



North East Lincolnshire

Annual HAF Report

2024 - 2025





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Introduction

Since 2021, North East Lincolnshire Council have provided free holiday activities to pupils aged 5 -16 year olds through the government funded HAF Programme.

The programme provides a healthy meal with enriching activities during the Spring, Summer and winter school holidays to all children eligible for a benefit related free school meals.

It has been widely documented that school holidays can be pressure points for some families due to increased costs during the school holiday times.

Some children are more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and health.

Some children from lower income families are less likely to attend holiday activities.

This annual report aims to showcase the fantastic opportunities that our young people in North East Lincolnshire have been part of, working closely with providers to offer a broad range of holiday activities across the borough.



Jennifer Steel – Service Director for Education, Inclusion and Integration

“This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to take part in a range of activities and new experiences during the school holidays.”

Holiday Activities and Food Programme

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) is a national programme that supports school aged children 4 – 16 years in a state funded school receiving free school meals (FSM). Each local authority receives funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver the HAF programme which provides eligible children with free access to holiday activities and a meal during Easter, Summer, and Winter school holidays. In addition to the eligible FSM entitlement Local authorities can spend up to 15% of their allocation to offer these activities to other children referred from the school they attend.

The aims of the programme are to offer a high-quality experience that will support children to:

- receive healthy and nutritious meals
- maintain a healthy level of physical activity
- be happy, have fun and meet new friends
- develop a greater understanding of food, nutrition and other health-related issues
- take part in fun and engaging activities that support their development
- feel safe and secure
- get access to the right support services
- return to school feeling engaged and ready to learn.



HAF in North East Lincolnshire

The success of the programme continues to grow and evolve.

As the number of free school meals continues to rise locally, the funding is vital to our families. It brings young people together, promotes healthy eating, safety, social inclusion and connects families with schools and their local communities.

Nearly 8000 children were receiving benefit related free school meals from March 2024 – April 2025. In addition, we supported families to children across the local authority to children with an EHCP, children in our care or have a social worker.

We work with all state funded schools in North East Lincolnshire to identify eligibility and assign holiday vouchers.

Vouchers and booking activities are all done through the Holiday Activities booking platform.

Each child is issued with a unique code, this enables them to book, cancel and amend their holiday activities.



HolidayActivities

Funding Allocation

NELC was awarded a funding allocation of £775,790 for the financial year 2024/25, from the Department for Education (DfE), to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food programme across the borough. This grant funding is calculated based on the numbers of children eligible for and in receipt of benefit related free school meals that attend a school in NELC. The funding is provided to cover:

- provision of free holiday places and coordination of the programme locally.
- The DfE recognises that there are administrative costs associated with setting up and running the holiday activities and food programme. Local authorities are able to use up to 10% of their total allocation to cover this. North East Lincolnshire HAF Admin allocation maximum allocation £77,579.

Department for Education HAF grant expenditure 2024/25

Grant Allocation	£775,790
Face-to-face holiday club provision funding (to providers for delivery costs for Spring, Summer and Winter)	£690,083
Management and administration of the programme by the Local Authority	£72,681
Other costs (Booking System)	£13,026
End of year total spend	£775,790



Quality of Provision

The Council's vision is to work collaboratively with our providers to offer the very best HAF provision for children and young people in North East Lincolnshire. The HAF coordinator works closely with providers to help them to deliver high quality programmes that meet HAF standards. A robust monitoring framework has been put in place to ensure that all HAF provision in North East Lincolnshire is good or excellent standard.

Food and Nutritional Education

A variety of hot and cold packed lunch meals were offered through the HAF programme. Some were made on site but many of these were provided by local food providers. Providers were encouraged to offer water and a range of fruit and vegetables for snacks throughout the day.

During the summer programme, all providers were supported by a local supermarket chain - Lincolnshire Co-op to provide extra fruit and breakfast/cereal items.

Some providers were able to share menus with families in advance of the sessions to support better planning and less food waste. In many instances there were examples of surplus food being distributed to families to take home following the sessions.

Physical Activities

The main focus of the holiday clubs are to develop a range of physical activities. Some familiar and traditional sports and games and a range of enriching opportunities to enable every child to take part in unique activities.

In 2024, HAF physical activities on offer included: football; swimming; junior gym sessions; boxing; Olympic themed sports games and activities; CrossFit; gymnastics; cheerleading; multi sports camps; ice-skating; roller disco.

Enriching Activities and Experiences

Providing enriching activities remains at the heart of North East Lincolnshire HAF. Our established providers have risen to the challenge of ensuring that there are exciting and new things to try and learn. We have also worked with many new providers to ensure that there is a varied offer for every participant.

Our HAF offer includes trips to the farm, the beach, local parks, the pantomime, activity centres, trampolining parks, Ariel adventures and owning a pony for a day.

Our enrichment activities included: DJ and music workshops; bath bomb and slime workshops; horse grooming; cooking; forest school activities; den making; clay modelling; musical theatre; pottery painting; dance workshops; mindfulness; film making.



SEND

The programme continues to support children and families that have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We have increased our programme this year to provide SEND specific only clubs and we continued to support Humberston Park Academy for their summer school.

Quality Assurance Visits

Each provider receives at least one quality assurance visit to observe and assess their delivery against each of the DfE HAF standards:

- providing healthy meals
- providing fun and enriching activities that help children develop new skills and try new experiences
- providing physical activities that help children to stay active
- providing activities that help improve children and their families' understanding of healthy eating, lifestyles and behaviours
- offering information, signposting or referrals to other services that would benefit children and their families
- suitable policies and procedures in place, including safeguarding

Providers are given a rating for each standard, from very poor to excellent, in line with HAF guidance. The HAF coordinator produces a report of the visit, providing feedback on what is going well and making recommendations for areas of improvement.



Spring Highlights

1,016

HAF Attendees

4,000

Places

190

SEND children

22

Providers

Summer Highlights

1,665

HAF Attendees

13,492

Sessions

1,256

Primary aged
children

409

Secondary aged
children

26

Providers

2,509

SEND Specialist
places

Please follow the links to view some of the videos produced The Trin at their summer activities.

[The Trin](#)

[The Trin](#)



Winter Highlights

800+

Child places available
to watch the pantomime

1,750

Sessions available
to book

150

SEND Attendees

1,080

FSM children attended 1
or more activities

14

Providers

33

activity days

Providers

Providers wishing to deliver HAF in North East Lincolnshire are required to apply for each programme period. This process includes successfully evidencing they can meet HAF programme delivery requirements and passing due diligence checks. New providers are encouraged to arrange a meeting with the HAF coordinator before applying.

HAF providers 2024/25 in North East Lincolnshire

Climb 4	Fierce Elite Cheerleading
Premier Education	Lincs inspire - Sports
Cleethorpes Library	Grimsby Auditorium
YMCA-Humber	Kickstarters
The Fusion Centre	Cottagers Plot Equestrian Centre
Grimsby Town Foundation	First Steps Holiday Camp
Oasis South Hub	The Trin
Eclipse Gymnastics	Bounceback
The Haven – Young and Safe Team	

Education Settings offered a HAF Programme onsite

Havelock Academy	Humberston Park Academy
The Launchpad	Littlecoates Academy
Oasis Academy Immingham	Oasis Academy Wintringham
Healing Village Nursery OOSC	Learning 4 Life

Holiday programmes delivered on a school site by a PVI

Wybers Wood Academy	Pilgrim Academy
Ormiston Maritime Academy	Whitgift Academy
Elliston Primary Academy	Thrunscoe Academy

Feedback from Children and Young People

I love coming to holiday club to try new things.

I have made new friends.

I like playing with my friends

Today, I tasted new fruits – my favourite was strawberries.

I am excited to go to the holiday club as we get to go on cool trips.

I love coming here - it's fun.

We do lots of things like football and cooking.

I feel lucky to be able to spend the day at the stables. I have really enjoyed caring for the horses and I also got to ride one.

I hope I can come back again soon.

Feedback from Parents and Carers

Wide variety of activities there's always something for everyone. The staff are brilliant always helpful and friendly.

Just want to say a huge, big massive thank you for everything you do for the community! Trin is absolutely amazing for people of all ages. You've really made her summer holidays fab! I honestly wouldn't know what I'd do without your clubs in the holidays. It's super hard juggling work, keeping kids happy and active in the holidays, worrying about them having fun while watching your bank balance at the same time. Love that you also have people coming in like the firemen/women, dentists etc in the sessions as well! I'm really working with XXXX to be as active and sociable as she can, ready for year 7, and Trin is the main part of this! You really do massively help being a full-on single mum a million times easier.

My child has never been to a club before. I thought it was just football – my kids love it and the staff are amazing. It is inclusive and really friendly

Feedback from Providers



We had 258 places filled with our children. We were at capacity for nearly all of our days. We provided new experiences for a lot of our children such as parkour and a visit from Nunny's farm. They were able to interact with the animals and learn new skills that they found invaluable. *YMCA – Humber*

One of our year 6 children asked if he could still come next year as we have made his summer “one he will remember forever”. He said he would usually be ‘stuck in the house doing nothing’ and he was so grateful every day.

Littlecoates Primary Academy

Many of our SEN parents said it had made all the difference keeping them in the routine of coming into school and had really impacted on home life. They said they had been able to keep some normality for their children which helped to avert crisis for them. *Humberston Park Academy*

Providers signpost families to other HAF activities, NELPCF fun days being held at a variety of family hubs. Oasis South Hub, Children's services, specialist resources and youth provision.

NELC work collaboratively with social workers, Integrated front door, Early help and SENCO's.

Marketing and Communications

#HAF2024

Communications activity focused on raising awareness of the HAF offer and on encouraging new providers to apply to deliver HAF in North East Lincolnshire.

The approaches used this year included:

- Council HAF Webpage
- Council Social media (Facebook, X, LinkedIn)
- Headteacher briefings
- Providers social media
- All providers were asked to tag #HAF2024 & #education.gov



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Plans for 2025-26

- Maximise bookings and reduce non-attendance.
- To further strengthen the programmes value for money.
- Maintain quality of provision across all HAF standards – continuing to see all provision rated as good and above at QA visits
Capture voice of children – to inform programme improvement
- Develop an offer in collaboration with short breaks to enhance the provision for SEND.

