

ESSEX & THURROCK WINTER HAF 2023



Funded by
Department
for Education



Essex County Council

thurrock.gov.uk

Across an average of 4 days, we delivered and supported...

232

activity clubs
across Essex
and Thurrock

134

primary
clubs

5,766

unique children
engaged with a
winter HAF club

46

secondary
clubs

10,383

total attendances
across winter
HAF clubs

588

schools engaged
to release
Holiday Activities
vouchers

93%

of children
attended receive
benefit based free
school meals



33

specialist SEND clubs, providing activities such as sensory sessions in smaller groups, to help children feel a sense of belonging



97%

of parents who completed the winter survey said their child felt safe when attending a HAF club

82%

of parents explained how winter clubs positively impacted them and their child's mental wellbeing

82%

of children were doing less than the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity a day, before attending a HAF club

80%

of young people returned to a HAF club this winter

We would not survive without this club! We are a low-income family, but are grateful that Multi Sports understands we need the support, because without this, we would not survive, especially with food costs and keeping my part time job. It really helps our mental health too.
— Parent from Chelmsford

My daughter felt very pampered and was made to feel very special, they had good quality food and good quality activities. The art work my daughter came home with are now keepsakes for years to come and her stocking and decorations she made will come out every Christmas!
— Parent from Basildon

15

mental wellbeing clubs, offering a calm and quiet setting for children to enjoy and try new activities and socialise with others, all at their own pace



We also provided and positively impacted...



8,000

winter activity booklets to engage, inspire and educate families and children at home to get active and creative, as well as offer household support around cost of living



407

food hampers including different essentials, gifts and treats to help struggling families around the cost of living crisis



9

unique family experiences helped to ensure all families have valued and memorable experiences with their children

My son absolutely LOVED the club, he's a confident child but is usually quite hesitant going to holiday clubs, but he was buzzing and couldn't wait to go again. I cannot thank the staff enough as you've clearly made the children feel extremely comfortable, happy and stimulated as he has been asking to return since!
— Parent from Uttlesford



The holiday clubs are really beneficial to my son. He is autistic so he struggles to leave the house and mix with others. He looks forward to trying new activities. Its normally between Ultimate Ninjas and Mistley Kids Club he enjoys, as he feels most comfortable at these locations.
— Parent from Colchester

73%

of young people felt they mostly developed their social and teamworking skills at a winter HAF club

63%

of children said they felt more understood and confident as their communication skills have developed since attending a winter HAF club

61%

of young people developed their creativity skills at a HAF holiday club, as they were able to explore new interests and hobbies

94%

of children benefitted the most from an easier transition back to school which helped with routine and structure during the holidays, as a result of attending a winter HAF club

83%

of parents said their child benefitted the most from having the opportunity to enjoy a hot, cooked meal whilst attending a winter HAF club

86%

of children benefitted the most from socialising with others and forming friendships at a winter HAF club

My children love attending these funded holiday clubs, it is greatly beneficial for them to meet new friends and take part in fun activities. It's a god send for myself as a single working parent, as it allows me to continue working part time during the school holidays.
— Parent from Maldon