**Kent HAF September 2024 Newsletter**

We would like to start by thanking all of you for your hard work and commitment in delivering your HAF Programme over the summer. There were some challenging external factors which many Programmes overcame with real commitment, sometimes making difficult decisions. Please ensure that all your monitoring forms and any outstanding documents are returned, along with answering any questions around attendance raised by your HAF Programme adviser that visited, so that we can process any funding that is still outstanding. We cannot process final payments until everything has been completed.

Thank you also to everyone for sharing your photos and videos on social media and for using **#HAF2024** and tagging **@educationgovuk** in the posts. We are really enjoying looking through the various activities that have taken place this summer.

**First Aid and Food Hygiene Certificates**

Following some reflection on the summer delivery, it has been agreed to change the way that we capture this information. We have recognised that business needs and last-minute staff sickness has meant that the certificates we hold are not always for the staff on the site that we are visiting. To improve the way in which we capture this information we have decided that you no longer need to send in these certificates. **We will however expect the certificates for the staff on site to be available when we visit, and we will log this information for our records.**

**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.**

**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. **(Please note that DSL certificates are only valid for two years)**

**Registers**

There have been a significant number of discrepancies with registers on the EVoucher system. When we visit, we ask about the number of eligible HAF Programme children present on the day of our visit, and we expect this to tally with the numbers that are entered on EVouchers. 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.

**Children with SEND**

Whilst there is SEND funding available, **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. If a family tick the SEND box on EVouchers you cannot just send in their names to the HAF Programme Team to check. **You must contact the family 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.

**Models for Christmas delivery**

The team are looking at a wider variety of delivery models for the 2024 Christmas delivery due to the bank holidays for Christmas and New Year falling mid-week and thus limiting opportunities to run your HAF Programmes. Please consider the following:

* Have you checked that the venue is available and accessible for the chosen dates? Have you booked/provisionally confirmed the venue?
* Have you contacted families to explore interest and demand for suggested dates?
* Is your staff team available to work on the proposed dates? Have staff booked leave over this period?
* Weekend dates and sessions would be acceptable for the winter Programme if this is more convenient.

Over the Christmas period, the core offer for the HAF Programme is for a minimum of four hours per day, for four days. Each child will receive four EVoucher credits. The preference is for four days of face-to-face provision however, where this is not possible, it should consist of at least two days of face-to-face provision complemented by at least two days of HAF Programme support which can be provided in the form of high-quality food hampers and activity packs. Please contact the HAF Programme Team if you would like to discuss your winter HAF Programme offer further or to discuss an alternative delivery model. **Please note that the closing date for Christmas applications is Friday 18 October.**

**Two-day model to a Christmas Pack.**

The team will be offering guidance on this as soon as we have discussed some options with the Department for Education (DfE).

**Network meetings**

These will provide a focus for reflecting on your summer delivery, and an opportunity to discuss your planned Christmas delivery, as well as offering some support to further develop your Programmes going forwards.

In preparation for the Christmas delivery, we have two face-to-face networking opportunities and the option to book a meeting online with a member of the team.

There will be a **drop-in session** on **Tuesday 15 October** for you to discuss any subject that is pertinent to your summer or winter delivery. This will be held at:

**Aldington Eco Centre, Goldwell Lane, Aldington, Nr Ashford, TN25 7DX from 10am to 1pm**.The Aldington Eco Centre is a short drive from Junction 10a of the M20.

To book: please email the HAF Programme inbox with the name of the person attending, any dietary requirements, and the time that you would like, as well as the area that you would like support with by **Tuesday 8 October.**

There will also be a full network meeting with more opportunities for you to spend time with other partners who are delivering the HAF Programme. **Please be aware that your Christmas applications will need to have been submitted before this meeting.**

This will be held on **Tuesday 22 October**. We offer two places per site where you deliver your HAF Programme. This meeting will be held at:

**Cobtree Manor Golf Course, Chatham Road, Sandling, Maidstone ME14 3AZ from 10.30am to 1.30pm.** Located on the A229 Blue Bell Hill roundabout in Maidstone (Junction 6 on the M20).

To book:please email the HAF Programme inbox with the name(s) of the person, the partner they are representing, the site that they are based at and any dietary requirements by **Friday 11 October.**

**Microsoft Teams ‘Winter Chat’**

We are offering each partner the opportunity to have a one-to-one chat with a member of the HAF Programme team before their winter delivery. These will take place on the following dates

* **Monday 7 October available from 10am – 12 noon**
* **Thursday 10 October available from 1.30pm – 3.30pm**
* **Friday 11 October available from 9.30am – 11.30am**

Please email the HAF Programme inbox with your preferred date and time, and a brief description of what you would like support with, and a member of the team will be in touch to book a meeting. If these dates and times do not suit you, please email the HAF Programme inbox and a member of the team will look at an alternative date or time.

**Case Studies**

**Thank you** to everyone who has provided a case study from their summer delivery. Please use the attached template as a guide to send us any other case studies that we can share with the DfE as evidence of the impact of your HAF Programme. We are enthusiastic to share some of the fantastic stories about HAF provision in Kent over the summer and look forward to receiving more examples of the impact the Programme is having. We are keen to hear where HAF has had an impact, for example on SEND provision, school attendance, provision targeted at teenagers, food provision, support and sign posting to family members.

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

As of 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).

[Watch a video explainer of the new service](https://kentcountycouncil.sharepoint.com/%3Av%3A/s/CYSCS-SafeguardingManagementTeam-AssistantDirector/Ebm--XfL-PNGhT9vYG14l7IBKmyTCo76PpYtmihek75m0g)and the LESAS mission statement, providing more detail of the aims of the service and provision of duties and services offered.

They will continue to offer many of the services they have before and will have more capacity to provide [bespoke consultation work](https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/partner-providers/kent-county-council-providers/safeguarding/training-and-services/) for schools and settings, and to complete more safeguarding reviews where needed. They tell us that:

[Our Child Protection newsletter](https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/partner-providers/kent-county-council-providers/safeguarding/updates-for-designated-safeguarding-leads/) will continue to be produced six times a year and emailed to all DSLs on our mailing list. Our [core policy templates](https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/partner-providers/kent-county-council-providers/safeguarding/template-policies-and-guidance/), and [DSL training programme](https://www.theeducationpeople.org/training-and-events/?customerType=03887a31-da38-42ce-9dab-bea0411d5dd0&page=1&areasOfInterest=4e7fe823-44eb-47da-b357-d7f55b54a024) will also continue. The most recent newsletter is here: [ess\_cp-newsletter\_july-2024.pdf (theeducationpeople.org)](https://www.theeducationpeople.org/media/6129/ess_cp-newsletter_july-2024.pdf) and previous editions can be found here: [Child Protection Updates for Designated Safeguarding Leads](https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/partner-providers/kent-county-council-providers/safeguarding/updates-for-designated-safeguarding-leads/)

[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)

**Wraparound Childcare Programme**

Some of you attended the network meeting in February where this was introduced. Please see the information below.

In Spring 2023 the previous Government announced its ambition that all parents and carers of primary school-aged children will be able to access term-time childcare in their local area, if they need it, from 8am to 6pm so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation. The £289m investment into the programme aims to remove financial barriers so that schools and providers can improve the availability of provision for parents, addressing the immediate demand and driving future demand by ensuring there is a sufficient supply of places.

In order to meet the Government’s expectations for the programme The Education People’s Early Years & Childcare Service plans to:

* create new provision and places where these do not currently exist
* expand the number of places where provision exists but is not meeting demand
* extend the opening hours where provision exists but is not operating 8am - 6pm.

There are two streams of funding that can be accessed if you meet the criteria, referred to as Programme Funding and Capital Funding. Programme funding will be tapered, with the highest level of funding available in the first term and then reducing each term over the course of a year.

Parents are expected to pay for wraparound childcare, but support with costs will be available through Government subsidies such as Tax-Free Childcare and the childcare element of Universal Credit. As a result, applications will only be approved to those who register to receive Tax-Free Childcare, and who agree to provide the necessary evidence for a parent to claim through Universal Credit. Programme Funding is also only available to providers who register with Ofsted on the Early Years Register.

To ensure you do not miss out on this opportunity please contact the Wraparound Childcare Programme at sufficiencyandsustainability@theeducationpeople.org

**Mpox update - advice and guidance**

You may have seen news reports about the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring the [upsurge of mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and a growing number of countries in Africa constitutes a public health emergency of international concern](https://www.who.int/news/item/14-08-2024-who-director-general-declares-mpox-outbreak-a-public-health-emergency-of-international-concern).

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advises there are currently no confirmed cases in the UK and that the risk to the UK population is currently considered low.

However, planning is underway to prepare for any cases that we might see in the UK.

This includes ensuring:

* clinicians are aware and able to recognise cases promptly
* rapid testing is available
* protocols are developed for the safe clinical care of people who have the infection and the prevention of onward transmission.

Common symptoms of mpox include a skin rash or pus-filled lesions which can last two to four weeks. It also can cause fever, headaches, muscle aches, back pain, low energy and swollen lymph nodes. The infection can be passed on through contact with someone who has the infection or with infected animals.

People are advised to follow the [NHS advice on mpox](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mpox/). [Read UKHSA’s latest update about mpox](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-declares-mpox-outbreak-a-public-health-emergency-of-international-concern).