



Milton Keynes
City Council

Holiday Activities and Food Programme Summary (HAF)

2025-26 Annual Report

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Standards of the HAF programme

Milton Keynes City Council was awarded funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver a national programme, named Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) to children and young people living in Milton Keynes who are in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals (FSM) during the spring, summer and winter school holidays.

The standards of the programme aims to encourage young people to:

- Eat more healthily over the school holidays;
- Be more active during the school holidays;
- Take part in engaging and enriching activities;
- Be safe and not to be socially isolated;
- Have greater knowledge of health and nutrition; and
- Be more engaged with school and other local services

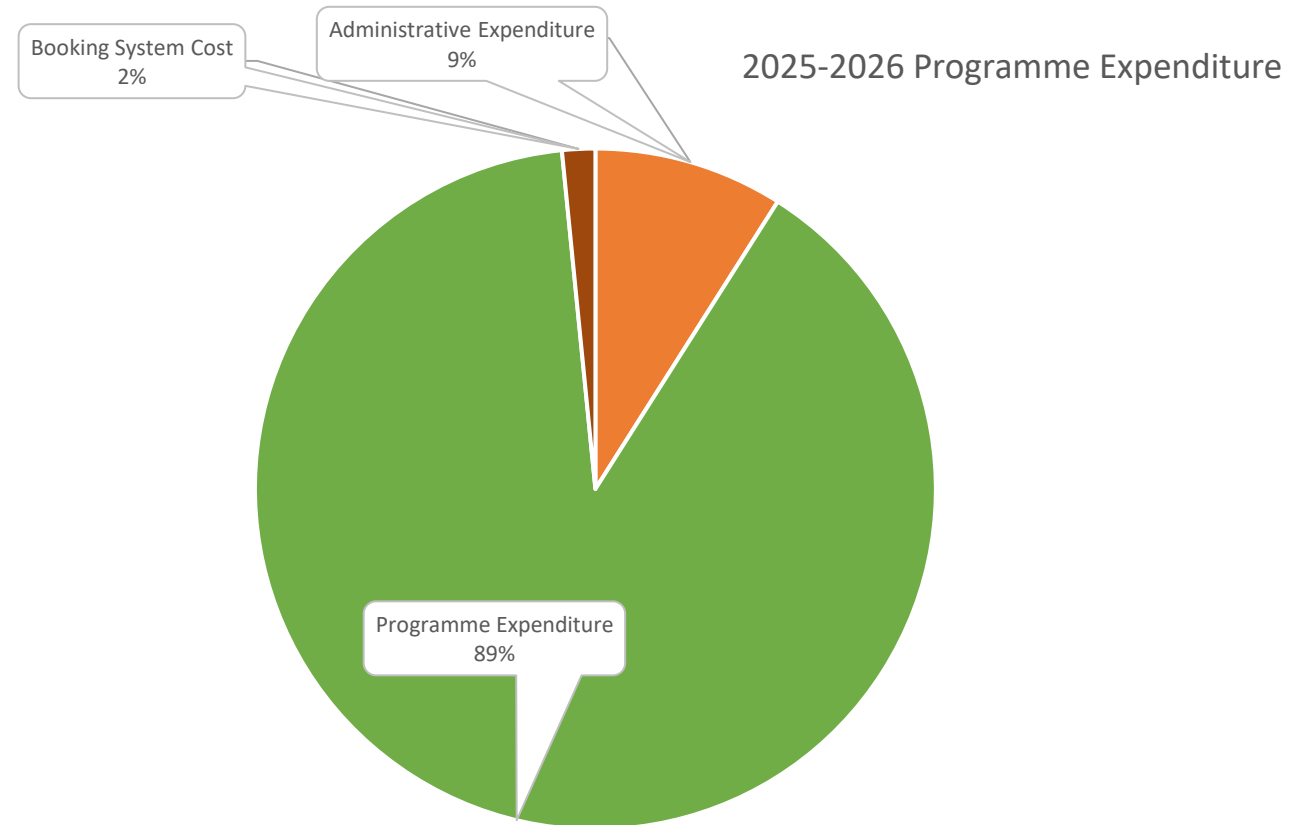


HAF Funding and Expenditure

Milton Keynes City Council were awarded £1,156,330.00 funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.

The Programme offers sessions during the spring, summer and winter School holidays for children and young people who are in receipt of benefit related Free School Meals.

In Milton Keynes 89% of the funding is used to create sessions for eligible children and young people.



Funded by
UK Government

MK **Milton Keynes**
City Council

Promotion and Marketing



- Provider's Social Media Channels



- Communications through Social Care and Corporate Parenting Colleagues



- Communications through Schools



- Local radio station advertising and Press releases

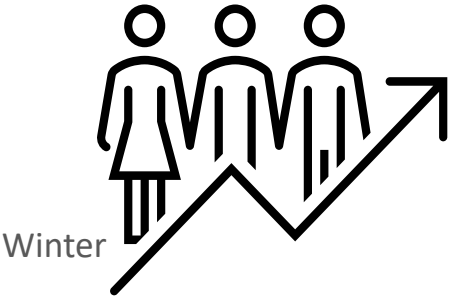


- Voucher and Promotion direct emails to all eligible families

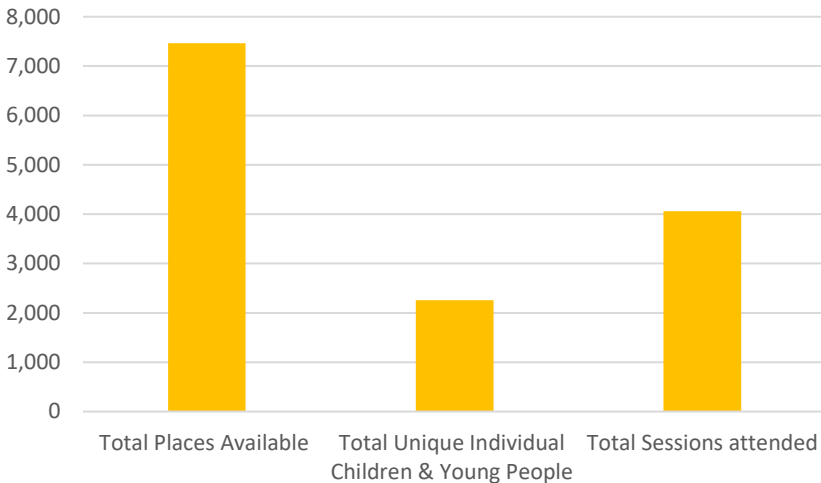


- Regularly maintained HAF webpage

2025-26 Programme attendance



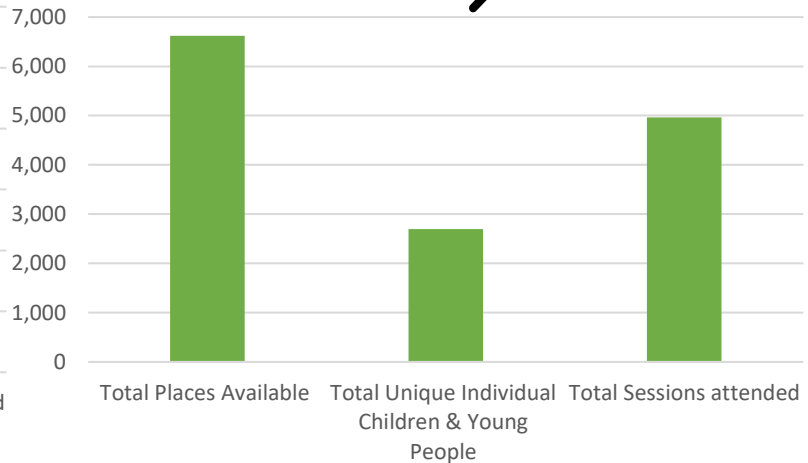
Spring



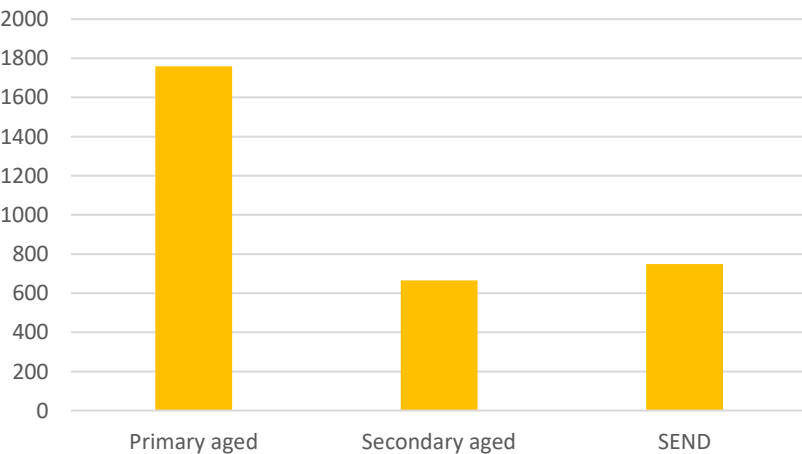
Summer



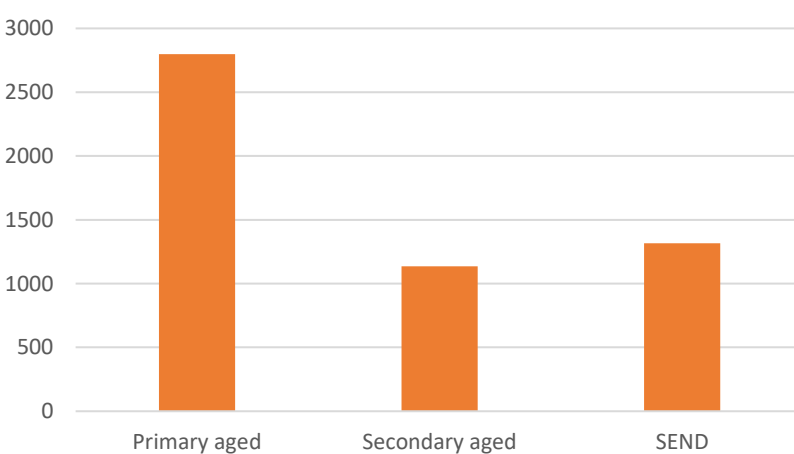
Winter



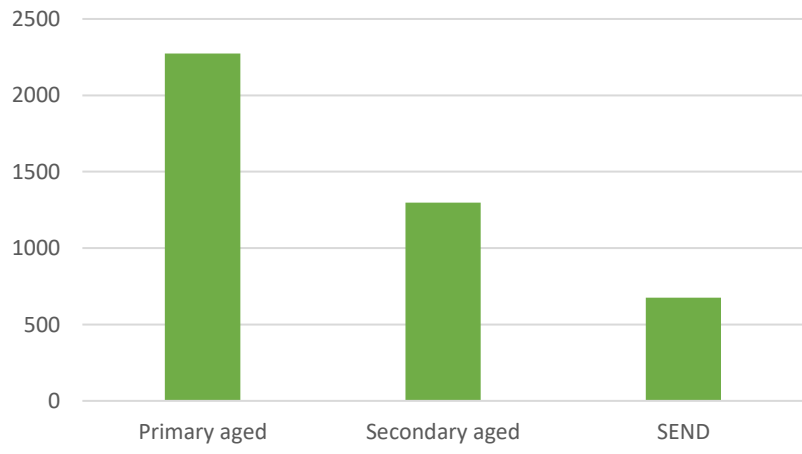
Spring



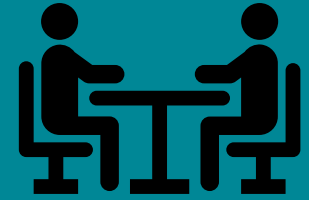
Summer



Winter



Steering group



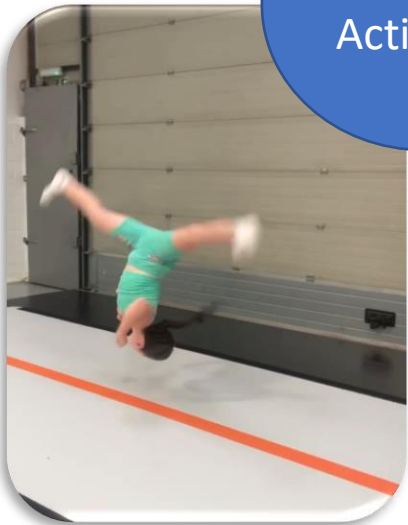
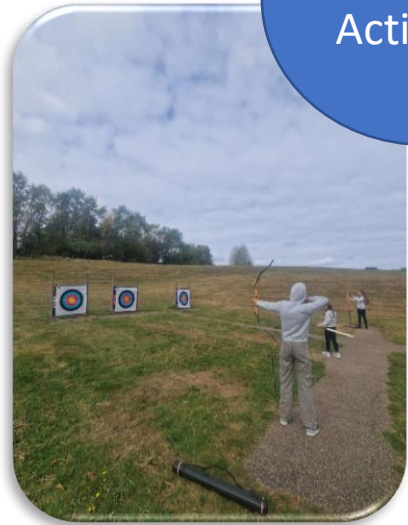
Head of Service for Education Outcomes	HAF Project Manager – Children Services	HAF Project Support – Children services	Communications Manager – Corporate core
Library Services Manager - Sufficiency, Access and Attendance	Children and Family Centres Manager – Children Centres Services	Senior Lawyer - Legal	EMA Improvement Officer - Education Improvement and Effectiveness Service
Participation and Engagement Team Leader- Safeguarding	MK Music Hub and Faculty Manager - Children and Families	Project Manager Early Years Block - Wraparound	Service Accountant – Finance



Enriching Activities

Physical Activities

Healthy meals



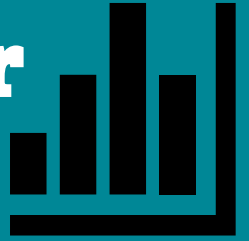
HAF Programme Providers

Milton Keynes City Council worked with 46 different providers to deliver 38,194 HAF places during the 2025 delivery.



How did Children, Young People and their families rate the HAF Programme?

(1 Poor 5 Excellent)



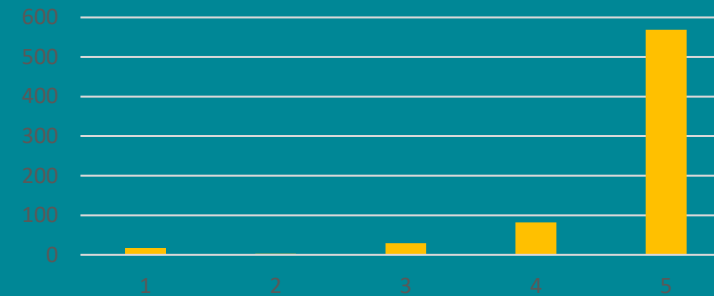
How would you rate the selection of activities available?



How would you rate the quality of food provided?



Did the programme help your child to be more active over the school holidays?



Did the programme help your child to experience new opportunities?



- 583 Family Feedback forms submitted during the 2025 HAF Programme
- Family feedback forms were sent directly to all families who booked and attend sessions.

What Families told us.....



We are grateful for opportunities provided by HAF

The sessions were enjoyable and well run. The activities helped keep structure and routine during the holidays, which made a real difference for us as a family.

As a family who have varying disabilities (Physical & Mental) Today's trip really made this our BEST summer so far! Without the HAF programme things like this would unfortunately be financially difficult to do.

It's been a huge help during the school holidays – my child has had fun, made friends, and learned new skills.

Thank you very well organised I am impressed

program made a really positive impact on my family children can go where I can't afford to go and it has a huge positive impact mentally, socially, physically and emotionally on my children .

Food and staff made my child happy

Reduces isolation, keeps children occupied and entertained, eases holiday family budgets

You said, we did.....

583 Family Feedback forms submitted during the 2025-26 HAF Programme



Booking System & Access

You said:

- Sessions fill too quickly
- Booking is difficult, especially for multiple children
- Inequity in access

We did:

- We've spread out when some sessions go live to give everyone a fairer chance to book.
- We've introduced a non-attendance policy so unused places can be offered to other families.
- We've improved the booking system so it's easier to book for multiple children, with a dynamic waiting list that updates automatically when spaces become available.

Food Quality & Organisation

You said:

- Food quality inconsistent
- Long waits at large scale events
- Dietary needs not always met

We did:

- We've strengthened food standards and introduced clearer guidance for providers to ensure meals are well planned, healthy, and organised
- We've improved how dietary requirements are collected and shared, using the information you provide at booking
- We've increased food providers and staffing at larger events to improve food service and reduce waiting times

Highlights of 2025-26



- 32% increase of targeted children and young people



- 160% Growth of SEND attendees



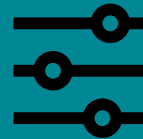
- 12% growth of booked places being attended



- Direct communications with FSM eligible families



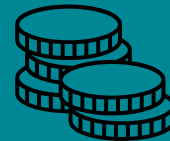
- Booking system in place to support bookings and data accuracy



- Stimulation of provider market to support engaging, diverse programmes

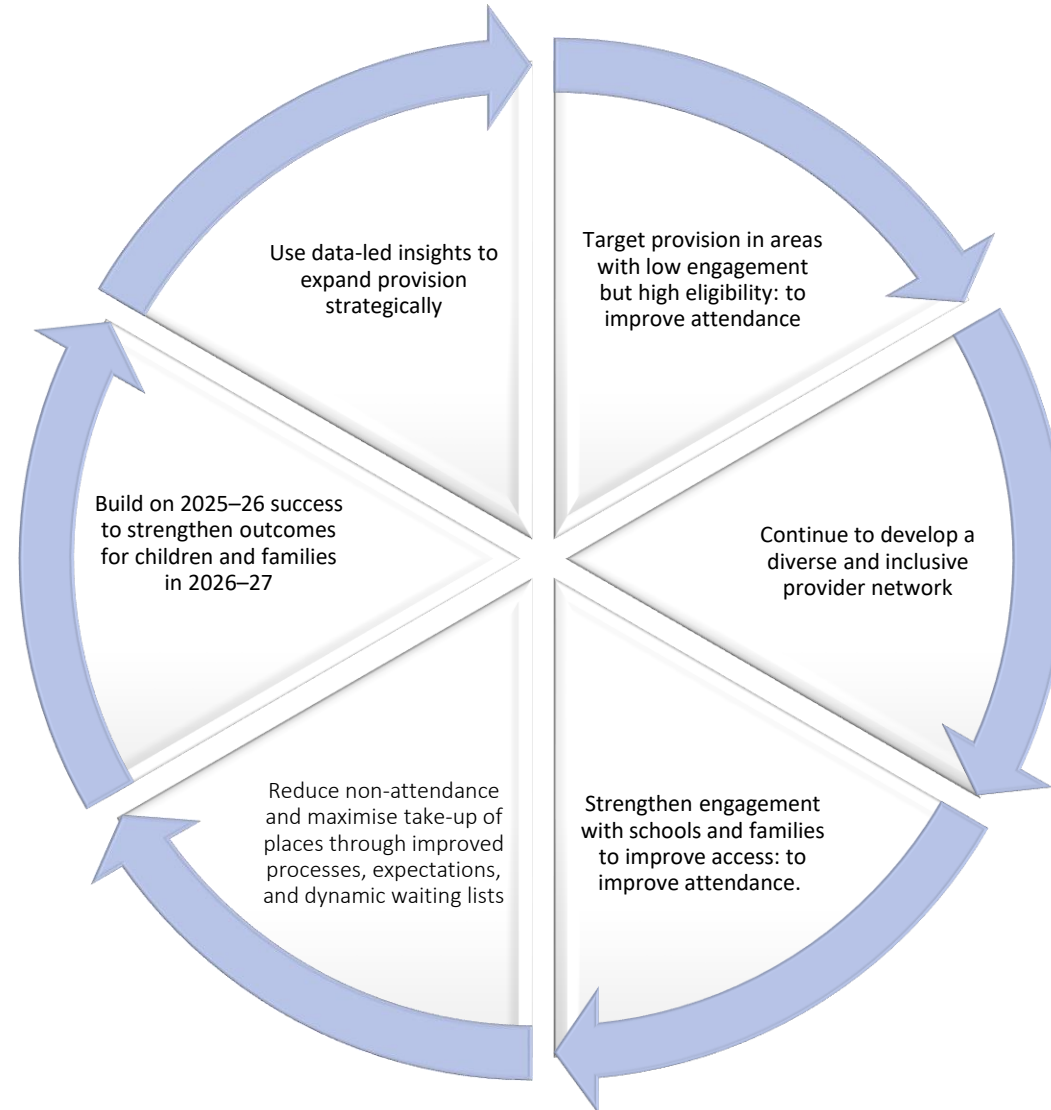


- Strengthened provider market and quality assurance through Safe Practice Mark



- Programme delivered within budget

2026-27 Priorities



 **Milton Keynes** City Council