



Holiday Activities and Food Programme Greenwich (HAF) 2024

Annual Report



Funded by



Department
for Education

ROYAL *borough of*
GREENWICH

Greenwich Holiday Food and Fun 2024

- Holiday Food and Fun – the Greenwich Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) was offered again in 2024 to children and young people (CYP) in receipt of benefit related free school meals and vulnerable young people.
- Total HAF funding for 2024 was **£1,253,950**
- The programme is for school aged children and young people aged **between 4 to 16 years**.
- The aims are to ensure that all participating Children and Young people:
 - Receive **healthy and nutritious meals**
 - Maintain a healthy level of **physical activity**
 - Are happy, having fun and meeting **new friends**
 - Develop a greater **understanding of food, nutrition and other health related issues**
- Take part in **fun and engaging activities** that support their development and well-being
- Feel **safe and secure**
- Get access to the **right support** services
- **Return to school** feeling engaged and **ready to learn**



Our Greenwich corporate plan

HAF supports the following Our Greenwich Missions:

- People's health supports them in living their best life
- Those in financial need can access the right support, advice and opportunities to improve their situation
- Children and young people can reach their full potential
- The voluntary, community and socially motivated sectors in Greenwich are strengthened and able to provide more support to the most in need.



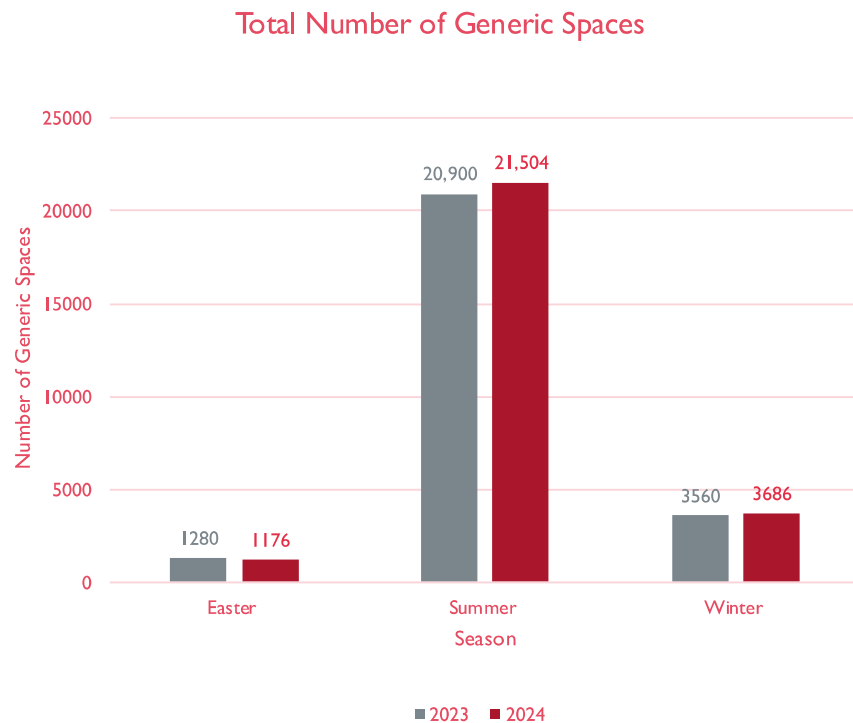
2024 Providers

Holiday	Total Number of providers	Total Number of programmes	Number of specialist SEND providers	Total number of generic spaces	Total number of specialist SEND spaces
Easter	27	41	3	1,176	159
Summer	35	47	3	21,504	2,464
Winter	25	38	3	3,686	532

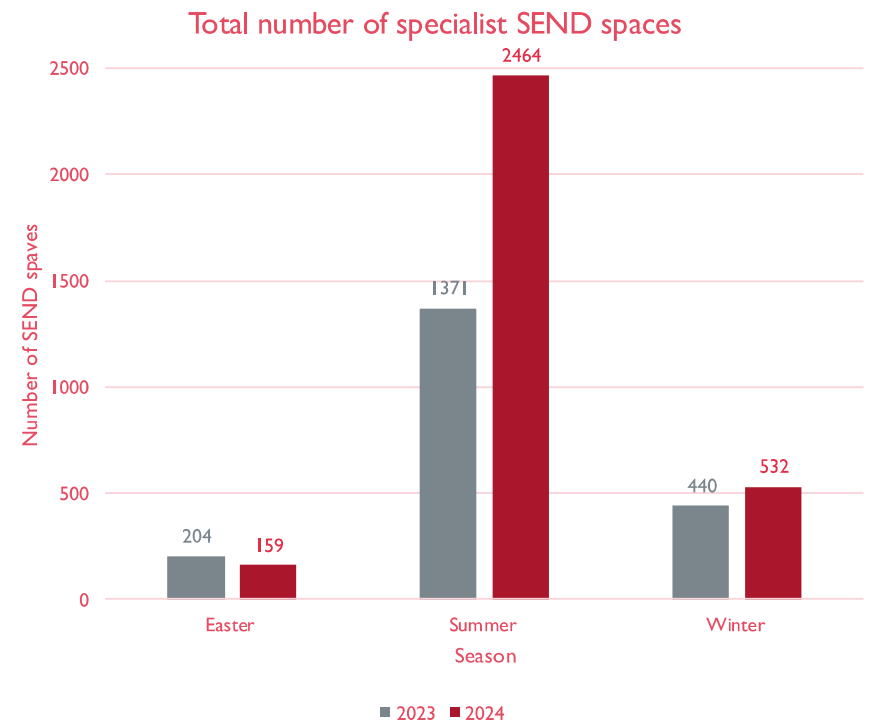
There was an increase in the total number of spaces provided for children over each holiday period compared to 2023. Generic spaces increased by 626 and specialist SEND spaces increased by 1,140.

Number of Spaces

Increase in generic spaces for each season from 2023 (25,740) to 2024 (26,366)



Increase in specialist SEND spaces from 2023 (2,015) to 2024 (3,155)

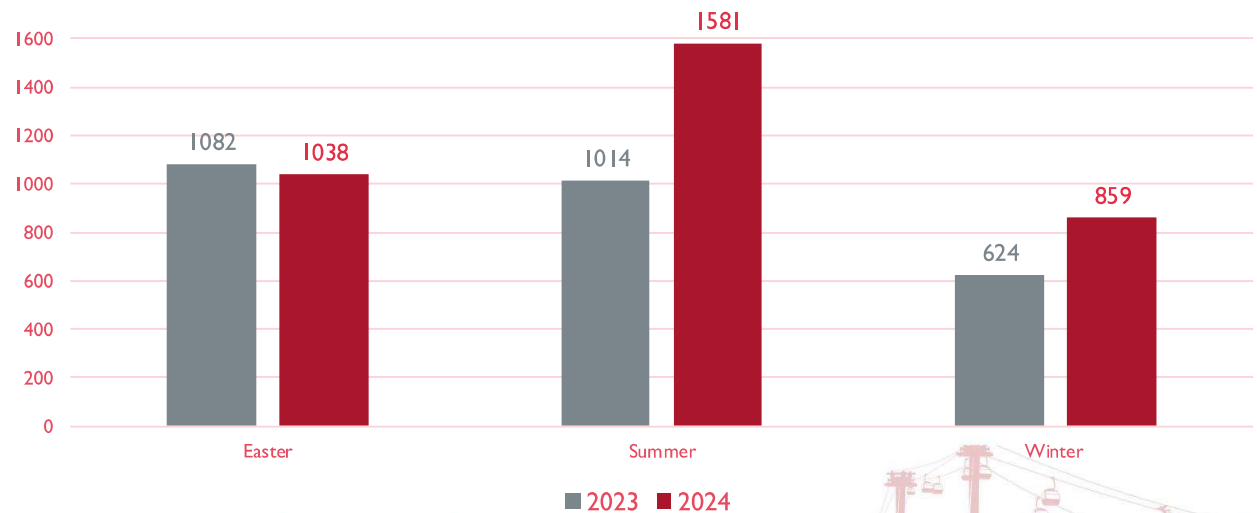


2024 Uptake Data

- 2,490 unique Children and Young People (CYP) registered with the HAF programme during 2024 and **2,368** attended at least one programme.
- **336** unique CYP with Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) attended at least one programme.

- Easter: **1,038** children attended at least one session
- Summer: **1,581** children attended at least one session
- Winter: **859** children attended at least one session.

Number of Children who attended at least one session



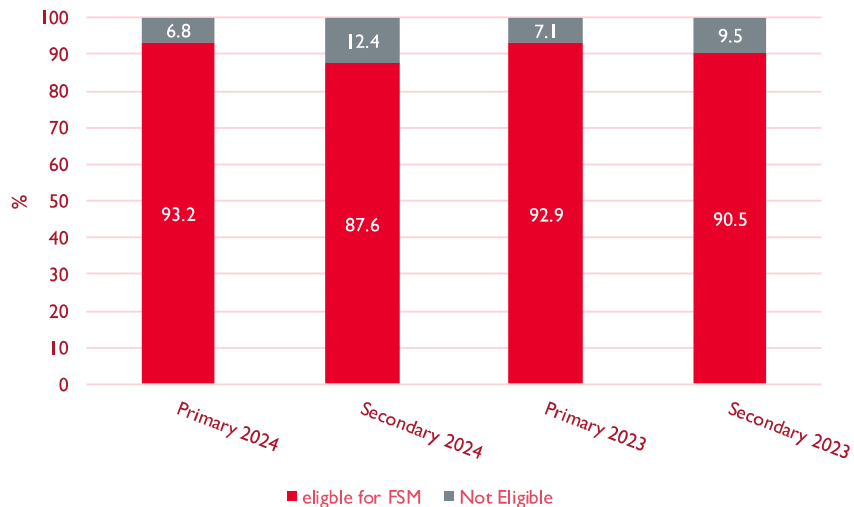
- 79% of participants were primary school aged whilst 19% from secondary. 2% didn't provide a date of birth or school.
- More boys than girls attended (54% vs 46%)

Free School Meals (Reach)

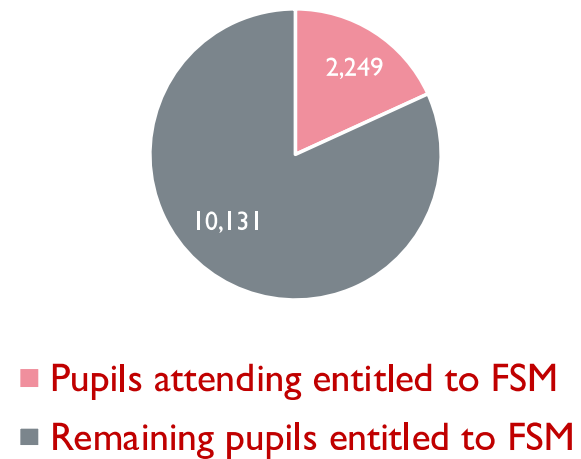
93% of Children and young people who booked onto the programme were identified as entitled to Free school meals (FSM)

The total number of children entitled to receive FSM in Greenwich in January 2024 was 12,380 (DfE Schools Census). These results suggest the HAF programme reached **18%** of these children.

% of children booked onto the programme eligible for FSM



Pupils entitled to FSM attending HAF Programme

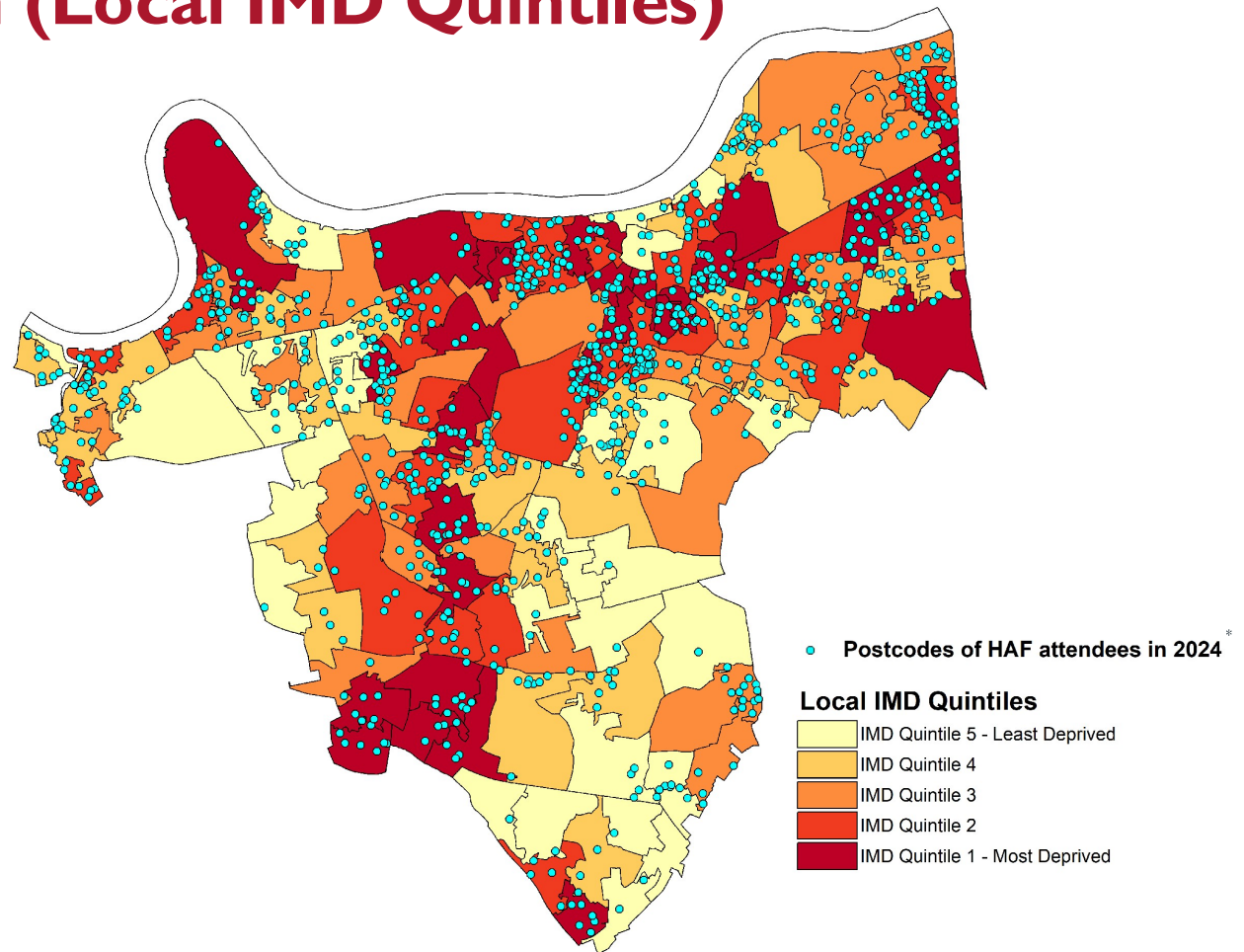


Deprivation (Local IMD Quintiles)

- 54% of Greenwich Residents who Registered with HAF lived in the 2 most deprived quintiles within Greenwich. (Areas by quintile are shown on the map with postcodes where participants were resident shown as blue circles.)
- 23% of Residents registered with HAF lived in the 2 least deprived Greenwich quintiles.

Top 5 Wards of HAF Attendees, Based on Provided Greenwich Postcodes

Ward	No. of Children
Thamesmead Moorings	259
Abbey Wood	161
Plumstead & Glyndon	155
Shooters Hill	142
Kidbrooke Park	131



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*Not including attendees who live outside of Royal Borough of Greenwich

Participant feedback

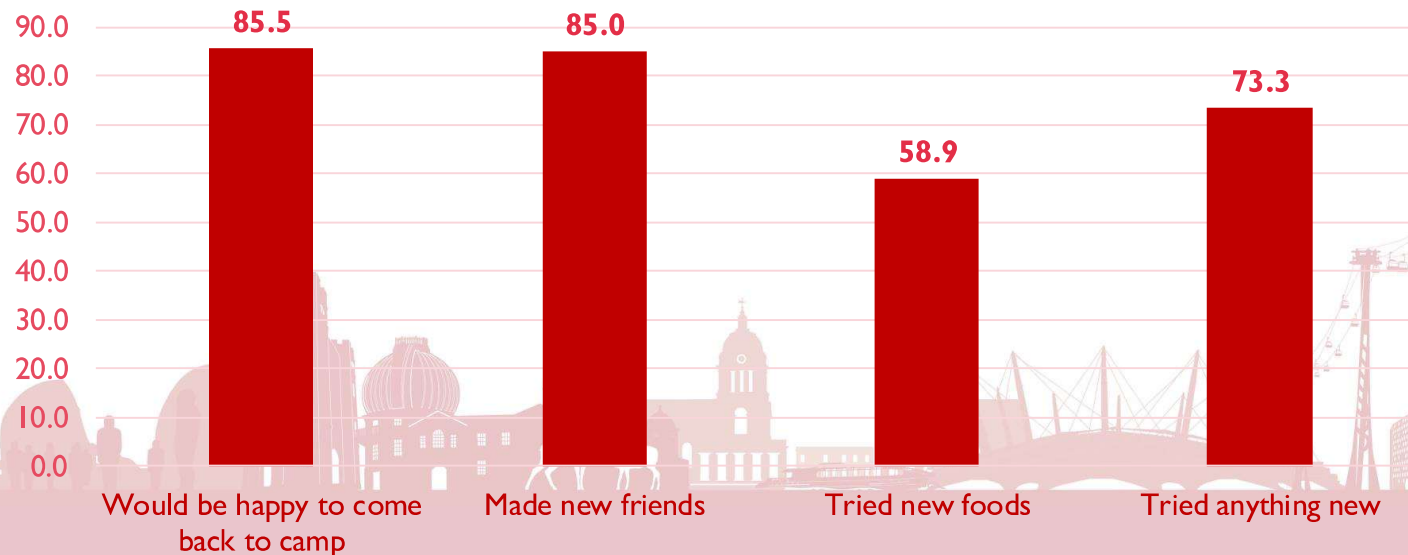
466 Eligible survey responses were analysed for children and young people who attended the HAF programme in 2024. All questions were optional so some responses will total less than 466.

Age

318 responses were from children and young people in primary school children (4-10 years old)

111 responses were from children and young people in secondary school children (11 years +)

'Yes' responses to survey questions among young people (%)



Favourite thing to do

Of the young people who completed the survey, 426 responded to the open-ended question about their favourite thing to do in the club. Responses that were left blank or marked 'N/A' were excluded. Some young people gave more than one answer

Top 10 Responses



Activity	Frequency
Football	95
Playing	30
Swimming	26
Everything	18
Games	13
Drawing	11
Park	10
Dodgeball	9
Dance	9
Climbing	9

Parent and Carer Feedback

101 eligible survey responses were analysed, in which parents and carers shared their thoughts on the HAF 2024 programme

Age

79 responses were from parents and carers for primary school children (4-10 years old)

22 responses were from parents and carers for secondary school children (11 years +)

Free School Meals (FSM)

91 respondents had children eligible for FSM

10 respondents had children not eligible for FSM

Register for Future Impact

100 respondents said they would register their child again

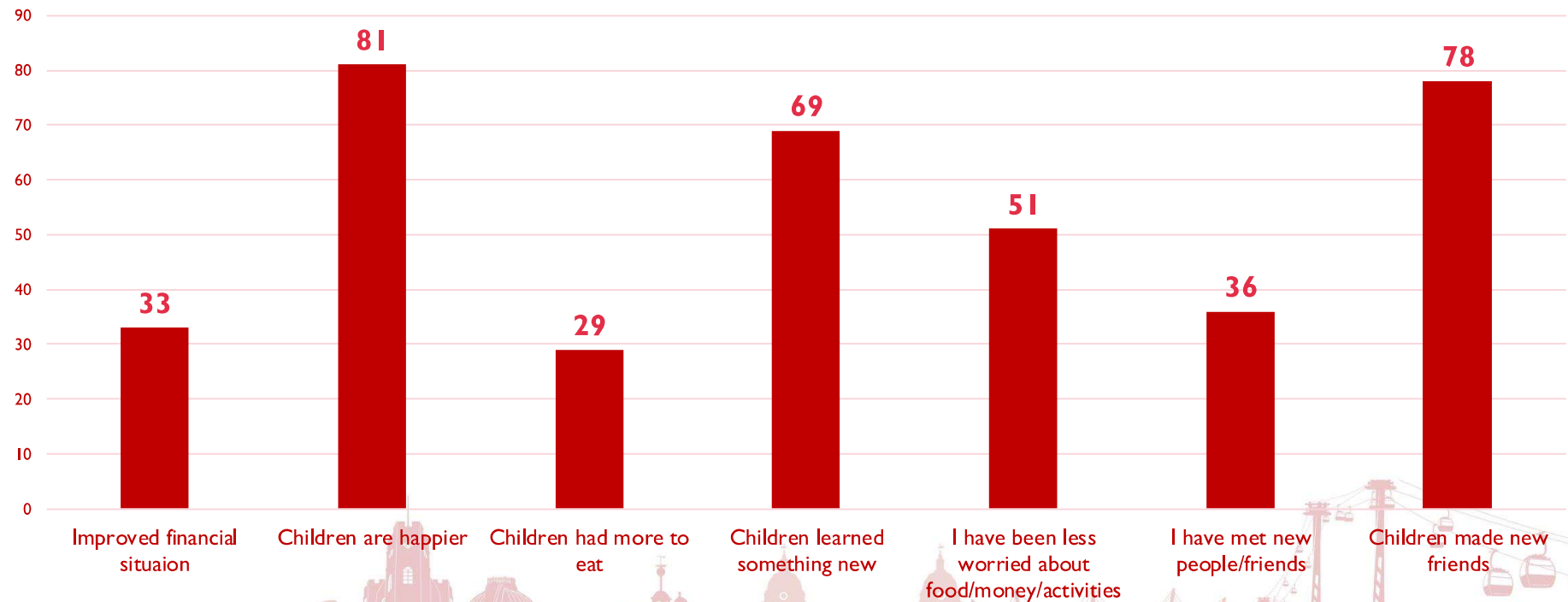
Enough to eat

When asked if the parents/carers and their family had enough to eat

- 78.2% answered yes
- 16.8% answered prefer not to say
- 5% answered no

In the parent's survey, when asked what difference the programme had made, the most selected answer was that children are happier

Has the programme made a difference to you and your family? n=101



Impact

Parents have provided positive feedback and have expressed that they will join further programmes for the following reasons:

Financial pressures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents reported being able to continue going to work and not taking unpaid leave• Less pressure as they know food is provided for them when they are in the programme• Reduced food costs during the school holidays• Childcare support	Food <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children can have a hot meal.• Some programmes have a food bank service which help them greatly.• Children were able to try new foods
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children are pleased with the variety of activities offered which parents would not have been able to afford or have the time for otherwise.• Parents are satisfied with the levels of physical activity their children are receiving.	Happiness and development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children come home feeling happy and fulfilled and excited for the next day at the programme• Improved confidence and self esteem as learning new skills and participating in varied activities.• Children make new friends, and as a result so do some of the parents

Case Study

I. Sutcliffe Park Summer HAF. 29 July – 22nd August 2024

Financial Impact

One parent shared how the program saved her over £36 per day in food and activities for her children, which amounted to more than £140 a week. For families like these this was a substantial saving that made a real difference.

The parent explained that without the program, she would have struggled to find the money needed to cover these costs. Typically, she would have had to rely on borrowing from friends or family, which added stress and financial strain. The program's support allowed her family to be more self-reliant and reduced the need to seek financial help from others, which also helped maintain their dignity and independence.

Mental and Emotional Relief

Beyond the financial savings, the Sutcliffe Park HAF program provided significant mental and emotional relief for parents. Knowing that their children were not only being well-fed but also engaged in positive activities during the holidays gave parents peace of mind. The stress of providing for their children during the school holidays was significantly reduced, allowing them to focus on other aspects of their lives. The parent expressed her deep gratitude for the program's impact. She shared her appreciation by bringing chocolates and a thank-you card for the staff, a gesture that reflected the relief and gratitude felt by many families. In fact, around 25% of the parents who participated in the program reported similar experiences, highlighting the broader impact of the program on family well-being.

Case Study

2. Kids festival Brunch and Learn

A 5-Year-old boy attended a summer camp after hearing positive feedback from his older sister attending. Though initially hesitant about the food, with some encouragement, he began enjoying it by the second week his enthusiasm and boisterous nature added great energy to our group, and he eagerly participated in all activities.

One major challenge faced this summer was a drop in attendance due to the parents' fears from the nationwide riots. Also, that was initial hesitation from some children who were unfamiliar with certain foods or activities. To overcome this, our activity leads provided gentle encouragement, a reward system and created a welcoming environment that made trying new things feel safe and fun. Additionally, we adapted activities to cater to different comfort levels, ensuring every child felt included and supported. This approach not only helped build confidence but also enhanced the overall experience for all participants.

In terms of learning and skill development, the different activities helped enhance both cognitive skills. For instance, our themed educational visits, like the trip to the fire station, stimulated curiosity and critical thinking about careers in the fire brigade. Many of the children developed strong friendships and learned to work effectively in teams. Our programme provided a nurturing environment that encouraged children to explore, learn, and grow.

Case Study

3. Roots4Life

Brothers E & F aged 5 and 6 years live in a 'blended' household with their older half-brothers (aged 16 and 15) and younger sister aged 4.

The family is economically insecure receiving universal credit and has the support of a social worker. Brothers E & F are engaging and fun to be but show signs of neglect (dirty clothes, not washed and a non healthy diet – for example mother refuses to take any fruit and vegetables from the weekly food pantry that Roots4Life runs).

Roots4Life first met the family through attendance at our free weekly Community Pantry and we quickly registered the young children for our holiday camp as the mother showed signs of needing more support and the children in need of extra-circular activities as well as other support.

The service provided two young children with stability, educational support and food during the long summer holidays when due to home background they would have been unlikely to receive any culturally enriching activities during the long summer holiday.

Both boys ate excellently including lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. Within the first week of attending they already looked healthier (less pale, gaining weight and growth in confidence). The boys enjoyed making new friends of more their age which gave their older teenage brothers a break over the summer holidays. They both enjoyed writing and practicing their letters as well as playing football.

It has taken a while (six months) to get further information from the family's mother about their situation and the fact that the children are under the supervision of a social worker. However, we encourage the mother to attend our weekly Warm Hub and to tell us what the children require in terms of school uniform.

We understand the mother has parenting classes to attend this September and we will continue to support her and the family with regular contact through the Warm Hub.

For further information

Holiday-programme@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

