

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



## Holiday Activities and Food

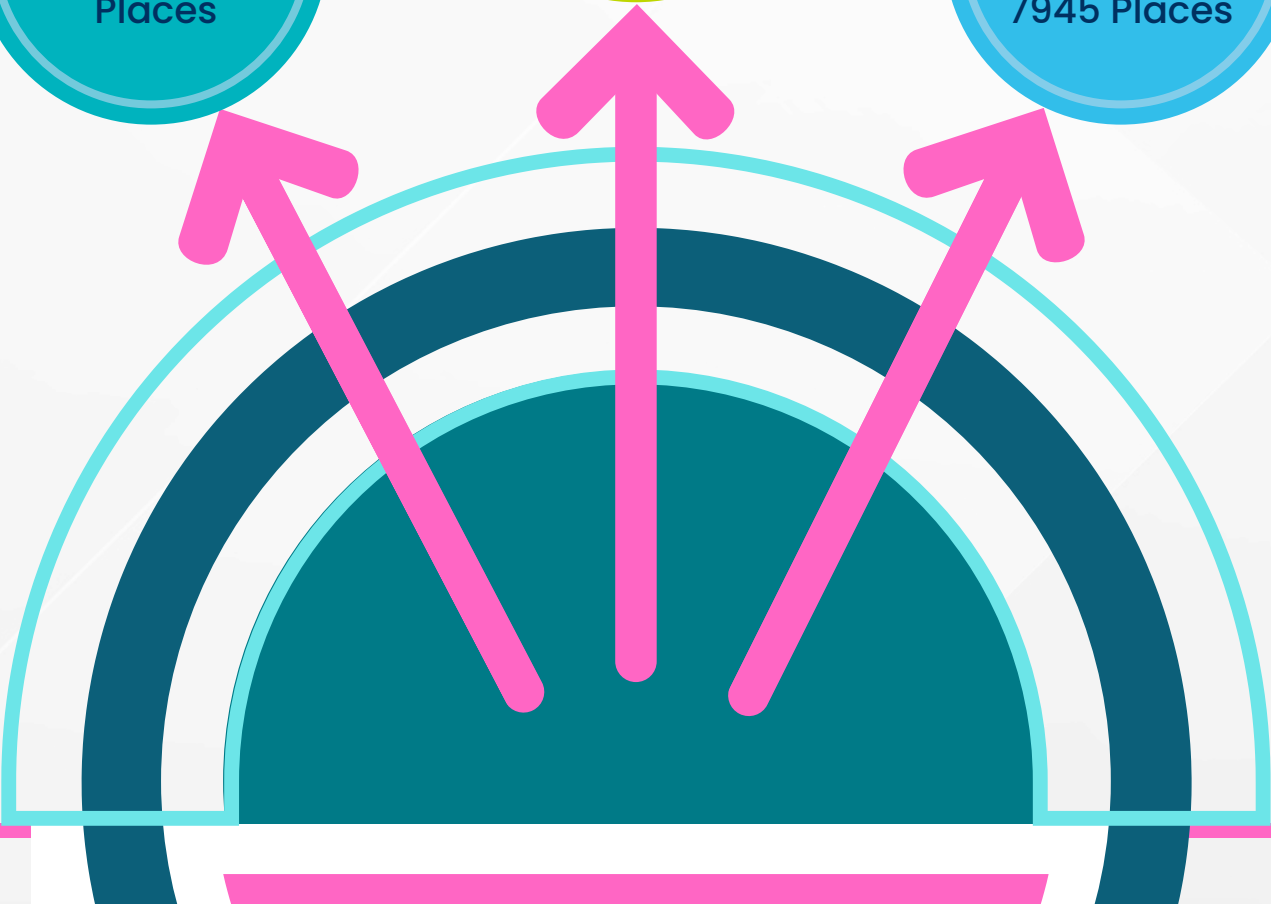
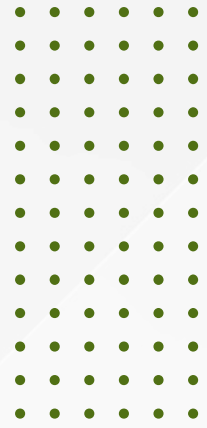


Department  
for Education



**Oldham**  
Council

# OVERVIEW



*“I’ve had the best time at HAF. I was well worried about my new placement and the youth workers really calmed me down by chatting through everything” boy 14*

*“Thank you for letting me come to the camp—we had a proper laugh and I loved trying all the new food. I hope I get the chance to come again” girl 14*



This report sets out information on delivery of the HAF programme in Oldham throughout 2024-25.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has provided support to children in receipt of free school meals through holiday periods in Oldham since 2018.



# OUR APPROACH



Children and young people are at the centre of Oldham HAF. Activities are designed to be enriching and enjoyable. Tasty, filling and nutritious food is served at every camp. Dedication to healthy lifestyles and happy holidays is at the core of Oldham HAF.

Provision is spread to all wards of the town and xx% of the funding was awarded to locally based providers, ensuring that Oldham HAF is truly a community programme.

The HAF programme is designed specifically for participants in receipt of means tested free school meals. The DfE also allows 15% of the funding to be made available for places for children who may not be eligible. In line with local priorities, this has allowed sessions to be opened up for children looked after. This supports carers through the ongoing cost-of living crisis.

Places are also able to be allocated to children with no recourse to public funds and others who would benefit from the support, on a discretionary basis.

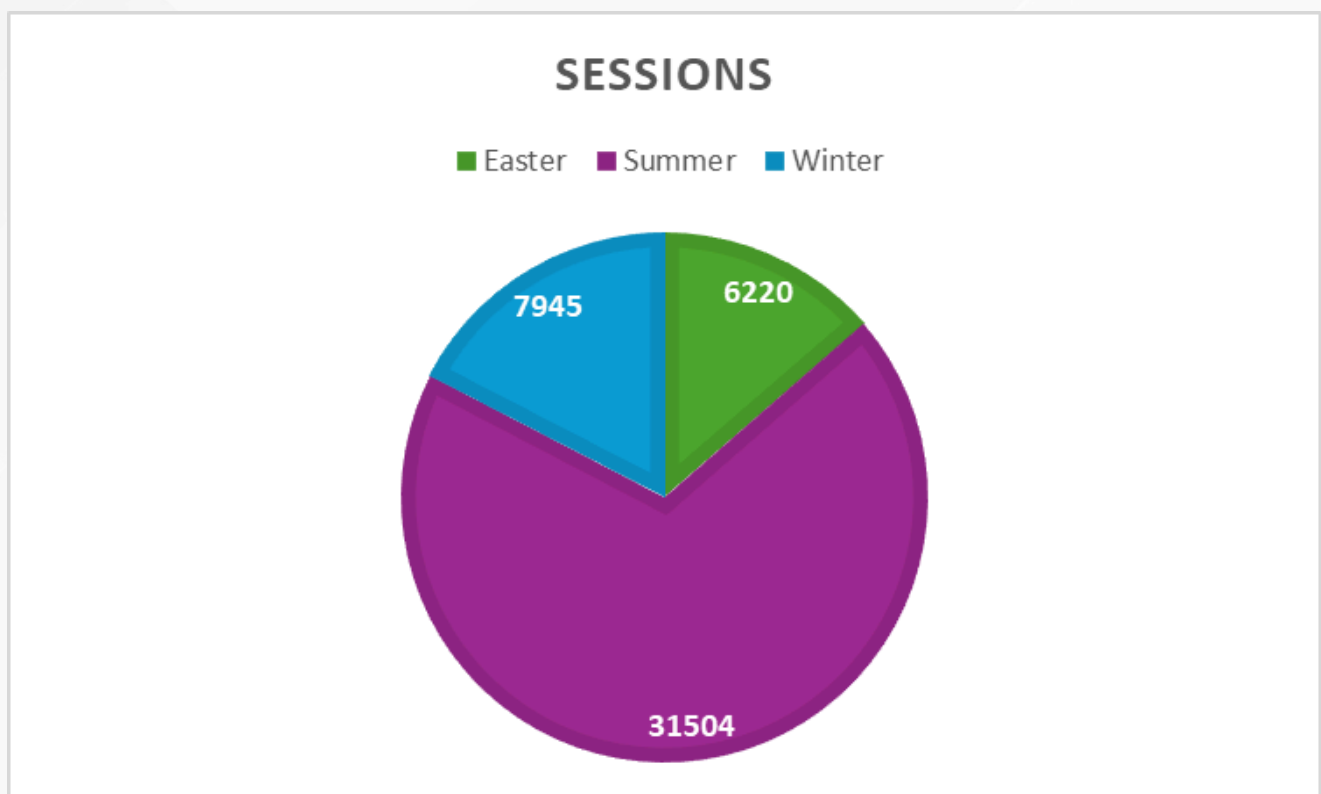




# SESSIONS

Throughout the three delivery periods of the 2024/25 year 45,669 sessions were funded. Every one of these sessions comprised of a meal and enriching activity. (An enriching activity is an opportunity to try something new, develop skills and is fun.)

HAF delivery period by sessions



**63% of parents surveyed  
told us that HAF  
contributed to the  
wellbeing and  
development of life skills  
of their child**

Responses taken from GM Parents Survey, Summer 2024, Oldham only



# PARTICIPATION

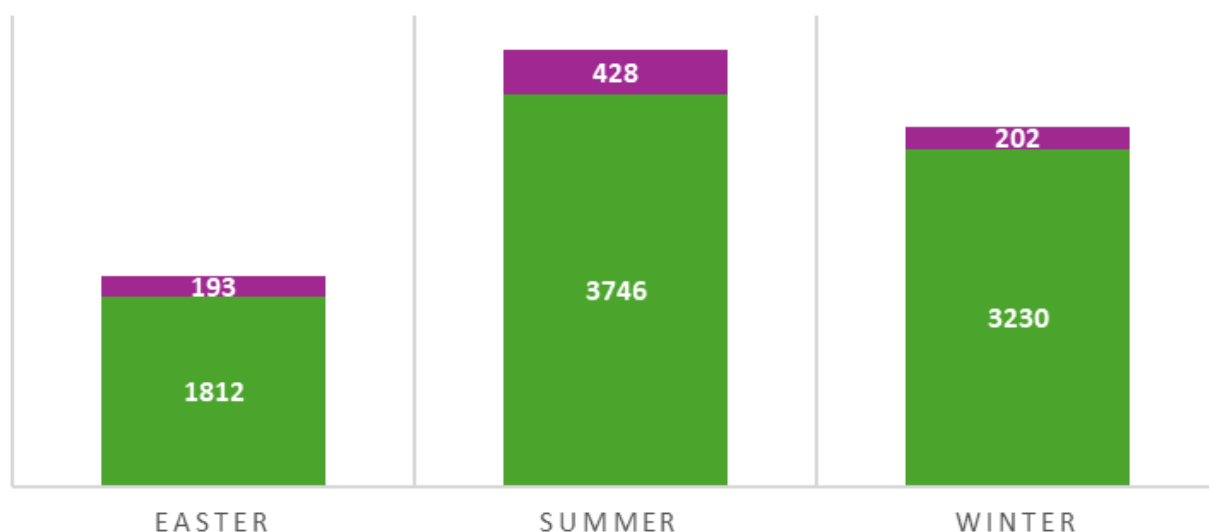


“My favourite thing over the holiday was the trip to Chester zoo- I love animals and there is no way I would see a lion if we’d not gone with the youth club”

Boy 13 who attended Oldham Youth Service



## SEND Participation



In 2024/25, 9611 individual children and young people attended HAF sessions. 70% were primary aged and 30% were secondary aged. Summer was the most attended delivery period, followed by winter and then Easter.



# PROVIDERS

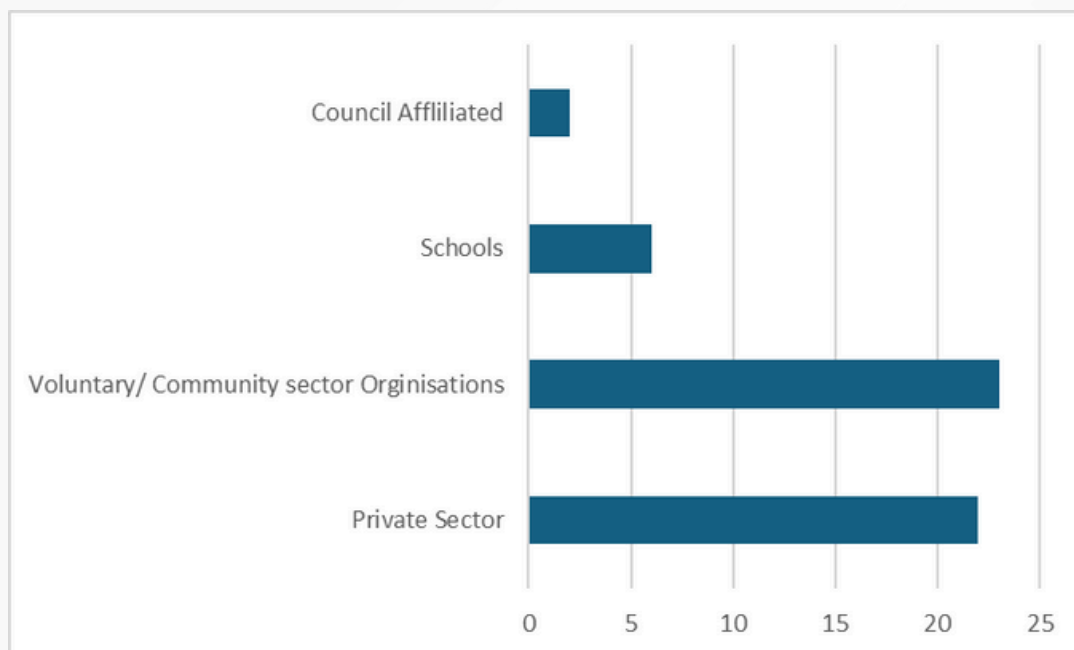


“HAF goes from strength to strength each year. We see the same young people coming back each time, and we can see the benefit it has on their life and holidays. We plan the enriching activities with the young people and it is amazing to see what they suggest- they are the driving force behind our sessions.e’d not gone with the youth club”

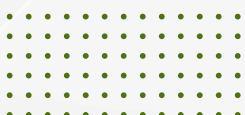
Lynnette Dobbin, District Youth Team Manager



55 organisations have worked with Oldham HAF to deliver the HAF programme in 2024/25

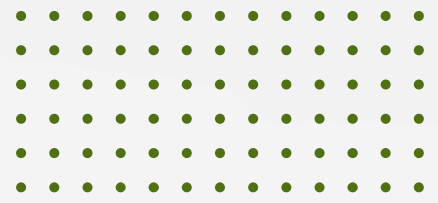


A full list of providers is included in the appendix



# CASE STUDY

## In conversation with Jacob



How did you feel about your visit to the Castleshaw HAF sessions before you came?  
**Excited! A little bit nervous about the activities but I felt safe with the staff when we did the activities.**

What did you enjoy the most about your HAF sessions?  
**The caving as there was lots of different tunnels, it made me feel nervous about getting stuck but I felt happy after I completed the activity and I'd do it again.**

And what was your greatest challenge on HAF?  
**Going through the tight gaps while caving was the biggest challenge!**

What is the one biggest thing you have learnt about yourself through this experience?  
**I'm kind of not scared of heights anymore because we did the Ghyll Scramble, which I really enjoyed.**

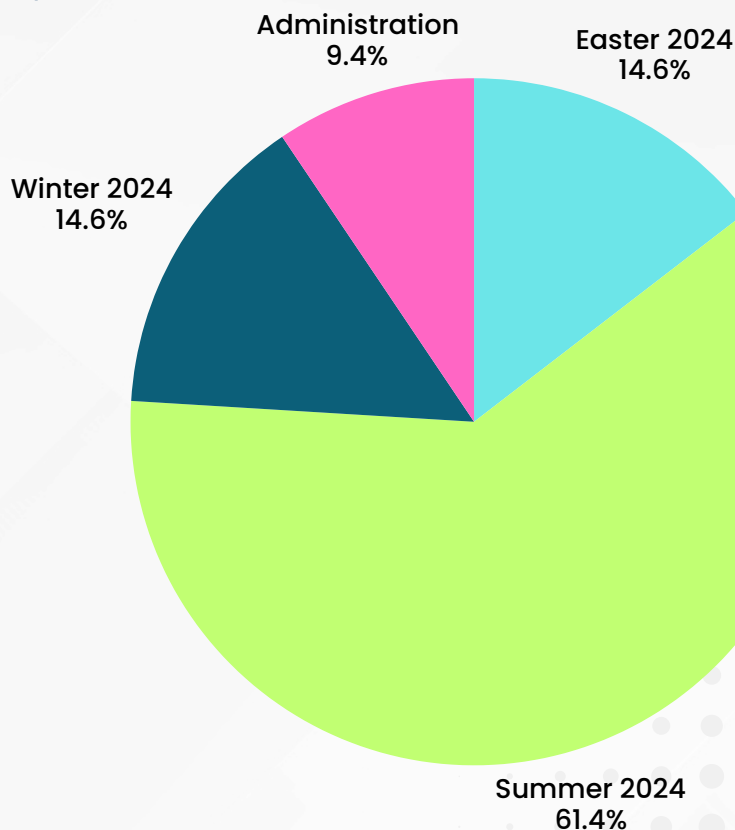
And have you learnt any new personal skills through your experience?  
**I learnt how to start a fire with fero rod, like my friend that goes to Forest School.**

Is there anything else you would like to say about your experience?  
**Everything was good, excellent, exciting! I would recommend it to others and I'm back again for HAF this summer for more adventures.**



# FINANCE

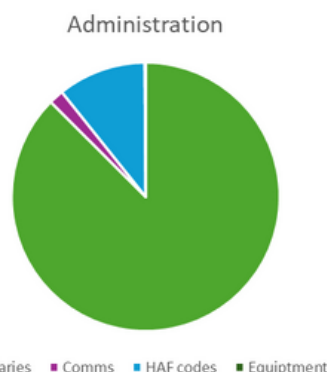
To deliver the HAF programme of 2024/25 Oldham Council spent £1,272,799



In the 2024/25 year we were able to secure £150,000 of Household Support funding. This was used to extend the HAF programme to families who were not eligible to attend HAF activities but still required additional support. Importantly, this funding was also used to provide half term sessions during the periods that HAF did not run.

*64% of parents told us that without HAF their child would have been at home watching TV.*

Responses taken from GM Parents Survey, Summer 2024, Oldham only



# STEERING GROUP

The steering group is integral to Oldham HAF. Each member of the group has added functionality to the service. The group meets every half term.



“

*Oldham's HAF programme has such a massive impact on our local communities.*

*At a time when local families are really struggling to contend with the cost of living crisis, particularly those in higher levels of deprivation, it's been great to work on such an impactful and positive programme to support local people.*

*From a communications perspective, we've been able to capture so many happy and memorable moments that children will look back on in years to come and reminisce about happy childhood memories.*

*Our families are very welcoming of this programme too, as it helps them through many of the challenges that arise during the off-school period, which is why it has been so rewarding to promote something that helps so many people.*

Elisha Routledge, Steering Group member

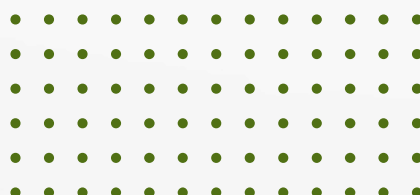
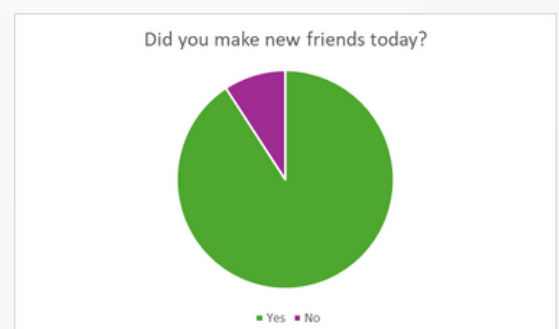
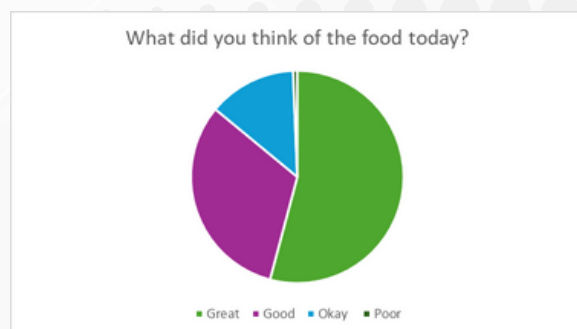
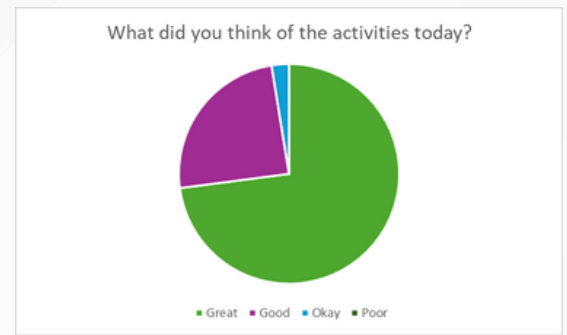
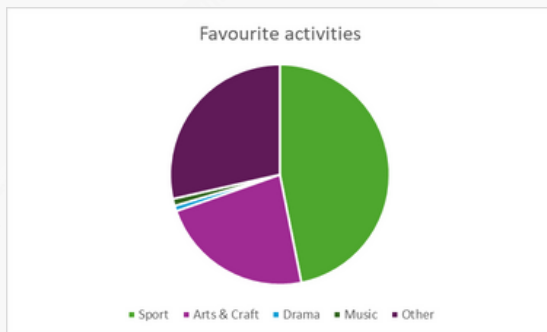
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# IMPACT

## GM Children and young people Feedback



Over the summer of 2024, the ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities worked together to issue a GM wide survey to children accessing HAF and their families. This was an important way for us to hear the voices of the young people who access HAF. These are the responses of the children from Oldham.



# GM Parent Feedback



**72%** told us  
their child had  
made friends  
attending HAF

**65%** told us  
their child  
has improved  
confidence

**66%** told us  
their child was  
more  
physically  
active at HAF



Responses taken from GM Parents Survey, Summer 2024, Oldham only



# HAF Standards

## Food

Over the 2024/25 year 45,669 meals were provided by Oldham HAF. All food is served hot and must be healthy. Every HAF session includes a main meal. Allergies, dietary and cultural requirements are complied to, as standard.

## Signposting and Referrals

Provision providers signpost families to partner agencies, where necessary. Signage, links, leaflets and resources are made available throughout delivery. Many HAF camps arrange visits from key partners to support families, such as First Choice Homes and Healthcare Practitioners.



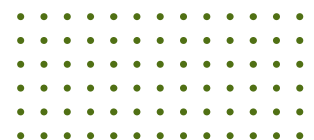
## Nutritional Information

Information and activities around being healthy and nutrition are a daily part of Oldham HAF. This can take many forms, such as talks, workshops, life skills, cooking, food tasting, planting and more.

## Physical Activities

At least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity is included within each HAF session. Some camps are sports based and surpass this minimum limit while others have found very inventive ways to incorporate this aspect, including a mile a day, free play, learning dances and litter picking!

Oldham HAF was publicised using  
#loveoldham  
#HAF24  
#HAF25



# HAF Standards

## Enriching Activities

Providing enriching activities remains at the heart of Oldham HAF. Our established providers have risen to the challenge of ensuring that there are exciting and new things to try and learn. We have also worked with many new providers to ensure that there is a varied offer for participants.



# Challenges and learning

The HAF programme in Oldham has continued to grow and improve over 2024/25.

Over winter 2024 Oldham HAF was able to provide a hybrid offer to ensure that as many families as possible could benefit from the programme. This was done in line with the DfE HAF Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2024>

To ensure an exciting HAF offer for 14-16 year olds, access to gym, swim and classes were made available at all Oldham active Leisure Centres. Young people were able to utilise these passes even outside of HAF delivery. This was a hugely successful initiative.

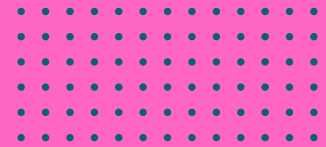


Oldham HAF was happy to bring new providers onboard this year, expanding and diversifying the offer to children and young people. Oldham participants can now experience climbing, bouldering and performance arts as well as ever popular camps that have offered consistent fun throughout the lifespan of HAF.

In the 2024 delivery year SEND specific camps were expanded to ensure that suitable and enjoyable provision was available for all.



# LOOKING FORWARD



There was a great deal of growth and development in the Oldham HAF programme during the 2024/25 year. All the aims that were set last year were met and expanded. These included ensuring that activities were enriching and appealing to the children and young people, driving up engagement for teenagers, ensuring a fully inclusive and available SEND offer and making sure that high quality signposting was available from our providers to our families. But.... We won't stop there! All these areas remain priorities for even more improvement in the coming year.

We listened to families and professionals, and most importantly, we listened to the children that ARE Oldham HAF. The Greater Manchester wide HAF survey was rolled out over the summer, and we had a great response, with families telling us that the majority thought that the food and activities offered were great. The survey will be used again in the coming years to ensure that the standard remains high.



Providers were offered a range of exciting training opportunities. This not only supports them to ensure that they are offering a high standard during HAF but arms them with skills and expertise that can be used beyond the programme. This is another way that HAF invests in towns and communities, even outside of the remit of the programme.

We have been thrilled to welcome some new providers to the existing programme, keeping the offer to participants fresh and exciting, whilst ensuring choice about how they use their precious school holidays!

During all three delivery periods, but especially over summer 2024, Oldham HAF, including providers, demonstrated a huge amount of resilience and passion for the children and young people.

To ensure that as many eligible children and young people as possible can be part of Oldham HAF, a booking system will be incorporated. This will free up time for providers to reach further into their local communities and engage with families.

Oldham HAF camps are fun and vibrant with a genuine focus on showing children the joys and benefits that healthy living can bring.

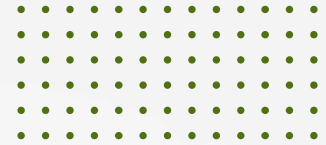
*"I am so glad that we have HAF in Oldham. The support offered to our young people is invaluable and the staff can enjoy their holidays knowing the children will be looked out for"*  
*Oldham School Governor*





# Appendix

## Providers



Castleshaw Centre  
Oldham Active Coaching Gymnastics Failsworth  
Oldham Libraries  
Oldham Youth Service  
Buds and Blossoms  
Chadderton Boxing Club  
Dream Big Sport  
Football Fun Factory  
Fun Fest Oldham  
Genius Tuition  
Greaves Boxing Club  
HQ Sports  
Jodie Ferrari Makeup Academy Ltd  
Little Saplings BASC  
Mini messy  
Newbank House Day Nursery  
Oldham Community Football Academy St Thomas School  
Outta Skool  
Quality Sports primary  
Saddleworth Cookery School  
Smart Body Sports  
Soccer Stars  
SportsCool Oldham  
Stagecoach  
Summit Up  
Two hoots  
Doveshell St James  
Doveshell St Thomas  
Newbridge & Hollinwood  
Oasis Hubs  
South Failsworth Primary School  
SS Aiden and Oswalds RC Primary School  
Creativity Box  
Friends of Stoneleigh Park  
Fullcircle  
Glodwick Cricket Club  
GMYN  
KOGS  
Mahdlo  
Oldham Boxing and Personal Development  
Oldham Greenhill Community and Sports Kalys  
Oldham Theatre Workshop  
Opag  
Positive Steps Young Carers  
Relax Kids St Hughs  
Saddleworth School of Dance  
Salvation Army  
Skills 4 All  
Spark Oldham  
St Barnabas  
Stubby's Boxing and Training Holiday Club  
The Flowhession Foundation  
Vision  
Westwood and Coldhurst Women's Association  
Yuvanis Youth Chadderton



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🌐 [www.oldham.gov.uk/haf](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/haf)

