

<b>Report title</b>	<b>Runnymede Club4 Programme</b>
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<b>Department</b>	Community Services
<b>Exempt</b>	No

**Purpose of report:**  
**For Information**

**Synopsis of report:**  
**The Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) was launched in 2021 due to the increased pressures on low-income families in the UK. During the 2021-23 funding period, Runnymede has received £667,352.00 to provide over 17,212 holiday camp places for young people on free school meals, a full breakdown of funding received is included. This report provides information on the summer 2023 Club4 provision in Runnymede and the holiday camp delivered by Runnymede Borough Council.**

**Recommendation(s):**  
**None. This report is for information.**

**1. Context and background of report**

- 1.1 The Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF) was launched in 2021 due to the increased pressures on low-income families in the UK. The rising costs in food and childcare meant children from disadvantaged backgrounds were less likely to take part in organised activities or eat healthy during the holiday period.
- 1.2 This HAF provision was commissioned to Active Surrey (AS) until March 2025 to deliver funded places during the Easter, Summer, and Christmas holiday periods for at least four hours a day, four days a week, six weeks a year. Families eligible for free school meals (FSM) are sent an electronic voucher via an E-voucher platform to book their child/ren's place, this means that the most in need would be able to access funded places.
- 1.3 The brand Club4 is used to reduce the stigma associated with the programme.
- 1.4 AS works with local holiday club providers and organisations working with young people to deliver funded spaces for children in primary and secondary school. Club4 aims for children and young people to:
  - Eat healthily over the school holidays.
  - Be active during the school holidays.

- Be safe and not be socially isolated.
- Have greater knowledge of health and nutrition.
- Be more engaged with school and other local services.
- Take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment.

1.5 Since the launch of Club4 in Runnymede, 17,212 spaces were funded for young people on FSM totaling £667,352.00. Set out below is a breakdown of the spaces and funding received for Runnymede HAF camps over from Summer 2021 to Summer 2023.

Holiday	Spaces	Funding
Summer 2021	4688	£131,740
Christmas 2021	938	£38,684
Easter 2022	2208	£129,094
Summer 2022	3584	£115,409
Christmas 2022	918	£30,473
Easter 2023	1372	£104,642
Summer 2023	3504	£117,310
<b>Total</b>	<b>17212</b>	<b>£667,352</b>

## 2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

2.1. This report provides information on the summer 2023 Club4 provision in Runnymede and the holiday camp delivered by Runnymede Borough Council.

2.2 Over the summer 2023 holidays a total of £117,310 in funding was awarded to providers in the borough, 406 young people were able to access 3,504 funded spaces, with 279 individuals attending from priority wards (Addlestone North, Chertsey St Ann's and Egham Hythe).

2.3 Funded spaces can be within an existing provision; this means some families not receiving FSM pay for spaces at the camp, or a provision for young people only on FSM such as the one delivered by Runnymede Borough Council (RBC). The following is list of providers who were awarded funding over the summer:

- Core Judo Coaching
- Kidwise Group
- Our Parks Ltd
- Physical Development Ltd. t/a Premier Education
- PS Sports Coaching LTD
- PSD Childcare
- Runnymede Borough Council
- Sport4Kids Ltd
- The Gap Club Ltd
- The River Bourne Club
- The Story Project with St Paul's C of E Primary School
- The XT Club Egham
- White Lodge Centre

- 2.4 RBC coordinates a half-day multi-sports camp at the Egham Orbit leisure centre during the Easter, Summer, and Christmas holidays. Since 2021 RBC has received a total of £31,116 in funding to deliver holiday camps at the site.
- 2.5 During the 2023 summer holidays the RBC camp operated between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August and 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August in which young people aged 6 to 11 years old were able to access 24 spaces per day from 9.30am to 1.30pm.
- 2.6 Four playworkers and a supervisor, who are employed by RBC delivered the sessions, all staff have a background in coaching or working with children. Staff also completed in-house training and were asked to complete a safeguarding course and first aid course.
- 2.7 The leisure centre's sports hall, Meadow room, tennis courts and 3G pitches were hired for the camp, Achieve Lifestyle applies a 25% discount towards hire costs. Staff facilitate activities guided by young people, which is mainly sports focused, but for those who do not wish to take part in sports, they are able to try arts and craft activities.
- 2.8 Enrichment activities included a Lego workshop delivered by an external provider and fruit and vegetable growing kits which young people prepared during the session and then took home. Visits from external sports clubs were also organized with clubs such as Knowle Green Boxing Club, Runnymede Raptors and RB Tennis attending sessions.
- 2.9 A hot meal was provided at lunchtimes along with healthy snacks which include fresh fruit, water and no sugar juice. The Egham Orbit catering team prepared lunches for the camp, all meat dishes were halal, and a veggie option was available each day. Parents and carers were required to disclose their child's dietary requirements when registering their child's place to ensure any food allergies were disclosed and catered for.
- 2.10 The summer provision had an average attendance rate of 80% (19/24 spaces) in week one and 69% (17/24 spaces) in week two, compared to an average of 50% across the county. Historically, non-attendance has been an issue with parents failing to cancel their child's place, since Christmas 2022, 97 spaces were not attended.
- 2.11 To combat this, Officers overbooked sessions knowing some parents would not attend. Officers also sent reminder emails and text notifications to parents a week before the camp, and a phone call on the day if they did not show up. Persistent no-shows resulted in the young person's space being withdrawn and offered to another family on the waiting list.
- 2.12 In future, all messaging for Club4 will highlight that spaces are funded and not 'free', and non-attendance prevents access to other families wishing to take up the offer.
- 2.13 Feedback from parents was very positive. Officers and Active Surrey contacted parents for feedback after the camp, and a case study of one of the attendees can be found in Appendix 'A'. A summary of feedback responses is set out below:
- "My son enjoyed all the activities the staff were very kind"
  - "This is the second year my children have attended, and they have absolutely enjoyed it".

- “My son came out every day telling me all about the different activities they had done that day (he normally says, “I can’t remember”. I will definitely be registering him again next holiday! )”
- Young people rated enjoyment had an average rating of 4.5 out of 5.
- 100% of parents said they would recommend our camp to another family and would attend again.
- 100% of parents were happy with the communication and organisation of the camp.

2.14 Club4 funding is due to end in March 2025 and the DfE has not communicated any plans to extend the provision. Dependent on ongoing availability of finances, a smaller provision can be provided if funding could be made available through the Youth Development Fund.

### 3. Policy framework implications

3.1 This project meets the following objectives in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- Healthy Communities: For all residents to be able to engage and participate in their community, access services, facilities, amenities, leisure, and recreational opportunities locally.
- Working in partnership to tackle health inequality: To work with statutory agencies, voluntary, community and faith sector organisations, communities, and residents to identify and tackle health inequalities and deprivation.

### 4. Resource implications/Value for Money (where applicable)

4.1 A total of £ £6,180.48 was received in funding from Active Surrey to deliver the 2023 summer camp all of which was spent on the camp, a full breakdown of the budget is set out below:

Runnymede Borough Council Club4 Budget (Summer 2023)

Item	Cost
Venue Hire	£1,798
Food	£1,344
Staffing	£2,040
Coaching and enrichment activities	£1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,182</b>

### 5. Legal implications

5.1 This project complies with requirements for first aid, Ofsted and safeguarding, through appropriate training. A risk assessment for activities has been undertaken and external providers are required to provide an up-to-date DBS and coaching qualifications. A lead playworker employed by Runnymede Borough Council to deliver the project is suitably qualified. Active Surrey also conducts yearly checks on the Council’s Safeguarding, Recruitment, Data protection, and Equality & Diversity policies.

5.2 The legal department will be approached for any new agreement, if any required.

**6. Equality implications**

- 6.1 The project complies with the Council's Equalities Policy and supports marginalised groups. The project is open to all families in receipt of Free School Meals in Runnymede and has no other qualifying criteria.

**7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications**

- 7.1 To reduce the impact on the environment, food is made onsite by the leisure centre staff, and cutlery, cups and plates are all reusable. Any waste/rubbish is recycled by the leisure centre.

**8. Risk Implications**

There could be potential for reputational damage if there was poor delivery or poor take-up. There would be risks associated with health and safety if we did not comply with all the legal requirements.

**9. Background papers**

**10. Appendices**

**Appendix 'A' – case study.**