

Hillingdon Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2025/26



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IN LIFE**



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HILLINGDON
LONDON

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Welcome

Welcome to our Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Annual Report for 2025/26. The HAF programme supports children and young people by providing free holiday activities, healthy meals, new experiences and help for families across Hillingdon during the Easter, summer and winter school holidays.

It helps families by:

- reducing holiday costs
- providing safe, fun places for children
- supporting children's wellbeing, confidence and learning.

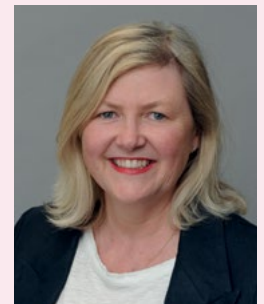
"The HAF programme continues to make a real difference to children and families in Hillingdon. It provides safe, welcoming spaces where children can enjoy nutritious meals, take part in fun activities and build confidence during the school holidays.



"More than this, HAF supports children's wellbeing, learning and development at a time when families may need it most. It reflects our commitment to giving every child the opportunity to feel included, supported and ready to succeed both in and out of school."

Julie Kelly,
Corporate Director, Children's Services

"The HAF programme plays a vital role in supporting children and families across Hillingdon. By offering free holiday activities and healthy meals, it helps ensure that every child can stay active, social and well during the school holidays.



"We know the holidays can be challenging for many families, and HAF helps to ease that pressure while creating positive experiences for young people. I'm proud to see the difference this programme continues to make in strengthening our communities and supporting children to thrive."

Cllr Susan O'Brien,
Cabinet Member for Children, Families, Health and Care

What is HAF?

The HAF programme is a national initiative funded by the Department for Education in response to research that shows the school holidays can be pressure points for families. It is a government-funded initiative for children and young people (Reception to Year 11, and up to 18 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)) who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM).

While the funding is primarily aimed at school-aged children eligible for benefits-related FSM – it is not exclusively, and we aim to include other vulnerable children experiencing challenges, economic and social disadvantages.

Children attending HAF sessions can:

- eat healthy meals
- take part in fun activities



- make friends and build confidence
- learn new skills.

Families can also receive:

- advice and support
- signposting to local services.

Our programme in Hillingdon

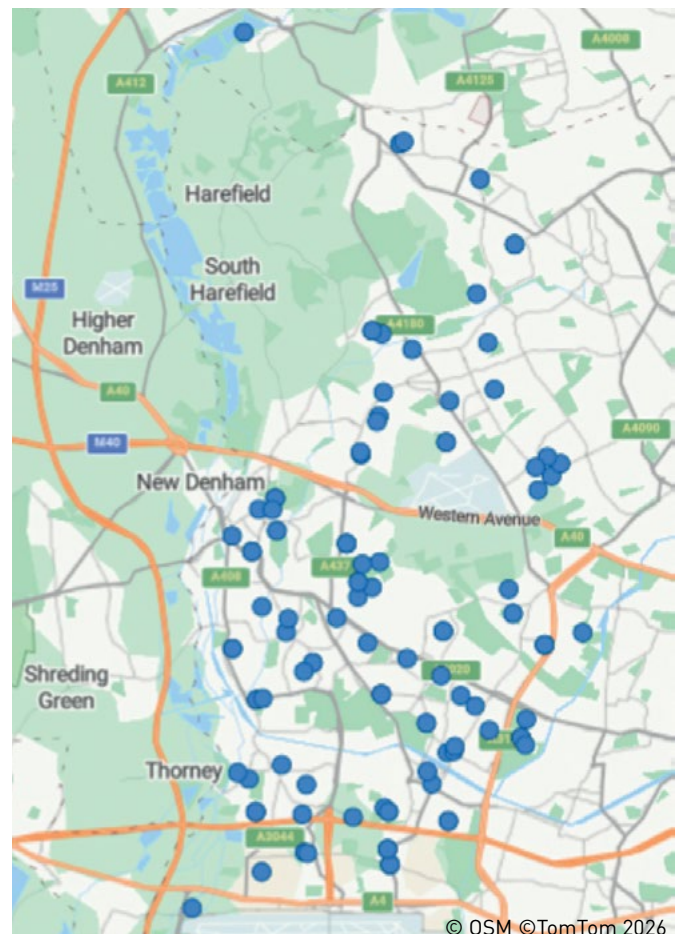
We work with local providers across the borough to deliver activities in community venues close to families.

Activities include:

- sports and physical sessions
- arts, drama and music
- science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and creative learning
- life skills and wellbeing workshops.

All programmes follow national HAF standards, including:

- healthy food every day
- at least 60 minutes of physical activity
- a mixture of fun enrichment activities
- signposting and support for families
- inclusion for children with SEND.



Holiday highlights

Easter programme

The Easter HAF programme 2025 offered a fun and engaging range of activities for children and young people. These included filmmaking, basketball, taekwondo, coding, learn-to-ride cycling, and a variety of mixed activity sessions. The programme was well attended, with lots of children taking part and enjoying the activities. There was also a strong focus on making sure everyone could join in, including children with SEND.

While there were a few challenges, such as some sessions being quieter than others and a small number of booked places not being used, these were quickly addressed. The team worked closely with families to share clear information about attendance and made sure sessions could be adapted to meet demand. Staff also worked hard to manage the shorter delivery period.

Overall, the programme created a welcoming and inclusive environment where children could have fun, try new things, stay active, and build new skills.

► Spotlight: Children's Centre – Family Fun Day

As part of the Easter HAF programme 2025, the Children's Centre Family Fun Day brought families together for an engaging and active session designed for children aged four to 11 and their carers. The event combined physical activities with music and games, creating a fun and inclusive environment for families to enjoy together. A healthy lunch was provided for all attendees, reinforcing positive messages around nutrition and wellbeing. In addition to the activities, families were able to access support, information, and guidance from staff, who offered valuable advice on health and wider family needs. The day successfully promoted family bonding, healthy lifestyles, and community connection.



Key data:



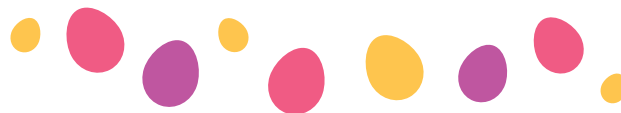
8,057

sessional places
available

Actual attendances

6,310 = 78.3%

344 unique children with SEND attended,
making up **18%** of attendees



Summer programme

The summer HAF programme 2025 offered a range of exciting and inclusive activities for children and young people across the borough. There was something for everyone, including sports, arts and crafts, rock climbing, and creative sessions like drama at the Beck Theatre. The programme also included the Compass Collective, which provided extra support and activities for children seeking asylum and those from refugee families.

Due to the size of the programme, there were a few challenges, such as organising many different providers and managing high demand in some areas, as well as some booked places not being used. These were carefully managed by working closely with partners, keeping a close eye on attendance, and offering places to other families where possible to make sure sessions stayed full and lively.

Overall, the programme created a positive and welcoming space where young people could stay active, build confidence, try new activities, make friends, and have fun.

► Spotlight: Junior Coders

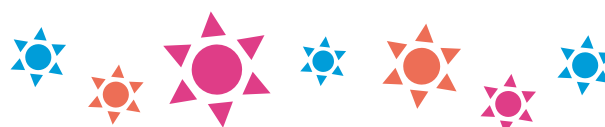
The Junior Coders workshop offered an engaging and educational computing session for children in school years 1 to 7, introducing them to the world of coding and technology in a fun and accessible way. Designed to highlight the positive benefits of digital skills, the sessions helped young people explore computational thinking and the wide range of opportunities it can unlock. Delivered in a safe and well-structured environment, children learned through interactive platforms, allowing them to develop coding skills through play. The workshop successfully combined learning with creativity, building confidence and inspiring interest in technology among participants.



Key data:



441 unique children with SEND attended, making up **18.1%** of attendees



Winter programme

The winter HAF programme 2025/26 provided a fun and engaging range of activities during the festive period, including sports, football, coding, and mixed activity camps. It created warm and welcoming spaces where children and young people could stay active, learn new skills, and spend time with friends during the winter break. The programme also focused on making sure activities were accessible and inclusive for everyone.

There were a few challenges, such as cold weather, shorter days, and seasonal illnesses, as well as some booked places not being used. These were managed by offering more indoor activities, keeping in touch with families to encourage attendance, and allowing providers to adapt sessions to keep children engaged.

Overall, the programme gave children a supportive space to have fun, try new things, build confidence, and keep a positive routine outside of school.

► Spotlight: Full Court Connections

The Full Court Connections basketball camp provided an energetic and inclusive opportunity for children aged seven to 16 to develop their skills and enjoy being active. The camp offered a range of fun activities, games, competitions, and basketball matches, creating an engaging environment for all participants. Open to all abilities, the sessions focused on building confidence, teamwork, and physical fitness, while ensuring every young person felt supported and included. The camp successfully combined skill development with enjoyment, encouraging a love of sport and active lifestyles.



Key data:



5,991
sessional places
available

Actual attendances
3,777 = 63%

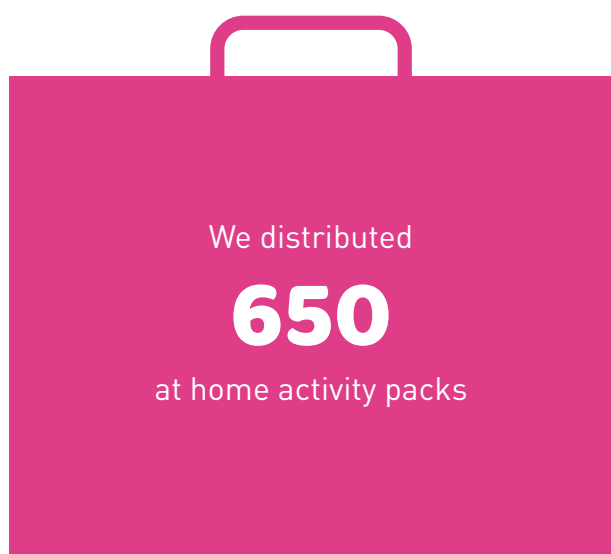
178 unique children with SEND attended,
making up **13.6%** of attendees



The year in numbers

33,333 sessional places on offer to children across Hillingdon

3,517 unique children accessed the funded holiday provision, **32%*** of eligible cohort



*% based on figure 10,971 children eligible for FSM used for performance tables. Pupil characteristics 2024/25



Support for children with SEND

We are committed to ensuring the HAF programme is inclusive and accessible to all children, including those with SEND.

During the year, we have delivered a blended model of provision that combines inclusive mainstream activities with targeted specialist programmes to meet a range of needs.

All providers are expected to deliver inclusive activities, with adaptations such as differentiated delivery, flexible approaches, and the use of quiet spaces. Additional staffing, including one-to-one support where required, enables many children with SEND to access mainstream provision alongside their peers.

To support children with more complex needs, we have worked closely with local providers, including specialist schools and experienced SEND organisations, to deliver targeted provision. These partnerships have enabled programmes in trusted environments, with skilled staff and appropriate ratios, particularly for children requiring consistent one-to-one support.

► **Spotlight: Community Connex – Youth Connex**

Community Connex delivered a highly inclusive programme supporting young people with learning disabilities, autism, and a range of additional needs, with activities carefully adapted to meet the complexity of those attending. Sessions included dance to develop balance, coordination and confidence, alongside creative art activities that introduced new techniques in a therapeutic and engaging way. The programme also provided opportunities to build independence and life skills, including community visits focused on road safety, communication, and personal safety. Activities were designed to support social interaction, sensory exploration, and confidence-building, ensuring all young people could participate meaningfully in a safe, structured, and supportive environment.

Key data:

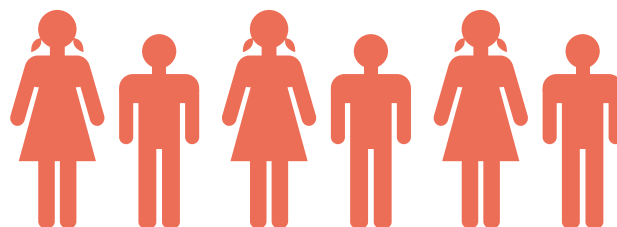
Children with Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) eligible for HAF

1,063

2,208 children with SEN support eligible for HAF

857

unique children with SEND supported,
(**24%** of participants this year have SEND)



What families said

We regularly ask families and children for feedback to improve the programme. We use responses from our programme survey and

our providers' feedback forms, to continuously develop and expand the HAF programme to better meet the needs of our families.

Parent and carers' comments

"The holiday club has been a huge support for our family – it gives me peace of mind knowing my child is safe, happy and able to access activities I wouldn't otherwise be able to provide. It has really helped build his confidence, social skills and independence, while allowing me to work and manage other responsibilities."

Parent of child attending specialist SEN provision

"My child loved the trips and being able to spend time with friends – especially activities like bowling, the cinema and outdoor play. The staff are friendly and supportive, and it's great to see him trying new things. It would just help to have more notice about daily activities so we can prepare him."

Parent of child attending specialist SEN provision

"I feel my child was safe and secure whilst at the camp, the staff were attentive and welcoming to create a positive start to the day."

Parent of child attending primary age mixed activity programme

"Absolutely brilliant sports camp! Every day my son came home full of smiles, having had the best time. He gets the chance to mix with children outside his usual circle and try so many different types of sports, which he absolutely loves. It's such a blessing to know he's spending the holidays having fun, staying active, and getting great exercise. The coaches are fantastic – their friendly and encouraging approach has really helped my shy boy come out of his shell."

Parent of child attending primary age mixed sports programme

Children's comments

"The coaches were really nice and helped me learn to kick the football better."

Primary age child attending football programme

"I made a new friend. I hope I will see my new friend next time."

Primary age child attending football programme

"I had a really positive experience at the Taekwondo programme, especially as it was my first time trying it. The sessions were well organised, starting with a warm-up and ending with a cool-down. I really enjoyed learning Taekwondo moves through fun, engaging games. I had an amazing time, and the food provided was healthy and delicious."

Secondary age child attending Taekwondo programme

"It was very fun being here! I liked the food. Camp has helped me to get better at playing basketball."

Secondary age child attending basketball programme

"I enjoyed this place, it has lots of fun arts and crafts. I loved that I learnt how to paint."

Primary age child attending arts programme

Families told us they really value:

- children feeling safe, happy, and well looked after by friendly and approachable staff
- the programme giving parents helpful support, including time to work or manage family commitments
- seeing positive changes in their children, such as growing confidence, better social skills, and increased independence
- a fun and varied range of activities where children can socialise and make new friends
- inclusive support for all children, especially those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), so everyone can take part and feel supported.



What we've learned and what we're improving

This year, feedback from families, children and providers has helped us understand what's working well and where we can continue to improve.

In response to feedback, we're focusing on:

- improving local access so more families can attend provision closer to home
- better support for working families, including looking at timings and consistency of sessions
- increasing SEND provision, particularly for children with higher levels of need
- expanding partnerships with schools, community groups and specialist providers to strengthen the overall offer.

We also recognise some ongoing challenges. Demand for SEND provision continues to grow, especially for those needing more intensive support such as one-to-one staffing. At the same time, the cost of living means many families rely on HAF as an essential service. Rising delivery costs – particularly staffing and specialist provision – mean we need to balance growing demand with available funding.

To help us keep improving, we're strengthening how we use data, including tools like the EEQU booking system, to better track attendance, engagement and outcomes. This will help us plan more effectively and ensure the programme continues to meet the needs of local families.

Steering group

A multi-agency steering group supports the delivery of Hillingdon's HAF programme, ensuring strong partnership working and clear strategic direction. The group brings together colleagues from key teams supporting children and families across the borough.

The group meets regularly throughout the year to guide the planning and delivery of the programme.

We also work closely with community, voluntary and faith organisations, as well as children and young people, whose feedback helps shape and improve the programme.

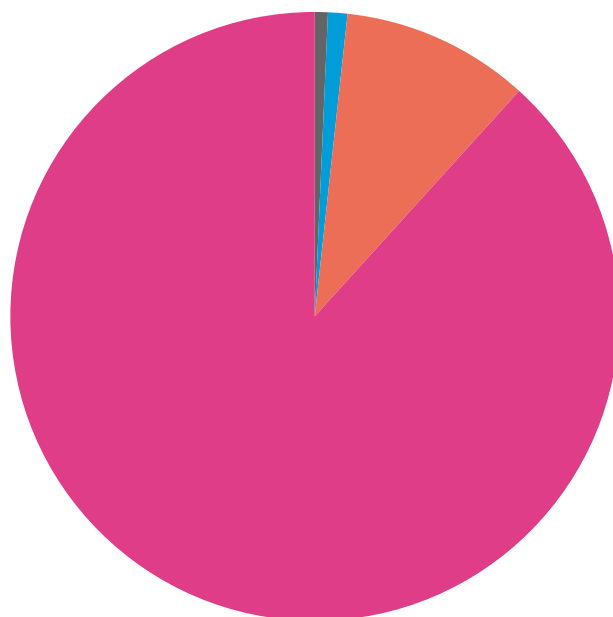
Funding overview

The HAF programme is funded by the Department for Education.

Total funding received for 2025/26:
£1,094,230

How this was spent:

- **Provider programme delivery costs:** £965,924
- **Staffing/management of programme:** £109,423
- **Resources and activity packs:** £11,203
- **Other costs; including marketing and additional staffing costs to support children with SEN:** £7,680



Our partners

- Aktiva Camps Ltd
- Alam Brothers & Co Film Skool
- Be Active Sports & Clubs Ltd
- Beck Theatre
- Bell Farm Christian Centre
- BM Youth Partnership
- C-change West London
- Community Connex
- Compass Collective
- Cricket for All
- Footy Fun 4 Kids
- Fresh Arts – Community Interest Company
- Full Court Connections
- Genius Tuition
- Genius Tuition Services Ltd aka Active Club
- Get Active Sports
- GLL – Greenwich Leisure Limited
- Global Academy
- GOALS Soccer Centres
- HACs – Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support
- Jam Coding London NW / Junior Coders
- Joy Sports Academy Ltd
- London Taekwondo Falcons Ltd.
- M & A Sports Ltd – Super Star Sport
- Omega Sportz Ltd
- Our Parks Ltd
- Pro Soccer Coaching
- Pro Touch SA CIC
- PSD - Primary Sporting Development
- QPR in the Community Trust
- Queensmead School
- RC Vision – Community Interest Company
- RZ Sports Ltd T/A Premier Education
- SKIPZ Productions – Community Interest Company
- Sports Fun 4 All
- Sports Plus Scheme
- St Mary's Ukrainian School Ltd/
Ukrainian St Mary's Trust
- The Canoe Sports Trust
- The Cycle Coach
- The Eden Academy Trust
- The Elms Sports in Schools
- The Nest Climbing Ltd
- U Teach Mi Ltd
- WDKC – West Drayton Kids Club part of
Southlands Arts
- Wealdstone FC (2000) Ltd

