



Introduction

The Holiday Activity and Food pilot programme ran over Summer 2022 as a joint project between Cabinet Office, Public Health and Department of Education Sport and Culture and was a similar scheme to those already operating in the UK

This programme provided children who receive Free School Meals access to a Holiday Activity and Food programme place over the Summer Holiday period free of charge.

Highlights

In total 1143 children attended over 85 sessions during the school holiday period.

A total of £55,059.25 was issued to providers from the £90,000 fund.

Success Factors

Attendance numbers indicate that this type of provision can be supported or promoted by the Youth Service based on reach

Those who attended a programme:

- were able to attend free of charge
- received at least one free, nutritious meal per session
- were able to participate in activities that increased physical activity and social interaction during the holiday period

Activity providers:

- were able to run pilot sessions with security that they would be supported by government
- would be happy to engage with similar projects in future
- received positive feedback from parents, attendees and via social media

Challenges

- Covering all areas of the island was identified as out of scope for the pilot programme
- Identifying and engaging with those families who receive free school meals
- Planning and resourcing programmes with short time-frames
- Engaging with providers outside of government for activities and/or healthy food
- Specialist providers to allow access to the programme for those with additional needs, over and above reasonable adjustments, did not come forward for funding
- Occasional "No shows" after spaces were pre-booked, meaning that this space was unable to be filled at short notice
- Negative feedback from parents/carers from those who were seeking free childcare arrangements for which the pilot programme was not intended
- Ability for parents/guardians to fit in with other commitments/arrangements over the holiday period
- Consistency of provision throughout

The Cabinet Office and Public Health would like to thank our activity providers:

Active Souls (Futures by Active Souls); The IOM Children's Centre, Firestarter and; Fit Kids. Thank you also to the Youth Service staff who covered the additional sessions across the Island over the summer period.