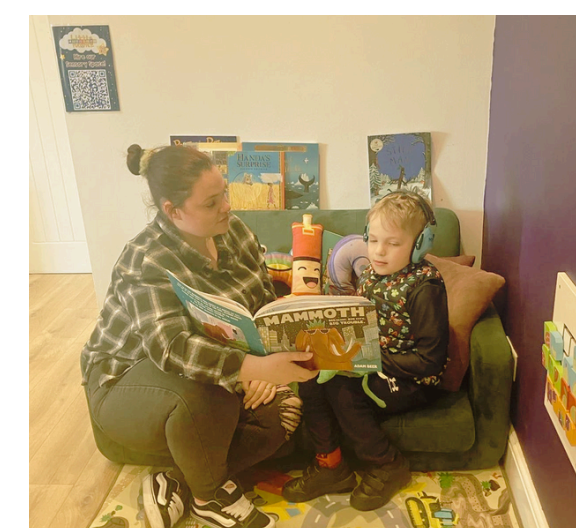
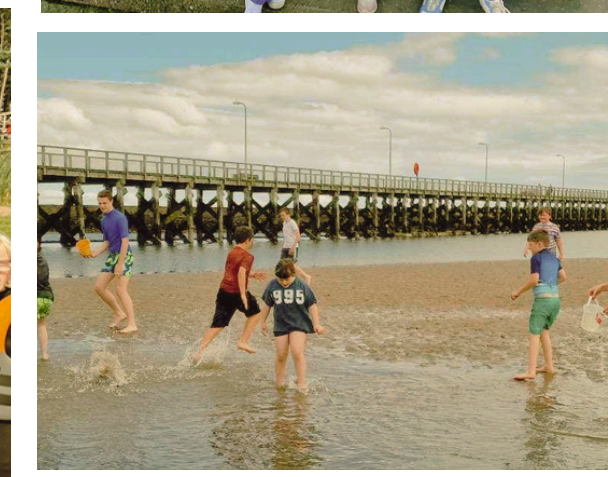


# Northumberland Holiday Provision

Annual Report  
2024/25



Northumberland  
**Holiday** Provision



Northumberland  
County Council





Winter HAF 2024/25 – Challenge Northumberland



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Pot a Doodle Do - Easter 2024



# Welcome

Northumberland County Council is proud to present our third HAF annual report. Now in our fourth year of delivery, we continue to build on our successful community-led, place-based model—ensuring children and young people across Northumberland have access to enriching activities, opportunities to build friendships and networks, and enjoy nutritious food during the school holidays.

The progress made since our first report highlights the significant growth, impact, and continued improvement of the programme. This success reflects the strength of our partnerships, our collective adaptability, and our shared focus on delivering national policy while planning for future sustainability.

We remain committed to listening and responding to feedback. Ongoing evaluation has helped us shape and evolve the programme, and working hard to connect to other services and activities to maximise every opportunity - led by the needs and ambitions of our youngsters. It's been inspiring to see and hear the positive outcomes shared by families, schools, and delivery partners across the county.

We are incredibly proud to showcase and celebrate the high-quality provision delivered by our providers throughout this report

We hope you enjoy reading it!

Emma Richardson

**Strategic Poverty Lead**  
**Northumberland County Council**





**Amble Youth Project – Summer 2024**



# Overview – 2024/25

2024/25 was another fantastic year for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme in Northumberland. We are proud of what has been achieved through continued collaboration, innovation, and commitment from our providers, schools, and communities.

The programme continues to grow in strength, offering thousands of children and young people the chance to enjoy enriching activities, healthy food, and meaningful connections during the school holidays. This report highlights the impact, progress, and stories from our fourth year of delivery—and celebrates the difference HAF is making across the county.

For our 2024 annual report, we didn’t just want to write about our year—we wanted to bring it to life. Through real footage of our providers in action, we’ve captured the energy, engagement and impact of the HAF programme across Northumberland. From sports, crafting, creative play to hearing about the young leaders, the film highlights the incredible work taking place on the ground and the meaningful experiences being created for children, young people, and families. We would like to thank our providers—Community@NE66, Odo Sports, Calmer Therapy, and Active Future—whose fantastic provision is featured in the film and helps bring the HAF story in Northumberland to life.

We're also pleased to include a foreword from our Executive Director, Audrey Kingham, Children, Young People and Education who shares reflections on the journey so far, the power of partnership, and the continued ambition to ensure children and young people have access to enriching, inclusive opportunities during the school holidays. To view our video please scan the QR code to the right.

We were allocated £1,026,520 of funding by the Department for Education for HAF 2024/25 in Northumberland. The breakdown of expenditure is outlined below.

2024/25 Expenditure	
Expenditure	Amount
Administration	£102,652
Programme Expenditure	£923,868
Total	£1,026,520

## Annual Report Video

Bringing our 2024 report to life by showcasing the HAF programme in action—capturing the energy, engagement, and impact of our providers across Northumberland.



Please click here or scan the QR code to watch our video



Community@NE66 – Summer 2024



Number of young people attending HAF provision



**11,255** children accessed HAF provision



**2,292** young people with SEND

**38,984** meals enjoyed!



**48,594** hours of family activities

**99,988** hours of camp activities

**68%** Primary School age and **32%** Secondary School age



“I’ve completed the summer activities survey, but I wanted to personally thank you for all that you do. Times have been tough, and your support has been invaluable. Without the funding and activities you provide, we simply couldn’t have enjoyed the summer as we did.

With a disabled son and many appointments, it’s often hard to find time for his sister. These activities gave us the chance to spend quality time together as a family, and for each child to have one-on-one time with us. Our summer has truly been enriched – thank you!” - HAF Attendee Parent



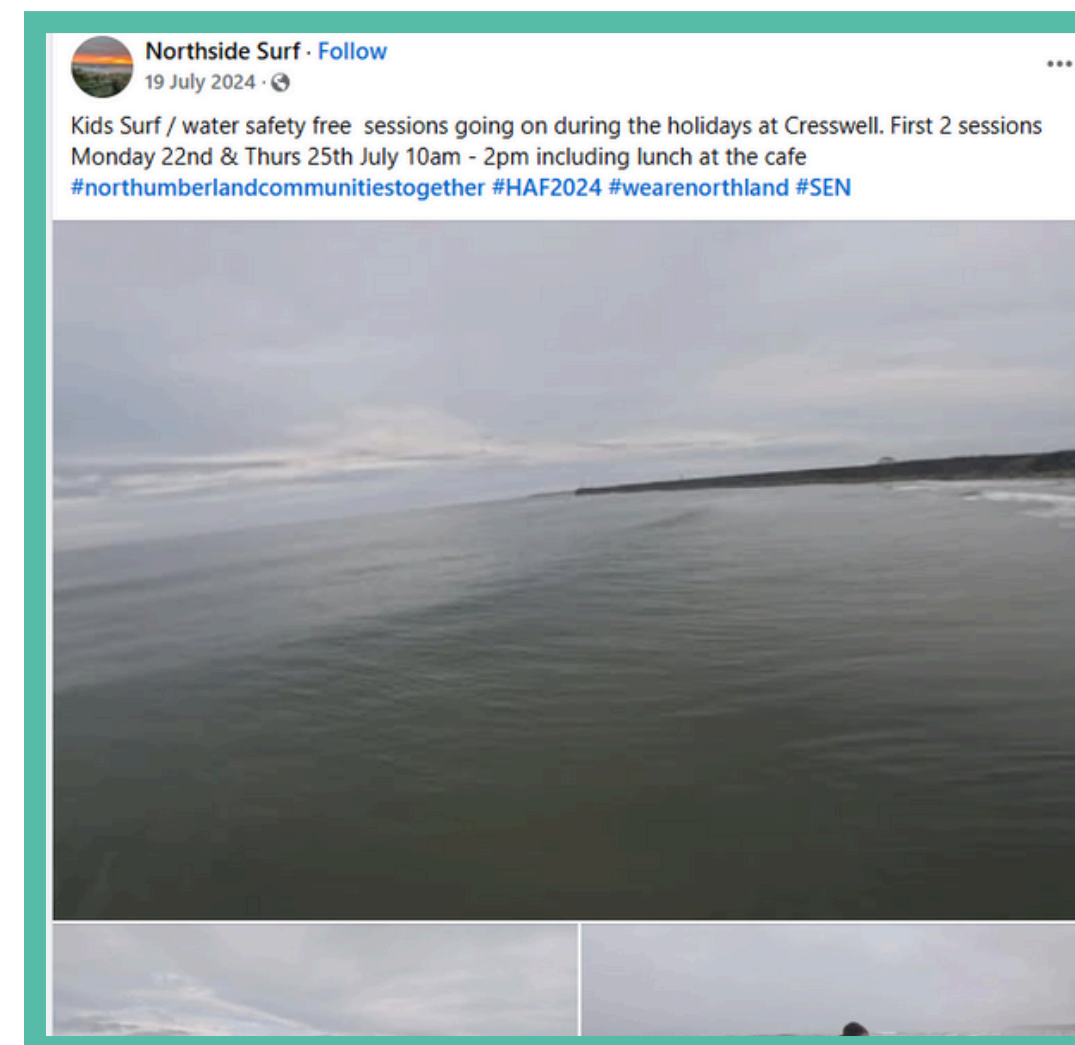
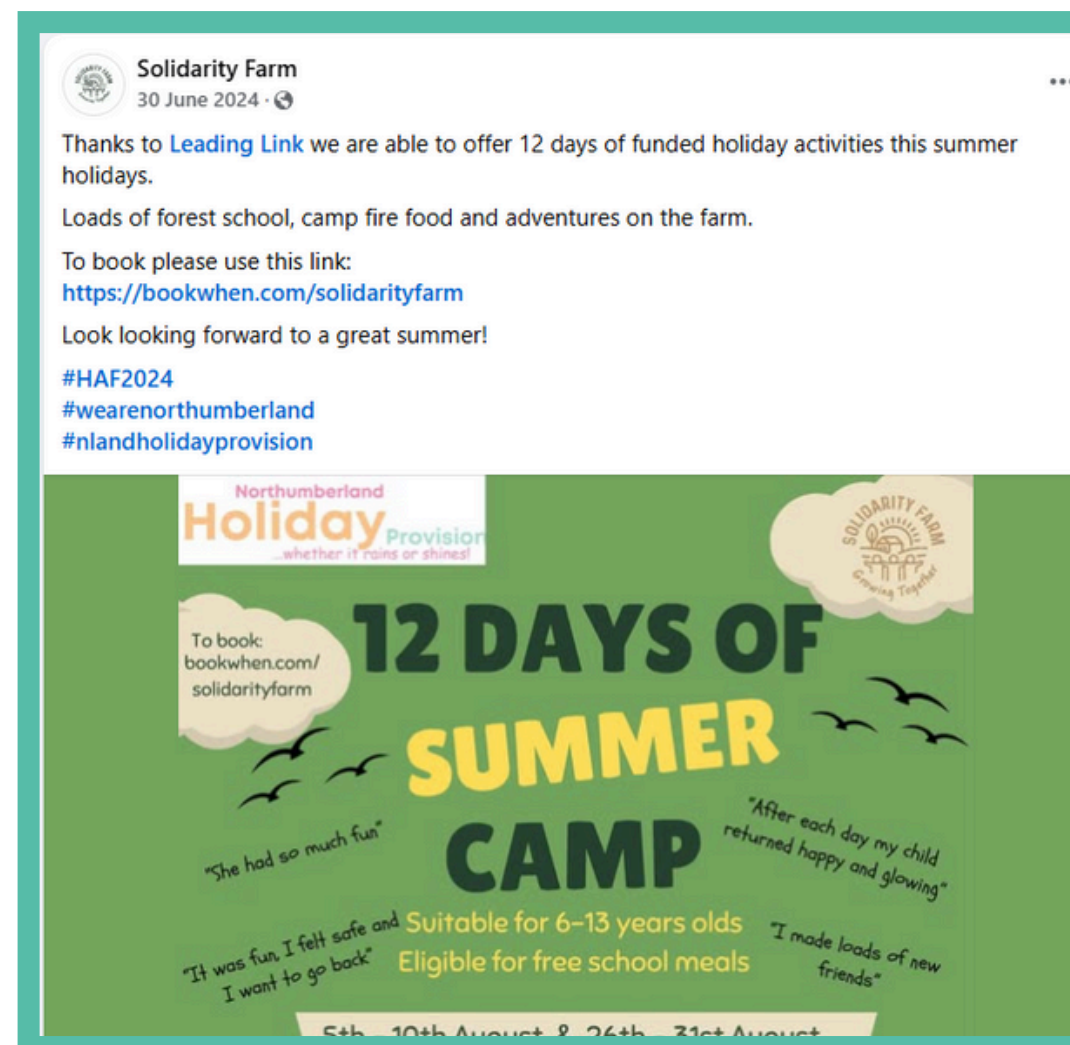
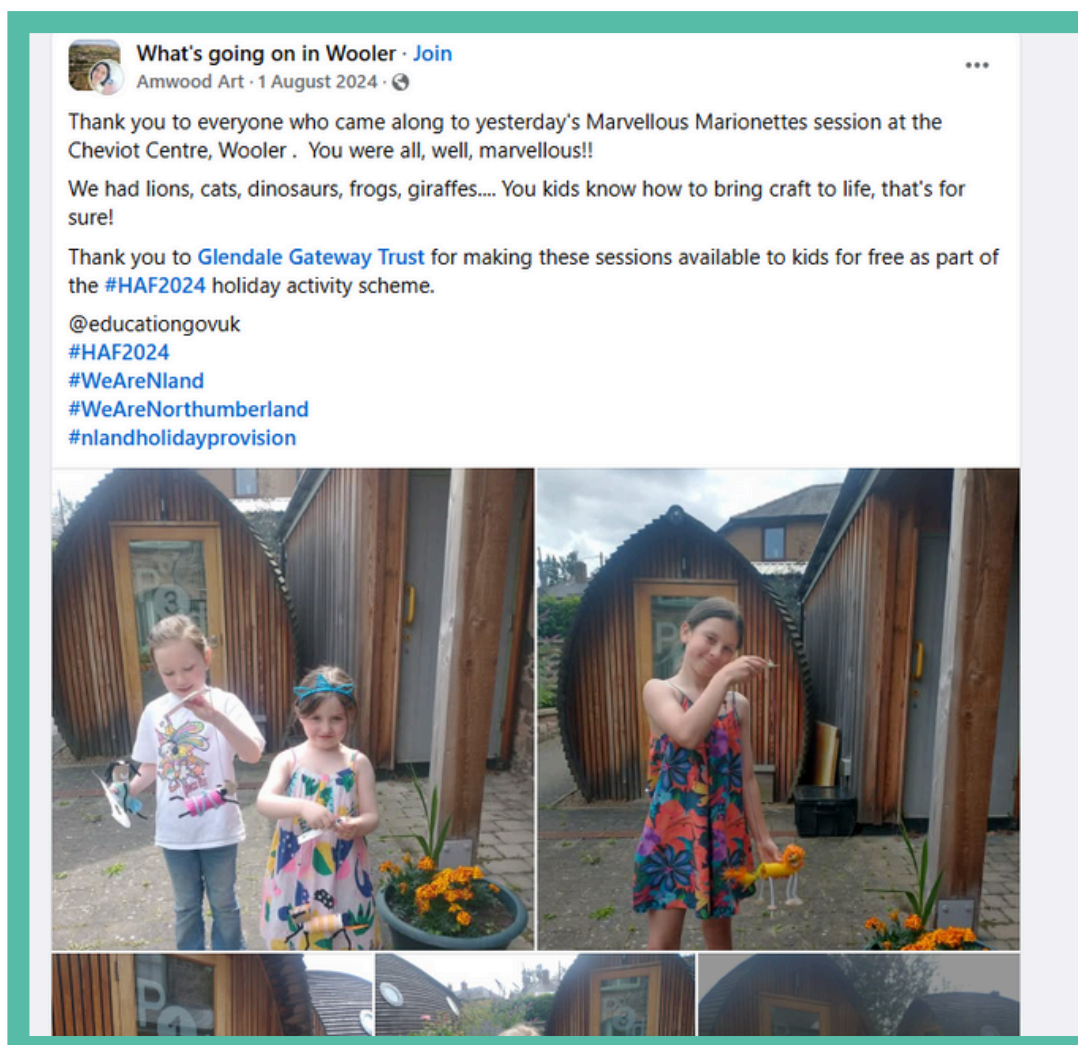
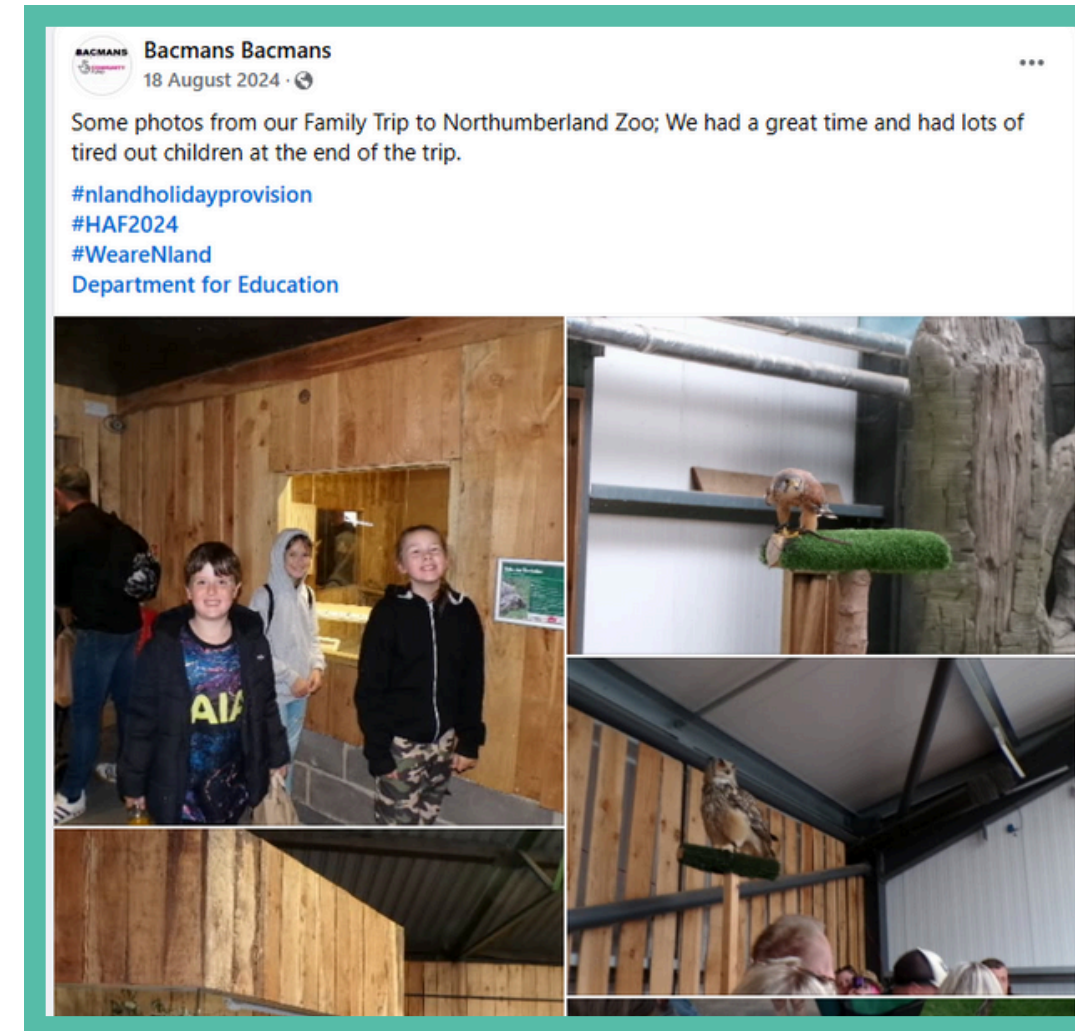


Community@NE66 – Summer 2024



# #HAF2024/25

Sharing our stories across social media



#WEARENORTHUMBERLAND

#HAF2024

#NLANDHOLIDAYPROVISION

Sharing our HAF provision on social media helps raise awareness, celebrate the work of our providers, and highlight the positive impact of the programme across Northumberland. It also supports community engagement and promotes future participation.



## Milfield Reading Room Milfield, Wooler



**Connecting Milfield...**  
We supported 37 individual children over 5 Fridays over the Summer Holidays.

**Our Provision...**  
The young people learnt how to make new friends, cooperate with each other to achieve goals. They experienced new life skills and tried new experiences which many had not done before, i.e. cooking, craft work, riding and they saw places in the local area they had never seen and learnt about its history. Some of the children had never been in a boat. They went round the local farm to see how food was produced, look at the machinery and they fed the lambs.

**Feedback...  
...from a parent**  
“I just wanted to thank you and everyone else involved in the summer camp. My son had an absolutely fantastic time and tried some new and great experiences, so many thanks to you for all your time and effort, it is very much appreciated”

**Milfield Reading Room Charity...**  
“The HAF funding enabled us to provide much needed activities for the children over the summer which we could not have done without the HAF funding as we would not have had the resources, it proved to be a game changer for us and our small community.”



**Making a difference in Solidarity**  
We delivered 12 days of provision over the summer and supported 47 children from across Northumberland

**Our Provision...**  
We did all sorts of activities on our farm, including forest school, adventure walks, meeting animals and playing on hay bales and the children were given the freedom to develop resilience, build confidence and improve mental wellbeing

**Feedback**  
“My daughter loves the farm days so much!! So much so, she begged to go back the following day. She loves meeting new children and making new friends. Loves being outside, wallowing in the mud, the craft activities and just generally being in a farm environment”





**Hexham's Youth Initiative**  
In the 2024 summer holidays we were able to run 16 days of activities and supported 244 different young people, their families and younger siblings.

**Our Provision**  
We offered a wide range of activities including park days on the local estates, craft and activity sessions in Hexham Community Centre, days in local community facilities, such as the Wentworth Leisure Centre, Queen Elizabeth High School and the Forum Cinema and exciting trips and activities. We offered opportunities for young people to socialise, enjoy different activities and learn new skills. Importantly, we were able to provide 885 meals over the holidays. 22 young leaders helped run the activities and they all undertook training and developed in confidence.

**Feedback from a parent**  
"we love bringing the kids to these days – its the feeling of community and Hexham people coming together to make the holidays something to remember"

**From a young person...**  
"if I hadn't got involved with HYI I would have spent the entire holidays in bed! There was literally nothing else to get up for!"



**Cramlington in the Community**  
We delivered 20 full days over the summer and supported 270 children / young people which included four young helpers aged 14 to 18.

**Our Provision...**  
We delivered a range of activities including every sport you can think of with nature walks, trips to the local park and nature reserve also had art classes with local artists and the children / young people were able to develop life skills with CPR and first aid training a visit from the police and a hands-on demonstration day with Northumbria fire and rescue services as well as building friendships with lots of new people

**Feedback from a parent**  
"My children love coming to the camps and are out of bed every morning washed and dressed waiting to go, as a single mam this is my lifeline knowing my children are helped and safe with Ian and his team"

**Ian Coates – Camp Lead**  
"Without this vital funding we would not be able to support the children in the local area and for some this really is their 'holiday' a chance to escape and enjoy being a child. I'm so proud of the work Leading Links supports us in doing!"







**Active Future – Winter 2024**



# From Holiday Provision to Year-Round Support - Case Study

## Case Study - Beyond the Holidays: A Journey from HAF Camps to Year-Round Support

**Active Future has been delivering multi-sports holiday camps in South East Northumberland since the beginning of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme in 2021. With a passion for inclusive and engaging physical activity, the provider initially began with a single camp based in Ashington.**

Thanks to consistently high-quality delivery and positive feedback from children, families, and local partners, the organisation has steadily expanded its reach. As of 2025, the provider now delivers five multi-sports camps across the South East of the county during each eligible school holiday. Also paid for holiday camps outside of the HAF remit.

Each camp offers a safe, structured, and fun environment where children can stay active, make friends, and enjoy nutritious meals. The camps cater to a diverse range of needs and abilities, with trained coaches and staff ensuring sessions are inclusive and supportive.

### From Holiday Provision to Year-Round Support

Building on the trust and strong relationships developed through HAF delivery, Active Future was approached by local schools seeking high-quality wraparound care. Recognising the value of continuity and the provider's ability to engage children effectively, four schools in the area have now contracted them to deliver wraparound care during term time.

#### This has enabled the organisation to:

- Provide year-round support for children
- Retain and develop staff through more consistent employment
- Create stronger links between schools, families, and community sport
- Offer a holistic support system that encourages regular physical activity and wellbeing throughout the year

#### Impact

- Increased Reach: From one to four HAF camps across South East Northumberland
- Year-Round Presence: Delivery of before- and after-school wraparound care for four schools
- Positive Feedback: High levels of satisfaction reported by parents, children, and schools
- Sustainable Growth: A model that strengthens local community support structures and employment opportunities

#### Looking Ahead

Active Future continues to explore opportunities to collaborate with more schools and community partners, with the aim of further embedding physical activity, nutrition, and enrichment opportunities into the everyday lives of children across Northumberland.

They also working in close partnership with Northumberland County Council to explore the delivery of accredited training and coaching for HAF Young Leaders, supporting the long-term sustainability of the programme and enhancing future employment prospects for local young people.

**A key takeaway from our research from Northumbria University was that “HAF in Northumberland is not solely a child feeding programme.”**

**In Northumberland, we’ve seen:**

- **Wraparound Capacity:** Supporting families beyond the holidays through connections to wider services and through school wrap around.
- **Softer Safeguarding:** Providing safe, trusted spaces where children are seen, heard, and supported.
- **Eat, Sleep, Play, Learn:** Using hardship grants more effectively to unblock barriers for families
- **Parental Employment:** Giving parents the flexibility to work or train while their children are in safe care.
- **Stronger Relationships:** Building trust between families, providers, schools, and support services.

We’re focused on building sustainable, year-round support for children and families.

Our next steps include:

- **Growth Strategy:** Expanding provision across Northumberland and introducing a centralised booking system to expand the reach of eligible families accessing the provision.
- **Hardship Support:** Using grants and the Eat, Sleep, Play, Learn fund to help families overcome barriers to accessing HAF.
- **Mixed Economy:** Developing a blended funding model to support long-term delivery.
- **Future Opportunities:** Strengthening links between our programmes and young people’s life chances, including skills and employment pathways.
- **Regional Alignment:** Leveraging opportunities through the North East Combined Authority to scale impact and influence change.



**We are delighted that funding has been confirmed for the continuation of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme into 2025/26. This programme has provided vital support to children and families across Northumberland during school holidays, and its continuation is essential.**

Now in our fifth year of delivery, we have established a well-developed HAF offer across the county. While ongoing refinement and flexibility are needed to ensure we continue meeting the evolving needs of young people and families, we have moved beyond the initial development phase. We are particularly grateful to Leading Link for their crucial role in helping shape and grow the programme.

As of this year, the HAF programme has been brought back in-house under the management of Northumberland County Council, marking a new chapter in its delivery and sustainability.

Here are our key updates for 2025:

## **Introduction of a centralised booking system**

We have implemented a centralised booking system through HolidayActivities/E-vouchers. This system enables eligible families to receive a voucher directly ahead of the school holidays, providing them with access to the booking platform. From there, families can view available activities and make bookings that best suit their needs, and places us more ready for mixed economy modelling.

## **Toolkits for Providers**

We are working in partnership with Northumberland providers to develop a series of toolkits to support our Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) providers. These toolkits focus on key areas including food, physical activity, and support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

By developing these resources, we aim to showcase examples of best practice from our high-quality provision across the county. The toolkits are designed to offer practical ideas, inspiration, and guidance for those delivering the HAF programme, helping to enhance the quality and consistency of provision. Importantly, these toolkits will also support long-term sustainability, offering a valuable resource that can be used beyond the HAF programme as a model of effective practice.

## **HAF+ Development**

In 2025, a key focus will be strengthening our HAF+ model by highlighting the employability skills, new experiences, and personal development opportunities young people gain through participation. This includes supporting pathways into youth leadership and volunteering. Continuing our work with Northumbria University who are hosting the annual HAF+ Conference and a day of activities for the HAF+ young people.

# Northumberland Delivery Providers

**Special thank you to all of our fantastic delivery providers and partners who have delivered Holiday Provision in Northumberland in 2024/25.**

Active Future Northumberland

Alnwick Gardens

Amble Youth Project

Bacmans Community Ltd

Barnabas Safe and Sound

Bellingham Partnership of Schools

Berwick Rangers

Blyth Rotary Club

Briardale House Youth & Community Projects Ltd

Calmer Café/Therapy

Cambois Primary

Castle Mania

Challenge Northumberland Ltd

Choices4Growth

Choppington Primary

Community @NE66

Cramlington in the community

Family Help South East

Forget Me Not Residents Association

Glendale Gateway Trust/Inky Fingers

Hadston House Youth & Community Projects

Harbour Support Services

Hexham Youth Initiative

Humbleswood Farm

Ingram Valley

JAG ART 82/Pot a doodle do

Karbon Homes

Kingswood Learning and Leisure LTD

Lasp Outdoors

Leading Link

Little Learners Play Space

Little Miracles North East

Milfield Reading Rooms

NE Surf Society

Northern View

Northside Surf

ODO Sports

Off The Grid Adventures CIC

Places Leisure

Q20

Real Deal Plus Ltd

Rockets Community Foundation

Seaton Delaval Hall

Seb & Olivia's Den

Shilbottle Children & Young People's Project

Silx Teen

Solidarity Farm

Splinter Group / Waffling On

Sports Camps NE

Stakeford and Bomarsund Welfare/Choppington Parish

Stomping Grounds

The Fun Jungle

The Glendale Gateway Trust

The Nurture Project CIC

The Phoenix Theatre

Thriving Together

Timestep Dance & Activity Centre/1st Step Pre-school

Young and Sweet



**To find out more, please contact:**

[haf@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:haf@northumberland.gov.uk)

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Family/Northumberland-Holiday-Provision.aspx/](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Family/Northumberland-Holiday-Provision.aspx/)

## **Northumberland HAF Team**

Amy Richardson  
**Activity Programme Manager**

Emma Richardson  
**Strategic Poverty Lead**

Audrey Kingham  
**Executive Director, Children, Young People and Education**



