**Kent HAF November 2024 Newsletter**

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2024. Many of us are eagerly awaiting news from the Department of Education to see if HAF funding will continue into next year and beyond. We are hopeful that we will hear soon. Please be reassured that as soon as we find out, we will inform you too.

**Christmas HAF Programmes**

Thank you – as a HAF team, we were overwhelmed with the response to the 2024 winter HAF applications and are excited to announce that 103 Programmes will be running during the Christmas holidays. This will provide much needed respite for families during what can be an extremely difficult time of year and fun and excitement for children and young people during the school holidays.

There is such a wide range of Programmes being offered across the county with some of you choosing to deliver the 2-day model with additional food and activity packs, as well as 3- and 4-day delivery models. This provides variation and choice for families and children alike.

**Reminders for Partners delivering Programmes at Christmas**

Registers

Please ensure that you know exactly how many children, and staff, you always have on site. In the event of an emergency evacuation, you will need to have this information easily accessible to check that everyone is safe, and thus to safeguard everyone on your Programme.

If you are running a two-day Christmas Programme with activity packs, please only complete a register for two days. **There is no requirement to complete registers for the days you are offering the 10-minute slots.**

Insurance and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) certificates

We still need to have up to date insurance certificates and DSL certificates sent to the HAF inbox. If these run out before the Christmas delivery, please ensure that you send in the new certificates once they are available.

First Aid and Food Hygiene Certificates

You no longer need to send in these certificates. It is the responsibility of the HAF Programme Partner to ensure that sufficient staff have these certificates, and that the certificates will be available when we visit.

SEND funding

It is the partner’s responsibility to speak to families and establish whether a child has an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or is in receipt of high needs funding. Contact the family before a child starts at your Programme and establish the level of SEND needs that the child has and establish whether the child has an EHCP plan or is in receipt of high needs funding. Once you have done this you can then submit their names to the team for the additional funding. **If a family tick the SEND box on EVouchers you cannot just send in their names to the HAF Programme Team to check.**

You can signpost our Kent families to the [SEND information hub](https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs) website in order to help us support them. Alternatively, please do use the website yourself if you are seeking information around SEND for the families you work with.

[](https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs)

**SEND and Winter monitoring forms**

These will be sent out week beginning 9 December. Please look out for these documents!

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**Childcare Works – HAF Communication and Promotion Webinar**

If you are running a Christmas programme, this bitesize webinar from Childcare Works provides ideas of how to communicate and promote your HAF Programme to different ages and audiences and discusses strategies to maintain bookings and attendance. You may recognise Gary Shackleford from Teamtheme in Kent discussing some of his company’s communication strategies and talking about promotional materials and how the company build and maintain relationships with families, schools and local communities.

[HAF Communication & Promotion Bitesize for Providers Webinar on Vimeo](https://vimeo.com/1017896405/b67e7f8bf6).

**Safeguarding - New LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (LESAS)**

From Monday 2 September 2024, there is no longer a stand-alone Education Safeguarding Service (ESS) or County LADO service. Both services have integrated into the LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (LESAS).

You might find it useful to watch this video about the LESAS and encourage your staff to watch it too.

[LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service explainer video](https://kentcountycouncil.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/CYSCS-SafeguardingManagementTeam-AssistantDirector/Ebm--XfL-PNGhT9vYG14l7IBKmyTCo76PpYtmihek75m0g)

The LESAS mission statement, provides more detail of the aims of the service and provision of duties and services offered.

[LESAS-Mission-Statement.pdf – with a flow chart on how to use the service](https://www.kscmp.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/169699/LESAS-Mission-Statement.pdf)

This information should form part of your Child Protection Safeguarding Policy and staff should feel confident about the processes they would follow if they have concerns about a child at your Programme.

Please find the latest edition of the LADO Education Safeguarding Advisory Service (LESAS) child protection newsletter for dissemination to DSLs and staff.

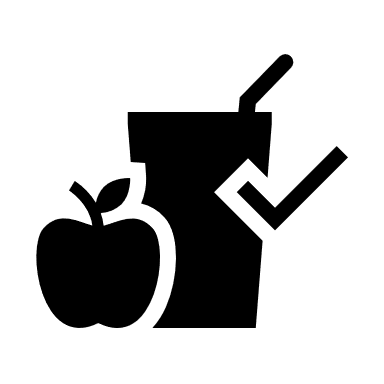
[LESAS Child Protection Newsletter Term 1 2024-25](https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/partner-providers/kent-county-council-providers/safeguarding/updates-for-designated-safeguarding-leads/)

LESAS continues to offer many other services:

[Core Training](https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/partner-providers/kent-county-council-providers/safeguarding/training-and-services/)

[Template Policies and Guidance](https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/partner-providers/kent-county-council-providers/safeguarding/template-policies-and-guidance/)

[DSL training programme](https://www.theeducationpeople.org/training-and-events/?customerType=03887a31-da38-42ce-9dab-bea0411d5dd0&page=1&areasOfInterest=4e7fe823-44eb-47da-b357-d7f55b54a024)

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**Safety alerts**

We wanted to share with you some new safety alerts that we have been made aware of. For those of you who use water beads as part of your enrichment programme please be aware of the following advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls/product-safety-alert-water-beads-psa7?mc_cid=065cd9cc02&mc_eid=1bf076bfa5>

For those who use flour at all, for example in cooking or play dough, please see the updated advice below:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/handling-flour-and-flour-products-safely?mc_cid=065cd9cc02&mc_eid=1bf076bfa5>

**October Network Meeting**

It was great to see so many of you at our recent network meeting. Thank you to the staff at Cobtree Manor Golf Course for hosting us this time and for the Education for Sustainable Development Team for providing such valuable information on how to embed the Environment and Sustainability HAF Standards into your Programmes. Everyone enjoyed the practical task and left with some clear ideas and inspiration for activities. **If you were unable to attend, there are some practical ideas below that you may wish to consider or discuss with your staff teams.**

**DfE HAF Standards – Environment and Sustainability**

*The DfE is committed to sustainable development practices and believes it is important for local authorities to consider these and their impact on the environment. We strongly encourage local authorities to make their own judgements on how sustainable development can be reflected in their ethos, day-to-day operations and throughout the delivery of their HAF programmes.*

*Some practices that local authorities may wish to consider are:*

* *minimising the use of single-use plastics*
* *where possible using locally sourced food and ingredients*
* *making use of food surplus organisations*
* *ensuring there is a wide range of recycling and compost facilities for waste*
* *growing fruit and vegetables and showing how they can be used and cooked*
* *encouraging uniform banks and exchange schemes*

*This list is not exhaustive, and local authorities are encouraged to reflect on their settings and consider ways that their programmes can be more environmentally friendly and sustainable.*

**Environment and Sustainability Ideas**



Craft activities

Winter walks/forest day

Leaf collecting and printing

Junk modelling

Recycling bins

Saving energy

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Food waste – composting

Reuseable plates & crockery

Planting, growing & picking

Cooking & food preparation

Creating bug hotels and wild areas

Buffet style food – taking just what you can eat, to reduce food waste

Making natural Christmas decorations

**The Whole Systems Approach to Healthy Weight Programme Team October Newsletter**

The newsletter has some key updates from the Kent Healthy Weight Network and provides information about promoting an active lifestyle, encouraging a healthy diet and supporting healthy weight for everyone in Kent.

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<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/AsTFn5yeVl9wB4UX?ref=Link>

**Happy Christmas**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas and new year and thank you for your continued commitment to delivering the HAF Programme throughout 2024. We look forward to seeing you in 2025.

The HAF Programme Team