

HAF NEWSLETTER

02/02/2024

Our bi-weekly HAF newsletter provides important information to help support the delivery of your provision, as well as useful guidance, resources, key dates, funding opportunities and more!

FEBRUARY HALF TERM DELIVERY UPDATES

With February half term less than three weeks away, please take a look at this years February half term theme, key reminders around the delivery and how to use our Partner Hub to promote your clubs.

FEBRUARY THEME: CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

A reminder that Children's Mental Health Week will take place from 5th-11th February 2024. This years theme is 'My Voice Matters' and we are supporting the national campaign alongside [Place2Be](#).

We would like you to support this theme during your February half term delivery with different resources for families, primary and secondary children to use, which you can find on our [Partner Hub](#).

[Please feel free to add your club to the Children's Mental Health Week map](#) and share how you are supporting Children's Mental Health Week to inspire others around the UK and beyond to support children's mental health.

KEY THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT FEBRUARY HALF TERM

- Please use the hashtag [#EssexActivAte](#) when posting across online channels, and not [#HAF](#), as half term programmes are solely funded by Essex County Council.
- Parents **will not need a HolidayActivities voucher code** to book their children onto your clubs.
- Parents will book onto a February half term club on the [Essex ActivAte website here](#).

PARTNER HUB

Please promote and share your clubs as much as possible, by using our logo, posters and images to reach and engage families. You will find these on our [Partner Hub](#) under the [Communications Hub Page](#).

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT/RELATIONSHIPS

A huge thank you to you all for starting to action some of our top tips on how to engage with local schools and promote the Essex ActivAte and HAF programmes. We have started to recognise a positive difference along with some noticeable outcomes of your engagement from our winter evaluation. This includes parents gaining knowledge and understanding of what your club offer, as well as more understanding on how to book using their Holiday Activities voucher codes. We encourage you to continue to arrange school visits to help build relationships and increase awareness of the programmes that you offer to ensure successful future deliveries.



WINTER EVALUATION AND INFOGRAPHIC

Thank you to those of you who completed the winter survey and sending over your thoughts. We received a great, 273 responses from parents, which has enabled us to put together a fantastic infographic, showing the impact of your amazing delivery, on young people and families across the winter holidays!

[Take a look at the winter infographic and local impact here.](#)

● DATES TO CONSIDER ●

5th - 11th February
Children's Mental Health Week
Walk To School Week

26th February
Path To Paris launch



WIDER OPPORTUNITIES

2024 Essex Community Goals Tournament

The 2024 Essex Community Goals tournament is looking for teams to join them on the 22nd June 2024. This tournament is run by Essex Police and will be for teams aged 11-13.



WALK AND TALK WEEK 2024

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, Active Essex are encouraging schools to Go Outside, Get Active and Talk. Between this week, we are asking schools to complete a walk, helping young people to encourage conversation and get moving. If you know of any local schools who would like to get involved, signpost them [here](#).

PATH TO PARIS

IPath to Paris is back, and it's a fantastic way to get families and young people active! It's a virtual journey across the world, inspiring the nation to get active on the run-up to the Olympics and Paralympics.

Starting from Athens, participants can create teams in schools, community groups, or families and every time you get active, you'll earn kilometres to power your team bus. You can even win some amazing prizes along the way! Your team will also learn about various athletes, their sports and the history of the Games.

Watch the livestream on Monday 26th February at 09:30 to find out more and how to get involved:

[Path To Paris livestream link](#).



The livestream will offer an introduction into the 'Path to Paris' challenge, demonstrations of the free. Paris Power Ups and a Q&A with a GB athlete going to the games this summer!

Find out more here: www.activeessex.org/path-to-paris/

Essex Healthy Weight Strategy Workshop

Essex County Council (ECC) Public Health are holding workshops with Essex Healthy Weight stakeholders to collectively discuss and shape the draft Essex Healthy Weight strategy. Please see attached an invitation from the ECC Public Health, Healthy Weight team, who would greatly appreciate your attendance at a workshop to ask you to share your valuable insight to inform the strategy. If interested, please nominate one person from your organisation to attend a workshop, and/or register to receive a copy of the consultation survey. Bookings can be made by scanning the QR code in the poster attached to this email.

Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services- YOUTH VOICES PROJECT

The new Youth Voices Project (YVP) to help the Essex Violence & Vulnerability Unit set their priorities for work in 2024-25, is now OPEN for groups to take part!

The VVU listens and collates views from children to help shape priorities to make young people feel safer in their communities.

This year, the project is open to 5 groups in each district, who will participate in 45 minute - 1 hour sessions. These will involve answering questions and take part in games that promote discussion.

Application and Incentives

Youth sessions must run in Essex, Southend or Thurrock and include at least *15 young people aged 11-25yrs.



Each organisation will receive £90 as a donation per 'slot' and if your organisation works across districts and wants to run in multiple areas, then you may receive up to £1,260.

Please email nicole@ecvys.org.uk to enquire for a space and a session plan.

UPCOMING KEY DATES

19th - 23rd February
February half term delivery

1st March
February half term evaluation deadline

4th March
Easter bookings go live and voucher codes released by schools