

Holiday Activities and Food Programme, cost of living and Household Support Fund payments

The Council, alongside Edsential and a range of community partners, are running a wide range of fantastic activities for the Summer Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) that will run throughout the school summer holiday.

The HAF Programme is funded nationally and provides funding for local organisations to provide activities for children and young people during the holidays, helping them to access healthy food and take part in fun activities over the school holidays.

Over the summer there will be a wide range of HAF programmes delivered across the borough by our local partners.

This year all provision for the HAF Programme can be found on the new dedicated west Cheshire area on the Edsential website.

- [Cheshire West and Chester provision – Edsential website](#)

Edsential

Community interest company, Edsential, is working with 47 organisations, including schools, community, voluntary and faith sector organisations, to organise 66 holiday activity clubs throughout the borough this summer period. The holiday clubs will provide local children and families with:

- healthy meals and snacks, along with family cooking sessions and nutritional/health education
- a variety of directly delivered physical activities such as, climbing, swimming, yoga, golf, judo, skateboarding, dance and drama workshops
- diverse enrichment activities, including arts and crafts, musical theatre, archery, street dance, mindfulness, forest school, and much more.

Families can also keep up-to-date with Edsential's Holiday Activities and Food programme on their [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [website](#).

Youth Zones for 11-16 year olds (up to 25 for our SEND children and young people)

Operated by the Council's Youth Service, Youth Zones will be providing eligible children and young people across the borough with a Summer offer.

All children and young people will be offered a healthy balanced hot meal or packed lunch.

Programme plans include Arts and crafts, Face painting, Silent Disco, Urban Music Event - including beat boxing, mc-ing and Rapping, Graffiti, Dance workshops with Studio 13, Boo Zoo, Multi sports, inflatables, and trips out.

For further information please email EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Provision for all children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

A number of organisations have been funded to deliver SEND specific HAF provision across the borough of Cheshire West and Chester. The varied offer will include sessions for

children and young people such as arts and crafts, gardening, music and dance, cooking and baking, cycling and swimming. Activities will be on offer across the whole of the summer holidays and a healthy meal will be provided at every session for the children and young people in attendance.

For more information, please email:

AimingHighForDisabledChildren@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Brio Leisure

Brio Leisure will be running various activity programmes from sites across the borough. The range of activities include multi-sport activities, Fun and Floats and Sports Camps, all of which will include a healthy meal.

If you would like more information, please email: info@brioleisure.org.

Criteria/eligibility for the programme

This holiday provision is for school aged children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, and for all children with SEND.

Benefits-related free school meals (FSM) are available to pupils if their parents are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits, and have a claim verified by their school or local authority.

- [Further information on eligibility for free school meals](#)

The Council wants to ensure that the offer of free holiday club provision is available for all children who are eligible

If you have any questions regarding the HAF programme, please email haf@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Please help us to continue to promote the HAF programme to children, young people, parents and carers who may be interested. We want to ensure that all children and young people entitled to access HAF provision are aware of the programme and are supported to take part.

Cost of living support

Due to the cost-of-living crisis, families may be worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food, and transport. They may need help accessing welfare rights, benefits and debt advice, support getting all the money they're entitled to, or simply want to know more about national recent support measures.

Whatever their money worries may be, the Council has put together some useful information to help. The web page includes a wealth of information including the Household Support Fund, the Council's HELP Scheme, Warm Welcoming Spaces and much more.

- Visit: [Cost of living support](#)

Household Support Fund payments for children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM)

The Household Support Fund has been extended for a further 12 months until 31 March 2024 supporting those households most in need due to rising living costs, particularly around the need for fuel. The council has agreed that we will continue to allocate some of the funding to support pupils in receipt of free school meals over the Easter holidays. The support to be provided for the remaining holidays periods up until 31 March 2024 will be provided to you all shortly.