

Lancashire Holiday, Activities and Food Programme Annual Report 2025-26



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Foreword

From Kathy Ashworth, Head of Service, The Children and Family Wellbeing Service

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme represents a strategic investment in improving outcomes for children and young people across Lancashire, particularly those most at risk of experiencing disadvantage during school holidays. The Department for Education's commitment to a three year funding settlement has enabled Lancashire to take a planned, evidence led approach to delivery, moving beyond annual cycles towards sustained improvement, stronger governance and longer term impact.

This programme continues to deliver clear and measurable benefits. Children and young people who attend HAF experience high quality enrichment, regular access to nutritious food, opportunities to build confidence and skills, and safe, structured environments during the school holidays. Families report reduced pressure, improved wellbeing and greater stability during periods that can otherwise present significant challenges.

The stability of multi year funding has enabled Lancashire to strengthen its delivery infrastructure and focus resources where they have the greatest impact. This includes reinforcing county wide governance through a Strategic HAF Board, embedding consistent guidance and quality expectations across districts, expanding inclusive and SEND responsive provision, and developing the Lancashire HAF Facilitator model to provide additional capacity and targeted local support. Together, these developments have strengthened both the reach and quality of the programme.

This report brings together key headline data, feedback from children and families, and examples of effective practice from across districts. It illustrates the value of a place based delivery model, where local insight and partnership working ensure provision is responsive to community needs, while maintaining consistent standards across Lancashire.

Looking ahead, Lancashire's focus will be on ensuring that children and young people who would benefit most from HAF are supported to access it. This includes strengthening identification of priority cohorts, reducing practical and systemic barriers to participation, and using data, intelligence and partnership insight to target provision more effectively. Continued investment will be directed towards inclusive delivery, SEND capacity and robust quality assurance and improved data systems, alongside continuing with high quality face to face provision. This will enable Lancashire to maximise the impact of HAF funding and ensure it reaches those children and families for whom it can make the greatest difference.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and collaboration of district partners, providers and wider stakeholders, whose shared focus on access, quality and outcomes underpins the continued success of the HAF programme in Lancashire.



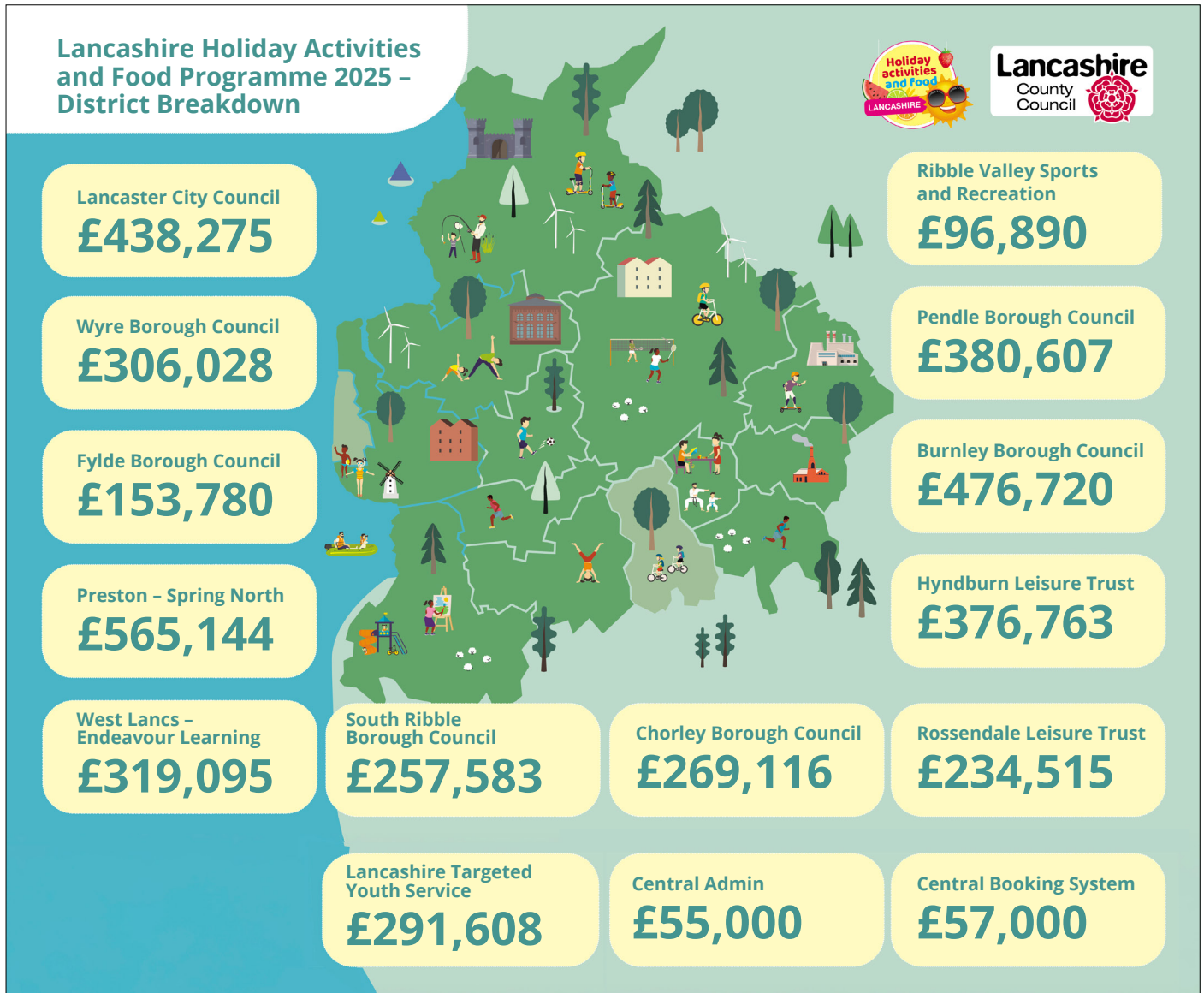
**Funded by
UK Government**



Highlights

Breakdown of expenditure

Lancashire was awarded £4,278,130.00 to deliver a meaningful and effective HAF programme for our children and young people in 2025.



Lancashire retained its established place based delivery model for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme, ensuring that provision continued to be responsive to local need and reflective of district level variation. Eleven of Lancashire's twelve District Councils delivered HAF locally, enabling children and young people to access high quality, safe and enriching holiday provision that was rooted in their own communities. This approach supported improved engagement, reduced barriers to access, and ensured that activities and food offers were culturally relevant and tailored to local priorities.

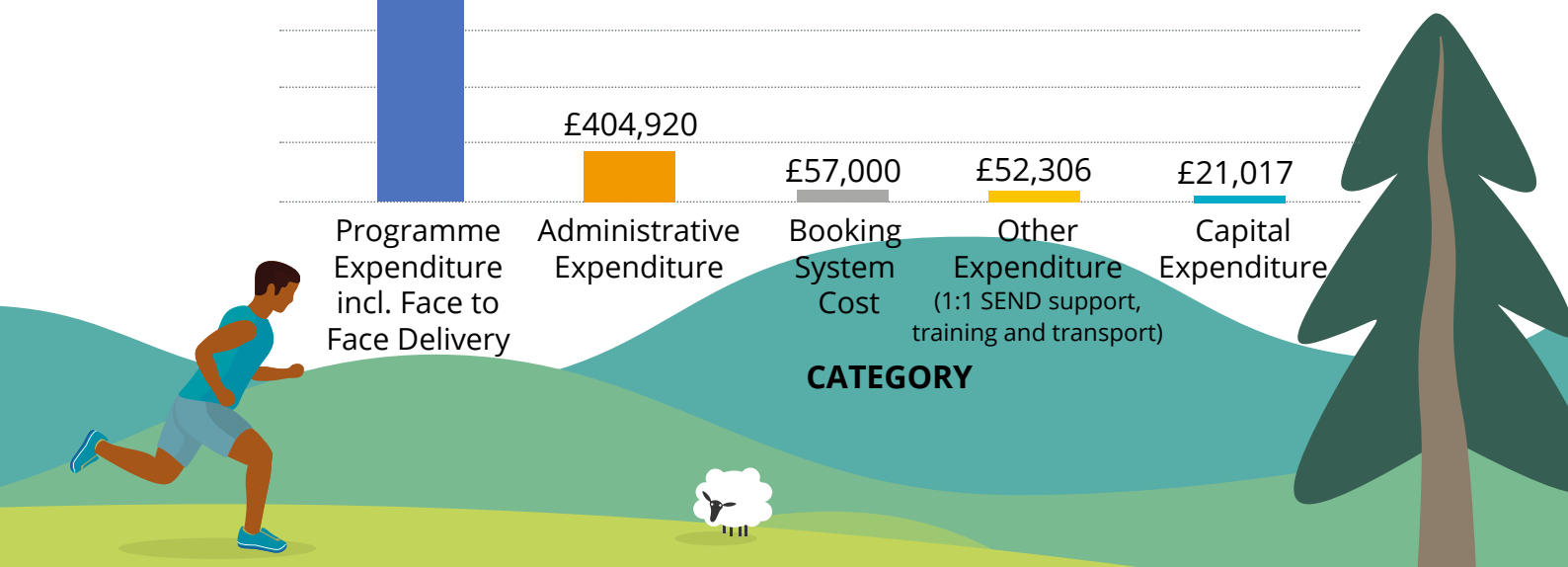
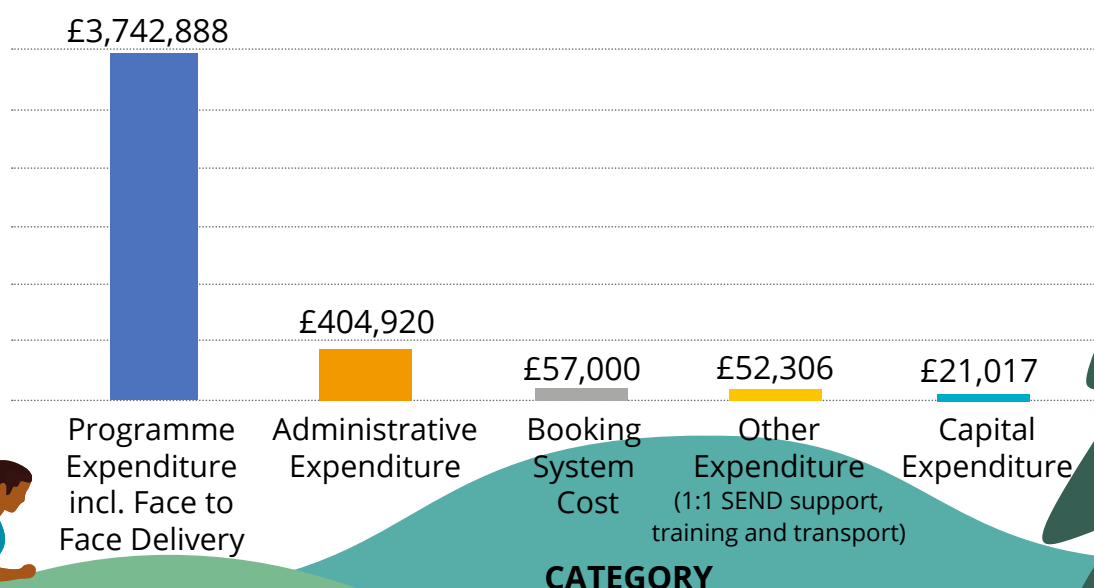
Strong collaborative governance arrangements were maintained throughout delivery. Lancashire County Council continued to lead the strategic development, quality expectations and oversight of the programme through formal Collaboration Agreements with District Council partners. This model balanced local flexibility with clear countywide standards, ensuring consistency of experience and outcomes for children and young people, while allowing districts to innovate in response to local context.

In Ribble Valley, delivery continued through a Service Level Agreement with an established voluntary sector partner, who is a trusted and well embedded provider within the local community. This arrangement reflected a shared goal that children, young people and families would achieve the best outcomes through a provider with strong local relationships, insight and delivery experience, where the District Council did not take on direct delivery responsibility. This strengths based, pragmatic approach ensured continuity of provision and a positive experience for children and young people.

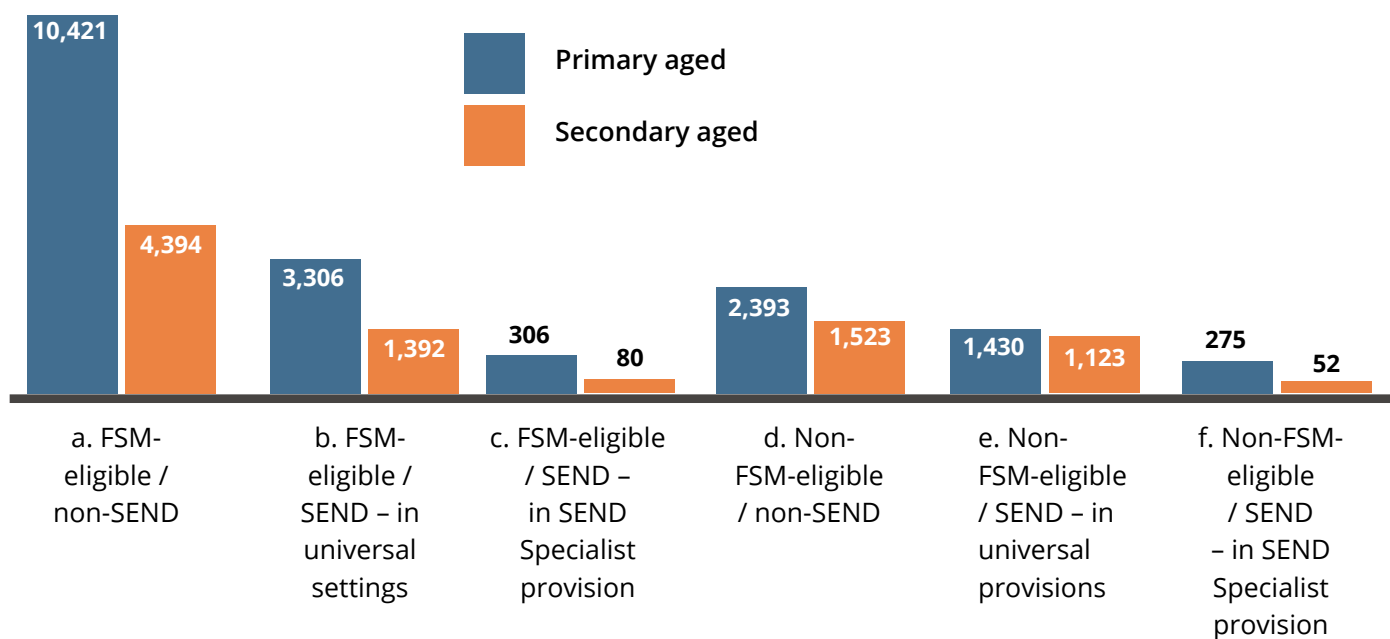
Across all delivery models, the programme remained focused on improving outcomes for children and young people by supporting access to nutritious food, enriching activities, positive social experiences and safe spaces during school holidays, while contributing to wider family wellbeing and early help objectives.



BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE

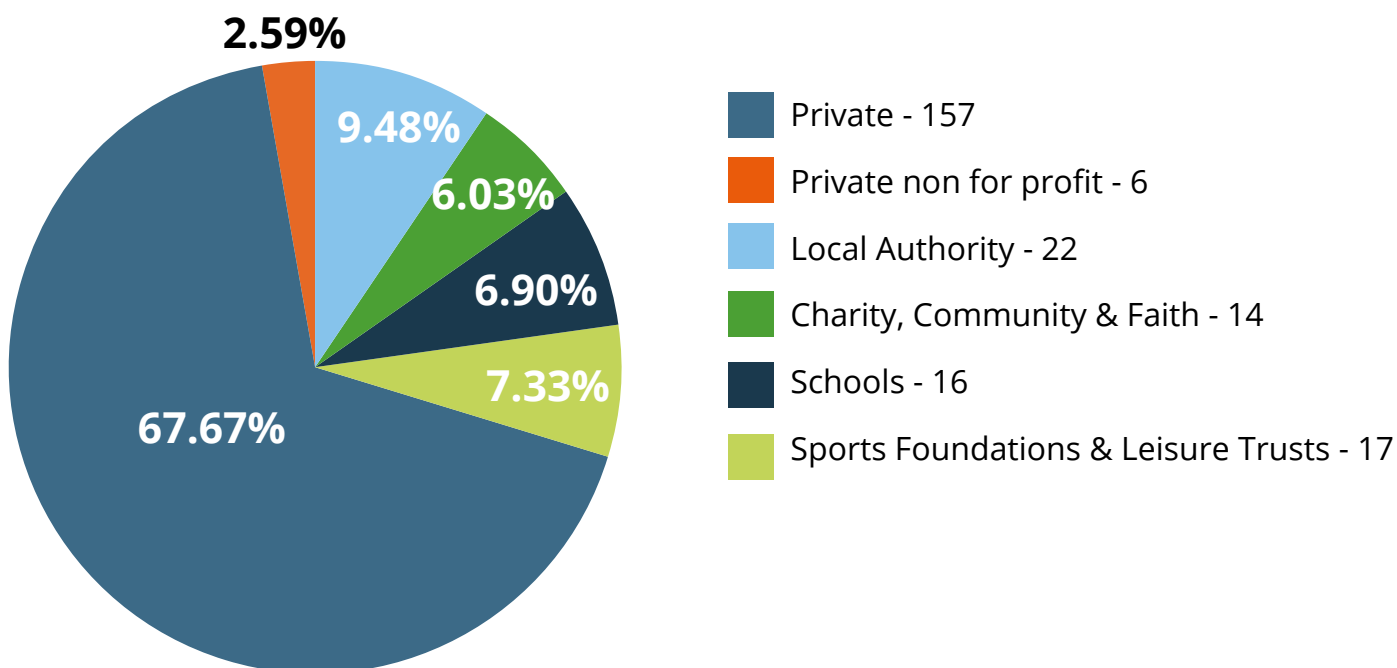


Reach and Engagement data by the total number of unique children:



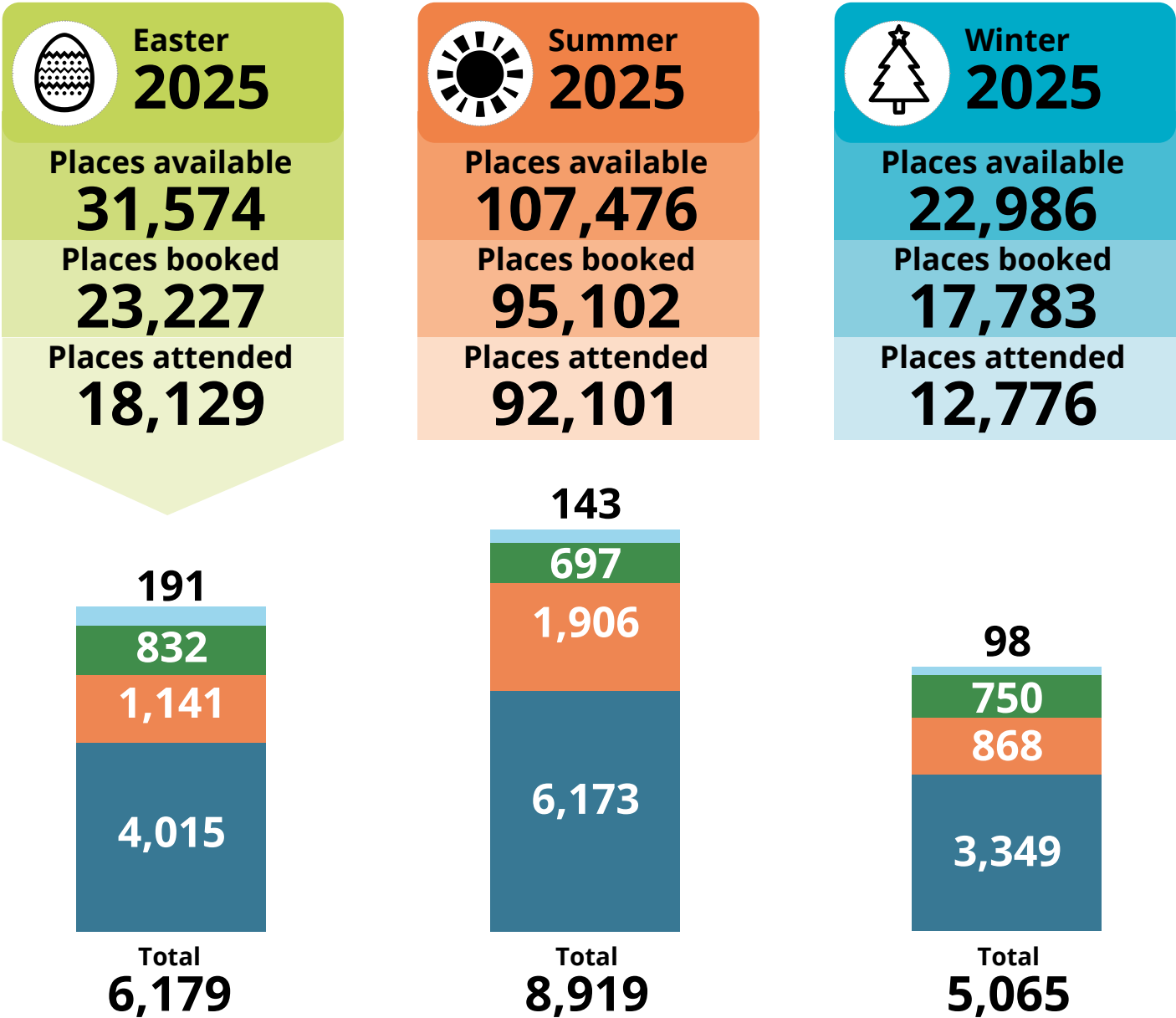
Types of organisations used to deliver HAF:

Lancashire provided 535 clubs via 232 providers.



Governance: Termly HAF Operational Steering Groups are embedded across all districts, driving reflective practice, accountability and clear planning for future delivery.

Key themes: Lancashire’s key HAF priorities have centred on stronger governance, consistent county wide guidance, increased SEND capacity, and the expansion of the HAF Facilitator model to support districts.



UNIQUE CHILDREN

■ Primary FSM ■ Primary Non FSM ■ Secondary FSM ■ Secondary Non FSM



Children and families' feedback

The HAF programme in Lancashire continues to deliver strong, measurable outcomes for children and young people. Feedback demonstrates consistently high levels of enjoyment, reduced holiday boredom and isolation, improved social connection, access to enriching activities, and reliable access to food. Children value both the activities and the relationships with trusted adults, confirming the programme's role as a protective, preventative intervention during school holidays.

- **94%** of children rated HAF activities positively (4 or 5 stars)
- **96%** rated staff positively, highlighting the importance of trusted and supportive adults
- **88%** rated the food offer positively
- **86%** reported making new friends through attending HAF
- **90%** said they were less bored during the school holidays
- **72%** reported learning a new skill or trying a new activity

What Changed for Children and Young People

Enjoyment, Safety and Quality

Children overwhelmingly described HAF as enjoyable, welcoming and safe. High ratings for activities and staff demonstrate that children value both the quality of the programme offer and the relationships built with trusted adults.

Outcome: Children had positive, confidence building holiday experiences and felt safe and supported while attending provision.

Child Voice:

"I wish I never ever have to leave the holiday club."
(Female, age 8)

"The staff are kind and make me feel safe."
(Female, age 9)

"The staff go above and beyond and really care about us."
(Parent reported child view)



Social Connection and Belonging

More than **8 in 10 children** reported making new friends. Many also attended alongside existing friends, which reduced anxiety and supported sustained engagement, particularly for younger children and those who are socially isolated.

Outcome: HAF reduced loneliness during school holidays and supported positive peer relationships and a sense of belonging.

Child Voice:

"I liked playing with my friends and making new ones."
(Female, age 7)

"Meeting new friends was my favourite part."
(Male, age 10)

"I was shy at first, but the staff helped me make friends."
(Female, age 6)

Emotional Wellbeing and Positive Use of Time

9 in 10 children said they were less bored during the holidays because they attended HAF. Feedback repeatedly shows that HAF provided structure, routine and something positive to look forward to.

Outcome: Children experienced improved emotional wellbeing and more meaningful, active use of holiday time.

Child Voice:

"I was less bored because I got to do something every day."
(Male, age 8)

"It's more fun than staying at home."
(Male, age 9)

"I really enjoyed having something to do in the holidays."
(Female, age 11)



Learning, Skills and Enrichment

Nearly three quarters of children reported learning a new hobby or skill. Activities included sport, outdoor learning, creative arts, digital skills and team based challenges, many of which children stated they would not normally be able to access.

Outcome: HAF provided enrichment beyond the school curriculum, supporting confidence, aspiration and personal development.

Child Voice:

"I learned new skills and tried things I've never done before."
(Male, age 11)

"I learnt a new sport and now I want to keep doing it."
(Female, age 13)

"Trying new activities was my favourite part."
(Male, age 14)

Healthy Eating and Daily Routines

The majority of children rated the food offer positively and described the importance of having regular meals during the holidays. Many children reported learning about healthy food choices or developing healthier routines.

Outcome: HAF supported both immediate nutritional needs and longer term wellbeing awareness.

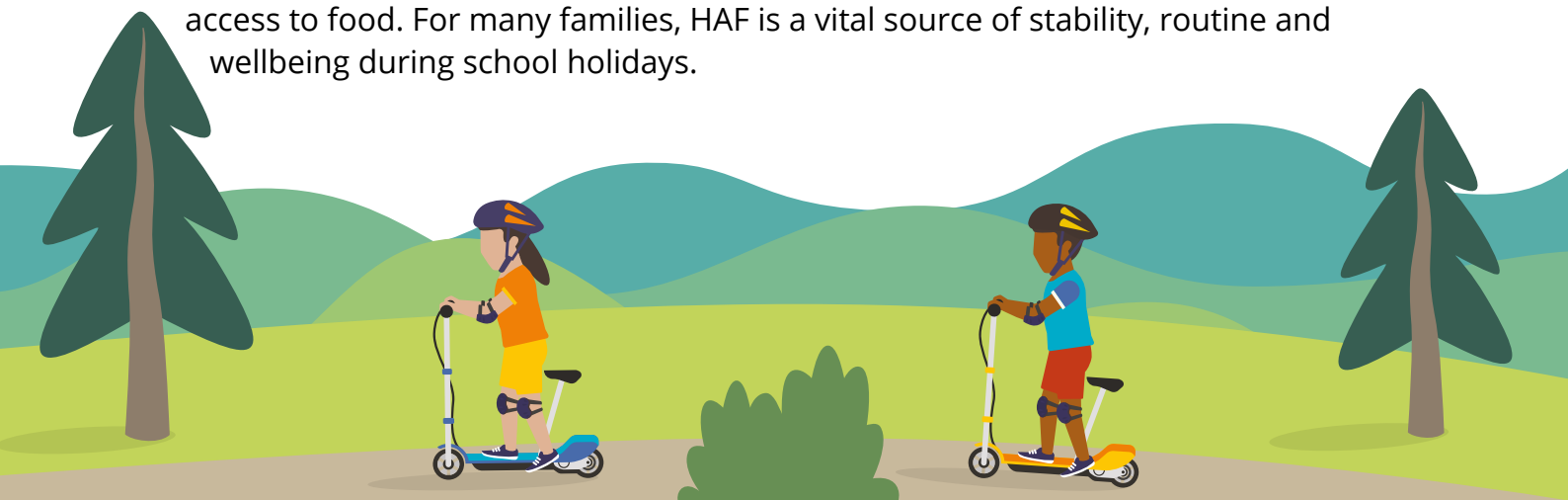
Child Voice:

"I liked the food and it helped me play all day."
(Male, age 7)

"I enjoyed eating together after playing all day."
(Female, age 10)

"The food gives me energy for activities."
(Male, age 8)

Feedback from 1,106 parents and carers whose children attended HAF provision across Lancashire demonstrates that it delivers significant and measurable benefits for families across our footprint. Parents report high levels of child enjoyment, reduced holiday pressure, inclusive support for children with SEND, meaningful enrichment opportunities and valued access to food. For many families, HAF is a vital source of stability, routine and wellbeing during school holidays.



Enjoyment, Safety and Quality of Provision

98% of parents said their child enjoyed attending HAF, with consistently high ratings for staff, organisation and overall quality. Parents repeatedly described children being happy, excited to attend and reluctant to leave, demonstrating strong engagement and positive holiday experiences.

Parent voice:

"My child absolutely loved every minute of it and cried when it finished."

"They ask every single day when they can go back."

"My children came home happy, tired and excited to tell me what they had done."

"It's the first holiday club my child has settled into and really enjoyed."

Reduced Pressure on Families

97% of parents reported that attending a HAF club reduced pressure on their family during the school holidays. This was particularly significant for working parents, single parents, families on low incomes and those caring for children with additional needs. Lancashire operates a varied delivery model to respond to the diverse needs of families, with full-day provision forming a key part of the offer to support working parents during school holidays

Parent voice:

"The HAF programme has quite literally saved my life this summer."

"I could go to work knowing my child was safe, fed and having fun."

"Without HAF, I wouldn't have been able to work during the holidays."

"As a single parent, this relieved a huge amount of pressure for me."



Inclusion and Support for Children with SEND

95% of parents of children with SEND felt their child's needs were met at HAF provision. Parents highlighted staff understanding, flexibility, and the importance of familiar, safe environments that enabled children with additional needs to participate fully.

Parent voice:

"The staff understood my child's needs straight away and made adjustments without fuss."

"This was the only club where my autistic child felt safe and included."

"My child felt confident, supported and valued every day."

"They went above and beyond to make sure my child could take part."

Learning, Enrichment and Confidence Building

94% of parents said their child tried new activities or learned new skills through attending HAF. Parents consistently reported improved confidence, resilience, independence and social skills, alongside exposure to opportunities not typically affordable or accessible.

Parent voice:

"My child tried activities we could never afford and now wants to keep them up."

"She gained confidence and made new friends, that's been amazing to see."

"He learned new skills and felt really proud of himself."

"It helped build his confidence after a really difficult year."



Food Provision and Everyday Wellbeing

92% of parents agreed that the food provided was healthy and good quality, and many described the importance of reliable access to meals during the holidays. Parents valued breakfast and lunch provision as a practical and wellbeing focused support for their household.

Parent voice:

"Knowing my child had regular meals took a huge weight off my shoulders."

"The food meant my child could stay active all day."

"Having meals included made a real difference to our family budget."

"Breakfast and lunch provision was a massive help."



Food

All HAF provision across Lancashire ensured that children and young people received at least one nutritious meal each day they attended. Evidence from quality assessments shows that the majority of providers were rated “Good” or “Excellent” for Healthy Food Provision, with all offering daily opportunities for children to access healthy and nutritious food.

A significant proportion of providers achieved 5 – Excellent, demonstrating strong compliance with HAF expectations, including:

- Structured mealtimes
- Balanced menus
- Consideration of dietary, cultural and religious needs
- Positive staff role modelling around food

Where provision was rated 3 – Acceptable, food standards were still met, there were supportive conversations with providers focused on increasing children’s involvement in food preparation or strengthening nutritional education. 98.5% met an Acceptable standard or above.

Delivery Models

- All Lancashire districts used a range food delivery models, including:
 - Local food partners and community grocers
 - Professional meal preparation on site
 - Child led cooking and food preparation
 - Family inclusive food activities (recipes, ingredients, education shared)



Partnerships

Partnership working was evidenced in some settings, with providers working alongside:

- Community food organisations
- Supermarkets and community champions
- Local farms and growing projects
- Nutrition and public health partners

Children & Young People’s Engagement

Children and young people were involved in food preparation or food related learning in some settings, including:

- Cooking and meal preparation
- Nutrition games, quizzes and workshops
- Menu choice and food evaluation
- Positive attitudes to food were consistently recorded, particularly where children had hands on involvement



In Chorley 11619 meals were provided to children accessing HAF this year, delivering a high quality and nutritious food offer, thus helping children try new foods and build healthier habits. Through alliances with Chorley School Sport Partnership and local providers, children have taken part in hands-on cooking activities, including preparing fruit and vegetables and making smoothies. These activities have helped children try foods they had not eaten before, such as mango and berries, and build confidence in the kitchen.

One provider shared:

"We loved making smoothies... lots of the children hadn't tried some of the fruit before. It really opened their eyes to different foods."

Across clubs, mealtimes are used as social and learning opportunities. Children eat together with staff, helping to build routines, confidence and independence, such as helping to clear tables or serve food. Many providers have introduced simple, engaging ways to encourage healthier choices, including fruit kebab making, food-themed activities and reward systems for choosing healthier options.

One example is the 'Fuel Station', where leftover fruit, vegetables and salads were made available throughout the day for children to help themselves. This approach encouraged children to try new foods in their own time and reduced food waste. Providers reported that children were more willing to try foods they would normally avoid, and most of the food provided was eaten.

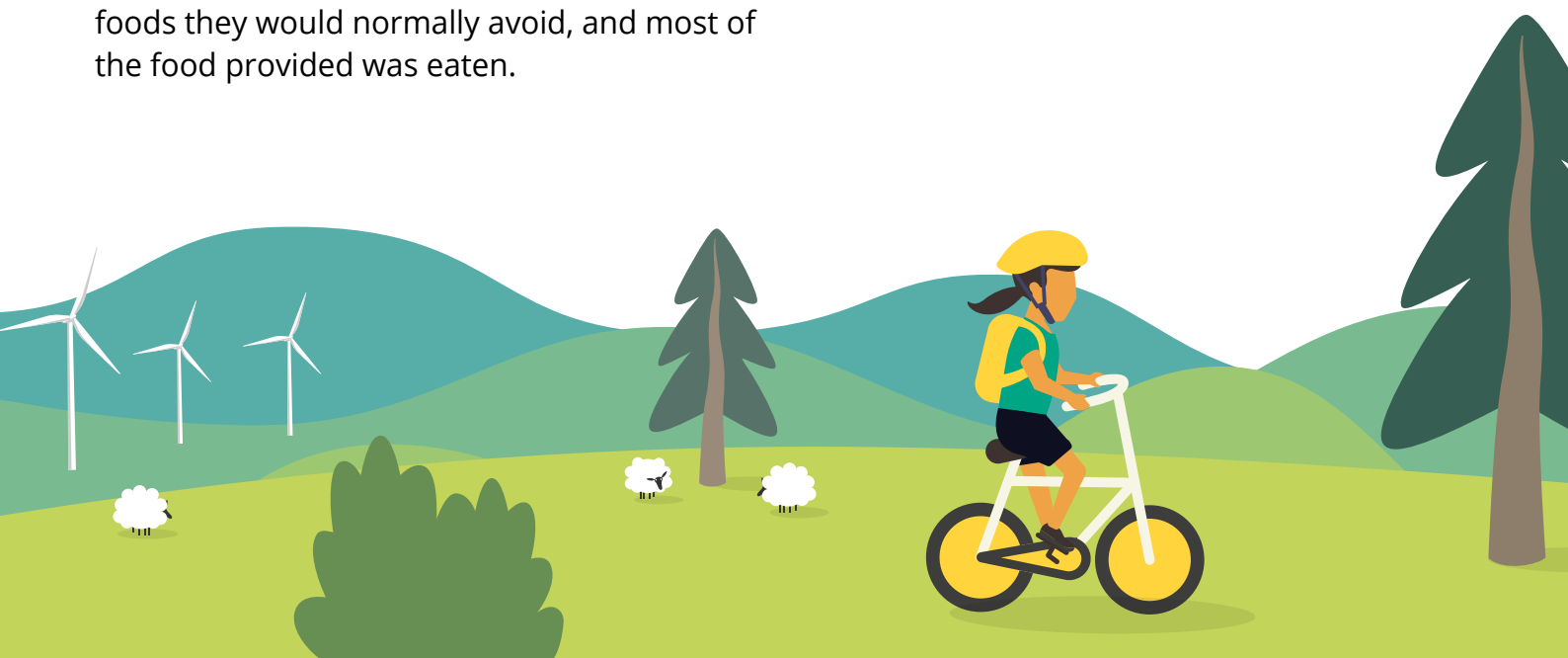
For families, the programme has made a clear difference. Providing a daily meal has helped reduce pressure during the holidays, and feedback shows children are taking what they learn home. One parent said: **"My child has been excited to try different meals and has asked us to make them at home."**

Children also spoke about the impact, with comments such as:

"I enjoy kiwi now and make my mum buy it," and **"I help make tea at home."**

Overall, Chorley's programme is helping children to try new foods, build confidence and develop healthier habits, while supporting families during the school holidays.

Provided by Katie Rogers. HAF Co-ordinator for Chorley



Nutritional Education and the promotion of healthy living/lifestyles

The Lancashire HAF programme delivered nutritional education across all provision through planned, age appropriate activities integrated into daily delivery. This included cooking and food preparation sessions, nutrition focused games and quizzes, and structured discussions about healthy, balanced diets and hydration.

Quality assessment evidence shows that 62.9% of settings were rated “Good” or “Excellent” for Awareness and Understanding of Healthy Eating, with 94.8% meeting at least an “Acceptable” standard.

Involvement of Parents, Carers and Families

Parents, carers and family members were engaged through a combination of direct advice and practical take home support. This included:

- Recipe cards, ingredients and menus to encourage replication at home
- Budget friendly meal planning and healthy eating guidance
- Informal conversations with staff at drop off and collection
- Visible nutrition information and signposting within settings

Several providers also involved families directly in food preparation activities alongside children, strengthening shared understanding of healthy eating.

Improved Understanding and Changed Attitudes

Evidence from provider feedback indicates that children and families developed a stronger understanding of nutrition and food budgeting over the course of the programme. Children demonstrated increased confidence talking about healthy food, greater willingness to try new foods, and improved understanding of how nutrition supports energy, activity and wellbeing.

Changes in attitude were most evident in settings where children were actively involved in cooking and menu choices. Families reported increased awareness of affordable healthy options and local food support, contributing to more positive food related behaviours beyond the programme.





PASTA has recently supported a family following a child bereavement, providing continued access to a safe environment for the rest of the family, structured activity and food provision during a difficult time.

Feedback highlights the impact on family mealtimes and engagement: "It's given us new ideas for meals we can cook together, and my child is much more interested in helping in the kitchen" and "Getting the kids involved in the cooking process has encouraged them to try new things," while one child shared, "I liked trying new sports and I get excited to see what's in the bag."

In Ribble Valley, the PASTA (Play and Skills at Teatime and Activities) programme demonstrates how locally led delivery can successfully combine physical activity with nutritional education to engage children and their families. Delivered as an afterschool club at Roefield and through our HAF programme, PASTA provides children with the opportunity to take part in a different sport each week, supporting confidence, teamwork and positive engagement with physical activity.

Families are also supported through food parcels and simple, family-friendly recipe cards, encouraging children to get involved in preparing quick, nutritious meals at home. This family-centred approach ensures learning extends beyond sessions and into the home, with consistent delivery helping to maintain strong engagement with families who may otherwise face barriers to accessing activities and healthy food.

The programme is designed to support families in need, including those experiencing challenging circumstances. For example,

In recent delivery periods, we have been able to combine the PASTA programme with elements of the HAF scheme in order to offer a wider service to those families already identified as in need. This has included collaboration with a wrestling school, who delivered a programme of activities within PASTA sessions and subsequently invited attendees to take part in their wider HAF provision, enabling children to build on skills developed during sessions. As families attending PASTA are already identified as in need, we were able to generate HAF codes for these children to further support their access to provision.

Provided by Carla Miller, HAF Co-ordinator in Ribble Valley



Enriching Activities

Lancashire's HAF programme delivered a consistently high quality enrichment offer across districts, with activities designed to engage children and young people, build skills and confidence, and provide access to experiences they may not otherwise have.

Analysis of the 1,167 completed quality assessments for Enriching Activities shows:

91.9%
of settings were
rated "Good" or
"Excellent"

6.9%
were rated
"Acceptable"

39.5%
achieved an "Excellent"
rating, reflecting highly
engaging, well planned
and child centred
enrichment

98.7%
met at least an
"Acceptable" standard
or above

These ratings demonstrate strong and consistent enrichment delivery across Lancashire, supported by district led commissioning and local partnerships.

Range of Enriching Activities Delivered

Provider comments and assessment notes show that enrichment activities included a broad and varied offer, tailored to local need and age range. This included:

- Multi sports and physical activity programmes
- Arts, crafts, performance and creative workshops
- Outdoor and nature based learning
- Cultural and community experiences
- Cookery, food preparation and life skills activities
- Digital, coding and STEM based learning
- Youth led and confidence building activities

Children and young people were supported to coproduce their HAF offer by having input into activity choice. Their contribution and evaluations facilitated improved outcomes and enjoyment for them.



Outcomes for Children and Young People

Quality assessment feedback highlights clear positive outcomes from enrichment participation. Children and young people were observed to:

- Engage consistently and enthusiastically in activities
- Develop confidence and resilience
- Strengthen social skills and peer relationships
- Try new activities and skills for the first time
- Express pride in achievements and a desire to continue activities beyond HAF

In Preston, we are proud of the high-quality enrichment offer delivered through our HAF providers. With each delivery period, interest has grown and activities have become increasingly diverse, ensuring children can access experiences they may not otherwise have. Below is a summary of our partners, their offer and delivery periods:

Ernest Cook – Outdoor Learning – Summer 2025

Preston City Council - Financial Support for Families drop in sessions – Summer 2025

Initiate Theatre – Theatre and Drama workshops – Summer 2025, Winter 2025, Easter 2026

Lancashire Minds – Mental Health workshops – Summer 2025, Winter 2025

Active Minds - Access to free activities/ sessions – Winter 2025

LTA Tennis – Tennis Activator Qualifications – Winter 2025, Easter 2026

HyTruck (Pro Sport Coaching) – Fitness Sessions – Winter 2025

HB Sports – Cricket Sessions – Easter 2026

Imagination Gaming – Board and Card game activities – Easter 2026

Music on the Move – Instrument discovery – Easter 2026

Below is feedback on the Initiate Theatre workshops:

“I really can’t sing the praises of Initiate Theatre enough. The theatre workshop they ran with our children at St Maria Goretti was very well enjoyed by everyone and the production of Wobble-Knees the Elf had the children incredibly excited. I think it’s safe to say that the prospect of the performance had a positive impact on our bookings and attendance that day too - it was our highest day for bookings. All the children were on an absolute high for the rest of the day, and it made for a very special experience. The workshops are brilliant, but the performance was something else - a real highlight and perfectly suited to the time of year.”

Provided by Corey Patterson, HAF Co-ordinator in Preston



Physical Activities

Physical activity remains a core and consistently strong element of Lancashire's HAF programme, with provision designed to keep children and young people active, engaged and motivated throughout the school holidays. Quality assessment evidence demonstrates high standards across delivery, with 87.8% of settings rated "Good" or "Excellent" for Physical Activity, and 50% achieving an "Excellent" rating, reflecting well planned and highly engaging provision.

District partners delivered a wide and varied physical activity offer, including multi sports programmes, team games, outdoor play, dance and movement activities, swimming and adventure based provision. Many settings exceeded recommended daily activity levels, with children actively participating for sustained periods across the day. Physical activity sessions were frequently led by trained or specialist staff and adapted to ensure inclusion for children with SEND.

Assessment feedback highlights clear positive outcomes for children and young people, including improved confidence, physical competence, teamwork and social skills. Children demonstrated high levels of enthusiasm and enjoyment, with many expressing a desire to continue activities beyond the HAF programme. Parents also reported that participation in physical activities had a positive impact on children's wellbeing, energy levels and confidence.

In Rossendale the HAF Spring programme was delivered for a total of 8 days throughout the Easter holidays, with 24 different delivery partners being part of the programme.

From these delivery partners a wide range of activities were available including boxing, cooking, skiing, gymnastics, forest schools, dance and many more. Sessions were predominantly available for primary aged young people, but also with availability for secondary pupils in some instances along with SEND specific sessions where possible.

Two separate providers (circus skills and theatre workshop), attended two different venues each day to provide enrichment activity workshops, working alongside the main provider at each venue. This provided a positive experience for all young people attending, and also the opportunity for different activities to be delivered alongside each provider's main offer and the opportunity to provide two separate activities which may not have necessarily fit into the 4 hours per day guidance.

Provided by Paul Gallagher HAF Co-ordinator for Rossendale



Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

Total number of unique children and young people with SEND needs who attend HAF:



Supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is a key priority within Lancashire's HAF programme. The programme is underpinned by a strong commitment to inclusive delivery, with funding used flexibly to remove barriers to participation and ensure children with additional needs can access appropriate, high quality provision during the school holidays. 29.8% of all children attending HAF were identified as having SEND.

Across Lancashire, a combination of inclusive mainstream provision and SEND specific places are commissioned, with HAF budgets used to support additional staffing, enhanced ratios and targeted adjustments where required. This approach reflects the increasing level and complexity of needs among children and young people accessing HAF, alongside a clear commitment to sustaining attendance wherever possible.

Districts have demonstrated a proactive approach to inclusion. For example, South Ribble Borough Council allocated an additional £4,000 to support staffing costs for one provider, enabling a cohort of children with additional needs to continue attending a specific club. This targeted investment ensured stability,

Number of SEND specific clubs (individual dates)



maintained routine and prevented exclusion due to resourcing pressures.

Lancashire's Targeted Youth Support (TYS) service plays a particularly significant role in SEND inclusive delivery for older children. YYS provides the majority of HAF provision for 12-16 year olds across the county, with venues, staffing and delivery fully within their control. This model enables activities to be consistently SEND inclusive, with environments and staffing adapted to meet individual needs and support sustained engagement for young people who may find mainstream provision less accessible.

Overall, Lancashire's HAF programme demonstrates a strong, system wide commitment to inclusion, supported through flexible commissioning, targeted investment and specialist delivery models. This ensures that children and young people with SEND are not only able to access HAF provision but are supported to participate meaningfully and benefit fully from the programme.



Marketing and Communication

Communication, Marketing and Engagement

Lancashire has taken a strategic, multi layered approach to communicating and promoting the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, ensuring clear, consistent messaging while allowing flexibility for local tailoring.

A key driver of engagement has been the appointment of dedicated HAF Facilitators, which has significantly strengthened the visibility and reach of the programme across districts.

Strengthening Local Engagement Through HAF Facilitators

HAF Facilitators have played a central role in promoting the programme within communities, attending local events, engaging directly with families, schools and partners, and acting as a visible point of contact for the HAF offer. Their presence at community venues and events has helped raise awareness among families who may not otherwise engage through digital or school based communication.

In addition, the facilitator model has created valuable time and capacity for districts.



Facilitators have worked alongside district colleagues to review and strengthen local marketing, ensuring that materials are accessible, timely and aligned with community needs.



Provider Led Promotion Driving Attendance

Across many Lancashire districts, providers are paid based on a percentage of attended places, rather than booked places. This has proved to be a powerful incentive, encouraging providers to actively promote their HAF provision, maintain engagement with booked families, and sustain attendance throughout delivery periods.

As a result, providers have taken ownership of local marketing through:

- Direct communication with families
- Promotion via schools and community networks
- Use of social media, posters and local word of mouth

This approach has created a shared responsibility for engagement, with providers, districts and facilitators all contributing to attendance maximisation.



Coordinated Social Media Strategy – A Lancashire Wide Response

A dedicated HAF Facilitator was assigned responsibility for coordinating social media marketing at a county level. This has enabled the development of a cohesive Lancashire HAF identity, supported by engaging, recognisable content.

The county wide social media campaign has been designed to:

- Promote HAF consistently across Lancashire
- Share clear messages about eligibility, benefits and how to book
- Celebrate local activities and successes

Districts have been encouraged to amplify this content through their own social media platforms, while also sharing details of their local HAF offer. This has created a strong balance between a unified Lancashire message and locally relevant promotion.

Reaching New Families and Priority Cohorts

To further strengthen the reach of the HAF programme, Lancashire has established a Strategic Lancashire HAF Board, bringing together partners from across education, early help, public health, SEND, children's social care and community services.

The purpose of the Board is to provide strategic oversight and insight to ensure the HAF programme continues to reach children and young people most in need, including

those who may not traditionally access holiday provision. By drawing on shared intelligence and professional expertise, the Board supports a more targeted and preventative approach to engagement.

The Strategic Board will play a key role in:

- Identifying priority cohorts and emerging needs across Lancashire
- Supporting more targeted engagement strategies for groups less likely to access HAF independently
- Informing district level decision making to better align provision with local demographics and vulnerabilities
- Strengthening links between HAF delivery, wider early help systems and community based support

This strategic oversight complements the operational work of HAF Facilitators, districts and providers, enabling Lancashire to move beyond universal promotion alone and towards intentional targeting of families who face barriers to access, including those experiencing disadvantage, isolation or additional needs.

By combining grassroots community engagement with county wide strategic direction, Lancashire is strengthening its ability to identify, engage and support new families, ensuring that HAF resources are focused where they can have the greatest impact for children and young people.



Leveraging Partnerships to maximise our resources

Lancashire's HAF programme is underpinned by the development of strong, collaborative partnerships, complimented by additional investment and in-kind support. This enables our districts to extend high quality provision and maximise value for money.

Across delivery periods, districts have secured a range of match funding and grants, including contributions from charitable trusts and local partners. Examples include the South Ribble Active Health Budget (£5,165) to increase delivery hours, Ribble Valley PASTA (£1,000) to support targeted activity, and smaller grants such as the Banks Lyon Trust (£600), Ernest Cook Trust (£300) and Lancashire Mind (£125) to support enrichment, outdoor provision and wellbeing activity. Additional funding such as £2,280 from Rossendale Borough Council and Haslingden Community Link supported the provision of food hampers for families.

This financial support is complemented by extensive in-kind contributions and partnerships, including food donations from major supermarkets (e.g. Morrisons, Aldi, Asda), free goods such as bread from Warburtons, and access to free or subsidised enrichment opportunities. Districts have also worked with local and national organisations to broaden the offer, including partnerships delivering theatre workshops, sports activities, maths-based learning and inspirational sessions from national sports representatives.

The HAF programme aligns closely with existing Local Authority services, further strengthening delivery without additional cost. Lancashire's Targeted Youth Support (TYS) service provides countywide provision for young people aged 12–16, with staffing funded in-kind by the Local Authority. Collaboration with Early Help and inclusion services supports the identification and engagement of vulnerable children, ensuring provision is effectively targeted.

To maximise value for money, delivery is primarily undertaken using existing local infrastructure, including schools, community venues and leisure facilities, alongside district-led commissioning arrangements that ensure flexible and locally responsive provision.

Overall, this blended approach enables Lancashire to extend the reach and quality of HAF provision, ensuring that available funding is maximised through strong partnerships, community assets and additional resources.



Reflective Insights and Future Planning

Lancashire's HAF delivery continues to be strengthened by the commitment and deep local knowledge of district partners, who consistently demonstrate creativity and resourcefulness in shaping provision that meets the specific needs of their communities. The introduction and expansion of the Lancashire HAF Facilitator model has significantly increased capacity within both districts and the local authority, enabling more responsive support, stronger coordination and a more effective overall approach to programme delivery.

A clear priority has been to maximise the proportion of the HAF financial allocation directed into face-to-face provision, ensuring that funding has the greatest possible impact for children, young people and families. Recognising that places are a valuable and finite resource, Lancashire has provided targeted guidance to providers to support more proactive attendance management, helping to reduce drop-off, optimise place utilisation and ensure more eligible children are able to access clubs.

Consistent use of the central booking platform has also been reinforced as a key enabler of this approach, improving the accuracy of data collection and strengthening the authority's ability to understand reach, demand and impact across districts.

In relation to the discretionary element of the programme, Lancashire will continue to strengthen its approach to the use of up to 15% allocation for children with additional vulnerabilities beyond FSM eligibility. Moving forward, there will be a greater focus on ensuring this funding is applied consistently and remains within the permitted threshold. Data and learning from delivery will be regularly reviewed and presented to the HAF Strategic Board to support a shared understanding of need, refine local eligibility criteria, and enable a more proactive and targeted approach to allocating these places. This will ensure that flexibility is maintained to support vulnerable children, while also strengthening oversight and alignment with national guidance.

Looking ahead, Lancashire will continue to prioritise investment in SEND provision, strengthen its quality assurance response through a clear and consistent framework, and develop a Power BI dashboard to reduce administrative burden while improving real-time oversight and impact analysis. These developments will support a robust, data-led understanding of HAF outcomes and drive continuous improvement across the programme.

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

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