



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 9 July 2026

Happy Healthy Active Holiday (HHAH) Programme

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Shirley Reynolds - Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education, Employment & Skills
Lead Director:	Rebecca Carey - Interim Director: Education & Skills
Service Area:	Education and Skills
Report Author:	Rebecca Carey - Interim Director: Education & Skills
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 380808 Email: Rebecca.Carey@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards
Report considered by:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 9 July 2026

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Children & Young People Scrutiny note the impact, reach and continued development of the Healthy Happy Active Holiday (HHAH) programme across Telford and Wrekin, including its contribution to improving outcomes for disadvantaged children and young people.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny with an overview of the Healthy Happy Active Holiday (HHAH) programme, outlining its national context and aims, and presenting local delivery data and impact across Telford and Wrekin between 2022 and 2025. The report highlights participation trends, growth in provision, and the breadth of the local offer, demonstrating how the programme supports children and young people, particularly those eligible for income-related Free School Meals (FSM), to access enriching holiday activities that promote wellbeing, health and social inclusion.

3.0 Background and National Context

- 3.1 The Healthy Happy Active Holiday (HHAH) programme is the local delivery model for the national Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme funded by the Department for Education. Nationally, the programme aims to support children and

young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds to access funded holiday provision which combines healthy meals, physical activity, enrichment opportunities and opportunities to develop social skills. The programme is designed to address holiday hunger, reduce social isolation, improve physical and mental wellbeing, and support families during school holiday periods.

The HHAH programme supports wider national priorities around improving health outcomes, reducing inequalities and ensuring that children and young people can remain active, engaged and supported outside of term time. It also contributes to safeguarding and early help by maintaining contact with vulnerable children and families during holiday periods.

4.0 Local Delivery Overview (2022–2025)

4.1 Growth

Since 2022, the HHAH programme in Telford and Wrekin has expanded significantly in both scale and reach. Delivery takes place across Easter, Summer and Winter holiday periods, with a wide network of providers delivering provision across the borough.

During Easter delivery, the number of providers increased from 20 in 2022 to 52 by 2024 and remained at this level into 2026, reflecting substantial growth in capacity and coverage across communities. The number of available spaces also grew, reaching 4,663 in 2026 compared to 3,758 in 2022. Alongside this, engagement from FSM-eligible children and young people increased, rising from 628 participants in 2022 to 2,702 in 2026.

Summer delivery represents the largest scale of provision and has seen the most significant growth. Provider numbers increased from 25 in 2022 to 71 in 2026, supported by a corresponding expansion in activity spaces and delivery locations. In the same period, the number of FSM-eligible children and young people accessing provision increased from 1,398 to 4,541 in summer 2025, with projected reach to 4,800 in summer 2026. This reflects a sustained strengthening of the programme and its ability to engage a larger proportion of eligible families.

Winter delivery, while smaller in scale, has also shown steady development and consistency. Provider numbers increased from 30 in 2022 to 39 in 2025 with participation from FSM-eligible children reaching over 1,000. A revised delivery model is being introduced in December 2026 - One delivered day of provision pre-Christmas for families and a family activity (pantomime, ski slope, cinema, Jungleland post-Christmas for all to access with a food hamper to support families over the Christmas period.

4.2 Inclusion and SEND Provision

A key area of development within the HHAH programme has been the expansion of inclusive provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). In Easter delivery, SEND-specific spaces increased from no dedicated provision in 2022 to 355 places in 2025. Similarly, Summer provision saw SEND-specific spaces increase from 0 in 2022 to 1,049 in 2025, alongside a rise in SEND participation from 158 to 1,345.

The aim of the HHAH local offer is to ensure that SEND-specific spaces are available across the programme, however it is recognised that there is also a place for specialist SEND sessions and these are supported by a number of providers. In 2025 additional SEND provisions were commissioned to support families unable to access the specialist provision for children who were not able to access the current universal offers in place. This was warmly received and PODs (Parent Carer Forum) will be hosting a specialist programme in 2026.

4.3 **Impact and Reach**

The data demonstrates consistent growth in both the scale of provision and levels of participation across all delivery periods. The increasing proportion of FSM-eligible children accessing provision indicates that the programme is becoming more effective at targeting and engaging disadvantaged families. In Easter delivery, participation increased from 8% of FSM-eligible children in 2022 to nearly a quarter of those eligible in 2026.

Similarly, Summer delivery saw engagement rise from approximately 20% to 49% over the same period, indicating that nearly half of eligible children are now benefiting from the programme during the main holiday period.

The Local Authority is actively working to ensure that the Healthy Happy Active Holiday (HHAH) programme aligns closely with the wider local youth offer, with a particular focus on increasing participation among secondary school aged young people who are eligible for the scheme. This will be achieved by broadening the range and relevance of activities available, ensuring that the offer best reflects the interests and needs of older young people. In order to support this, the Local Authority is working collaboratively with the Youth Development Officer, alongside existing providers of youth provision across the borough to strengthen the offer and build on established expertise. Central to this approach is direct engagement with young people themselves, seeking their views on the types of activities and experiences they would like to see included, thereby ensuring that the programme remains responsive, engaging and meaningful for this age group.

4.4 **Local Offer and Types of Provision**

The HHAH local offer in Telford and Wrekin is broad and diverse, delivered through a wide range of community organisations, schools, and providers. Activities available through the programme include sports and physical activities, outdoor learning, creative arts, crafts and music, cooking and nutrition sessions, and enrichment opportunities designed to build confidence, resilience and social skills.

Provision is designed to be inclusive and accessible, with many settings offering targeted support for children with SEND, as well as activities tailored to different age groups from early years through to teenagers. The offer also includes opportunities for children to learn about healthy lifestyles through food education and physical activity, alongside social experiences that promote connection and belonging.

The programme also plays an important role in supporting families, providing reassurance that children are safe, engaged and supported during holiday periods.



5.0 Alternative Options

Alongside the continued growth and success of the Healthy Happy Active Holiday (HHAH) programme, it is important that alternative options for future delivery are considered as part of longer-term financial planning. The Government has

confirmed funding for the programme through to 2029 providing a degree of stability to support ongoing delivery and development. In addition, the local authority is exploring opportunities to further expand the programme through the use of Civil Resilience funding over a three-year period, which would enable increased provision across all age ranges and the potential to offer a greater number of places. However, in the event that national funding arrangements were to change beyond this period, the Council would need to consider how holiday provision for children eligible for Free School Meals could be sustained, including through partnership models and alternative delivery approaches, to ensure continued support for those who benefit most from the programme.

6.0 Key Risks

- 6.1 As outlined above in the event that national funding arrangements were to change beyond this period, the Council would need to consider how holiday provision for children eligible for Free School Meals could be sustained, including through partnership models and alternative delivery approaches, to ensure continued support for those who benefit most from the programme.

7.0 Council Priorities

- 7.1 The proposals outlined in this report support the following Council priorities:

- Every child, young person, and adult lives well in their communities
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 Delivery of the HHAH programme has been funded since 2022 through Department for Education Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) grant allocations totalling £3.39m.
- 8.2 The Council's allocation for 2026/27 is £904k, representing a small increase compared with previous years. This reflects the incorporation of HAF funding within the new Children, Families and Youth Grant, whilst remaining ring-fenced for its intended purpose.
- 8.3 Funding for the programme has been confirmed nationally through to 2028/29; however, local authority allocations for future years have not yet been announced.
- 8.4 Regular financial monitoring and review arrangements will be undertaken throughout the financial year to support effective budget management and ensure that any variances, financial pressures, or emerging risks are identified, managed, and reported in a timely manner.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 9.1 Telford and Wrekin Council accept HAF funding allocated by the Department for Education under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. As a result, they are required to administer and deliver the programme in accordance with the grant determination and accompanying DfE guidance. Authorities receiving HAF funding must account for its expenditure and comply with reporting requirements set by the DfE. The grant determination requires confirmation that funds have been properly spent for the purposes intended.

10.0 Ward Implications

- 10.1 The continued expansion of the programme contributes to improved outcomes for children and young people in every ward, helping to reduce inequalities by ensuring that access to high-quality holiday provision is not determined by where a child lives. The programme is specifically designed that wherever possible; children and young people have access to local provision that they can walk to and that a range of half day and whole day activities are available. Although booking of sessions can be completed online on the dedicated HHAH website; to assist parents, the HHAH team do go out into schools to help with registrations and are available to answer parent and carer questions and queries both by phone and email. A HHAH steering group meet throughout the year to review and plan provision.

HHAH recognises the need to deliver holiday provision across the borough regardless of deprivation. In alignment with the DfE school age childcare vision, paid spaces are offered at a large percentage of provisions creating an inclusive holiday offer to all children in the borough.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

- 11.1 The Healthy Happy Active Holiday (HHAH) programme delivers a range of positive health, social and economic benefits for children and families across Telford and Wrekin.

By providing access to nutritious meals, physical activity and enrichment opportunities during school holidays, the programme supports improved physical and mental wellbeing, helping to reduce holiday hunger, inactivity and social isolation.

Socially, the programme promotes inclusion, builds confidence and resilience, and strengthens relationships by enabling children and young people to engage with peers and trusted adults in safe, structured environments, while also supporting continued contact with vulnerable families.

Economically, HHAH reduces financial pressures on families by providing free activities and a healthy meal, as well as mitigating childcare costs, thereby supporting household stability during holiday periods.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 12.1 The Healthy Happy Active Holiday (HHAH) programme has strong equality and diversity implications for children and families across Telford and Wrekin, supporting inclusive access to opportunities regardless of background or need. The programme is designed to prioritise children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly those eligible for Free School Meals, helping to reduce inequalities in access to activities, nutrition and social experiences.

A key feature of the programme is its commitment to inclusion, with a growing range of provision tailored to children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), alongside activities that are accessible across different age groups, communities and levels of need.

By working with a diverse network of local providers and community organisations, the programme ensures that provision reflects the needs and identities of local communities, promoting fairness, participation and a strong sense of belonging for all children.

13.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

- 13.1 There are no climate change, biodiversity or environmental implications.

14.0 Background Papers

None.

15.0 Appendices

None.

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	22/06/2026	02/07/2026	DTW
Finance	22/06/2026	06/07/2026	PT

