



HAF ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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What we did...

#TeamBolton's 2023 Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) programme primarily supported children & young people in receipt of benefits related **Free School Meals**. Funded by the **Department for Education**, the program provided the opportunity to participate in **'FREE' physical and enriching** activities for **4 hours** a day for **4 days** a week alongside a substantive **meal**. The funding covered a week of delivery over **Easter**, 4 weeks delivery over **Summer** and a week of delivery over the **Winter** holidays.

HIGHLIGHTS!

OVER **50**
LOCAL
DELIVERY
PROVIDERS



78% OF
PARTICIPATING
PUPILS ON FREE
SCHOOL MEALS



12,393
INDIVIDUAL
CHILDREN
PARTICIPATED



£1,453,520
ALLOCATED TO
BOLTON FOR
HAF 2023:



2,338
INDIVIDUAL
CHILDREN
WITH SEND



25 HAF HUB
SIGNPOSTING
EVENTS
DELIVERED



391 CHILDREN
UNDER SOCIAL
CARE OR
YOUTH JUSTICE



1,527
ELIGIBLE
CHILDREN
OVER EASTER



4,387
ELIGIBLE
CHILDREN
OVER SUMMER



3,440
ELIGIBLE
CHILDREN
OVER WINTER



9,493
Primary School
(46% eligible)



2,900
High School
(67% eligible)

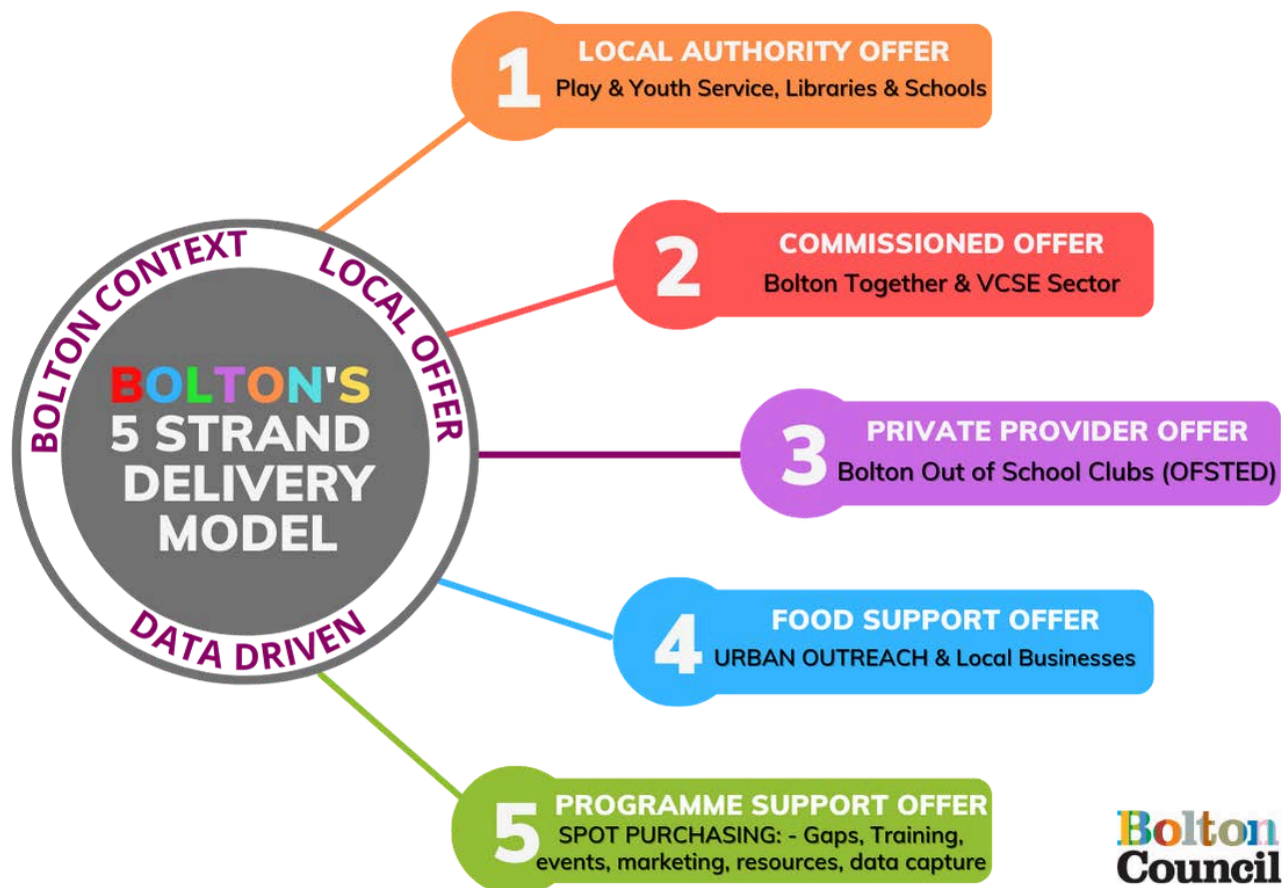


#TeamBolton

How we did it...

BOLTON'S HAF DELIVERY MODEL

#TeamBolton continued to adopt a **5 strand delivery model** for HAF 2023, ensuring decisions were **data driven**, within a '**Bolton**' Context and prioritised **local delivery**. **Strand 1** focused on the Local Authority delivery from Play, Youth & library services as well as local schools. **Strand 2** utilised Bolton's strong VCSE sector. A 'grass root' grants program through 'CVS' and a commissioned approach via the umbrella organisation 'Bolton Together' ensured local groups were able to support local communities. **Strand 3** sought the support of private out of school clubs and sports camps, often with great links to schools and the flexibility to fill gaps in provision. **Strand 4** was the partnership working between HAF and Bolton's biggest food charity - Urban Outreach. They supported the direct distribution of HAF lunches as well as liaising with local food businesses & supermarkets. The final **Strand 5** covered program support from training to marketing as well as areas of innovation such as our **HAF HUBS & MENU OF ACTIVITIES...**

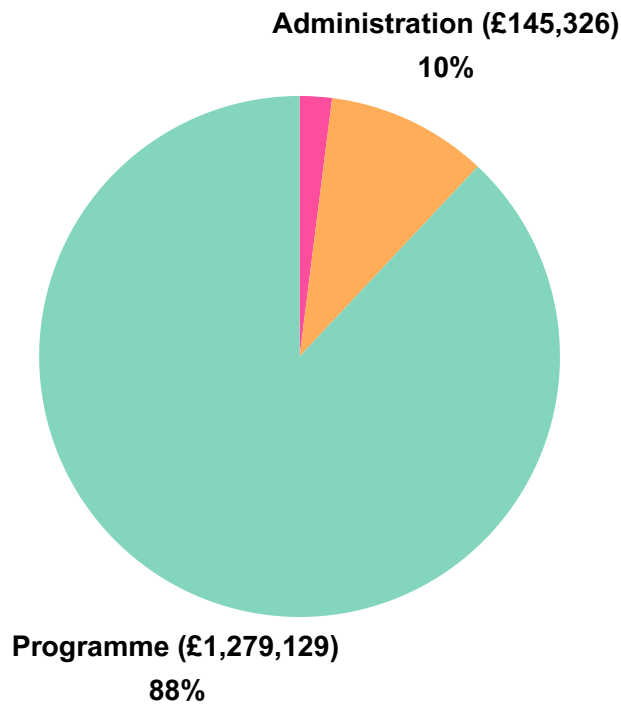


BUDGET AREA BREAKDOWN £1,453,520

Capital expenditure (£29,065)

Administration (£145,326)

Programme (£1,279,129)

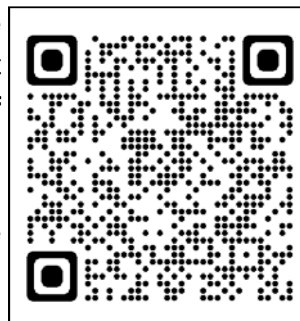


PROGRAMME SPEND PER HOLIDAY PERIOD

EASTER	SUMMER	WINTER
£200,253	£969,033	£284,234

Meeting the HAF Criteria ...

#TeamBolton continued to ensure Children & young people accessing the HAF programme could take part in physical and enriching activities that matched their interests and hobbies. The HAF Team created a 'Menu of Activities' that providers could access that included adventure centres, trampoline parks and outdoor theatres alongside visits to our **HAF HUB** family events. These daily events offered cooking sessions alongside activities and an opportunity to signpost families into other support services.



Either click the video below or scan the QR code above!



PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

With a mixture of sports camps, forest schools and youth clubs, physical activities were at the heart of our HAF offer! The HAF team ensured that activities were varied, accessible and safe with a focus on creating as many new and unique experiences as possible! The HAF team partnered with local businesses including gyms, climbing centres and trampoline parks to ensure better value for money without losing quality.





ENRICHING ACTIVITIES

Our 'Menu of Activities' offered a number of unique and enriching opportunities that providers could access. These ranged from outdoor theatre performances, growing kits and first aid 'mini medic' sessions. Our Christmas offer delivered a unique experience whereby children and young people supported Chefs to cook and prepare a 3 course meal in the town hall followed by a festive Panto in the local theatre. High School young people accessed match Day experiences in partnership with BWFC.

FOOD EDUCATION

With food education being a big part of the HAF programme providers were given the opportunity to access training with our food education provider Classroom Kitchen. As well as Health and nutrition, sessions focused on HOW to positively engage young people with food. #TeamBolton continued to utilise expert chefs to deliver cooking sessions & Demos at our HAF HUB family event sessions throughout summer.

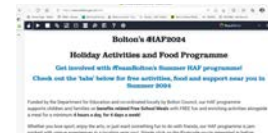


FAMILY SUPPORT

#TeamBolton took a 2 pronged approach to family support by digitally signposting families through our microsite as well as bringing services to local communities via our HAF HUB family events. We invited guest services alongside our activities and food offer to provide practical support, advice & guidance beyond HAF. Services included health, social housing, money skills, targeted early help, active lives and mental health support.

Marketing & Communication

The Marketing strategy for 2023 involved consistent use of our vibrant HAF branding across multiple fields. The branding is now easily recognised by families, professionals and partners. Our approach is the use of a central HAF microsite (www.bolton.gov.uk/HAF) that houses all sessions and HAF information and includes a translate function. Every eligible child received a VIP invitation letter providing them with a unique code that was used when booking. Leaflet & poster templates were given to providers along with banners, flags and pull ups to promote the sessions. HAF was also marketed through schools, social housing providers & social care via face to face briefings and digital channels.



SNAPSHOTS!



Feedback & Reflections ...

"Emily has enjoyed every session coming home telling us about all the fun she's had, it's been really good for her and helped her to grow in confidence and build her independence, thank you!!"

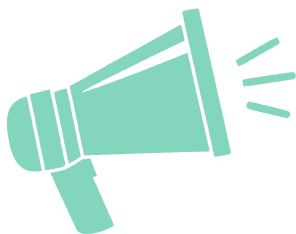
"Due to the cost of living crisis the club has supported with keeping the children happy and engaged in fun activities. Amazing staff and engaged really well and made us feel welcomed."

"My child looks forward to the sessions, he has formed a lovely friendship group and benefits from so many opportunities to develop new skills. Being able to have something to eat with friends is an added bonus"

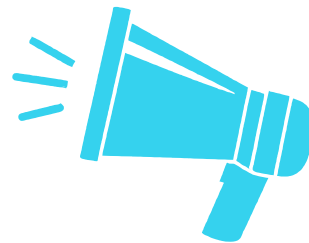
"The sessions and staff have been amazing. They have helped to keep my daughter entertained over summer and connect with other children. Due to cost of living it is really difficult finding things to do that are affordable. The sessions have been a huge help financially and socially".

"Both my children enjoyed the sessions they attended, one even coming out crying she had to leave! It's support our family by offering childcare which is a blessing as we don't have family around to help out and meant I haven't had to drag them on boring errands"

"I struggle with my mental health which stops me from being able to do thing with my son, youth club have helped me massively this summer by giving my son the chance to learn, grow and mix with children his own age. The activities have been fantastic and lunches supplied! I can't thank the staff enough!!!"



"its great to have a safe place for my girls to enjoy themselves with their friends. My eldest has special needs yet I'm satisfied she's accepted and looked out for to ensure she's okay"

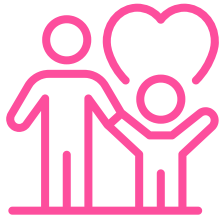


Partnership working ...

#TeamBolton's HAF Steering Group



Food Charity
Urban Outreach



Early Years
Startwell



3rd Sector CVS
Bolton Together



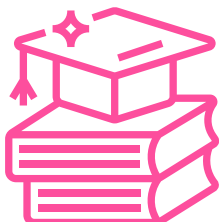
Social Housing
Bolton at Home



Public Health
Active Lives



Social Care
Early Help



Education
School Improve



LA Marketing &
Communication



Play & Youth
Services



Football Club
BWitC

Key strategic HAF partnerships






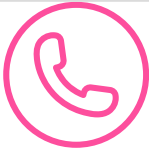

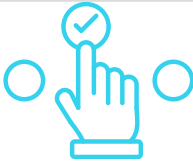
- **Family Hubs** - Events, signposting & wraparound offer
- **Social Care** - Targeted Early Help & referrals
- **Cost of Living** - School 4F's Roadshows, warm spaces & HSF
- **Public Health** - Active Lives, Bikeability & E-Bug Training

Supporting the most vulnerable

Although the HAF programme primarily focuses on Children & Young people in receipt of benefits related free school meals, the DfE do offer some small flexibility (15%) to support other vulnerable children. Such vulnerabilities included (but not limited to) SEND, Children Looked After, Children in Need, Targeted Early Help and those under Child Protection plans. Given the limited resource rather than prioritise one singular group, #TeamBolton's approach in 2023 was to assess these individual needs on a case by case basis via professional referrals such as a teacher or social worker. In addition HAF extended its offer to the Targeted Early Help team to identify a number of children 'at risk' that would benefit from the programme over the long summer holidays.

Challenges & Ambitions ...

2023 Challenges..

			
POOR WEATHER - As well as effecting outdoor provision it deterred traveling parents dropping off.	CANCELLATIONS - Despite full bookings, cancellations and 'No Shows' continue to affect final numbers.	ELIGIBILITY - Although limited, there continues to be some 'backlash' around HAFs targeted approach.	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - Schools were particularly inconsistent over Easter & Christmas affecting HAF delivery
HAF TEAM MITIGATION			
			
PLAN B (C&D!) - Providers asked to consider back-up venues & better contingencies.	COMMUNICATION - Providers asked to follow up 'no-shows' and replace empty spaces when possible	UNIVERSAL OFFER Play & Youth service to deliver a universal offer alongside the HAF programme.	FLEXIBILITY - Providers were given extended holiday periods from which they could run their HAF provision.

2024 Ambitions...

Our plan for 2024 is to continue to build on the things we do well such as our partnership approach and innovative delivery. We will continue to support providers with our **Menu of Activities & HAF HUBS** as well as creating more opportunities for high school eligible young people. Our 5 strand delivery model will continue to ensure that Bolton's 2024 HAF programme is delivered **Locally**, within a **Bolton context** and **Data Driven** in its decision making. Our focus will be better links with schools and social care ensuring that our most vulnerable children and young people are safe and supported.

With the DfE only committing to HAF funding until the end of 2024, #TeamBolton's hope is to create a legacy of sustainability in the sector. This will be achieved by supporting local providers with training opportunities as well as ensuring minimum standards of delivery through the introduction of 'Bolton Mark' - our quality assurance scheme. Providers will be supported to forge better links with local schools and each other through the local consortium 'Bolton Together' & CVS. The HAF team will continue to explore complimentary opportunities for funding, strategic alignment and collaboration locally, regionally & nationally.