

REPORT OF THE
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
PART II

**1. HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD (HAF) GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS
SUMMER 2021**

- 1.1. On the 8 June 2021, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approved the award of HAF Summer grants to organisations up to a total value of £2,061,286.60. The Executive Lead Member for Children's Services also delegated approval to the Director of Children's Services to approve the reallocation of any HAF remaining or underspent funds to organisations delivering services that meet the criteria of the grant in consultation with the Executive Lead Member.
- 1.2. On 8 November 2020, the Government announced that the HAF programme, which has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018, would be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. Grant allocations and requirements were published by the Department for Education on 8 February 2021. Between 2 May and 15 May 2021, the County Council invited grant applications from organisations able to provide holiday activity and food schemes during the 2021 Summer holidays.
- 1.3 The desired outcomes of the programme are to encourage children and young people to:
- eat more healthily over the school holidays.
 - be more active during the school holidays.
 - take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character, and wellbeing along with their wider education attainment.
 - be safe and not to be socially isolated.
 - have greater knowledge of health nutrition.
 - be more engaged with school and other local services.

2. UPDATED SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR 2021/22

- 2.1 On the 7 July 2021, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approved updated school term and holiday dates for the school year 2021/22, taking into consideration discussions that had taken place with primary, secondary and special schools, and the majority view of 22 July 2022 as an additional holiday day.
- 2.2 As a result of the Government announcement that there would be an additional Bank Holiday in June 2022 to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a change in legislation was required to enable a reduction in the usual school year length from 195 days to 194 days. The published 2021-22 School Year and Holidays pattern required removal of 1 day so that

teachers could also benefit from the additional holiday because the additional Bank Holiday would fall within the already allocated Whitsun holiday period.

3. COVID LOCAL SUPPORT GRANTS JUNE 2021 – SEPTEMBER 2021

- 3.1 On the 7 July 2021, the Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services approved a number of decisions in relation to distributing £2,728,189.85 in Covid related funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) under the Covid Local Support Grant scheme.
- 3.2 On 21 June 2021, the Government announced an extension to the COVID grant support for vulnerable families. A further £160 million of support has been made available to local authorities to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated costs.
- 3.3 The conditions of the COVID Local Support Grant are the same as those that applied to the Covid Winter grant:
 - at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to support families with children, with up to 20% of the total funding allocated for other types of households, including individuals.
 - at least 80% of the total funding will be ring-fenced to provide support with food, energy and water bills (including sewerage), with up to 20% made available for other essential items.
- 3.4 Following Hampshire County Council’s successful connect4communities programme, funded by the DWP Covid Winter Grant, there is evidence of successful engagement with the community and voluntary sector as well as education settings. Allocation of funding would replicate some of the initiatives previously funded by the Covid Winter Grant and supported further by the Covid Local Support Grant issued between April and June 2021. This approach will allow rapid distribution of funding to those that can make best use of it, targeted towards families who are eligible for free school meals and supported by evidence of successful outcomes between December 2020 and June 2021.

Further details can be found at the links below:

[Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day - 8 June 2021](#)

[Executive Lead Member for Children's Services Decision Day - 7 July 2021](#)

COUNCILLOR ROZ CHADD
Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services