



Wolverhampton
Young Opportunities



City of Wolverhampton Council

Holiday Activities and Food Programme Annual Report

April 2023 to March 2024



Department
for Education

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL





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Welcome

I have heard a lot about the Yo! Wolves school holiday activities over the last three years and I know that the programme has gone from strength to strength. This is mainly down to the support, commitment, and the work that our Voluntary and community sector consistently provides brilliant activities and events for our children and young people.

Here in Wolverhampton our aim is to give children and young people the best start in life and a big part of that is to ensure that there is a comprehensive offer during the school holidays.

Many of the activities continue throughout every school holiday, so it's not just a one-off experience, it's a chance for youngsters to try something new, learn new skills and gain new experiences.

Our children and Young People have booked and re-booked time and time again and we are thrilled that last year saw more youngsters than ever before joining in with our school holiday programmes – so we must be doing something right.

Councillor Jacqui Coogan

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
City of Wolverhampton Council

I have personally worked with and spoken to many of our young people who have influenced our Yo! Wolves programme. I'm sure this report will be greeted with great enthusiasm from the Department for Education (DfE) who fund the HAF programme and the wider council who, in light of DfE funding, have matched the offer and funded the half term holidays as well. It means that our Yo! Wolves programme is a fully comprehensive offer that covers every school holiday.

We've recently taken the opportunity to look back on the last successful three years and reflect on what's been delivered and what differences we have made to young peoples' lives in the city.

Over 6,600 individual children and young people benefited from our holiday activity and food programme last year! Which shows that word is getting out there and there is confidence that Yo! Wolves provides quality activities and events that give our young people and children a great time.

So, a huge thank you and well done everyone for your commitment and hard work and carry on doing what you are doing.

Alison Hinds

Director of Children's Services
City of Wolverhampton Council

Governance

YES Board

The YES Board are a group of young people from Voluntary and Community groups citywide who meet to agree grants to support voluntary and community groups. They understand what's happening in the city and identify gaps in service provision to help them decide what money should be awarded.

They work with other Youth Voice Groups in the city to ensure Co-production is taking place within the Council. Collaboratively acting on the decisions made by Young People- ensuring all members contribute to decisions. They put young people at the centre.



Dragons Den made up of members of YES Board

Dragons Den

New providers applying for grants to run HAF and Yo! Wolves holiday activities have to attend an interview with members of the YES Board. Here young people have produced their own questions and score each provider on their responses.

Inspectors

Throughout this year, the YES Board with support of their peers on HY5! have been inspecting provision.

- From June 2023 – June 2024 a total of 74 young inspector visits have taken place with all HAF and Yo! Wolves holiday activities.
- 17 of these visits were with SEND Specialist provisions covering seven separate provisions.
- Four members of HY5! are young inspectors.
- The average score for the SEND specialist provision was five which is the top score. This score was for enjoyability of the provision and the ease of the ability to engage with the activity.
- All but one activity the young inspector would recommend to a friend. Only one wouldn't and this was due to the quality of the food – the HAF team worked with the provider to improve the quality and options for food.

Background

In 2023 the DfE funded Wolverhampton £1,932,350 to run HAF provision.

- £194,566 was spent on administration to ensure the provision was coordinated and quality assured. This ensures the best possible provision is offered to our children
- £56,993 was spent on marketing promotion and communication, including direct mail letters and communication with schools across the city
- £1,680,791 was spent on provision across the city

Wolverhampton HAF is run through the Yo! Wolves brand. One of our priorities as a city is for Wolverhampton's young people to have the best possible start to life. Building their confidence, creating opportunities and giving them the tools they need to succeed. Most importantly, encouraging them to 'never give up!'.

With this in mind, and the HAF specifications we have worked with over 30 providers to offer a wide range of enrichment activities from music production, martial arts, dance, football and ignite their creative side through various art and craft activities

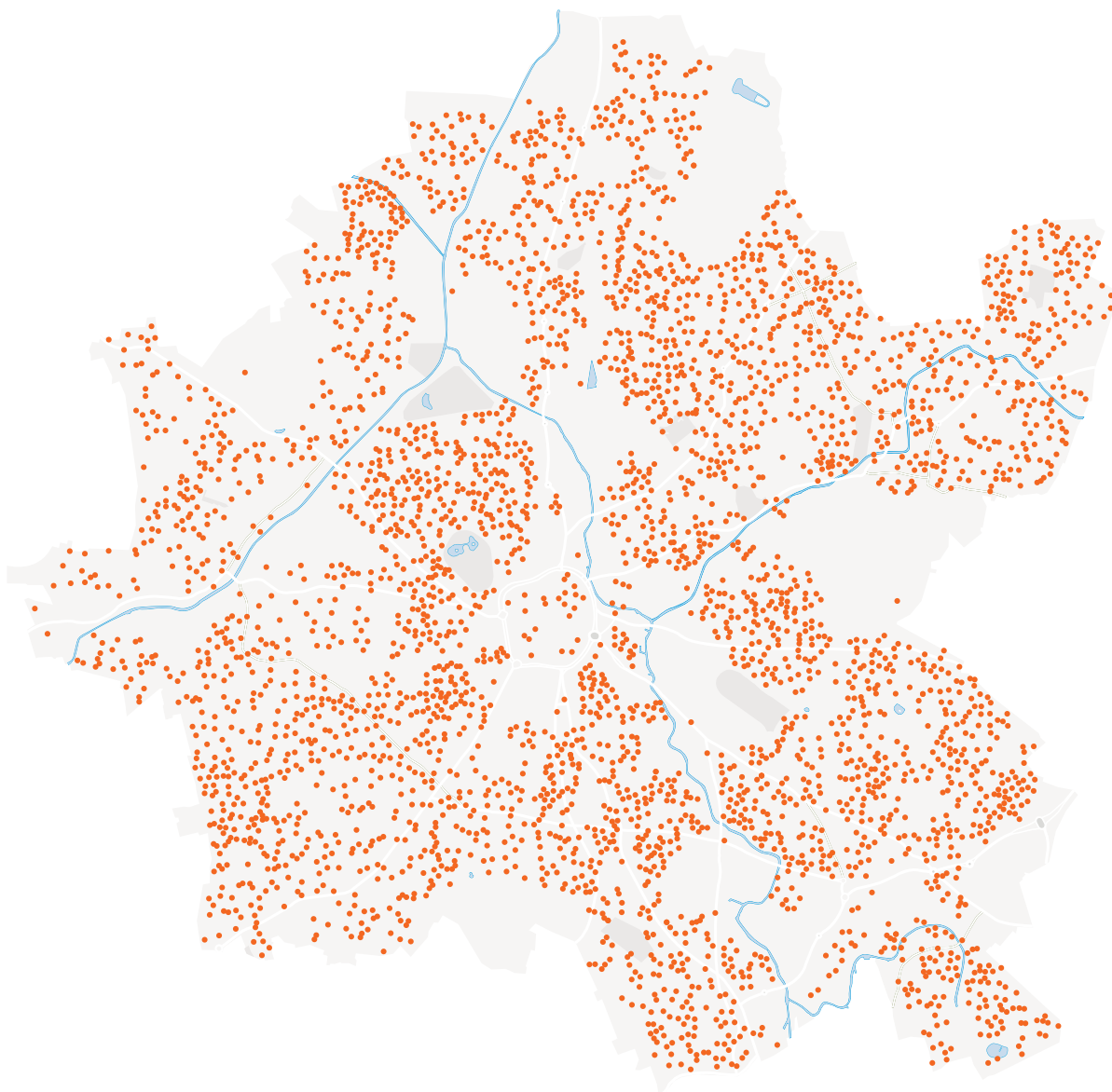
We have two dedicated SEND providers who ensure activities are open to all children in Wolverhampton and also have three universal providers who have dedicated spaces for children with SEND needs

The introduction of a booking system is ensuring clarity and accuracy of data.



Young people making music at 'Beatsabar'

Mapping Demand and Provision



When mapping provision for each holiday period, ward areas are considered to ensure there is a fair distribution of activities across the city. However, wards with higher Free School Meal eligibility and higher deprivation are identified for additional activities.

Wards

Bilston South

Bilston North

Blakenhall

Bushbury North

Bushbury South and Low Hill

East Park

Ettingshall

Fallings Park

Graiseley

Heath Town

Merry Hill

Oxley

Park

Penn

Spring Vale

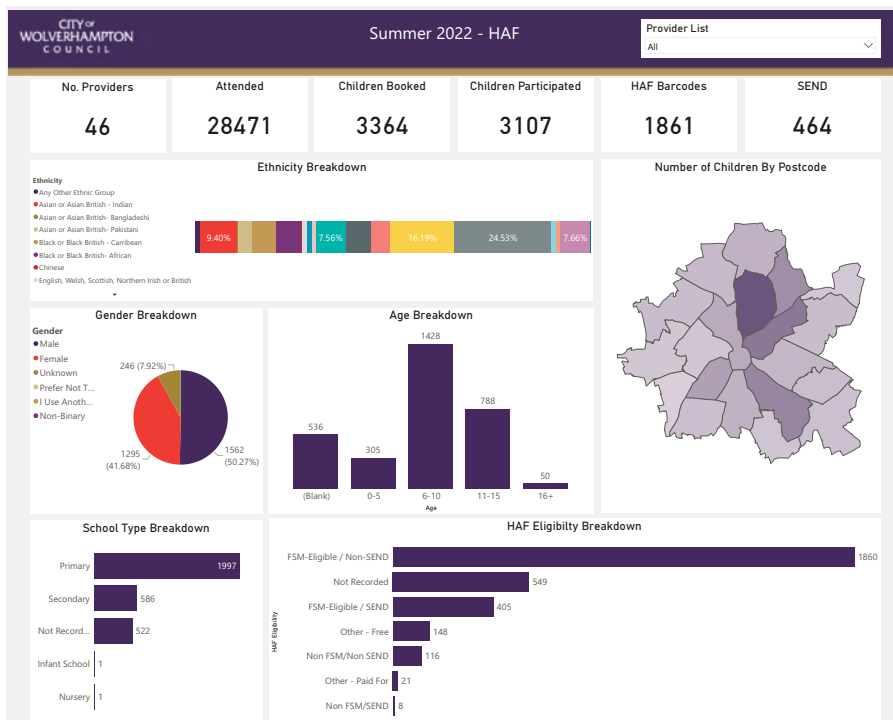
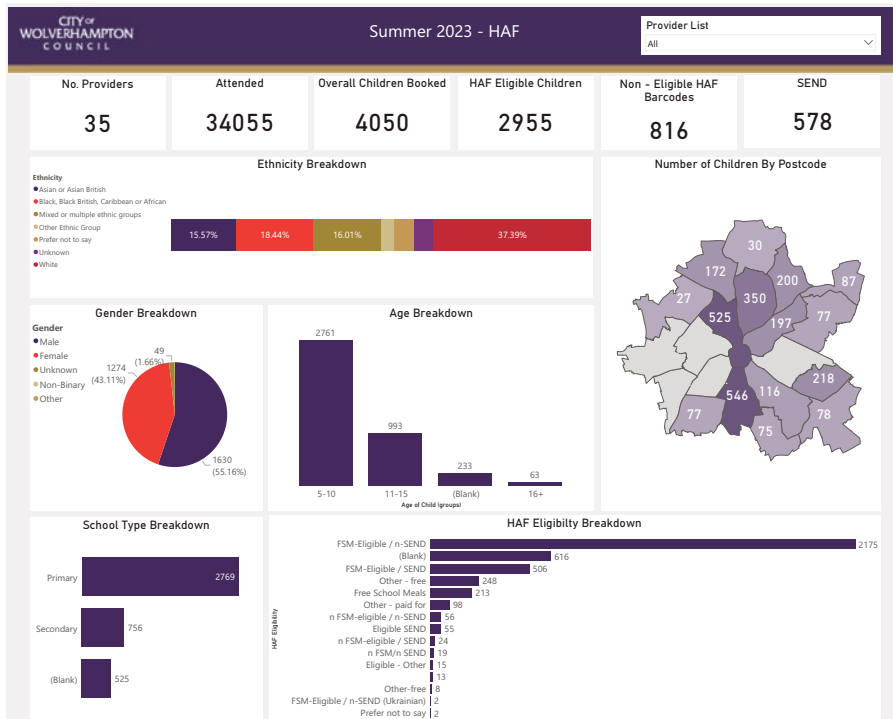
St. Peter's

Tettenhall Regis

Tettenhall Wightwick

Wednesfield North

Wednesfield South



SUMMER 2022



28,471 sessions were attended by 3,107 children (with 1,861 having HAF Codes)

An increase of 1,094 HAF eligible children attending activities

SUMMER 2023

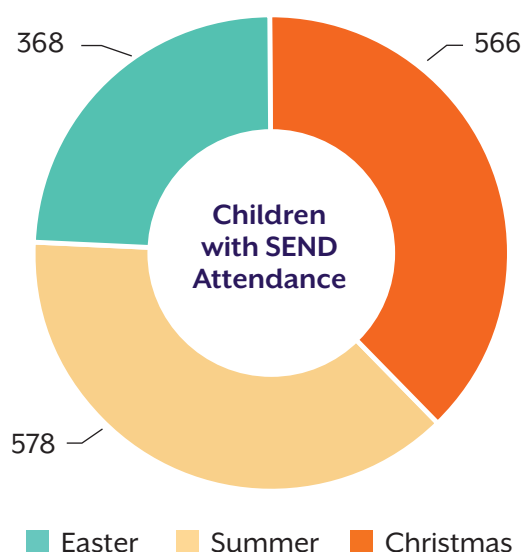
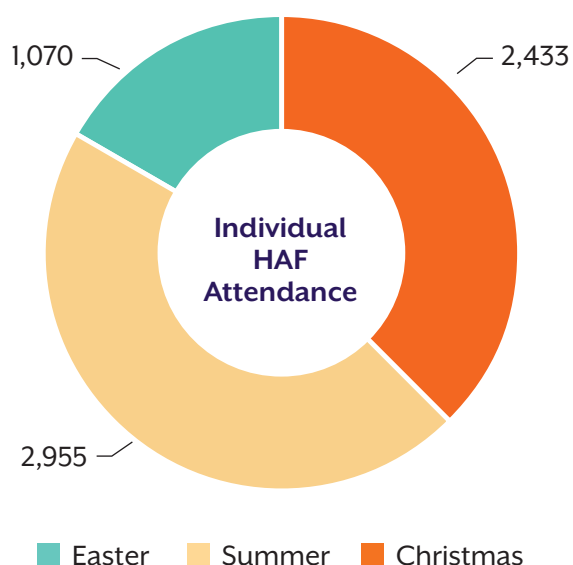


34,055 sessions were attended by 4,050 children (with 2,955 being HAF eligible)

Delivery

We have seen an increase in attendance in 2023 with similar attendance figures for individual children attending Easter and Summer. There was a decrease during Christmas which was expected due to how the school holidays dates fell.

We have also seen an increase in attendance for our children with SEND not only in SEND specialist provision but also in our universal provision.

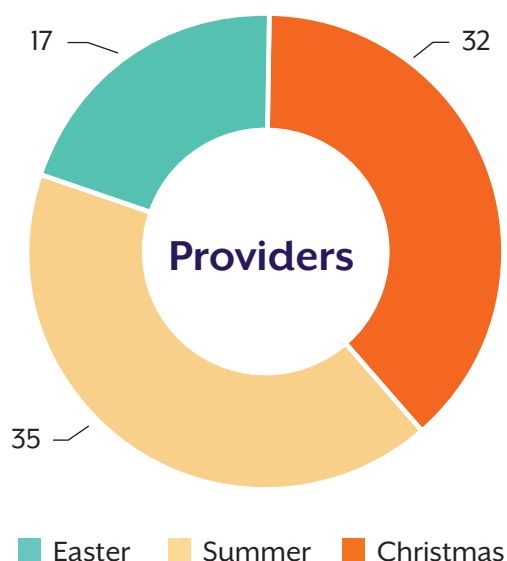


Ultimate Warriors fun training session

Providers

On 24 May 2023 a cabinet decision was made, based on Best Practice and benchmarking with other HAF authorities including West Midlands, the decision was made to give providers an opportunity to bid for up to two years of HAF funding. This increased competition between providers and economy scale resulted in more competitive bids as there was a benchmark on cost per day per child.

In June 2023, grant applications were invited from existing and prospective HAF / Yo! Wolves activity providers to bid for two-year HAF funding. Thirty-two providers applied for the two-year grant with twenty-one providers successful.



RAW art activity

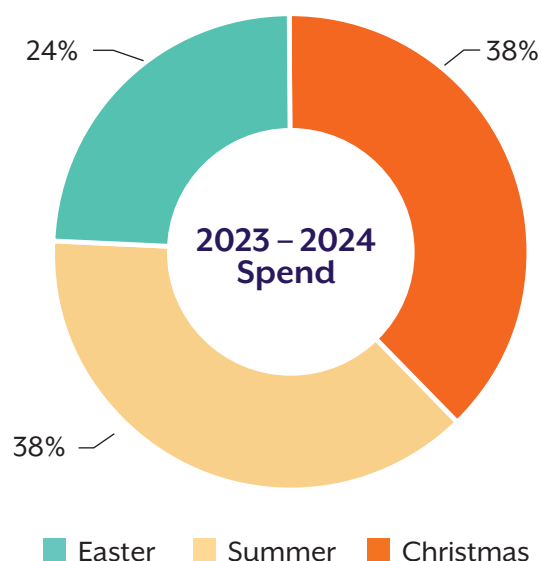
Budget and Expenditure

The DfE awarded the City of Wolverhampton Council £1,932,350 to deliver Holiday Activities and Food over the three main school holidays.

The DfE recognise that there are administrative costs to run HAF and 10% of the budget can be used.

We are proud that all of the funding was used to ensure children in Wolverhampton had opportunities to attend activities through the school holidays.

Additional funding of £54,411 has been provided by the City of Wolverhampton Council to support those children who were not eligible for HAF, but were still in need during the main school holiday. For example children on an Early Help Plan but not receiving free school meals.



Department of Education Grant	£1,932,350
Administration and management of the programme	£194,566
Holiday Club Provision	£1,680,791
Marketing	£56,993
End of Year Finance	£1,932,350



RAW collaborate collage activity and bracelet making

Additional Resource

To extend the holiday provision alongside HAF, Wolverhampton Local Authority fund Yo! Wolves sessions to the sum of £719,648 during the half term holidays (Feb, May and Oct). Any school age child living in Wolverhampton can attend for free and receive a daily meal. This gives access to activities and opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable to them.



Children achieved certificates at Strive, The Way snooker practice and NPVAN field activities

Marketing and Communications

The marketing and communication activity has focussed on raising awareness and driving children, young people and families to our Yo! Wolves website. Here events and activities including food, for each school holiday, can be booked.

There are six marketing campaigns throughout the year. Promoting each holiday activity programme (HAF) starts 4–6 weeks beforehand and involves the following:

- Direct mail to eligible families for HAF
- Distribute information through schools, including print materials and a digital marketing toolkit for use on school channels
- Outdoor advertising in high footfall areas, such as shopping centres, city billboards and bus stops
- Partners channels and 3rd party websites
- Social media, PR and print media
- Weekly residents' e newsletter and stakeholder newsletters
- Featured in our Cost of Living campaign
- Celebrating success via local media, social media and broadcast.

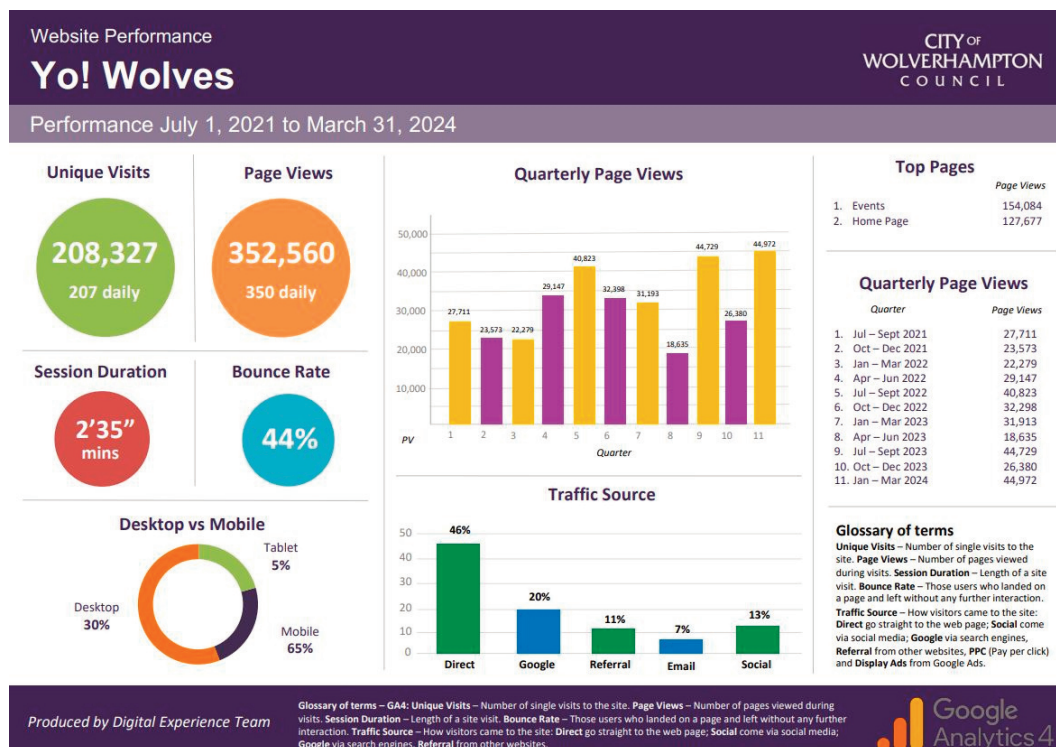


Marketing material for Yo! Wolves promotional campaigns

Website

Traffic to the Yo! Wolves website has increased considerably over the last three years with nearly 4,000 more visitors for last summer's HAF 2023 programme compared to the previous summer in 2022.

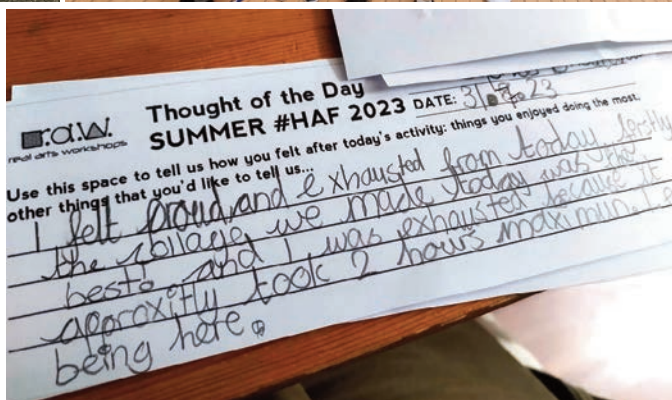
This is reflected in the increased numbers of eligible children attending the summer programme which was up by over 1100 compared to summer 2022.



Celebrating Success

Following evaluation of each school holiday programme, success stories are publicised in the press, social media, Yo! Website and e-newsletter channels

Our recent HAF conference was an opportunity for providers, professionals and young people to come together and celebrate the success and how 6,612 children and young people benefited last year.



Celebrating Yo! Wolves success

Raising Standards

A robust monitoring framework is used to ensure HAF provision in Wolverhampton is of high quality. The Wolverhampton HAF Self Evaluation Form (SEF) covering the DfE and local Wolverhampton Standards was created following exploration of systems being used by other local authorities. The majority of Wolverhampton HAF 2-year contracted providers have now completed and returned a (SEF) self-evaluation form to the City of Wolverhampton Council HAF team. At each holiday, any new providers being awarded funds will also be asked to complete and return a SEF.

The City of Wolverhampton Council HAF team reviews the self-assessments, assesses providers using a RAG rating and discusses requirements and scores with the provider. Descriptors and scores may be amended, and more evidence may be requested. Where scores are below expectations, support is provided by the HAF Team to make improvements to service delivery and increase the SEF scores. Where needed the officer will develop an action plan with the provider. This will be monitored. The SEF score is used to inform the HAF QA annual visit programme priorities.

SEF scores are also used during funding application evaluation.

As a minimum, the HAF team carry out an annual QA monitoring visit to every provider, in accordance with DfE requirements and during this visit the officer will review the self-assessment and seek evidence to validate it. The provider and officer will agree a moderated score and the provider may be required to amend and re-submit their SEF. Where needed the officer will develop an action plan with the provider. This will be monitored. As well as the SEF, the QA visits also include checks of the venue, practice, staffing levels and gathering feedback. Visits may be pre-arranged or unannounced.

Members of the YES board carry out Young Inspector visits to the providers alongside the HAF Team officer and supported by Co-production colleagues. The YES board agreed the engagement and co-production section of the SEF and they monitor this during Young Inspector visits, as well as gathering the views of children and young people taking part in activities.

Following every visit providers will receive a visit summary report which should be used to inform future delivery. Although there may only be one planned HAF SEF visit, the provider can re-submit an updated SEF to the HAF Team at any time following improvements they have made which have increased scores. Scores will again be agreed with the HAF team.

Provider forums are held prior to every holiday, on Teams for half term holidays and face to face for the longer holidays.





Service delivery information and support is provided, for example, around the SEF, booking system, and completing applications. Also, wider support information is shared, such as free training opportunities including City of Wolverhampton Council, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together, and useful speakers are invited.

Examples of speakers during the last two years are a local energy advice partnership (Smart Energy) who can replace some white goods and broken boilers and provide support regarding draft proofing, energy efficiency and insulation.

The Partnership Strategic Exploitation Co-Ordinator also came to speak about what to look out for during the holidays, how to support children and who to contact when providers may have concerns around exploitation.

Where provider wide support needs have been identified from the SEF, then this can be addressed through provision of specialist information and signposting to free opportunities. This is also addressed by arranging relevant speakers at the next forum. For example, many providers have recognised that they could be doing more with regard to the environment and sustainability, so the HAF team have arranged for a colleague from Waste Services to speak at the next Forum around reducing waste, energy saving and recycling.

At every forum, cost of living contact information is shared including household support fund, community shops and food banks, good night project and the school uniform collection.



Case Studies



Wolverhampton BJJ are a provider that offers classes in Brazilian JiuJitsu

Successfully delivering HAF provision for almost two years.

Seeing children's confidence grow through martial arts and other holistic benefits such as: physical benefits, mental health, socialisation, self-esteem and self-discipline through fun games and training.

HAF participants entered a Brazilian jiuJitsu competition in Derby in April with some outstanding results winning many gold and silver awards, with the biggest accomplishment seeing Alvin win two gold medals.

Alvin started with them in the summer HAF holidays. He was seven years old at the time and small for his age and lacking confidence – his family were recently new to the UK and his dad is unable to work due to waiting for his immigration status approval. Wolves BJJ have supported his dad by offering him jobs around the gym which he completes for free. This helps him continue to use his skills.

During the competition, Alvin won two gold medals beating other boys from all around the country.

Alvin's brother and sister have now joined the gym and are joining in with the activities.

Wolves BJJ purchased martial arts suits and other sportswear to enable children without any to participate, not wanting any child to feel different in their classes.



Alvin and Miles receiving their medals

Another huge celebration was for Miles, who is seven years old. Miles has struggled in school with his behaviour for many years due to having ADHD, his commitment and determination won a gold medal in the same competition.

Since Miles started HAF activities there has been a positive change in his behaviour. This activity is a positive way to use his energy, there has been a significant change to his concentration both at home and at school.

As a club they are modest regarding their achievements but as a Local Authority we welcomed them to celebrate their successes at our HAF conference.

RUOE (Reach Unite Outreach and Empowerment)

A specialist provider with a therapeutic approach and all activities are strategically planned to promote social skills, improve resilience, reinforce positive behaviour, develop a sense of social responsibility, and improve confidence, self-belief, emotional well-being, and independence. RUOE offers a range of activities and day trips, children gain confidence, have new experiences and make friends.

Curiosity Creations

Offer a quiet space, arts and crafts, dance, drama, music, cookery, den building poetry, storytelling, games and lots of fun!



RAW Collage of the Prince Albert statue in Wolverhampton (Man on the Horse)

HAF Artwork featured in a Gallery exhibition

The wide ranging activities on offer through the holiday programme, organised by the City of Wolverhampton Council and funded by the Department for Education, included opportunities for children and young people to use their creative skills and produce their own pieces of art.

Here is the large newspaper mosaic of the 'Man on the Horse' – Wolverhampton landmark, created by children that attended the Real Arts Workshop.

Showcasing and celebrating achievements

School of Coding

Parents gave feedback that three of their four children with SEND had 'improved social skills and interactions' being 'more engaged in educational activities'.

Two of the parents also reported that the club 'provided exposure to new interests and hobbies' with their top three activities being drones, virtual reality and scratch.


Real Arts Workshops (RAW)

RAW has been delivering HAF schemes since 2021 and designs very specialised art, craft and BSL activities offering enriching and rewarding experiences to young people. Working with Young People aged from 8-16 (up to 25 yrs with an EHCP).

We have noticed an uptake in young people with various SENDs attending our HAF sessions, from 5% to 50%. Typically this includes ASD, ADHD, learning disabilities, dyspraxia, developmental delay, sensory processing and physical disabilities and we have included young people with numerous health conditions, such as asthma, epilepsy, diabetes.

Read the latest RAW / HAF article:
www.realartsworkshops.co.uk/blog-news/raw-summer-hafscheme-2023





Quotes from the young people at Real Arts Workshops (RAW)

It was very amazing

I feel very delighted because I did a work that was interesting as a team

I enjoyed the painting today as it was very detailed it needed a lot of time and patience

It gets better

I enjoyed being a part of the group working as a team. Having a great laugh with people.

I enjoyed being a part of the group working as a team. Having a great laugh with people.

It was very amazing

I really like doing art it was difficult but fun I am really happy I came here and I really enjoyed today and everyone is so nice.

I feel like today activity taught me how to use my superhero

I really enjoyed today and I loved the activities

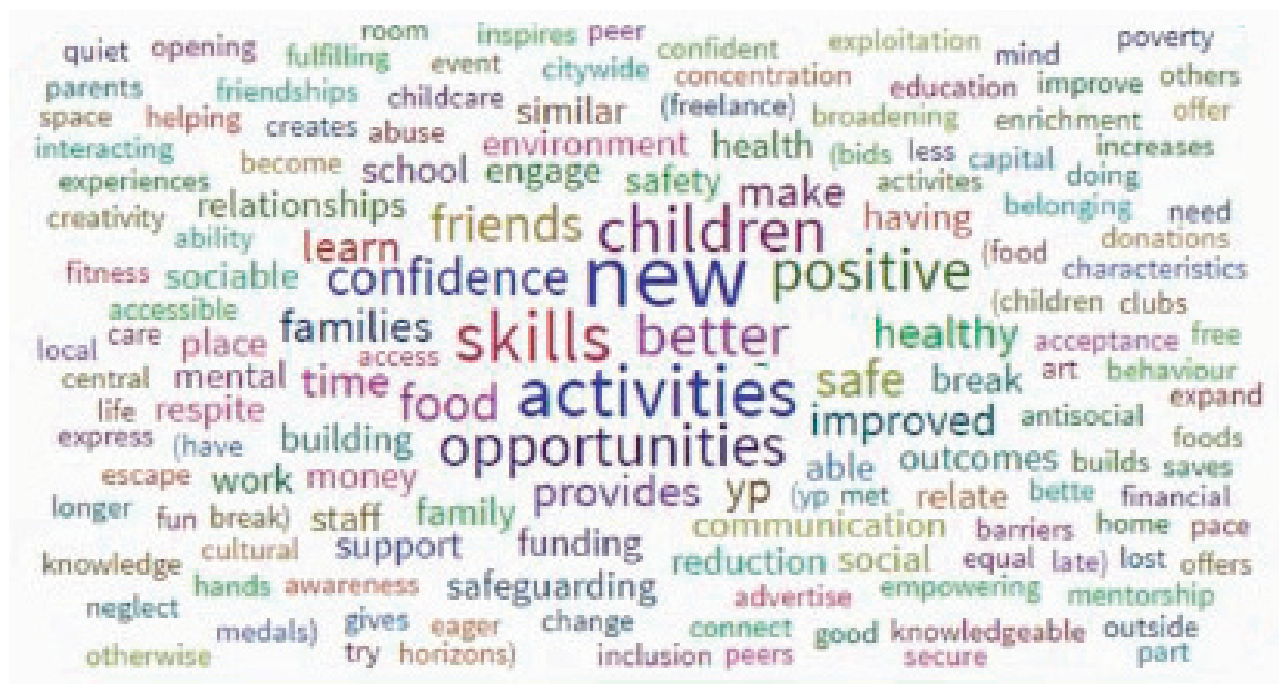
I super enjoyed today, it was filled with positivity

It was fun and a full day project

Reflections and Audit

We are currently auditing our practice to ensure fair process for applications, that the activities are of high quality and that we are running the activities in the right area through data collection. In September 2024 we have asked for an internal audit of the service to reflect this.

HAF Conference Feedback



Next Steps

- The focus for Summer 2024 is to increase the number of activities for older children and young people aged 12 to 16 years
- Internal audit
- Support providers in securing future funding to be able to continue with school holiday activities, if HAF funding ends in 2024
- To collaborate with the Cost-of-Living team to work with parents to be able to provide healthy low-cost meals during school holidays for their children. This would futureproof the legacy of HAF if the funding does not continue past Christmas 2024
- To use the Self Evaluation process to continue to raise the standards of HAF providers.



Thank You to all of the providers who have run activities over the 2023-2024 HAF period

A.C.E.S (Activities, Care, Education & Sport)

Active Future Wolverhampton

Art Gallery Wolverhampton Arts and Culture

Beatsabar Music Project

Curiosity Productions

Gazebo Theatre In Education Company Ltd

Genius Tuition

Grand Theatre

Hope Community Project

InPlay Gaming

Inpower Academy CIC

KIXX Active Lives Active Communities CIC

Learn Play

Let us Play

Let's Play Penn (Easter 24 new provider)

Low Hill Community Centre

Motive8 Youth C.I.C

MS Combat

NAC Newhampton Arts Centre

NPV Football Development

Motive8 Youth C.I.C

MS Combat

NAC Newhampton Arts Centre

NPV Football Development

NPVAN New Park Village Activities Network

Positive Participation

Rainbow Kidz CIC

RAW, REAL ARTS WORKSHOPS LTD

RB Active Care / Sports Activities

Reach and Unite Outreach and Empowerment CIC (RUOE)

Revolution Dance Academy, now Ready, Set , Acti- Fit

School of coding

Soccer Coaching 2000 Limited

STRiVE Event

The Way Youth Zone

TLC College

Ultimate Warriors CIC

Wolverhampton BJJ

Wolverhampton Wanderer Foundation

Wolverhampton Wrestling Club

WV10 Consortium

YMCA Black Country Group

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