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Programme 2021

# Gateshead Holiday Activities and Food



# How is the provision funded?

Department for Education funding allocation was £850,000 for 2021 in Gateshead to fund Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) over the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays for benefits-related Free School Meal (FSM) recipients and vulnerable children

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# Gateshead Holiday Activities and Food 2020

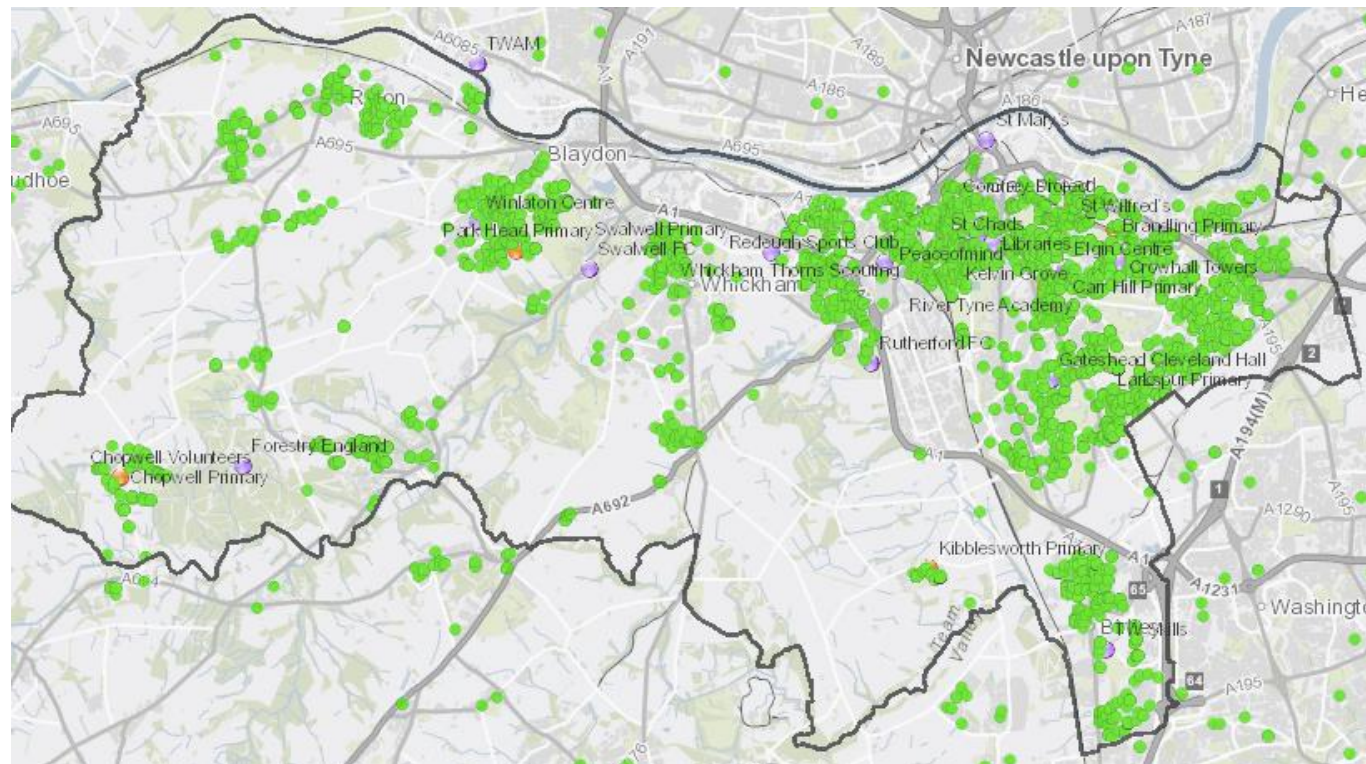
## Context

Gateshead has approximately 7,200 children eligible for means-tested free school meals, living in around 4,500 households.

There are many more children and families on the fringes of this benefit, so the offer is very much open and accessible to all school-age children, using mapping tools, the programme is targeted in localities to ensure provision matches need and proximity of activities.

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# Interactive Map FSM pupils and venues 2021



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# Key Challenges - COVID-19

Staff attended every project funded by the HAF programme to check on compliance with government and GPH guidance by:

- ✓ visiting all venues hosting activities
- ✓ meetings with providers delivering on site
- ✓ briefing children, young people and parents who attended.

A flexible approach to the overall programme was key in 2021 to make sure resources were redirected where gaps and opportunities were identified in provision to respond quickly to move activities or more suitable venues

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# What provision is provided?

- The programme at Easter, Summer and Christmas delivered over 20,000 face-to-face places.
- A full range of local facilities and providers were used
- Supporting young people in Gateshead with a learning need
- The food element included hot meals; home cooked meals and healthy packed lunches
- The programme delivered over 2000 'Cook n Eat' packs to households with children eligible for FSM, equating to 40,000 individual meals

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# Cook n Eat boxes

- Written invitation to receive a box sent to every FSM eligible household in Gateshead
- 8 Healthy recipes posted online for all families to try at home
- Feedback received by email with photos sent in by children of them cooking their meals at home
- Competition to win food related prizes sponsored by two local suppliers



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# Activity packs and books

- Over 2000 activity packs with sports equipment, crafts and reading books
- Distributed to families in need via Social Workers, family support workers and Schools to reach FSM pupils in deprived areas
- Partners contributed to the packs with donations of magazines, craft packs and books

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# Engaging Schools

There were many challenges engaging schools either to act as activity providers or to make their venues available for other activity providers.

There was a range of reasons for this including:

- ✓ Schools building works
- ✓ Staff needing a break
- ✓ Logistics/security of opening the building
- ✓ Covid 19

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# Reaching secondary-aged young people

- We found that our programme worked well for primary-aged children, but we were struggling to reach secondary-aged children or maintain attendance from this age group.
- Flexible provision, such as pop-up activities or events in parks worked particularly well to engage older young people

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Pop up  
sports &  
Cycling  
sessions



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# Key Outcomes

Holidays Activities & Food programmes fill an acute gap when schools close for extended breaks.

- ✓ social and emotional support
- ✓ improved emotional health and wellbeing
- ✓ activities supporting children's development
- ✓ offering all children attending at least an hour of physical
- ✓ offering regular nutritious meals

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# Key Learning Points

- ✓ Work towards developing capacity, training, and facilities within holiday clubs
- ✓ Increase investment in local organisations
- ✓ Develop programmes to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children and families
- ✓ Build self-confidence among families

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# Conclusions

- ✓ We would like to see the Department for Education allowing more flexibility within the HAF programme so that children from households on low or median incomes, who do not qualify for free school meals, are able to take up more places
- ✓ Work with local partners to ensure the programme we deliver is the programme children, young people and families need

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