

HAF Programme 2025

Wokingham Annual Report



Contents:

HAF Programme 2025	1
Wokingham Annual Report	1
Introduction	3
Finance	3
Management costs.....	3
Attendance	3
Information on the families and carers that have engaged with us.	4
Networking and Partnerships	5
Feedback from participants, their families or carers	7
New for 2025, we introduced a provider offering Teen Wild Days at Dinton Activity Centre.	8
Key Achievements and Impact	9
Food.....	9
Enriching and Physical Activities	10
Outcomes	10
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND).....	11
Challenges.....	12
Marketing and Communication.....	13
Additional Resources, Partnerships and Aligning with Other Priorities	14
Case Studies.....	15
Wokingham Borough Council Case Study: Building Confidence and Reducing Isolation Through Inclusive Provision	17
Wokingham Borough Council Case Study: Specialist SEND Provision Enabling Participation and Independence.....	18
Case Study: Community Events Strengthening Family Engagement and Access to Support.....	18
Case Study: Developing Skills, Aspiration and Pathways for Secondary-Aged Young People	19
Summary of Cross-Cutting Impact.....	20
Thank you to everyone who worked in partnership and supported us in 2025:.....	21

Introduction

The holiday activities and food (HAF) programme provides support to children and young people from low-income families during school holiday periods. Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some families. For some children and young people that can lead to a holiday experience gap. Children and young people from low-income households are more likely to experience food insecurity and social isolation, miss out on physical activity and enriching experiences, and fall behind in development and wellbeing.

The HAF programme is a direct response to this, providing free nutritious meals, enriching activities and safe environments for eligible children and young people, benefiting their health, wellbeing and learning.

Finance

In Wokingham our overall spend on funding for the HAF Programme in 2025 was **£313,700**

The proportion of funding we spent on administration was **£50,000**. The breakdown for expenses:

Management costs

- Strategic planning to align HAF with LA priorities
- Reporting, data, monitoring and evaluations
- Managing bookings, communication and marketing
- Forecasting/finance, procurement and commissioning
- Provider contracts/quality assurance
- Managing due diligence, policies, procedures and training
- Strategic steering and development for the HAF Programme

Attendance

The HAF Programme in Wokingham provided **1452** children and young people with the opportunity to access free activities and a healthy meal. A breakdown of the children and young people accessing provisions for each holiday period are:

- Easter - **383**
- Summer - **637**
- Christmas - **432**

The proportion of primary and secondary aged children and young people who participated in the HAF Programme in Wokingham were:

- Primary - **81%**
- Secondary - **19%**

The number of children and young people with SEND or additional needs who participated in the HAF Programme in Wokingham were:

- SEND universal provisions - **449**
- SEND specialist provisions (this includes Stay and play and Events) - **106**

In 2025, we did not receive Children's and Young People's Resettlement funding, which was reflected in a lower number of unique children and young people reached compared to 2024.

Club Hub SEND specialist provision has been offering opportunities since 2024 for children and young people with complex medical needs or disabilities to participate in the HAF programme alongside their peers, where universal providers may not be able to meet their needs. Feedback from parents and carers has been very positive.

We contributed financial support to the CAMHS Phoenix School, which educates patients aged 11-18 admitted to the CAMHS Phoenix Unit at Wokingham Hospital. The funding facilitated access to enriching activities at the unit during school holidays.

Information on the families and carers that have engaged with us.

We offered signposting and referrals to families who accessed the Community HAF Events and via email communication to all families who are registered.

- Community Events – **614** children attended our events in 2025
- Adult Learning Courses – signposted to **1920** parent/carers
- Share Wokingham – **33** signposted to parent/carers
- School uniform and school stationary starter kits – **103** referrals
- Support with clothing, footwear and bedding – signposted to parent/carers of **103** children

Parent/carers who email to the haf@wokingham.gov.uk mailbox receive an auto response which signposts families to support services including First Days Children's Charity, WBC Cost of Living online Hub and SHARE Wokingham.



Referrals

We currently have 37 children and young people accessing funding from our allocated 15% of the overall budget. This enables those who do not meet the standard eligibility criteria to still benefit from valuable opportunities during the school holidays. Referrals for this support can only be made by a professional working with the family.

How to make a referral - Professionals working with family, who believe their family would benefit from accessing opportunities through the school holiday can complete a referral form. You can find more information here: [HAF referrals \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](https://wokingham.gov.uk/haf-referrals)

Networking and Partnerships

The Manager represented the HAF Programme on various steering or working groups, to ensure the HAF Programme is delivered to meet the key priorities and grant guidelines.

These include:

- Youth Steering Group
- Inequalities Steering Group
- Short breaks Steering Group
- Physically Active Communities Action Group
- Domestic Abuse Ambassador Working Group
- Children's Services Participation Development Steering Group
- Wraparound Care Programme Steering Group

The HAF Manager reports to key members of the Leadership Team before and after each Programme to gain feedback, guidance and approval.

Photo HAF Team and Community Engagement with Rob Comber, Wokingham Borough Council Mayor at the HAF summer event in Woodley



We worked with the following organisations:

- Storyy Group
- Funtastic Kids
- Get Active
- Core Kids Club
- u-Sports
- Junior Adventures Group
- Goals
- The Cowshed
- Just Play Sports
- In2Sport
- Places Leisure
- Sport in Mind
- Freely Fruity
- Wokingham Borough Council – Club Hub
- Short Breaks Team
- Wokingham Children's Centre
- Shinfield Parish Council
- Woodley Town Council
- Community Adult Learning Team
- Community Engagement Team
- My Journey
- Wokingham Libraries
- Public Health
- Share Wokingham
- Foundry College
- Roost Community Store
- First Day's Children Charity
- CAB
- Building for the Future
- Camp Mohawk
- Wokingham Waterside Centre
- Wokingham Family Golf
- Wokingham Superbowl
- Finchampstead Baptist Church
- Sir Whippy
- Chameleon Face Painting
- Chaplin's Entertainment
- Yvonne Coombs (Catering volunteer)
- Reading University
- Basil and Crew
- Escape Hunt
- Dinton Activity Centre
- The Bounce Park Reading
- Abbeyfield Care Home
- Cantley Park Tennis
- Alanis Coach Travel
- Your Coach Hire
- ABC Travel

Photo Woodley Lunch Bunch, engaging with families at the HAF Summer event in Woodley



Feedback from participants, their families or carers

Parent:

"Thanks so much, things my end are manic as my husband is on palliative care @ home so the help & support you have provided has been fab. Thanks so much"



Parent:

"I wanted to reach out and thank the HAF team for organising a beach trip. Myself and my children and friends had such a lovely day, the weather held out for us with only a short downpour which happened whilst we were on the pier, so we were able to take shelter and enjoy watching the storm over the sea. It was a really lovely day, so thank you all."

Club Hub feedback, Parent:

"Thank you for putting the boys forward for the SEND sessions, I was at work, but when H dropped and picked them up they were both happy. This is the first time we have been able to send both of them somewhere new without concerns about whether they would cope"

Club Hub feedback, Parent:

"S and the team there also demonstrated how professional and capable they are, and it was just amazing to have somewhere as good as Addington School to take her where we can feel confident that she is going to be safe and happy"

Club Hub feedback Parent:

"I just wanted to thank you again for getting daughter a place at the SEND holiday club! It has been so nice to have the opportunity to take her to that kind of setting where she can be social, rather than just 121 with a carer"

Parent:

"You have no idea how much difference you have made. A simple thank you is not enough. I really appreciate everything that you have done for us, for N. Thank you to the whole HAF team ❤️"

Parent:

"A big thank you to everyone that works at the Cowshed. One of our boys (aged 12) attended the activities today and absolutely love it. I am so impressed with the things he made. Well done to all of you, for organising this - what a fantastic day he had."

Parent:

"Thanks so much. My daughter really loves coming to u. She comes away so happy with all the creative things she has made. Your staff are lovely & I think it's brilliant you run these for all our HAF kiddies. We look forward to next time"



Provider Feedback form

"Child really liked the club activities and would like to come back"

Provider Feedback form

"Parent said support was invaluable during the holidays and they are happy that child had fun"

Provider Feedback form

"SEND child overcoming separation anxiety on first time at holiday club"

The HAF Team provide opportunities for children, young people, and their parent carers to ensure their voices are heard and to shape the HAF programme in line with their needs and interests.

We gathered feedback from young people in 2024 on the types of activities they would like to see in 2025/26. This is what they told us:

- Money management, budgeting, banking, and first aid courses
- Practical skills such as bike repairs, construction, mechanics, plastering, woodwork, and plumbing
- Cooking, health, and nutrition
- Sports and physical activities including boxing, table tennis, football, swimming, multi-sports, gym, archery, dancing, axe throwing, and skateboarding
- Trips and experiences such as beach visits, go-karting, camping, forestry, Thorpe Park, rock climbing, animal care, and winter wonderland
- Creative activities such as art, crafts, graffiti, music, video games, and design

We used this feedback to deliver more of the types of activities that young people had suggested.

Photo, a young person is working on their AQA certificate in construction.



New for 2025, we introduced a provider offering Teen Wild Days at Dinton Activity Centre.

Activities include:

- Climbing wall
- Paddleboarding, kayaking, and sailing
- Team-building activities such as raft building, crate stacking, and assault courses
- A range of other adventurous activities designed to build confidence

To ensure young people feel heard, we are committed to a “you said, we did” approach. Wokingham Borough Council will use this feedback to further develop and expand provision, ensuring we offer a flexible and diverse programme for young people to access through the HAF programme in 2026.



Key Achievements and Impact

In 2025, the HAF programme delivered an average of **139,392** hours of enriching and engaging activities to children and young people. These sessions spanned a wide range of interests, including sports, arts, STEM, and outdoor learning, ensuring inclusive and stimulating experiences for all participants.

Approximately **33,000** nutritious meals were served, supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people during school holidays. These meals not only addressed food insecurity but also promoted healthy eating habits and routines.

Collaboration with Woodley Town Council

By partnering with new providers, we increased our capacity in targeted areas, ensuring more families could access the programme. This strategic growth helped address local demand and reduce waiting lists.

Continued partnership with Shinfield Parish Council

Our collaboration with Shinfield Parish Council strengthened community ties and enabled the delivery of more locally rooted activities, increasing engagement and visibility within the area.

AQA Certification

We provided young people with opportunities to learn new skills. **125** AQA certificates were awarded to young people who attended sessions such as Construction, Carpentry, Bricklaying, Sport, Volunteering, Cooking, Working in a Team, Hair and Make-up

Collaboration with Share Wokingham

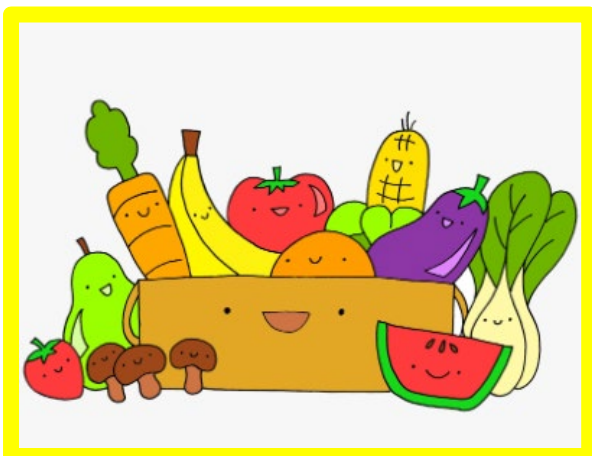
Working in partnership Share Wokingham, to offer over **100** children a very special Santa's Grotto Experience. This included Santa's Workshop where children were able to build a rabbit, make reindeer food and Christingles, create crafts and decorate biscuits along with a very special visit to Santa.



Food

Sourcing high-quality hot food suppliers remains an ongoing challenge for the Wokingham HAF team. We continue to explore new partnerships and solutions to improve the variety and quality of meals offered.

To ensure that food is never a barrier to participation, the introduction for children and young people to bring their own packed lunch if that is their preferred choice has been well received. This added flexibility supports individual needs and encourages continued engagement with the programme, whilst preventing food waste.



Enriching and Physical Activities

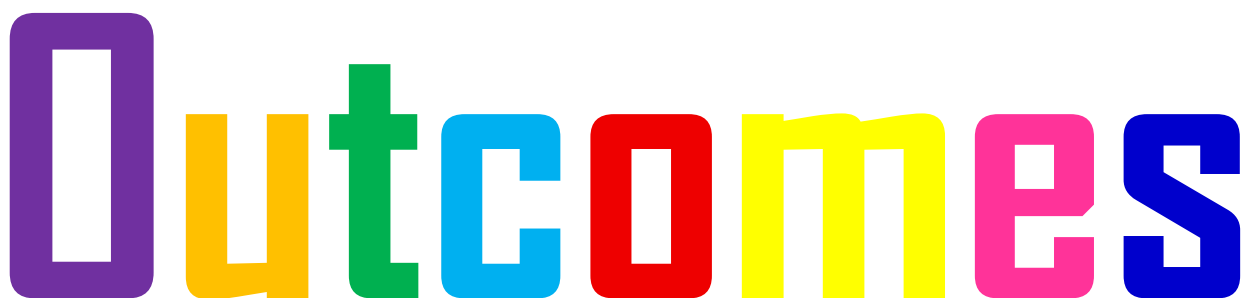
We offered a wide range of sporting activities for all age ranges and needs. Each year we send out surveys asking children and young people what activities they enjoyed the most and what activities they would like to see us offering for the future. Activities offered in 2025 included:

- Football
- Cricket
- Archery
- Rounders
- Dodgeball
- Tennis and table tennis
- Boxercise
- Foot Golf
- Playground Games
- Swimming
- Paddle boarding and kayaking
- Raft Building
- Indoor Climbing Centre
- Circuits and sensory sports
- Team outdoor games
- Bowling
- Laser quest
- Escape
- Orienteering
- Forestry
- And lots more!

Outcomes

Based on extensive feedback from providers, professionals, and parent carers, as well as the activities delivered, the HAF programme has successfully achieved the following outcomes:

- Increased school readiness and smoother transitions between key stages
- Improved emotional wellbeing and resilience among children and young people
- Strengthened parenting confidence and skills through engagement and support
- Greater awareness and uptake of local community resources and opportunities
- Reduced social isolation for both children and families during school holidays
- Enhanced cultural awareness and exposure to diverse experiences
- Encouraged positive routines and structure during holiday periods
- Increased physical activity levels contributing to better overall health
- Developed greater independence and decision-making skills in children and young people
- Strengthened community cohesion through partnerships and shared experiences
- Improved safeguarding awareness among families and providers
- Enhanced ability to identify and respond to emerging needs within communities
- Strengthened partnerships working across education, health, and community sectors
- Increased aspiration and motivation for future education and employment pathways
- Reduced stigma associated with accessing food and support services
- Improved consistency of support for vulnerable families across holiday periods



Outcomes

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

Some children and young people with additional needs may find it difficult to participate in universal holiday activities alongside their peers. To ensure they are included and receive the support they need in a welcoming environment, we provide a range of specialist SEND holiday provisions through the HAF programme.

Through these provisions, we support more than 100 children and young people with complex medical needs and disabilities to access enriching holiday activities. Our offer includes:

Specialist Holiday Club – providing a wide range of activities, including therapeutic sensory play, sports, outdoor exploration, and much more, delivered over four days at four hours per day.

Stay and Play Sessions – offering two four-hour sessions each week.

Outreach Activities – enabling young people to build social skills, increase independence, and develop confidence in accessing their local community alongside their peers.

SEND-Friendly Day Trips and Events – available across all three HAF programmes throughout the year.

SEND-Friendly Christmas Pantomime – providing an inclusive festive experience for children and families.

Children and young people with SEND often benefit from consistency and trusted relationships in order to feel safe and confident in new environments. Through funding secured from the Hardship Alliance, we have been able to offer after-school activities during term time. This has supported greater engagement with the HAF programme during school holidays by reducing anxiety, providing consistency, and allowing children and young people to build positive relationships with Club Hub staff throughout the year.

We have also worked closely with providers to increase opportunities within our universal HAF provisions for children and young people with SEND who can access activities without additional support and do not require a specialist setting. This helps ensure that children are able to participate in the most appropriate provision for their individual needs while promoting inclusion wherever possible.

Photo Some of the team from Club Hub in their new uniforms.



Challenges

- **Sourcing Quality Hot Food Suppliers**

We continue to face challenges in identifying reliable hot food suppliers who can deliver consistently across the borough. In response, we have worked with providers to find creative solutions for offering high-quality hot meals within limited kitchen facilities. The use of equipment such as air fryers, portable ovens, and electric grills has given providers greater confidence to deliver their own food provision, rather than relying on external suppliers.

Due to high levels of food waste, we also introduced an option for families to opt out of the free meal and provide a packed lunch instead. This was well received, helped reduce waste, and enabled us to make some cost savings.

- **Rising Costs**

There has been a continued rise in costs associated with providers, activity delivery, resources, and food provision, placing increasing pressure on the programme budget and limiting the number of places that can be offered by providers.

- **Non-Attendance Costs**

A key challenge has been the cost impact of children and young people booking activities but not attending, leading to wasted resources and missed opportunities for others. We have worked closely with providers to reduce non-attendance and limit the costs associated with unused places. In addition, we have strengthened communication with schools, parents, and providers to highlight the financial implications of non-attendance and encourage more responsible booking.

- **Transport Costs**

To ensure the HAF programme is accessible to everyone, we work proactively to remove any barriers that might prevent children and young people from taking part. We aim to offer activities in a range of locations across the borough to minimise the need for transport, particularly given rising costs. However, this has been more challenging for secondary-aged participants and those in specialist SEND provision, due to the specific types of venues required or the need for smaller group settings to suit individual needs and interests. In some cases, we have also had to provide transport for children and young people living in more isolated areas, where links to Wokingham are limited, or where personal circumstances make it difficult for them to access activities independently.

- **Limited Funding**

The available funding does not extend far enough to provide activities for every eligible child or young person in Wokingham. However, Wokingham Borough Council works hard each year to ensure high-quality provision while maximising the reach of the HAF programme so that as many children and young people as possible can benefit.

- **Secondary interests**

In 2025, we identified a decline in attendance within our secondary provisions. To address this, we engaged with young people throughout the year to better understand the types of activities they would like to see in the HAF programme. This feedback will inform the development of the 2026 programme, with the aim of increasing interest and improving attendance.

Marketing and Communication

The success of the HAF Programme relies heavily on effective communication and outreach to ensure families are informed, engaged, and able to access the support available. Our marketing approach is multi-faceted and strategically timed to maximise reach and impact:

Direct School Engagement

Prior to each programme launch, we email all schools across the borough with detailed information about the upcoming HAF offer. This ensures that schools are well-informed and can support the sharing of information to eligible families.

Integration with the HolidayActivities E-Voucher System

All Schools who are able to link up with the HolidayActivities e-voucher platform, to enable them to distribute digital vouchers directly to eligible children and young people. This seamless integration ensures that families can easily book activities and access the support they are entitled to.

Targeted Family Communications

We email families who have previously accessed the HAF programme, providing clear and comprehensive information about:

- Programme launch dates
- Available activities and venues
- Booking instructions

Support options and contact details

This personalised approach helps maintain engagement and encourages repeat participation.

Social Media Outreach

Our Holiday, Activities and Food Programme Facebook page is regularly updated with:

- Programme announcements
- Activity highlights
- Booking reminders
- Testimonials and photos

This platform helps us reach a wider audience and engage with families in a more informal, interactive way.

Collaboration with the Communications Team

We work closely with our Communications Team to develop and distribute promotional materials, press releases, and digital content. This ensures consistent messaging and professional presentation across all channels.

Presence at Networking Events

Attending local networking events allows us to promote the HAF programme directly to community partners, providers, and stakeholders. These events also help us build relationships and identify new opportunities for collaboration.

Website Updates

Our dedicated HAF webpage is kept up to date with the latest programme information, including:

- Booking information
- FAQs
- Eligibility criteria
- Contact information

This ensures families and professionals can easily find accurate and timely information.

We create and share short videos to showcase the programme's impact, highlight available activities, and explain how to get involved. These videos are shared via social media, our website, and email campaigns to make the programme more accessible and engaging.

[Holiday, activities, and food programme \(wokingham.gov.uk\)](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/haf-programme)

[Holiday activity and food programme - primary school-aged](#)

[Holiday activity and food - children with SEND](#)

[Holiday activity and food programme - secondary school-aged](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/HAFprogrammeWoky/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010701937193>

Additional Resources, Partnerships and Aligning with Other Priorities

We work with local suppliers, charities and groups to:

Working with Woodley Town Council's youth strategy, to secure funding to enable young people aged 9–16 living within Woodley postcodes to access activities through the HAF programme. This created valuable opportunities for a targeted group of young people to engage in much-needed activities during the school holidays.

- **Working in partnership with Shinfield parish council**

Secure funding from the Hardship Alliance to support SEND provision within after-school provisions. This has enabled us to build stronger relationships and trust, supporting access to SEND HAF provision for children who may not have previously attended, and helping to improve both attendance and outcomes.

- **Sourced discounts from local supermarkets.**
- **Secured discounts from suppliers.**

Case Studies

Case Studies from Junior Adventures Group:



Have you had fun at Junior Adventures Group?

Junior Adventures Group – HAF Case Study
Please complete a minimum of 1 Case Study per holiday period

Holiday Club Venue:	willow bank
HAF Season (e.g. Xmas, Summer or Easter)	Christmas
Age of child:	4
Date of completion & Team member completing the case study:	[REDACTED]

What is your HAF child case study about? (e.g. child that enjoys a specific activity or event? A SEND child or child that has overcome any challenges? An event that the children took part in?)	SEND child over coming Separation anxiety on first time at holiday club
Did the child have any challenges being at your setting in the beginning? (e.g. anxiety, time to settle in, unsure of activities)	Anxiety/didn't know anyone, worried to leave parents. Parents worried due to speech delay and SEND.
What has your provision done to overcome the issues? / Help with the child's development? (e.g. provided adaptations to the activity, buddy support, specific event or responsibility the child enjoyed)	Meeting with parents at the start of session. Gave child extra time to be understood and heard. Adapted activities to the child's interests. Buddied child up with some other children with the same interests.
What has been the impact of the Support offered? (e.g. child enjoyment, child thriving with specific activities, child making friends, etc)	Child made friendships with other children and good relationships with staff. Parents happy and said child wouldn't stop talking about the setting at home
Any other comments/feedback? (e.g. quote from the child or parent/family/guardian)	Quote from mum "She had so much fun, Shes drawn pictures for the staff as she was talking about them all evening"

Case Studies from Junior Adventures Group:



Have you had fun at Junior Adventures Group?

Junior Adventures Group – HAF Case Study

Please complete a minimum of 1 Case Study per holiday period

Holiday Club Venue:	Floreat Montague Park
HAF Season (e.g. Xmas, Summer or Easter)	Christmas
Age of child:	7 years
Date of completion & Team member completing the case study:	12-01-26

What is your HAF child case study about? (e.g. child that enjoys a specific activity or event? A SEND child or child that has overcome any challenges? An event that the children took part in?)	A Send Child
Did the child have any challenges being at your setting in the beginning? (e.g. anxiety, time to settle in, unsure of activities)	used to struggle coming in and could run off when they got over stimulated
What has your provision done to overcome the issues? / Help with the child's development? (e.g. provided adaptations to the activity, buddy support, specific event or responsibility the child enjoyed)	We have a Send area in a quiet place where we would take the child before they went into the main space. They could use this space anytime in the day we also had a clear timetable of the days activities
What has been the impact of the support offered? (e.g. child enjoyment, child thriving with specific activities, child making friends, etc)	The child knowing he had a safe space to go to and knew what was happening when
Any other comments/feedback? (e.g. quote from the child or parent/family/guardian)	'I like it in here' it quiet (child talking to adult in the Send area)

Wokingham Borough Council Case Study: Building Confidence and Reducing Isolation Through Inclusive Provision

Profile

A primary-aged child attending universal HAF provision, experiencing low confidence and limited peer interaction.

Overall Impact

Through participation in HAF activities (sports, arts, and outdoor play), the child developed:

- Improved emotional wellbeing and resilience.
- Increased confidence and willingness to engage with peers.
- Greater independence and participation in group activities
- This aligns with wider programme outcomes including:
 - Reduced social isolation.
 - Increased physical activity.
 - Improved routines during school holidays

Parent feedback highlighted that the child “had so much fun... talking about staff all evening,” demonstrating sustained positive engagement beyond sessions.

SEND Impact

- Although attending a universal setting, the child benefited from:
 - Inclusive practice embedded across providers
 - Staff trained to support additional emotional needs
 - Flexible environments that encouraged gradual participation

This reflects the programme’s success in integrating SEND children into mainstream activities where appropriate (449 SEND children supported in universal provision).

Partnerships and Relationships

- Delivery was made possible through partnerships with:
 - Providers such as **Funtastic Kids and The Cowshed**
 - Local venues and community organisations
 - Strong provider relationships ensured:
 - High-quality, inclusive activity delivery
 - Consistent safeguarding and support

Engagement and Signposting

The family engaged through:

- School communications and e-voucher system
- Follow-up communication providing access to wider support.
- They were also signposted to:
 - Adult Learning courses
 - Cost of Living support hubs
 - First Days Children’s Charity

Impact: Strengthened family awareness of ongoing support and community services.

Wokingham Borough Council Case Study: Specialist SEND Provision Enabling Participation and Independence

Child Profile

Young person aged 11-16yrs with complex needs accessing **Club Hub SEND specialist provision**.

Overall Impact

The young person accessed structured holiday sessions including:

- Bowling, Cinema and Escape Rooms
- Outdoor and physical activities
- Cooking and budgeting skills
- Social group engagement
- Outcomes included:
 - Increased confidence accessing new environments.
 - Improved independence and social interaction
 - Reduced anxiety in unfamiliar settings

A parent noted this was “the first time we have been able to send them somewhere new without concerns”.

SEND Impact

This case highlights the importance of specialist provision:

Over **106 children accessed specialist SEND services**, including stay-and-play and outreach.

- Tailored activities supported medical, physical, and sensory needs
- Outreach trips enabled real-world independence and community access

Additionally:

Inclusive trips (e.g. SEND-friendly events and panto) supported wider experiences

Case Study: Community Events Strengthening Family Engagement and Access to Support

Family Profile

A low-income family attending multiple **Community HAF Events**, including trips and enrichment activities.

- Overall Impact
- The family accessed:
 - Holiday activities and trips (e.g. beach trip)
 - Free meals and enrichment sessions
- Outcomes included:
 - Reduced financial pressure during holidays
 - Improved family wellbeing and shared experiences
 - Increased engagement in community-based opportunities

A parent described the experience as making a significant difference:

“You have no idea how much difference you have made... thank you to the whole HAF team.”

SEND Impact

While not accessing specialist provision, the inclusive nature of events ensured:

- Accessibility for children with emerging or low-level additional needs
- Opportunities for all children to participate regardless of background

Partnerships and Relationships

This case was supported through wide collaboration with:

- **Share Wokingham** (community support initiatives)
- **Town and Parish Councils**
- Activity providers and transport partners
- Partnerships enabled:
 - High-attendance events (614 children attended community events)
 - Expanded capacity and local reach
 - Added-value experiences (e.g. Santa's Grotto collaboration)

Engagement and Signposting

The family received targeted support through:

- First Days
- Share Wokingham
- The Cowshed
- They were signposted/referrals to:
 - School uniform and starter kits (103 referrals)
 - Clothing and essential items support
 - Adult learning (1,920 signposts)

Impact: Increased awareness and uptake of wider cost-of-living support, reducing hardship and improving stability.

Case Study: Developing Skills, Aspiration and Pathways for Secondary-Aged Young People

Young Person Profile

A secondary-aged participant attending **Teen Wild Days and AQA-accredited activities**.

Overall Impact

The young person engaged in:

- Outdoor adventure (climbing, kayaking, team-building)
- Skills-based sessions (construction, teamwork, volunteering)
- Achievements included:
 - Gaining an **AQA certification**
 - Improved confidence, resilience, and teamwork skills
 - Increased motivation towards future education/employment
- Across the programme:
 - **125 AQA certificates** were awarded
 - Activities delivered contributed to **139,392 hours of engagement**

SEND Impact

Provision allowed for:

- Differentiated access depending on need
- Support for SEND young people able to access mainstream provision
- The approach ensured:
- Inclusive participation without stigma
- Opportunities for independence and peer engagement

Partnerships and Relationships

- Key partnerships included:
- Storyy Group
- Sports providers (Dinton Activity Centre, u-Sports, Goals)
- Community learning and skills organisations
- Strategic relationships:
- Helped address declining secondary engagement
- Expanded the offer based on youth voice (“you said, we did”)

Engagement and Signposting

Engagement strategies included:

- Targeted communication via schools and social media
- Youth feedback surveys shaping provision
- Signposting included:
- Skills development pathways
- Community and physical activity opportunities
- Ongoing engagement in 2026 programmes

Impact: Increased aspiration, improved engagement in learning, and stronger pathways into future opportunities.

Summary of Cross-Cutting Impact

Across all four case studies, the HAF Programme demonstrates:

- **Holistic impact:** wellbeing, confidence, independence, and reduced isolation
- **Strong SEND inclusion:** both universal and specialist pathways
- **Effective partnerships:** enabling scale, quality, and innovation
- **Robust engagement & signposting:** connecting families to sustained support beyond holidays

Photo partnership working with Share Wokingham, Roots Community Store and Norreys Church at our Christmas Experience.



Thank you to everyone who worked in partnership and supported us in 2025:

