

Lancashire Holiday & Food Programme Report 2024



lancashire.gov.uk





HAF Co-ordinator

Helen Armstrong – Helen.armstrong@lancashire.gov.uk

District HAF Co-ordinators

Burnley

Catherine Swift

cswift@burnley.gov.uk

Pendle

Danielle Thorpe

Danielle.thorpe@pendle.gov.uk

Rossendale

Paul Gallagher

Paul.gallagher@rltrust.co.uk

Hyndburn

Stacey Bowie

Stacey.bowie@hyndburnleisuretrust.co.uk

Ribble Valley

David Potts

David.roefield@live.co.uk

Preston

Jason Thompson

Jason.thompson@springnorth.org.uk

Chorley

Katie Rogers

katie.rogers@chorley.gov.uk

South Ribble

Jonathan Garston

Jonathan.garston@southribble.gov.uk

West Lancs

Mark Forster

m.forster@endeavorlearning.org

Wyre

Jake White

jake.white@wyre.gov.uk

Fylde

Susan Barratt-Crane

susan.barratt-crane@fylde.gov.uk

Lancaster

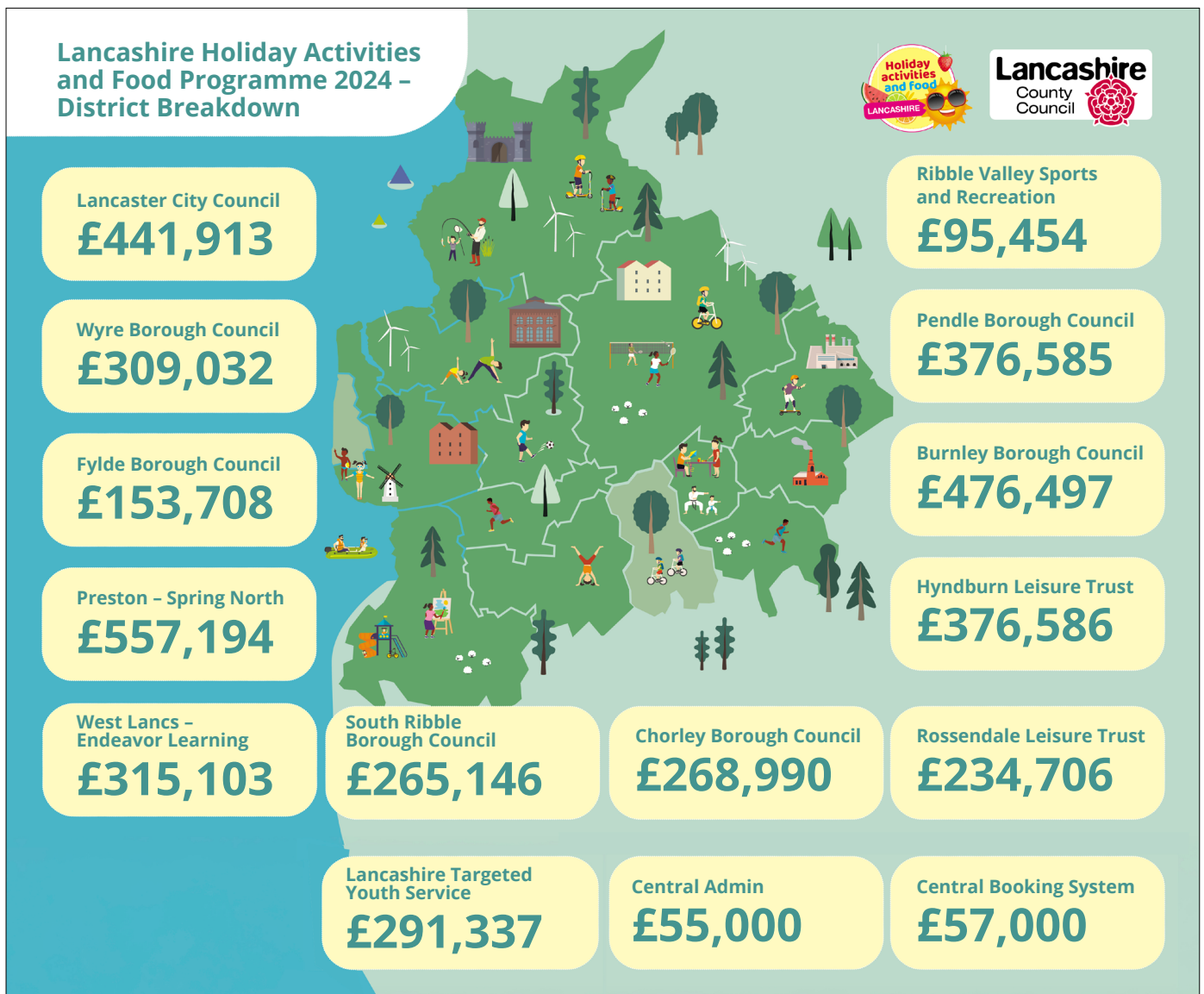
Matty Isherwood

misherwood@lancaster.gov.uk



Budget and expenditure

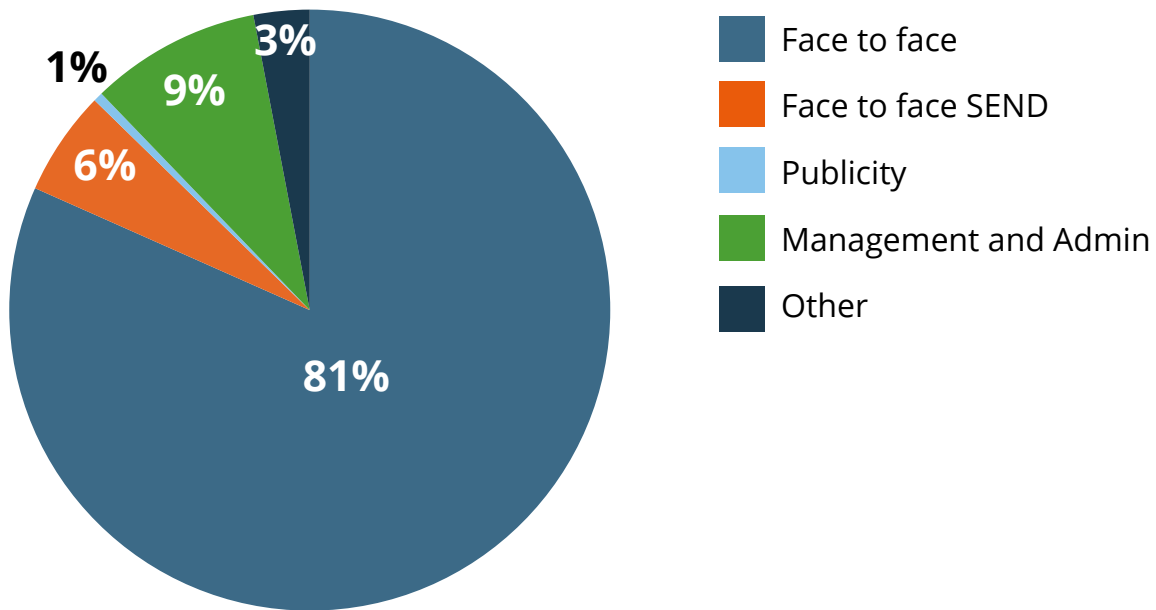
Lancashire was awarded £4,273,960.00 by the Department of Education to deliver the HAF programme in 2024.



In 2024 we continued the model of local delivery that has worked well so far to ensure the HAF programme is responsive to local need and secures engagement from local delivery networks. Using a formula based on the number of free school meal children a budget was delegated to each district supported by a Grant Funding Agreement; in 2025 this is moving to a Collaboration Agreement.

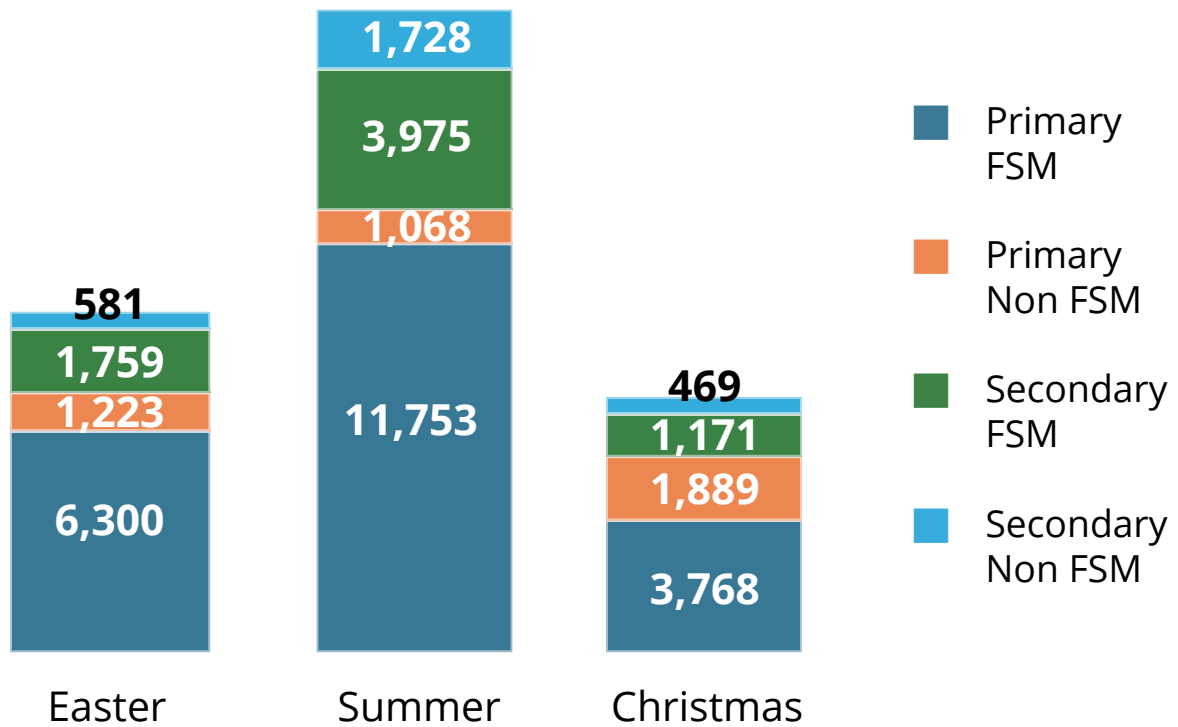


Break down of expenditure

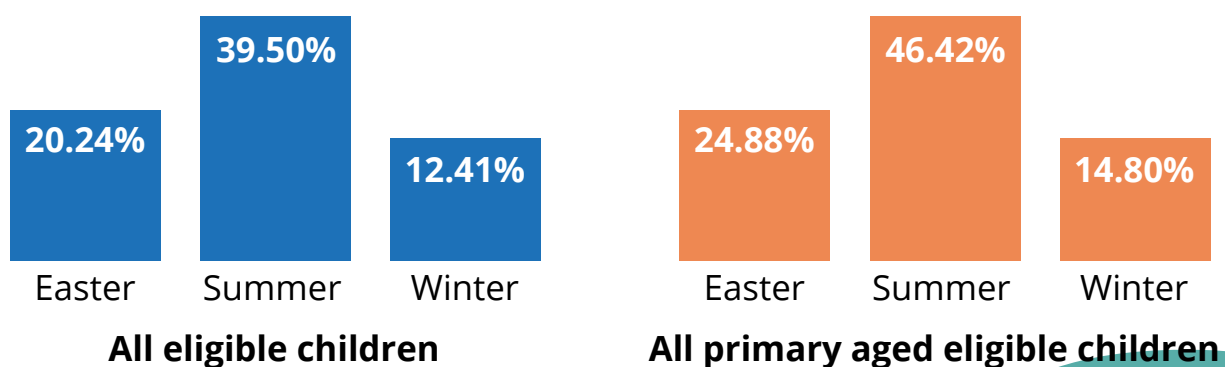


Reach and engagement

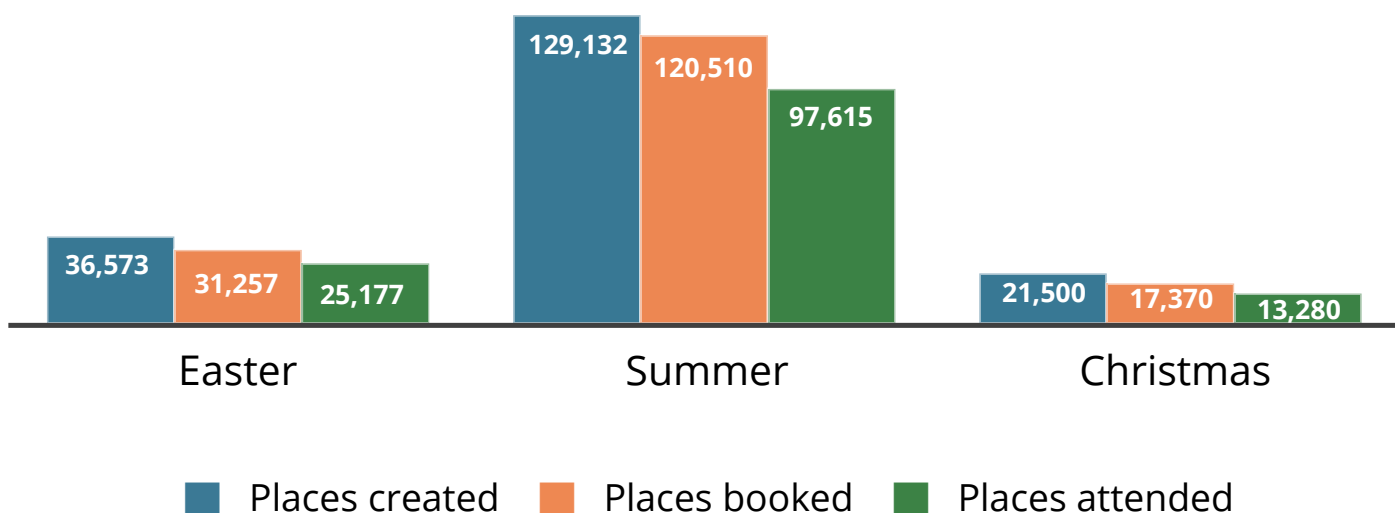
The total number of unique children that attended at least once for each holiday period.



The percentage of all eligible children that took a HAF place for each holiday period



Number of places created, booked and attended for each holiday period



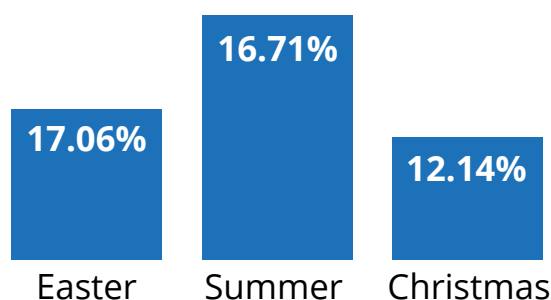
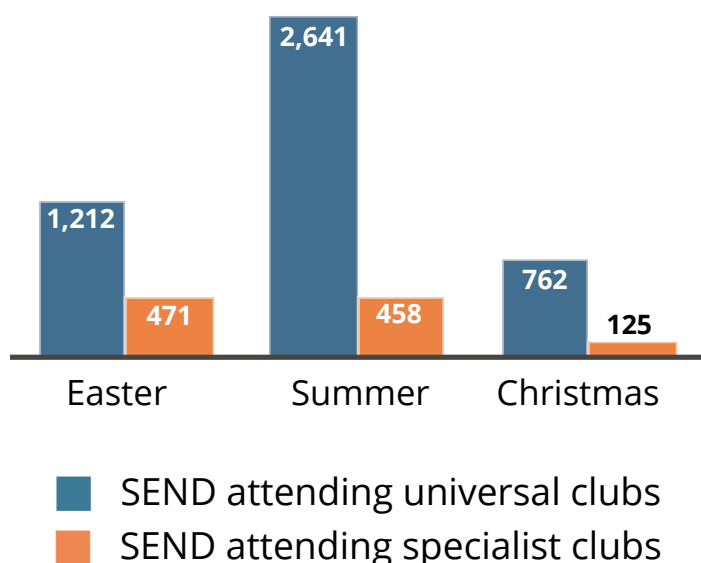
On average at **Easter 85% of places created were booked** and then 80% of booked places were attended, in the **summer 93.3% of the places created were booked** and 81% of the booked places were attended, at **Christmas 80.8% of the places created were booked** and 76.45% of the booked places were attended.

Finding ways to ensure that funded places are not wasted and optimising value for money continues to be a priority. Many districts now only pay for booked places, giving the incentive to clubs to ensure all their places are booked. Some pay for a % of the booked places at the beginning of the holiday and then will only pay the remaining for places attended, again providing the incentive for clubs to encourage attendance by contacting parents prior to delivery and on the day if they are late. The central booking system has a waiting list function, so that when places are cancelled they can be re-booked quickly. Clubs also overbook places by approx. 10% knowing that some children will not show. This does mean that the data for numbers created and booked is slightly distorted as they include 10% which will not result in attendance. There will always be children who simply don't turn up on the day when providing funded places.

There has been continued information shared with parents regarding this, through schools, libraries, early help partnerships and directly with parents, with the hope of creating a culture where HAF places are valued and families realise if their child can't attend then someone else could. When we introduced e-vouchers this year, we did reach some parents who previously had been unaware of HAF and their eligibility, this was one of the expected outcomes as we had an identified cohort of hard-to-reach families.



Children with Special Needs and Disabilities



Of all children who attended declared a SEND at registration
We had 27 SEND specific clubs in 2024.

Being able to accommodate children with SEND is an increasing challenge. Many children with SEND are eligible for HAF as they are in receipt of benefits related FSM. We ensure all our clubs are inclusive and make reasonable adjustments to meet children's individual needs. The % of children accessing a HAF place who are SEND is greater than the population of school age children in Lancashire who are SEND.



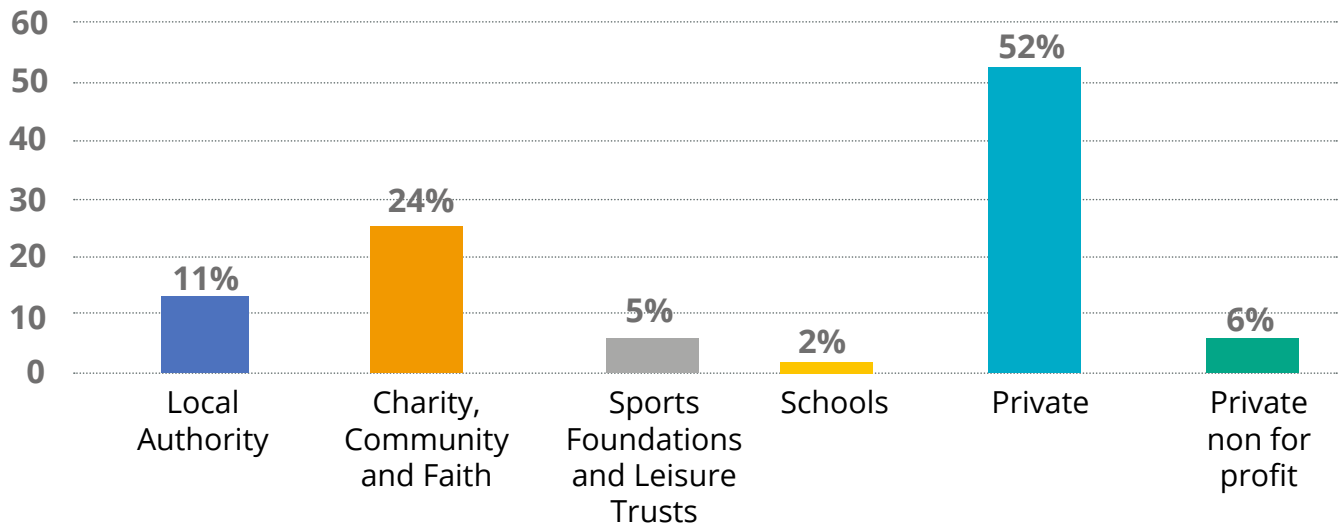
There is a great deal of success in the inclusion of SEND children, there are many testimonies from parents whose children have struggled to find services that accommodate their children who then thrive and feel welcomed at our HAF clubs. However, SEND places where additional staffing is needed and places at specialist clubs are expensive. Efforts have been made to engage with more specialist providers, run SEND places and clubs alongside mainstream provision and support our clubs to be inclusive at the same time as keeping costs down. The specialist providers who do provide HAF places can only supply a small number, these are often for the children they already are working with, through short break provision so can't offer additional places. SEND numbers are only those recorded at registration when parents declare them, although this is getting less of a problem than in previous years some parents still feel reluctant to disclose their child's additional needs, it is therefore possible that the numbers are greater than the data capture.



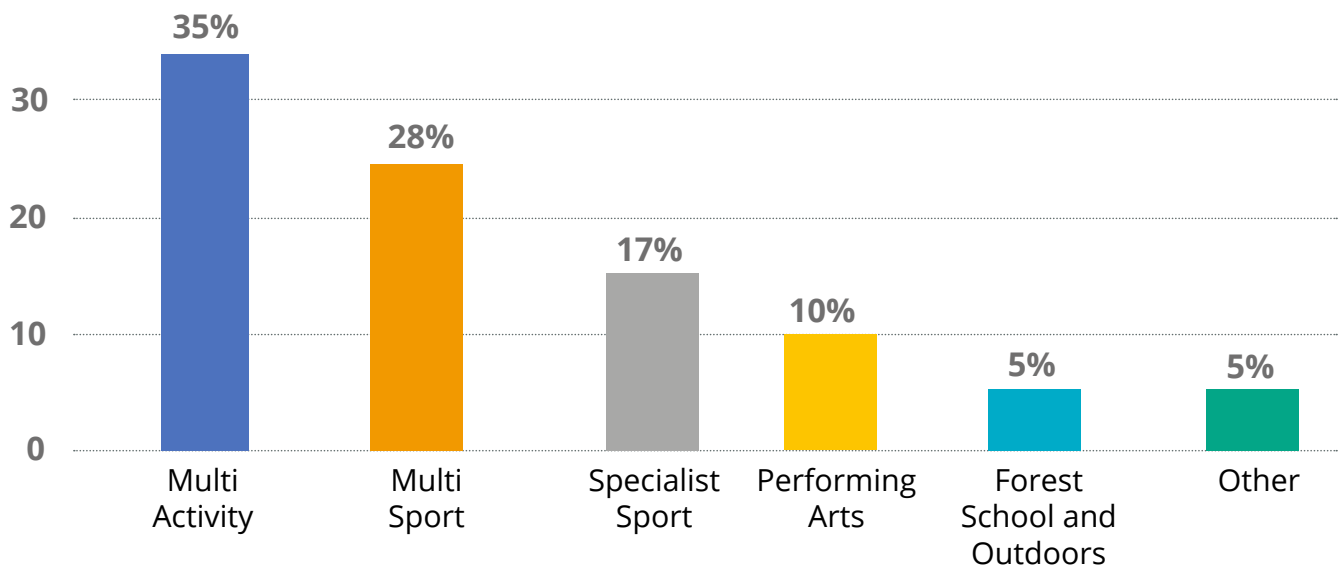
HAF providers

In 2025 there were 154 different providers who delivered 277 HAF clubs, with the highest number of clubs running during the summer.

TYPES OF ORGANISATION



ACTIVITIES ON OFFER

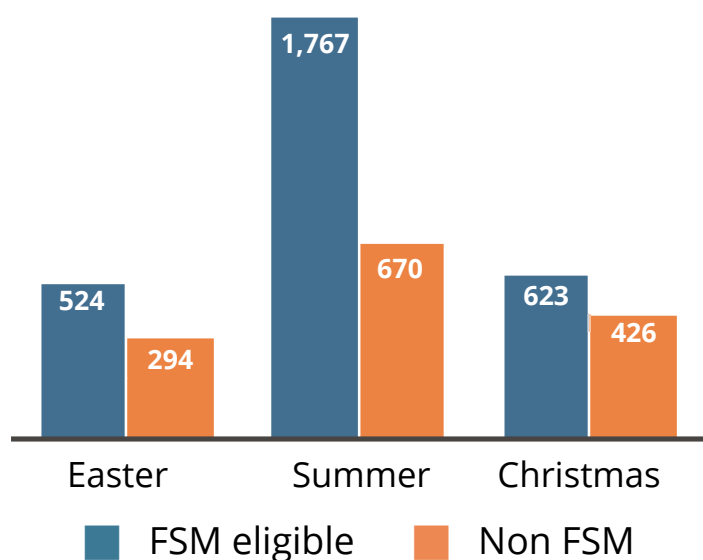


Targeted Youth Service



Throughout 2024, the Targeted Youth Support Service worked alongside District Councils and Children & Family Wellbeing Colleagues to provide a bespoke HAF offer for young people aged 11-16. Over the years, it has been acknowledged that our HAF offer for young people needed to be a different offer to that of younger children. Youth workers consulted with young people within youth provisions and schools to understand what activities they wanted to participate during the three dedicated holidays, including what times and days were the best options. Youth workers publicised an offer to those eligible young people and those young people considered vulnerable, which included adventurous activities, arts and crafts, music sessions and cooking skills.

Young people had the opportunity to choose a timetable of activities which suited their interests and needs, with all activities working on developing their personal and social skills. Our activities operated late afternoon and evenings in order to attract the right young people, always offering food which they could either make themselves with supervision of staff or be provided with. This option focused on the development of young people's cooking skills, learning new techniques, such as, cooking from scratch, baking and food hygiene. What has been really important through this work is the HAF legacy; Young people we have built relationships with through HAF provision have continued to attend youth provision within their areas, expanding their opportunities to participate in youth work, informal education and skills-based development. This has been a positive outcome for young people who have not previously attended provision in their area which means they are now accessing year round provision.



Governance

Lancashire HAF All District Network – Community of Practice

Frequency of meetings - monthly

Lead – Central HAF co-ordinator

Purpose -To disseminate information and updates from national and local programme, share good practice, support quality of provision, trouble shoot and problem solve

Membership

- District HAF Co-ordinators

District Steering Groups x 12

Frequency of meetings – minimum of once every school term

Lead –District HAF co-ordinator

Function – Receive and consider district HAF termly reports, provide operational guidance and support, champion and promote HAF locally

Early Help Membership

- Education Partnership Officers
- Rep from key schools
- Targeted Youth Support
- Community policing teams
- Local VCSE partners
- Early Help service
- Other key stakeholders

Post Delivery Monitoring meeting

Frequency – after each holiday period

Lead – Lancashire HAF co-ordinator

Purpose - Meet with districts to review reporting data, monitor performance and value for money



Quality Assurance

In 2023 we introduced a quality self-assessment and moderation process that would be used by all HAF clubs, based on the HAF quality assurance framework. This was available as a paper copy and as an online forms questionnaire. The self-assessment is completed at least once a year reviewed before each holiday period and moderated at QA visits. Last year 199 self-assessments were completed online and 159 moderated. Improvement plans were put in place where scores were low, many with acceptable scores also led to plans being written, 63 such plans were written.

Scores	Self-assessment			Moderation		
	Good and excellent	Acceptable	Very poor or poor	Good and excellent	Acceptable	Very poor or poor
Food provision	82	112	5	119	38	2
Nutritional education	136	59	4	91	64	4
Signposting	71	118	10	102	49	8
Enrichment	192	0	9	140	18	1
Physical activities	174	24	1	140	18	1
Inclusion	189	7	3	126	31	2
Environment	149	44	6	147	6	6

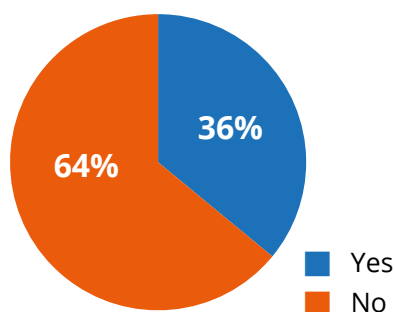
Food Provision

Approximately 15% of our clubs have the facilities to prepare and cook meals on the premises, these are amongst the clubs with the highest quality of food provision as children are given freshly cooked meals, allowing them to be involved in planning and preparation and minimizing waste. The provision of good quality, nutritious and appetising meals remains central to the HAF programme in Lancashire. The selection of providers and the continuous Quality Assurance programme scrutinizes the food offer setting a high bar. Where food has to be outsourced, clubs have been encouraged to use local caterers, which allows for the food to be delivered fresh and often warm.

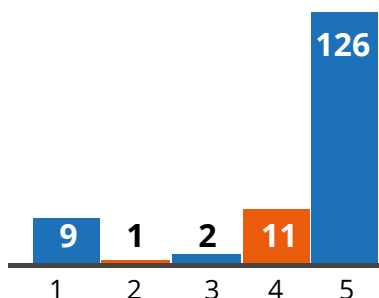


Parent /Carer Survey results

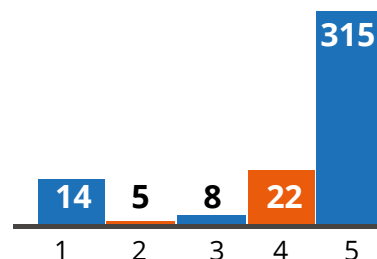
HAS YOUR CHILD GOT ANY SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES?



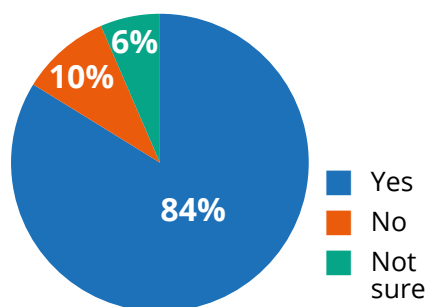
IF YOUR CHILD HAS SEND HOW WELL WERE THEIR NEEDS MET AT THE CLUB?



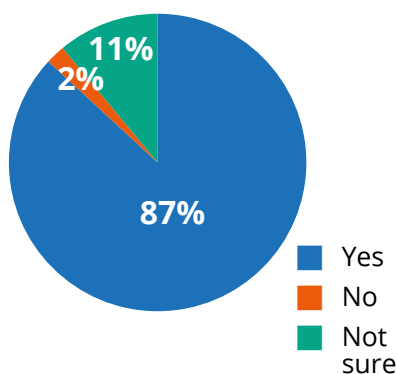
HOW WELL WERE YOU AND YOUR CHILD WELCOMED AT THE CLUB?



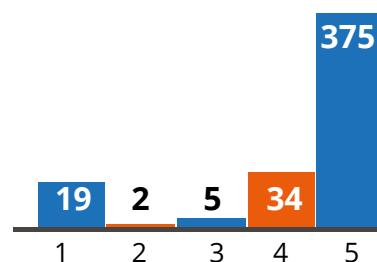
WAS YOUR CHILD LESS BORED OR ISOLATED IN THE HOLIDAYS AS A RESULT OF ATTENDING A HAF CLUB ?



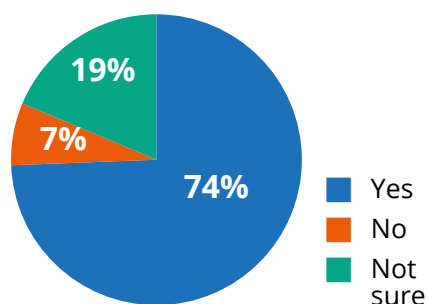
DO YOU THINK THE FOOD WAS HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS?



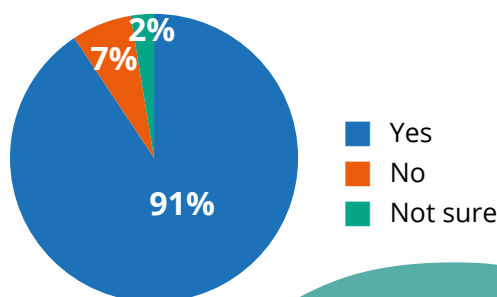
HOW MUCH DID YOUR CHILD ENJOY ATTENDING THE HAF CLUB?



DID YOUR CHILD GET TO TRY NEW ACTIVITIES OR LEARN NEW SKILLS?



DID YOUR CHILD ATTENDING A HAF CLUB TAKE PRESSURE OF YOUR FAMILY DURING THE HOLIDAYS?



Some comments from Parent/Carers

"HAF has quite literally saved my life this summer. The pressure for working parents and guilt of the children been off with nothing to do is horrendous. Thank you!"

"As a working parent the six weeks holidays is always a dreaded time. Rosie is an active and friendly girl who enjoys being out doing things. I have no family close."

So grateful for the support there isn't anywhere I know where we could have let the children go because of their disabilities we were so happy with the care they got."

"Brilliant hard-working staff. I wouldn't know what to do without this club and staff support. I am training to be a nurse and we, me and my partner, work full time, very grateful for this club".

"The team who delivered at the camp have worked really hard to put on a fantastic programme."

"Staff were fantastic all our child's needs were met, staff well trained on SEND needs".

"My son lives and breathes football, and there not many pure football summer clubs about so he absolutely loved it."

"I have tried other clubs before but my daughter refuses to go after a day. Here, she has attended every day. She loves it and is up early to get ready. Thank you to all the staff, especially Mrs Butt for all her help and support."

"The activities provided over the summer have given our son a lifeline, after struggling at school with friendships. He feels understood and included. The leaders are fantastic, full of energy and ideas. It has been invaluable and has greatly helped him through a very difficult period at school."

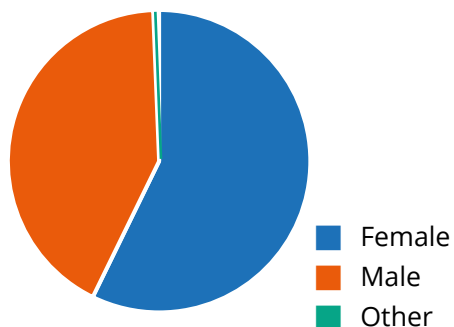
"Thank you to all the staff for everything. They really care about the children and go the extra mile for them."

"My son loved all of the activities and being part of a group who welcomed him and where he felt comfortable and safe."

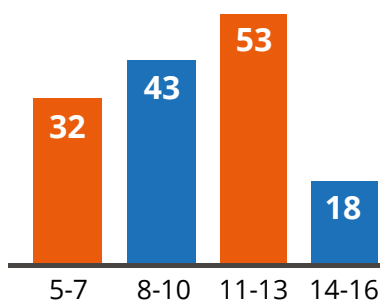


Child and Young Person Survey Results

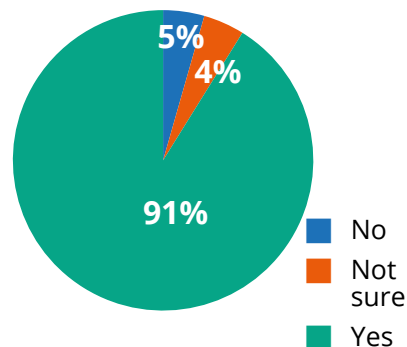
WHAT GENDER ARE YOU?



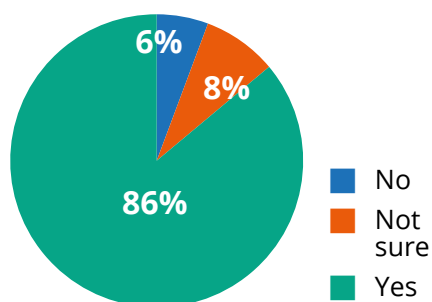
WHAT AGE ARE YOU?



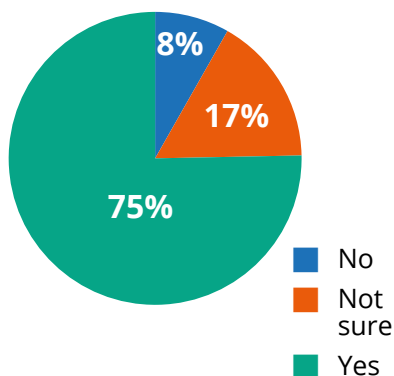
DID YOU MAKE NEW FRIENDS?



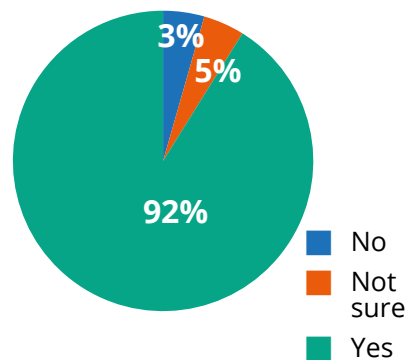
DID YOU LEARN A NEW HOBBY OR SKILL?



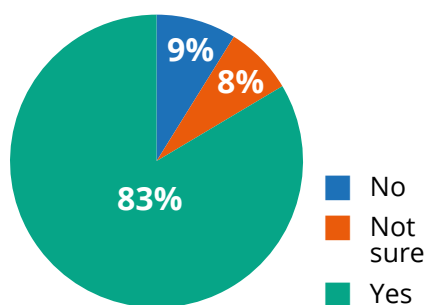
DID YOU LEARN ABOUT HOW TO EAT WELL AND BE HEALTHY?



WERE YOU LESS BORED?

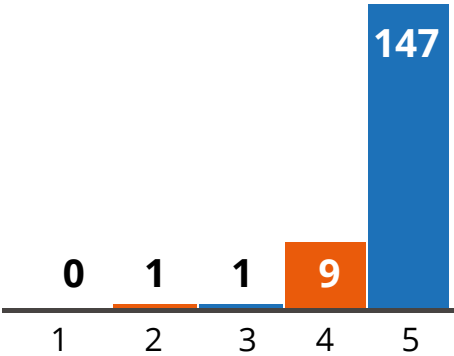


COULD YOUR FRIENDS GO TO THE CLUB WITH YOU?

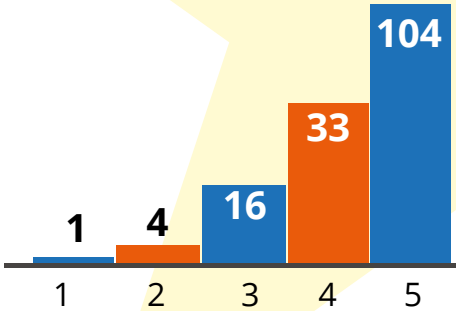


How many stars would you give?

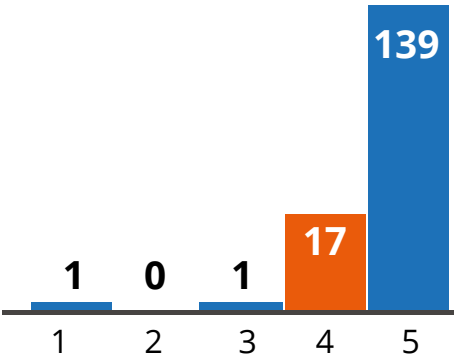
THE STAFF AT THE CLUB



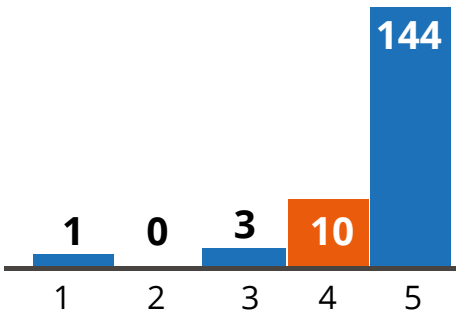
THE FOOD AT THE CLUB



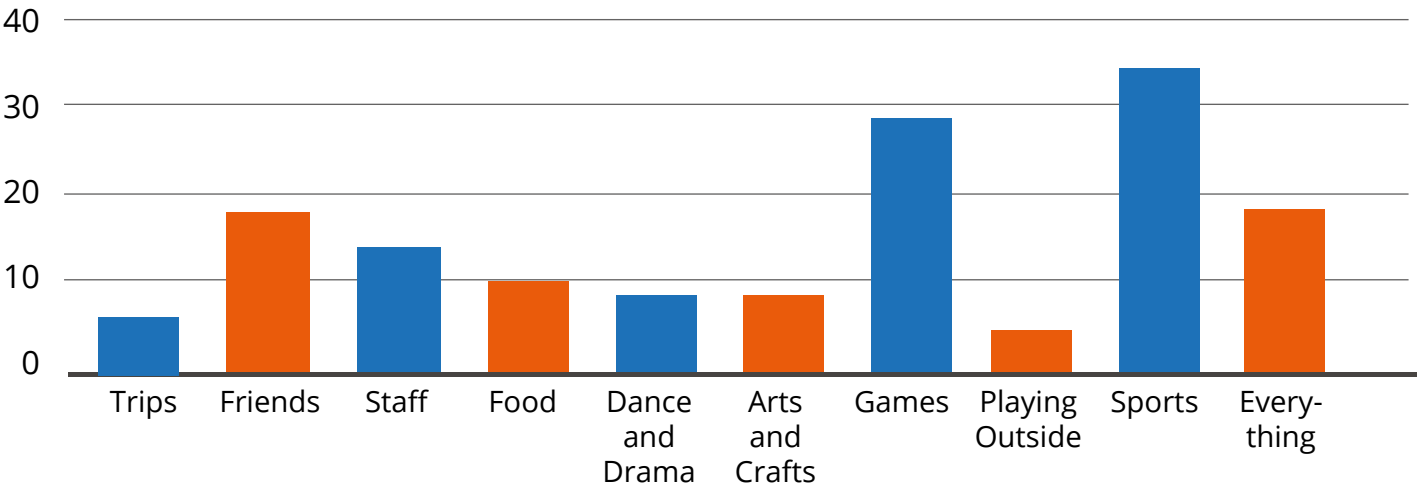
THE ACTIVITIES AT THE CLUB



HOW MUCH YOU ENJOYED THE CLUB



WHAT DID YOU LIKE THE MOST AT THE CLUB?



What children said they liked



What I think would make it better



Successes and Challenges for 2024

- Higher percentage of FSM children participating this year.
- Higher level of SEND children attending which is both a success and a challenge as it is a sign of inclusivity but also a challenge to ensure that their needs are met, the budgets can be stretched to meet the higher costs and there is enough provision that can deliver specialist SEND places.
- Successful introduction of e-vouchers in the summer and the central booking system at Christmas.
- Family Fun Day held in a Burnley Park the weekend before the summer holidays, all providers in that district attended, including the Early Help and Targeted Youth Service to showcase their provision and promote attendance. This was really successful with a large number of families attending, this could have contributed to that district having the highest engagement numbers in the summer.
- Continuing problems with non-attendance, for some clubs this is more of an issue than for others, which means that there is a need to review and adjust the procurement of providers, reduce places for or drop providers that are under performing, and share good practice.



If you would like any further information about the Lancashire HAF programme please email CFW-HAF@lancashire.gov.uk

Or look on our website

[Holiday activities and food programme \(HAF\) - Lancashire County Council](#)

