

Holiday ACTIVITY and Food



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME

Annual Report 2022/23



Department
for Education

Blackpool Council

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Background

Context

In November 2020, the Government announced that the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme, which had provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018, would be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. The programme would provide activities including a food provision to cover the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.

Blackpool had operated a holiday provision since 2019, and had an established partnership in place to deliver such a programme. The partnership agreed that our holiday provision should be provided throughout every school holiday and therefore developed a programme that would be delivered within the half term holidays as well as Easter, Summer and Christmas.

The holiday programme is for children who are in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. The funding provided cover for:

- The provision of free holiday places, which includes a food provision
- Coordination of the programme at a local level.

Background

The school holidays can be a particularly difficult time for families due to increased costs and reduced incomes. Many children can experience holiday hunger and learning loss during the school holidays and children from low income families find it more difficult to afford activities outside of the home during holiday time. These children are less likely to access organised out of school activities, and more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health and more likely to experience social isolation. Free holiday provision is a response to these issues and evidence suggests that it can have a positive impact on children and young people.

To help combat holiday hunger and learning loss during the school holidays, holiday activity and food programmes are offered across the UK, by a variety of educational, charity and community sector organisations. The type of programmes offered vary between areas and settings. They provide learning and socialising opportunities for children during the school holidays as well as providing food. The evidence for these type of provisions on what does or doesn't work is limited, however, the recent evaluation of government-led programmes reported that children and young people enjoyed attending and parents felt their children achieved positive outcomes.

Levels of Social deprivation within Blackpool are particularly high. Blackpool has the highest level of deprivation of all Local Authorities in England, with neighbourhoods in Blackpool accounting for eight of the ten most deprived neighbourhoods nationally. Children face particular high levels of poverty, with 38.6% of children living in income deprived households. Given these high levels of deprivation, children in Blackpool are particularly vulnerable to holiday hunger and learning loss during the school holidays. The Schools, pupils and their characteristics: Academic Year 20/21 Report highlighted there were 7,526 pupils known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) across both our primary and secondary schools. There is a clear need to support children in Blackpool during the school holidays by offering holiday activity and food programmes.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is to deliver a free holiday provision to children eligible for benefits related free school meals for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week for 6 weeks. This covers four weeks in the summer and a week's provision at Easter and Christmas holidays. The provision funded by the Department for Education.

The partnership in Blackpool also agreed to deliver a free holiday provision to these children in the February, May and October half terms following the same model as the HAF, meaning provision covered a minimum of 11 weeks. These extra weeks of provision funded by Blackpool Council.

The aim of the programme was to ensure children who attended the provision

- 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 socially isolated
- Have a greater knowledge of health, nutrition
- Engaged with school and other local services

Coordination of the Programme

Coordination of the HAF was taken back in house by Public Health in September 2022, having been previously contracted out to Blackpool Football Club Community Trust (BFCCT) in 2020 and 2021 whilst the Public Health team were under pressure leading on the towns COVID-19 response.

Once returned to Public Health's control a new open framework was created that allowed us to build a consortium of Providers that met the Department for Education (DfE) and Blackpool Councils' requirements for the HAF Programme. The open framework enables providers to join during the life of the contract, at specified periods determined by the Authority, allowing the HAF to benefit from new entrants to the market throughout the year.

Two successful Tender exercises were undertaken during 2022 - 23 to increase the wealth and diversity of provision available. It further ensured we also had a SEND specific programme catering to children with mild or moderate needs. There are now nine contracted providers on the framework



Steering Group

To support delivery of the programme a steering group was established with representatives from a wide range of local bodies, including:

- Representative for Youth Services
- Head of Service – Children’s Services
- Early Intervention and Safeguarding Officer for Blackpool Schools
- Geographic Neighbourhood Inspector for Blackpool – Lancashire Police
- School Improvement Consultant
- Early Help and Children Services
- Virtual School – Education Officer for Disadvantaged Children
- Head of Service - Adolescent Services, Children’s Services Management Team

Delivery Partners

Blackpool has been operating a Holiday provision since the summer of 2019, and has a strong partnership in place which consists of the Council, schools and voluntary and community sector. The delivery partners involved are:

- Blackpool Football Club Community Trust (BFCCT)
- Active Blackpool
- Park Rangers
- The BoatHouse Youth
- Boys and Girls Club
- House of Wingz/Skool of Street
- Magic Club
- Groundworks -@The Grange
- Dealmaker Ltd

Delivery partners were required to provide a holiday activity programme that met the following core aims and objectives:

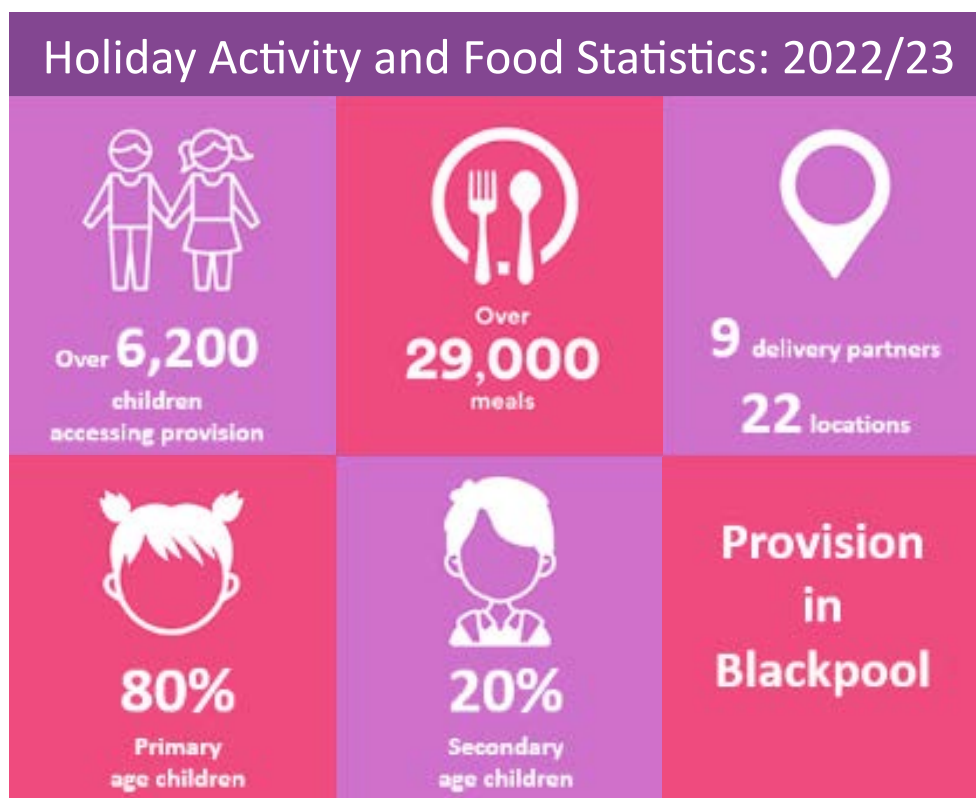
- The provision of at least one healthy meal a day and meet the School Food Standards throughout the provision.
- Delivery of enriching activities
- Provision of physical activities which meet the physical activity guidelines on a daily basis.
- Provision of nutritional education
- Signposting and referrals: provide information, signposting or referrals to other services and support that would benefit the children who attend their provision and their families.
- Policies and procedure in place to ensure they have appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place and have appropriate policies and procedures in place in relation to safeguarding, health and safety, insurance, accessibility and inclusiveness.
- Concise record keeping, with registers of attendance shared with the coordinators, allowing for precise evaluation and reporting of the HAF programme

The provision is required to meet the following core aims:

- Healthy meals that meet the school food standards
- Enriching activities
- Nutritional education
- Signposting and referrals
- Policies and procedures

Eligibility Criteria

The focus of the programme was to provide for school aged children eligible for benefits related Free School Meals (FSM) The local authority had to ensure that the offer of free holiday provision was available for all children eligible for FSM in the local authority area. However, this did not mean that all children were required to attend as the provision was voluntary. The local authority also had the flexibility to offer free places to children who were not eligible for FSM but were considered as vulnerable or in need of the provision, and were able to use up to 15% of the funding for these places.



Easter Provision

The Blackpool Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF), supported 917 unique participants, across seven providers for 3 weeks. 88% of participants being children on free school meals (FSM) and 12% being targeted through other vulnerabilities.

The delivery of the Easter programme took place over three weeks but some providers were restricted by the disjointed school holiday with our schools having a variety of term end dates. This meant their numbers were reduced as some young people were still attending school during their delivery period.

All delivery locations were inclusive and accessible for children with low - mild additional needs and we were also able to offer two SEND specific programmes run by our partners BFCCT and Boathouse Youth for participants displaying mild -moderate needs. Unfortunately there were no specific sessions for those young people with a severe disability and this is something we are keen to improve upon moving forward.

HAF opportunities available to our young people ranged from a wide variety of sports clubs, arts/crafts and a multitude of Easter themed activities such as Easter egg scavenger hunts, Easter bonnet parades, games and afternoon tea parties. The partnership also offered outdoor nature activities in local parks with our Park Rangers provision, planting, exploring, bush craft, hammock building, nature hunts and art based activities using foraged materials.

Our partners Active Blackpool ran a sports and swim programme for juniors aged 8 – 11 years, some children having never swam before. Whilst another Provider @theGrange offered an Art, Science and Adventure week with trips to Eureka Children’s Museum, a commissioned local artist workshop with an Easter theme, and a trip to Blackpool Zoo.

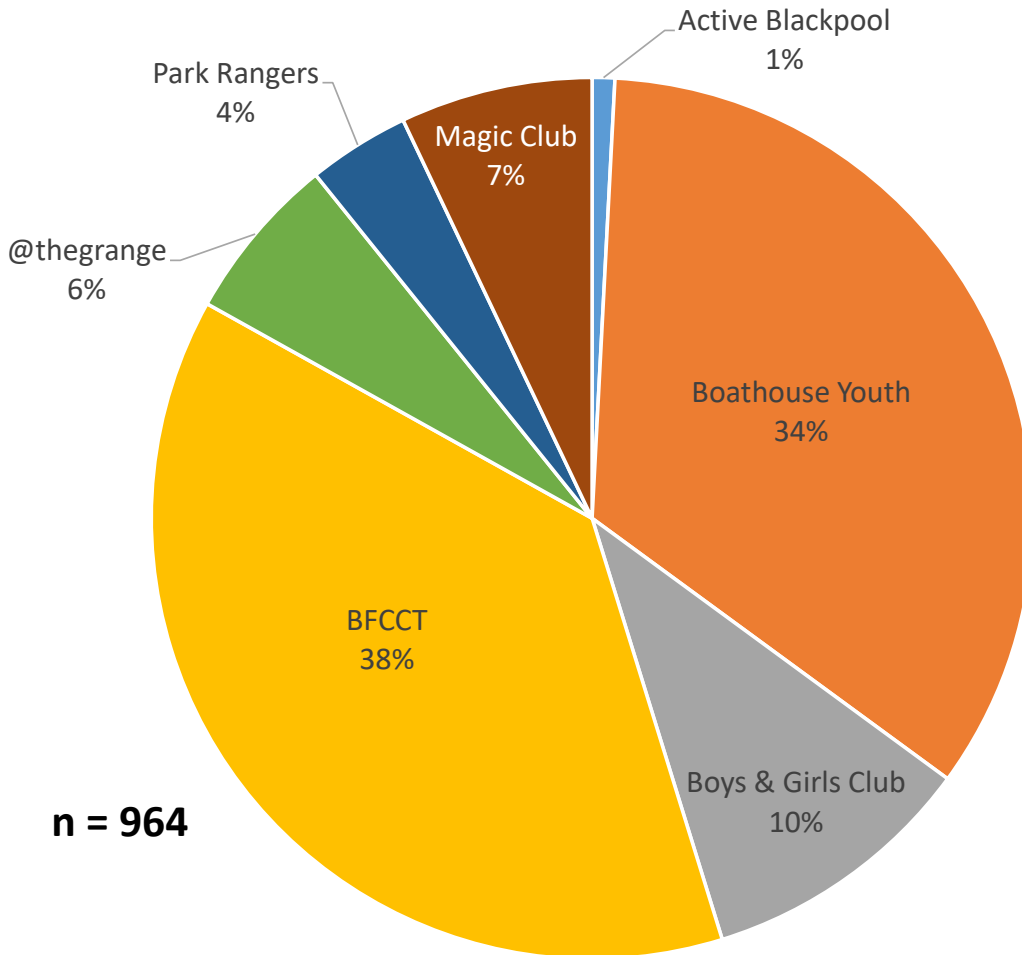
A multi – day cycling activity week for 6 senior aged participants was offered by Boathouse Youth, the participants cycled almost 100 miles over the week, culminating with an overnight expedition ride to Silverdale Cumbria, where the group camped overnight in hammocks.

The HAF programme was delivered from 22 clubs across the town, from schools, parks, community and youth centres, thus enabling door stop delivery to our young people. The unique numbers engaged increased from the Easter HAF last year by a total of 288, as did the diversity of activities in place and the number of HAF locations across the town.

N.B some participants visited multiple Providers clubs, this accounts for the difference between the number of “unique” participants and the number of participants per Provider

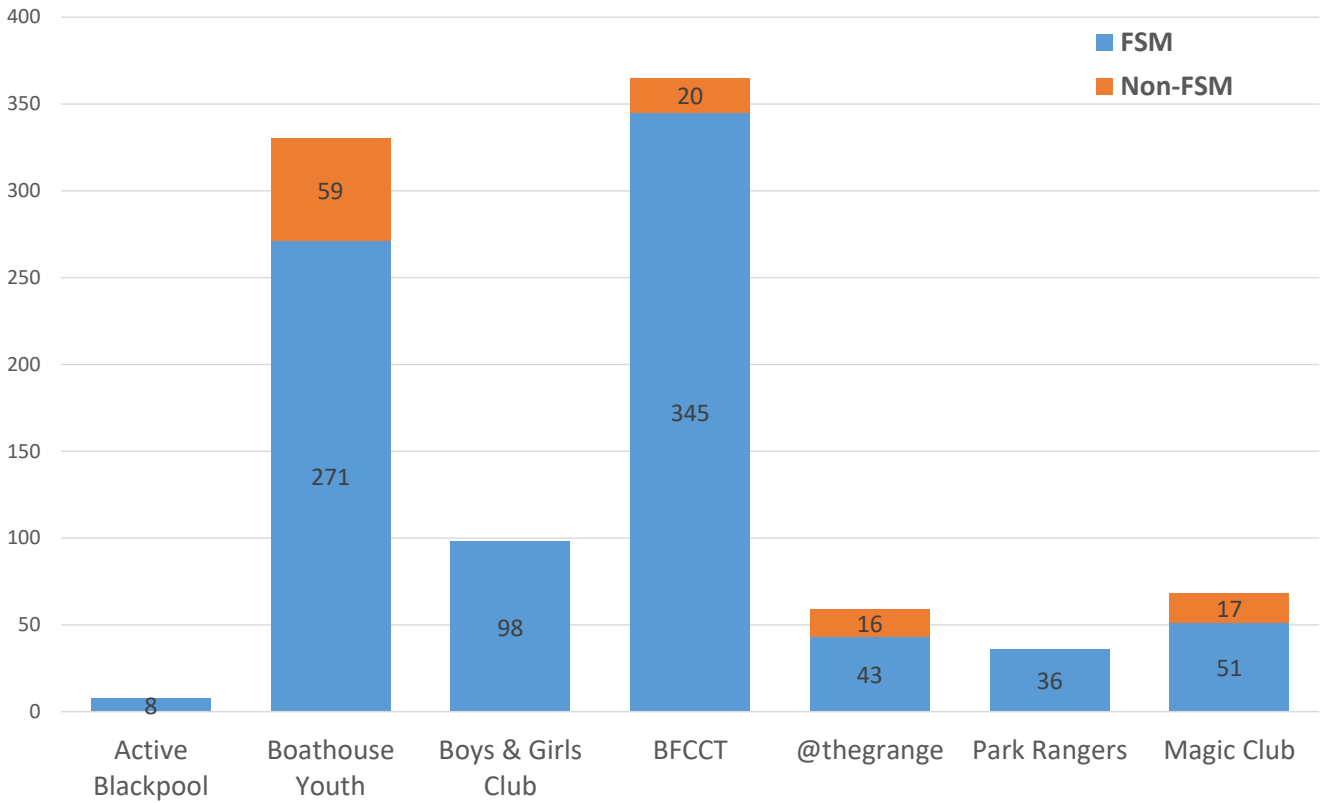


Percent of participants by provider: Easter 2022

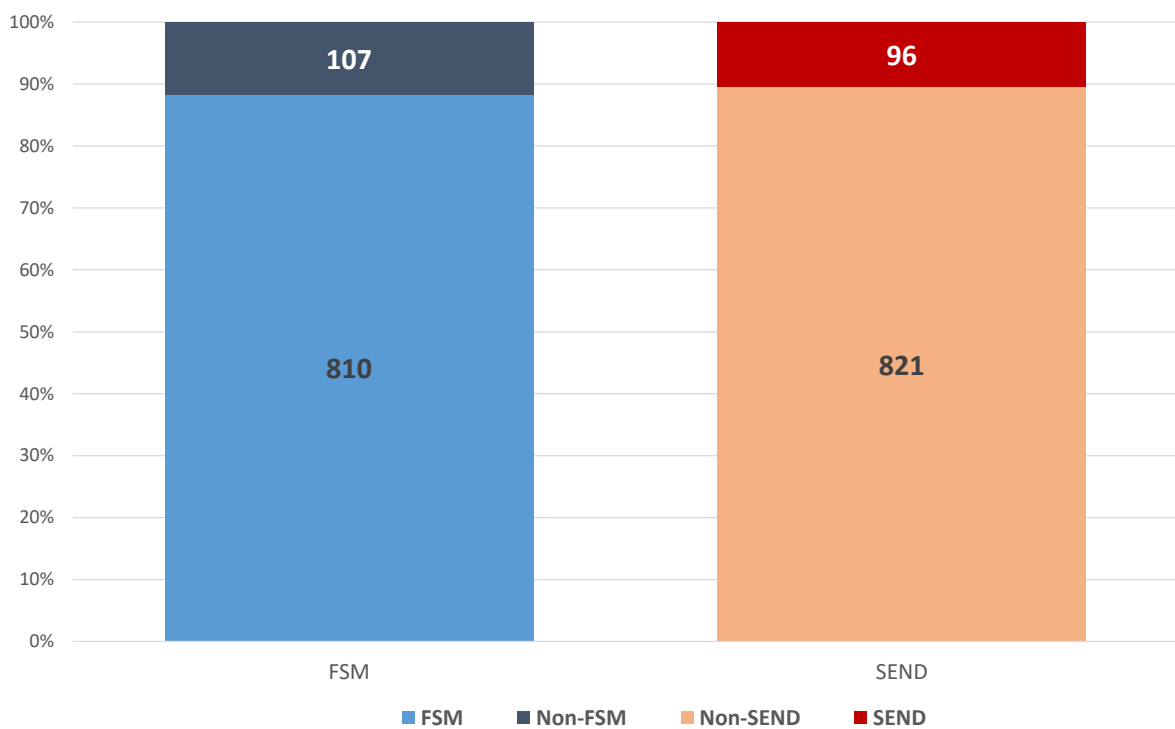


- 917 participants attended over 3,600 activity sessions
- There was an average of 4 visits per participant
- Over three quarters (77%) of all participants were primary school age
- 23% were secondary school age
- <5 participants were aged either nursery age or 16+
- 88% of participants were eligible for FSM

Number of participants by provider and FSM eligibility: Easter 2022



Unique participants by FSM and SEND: Easter 2022



May/June Half Term Provision

The Blackpool Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF), supported 944 unique participants, across five providers for 3 weeks. 86% of participants being children on free school meals (FSM) and 14% being targeted through other vulnerabilities.

The delivery of the May programme took place over three weeks due to the variation in our schools holiday dates. This meant some Providers numbers were reduced as some of their young people were still attending school during their delivery period.

We were able to offer two SEND specific programmes run by our partners BFCCT and Boathouse Youth for participants displaying mild -moderate needs with a range of sports and arts/crafts activities tailored to their specific needs.

HAF opportunities available to our young people ranged from the usual wide variety of sports clubs and arts/crafts, to music, dance trampolining, skateboarding, gaming and trips.

Our partners Groundworks, at @theGrange celebrated the Queens Jubilee, with a Jubilee themed family week including a once in a lifetime two day trip to London. None of the families involved had ever been to London before so it was a real highlight for them, especially in the week that London geared up to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

During the sightseeing visit the families took in the Monument to the fire of London, Superbloom at the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, Trafalgar Square, a walk down the Mall to Buckingham Palace, St. James Park, Horseguards Parade, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, Sky Garden, the London Eye and Westminster Abbey.

Once back home in Blackpool the week continued with a Diamond Jubilee afternoon tea Party with games and a day of scrapbook making workshops to save all the wonderful memories made during the Jubilee

A Skateboarding Week, was also on offer, from skate tuition to skateboard/helmet art to customise their equipment; the week totally immersed the participants in the world of boarding, even including a videography session to capture their achievements and learn vlogging.

A new provider Skool of Street joined the partnership with an exciting urban theme, offering street dance, hip hop, drama, graffiti art, DJing, beatboxing, .rap, music, and journaling in their two week provision. They embedded meditation and nutrition elements into their projects with children learning about how to prepare healthy food options and relaxation techniques. Feedback post-delivery showed how the young people's knowledge of food had improved their eating habits at home and how meditation had improved mental health and helped with their focus. The fortnight culminated in a performance for family and friends, a video, and a physical piece of visual art for permanent display at the venue.

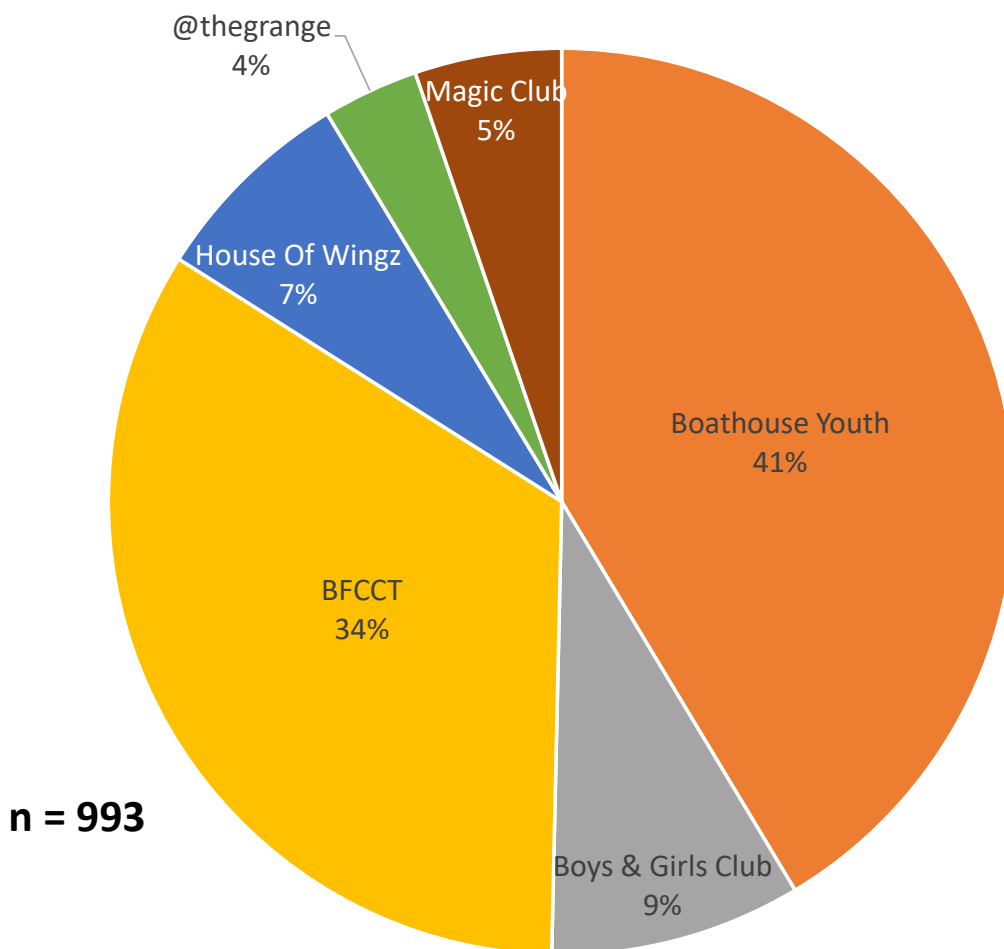
“Having a final outcome helps to keep our participants focussed through the projects and gives them something to feel proud of at the end, especially if they can share it with their community”

Skool of Street

The HAF programme was delivered from 17 clubs across the town, in schools, parks, community and youth centres.

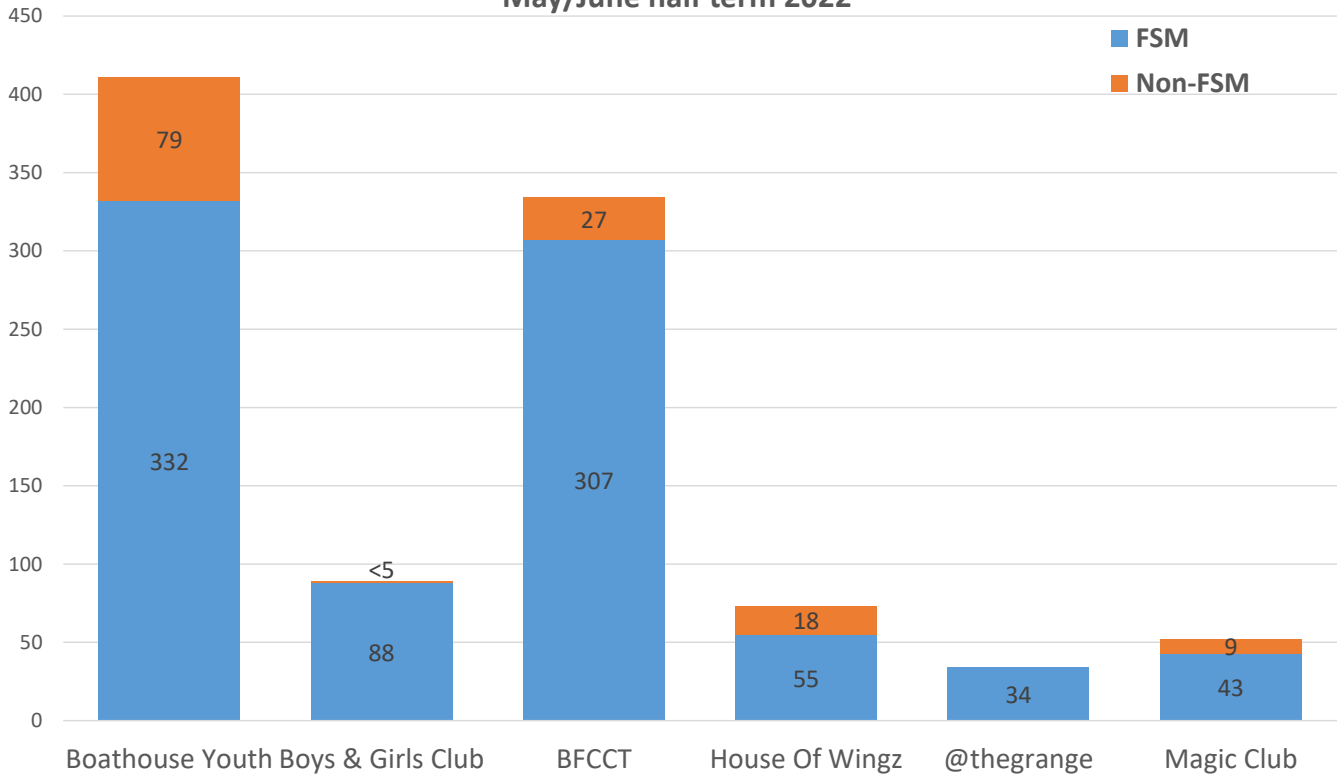
The unique numbers engaged increased from the previous year's May HAF by a total of 361 as did the range of activities in place and the number of HAF locations across the town.

Percent of participants by provider: May/June half term 2022

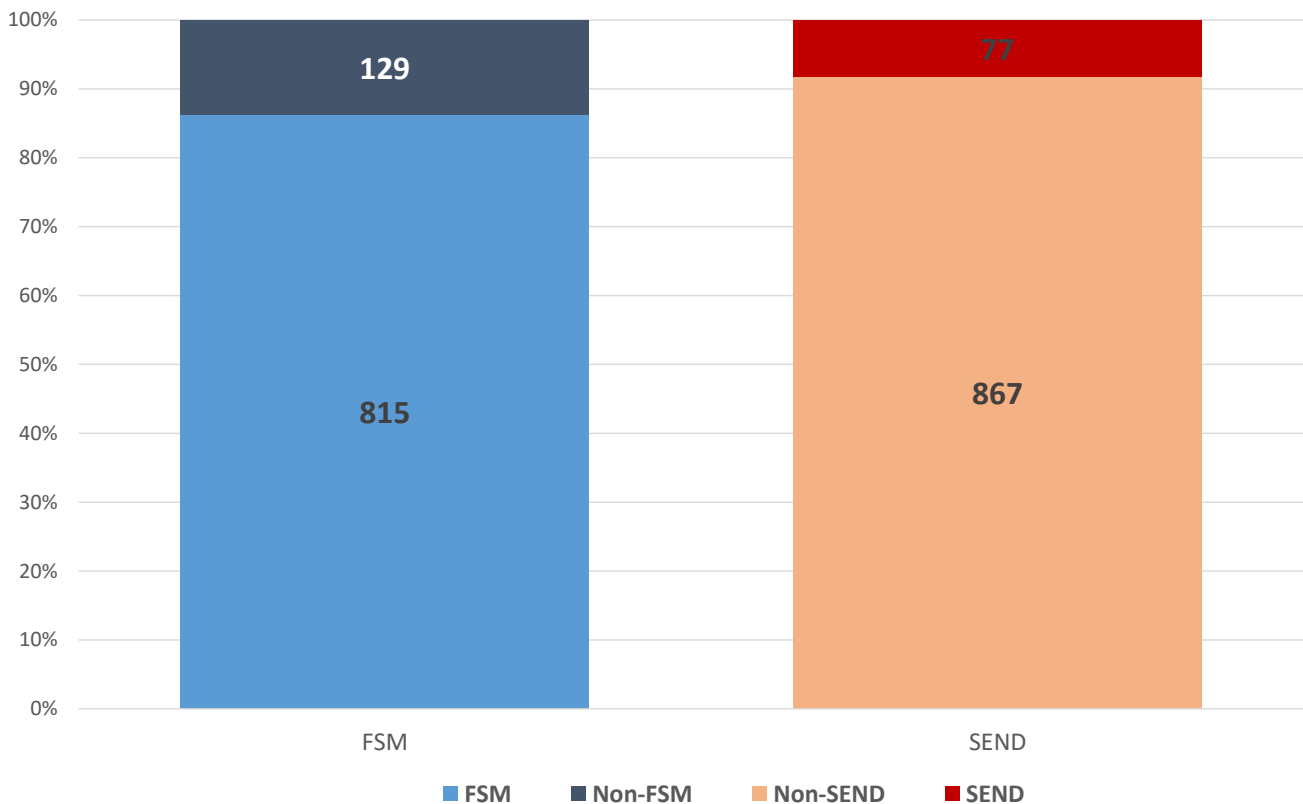


- 944 participants attended over 3,500 activity sessions
- There was an average of 3.8 visits per participant
- Over three quarters (76%) of all participants were primary school age
- 24% were secondary school age
- <5 participants were aged either nursery age or 16+
- 86% of participants were eligible for FSM

**Number of participants by provider and FSM eligibility:
May/June half term 2022**



Unique participants by FSM and SEND: May/June 2022



Summer Provision

The Blackpool Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF), supported 1,460 unique participants across 8 providers for 6 weeks with 87% of participants being children on free school meals (FSM) and 13% being targeted through other vulnerabilities.

This summer produced the most varied HAF opportunities available to children of Blackpool. Alongside a vast array of sports, games and arts and crafts the partnership also offered outdoor nature activities, photography, swimming, bouldering, woodworking, roller skating, skateboarding, music production and urban themed creative arts such as street dance, graffiti art and beatboxing/rap. Participants signed up also had the opportunity to go on a wide range trips from a horse sanctuary and llama farm, Old Trafford, Media City, country walks and scavenger hunts to Blackpool beaches and Liverpool's Albert Dock to name but a few.

There were also opportunities to attend residential stays with two Providers, Boathouse Youth and Magic Club. Whilst there our young people were able to experience a wide range of outdoor activities such as canoeing, ghyll scrambling, climbing, bat detecting and conservation and team building activities.

A successful family themed HAF programme by Groundworks ran at Grange Park, with a total of 34 families (113 individuals) taking part. The focus was to show families' activities that could be done together locally, on a budget and also learning how to grow, cook and budget to get the most out of their food.

Feedback collected by the Provider showed:

- 98% of the families reported that they felt more connected as a family
- 100% of families reported that they enjoyed doing activities together and bonded together as a family/friendship grown

Our Partner Blackpool Boys and Girls Club undertook a Knife Crime Project, a competition run by Blackpool Council had been launched to encourage all young people to think about how knife crime affects lives and what could be done to prevent it happening. This triggered lots of open conversations around knife crime, particularly at one location of high anti-social behaviour where knife crime figures had been rising.

We were again able to offer two SEND specific programmes for participants displaying mild - moderate needs with one Provider, Boathouse Youth also running a residential camping opportunity with various adjustments made to accommodate a total of 15 SEND children. The group enjoyed the offsite activities and 8 of those stayed overnight on two occasions, something they had never had the opportunity to do before.

The HAF programme was delivered from 34 clubs spanning the length and breadth of the town, but there was a conscious decision to provide multiple opportunities in the most deprived areas of Blackpool. Sessions aimed at secondary school aged children were also delivered in the evenings and locations were targeted to areas of high anti-social behaviour.

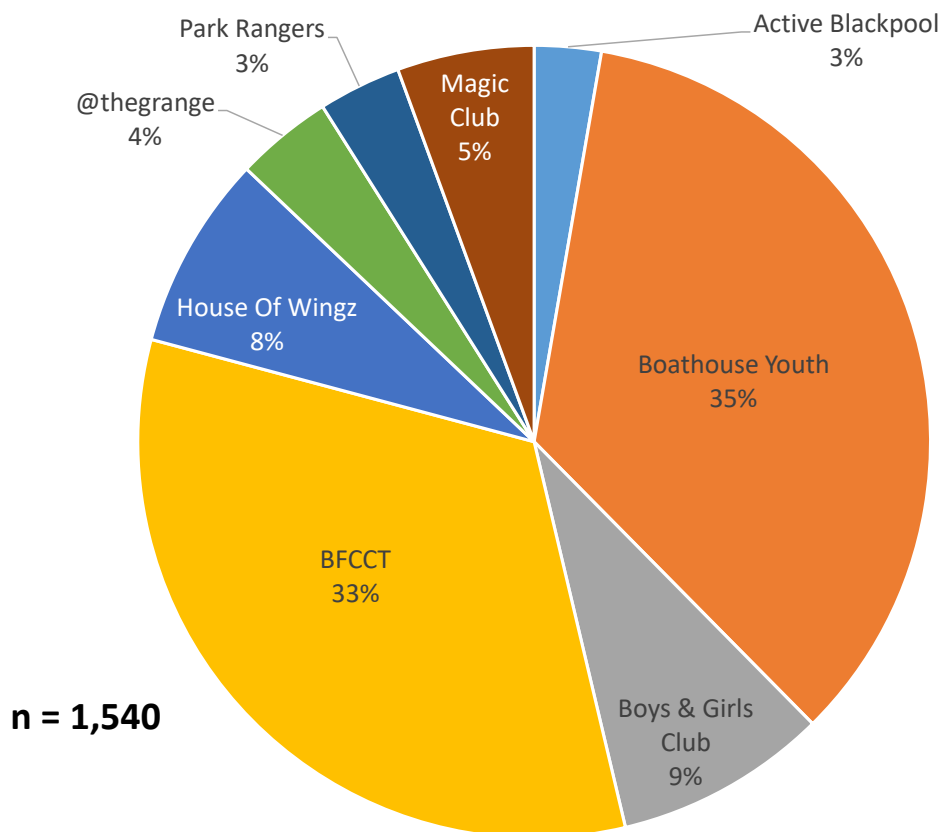
Quality Assurance (QA) visits were made to all Providers including the residential camp, these highlighted the fantastic diverse provision we have in Blackpool and the quality of both the activities and the staff was evidenced.

One area highlighted for improvement by the QA visits was the food menu offered by our Council Catering Services. The young people asked for a wider variety of food choice, this led to a working party being created with Catering Services, Providers and some of their participants'. The young people worked on sample menus and these were then reviewed and finally incorporated to the service. After each HAF provision now, the menu is revisited and tweaked ready for the next provision.

The size of partnership and the unique numbers engaged have both increased from the summer HAF last year along with the diversity of activities in place and the number of HAF locations.

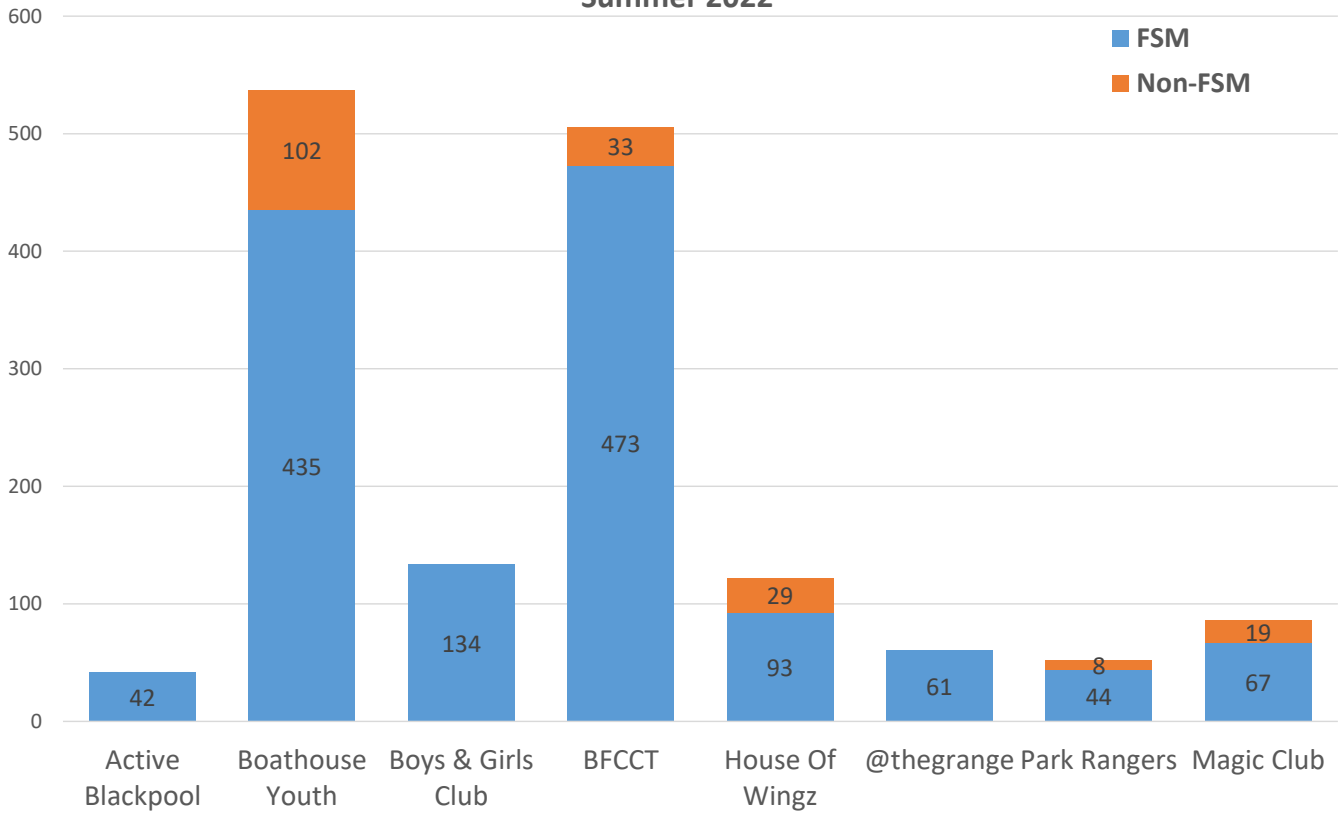
Partners all experienced some 'no shows' but accessing a waiting list reduced ghost places. Covid-19, family holidays and a national increase in childhood illness after the pandemic, like measles and chickenpox were reported as some reasons for absentees.

Percent of participants by provider: Summer 2022

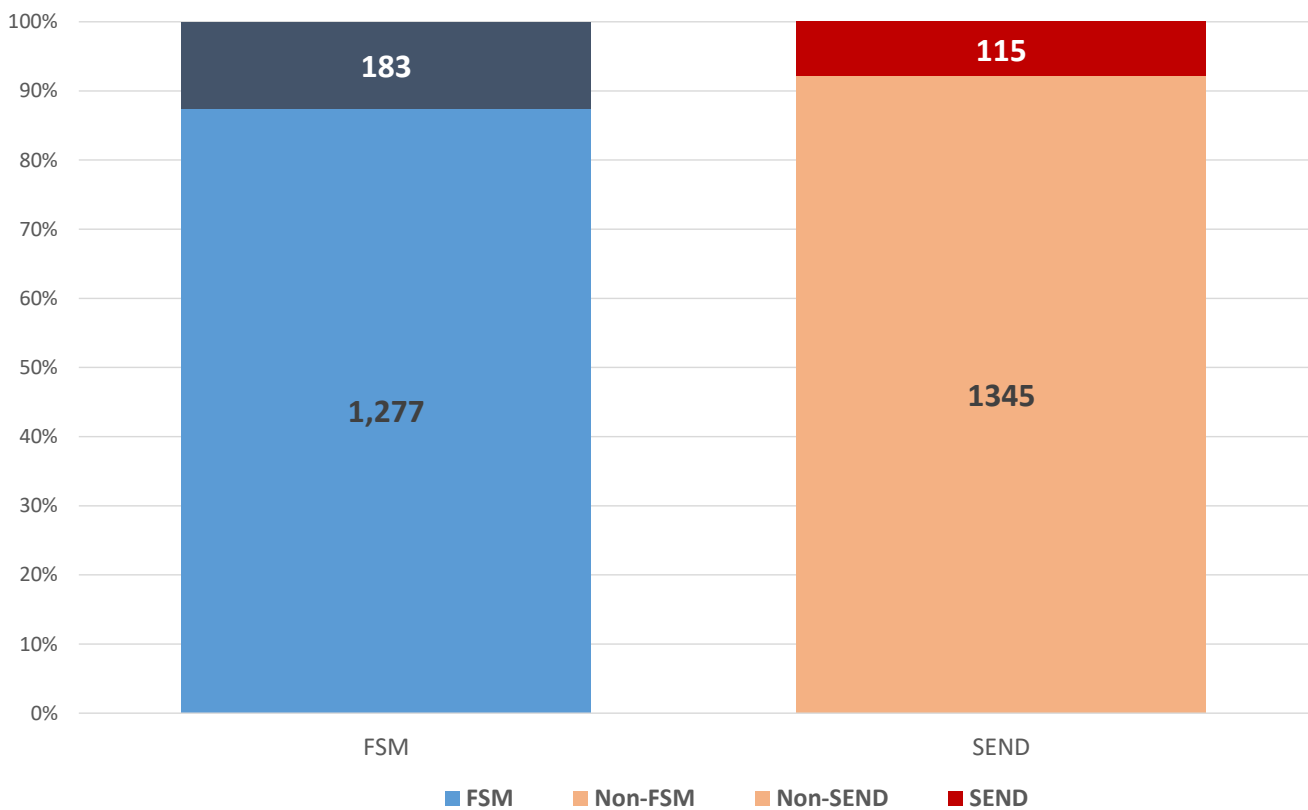


- 1,460 participants attended over 12,500 activity sessions
- There was an average of 8.6 visits per participant
- 81% of all participants were primary school age
- 19% were secondary school age
- There were no 16+ or nursery ages taking part.
- 87% of participants were eligible for FSM

**Number of participants by provider and FSM eligibility:
Summer 2022**



Unique participants by FSM and SEND: Summer 2022



October Half Term Provision

The Blackpool Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF), supported 1048 unique participants, across seven providers for 3 weeks. 87% of participants being children on free school meals (FSM) and 13% being targeted through other vulnerabilities.

Much of our October provision had a Halloween theme, with the young people engaging in pumpkin carving, Halloween parties, costume making, face painting, slime making and Halloween baking. Non themed activities were also plentiful and included cycling, swimming, archery, mountain boarding, tie dying, zorb football and urban creative arts including parkour and free running, a Greek day of discovery and food, plus the usual wide range of sports and arts/crafts. There were also trips to Bowland Wild Boar Park, Chill Factor in Manchester, bowling, laser quest, Stanley Park and the cinema

Our Park Rangers provided Forest School each day in their woodland setting within Stanley Park. Activities included tool use (drill, knife, hammer, saw), fire lighting, campfire cooking, bug hunting, bird watching, den building, knot tying, team games and nature themed arts/crafts,

The Magic Club delivered two weeks of provision but differences in half term dates across schools limited both their staff availability and access for their participants, they were proactive in changing to more evening sessions to compensate, so that the young people did not miss out. There was a mix of Halloween crafts, baking, games and parties plus trips to bowling for senior members and to the cinema for junior members. Senior members also attended a Snow Camp at the Chill Factor in Manchester trying snowboarding and skiing, something they had never had an opportunity to engage in previously.

Our partners at BFCCT reported an increase in school engagement, with an increase in numbers and Layton, Westminster and Revoe schools all also providing members of staff to support the HAF delivery. This module of school delivery was successful and BFCCT were keen to expand the model at other venues.

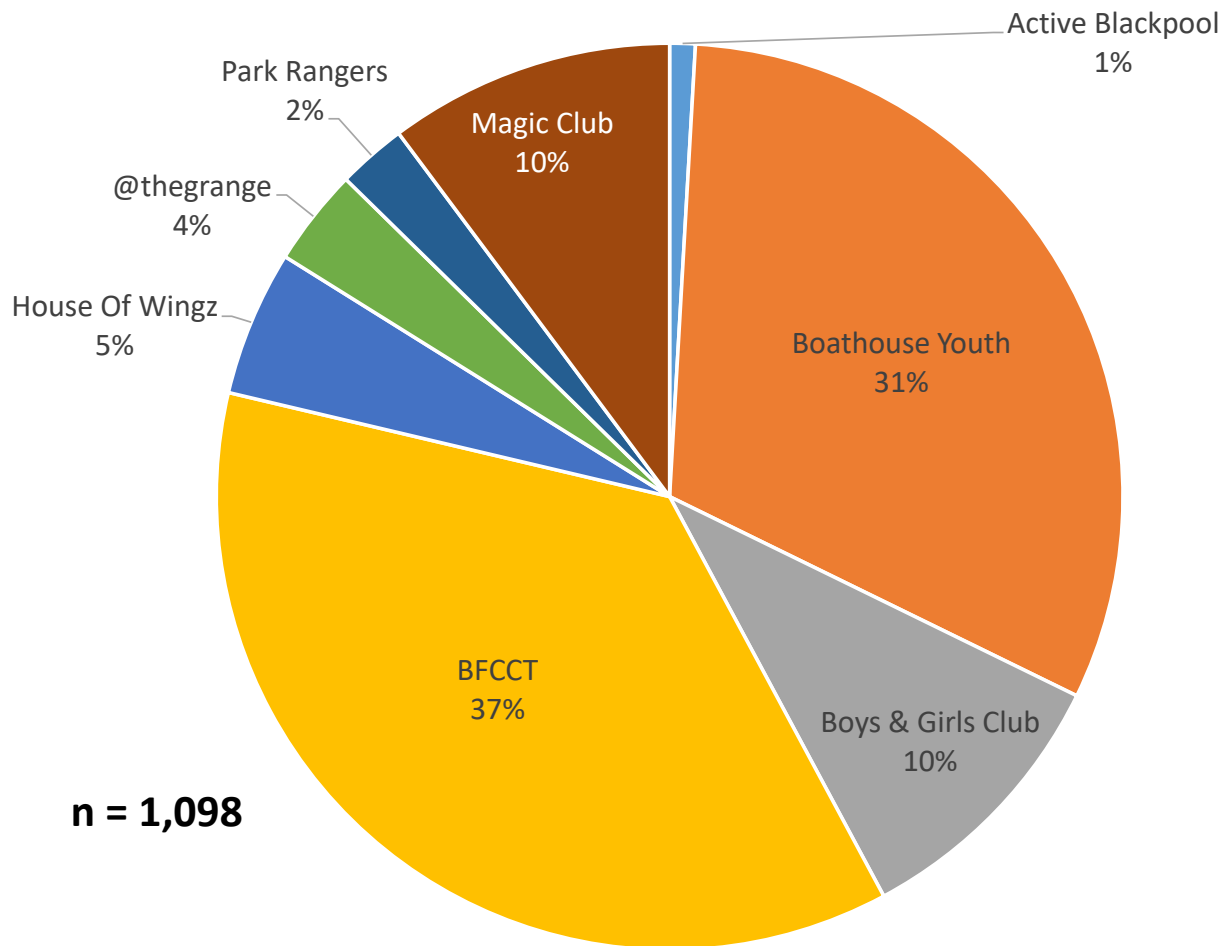
We were again able to offer two SEND specific programmes for participants, both provided a wide choice of sports, arts, crafts and themed Halloween events specially targeted to the attendee's needs and abilities

The HAF programme was delivered from 24 clubs across the town, in schools, parks, community and youth centres.

A hugely successful October HAF saw the unique number of participants engaged almost double from last year's figure of 585 to 1048. The number of Providers and new locations increased Providers reach and also ensured that door step delivery was available across the town.



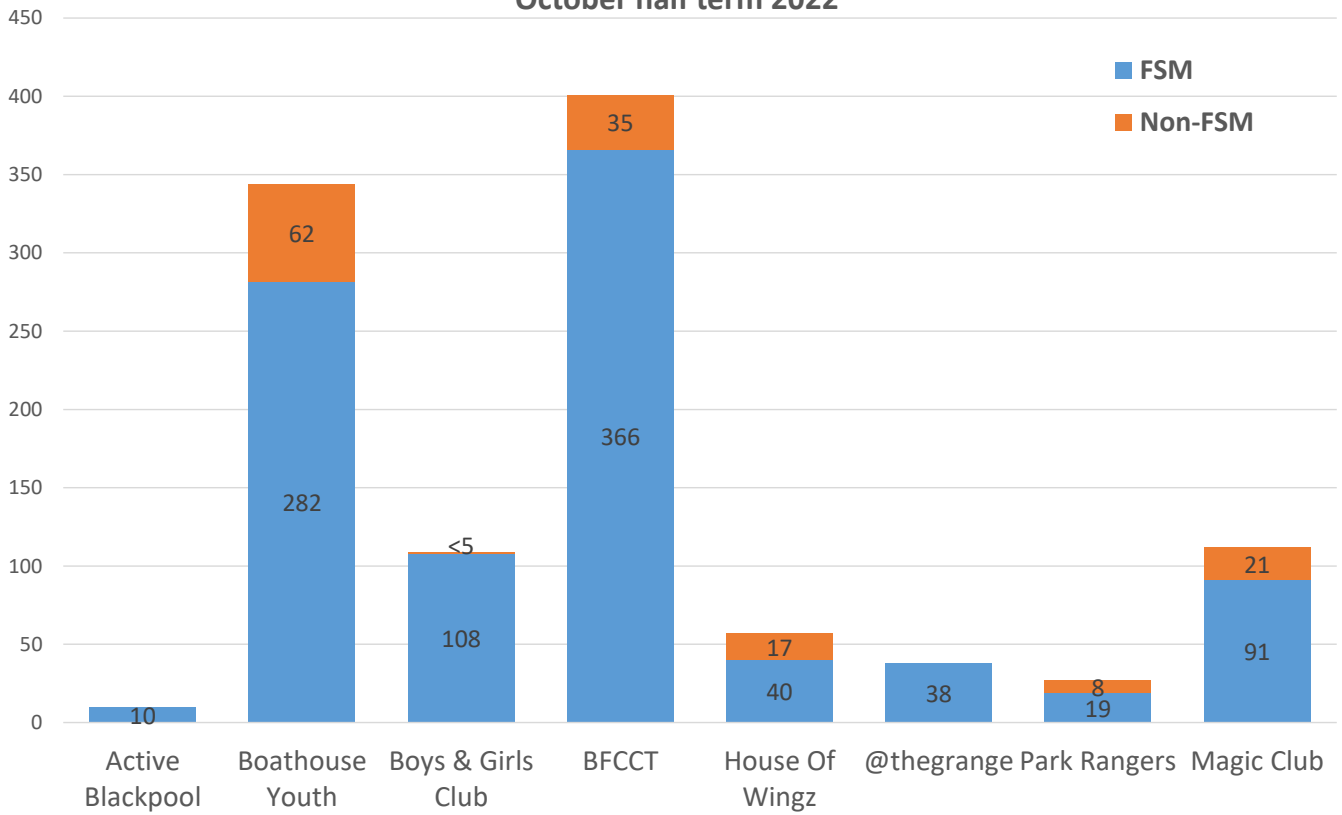
Percent of participants by provider: October half term 2022



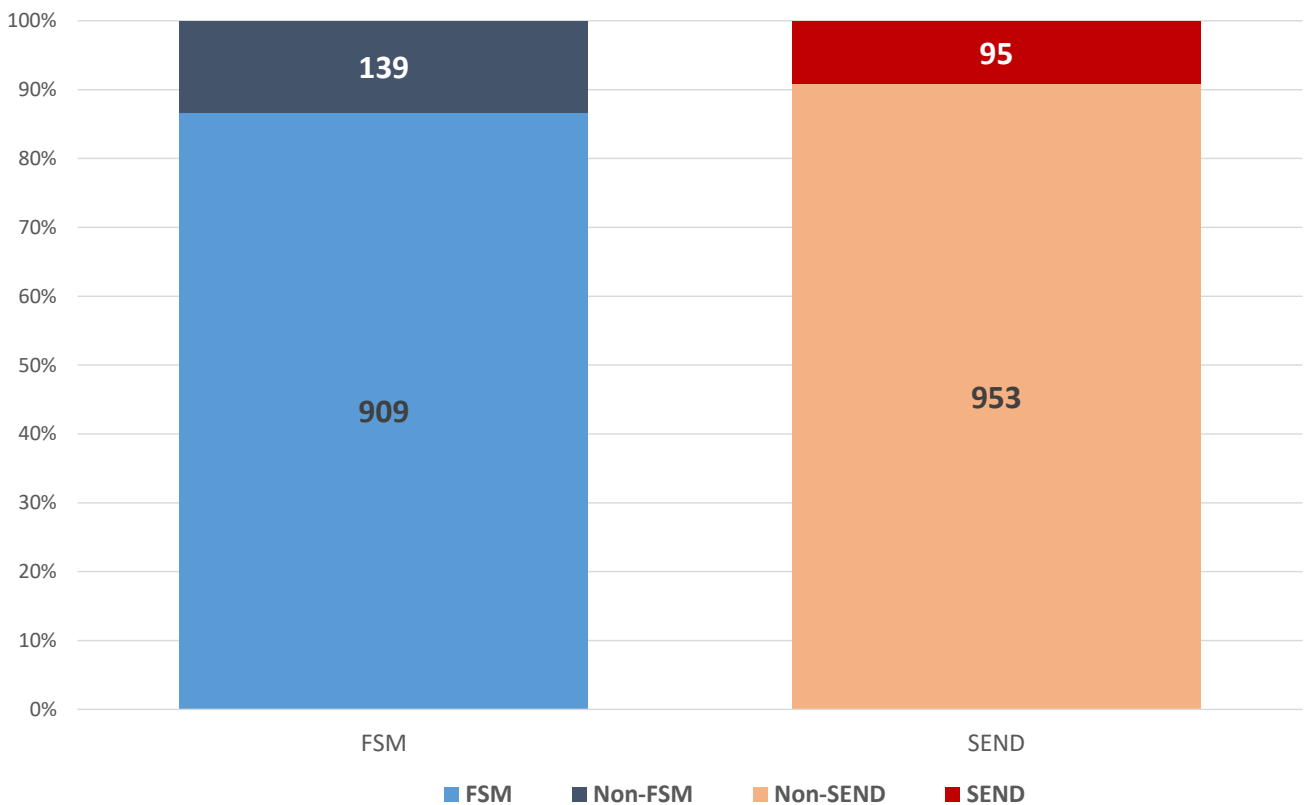
- 1,048 participants attended over 3,900 activity sessions
- There was an average of 3.7 visits per participant
- 81% of all participants were primary school age
- 19% were secondary school age
- <5 participants were aged either nursery age or 16+
- 87% of participants were eligible for FSM



**Number of participants by provider and FSM eligibility:
October half term 2022**



Unique participants by FSM and SEND: October 2022



Christmas Provision

The Blackpool Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF), supported 894 unique participants across 8 providers for 1 week with 87% of participants being children on free school meals (FSM) and 13% being targeted through other vulnerabilities.

Blackpool had to take a different approach with our Christmas provision, a combination of the variation in school term patterns and a number of providers and their venues being closed between Christmas and New Year making it impossible for them to offer a 4 day provision. To compound this many schools also returned straight after New Year so delivery was not possible then either.

Therefore we organised a range of festive events and activities on large scale, all including transport and food which eligible children could attend en masse. This was a huge operation logistically, organising pick-up and drop off locations and times for seven providers with 20 pick-up and drop off locations across the town, all with a different number of young people and adults in each location

The events delivered were:

- 21/12/2022 - Blackpool Pleasure Beach Pantomime, 3 course Xmas Dinner and Gift – 704 Participants
- 22/12/22 - Viva Christmas Party Show and Christmas Lunch – 600 Participants
- 23/12/22 – Private Odeon Cinema Trip with water, popcorn and packed lunch – 736 Participants
- Dish Up recipe Box provision – a main meal and desert box to 902 families

Those providers able to offer face to face provision also arranged Christmas themed parties with fun enriching activities, trips and food. Activities included dance offs, sports, a creative bauble making competition, karaoke, a family disco/lip sync battle, which consisted of Christmas carols with a hip hop twist, graffiti art as well as attendance at a local skate centre “Ramp city” allowing children the opportunity to have a go at skateboarding, plus trips to a local bowling alley, retro arcade venue and trampolining centre.

BFCCT took their senior participants on a trip to Manchester United’s training ground to take part in a football tournament at the prestigious Cliff training academy. As part of the day, they also took part in a first aid workshop with a focus on CPR. They had one of their participants chosen as “Player of the Tournament” for his attitude, manners, and skills throughout the day.

“(Child) was announced as the player of the tournament for his performance, behaviour, and manners out of approximately 75 people in attendance. For this he received a medal and a Manchester United football to take home. This week provided a welcome break for (child) who regularly helps out at home on top of being in school. He has a brother who suffers with disabilities and despite his young age, regularly helps mum to ensure things are fine at home. (Child) has always been highly talked of by staff at sessions for his behaviour and manners, so to be able to reward him with such a week of so many highlights was fantastic.”

Provider

We worked with a new provider to our framework, Dealmaker Ltd to create recipes for their “Dish Up” Recipe box initiative. Each box fed a family of 4 people which included one main meal, with all the ingredients, recipe card and a QR code link to a recipe video if needed. The result was some amazing bespoke, low cost energy recipes, especially made for our HAF participants.

The recipes were designed to only need either a kettle or a microwave to make, which in the midst of the Cost of Living crisis meant all of our participants would be able to engage. We tested them with some of our young people in October, holding a “Make, Test and Taste” event, both providers and participants all thought they were a massive hit with feedback such as:-

“I would love to take one of these home to my mum”

“I love all the cute little tubs, it looks so posh”

“It looks expensive”

“Do we get all this? WOW!”

“I don’t know what some of this stuff is but it looks good”

“Didn’t think I’d like it but I do, can I have another”

“Can I take the recipe home?”

With this feedback we decided to provide all of our Christmas HAF participants with both a main meal and a dessert Dish Up Recipe box as an additional extra to the Christmas provision.

In total 1,804 boxes were delivered to 902 families across the town, the boxes also contained a feedback sheet and QR code so that we could review their success.

General feedback was that:

- Families all thought the boxes were both appealing and they brought the family together to both cook and eat a delicious, healthy and nutritious meal.
- The vast majority enjoyed the recipes and said they would make them again.
- Most agreed that they had enjoyed trying new ingredients and had learnt something about both food and their children’s tastes.

Our Providers report that they have been asked if we will be supplying the recipe boxes again, by both our young people and their parents/carers time and time again since Christmas.

“For the families that took the recipe boxes, all of them said how good they were, and the kids really enjoyed making them. They particularly liked the Bean Wraps box”. - Provider

“So nice and great fun, will make them again. Can we have one every holiday please” - Parent

“Thank you, , (child) really enjoyed making these, it was time well spent together”

- 13-year-old male with mild to moderate additional needs

“The food boxes you gave me to try with (child) were really good. Completely easy and straightforward to follow. More than enough food for me and (child) so I think it would be just right for a family of 4. The only negative I could say would be that it was very messy lol”.



This year’s Christmas delivery was again an improvement on last year, with 894 unique children attending, an increase from 688 in 2021. This was a significant increase despite the challenges faced with this delivery

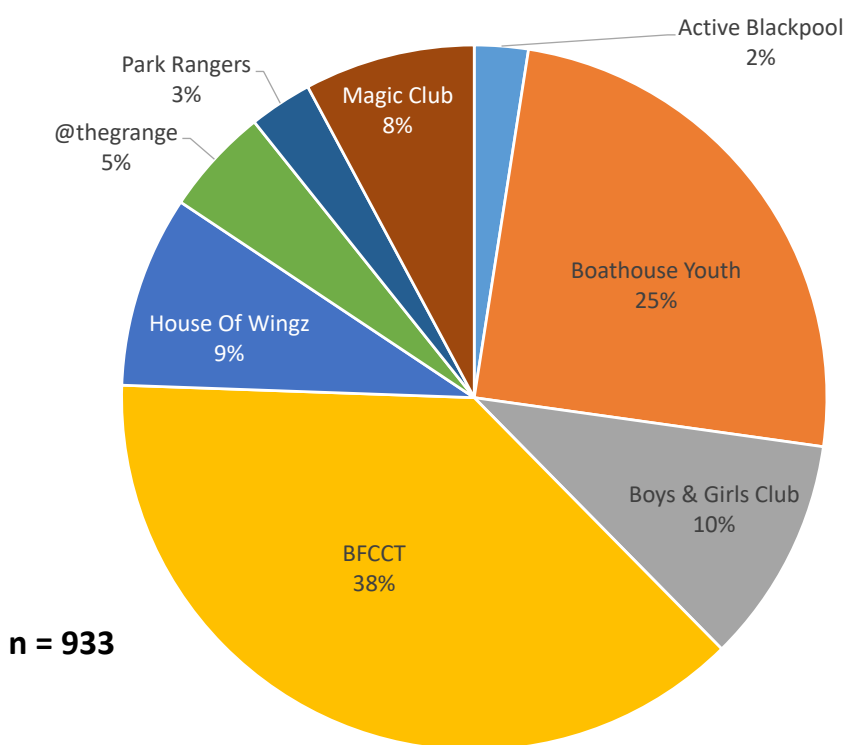
As explained our main challenge was that our schools all ran a slightly different holiday pattern so all broke up at different times, some very close to Christmas itself and many returned straight after New Year. A number of providers and their venues were also closed between Christmas and New Year making it impossible to offer the usual 4 day provision and it left us a very small time frame of opportunity to provide the programme

Whilst we overcame this by organising the range of festive events on a large scale for all, post-Christmas some schools reported there had been an increase in non-attendance as some children were taken out of school by parents/carers so they could attend the HAF provision and not miss out on the exciting events held.

We envisage this issue could well be worse this year, the school terms have been published and the majority of our schools do not break up until 22 December 2023. Several providers/venues are closed again like last year and as a council we have also been advised we have to take leave in-between Christmas and New Year.

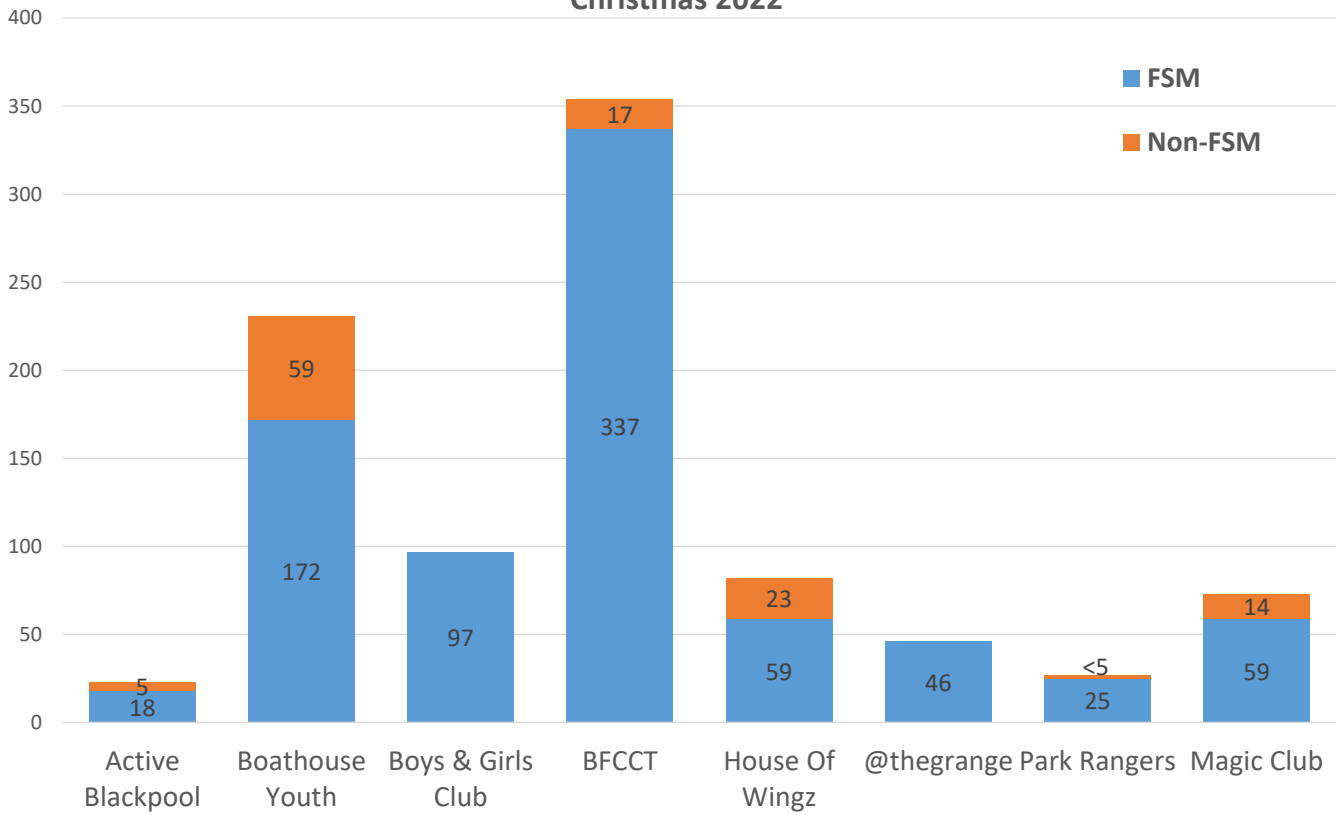
There were also a number of non-attendances but this was largely due to sickness; a number of viruses were circulating across the town affecting participants and staff alike.

Percent of participants by provider: Christmas 2022

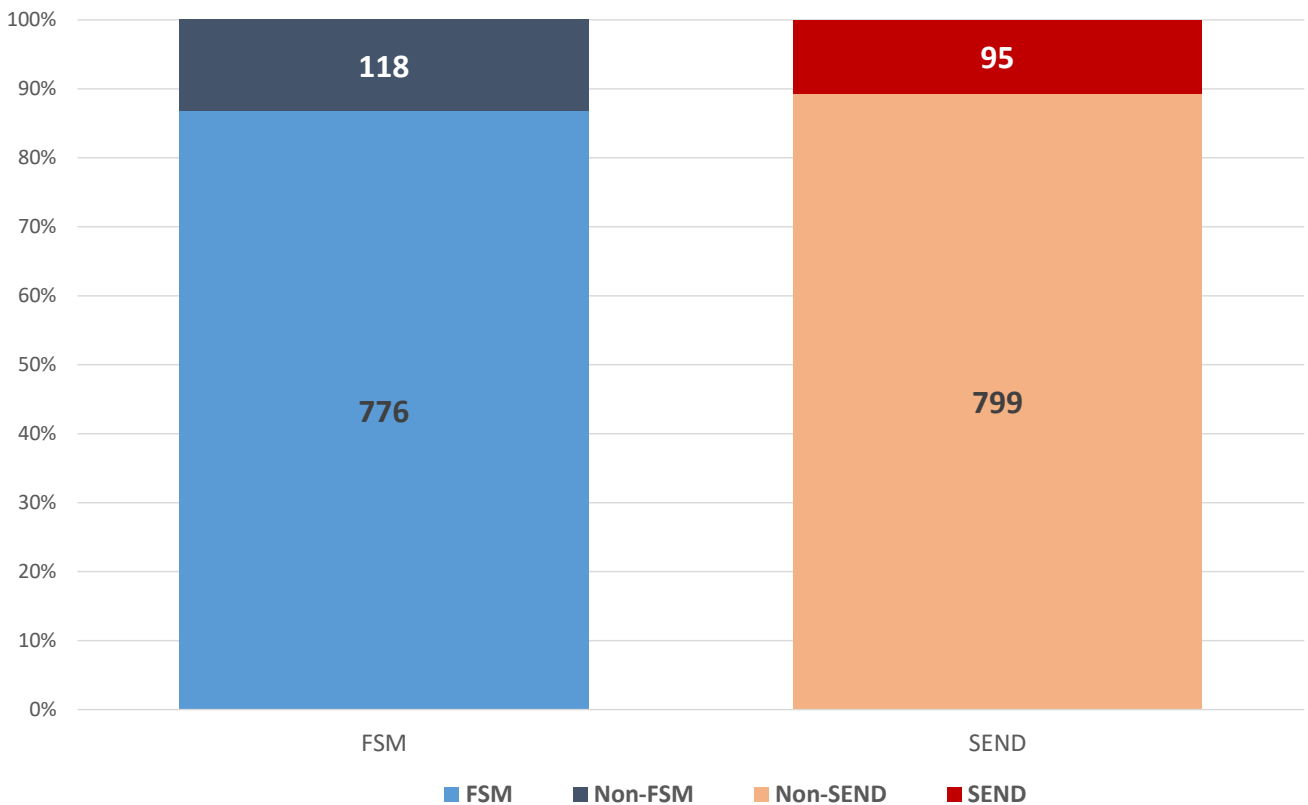


- 894 participants attended over 2,500 activity sessions
- There was an average of 2.8 visits per participant
- 79% of all participants were primary school age
- 20% were secondary school age
- A further 13 participants were aged either nursery age or 16+
- 87% of participants were eligible for FSM

**Number of participants by provider and FSM eligibility:
Christmas 2022**



Unique participants by FSM and SEND: Christmas 2022



February Half Term

The Blackpool Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF), supported 958 unique participants, across seven providers for 3 weeks. 88% of participants being children on free school meals (FSM) and 12% being targeted through other vulnerabilities.

An action packed February delivery saw a wide variety of fun physical and creative activities from puppet making workshops, music sessions, swimming, dodgeball, football, Valentine arts/crafts and street dance to cookery and tree planting.

Our provider, BFCCT, opened a new gaming club for 25 participants at their Blackpool FC Stadium, as well as a range of gaming activities, the attendees also spent time on physical gaming such as football and dodgeball.

They also provided a mix of both daytime and evening clubs to attract participants in local areas of higher anti-social behaviour which proved successful in attracting new attendees to the HAF.

BoatHouse Youth took 40 senior aged participants on a fabulous 7 day canal residential, cruising the waterways on barges through 25 locks along the Grand Union Canal to Warwick and even bumping into canal boating legend Robbie Cummings from TV show Canal Boat Diaries.

There were also trips to the cinema, the Manchester Science Museum, a retro arcade club, a Blackpool Football Club match at Stoke City, and Depot Mayfield (Manchester's new multi-use cultural venue for the city).

With Valentine's Day falling into the half term provision there were a range of themed activities including a "Love Yourself" week by our Skool of Street club. They wanted to shift the narrative away from having a partner or someone to love at Valentines and instead wanted their cohorts to think about self-love and the value of treating themselves with love and compassion.

Our family inclusive programme @theGrange embarked on a tree planting exercise on their home estate Grange Park. Tree saplings were planted by each of the participants who then wrote "Letters of Hope" to themselves to be opened in 15 years' time (when the saplings will be fully grown trees) on 14 February 2038. It is hoped the families will come back together to visit the trees and celebrate their achievements and their community.

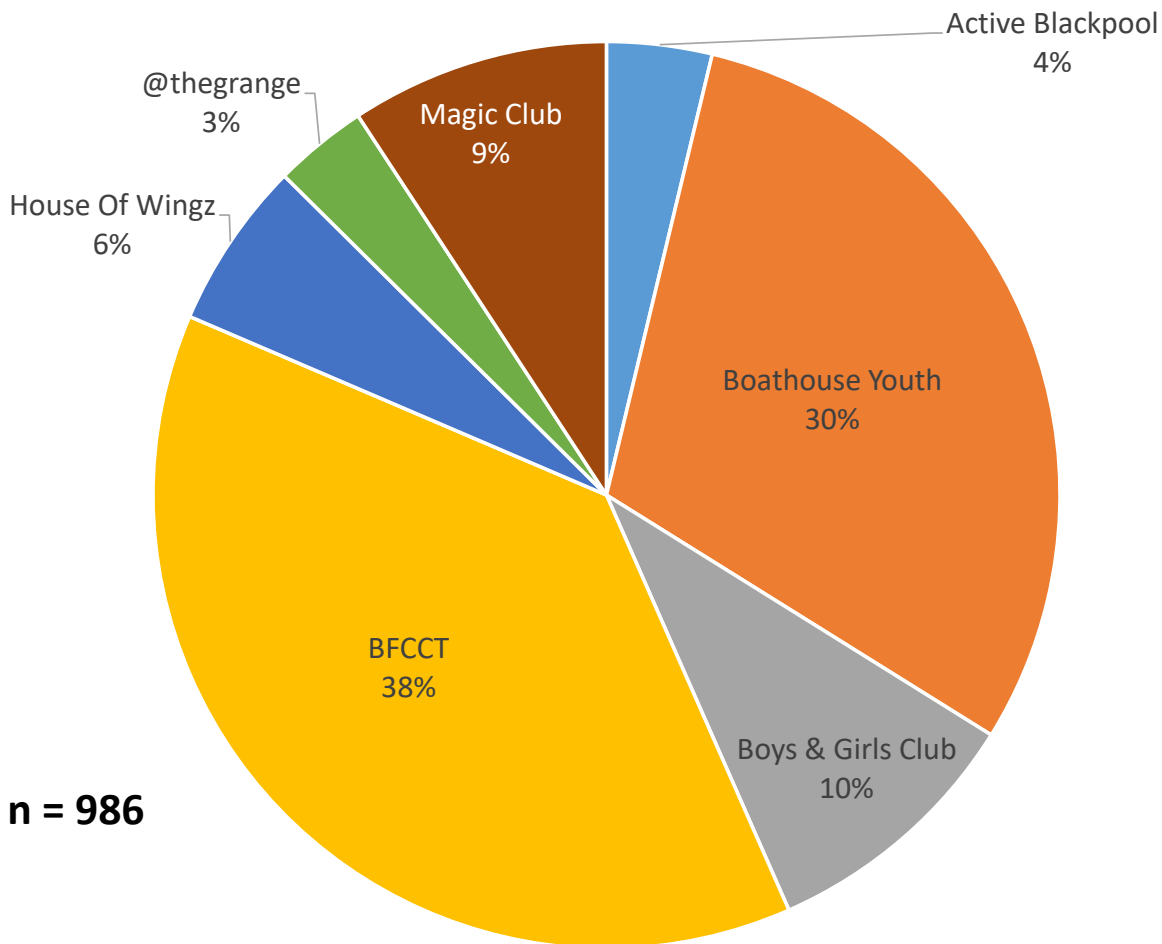


We were able to increase our SEND specific programme to three clubs across the town all of which provided a wide choice of sports, arts, crafts and themed events tailored to the attendee’s specific needs and abilities.

The HAF programme was delivered at 25 clubs across the town, in schools, parks, community and youth centres.

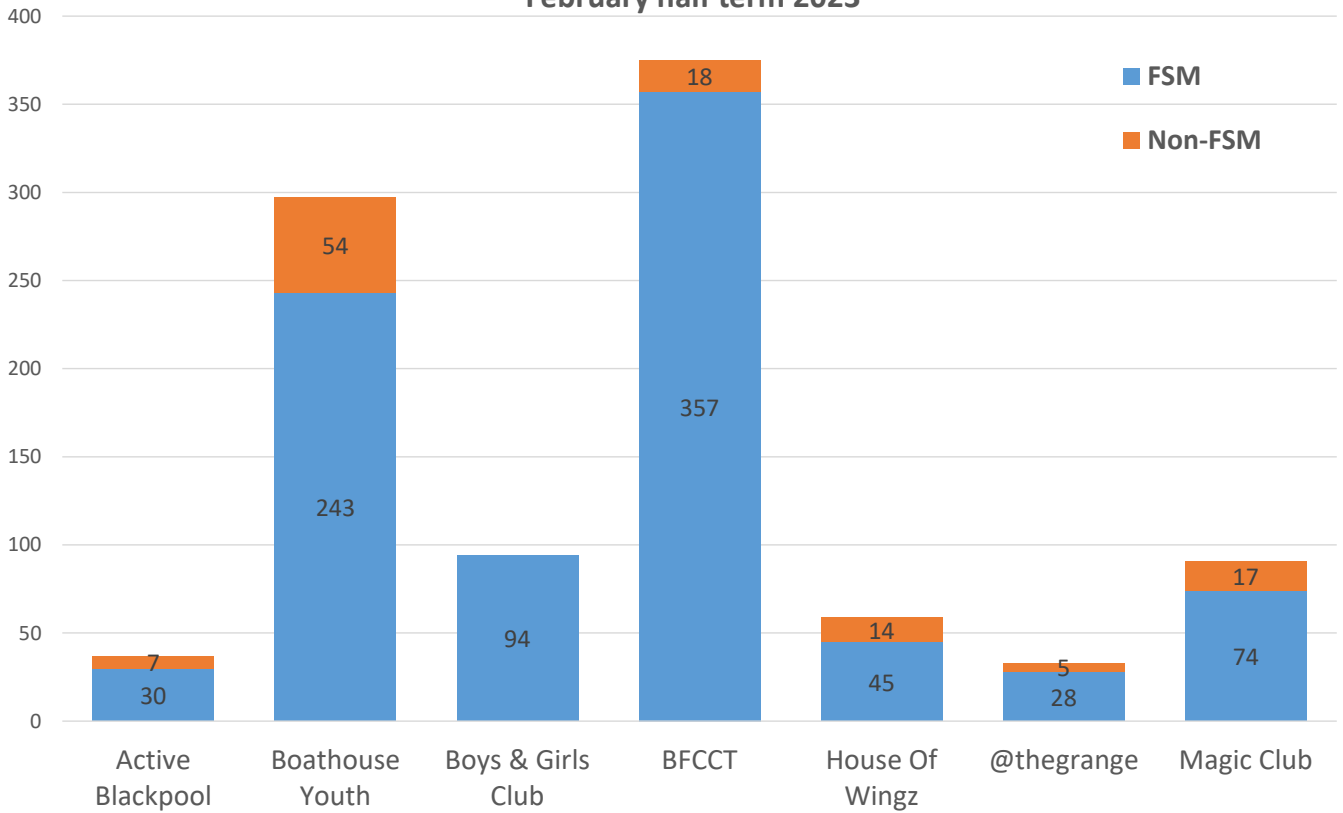
The unique numbers engaged increased from the previous year’s May HAF by a total of 414 unique attendees as did the range of activities in place and the number of HAF locations/clubs across the town.

Percent of participants by provider: February half term 2023

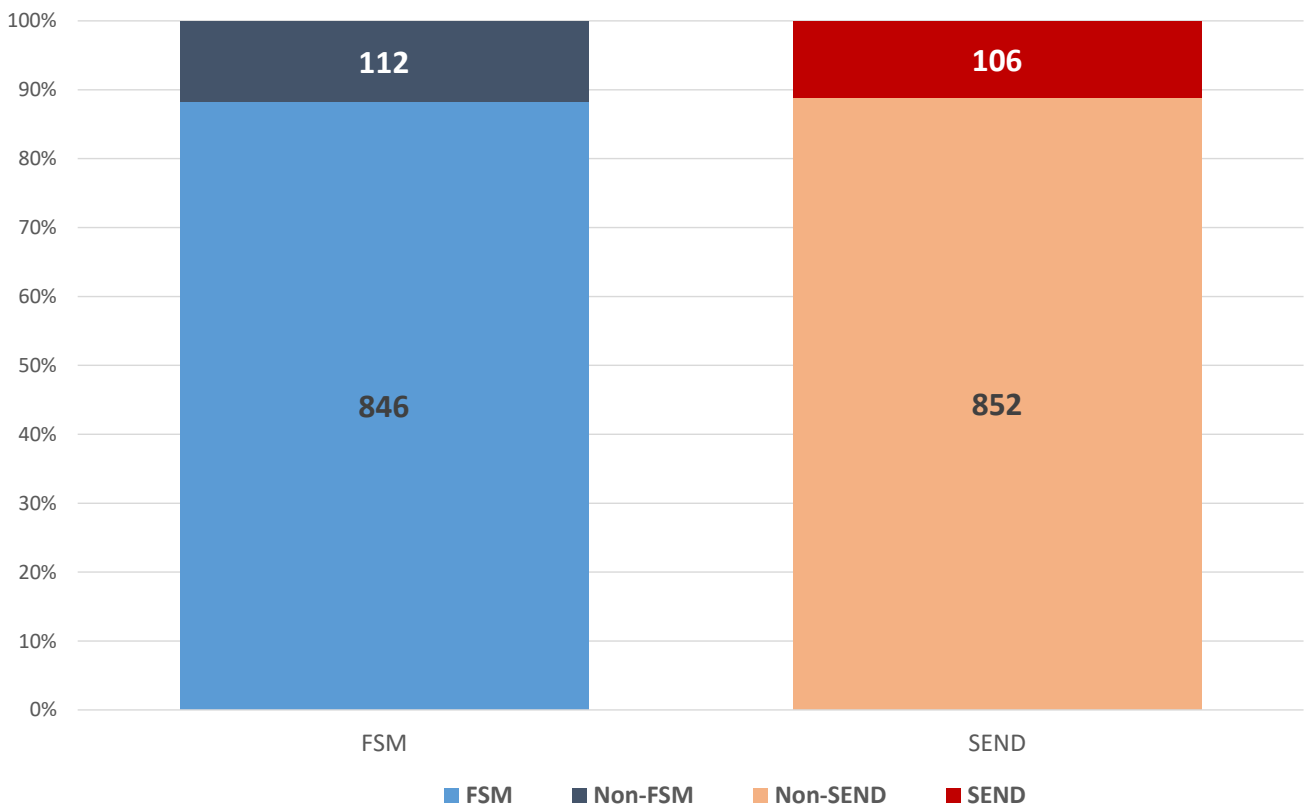


- 958 participants attended over 3,600 activity sessions
- There was an average of 3.8 visits per participant
- 82% of all participants were primary school age
- 18% were secondary school age
- <5 participants were aged 16+
- 88% of participants were eligible for FSM

**Number of participants by provider and FSM eligibility:
February half term 2023**



Unique participants by FSM and SEND: February 2023



Food

Our HAF provision provided all participants with at least one healthy nutritious meal per session with all food provided of school food standard. The majority of food served was hot, however, where this was not possible due to location then there were a variety of cold alternatives on offer.

Whilst a number of our providers sourced and prepared their own food, cooked on site and of a high standard, other providers took advantage of our Blackpool Council Catering Services offer. These meals also met school food standards and were safely conveyed to each venue across the town. We worked throughout the year with these providers and their participants to create a menu for each holiday provision that ensured a suitable range of hot and cold food plus snacks that were agreeable to all.

Feedback

“Can’t believe she helps herself to fruit now, and she discovered she likes hummus and asks for it at home” – Parent

“Providing good quality homemade food is key to the success of the programme, with all the food and packed lunches freshly prepared. By cooking a little extra we usually manage to provide a small amount of seconds for those who want it. It is very rewarding to see children coming back for seconds”
– Provider

“He’s loved the food, most days he told me he’s had seconds, he loves the veg noodles most”
- Parent

“We were quite astounded and overjoyed at how many of the children ate the food. We tactically send our older participants for food first, the younger children already look up to them as leaders, so when they say that the food is delicious children feel more compelled to try it. Our staff are so encouraging with regards to food and trying new things that we always achieve success in this area, but for example, we had not anticipated the African Okra to go down so well, but it vanished before our eyes so we were really pleased and now have some more solid food choices for future projects” - Provider



As previously discussed we also worked in partnership with one of our providers Dealmaker Ltd to create bespoke recipes for their “Dish Up” recipe boxes for our participants.

Each box fed a family of 4 people with one delicious main meal that met the School Food Standards and is low cost but high quality and healthy. It included all the ingredients, recipe card and a QR code link to a recipe video if needed, thus supporting participants and their parents to make quick and easy to cook recipes. It also introduces families to global cuisine and promotes understanding of the world around them through their eating experiences.

The recipe boxes also promote sustainability – all of the pods of ingredients are made of 40% recycled contents, they are biodegradable and the boxes themselves are also recyclable. Printed on the boxes are ideas for the boxes to be re-used, such as a toy storage box, or a mini theatre for puppet shows

They also offer environmental benefits, all Dish Up boxes are vegetarian or vegan. By encouraging plant based eating we are not only promoting health benefits but also reducing the carbon footprint of the residents of Blackpool long term.



Nutritional Education and the promotion of healthy living /lifestyles

Our Providers used mealtimes in the main, to talk about food nutrition and the importance of healthy choices. For example, those providers making food on site also used food preparation and cooking time to demonstrate the importance of nutrition, involving the children in fruit preparation and taste tests. During snack times, staff engaged discussions on healthier alternatives and how these can fuel the body rather than sugary/salty snacks.

Our Park Rangers provision included sessions around the food cycle, planting of seeds to grow fruit and vegetables, the seedlings were then sent home with participants to continue the cycle at home and involve the entire family.

A family focused provision by Groundworks based at a community centre @theGrange also used its own food allotments, community garden and sustainable food growth programme to show families how they could make a small food garden themselves and the recipes they could make from their own produce. Recipe cards were also provided for the meals the young people had eaten on the HAF sourced from the community garden.

We purchased water bottles for all of our HAF participants. Alongside HAF these bottles also promoted the “GULP” – Give up Loving Pop campaign running in Blackpool which promotes the drinking of water as opposed to fizzy drinks.

Some providers ran cookery sessions to engage children and their families in food preparation and nutrition to produce a healthy meal to either eat at the session or take home to the wider family.

Other providers gave out recipes and leaflets promoting low cost healthy eating and recipes for the family.



As described earlier we also used the “Dish Up Recipe” boxes at Christmas to encourage participants and their parents to make healthy, nutritious quick and easy to cook recipes together at home. It also introduced families to affordable plant based global cuisine.

HAF Participants are definitely more conscious of what they are eating and the benefits of a healthy diet and the cost of food.

Many providers have seen a change in the eating habits of the young people attending, reporting their participants are much more adventurous in their food choices now.

“We did a survey before the project began, and it showed that only 42% of participants would consider eating vegan cauliflower curry. The survey at the end of the project showed that 88% of participants enjoyed this meal and 80% finished their whole portion. We feel we can help young people change their perceptions of the food they are eating by helping them to understand the benefits of healthy eating, and by leading by example. We are embedding conversations around healthy eating in the projects e.g. a new rap with the lyrics encouraging healthy eating” – Provider

We are hearing more and more positive impact reports from parents and the common denominators of this feedback is improvement in food choices and willingness to eat new foods, and also a raise in confidence and self-esteem” - Provider



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Whilst most of our clubs are inclusive for all children and young people we also had providers that ran SEND specific programmes catering to children with mild to moderate needs.

The Boathouse Youth's Pathway Provision works to build confidence and self-esteem through focused group work sessions. It is a bespoke provision with additional staffing structures (including 1:1s) and is inclusive of a door-to-door transport provision to further reduce barriers to participation

It included a Summer residential camping opportunity with various adjustments made to accommodate a total of 15 children, who enjoyed the offsite activities, with 8 of those staying overnight.

“This young person’s confidence and participation has improved significantly since accessing Pathway and getting involved in the Pathway Summer Camp. She got involved and engaged with all the activities and stayed overnight for 2 nights which was a big improvement for her. She was initially quite nervous about the crate stacking, but with some encouragement from staff she climbed on and got involved. She also interacted positively with other Pathway members and made some friends in the group. She completed all these activities, such as pedal cars, crate stacking, the swamp, climbing wall and archery independently and we can see how her confidence has grown.” (Additional Needs Support Worker)

The BFCCT SEND camp, provided an array of both physical and enrichment activities for children/ young people living with mild to moderate learning difficulties and disabilities. Groups are smaller and have additional fully trained staff in attendance. Breakout rooms for quiet down time are also available throughout the sessions. Sessions have included football, dodgeball, basketball, boccia, multi skills games, arts and crafts, video game console use, Ipad game use, board games and lego.



A visit from “Hands on Animals “was a huge success at Christmas .They had a variety of animals from giant land snails, African millipedes tarantulas, a gecko, a royal python and a chinchilla It was a great experience for the children and gave them the opportunity to step slightly out their comfort zone and build confidence in a small, safe environment whilst educating them on the different characteristics of the animals.

The club also had a volunteer who is a pupil at one of our local SEND schools, the young person had been attending the HAF club historically, but now older they wanted to volunteer at the club and were given the opportunity to do so. BFCCT reported they were a great addition to the team and will be returning again next Summer.

“It really helped that they knew most of the younger participants from the school they go to. This really helped when we had a new participant who at first was reluctant to come into the building. The volunteer was an asset to the team, it’s great to see how his confidence has grown from participant to youth leader” - Provider

“Brilliant, fantastic, friendly, entertaining, inclusive; these are just a few words to describe BFCCT SEND camp. Our young person absolutely loves coming in the holidays, and she’s made lots of new friends along the way. Well done to the team, we think you are all awesome!!” - Guardian

We were further able to increase our SEND specific offer to three camps from February 2023, with Active Blackpool providing sport and physical activities to 5 – 18-year-olds with mild to moderate additional needs at Blackpool Sports Centre. This has increased the SEND offer available across the town.



Signposting and Referrals

We are very fortunate that all of our Providers offering #BlackpoolHAF provision are all local to Blackpool and their trained staff are able to offer information, signposting or referrals to other local services and support to participants and their families. They engage with both the young people and their families during pick up and collection times plus online/text.

We facilitated interactive learning workshops in Early Help delivered by Early Help link workers, all experienced practitioners and also Safeguarding training with specific emphasis on HAF clubs.

We also ensured all of our providers were made aware of any local initiatives such as Warm Hubs, Food Banks, Energy advice/ Cost of Living workshops etc. Over Winter/Christmas we issued our providers with a “Get help this Winter” leaflet to distribute to families, giving a raft of advice and information on support available

A number of Services were sign posted, these included:

- Citizens Advice
- Housing support officers
- School nurses
- Warm Hubs
- Family support services
- Early Years
- Jobcentre Plus
- Foodbanks
- Household Support Fund



Conclusion

Since returning to Public Health's control we have worked tirelessly to ensure our new framework of provision and partnership working has been successful in increasing our reach and commitment to supporting our eligible children.

We have run two successful Tender exercises to further increase the wealth and diversity of provision available, ensuring we also have a larger sustainable SEND specific programme catering to children with mild or moderate needs. This has seen our SEND offer reach an average of 10% of our cohort.

We now have nine contracted providers on the framework, many of whom have worked extremely hard to increase their provision. By upscaling their delivery and the number of locations available across Blackpool, we have been able to ensure that in those areas of highest need our eligible young people and their families have doorstep access to HAF activities and food (see Appendix 1 – FSM Areas and HAF locations Maps)

Our Summer, six week HAF programme, supported 1460 unique eligible children offering families a safe environment to be active, educated and entertained through enrichment activities and with the provision of healthy meals. This accounted for 19 %of our Free School Meal (FSM) cohort.

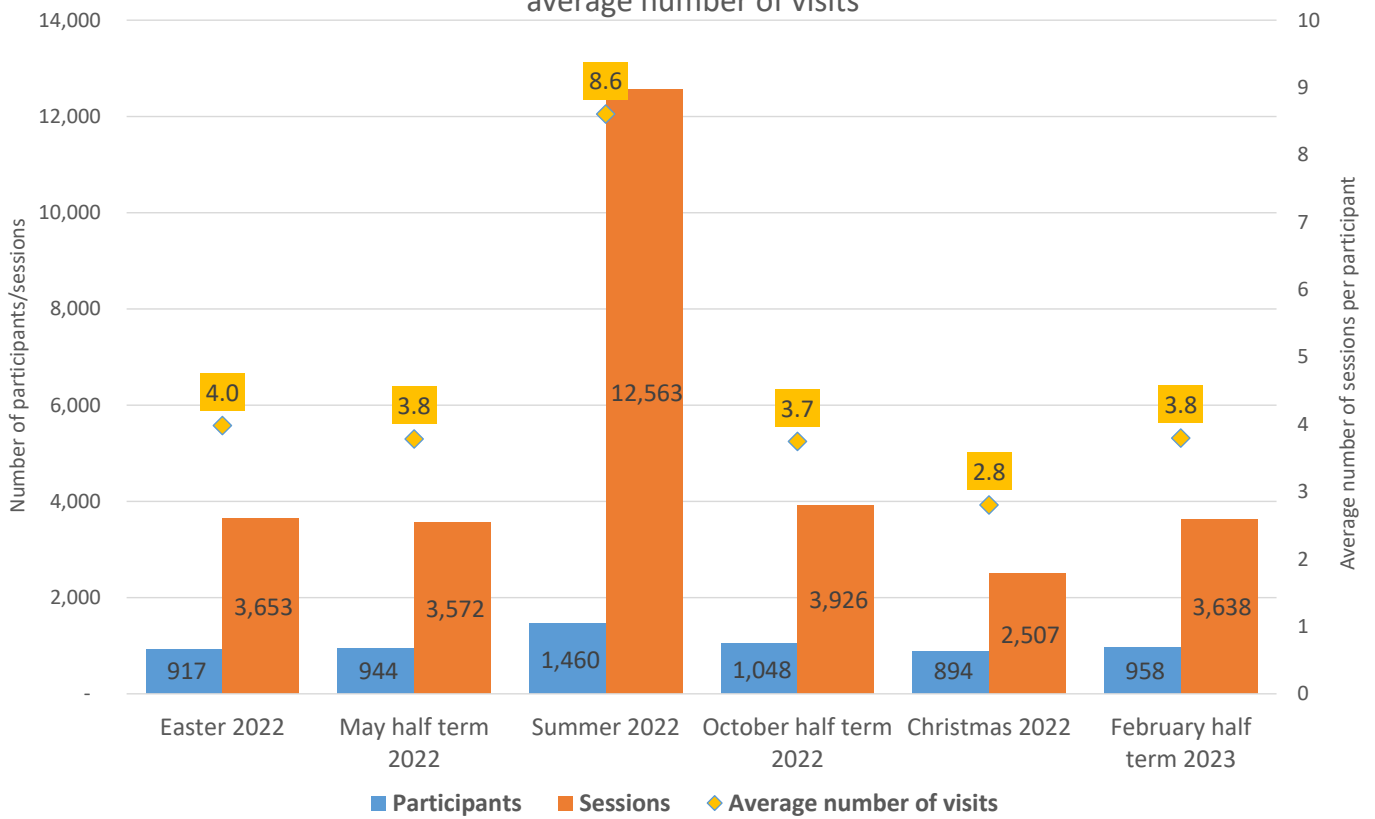
The chart below demonstrates the number of unique visits versus the total number of visits for each holiday provision. It evidences that our HAF participants are attending our provisions more than once, in fact the average number of times attended per child is 4.45, but during the Summer holidays the actual number of visits is 8.6 times. This clearly demonstrates the success of the provision with our eligible children.

Whilst attendance throughout the provision is still predominantly primary aged children, we now see an average of 20.5 % of attendances from our secondary aged cohort. Our providers have taken their clubs out to the areas where this age group were gathering, offering activities to engage them and at times better suited to their needs such as evenings. We have also sort to provide more clubs in areas of higher anti-social behaviour.

Overall our #BlackpoolHAF programme has grown not only in both reach and size of provision but also the quality of the activities and food offered. The partnership is collaborative and reactive and strives to achieve the best for our participants.



Number of participants, number of sessions and average number of visits



Recommendations

- Increase our reach of FSM eligible young people to the programme. The provision currently reaches 19.4% of our Free School Meal (FSM) HAF Cohort, compared to the national average of 23%. To increase our figure we aim to increase the number of unique eligible children engaging by increasing promotion of our programme, increasing our existing provision and the number of providers we have.
- Increase engagement with our secondary aged cohort.
- Provide at least 1000 places across Blackpool to children and young people each day throughout the HAF delivery.
- In addition to the 1000 places, if possible, we would like to deliver a more targeted programme for SEND children and young people who are currently not able to attend due to the complex nature of their disability. Involvement of specialist SEND schools would help create a more bespoke service as well as providing advice and support to make a more accessible offer.
- Work on reducing non-attendance figures with Providers.
- Continue to recruit new Providers to our framework.
- Continue to offer a wide range of activities across provider organisations.
- Continue to foster strong and effective partnerships between schools, SEND, Blackpool Council and voluntary and community sector organisations.



Feedback and Social Media Links

Social Media Links

[Blackpool HAF](#)

[Magic Club Snow Camp](#)

[Boathouse Youth Summer of 22](#)

[House of Wings /Skool of Street](#)

[@theGrange Summer 22 HAF](#)

[Magic Club –Toast and Jam Summer](#)

[Boathouse Youth Cycle week](#)

Feedback

“(child) and (child) absolutely love the HAF Camp. They have been to all of them and enjoy them so much. The staff are lovely, the kids talk about them at home. I hope there are more in the future. 10/10.’ Parent

“I love coming to holiday club and learning new sports. I have never done golf before, and it was so much fun!” KS1 Participant

“My son loves the Holiday Clubs. He enjoys all the activities and making new friends has helped him with his confidence a lot”. Parent

“You guys are amazing. Thank you for all that you do for our young people”. Parent

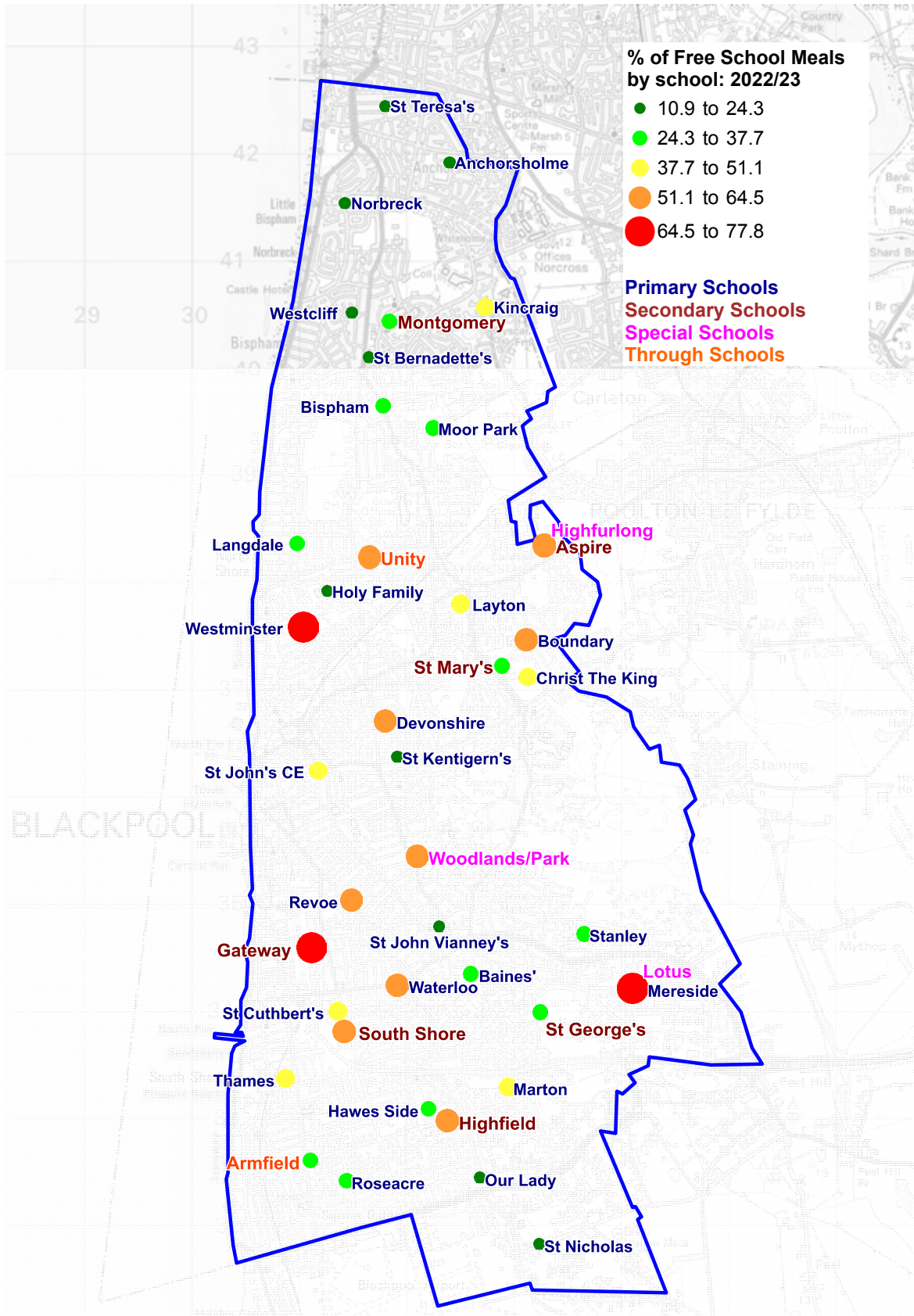
“Our twins both in year two went on the Christmas trips with you guys and had an absolute ball..!! We struggle so much with additional needs in our household and this club you guys provide is fantastic for us as it gives our kids a fabulous experience but also helps give them routine while school is off and helps us give much needed one on one times to their sister!” Parent

“The trips that (child) attended last December was fantastic and we were very grateful for this opportunity and very thankful for your huge effort providing such activities for the kids. There are no words can describe my gratitude towards your fabulous job. Really appreciate all the effort.” Parent

“Both children really enjoyed it the youngest (child) went from hating mud to loving outdoors Oldest loved learning new skills like tree eye and hammock making. I think it’s a fabulous group and there should be more around too many indoor groups that don’t offer the same learning experience” Parent

Appendix 1

Proportion of FSM by school: 2020/21





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SPLIT

THE ARCHIVE

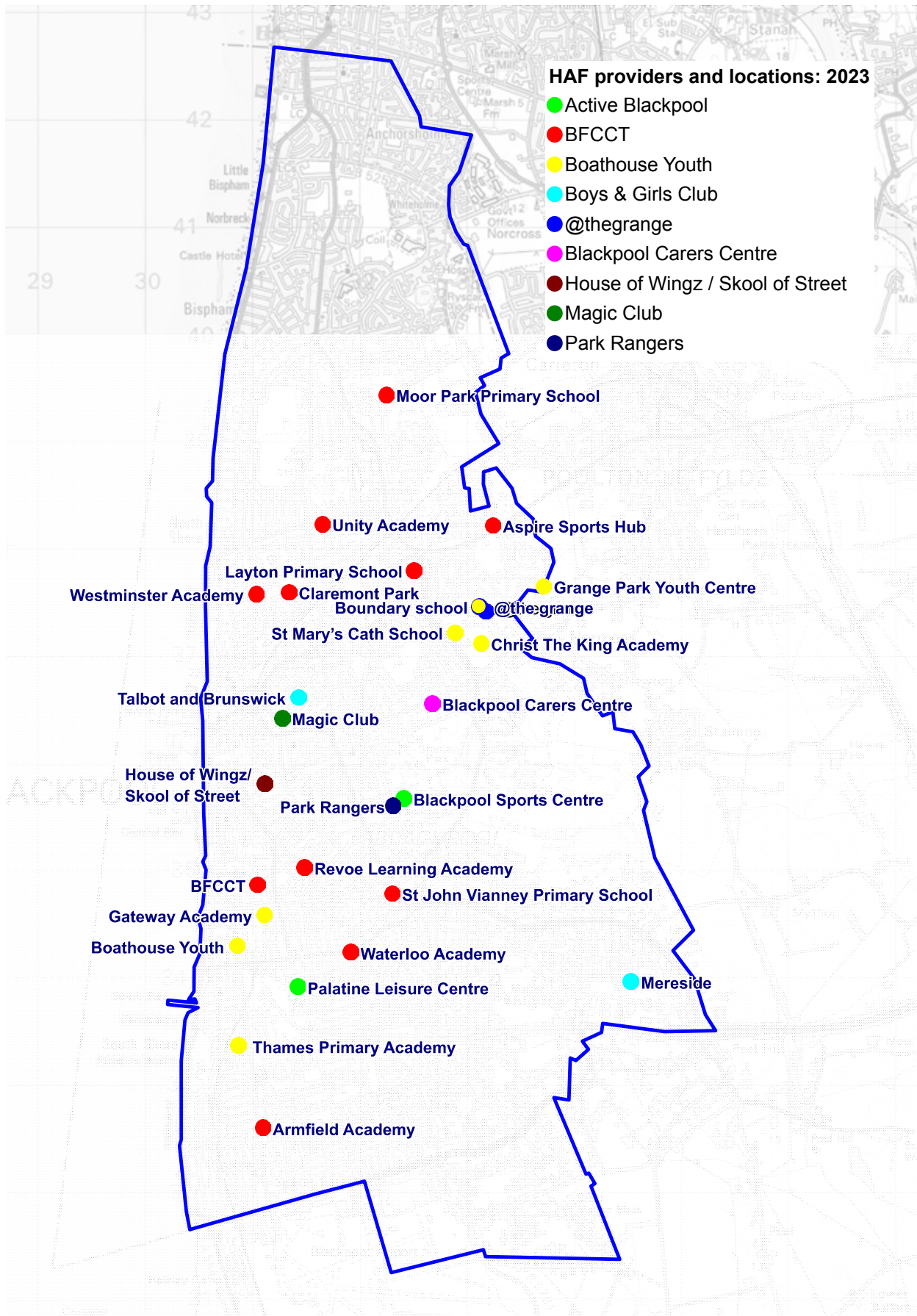
Finish CROWN

Levi's

LEVI'S

HOCH

Dave



Active Blackpool

1. Blackpool Sports Centre
2. Palatine Leisure Centre

Blackpool Football Club Community Trust

1. Armfield Academy
2. Aspire Sports Hub
3. Blackpool FC Community Trust Bloomfield Road
4. Claremont Park
5. Layton Primary School
6. Moor Park Primary School
7. Revoe Learning Academy
8. St John Vianney Catholic Primary School
9. Unity Academy
10. Westminster Primary Academy
11. Waterloo Primary Academy

Boathouse Youth

1. Grange Park Youth Centre
2. Boundary Primary School
3. St Mary's Catholic Academy
4. Christ The King Catholic Academy
5. Blackpool Gateway Academy
6. The Boathouse Youth Bloomfield
7. Thames Primary Academy

EPSCIC (Boys and Girls Club)

1. Talbot and Brunswick
2. Mereside

1. House of Wingz / Skool of Street
2. Magic Club
3. @thegrange
4. Park Rangers
5. Blackpool Carers Centre



Appendix 2

Case Studies

Case study 1 – Groundworks

One of our case studies reported on a young mum with 4 children who had a bad anxiety attack which bordered on a panic attack on our HAF Manchester trip, due to not being able to locate her pram at the stadium. The community engagement officer supported her to get her grounded and so she felt safe. Following on from this she has been supported by being given paperwork to read through to help with her anxiety, it contains ideas of ways she can help manage her own wellbeing to help reduce the likelihood of panic attacks going forward.

She has also reported huge issues with her energy supplier and she has now been referred into Green doctor support from our community green doctor.

The mum also relayed details of issues in her past and she has now been referred into a specialist therapeutic service to help her to deal with these issues.

As a result of the support offered to her she says she now feels comfortable in coming and asking for help when she needs it and knows as single parent she doesn't have to struggle alone.

She has also taken steps to assist her teenage daughter into a support service to help with her anxiety and to help to manage the strain of always having to help her mum in particular when mum struggles with her mental health.

Case study 2 - Groundworks

A family joined us on the HAF programme for the first time this summer. The mum has told us she didn't normally leave the house due to high levels of anxiety and feelings of being unable to cope. A relative talked her into signing up to HAF and she did so and has thoroughly enjoyed it.

She has learnt that by coming out and mixing with other young mums and families that she doesn't have to feel so alone and now she comes into the center several times a week and has reported that she no longer feels anxious about going out and about with her children.

Case study 3 - Skool of Street

This was taken from the journal that we use to track progress and to evaluate the impact of our projects. We also interviewed the young person to gain further insight into their experience. The participant is 15 years old.

' I decided to come here because I went on the website after my mum told me about it and I liked what it said about the Values, and how acceptance is important. I always feel like the odd one out at school because most of my friends like to hang around at the park and stuff but a) I am not allowed, and b) I don't want to go because they get up to bad stuff and I would be stressed about getting in trouble.

I was trying to find some friends who do decent stuff like this. I still feel shy but everyone is so nice so it's just made me feel more positive and less lonely. I know I'll make friends here once I can come out of my shell but even though I'm still quiet I feel oomphy and I like it that some of the volunteers aren't that much older than me because I feel more like they can get me because they were in my shoes not long ago.

I also feel like if I stick too it maybe one day soon, I can do that so its inspiring me to do good things. I spoke to my mum about it, and she said I seem more happier, and that's good because I was feeling a bit depressed. Especially after Covid because in that time that's when all my friends went out but I wasn't allowed so I grew apart from them. I want some of them to come to this too but they don't want to, but they don't understand how good it is so I kind of feel ok about that because it's my thing anyway.'

Case Study K - BFCCT

The following case study is a young person from the Talbot and Brunswick area, one of the most reported areas in Blackpool for anti-social behaviour. This area is also recognized nationally as one of the most deprived wards.

K has been a regular participant at our PL Kicks session at the sports barn which he attends to keep away from this trouble.

Since K has been coming to the PL Kicks session on sports barn, he has been able to find a release for all his energy with his mum saying "K is now well behaved at home as he uses all his energy for kicks". This is a massive improvement because when we first met K he was misbehaving at home and school.

K goes to a local school where he has found it hard to make friends as K is originally from Blackburn. It has not been easy for him to settle into Blackpool, so the coaches that were on the HAF sessions made it their aim to make K feel comfortable while attending Kicks sessions. Since being at Kicks it is visible to see how much he has developed in confidence and developed his social skills, making friends too. K has personally thanked staff for this.

K utilised our half-term offer by attending sessions at the sports barn on Monday 4pm-8pm and Friday 4pm-8pm. Through coming to these sessions and having such good behaviour when attending we decided to offer K the opportunity

to come on a trip to LEVEL in Preston. This is a place which hosts bowling and laser tag. After we offered K this place his response was "I've never played bowling or laser tag" and he also added that he'd "never been to Preston". From this we got onto the topic of Blackpool vs Blackburn which K's Mum mentioned "her fiancé had been saving up for tickets to this game all year" this shows how K's family who haven't got a lot of money are committed to providing memories for K.

Staff who go to Sports Barn have said "K is a wonderful participant to have a round as his happiness rubs off on everyone who attends the session".

While on the Kicks programme there are various opportunities to represent Blackpool FC Community Trust in competitions such as one off matches and tournaments. These opportunities get offered out to young people who have regularly attended kicks sessions not only that, but the behaviour of the young person will also determine if they are offered these opportunities. K is one of the individuals that have been recently selected to take part in a tournament which was held in Liverpool.

This tournament included teams like, Liverpool, Blackburn, and Preston. When staff told K he was invited he was ecstatic and couldn't contain his excitement. His mum had this to say, "thank you so much for offering this opportunity to K he cannot wait to get there and play. You have made such a difference to him and us".

Case Study C - BFCCT

Meet C, he first started engaging with our provision in summer 2022 when he attended our HAF half term camp. C and his mum became aware of our half term camp when school informed them of our disability offer. Because at that point, prior to Summer, we had not worked directly with C at his school, where we deliver weekly physical activity sessions.

Since Summer, C now also attends our Friday Night Club and has been at October HAF camp.

C lives with autism and experiences severe mental health difficulties. We asked C what his experience has been of the HAF camp, he said, "I think it's a fabulous thing, it's enjoyable and it actually helps quite a few people around Blackpool and all that." We asked him what it was like attending HAF camp for the first time over the summer, he said, "It was a fabulous thing. I met a lot of people, and it was enjoyable. It brought a better person out in me, and I found my true self."

We spoke to C's mum, to hear her views on how our disability programs have impacted C. She said, "C has never attended anything before, as we weren't aware of anything for him. It wasn't until his school mentioned the Trust to us that we became aware of a program suited to his needs. And he now loves going to Friday Night Club and can't wait for the next HAF camp. He enjoys going and has met new friends and going keeps his mind occupied. It's his space and time."

Paul, the staff member who delivers on the disability program, said of C, "It's a pleasure having C attend our HAF half term camp and now Friday Night club. As of this academic year, I now work with his class in school through the funding we receive from Children in Need. We have built a good relationship with C and his mum, and, as far as I can tell, C really enjoys seeing us, whether at school or when attending HAF camp and Friday Night Club. We're very grateful of the funding we receive to deliver these programs that make a positive impact on children and young people, such as C."

We asked C what he would say to someone who has never engaged with the Community Trust and HAF before and is thinking of coming, he said, "I would say it's an enjoyable place. It's basically a safe place for you to express your feelings and you can get exercise and you can have fun with new people and meet new people."



This report was prepared by:

Annie Tyas

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We would like to thank all of the partners who have worked with us to make Blackpool's 2022/23 HAF Programme a success.



Department
for Education

Blackpool Council