

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To confirm the annual, spend from the Department for Education grant for the delivery of the Holiday activities and food programme 2025/26 across Herefordshire to eligible children and increase the hourly rate paid to providers to deliver the programme in 2025/26
Date of decision:	07/03/2025
Decision maker:	Head of Communities
Authority for delegated decision:	As agreed and signed off by cabinet member for children and families.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	This has been consulted on and approved by cabinet member for children and families.
Decision made:	Decision agreed to use funding of £460,920.00 provided by the Department for Education to award grants to providers to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food programme and cover additional costs, for example, training, promotional materials and administration. To increase the hourly rate paid to providers to reflect the rising cost of energy bills and food.
Reasons for decision:	To ensure there is a range of activities across the county to offer to eligible children through the Free School Meals scheme the opportunity to attend the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. 15% of the grant can be allocated to children not eligible for Free School Meals, if they meet the criteria determined by the Local Authority. The programme will offer up to 96 hours of face to face activities over the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays and include a nutritional meal as per the framework set out by the Department for Education.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	If there is any risk of overspend this would be managed by monitoring the amount of grant that is approved and that we remain in budget. If there was a surge in the number of children and young people wanting to access the programme and an overspend was likely to occur, other funding streams would need to be explored. For example, using funds from the Household support fund.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to accept the allocated Department for Education grant – rejected. This would impact on children and young people in Herefordshire, who are eligible for Free School Meal's, which could widen the gap between them and their peers.
Details of any	N/A

declarations of interest made:	
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Signed:

Emily Lowe
Head of Communities
Date: 07/03/2025