



Nottinghamshire Holiday Activities and Food

Annual report 2025/26



**The adventure
starts here...**



Nottinghamshire
County Council

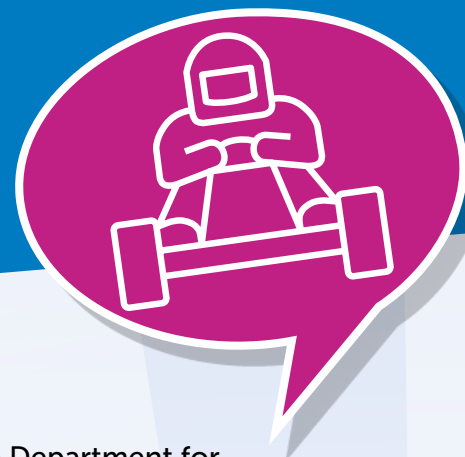


Funded by



Department
for Education

Nottinghamshire Holiday Activities and Food



Nottinghamshire County Council continues to receive funding from the Department for Education to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. The programme provides free, nutritious meals, food education and a wide range of enriching activities for children and young people aged 5 to 16 years who are eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals (FSM). Provision is delivered across the spring, summer, autumn and winter school holiday periods.

Up to 15% of the funding allocation is used to support free or subsidised places for children and young people considered vulnerable who are not in receipt of benefits-related FSM. Alongside activity provision, there remains a strong emphasis on supporting families, parents and carers to build confidence around nutrition, healthy lifestyles and food budgeting. Families are also signposted to wider support services, including health, employment, education and cost-of-living assistance.

In 2025, Nottinghamshire County Council enhanced programme accessibility and efficiency through the introduction of a centralised booking system. This system includes an automatic eligibility checker for free school meals, streamlining the booking process for families, and ensuring that places are allocated fairly and in line with programme criteria. The system also supports improved data collection and reporting, enabling more responsive and targeted delivery.

The HAF team continues to coordinate delivery by mapping existing holiday provision and identifying gaps across the county. This has supported the development of a locally responsive and needs-led delivery plan. Nottinghamshire's programme maintains a blended approach, combining in-house provision, outreach events and commissioned delivery through a diverse network of providers.

This approach ensures that families can access a broad and inclusive offer of high-quality activities that are both sustainable and cost-effective. The council works closely with health and wellbeing services, youth services, education settings, cost-of-living support teams and community organisations to provide a coordinated response to the needs of children and families.

This strong partnership approach enables the delivery of a holistic programme that not only supports children and young people during school holidays but also contributes to wider community wellbeing.

The HAF team continues to actively promote the programme through attendance at local events across Nottinghamshire, including community days, park events and the Nottinghamshire County Show. These engagement opportunities help raise awareness among families and stakeholders, support understanding of free school meal eligibility, and provide advice and signposting to additional support services.





The Nottinghamshire Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) annual report 2025/26 covers the following areas:

- Annual reach data
- Financial data
- Key partnerships
- Marketing
- What our families say



Nottinghamshire Holiday Activities and Food



Places available:

Universal - 10,234
SEND specific - 370

"It helps me keep a routine for my children and gives me access to a person to talk to if I have any problems in the holidays".

"The HAF programme is brilliant for bridging the gap for SEN children. Knowing my son can go to a safe SEN provision where he is happy gives me a lot of reassurance".



Percentage of places booked:

Universal - 94%
SEND specific - 74%



percentage of places attended:

Universal - 78%
SEND specific - 86%



Non- Attendances:

Universal: 12%
SEND specific: 14%

"I think the HAF programme is excellent, my second absolutely love it as they get easily bored in the holidays and this programme gives them something to look forward to".



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School sites delivering HAF

"My son has SEN needs, and the sessions are brilliant, they cater to his needs - if I could send him there for school I absolutely would. One in a million place".



"My children loved going to HAF. They enjoyed the different activities on offer and the staff were great. I didn't worry that they wouldn't have their needs met".



"My son thoroughly enjoyed the activities provided. As a single parent with no immediate family locally, the activities allowed me to continue working and know my son was in a safe environment".



Annual reach

Holiday activities and food

	 Spring	 Summer	 Autumn	 Winter	Total
Number of approved sessions at point of delivery (Universal) PRIMARY	6,910	25,227	6,909	2,521	41,567
UNIVERSAL attendances PRIMARY	5,744	19,704	5,897	2,128	33,473
Number of approved sessions at point of delivery (Universal) SECONDARY	1,754	6,636	1,701	916	11,007
UNIVERSAL attendances SECONDARY	1,430	5,072	1,429	766	8,697
Number of approved sessions at point of delivery (SEND) PRIMARY	126	375	106	51	658
SEND specialist attendances PRIMARY	111	317	100	63	573
Number of approved sessions at point of delivery (SEND) SECONDARY	131	260	68	48	507
SEND specialist attendances SECONDARY	118	214	63	40	435

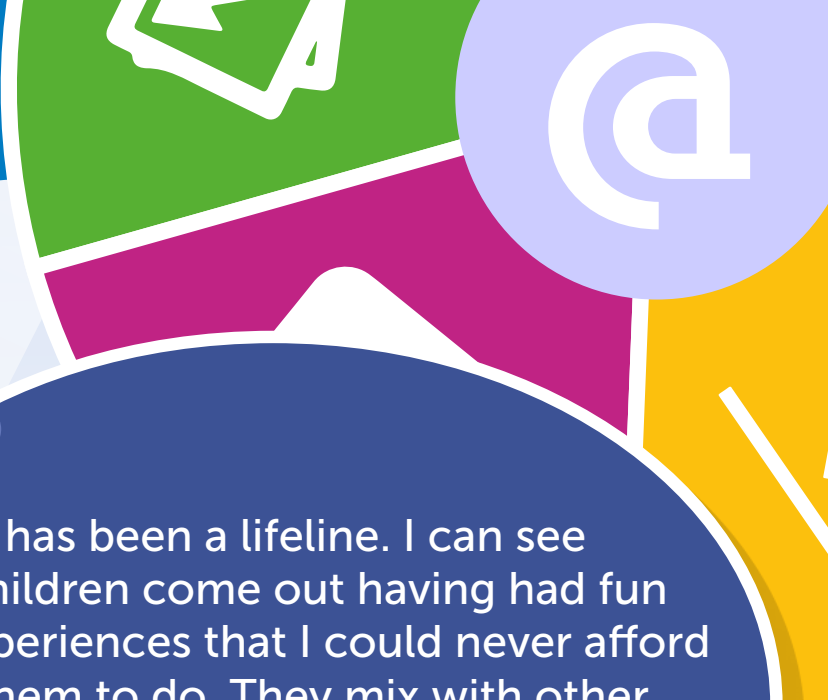
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Family days

Nottinghamshire				
Holiday activities and food				
Period 2025	No of days	Venue	Attendances	Families reached
Spring	1	White Post Farm	310	81
Summer	1	Adventures	148	65





“

It has been a lifeline. I can see my children come out having had fun new experiences that I could never afford for them to do. They mix with other children they would normally not get to meet. The staff have been brilliant. I feel that they are looked after.

”

“

The HAF programme really helps my son who has ADHD and Autism stay in his usual school routine during the holidays. This helps with regulation and further helps the family to enjoy activities that are too much for him to participate in. The service is of very high value to us. The staff are mostly very supportive and work hard to build good relationships with him.

”



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2025/26 Finances

Expenditure type	£
Administrative Expenditure	£264,183
Capital Expenditure	£0
Programme Expenditure (all costs of providing HAF places, payments to providers and third party services)	£2,317,267
Other Expenditure	£39,203
Booking System Cost	£24,093
Total (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026)	£2,644,746



2025/26 Administration costs

Expenditure type	£
HAF team	£222,441
Business support	£39,206
Finance	£2,536
Customer services group	£0
Design and build	£0
Total administration expenditure	£264,183

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Partnerships

A network of partners have provided support, governance and delivery to respond to the needs of families.



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External providers

A network of activity providers have provided programmes and signposting to Nottinghamshire families.



Nottinghamshire Holiday Activities and Food



Integrated
Children's
Disability Service

WRAP
around
Team



Health &
Wellbeing
team

Youth
Service

Family
HUBS

Notts
Outdoors



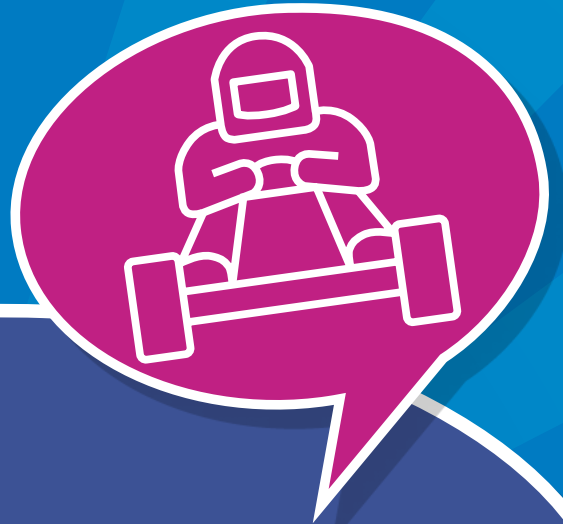
Household
Support Fund



Funded by



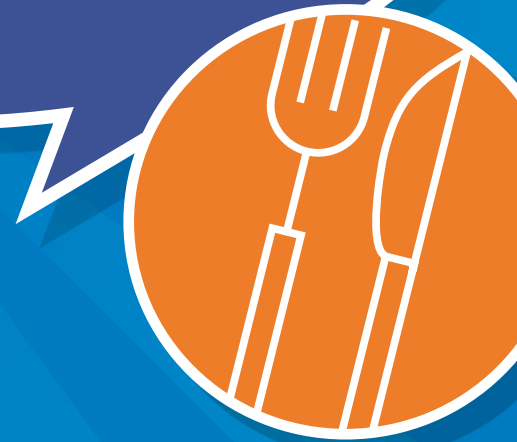
Department
for Education



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**Nottinghamshire
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