

ANNUAL REPORT
2025-2026



Holiday Activities
and Food

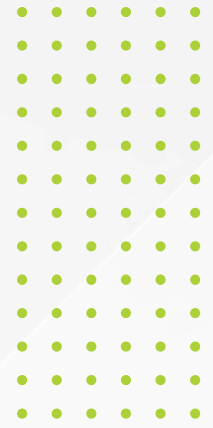


Department
for Education



Oldham
Council

OVERVIEW



4,990 Primary aged attendees

3,064 Secondary aged attendees

70 Venues

1,128 Participants with SEND

45 Providers

SUMMER 2025

21,261 sessions

October 2025

1803 sessions

EASTER 2025

4133 sessions

WINTER 2025

6758 Sessions

33,955 sessions

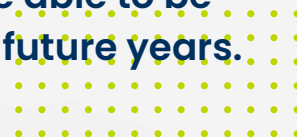
“During my child's time at HAF she enjoyed all the different activities, the provider is fantastic with all the children there, understanding children's extra support needs. I also think HAF has helped my child keep her routine throughout summer which some children depend on, like mine. My child is easily bored & if out of routine can become quite abrupt. Holiday club is a great to attend! Thank you for giving my girl a chance to attend these sessions! ”

Parent- name anonymised



Since 2018, the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme has provided support to children in receipt of free school meals through holiday periods. The programme was rolled out to all upper tier local authorities in 2021. This report sets out information around how HAF was delivered throughout 2025-26.

In addition to the Easter, Summer and Winter school holidays, over October 2025 the DfE permitted Oldham to offer a small HAF delivery. This opportunity enabled families to take advantage of support over a half term, as well as the main school holidays. This was a brilliant week for all involved and, happily, will be able to be extended into future years.



OUR APPROACH



Oldham places the experience, wellbeing, and development of children at the centre of its HAF offer. Our approach is rooted in the belief that every child deserves access to enriching, joyful, and safe holiday provision. To achieve this, we work closely with local providers, investing in their growth so they can deliver high-quality activities that truly reflect the needs and character of Oldham's communities. Keeping funding within the borough strengthens local organisations, builds long-term sustainability, and ensures that opportunities for young people continue to expand year after year.

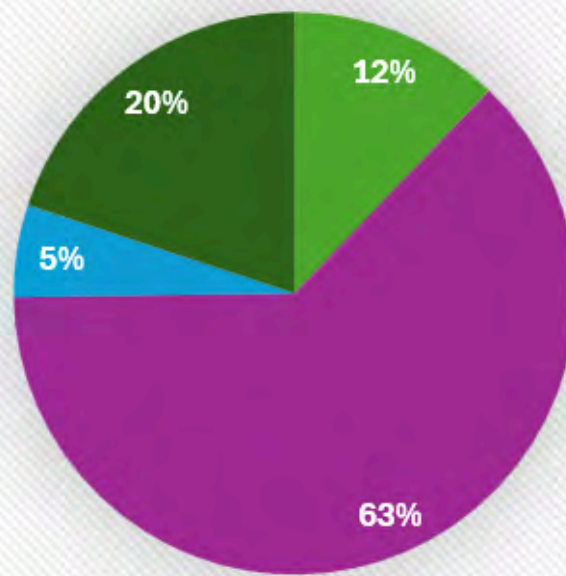
We are equally committed to ensuring that the enriching activities and healthy food offered at Oldham's HAF camps meet the highest standards. This means supporting providers to deliver sessions that are creative, inclusive, and engaging, while also ensuring that every child receives nutritious meals that promote positive lifelong habits. Our focus extends to families too, with clear, accessible nutritional information designed to empower parents and carers to make healthy choices at home.



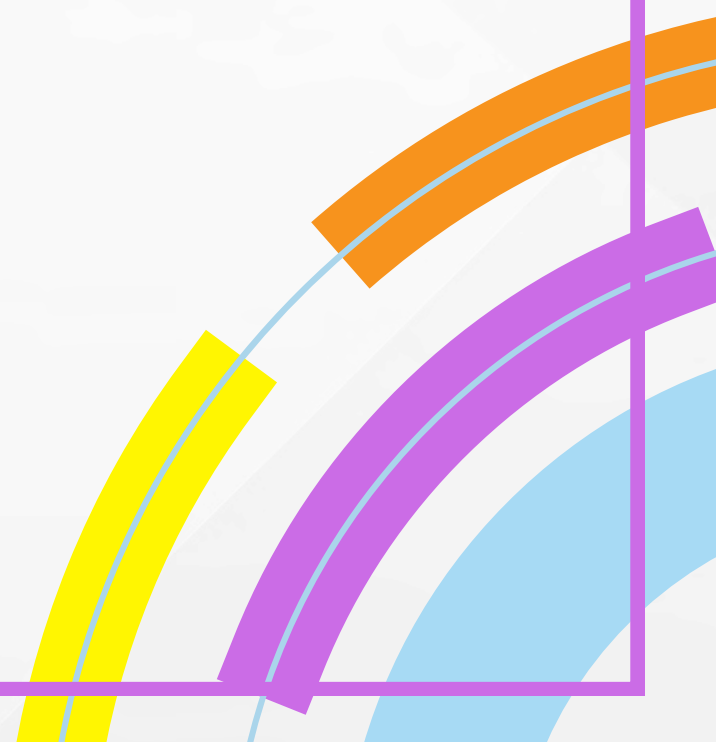
SESSIONS

Throughout the four delivery periods of the 2025/26 year 33,995 sessions were funded. Every one of these sessions comprised of a meal and enriching activity.

Sessions by delivery period



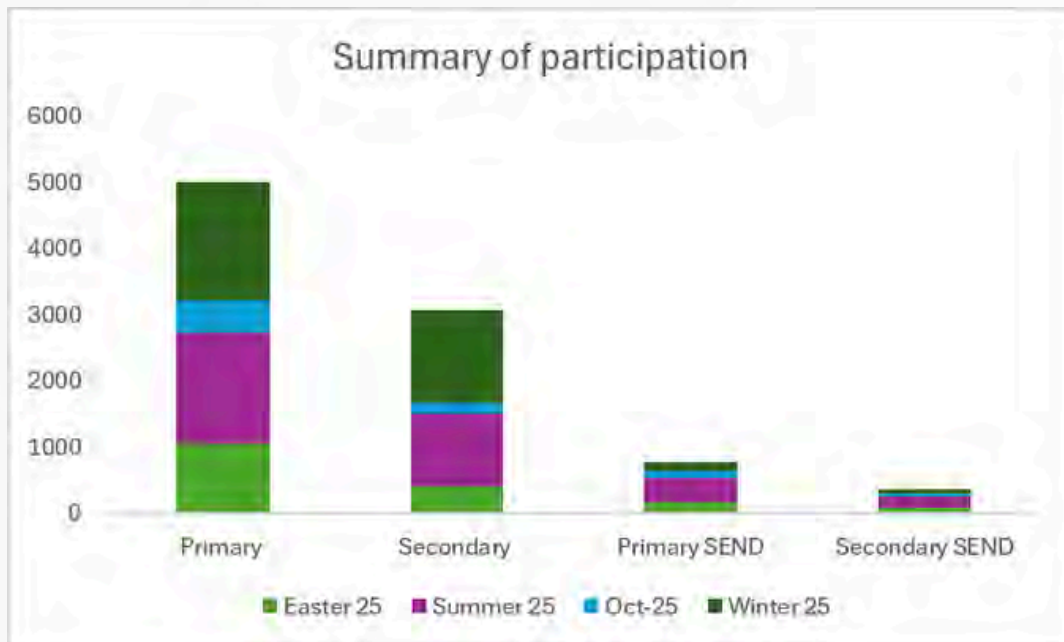
■ Easter ■ Summer ■ October ■ Winter



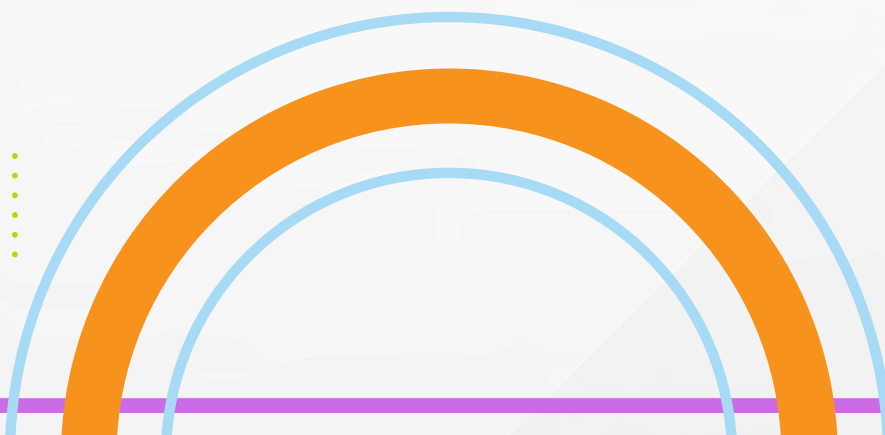
PARTICIPATION



“My child had the absolute best time at HAF during the holidays- there was such a variety of activities and she enjoyed every single one. She loved going each day!”



Across the 2025/26 delivery year, 62% of participants were of primary-school age, while 28% were of secondary-school age.



CASE STUDY

"Marina (not real name) is year 11 student who has recently been diagnosed with ADHD. Marina has recently changed status from CLA to PLAC and has had her own challenges to overcome. At times she has found it hard to engage in education and stay focused. Marina hasn't previously had a hobby outside of school that she has accessed regularly. She wouldn't leave the house much and at times would be isolated. Marina has struggled with self-esteem and confidence and sometimes has struggled with friendships and maintaining them.

The HAF programme has allowed Marina to build self-esteem and confidence, given her a purpose to leave the house and build independence and autonomy. She has been attending HAF with one of her friends which has helped to strengthen friendships and build up resilience.

The physical aspect of HAF has therefore had a positive impact on this young person's mental and physical health. It has helped with lifting mood and building routine and structure into her social calendar. This has then had a positive impact on Marina's attitude and overall emotional wellbeing. Her attitude in school has improved and she herself feels more focused.

These opportunities for this student have been life changing and has had an overall positive impact on all aspects of her life'

- Learning Mentor

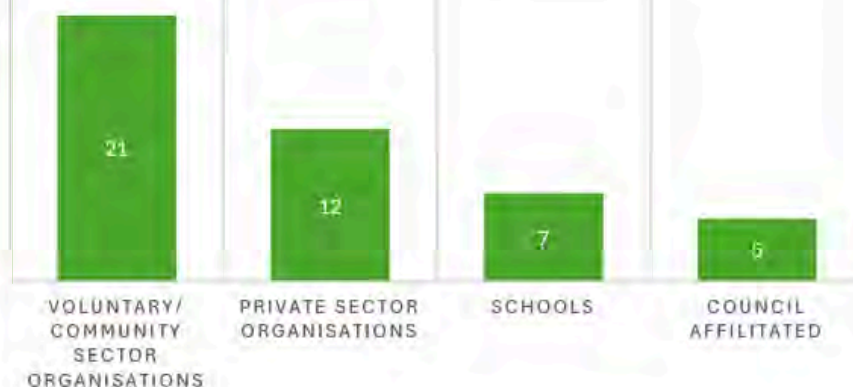


PROVIDERS

45 organisations have worked with Oldham HAF to deliver the HAF programme in 2025/26.

BREAKDOWN OF PROVIDERS

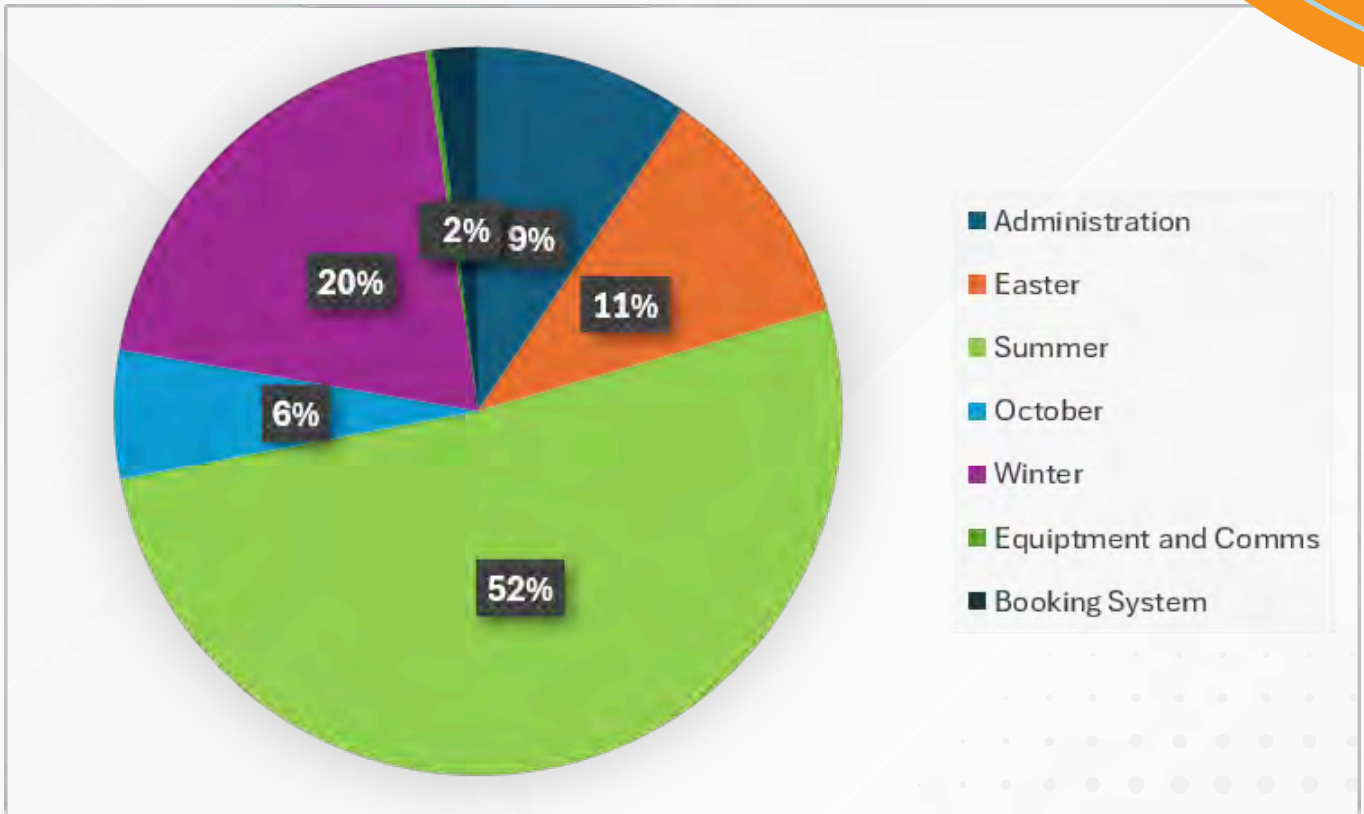
A full list of providers is included in the appendix





FINANCE

To deliver the HAF programme of 2025/26 Oldham Council spent £1,010,031.76. HAF funding was allocated from the DfE.



Beyond core HAF delivery, support was provided for families experiencing holiday hardship. Through the Greater Manchester Mayor's Fund, emergency food vouchers were distributed to support young people facing holiday poverty, while Household Support Funded places were made available across all six half-term periods. This enabled 1,963 individual children and young people to access 5,213 sessions, significantly extending reach and ensuring continuity of support beyond the traditional HAF delivery windows.

For more information about the HAF programme click here :- [HAF guidance](#)





STEERING GROUP

“Through strategic leadership, strong governance, and effective multi-agency coordination, the steering group have played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful delivery of Oldham’s HAF programme. Our collective oversight strengthened programme quality, improved access for families most in need, and ensured that children across the borough benefited from safe, enriching, and positive holiday provision.

Oldham’s HAF programme has become an invaluable source of support for families across Oldham. Each year, I am struck by the joy, confidence, and sense of belonging it brings to children who may otherwise miss out on enriching experiences during the school holidays. Being part of the steering group has given me a clear insight into the programme’s strengths, and I have been genuinely impressed by the dedication of our partners and the positive feedback from families. I believe the HAF offer continues to deliver meaningful, measurable impact, easing pressures on parents while creating safe, enriching and engaging opportunities for children. It is something I am proud to champion, and I consider it one of the most valuable initiatives we provide for our local communities”

Adele Thomson, Action Together

Steering Group Members

HAF Manager
HAF Co-ordinator
Assistant Director of Youth and Communities
Action Together Programme Manager
Action Together Community Development Officer
Senior Accountant
Head of Independent Reviews LADO
Allegation Management Co-ordinator
Communications Officer
Education Support Officer
Governance, SEND Local Offer and FIS Coordinator
Post 16 Lead Education and Skills
Sport Leisure and Wellbeing Service Manager
Intelligence and Data Business Partner, Education and Early Years
CYP Mental Health Care Navigator
Head of Service Early Help Wraparound Care Officer

HAF Standards

Food

Oldham HAF facilitated 33,955 meals to children and young people in 2025/26. Providers make specific arrangements around the catering of their camps, however every meal must be hot, nutritious and served inline with Natasha's Law and cultural expectations.

Signposting and Referrals

Each provider is expected be signpost families to partner agencies, where necessary. Oldham Council provide signage and leaflets along with links to a vast amount of agencies and resources at the outset of delivery and throughout.



Nutritional Information

All Oldham HAF provision includes specific sessions around nutrition, health and lifestyle. These are facilitated for the children and young people as well as for families.

Physical Activities

Every single HAF session in Oldham includes at least 1 hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity. In Oldham we have a vast range of enriching activities and the inventiveness of our providers to ensure that the exercise element of their camp stays on theme and engages continues to grow.



HAF Standards

Enriching Activities

Here are some examples of the wide range of enriching activities that were provided through HAF Oldham in 2025/263. All activities are designed to provide participants with the opportunity to try something new or extend an existing skill whilst having fun and socialising.

Football

Drama

Swimming

Canoeing

Dance

Boxing

Rugby

Climbing

Archery

Gymnastics

Saving

Bouldering

Martial Arts

Fashion Shows

Inflatables

Photography

Nature Walks

Cricket

Acting

Comedy

Skating

Disco

Survey Results

793 participants from Oldham responded to our Greater Manchester wide satisfaction survey over Summer 2025- here is what they told us....

ACTIVITIES

■ said activities were great ■ said activities were good ■ other



FOOD

■ said the food was great ■ said the food was good ■ other



FAVORITE ACTIVITY

■ Sport ■ Art & Craft ■ Drama ■ Music ■ Other





Challenges and learning

During the 2025/26 delivery year, the Oldham HAF programme reached a new level of maturity and effectiveness, driven by the successful rollout of a new booking system and an updated payment model.

These improvements strengthened governance, increased transparency, and streamlined overall programme delivery.

The HAF team supported providers to embed the new systems and ran engagement events to gather feedback and drive ongoing refinement. As a result, both the booking platform and payment approach are now firmly established as core enablers of a more consistent, accountable and high-quality offer across the borough.

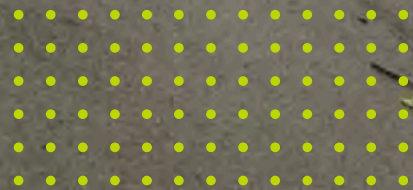


A major achievement in 2025/26 was the successful expansion of the programme into the autumn half-term, following approval from the Department for Education. This expansion now forms a sustainable enhancement to Oldham's HAF offer, extending reach and increasing impact for vulnerable children and young people.





Holiday Activities
and Food



LOOKING FORWARD & BEYOND



One of the year's key innovations was the creation and rollout of the "Standard in a Box" – a practical resource package designed to help providers deliver consistent, effective and meaningful signposting for families. With a strong emphasis on promoting healthy lifestyles, this approach enabled HAF providers to meet DfE expectations on signposting, significantly strengthening the programme's preventative impact. The model now offers a scalable platform for future development, with plans to expand it to include wider themes such as cost-of-living support, family services and wellbeing.



To further enhance the quality and breadth of provision, the HAF team brokered a diverse range of fully funded enrichment opportunities for providers. Partners such as Bikeability, the Oldham Mental Health Support Team, Oldham Theatre Workshop and The Dogs Trust, along with specialist activities including safety workshops, animal encounters, inflatables and virtual-reality experiences, were offered at no cost. This coordinated approach has added significant value while reducing pressure on providers, ensuring children and young people benefit from a richer, more engaging and higher-quality holiday experience.



Both my son and daughter attended the Easter Holiday Club and really enjoyed it. It was a very positive experience and I found it to be beneficial and well organised. They came home happy each day and got a lot out of the activities. Thank you for putting it together each holiday

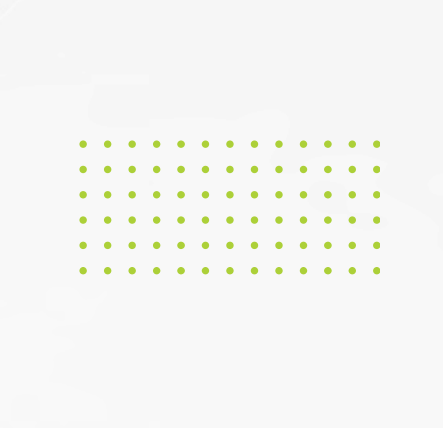


With thanks to.....

Absolute Futbol
 Cede Foundation
 Dream Big Sports
 Fullcircle NW CIC
 Fun Fest Oldham
 Little Sapling BASC
 Friends of Stoneleigh Park
 Mahdlo
 Newbridge & Hollinwood Academy
 Oasis Hub
 Oldham Active
 Oldham Boxing and Personal
 Development Club
 Oldham Community Football
 Academy
 Oldham Greenhill Sports and
 Recreation Club
 Oldham Youth Service
 OPAG
 Outta Skool
 Positive Steps
 Relax Kids
 Saddleworth School of Dance
 South Failsworth Primary School
 Spark CiC
 St. Thomas, Moorside Primary
 The Flowhession Foundation
 The Unit Fitness
 Yuvanis Youth
 Vision



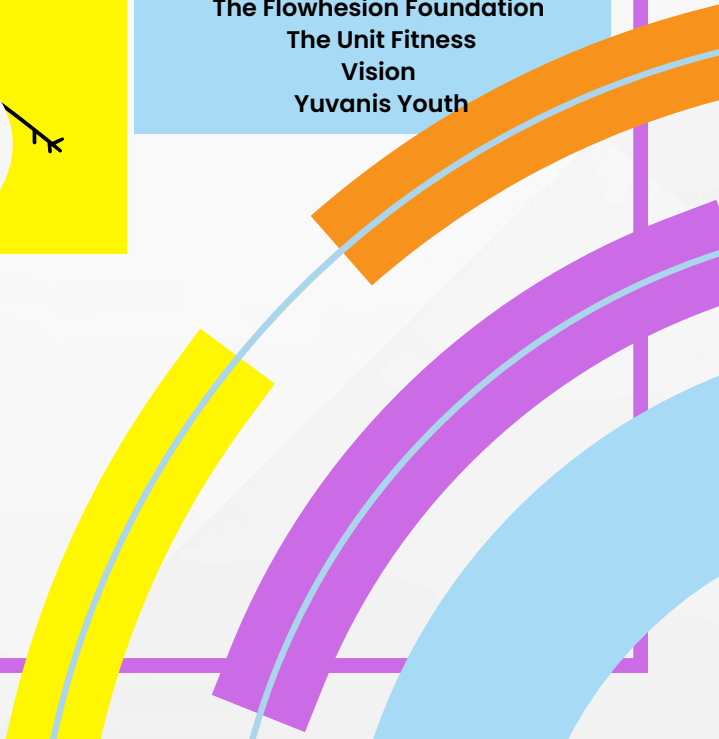
Autism Family Support
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