

ANNUAL REPORT  
2023-2024



Holiday Activities  
and Food

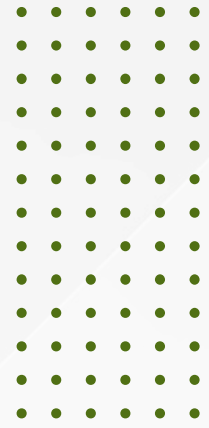


Department  
for Education



Oldham  
Council

# OVERVIEW



51,765 places made available

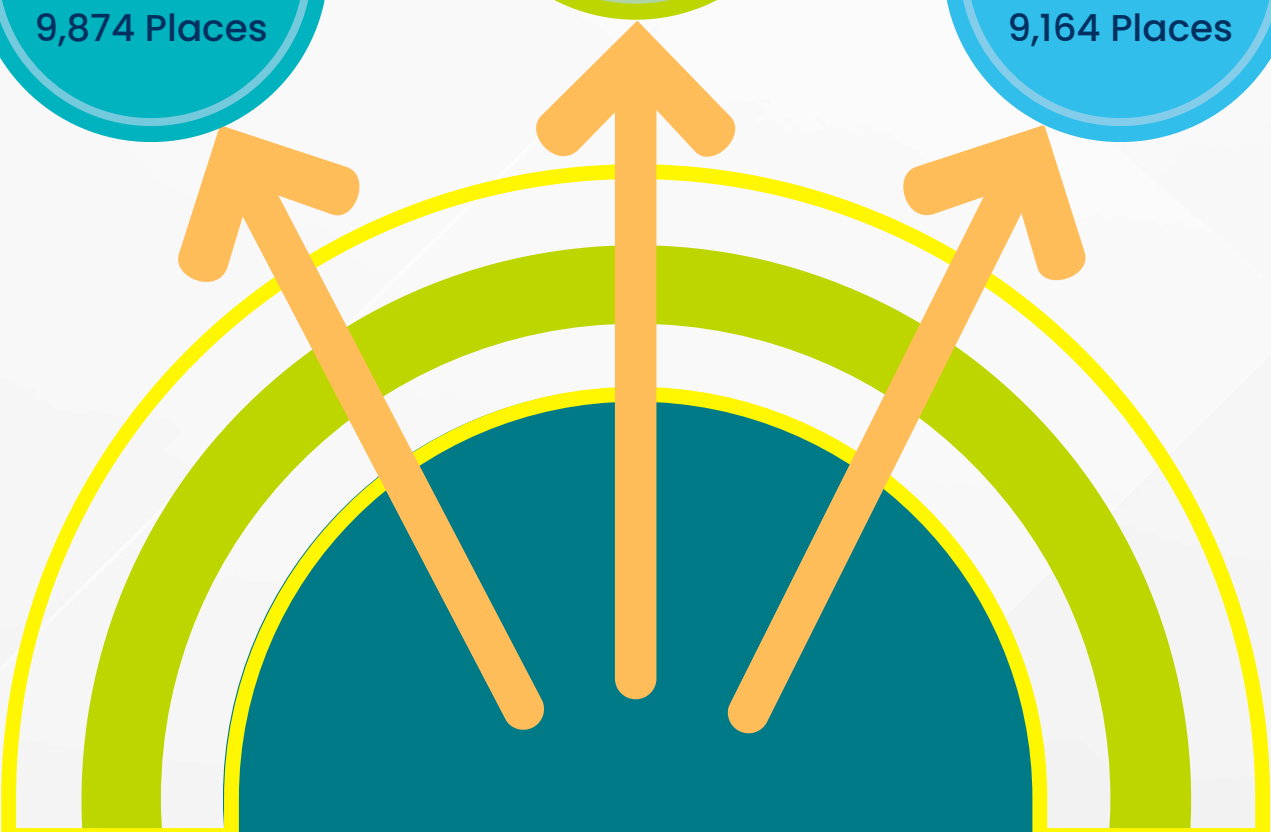
70 venues across Oldham

45 Providers

EASTER 2023  
9,874 Places

SUMMER 2023  
32,727 Places

WINTER 2023/24  
9,164 Places



*"HAF clubs are amazing. You get to do lots of healthy activities and it helps keep me really fit. I make sure I never miss a session."*

*Elian (aged 10)*

*"I love holiday Club as we get to use the gym equipment and it keeps me strong. I also get a really good breakfast and lunch which I love."*

*Zain (aged 9)*



**This report sets out information on delivery of the HAF programme in Oldham throughout 2023-24.**

**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



Oldham HAF is designed specifically around the children and young people who attend. Enriching activities are innovative and enjoyable and healthy food is at the centre of all we do.

Oldham HAF is a community-based programme with 90% of providers from Oldham and 96% from within Greater Manchester in 2023/24. This is an ongoing priority to ensure that the wider HAF funding supports Oldham.

*“The HAF programme is a wonderful thing. It provides the children with the opportunity to be active, safe, fed and with friends. The children turn up each day smiling and they leave happy, having had some nutritious food. They get to experience many trips which many would never get to experience in their day-to-day life. I live local to the school and see a lot of children 'playing out' but not doing anything worthwhile or constructive. This project has allowed them to play new games, learn new skills and be safe.*

*The parents are very thankful for this and long may it continue. “*

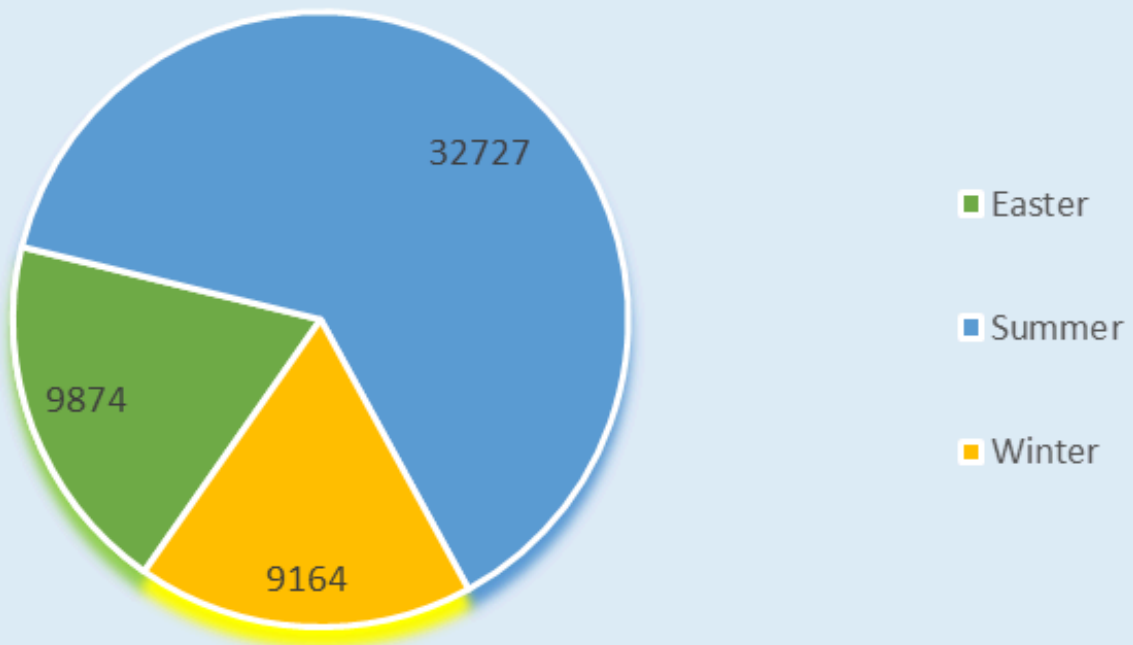
*Adam Young, The Dove-Shell Federation*



# SESSIONS

Throughout the three delivery periods of the 2023/24 year 62,491 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 Sessions by delivery period



*"I do all the clubs. They bring joy to me. I look forward to the next one as soon as the last one is done!"*  
Thomas (aged 8)



# PARTICIPATION



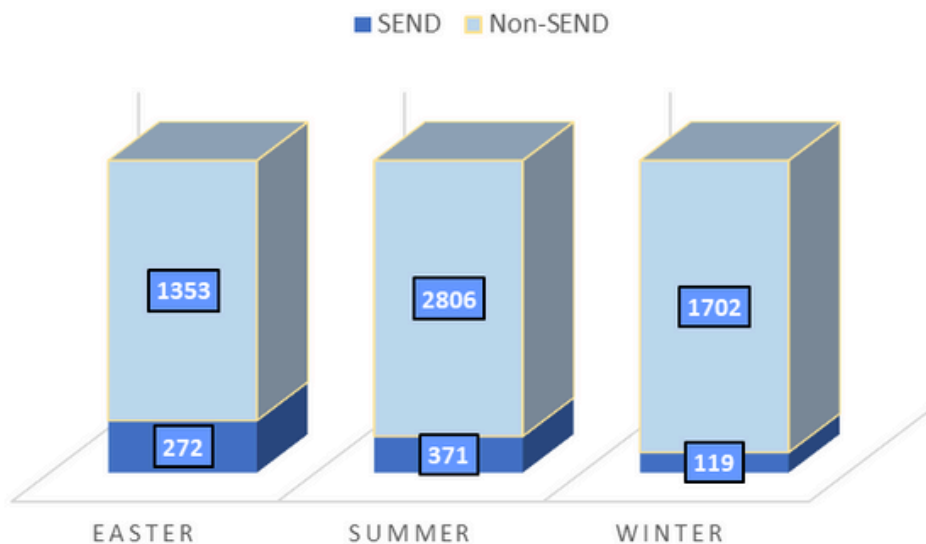
“At Club I like it because I do a lot of exercise with my friends and I get fitter.

I love club because it is fun and we play lots of Football and Dodgeball.”

Harry (Age 7)



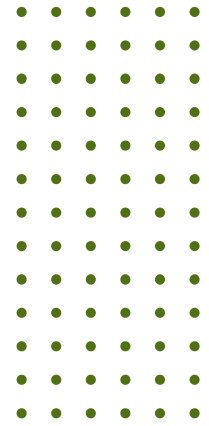
## SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION



In 2023/24, 6623 individual children and young people attended HAF sessions. 81% were primary aged and 19% were secondary aged. Summer was the most attended delivery period, followed by winter and then Easter.



# CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER



The DfE allows for up to 15% of provision to be used for children and young people who do not meet the eligibility criteria of benefit related free school meals entitlement. In Oldham part of the 15% is used for children looked after throughout the town. This is to support with the cost pressures caused by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis on carers.

The remaining places are allocated on a discretionary basis including for children with no recourse to public funds, those with a recent close bereavement and those under Special Guardianship Orders, all on a case-by-case basis.



# PROVIDERS

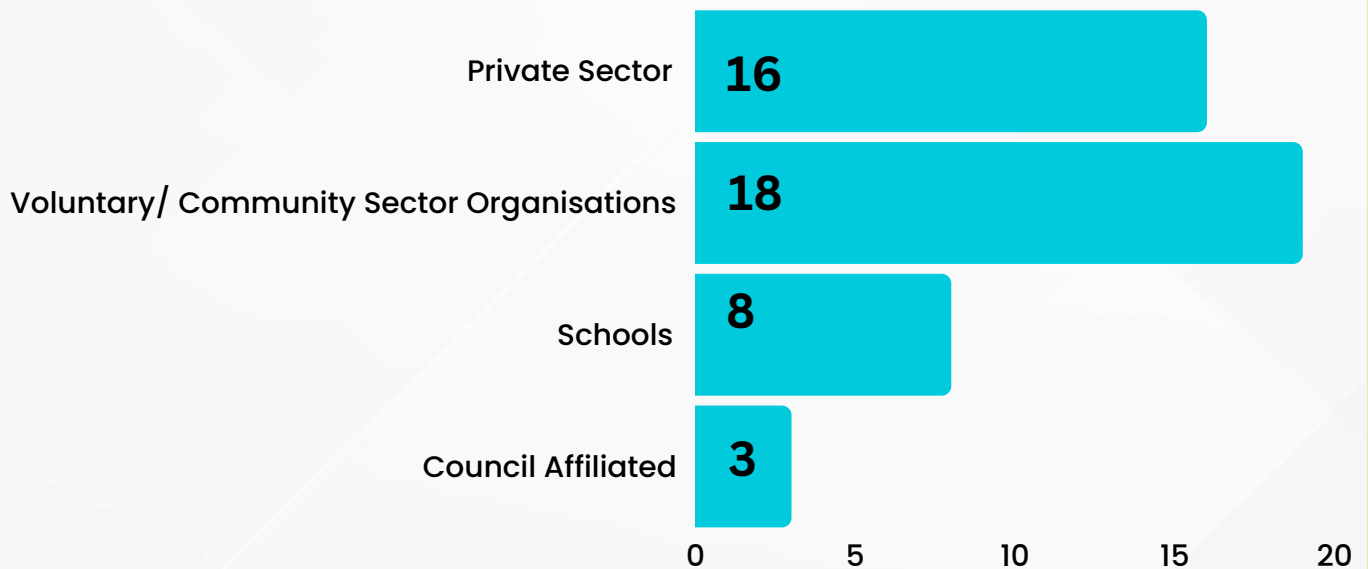


*“Friends of Stoneleigh Park was awarded an award by POINT last Friday for our school holiday provision after being nominated by parents. Without HAF I don't think we could have afforded to provide food and activities for so many families as we do.”*

*Friends of Stoneleigh Park*



45 organisations have worked with Oldham HAF to deliver the HAF programme in 2022/24



A full list of providers is included in the appendix





# CASE STUDY

## THE SALVATION ARMY SUMMER CAMP 2023

I am the holiday provision lead at The Salvation Army. We have had many different children with returning families and lots of new families, which has progressed to positive engagement and support within our other groups.

We have lots of positive feedback and connections made but one that stand outs for me is a parent who expressed her gratefulness for the sessions as her son has SEND as finds it difficult to interact with others and meet new people and explore new places and surroundings. When Mum came to drop him off to his first session, she informed the staff member of his needs and what to do if he became upset and how to comfort him.

She said *“I’ll give him half hour and you will be ringing me to pick him up because he doesn’t do new places”* when she came to collect him at the end of the session, she was very emotional and shocked that he had stayed for the full session, she asked him if he had a good time and his reply was *“I love it mum, can I come tomorrow”*.

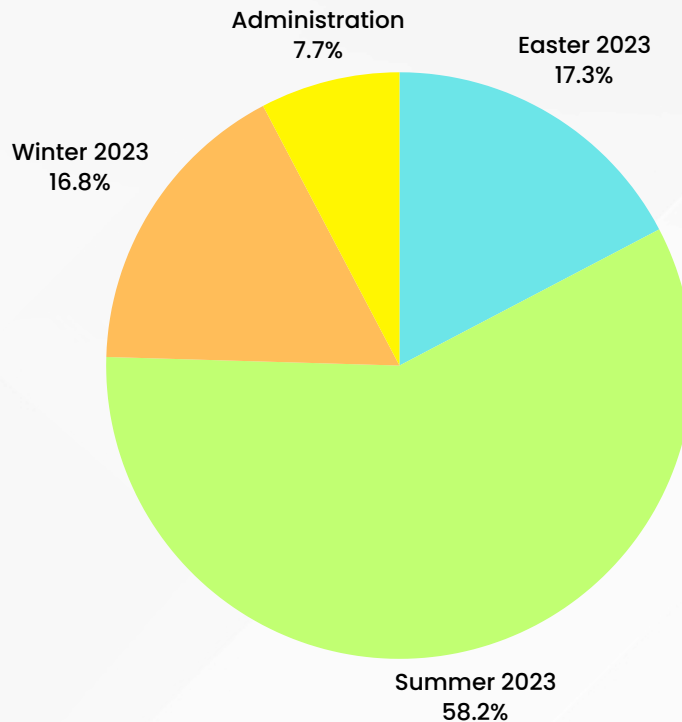
Because of her child’s confidence she has not really explored the area and community so was unsure on what is available. She said she had suffered with her mental health and asking people for support. We told her about all the different groups we offer in the community and invited her along to our women’s mental health group, which she now attends weekly and sometimes offers her time in volunteering in helping others. Her children also attend our youth clubs and lego groups and have built strong relationships and friendships with other children that have attended our HAF provision. The personal journey of both the parent and her son has been very rewarding to see. Mum has expressed how the sessions have helped her son in building positive friendships which she is extremely happy with as she thought he would never find a friendship.

The feedback we received at the end of the sessions is written below.

*“I want to say thank you to each and every staff member for all your hard work. I was sceptical about sending my boy with you as he struggles with social communications and social ques. He also has sensory needs when it’s too loud etc and I’ve never seen him come home every day so happy. He wakes with a go to come in for 10am and he’s home with a smile everyday. He even got his siblings involved in going and they’re glad they started too. It’s really good what you are all doing. The families that are struggling with the expense of keeping their children occupied and yet you have all gone above and beyond. There isn’t a child I’ve seen sat with nothing to do or without a smile on their face. And it really is a good place for making new friends too. So thankyou to you all! Not just from me but from my children too 😊”*

# FINANCE

To deliver the HAF programme of 2023/24 Oldham Council spent £1,340,099.28)



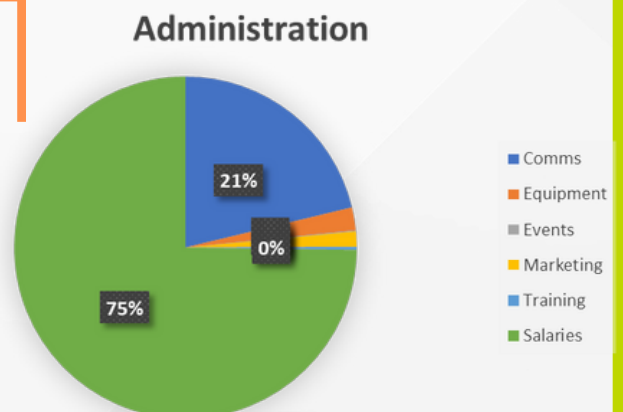
In the 2023/24 year we were able to secure £150,000 of Household Support funding. This was used to extend the HAF programme to families who were not eligible to attend HAF activities but still required additional support. Importantly, this funding was also used to provide half term sessions during the periods that HAF does not run.

We also used some previously allocated additional funding to provide family activities, including a Roarsome event featuring animals, family swim passes, inflatables in the park, trampolining, climbing, outdoor pursuits, Park Days and much more.



*"Thank you so much. You've no idea how grateful I am. I've had a look online at the activities available and I'd like to commend you on such a wonderful, diverse programme of events."*

*Parent*



# 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.*

*Liam McCallion, Steering Group member*



# IMPACT

## Comments from a Steering Group Member

“The strategic decision made early in the programme ensured our HAF programme was a community-based, delivered in the main by local providers. The economic benefit it has created has stayed in Oldham, keeping the Oldham pound in Oldham.

This has provided a much needed annual boost to our local economy, not only in the funding provided by the DfE, but the wider benefits such as the signposting elements of HAF provision, increasing parental confidence through the wider support they received from the partner agencies involved. The provision enabled some parents to use HAF as childcare whilst they were in work, some parents were empowered to increase their skill sets, via volunteering or enrolling in Adult Education provision, some were given the space during time given back to parents during a HAF session to think about returning to work for the first time and seek employment support.

HAF providers were crucial in this wider skill development, many providers offering volunteering opportunities, some of which led to paid work. We have a number of organisations who have set up businesses that deliver HAF provision, creating new businesses and enhancing the local economic and employment landscape.

HAF providers delivered many activities that were based on careers for the future, providing children and young people career orientated experiences that may not have been available to them and providing careers education via enriching activities that will stay with children and young people and shape their thinking on future careers. In addition, the positive adult role models the children and young people have come into contact with during HAF will leave an impression that may inspire them to enter into youth work/play activities or childcare, again delivering additional careers education opportunities as an additional outcome to the HAF intended outcomes. “

Amanda Youlden, Post 16 Lead Education and Skills.

# HAF Standards

## Food

Over the 2023/24 year 62,491 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.



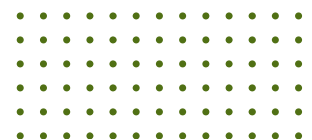
## Nutritional Information

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**  
**#HAF23**  
**#HAF24**



# 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.

leather-craft

kayaking

dodgeball caving

den-building

orienteeering coding

cookery

skateboarding

cricket

dirt-bikes

theatre-workshops

karate

acting ghyll-scrambling

boxing photography rugby

climbing raft-building

football

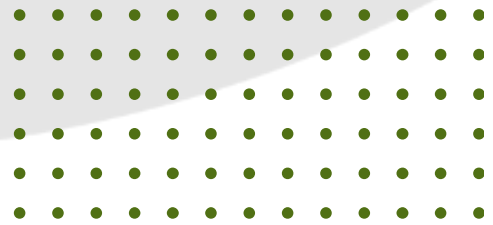
kabbadi zitar-playing

stem gymnastics

dance

silent-disco swimming

nature-walks



# Challenges and learning

The programme continues to thrive and feedback from participants and their families remains at the core of Oldham HAF.

Challenges over the 2023/24 year included the winter school holidays falling later than previous years providing less opportunity for attendance. This was overcome by working with the DfE guidance to provide a hybrid HAF offer.

Over winter HAF, steps were also taken to ensure that the offer to teens is well utilised. Gym passes and cinema activities were included within the winter programme. Some of the ongoing aims of Oldham HAF will be to engage with more 14-16 year olds and to grow the offer to children and young people with SEND.



**As Oldham HAF goes from strength to strength more children and young people become involved. Each delivery period more places are taken by eligible participants, and this continues to grow.**

**As we enter into the next delivery year the main focus for Oldham HAF will be to ensure that the activities are interesting and appealing and that the programme continues to be publicised in a targeted and effective manner.**



# LOOKING FORWARD



The 2023/24 year has offered lots of opportunities for learning, growth, and development that we take into the next year of HAF delivery. As in previous years, our main focus continues to be ensuring that as many eligible children and young people are able to access HAF as possible. This includes driving up participation by working with partner agencies. It also means supporting our providers to ensure that the activities they offer are interesting and different. This will be achieved through provider training and signposting to resources. Training will include Money Advice Referral Toolkit sessions, Creative Consultation, Tackling Challenging Behaviour and Physical Activities in a Box training.

We are also committed to hearing from HAF users around what works for them, and which aspects can be improved. We are working closely with all Local Authorities in Greater Manchester to roll out feedback surveys for families, professionals and most importantly- children and young people. The results of this feedback will be incorporated swiftly and thoroughly into future HAF provision.



Oldham HAF has always been inclusive and yet we aim to build further SEND provision into the wider offer to ensure that all participants have choices and options available when deciding how to spend their holiday periods.

We will also work to ensure that teenagers continue to engage with Oldham HAF by providing safe and enjoyable places to attend, based on their direct feedback. In 2023/24 teenagers told us the activities that they would like to partake in and we included them within the programme. Activities included more trips, photography and shorter sessions. We will expand availability and promotion of these sessions in the coming year.

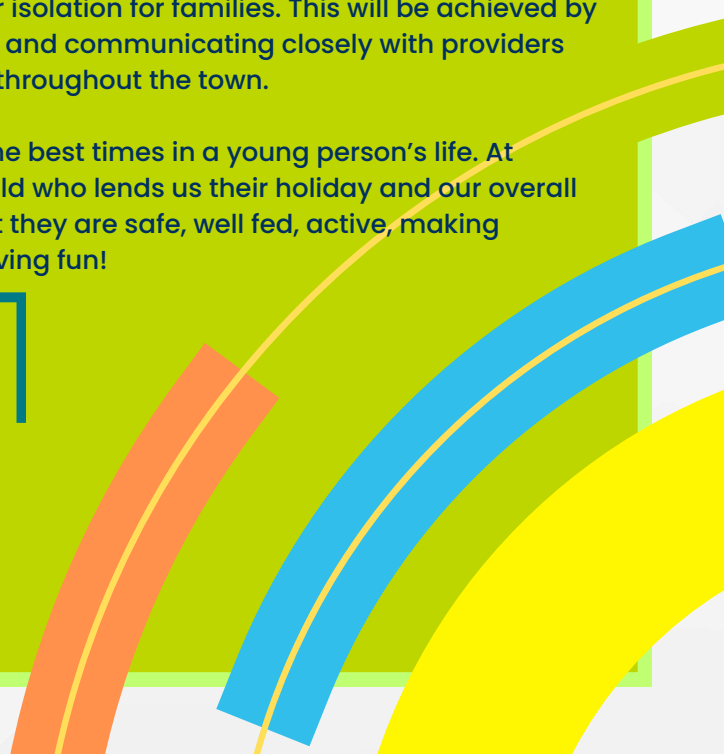
A key standard of the HAF programme is around signposting families to additional support where they require it over the school holidays. We aim to grow the signposting aspect of Oldham HAF over 2024/ 25 to ensure that the school holidays do not represent a time of concern or isolation for families. This will be achieved by working with a wide array of services and communicating closely with providers around the support that is available throughout the town.

School holidays should be some of the best times in a young person's life. At Oldham HAF we appreciate every child who lends us their holiday and our overall aim will be to continue to ensure that they are safe, well fed, active, making cherished memories and vitally - having fun!



*"The benefits of these activities are my child gets out of the house with other young people having lots of fun."*

*Parent of a child who attended OPAG*





# Appendix

## With thanks to.....



### Easter 2023

Ambrose Nursery  
Aspire 2 Inspire Communities  
Dream Big Sports  
Friends of Stoneleigh Park  
Full Circle NW CIC  
Genius Tuition  
Giggle and Grow Day Nursery  
HQ Sport  
Mahdlo  
Newbridge Group  
Oasis Hub  
OBA Millennium Cultural Centre  
Oldham Active  
Oldham Boxing and Personal Development  
Centre  
Oldham Community Football Academy  
Oldham Greenhill Sports and Recreation  
Centre  
Oldham Heritage Libraries and Arts  
Oldham Youth Service  
OPAG  
Outta Skool  
Positive Steps  
Quality Sport  
Raise Tuition  
Relax Kids  
Saddleworth Cookery  
Salvation Army  
Skills 4 All  
Smart Body Sports  
South Failsworth Primary  
Ss Aiden & Oswalds RC Primary  
St. Thomas, Moorside Primary- The Dove  
Shell Federation  
St Barnabas Centre  
The Flowhesion Foundation  
Westwood and Coldhurst Women's  
Association  
Yuvanis Foundation

### Summer 2023

AP Youth and Childhood Services  
Big Stars Play Club  
Brighter Beginnings Day Nursery  
Buds and Blossoms  
Castleshaw Centre  
Chadderton Boxing Club  
Dream Big Sports Ltd  
Friends of Stoneleigh Park  
Fullcircle NW CIC  
Genius Tuition  
Giggle and Grow Day Nursery  
HQ Sport  
Little Saplings BASC  
Mahdlo Youth Zone  
New Bridge Multi-Academy Trust  
Oasis Hub Oldham  
Oldham Active  
Oldham Boxing and Personal Development  
Centre  
Oldham Community Football Academy  
Oldham Greenhill Community Sports  
& Recreation Club  
Oldham Heritage Libraries and Arts  
Oldham Youth Service  
OPAG in Partnership with WIFI NW CIC  
OPAG in Partnership with North District  
Outta Skool  
Positive Steps Oldham  
Quality Sport Holiday Clubs Ltd  
Raise Tuition  
Relax Kids Oldham  
Saddleworth Cookery School  
Salvation Army  
Skills 4 All ltd  
Smart Body Sports  
South Failsworth Primary School  
SS Aidan and Oswald School  
St Thomas Primary School -  
The Dove Shell Federation  
St. Barnabas Centre  
The Flowhesion Foundation  
The Foresight Foundation  
Vision Youth & Community  
Westwood and Coldhurst Women's  
Association  
WiFi Oldham  
Yuvanis Foundation

### Winter 2023/24

AP Youth and Childhood Services  
Buds and Blossoms  
Dream Big Sports  
Fullcircle NW CIC  
Genius Tuition  
HQ Sports  
Little Saplings BASC  
Mahdlo  
Oak Community Development  
Oasis Hubs Oldham  
Oldham Active  
Oldham Boxing and Personal  
Development  
Oldham Community Football  
Academy  
Oldham Greenhill Sports and Recreation  
Centre  
Oldham Heritage Libraries and Arts  
Oldham Youth Service  
OPAG  
Outta Skool  
Positive Steps  
Quality Sports  
Raise Tuition  
Relax Kids  
Salvation Army  
Skills 4 All  
Smart Body Sports  
South Failsworth Primary School  
Ss Aiden and Oswalds RC  
Primary School  
St Barnabas Centre  
Vision Youth & Community  
Westwood and Coldhurst Women's  
Association  
Yuvanis Youth



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