Delivery

	Number of FSM children	Number of FSM children with SEND	Total FSM children	Number of non-FSM children	Number of non-FSM children with SEND	Total non-FSM children	Total All Children Completing Summer Activities
Primary Aged Children	6,463	518	6,981	3,694	284	3,978	10,959
Secondary Aged Children	1,332	211	1,543	820	205	1,025	2,568
<b>Total All Children</b>	<b>7,795</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>8,524</b>	<b>4,514</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>5,003</b>	<b>13,527</b>





# HAF Summer Delivery – Activities Completed By Children



# HAF Summer Delivery – Additional Information

70,947 total number of days attended by all primary aged children (number of children x number of days attended)



17,627 total number of days attended by all secondary aged children (number of children x number of days attended)



Mean average attendance for secondary aged children was 7 days over Summer

Mean average attendance for primary aged children was 10 days over Summer

805 Family sessions delivered during the 6 weeks holidays

4,883 Families joining in sessions every week

4,017 Families signposted to support services



# HAF Summer Delivery – Sample Feedback From The Children



All the sports on offer

Being outside with my friends

Travelling out of Bradford

Designing handbags and taking them home

Food was amazing

Making new friends

Enjoyed the trips out

Leant to break dance

Competitions and prizes

Everyone plays together

Freedom to explore

Spending time with my family

Going out into the forests and countryside

Being part of a team

Getting medals and trophy's

Learnt sign language

Going on the canal

Liked the breakfast and the hot lunch

Lots of healthy snacks and food

Loved it, want more

New experiences

Can't wait to come back



# HAF Summer Delivery – Sample Feedback From The Parents



Wouldn't have done anything if it was not for HAF

The activities were brilliant

Providing a food rich environment

Children interacting and making friends

Didn't have to worry about money

Children gaining in confidence

The club was close to where I live

Staff have been approachable and helpful

Activities were age appropriate and adaptable

Grateful that HAF was adapted for SEND

Additional support and help given

The children were more active

Kids exhausted but happy

Outstanding, really helped not having to pay

Felt comfortable leaving the children

Positive change in children's behavior



Enjoyed Family days out

Educational activities on offer

It broke up the holidays for the kids

Can't wait for the next one

Being able to take excess food home helped

Impressed with the activities being delivered

The kids didn't want to leave



# HAF Summer Delivery – Sample Feedback From The Providers

It's a great project and can see first hand the impact this has on children and families within the community

It is a fabulous initiative, enabling children and families to have their holiday periods enriched

Programme is brilliant for the children's mental health

We want to thank HAF and the DfE for the opportunities provided for the young people

More SEND provision is needed across the district

Having to turn families away because they don't get benefit related free school meals has been difficult

HAF has introduced life changing positive experiences and happiness

Essential programme for families on low income

Without HAF providing our funding this would not be able to go ahead for our children



Schools are ideal hubs to target FSM students and provide hot meals.

Our children have had so much fun



The HAF programme is fantastic for some children, it's a shame it's only benefit related and not free for all children

There should be penalties for parents who registered online but their children do not show up

This has made a great impact in all our families, people not worried about getting food and having to come

# HAF Summer Delivery – Improvement Suggested By All Participants

Get more parents involved in delivering the programme

If the weather could be nicer

Indoor facilities in case of adverse weather

Longer hours or All day care packages

Extra days and weeks to allow for additional parent support



Involve local community to broaden learning experience

HAF support during the half terms

Many wanted more outings but the main difficulty is with cost of travel

More age appropriate activities for older children

More chilled time/rest time

More residential trips or trips away from home

The club should be extended to all children. Children were asking why their friends were not allowed to come

More SEND provision including 1-2-1 care provision

Provide a timetable of activities and food available at each club

Options to Book for the days wanted rather than the whole programme





# Plan For Christmas HAF 2023

Christmas 2023 provision will focus on FSM children and those children with SEND



Number of providers contracted	Number of estimated FSM/SEND children	Estimated costs
87 Providers delivering the Christmas HAF programme	4,311	£342,732

This page is intentionally left blank





## HAF Case Study

**SPARK! Camp 2023 – Bradford Youth Justice Service**  
**Michelle Buchan ([michelle.buchan@Bradfordcft.org.uk](mailto:michelle.buchan@Bradfordcft.org.uk))**

SPARK! YJS Summer Activities Camps are run by Bradford Youth Justice Service and were created by YJS Manager Michelle Buchan in 2021. The camps are aimed at children aged 10-18 years, funded by the Department for Education HAF (Holiday Activities and Food Programme) and aimed at reducing exploitation and offending.

The camps are primarily aimed at children who are in receipt of pupil premium or benefits-related free school meals but also those children with SEND or SEMH. The Youth Justice Service also invites children assessed as vulnerable to take part, to help keep them safe, healthy and nurtured and match fund some activities to extend the invite to children within the service who would benefit from the sessions.

The idea is to also offer new opportunities for young people to 'spark' their interest in new hobbies and aspirations through providing activities that the children have not likely tried before and taking them to places they have not previously been.

Once the children have completed the sessions, they are provided with framed certificate awards and references for use later during their education/work applications. We also provide follow up visits to children and their carers to help support any aspirations they may have in terms of the activities and obtain feedback for next year.

The project runs for three weeks over the summer period and is in its third year of successful completion, winning the AYM John Hawkins Award for Innovation earlier this year. The John Hawkins' Award is presented annually by the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers to a youth offending service for innovation and creativity in youth justice practice. The project was also selected as a finalist for the last two years in Bradford Council's Service Excellence Awards in the 'Children at the Heart of all we do' category.

This year we provided a whole range of activities supported by Youth Justice staff but also with partners. The sports, creativity and enriching activities included; gorge walking, multi sports, bowling, escape rooms, trampolining, Ninja Warrior, go karting, hiking/walking, laser zones, bowling and water sports, art sessions, learning about sustainability/growing vegetables and fruit, creative writing and expressing themselves through rap, cooking and preparing food plus day trips to the beach in Newcastle, with a visit to see the Angel of the North landmark.

We also held lots of day visits, including to the Lake District, Knowsley Safari Park, Drayton Manor theme park and the beautiful village of Portmeirion with a stop-off at Conwy's 'UK's Smallest House' attraction on the way back home to Bradford. The children absolutely loved these days out and enjoyed having a paddle in the sea to cool off too!

A huge part of the days involves making sure the children are well fed, happy and safe. We encourage active participation and voices in terms of activity choices and restaurant/food options to encourage pro social behaviours and self-esteem growth. As many of our young people are not in education or training and/ or SEND children and in the youth justice system through exploitation, this was fantastic. It was great to see the children learning new skills, combating fears, and encouraging each other. Lots of new lasting friendships were made.

Of course, these activities do not come without managing difficulties and issues on the way, but our youth justice staff worked hard during the three weeks to ensure the camps were inclusive and a safe environment was created and maintained. A huge thank you to all the staff who supported the project this year. Initial feedback has been significantly positive which is fantastic and again this year, the children are asking for a residential opportunity!

In terms of impact, we collate feedback from families but also signpost families to specific help and support. 2023 saw larger numbers referred to foodbanks and Early Help support with regards to safeguarding concerns.

SPARK! Camps allow youth justice workers to really get to know children and talk to them during activities that allows us to safeguard children far better than within standard supervision appointments. It also gains trust from families and enables us that 'step in the door' in terms of safeguarding and interventions for families and individuals.

We utilise partnerships that already in place to keep costs low but to also gain advice regarding risk assessments, minibus hire, and free use of sports spaces and room hire etc. Each year we also add to this list, to help provide better opportunities from this networking. There are always group discounts and calling companies always helps to encourage a deal particularly when explaining the project.

Whilst SPARK! is aimed at keeping children safe and fed we are also aiming to reduce exploitative criminal activity locally and do review this using data analysis. We also deliver interventions on the road and during sessions to help the children learn and develop but to also allow them to test their thinking skills by allowing independence, confidence saying no and not adhering to peer pressure etc.

### My 5 Top Tips for HAF Providers:

1. Be dynamic and creative with planning, ask for discounts/deals and utilise partnerships where possible to keep costs low. Talk to other HAF providers, what can you offer each other?
2. Expect dropouts and no shows, have contingency for these so spaces are filled.
3. Keep activities moving, lots of shorter activities keeps children interested and engaged.
4. Be inclusive and encourage participation – listen to what the children want/think. Give choices.
5. Make memories! Have fun, day trips and treat days really do make a difference to children's lives!

2023 for SPARK! Camp was bigger and better than ever. Here are some photographs from the activities, the smiles and Bradford spirit speak for themselves.

We also have lots of videos on our X (Twitter) page @Bradford\_yjs and @Spark\_camps & below also shows our flyer, AYM John Hawkins Award and some anecdotal feedback from the children.





# SPARK!

Bradford Youth Justice Service  
Summer Activity Camps 2023

We are looking for young people in the Youth Justice Service to join our fun SPARK! Summer Camps

The activity camps are on:

- Monday 7th until Friday 11th August
- OR
- Monday 14th until Friday 18th August
- OR
- Tuesday 29th August until Friday 1st September

We have lots of activities for you to try!

-  Learn a new skills and hobbies
-  Make new friends
-  Have lots of fun in the holidays!

WE WILL ALSO TAKE YOU ON A TRIP TO NANDO'S GO TO THE SEASIDE, VISIT A THEME PARK AND HAVE A SPECIAL AWARDS CEREMONY!



Football Arts & Crafts



Theme park trips



Cooking Days out



Y.J.S Summer Activities 2022

## WINNER

### 2022

### AYM John Hawkins Award

For Innovation and Creativity  
in Youth Justice Practice









**Spark! Camp Anecdotal Feedback from Children:**

This week has been really exciting! Can I come again next week? So much better than hanging around bored

I didn't want to come. My worker said it would be good for me. I have actually had a laugh. Better than school- I loved the cooking! I am gonna cook for my mum!

I want to work in a zoo! Animals are awesome. Proper wicked.

I smashed my phone on a ride at Blackpool but I don't care- it's been proper ace and good to get out of Bradford.

I have made some decent mates. I have also realised I can do stuff alone and I aren't scared. I'm looking forward to looking for a job now Michelle

I proper loved the animals at Knowsley. I haven't seen animals like that in Bradford- or even anywhere! The sea lions made me feel chilled

I have never eaten so much and done so many fun things!

It's been SICK! Like awesome. I can't skate though! Fell loads.

You YOT workers are actually alright!

This page is intentionally left blank



CONNECTING ROMA  
—• C.I.C •—

162 Lumb Lane Bradford West  
Yorkshire BD8 7RZ

[www.connectingroma.org.uk](http://www.connectingroma.org.uk)

[info@connectingroma.org.uk](mailto:info@connectingroma.org.uk)

01274 495454

## HAF CASE STUDY

We are a Community Interest Company representing the EU Roma Community living in Bradford and surrounding areas and support professionals working with Roma people.

We work with the Bradford Children and Families Trust/Children's Social Care as many of the Roma families are experiencing hardship, poverty, destitution, isolation and other issues, barriers and challenges.

Most of our children who register with our HAF programme have social care involvement and experience hardship therefore most of the children would not have /haven't experienced such enriching activities/trips/site seeing etc.

This summer we registered a family made out of mum, dad and six children who are living in emergency temporary accommodation with no recourse to public funds and being supported by Children's Social Care. This family is totally isolated as they can not afford to take the children anywhere. They can not afford to buy toys, books or any items to stimulate their six children. Two of the children are SEND children and struggle in school. One of the SEND children is afraid of school and therefore struggles to attend, get involved in activities and learn as he has anxiety and other mental health related issues. The parents have been affected by their hardship circumstances and have low mood, depression, anxiety and are finding it difficult to socialise, relax, etc as they constantly are on the go to deal with their many issues.

The family was extremely happy this summer visiting our HAF holiday club. Parents really enjoyed the parent sessions every week whilst their children were in the holiday club playing, making new friends, experiencing new things, learning new skills etc.

We took the family on a residential trip in the Yorkshire Dale's, staying in a bunk house in the middle of the Dale's. The family had the time of their life. The father, who is usually quiet, had a great time getting involved in many activities so he can support his children doing the activities and was having fun with his family, flying kites, making fire, playing competition games and much more. We took the family out for a hike in the Dale's visiting a **Kilm** and other landmarks,

climbing huge hills and squeezing through caves. The family had an amazing time making amazing memories. Their two children with SEND managed to build their confidence in a couple of hours of arriving at the accommodation with the support from the parents and our staff the two boys had a blast and were amazing team mates. One of their daughters found it difficult on the hike getting through some of the obstacles and the parents did panic but with the help of our staff and encouragement from the whole team and other kids all the children from this family managed get through all obstacles, games, activities, hikes etc.

Since the holiday club finish the children have been attending school, behaving at home and talking about the time at the holiday club every time I see them.

The parents both had a good time and managed to relax which they haven't done in a long time. They appreciated the fact they were able to speak to other Roma parents who are experiencing similar circumstances and were very grateful for the whole experience.

Yours faithfully

Daniel Balaz

Company Director/Head of Services

Connecting Roma C.I.C





## Building a HAF Case Study

### Brief

*We're very keen to hear and share some of the great stories about HAF provision over the summer from a range of categories. Case studies are also a great mechanism for sharing best practice amongst LAs and providers.*

*The case studies are generally around 400-600 words and the tone can be fairly relaxed and informal, as if you're speaking to other colleagues. Take a look at some examples we have used on our Teaching [blog](#) to give you an idea of style.*

### Questions to structure cast study:

- *Intro – set the context for your organisation and your position*

The Sangat centre offers a range of services to fulfil our mission to empower people to overcome barriers and hardship, enhance health and wellbeing for the community of Keighley. Our purpose is to Improve the lives and opportunities of everyone in Keighley, changing stereotypes and prejudices by making our town a more inclusive, attractive and thriving place to live, work and socialise.

Our youth provision involves a HAF sponsored holiday playscheme running through the summer, easter and christmas holidays. Additionally we deliver a Sunday Club all year round, focussing on promoting physical and mental wellbeing as well as providing academic support in numeracy and literacy. The Sangat centre also runs a weekend football club which operates indoors during the winter and outdoors during the summer period

- *What's the opportunity or issue*

*We wanted our young people to learn about and engage with animals and nature and be enriched with novel experiences they can build on and ones that will motivate and inspire them. This was a key objective for us as the opportunities for our young people to connect with nature are limited due to various circumstances and barriers.*

- *How have you capitalised on the opportunity and/ or overcome the issue (briefly)*

*We delivered 3 sessions based explicitly on this theme. First was a Zoolab session where several animals were brought in and young people were given the opportunity to learn about and interact with these rare animals. The animals included, snakes, frogs, snails, spiders, beetles and a pet rat. As ell as learning about each of the amazing creatures they also got to hold and touch most of them. It was a session that created huge excitement amongst all the young people as well as a little apprehension and fear in some of coming into contact with the animals. Post-session the discussions continued within the group and for many of the young people it was THE highlight of the scheme.*

*Other activities around the theme of Nature included our walk around the St. Ives estate which also included time spent in the adventure play area. There was a lot of reluctance around the walk with several young people voicing their lack of enthusiasm for the activity. The whole journey and exploration of the estate was an eye opener for the young people and they appreciated the enjoyment of walking in such inspiring surroundings away from the urban areas they are used to.*

- *What has been the impact*

*Some left the Zoolab experience desperately wanting pets of their own and the most impactful thing was the sheer number of questions and curiosity the young people displayed for the animals. The young people displayed an appreciation of the importance of these animals to us and it allowed a discussion around how to care for the animals as well as the role we can play in their long term sustainability and future.*

- *How do you plan to continue to build on this for future HAF periods.*

*We ensure our projects incorporate activities that are diverse around a few key themes including physical and mental wellbeing, education, Nature, sports and Arts. This ensures we are giving young people a diverse range of experiences with consistency in the opportunities provided from each of the different areas.*

- *Clear and concise advice for providers (e.g. 5 top tips)*

- 1. Take on board feedback from young people**
- 2. Reward the young people for the efforts and commitment**
- 3. Make sure your programme is diverse and engaging**
- 4. Plan thoroughly, you will get better quality of outcomes**
- 5. Make sure staff and volunteers are passionate about working with young people and fully engage in all the activities with the young people.**

## THRIVE Holiday Club run by Invictus Well-Being Case Study

Invictus Well-being is an established Children and Young person's mental health charity so, making connections using HAF funding, with local schools and young people in Bradford has been a natural progression. Our club name, THRIVE, underpins our ethos of wanting to see young people flourish and gain confidence in a supported environment.

Recently the BACP (British Association of Counselling Professionals) published an article on their website highlighting how important mental health provision is for young people - one of the quotes is, 'Using NHS data the charity (Young Minds) revealed an alarming rise of urgent referrals of under-18s to more than 3,000 in April, the first time on record that numbers exceeded 3,000 in a single month.' (BACP, August 2023)

Invictus Well-being is fully invested in the mental health and well-being of children and young people and strongly believes that prevention and early intervention through educating about mental health and well-being can be an extremely successful tool.

Our THRIVE Holiday Clubs are based on this same ethos - we have a balanced mix of fun activities that promote and encourage good mental health and well-being. This is achieved by young people engaging in activities such as arts & crafts, sports, developing relationships, mindfulness, healthy eating and inviting family members to join us too! We structure the week around well-being themes such as 'All About Me', 'Coping Strategies', 'Communication', 'Co-ordination', 'Collaboration', 'Self-Care' and 'Gratitude'. We find that the balance of focused creative and sporting activities allow all children to engage in a way that develops their confidence and awareness of their own and others well-being.

The THRIVE Holiday Club team are from a variety of work and cultural backgrounds such as social care, education, sports and arts. They are all trained and supported in how Invictus likes to run clubs. With all these tools we are able to fully support children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health issues. In addition, we also support and signpost parents and carers by being approachable and encouraging open discussions where applicable and appropriate.

**September 2023 - Doc: Thrive Case Study 2023**

At each of our clubs we have had children diagnosed with ASD. One boy who attended had never been to a holiday club before and in school is supported on a one-to-one basis. He came not knowing any of the other children and feeling very hesitant. Club staff were able to support him with developing his independence, integration and resilience. He attended every single day consecutively for eight days. This was achieved by having positive conversations with, not only the young person but also his parent, and then implementing reasonable adjustments to be fully inclusive and supportive.

Invictus Well-being feels that we offer a unique approach to our THRIVE Holiday Clubs. We use our expertise in children and young people's well-being and mental health to open up a safe space for them to learn and explore.







## **Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 20 December 2023**

---

### **Subject:**

**Overview of the Travel Assistance Service**

### **Summary statement:**

**This report provides an overview of the Travel Assistance Service together with current costs and how this compares to previous years.**

### **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

The Travel Assistance Service encourages and promotes diversity in the workplace. Our aim is to ensure that all employees are given equal opportunity and that our organisation is representative of all sections of society. Each employee will be respected and valued and able to give their best as a result, creating a working environment free of bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all, and where individual differences and the contributions of all staff are recognised and valued.

We will aim to contract and commission locally wherever possible so that we can support our local economy. This will help us build a local supply chain connected to its wider social responsibilities and offer high quality employment and training opportunities to local people, while delivering equitable services that are value for money.

We aim to deliver services that are accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of people and communities.

---

Marium Haque  
Strategic Director Children's Service

### **Portfolio:**

**Childrens Services**

Report Contact: Michelle Pickles  
Phone: 07582 109012  
E-mail: [michelle.pickles@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.pickles@bradford.gov.uk)

### **Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Childrens Services**

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report will provide an overview of the Travel Assistance Service and how it operates, alongside information relating to current costs and how these compare to previous years. Information will also be provided on the work that has been undertaken by the service to encourage children to be more independent.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The Travel Assistance Service (TAS) is responsible for the processing of applications and the delivery of assessments and transport for Bradford's children and young adults, taking them from their homes to their schools and colleges. It also provides transport for looked after children and vulnerable adults to their educational settings on behalf of the Bradford's Children's and Families Trust (BCFT) and Adult Social Care (ASC).

- 2.1 The TAS provides travel assistance for over 3000 pupils to their schools and colleges. Eligibility for assistance is determined by current legislation and the Council's travel assistance policies. Pupils can either travel by bus (using commercial and dedicated bus services), taxi's, minibuses (owned by the Council) or via a budget that is paid directly to parents. The method of transport is based on the pupil's needs, the journey to school and the parental circumstances.
- 2.2 The TAS is based at Shearbridge depot. It has a team of assessors, planners, contractors, minibus drivers and personal assistants. The total number of staff is approximately 450.
- 2.3 Bradford Council has a statutory duty to provide home to school transport to children assessed as being "eligible". The categories of eligibility are established in legislation and the statutory guidance issued by Central Government enables the Council to determine which children are "eligible" for free travel assistance.
- 2.4 Eligibility is assessed by the TAS and the offer will be made as set out in the policy. This may include:
- A bus pass for independent travel
  - A place on a PTS bus
  - A place in a shared taxi
- 2.5 In exceptional circumstances (and according to assessed need) students may be offered a taxi on their own. This offer will be regularly reviewed with the aim of moving all children who can be safely transported into a shared vehicle.
- 2.6 Wherever possible, the team will look to utilise the in-house fleet of vehicles to provide journeys but the service also procures taxis and buses from an agreed provider. These are from a list of approximately 55 private hire/hackney carriage and minibus operators, acquired via a dynamic purchasing system for each journey.
- 2.7 One third of the pupils are transported on buses due to the distance they live from the school they attend. The remaining two thirds travel in taxis and minibuses due to their needs. There are 2000 children who have an EHCP that confirms the name

of the school they attend. The number of EHCP's has risen steadily over the last few years and is now 50% higher than 5 years ago. This has resulted in a 30% increase in taxi journeys every day. Numbers generally reach a peak in April so we anticipate that numbers will rise again significantly.

### **A comparison of contracted “home to school” taxi costs from 2019 to 2023**

	<b>Oct 19</b>	<b>Oct 20</b>	<b>Oct 21</b>	<b>Oct 22</b>	<b>Oct 23</b>
<b>Runs</b>	357	338	419	521	531
<b>Pupils</b>	932	904	1136	1350	1455
<b>Daily Cost</b>	£22552	£22921	£31419	£48169	£53899
<b>Occupancy</b>	2.61	2.67	2.71	2.59	2.74
<b>Daily Mileage</b>	9624	9476	11044	13610	14100

- 2.8 The number of applications that the service has received has risen steadily. The current year figure is on track to double last years total.

### **A comparison of assessments from 2021/22 to 2023/24**

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 (forecast)
Number of application forms received	595	795	1300
Number of applications approved	432	558	950

- 2.9 The Core service (in-house fleet) currently operates 49 daily back-to-back runs, transporting 345 children between home and school and 259 Adults between home and day centre. They travel over 35,000 miles per month, covering the Bradford, Keighley and Ilkley areas.
- 2.10 The Social Care contracted services currently arranges transport for looked after children, respite journeys, adults and the immigration service via contracted taxis.

The TAS currently receives approximately 600 requests per month and it provides transport for 250 children and 195 adults on a daily basis (in addition to ad hoc requests)

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 There is an increasing problem with the recruitment of drivers. The TAS owned minibuses require a D1 class entitlement. Drivers who passed their test prior to 1997 have this entitlement on their license, however, drivers who passed after this date have to undergo a further test to attain D1 class entitlement which costs around £2000. The average driver age is over 50 years old.
- 3.2 The IT systems that the service uses are outdated and in danger of failure. The service is actively seeking a solution to this problem.
- 3.3 The service continues to work with providers to commission travel training.

## **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 The budget for the service is £14.5m (of which £1.9m comes from ASC to pay 50% of costs for the in-house core transport service).
- 4.2 Until two years ago the actual costs of the service matched its budget. In the last two years the taxi related costs have increased significantly. Due to this the cost of the service has increased by £3m.
- 4.3 Due to increasing demand, children who have more complex needs, the cost of fuel, personnel and general living costs, this increase shows no sign of reducing.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

- 5.1 The cost of the service continues to increase in line with demand.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

The Education Act 1996 as amended makes provision for local authorities to ensure that travel arrangements are made, where necessary, to facilitate a child's attendance at school. Such travel arrangements are concerned with travel to the child's school from home and back again. These arrangements are not concerned with travel between educational institutions during the school day.

The Act places a duty on local authorities to make and provide free of charge such travel arrangements as they consider necessary to facilitate attendance at school for eligible children.

In addition to the statutory duty, local authorities also have discretionary powers to go beyond their statutory duties and provide transport to children who are not eligible for free transport under the statutory duty. These arrangements do not have to be provided free of charge.

Local authorities also have a duty under the Care Act 2014 to provide support for adults assessed as needing transport for social care activities.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1.1 Wherever possible the team will always look to utilise existing transport routes by increasing occupancy on the in-house fleet or existing taxi runs to reduce the number of vehicles used for school travel.
- 7.1.2 The promotion of personal transport budgets and bus passes may further reduce the number of children and young people accessing taxis and increase public transport use.

### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

The Bradford taxi fleet is the cleanest in the country and 99% of the 4,800 Bradford



Licensed Taxis (Hackney Carriages and private hire vehicles) meet Clean Air Zone requirements. Most taxis are electric hybrid, some larger vehicles are Euro 6 diesel or Euro 4 petrol, with a small proportion exempt from CAZ charges due to a national exemption for disabled tax class vehicles.

### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no community safety implications.

### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

There are no human rights implications.

### **7.6 TRADE UNION**

None.

### **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

There are no implications for children and young people as a result of this report.

### **7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

None.

### **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

### **9. OPTIONS**

Not applicable.

### **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The report is for information only.

### **11. APPENDICES**

None.

### **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

This page is intentionally left blank