

Chorley Council Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Grant Funding

Guidance Notes and Criteria for applicants
delivering HAF funded provision 2026-27



Chorley Council invite applications from local community-led organisations, childcare providers, and schools to apply for grant funding to deliver high quality, accessible and engaging programmes of activity for young people aged 4-16 during the school holidays 2026.

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1. Grant background

The HAF programme was rolled out to upper-tier local authorities in 2021 to provide children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and other identified vulnerabilities access to support through the school holiday periods.

Cost of living challenges make these children less likely to have access to nutritious meals, organised activity and social inclusion activity. The programme aims to provide structured, consistent and easy access to enriching activity that includes access to a nutritious meal.

Chorley has 2863 children aged 4-16 receiving free school meals.

In line with national HAF requirements, 2026-27 delivery of activities will be one week during Easter holidays, four weeks over the summer holidays and one week at Christmas. The funding will cover a minimum of four hours of activity each day, four days per week. Food must be provided for all children and young people who participate, with all HAF funded and non-HAF funded children being offered the same meal options.

The following table indicates the prevalence of FSM eligible children across each ward area in Chorley:

Ward	4 to 7	8 to 11	12 to 16	Total
Adlington & Anderton	6.3%	5.2%	4.1%	5.0%
Buckshaw & Whittle	6.4%	6.8%	7.2%	6.9%
Chorley East	13.7%	10.7%	12.3%	11.9%
Chorley North & Astley	11.5%	10.9%	11.1%	11.1%
Chorley North East	2.3%	2.6%	2.8%	2.6%
Chorley North West	6.7%	5.1%	5.9%	5.8%
Chorley South East & Heath Charnock	7.7%	7.8%	8.8%	8.2%
Chorley South West	13.5%	13.9%	12.9%	13.4%
Clayton East, Brindle & Hoghton	10.5%	10.9%	11.5%	11.0%
Clayton West & Cuerden	5.3%	5.7%	4.7%	5.2%
Coppull	5.4%	8.3%	6.8%	7.1%
Croston, Mawdesley & Euxton South	3.9%	3.4%	4.5%	3.9%
Eccleston, Heskin & Charnock Richard	3.1%	3.4%	2.8%	3.1%
Euxton	3.6%	5.4%	4.7%	4.8%

The intended outcomes for the Lancashire HAF activities are for children who attend the provision to:

- Eat more healthily over the school holidays
- Be more active during the school holidays
- Take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character, and wellbeing along with their wider educational attainment
- Be safe and not socially isolated
- Have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition
- Be more engaged with schools and other services.

For more information about the HAF programme outcomes please refer to the DfE programme standards ([Holiday activities and food programme 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#))

2. Application process

Prior to applying for this funding, **it is essential that you read this document in full before submitting an application.** Applications that do not meet the essential criteria will not move forward to be considered for inclusion in the programme.

By applying to this fund, you are agreeing to the council running financial checks against your organisation. When allocating funding, the council will prioritise ensuring a diverse and enriching offer that meets a broad spectrum of needs and interests and provides opportunities across the borough with reference to the prevalence of FSM eligible children in each ward area. We will prioritise funding local provision that can demonstrate existing relationships within their communities, and an understanding of local children and families' networks and partnerships. It is recommended that any providers who are new to the HAF programme in Chorley familiarise themselves with local providers that may exist in the same geographical area prior to submitting an application.

Each organisation must fill in one application form which includes all activity planned for delivery across that delivery period, and at all planned venues.

Please use this document as a guide to planning your HAF provision and submitting your application form. Please complete the application form, budgeting spreadsheet and upload all relevant documentation online at [Chorley HAF 2026 Application Form](#)

3. Supporting Documentation

Alongside a completed application form, the following supporting documentation should be submitted:

- Public Liability Insurance
- Employers Liability Insurance
- Safeguarding Policy AND certification
- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Assessments - You can find a risk assessment template on our website: [Support for existing community groups | Chorley](#)
- GDPR/Data Protection Policy - More information is available from the Information Commissioner's Office: [Advice for small organisations | ICO](#)
- Basic Food Hygiene and certificates
- Proof of DBS checks in line with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974)
- First Aid Training Certificates

- Proof of Ofsted registration (where appropriate)
- A completed HAF budgeting spreadsheet available at [Holiday Activity and Food \(HAF\) Clubs | Chorley](#)

Please name each attachment clearly. If you experience any difficulty complying with the above requirements, please email HAF.programme@chorley.gov.uk

Applications that cannot meet the supporting documentation requirements cannot be considered for the HAF programme, however, please do get in touch as we may be able to support you to comply.

4. Timescales

Please note that these are expected timescales.

Applications open	01 May 2026
Application deadline	17 May 2026
Notification of decision	22 May 2026
Signed grant agreements returned no later than	17 June 2026
Activities on booking system completed by	19 June 2026
Purchase order raised and delivery partner notified	19 June 2026
Invoice returned for 50% of total grant amount for delivery period	26 June 2026
First payment made	08 July 2026
Activities and Attendance completed on booking system	Within 7 days from the end of last activity.
Invoice returned for remaining grant amount for delivery period**	Within 7 days from the end of last activity
Second payment made	Up to 2 weeks after receiving the final invoice

**This amount will be calculated based upon the number of allocated spaces that are attended. We will depend upon delivery providers to complete their online activity attendance promptly.

5. Funding allocations and conditions

This period of funding will be for Tier 2 Applications

Tier 2	Covers delivery for Summer 2025 only and is available for bids up to £4000. This grant will be paid in two instalments, 50% prior to the delivery period and up to 50%, based on attendance, after attendance and activities have been completed.
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We provide a HAF budgeting tool for applicants to indicate the number of spaces they are bidding to offer across the delivery period. A completed HAF budgeting spreadsheet must be submitted alongside all applications.

Organisations may not be granted the full allocation of spaces/funding applied for. In this event, dialogue with the organisation will resolve the grant amount offered to ensure viability of activity.

In our aim to provide enriching activity to as many benefits related FSM children and young people as possible, we offer a tiered approach to include high need level of SEND with a higher rate of funding to support SEND specific provision, typically activity that requires considerable additional resource such as 1:1 or enhanced staffing, specialist equipment, and bespoke programmes. For SEND specific activity, the SEND aspect of the budgeting spreadsheet must be completed.

We expect all HAF activity to be SEND inclusive. HAF providers are expected to be fully inclusive of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Providers should demonstrate how their provision will be accessible, inclusive, and responsive to a range of needs, including making reasonable adjustments where required. This includes flexible activities, visual supports, calm spaces, positive behaviour support, trained staff awareness and effective communication with parents and carers. Providers must ensure that children and young people with SEND can participate safely, meaningfully, and with dignity alongside their peers.

Grants awarded may be subject to certain conditions which must be satisfied before payment is made. The applicant must indicate acceptance of such conditions when any offer of a grant is made.

A panel will determine all grant awards. Grant payments will be made as soon as possible after the decision, in line with the payment schedule.

Please note that funding is allocated to delivery partners to reflect the number of spaces offered, however the grant will only be paid to match the number of bookings attended. Due diligence will be done to differentiate between attendance rates for universal and SEND Specific. This will require delivery partners to manage their bookings effectively to accurately reflect the number of each cohort at their camps on the booking system.

Organisations are expected to use the grant received for the purpose outlined in their grant application. Recipients of grants should inform the Council of any problems with fulfilling their agreement as early as possible. The Council will expect repayment of the grant in full if the agreement is not fulfilled and necessary monitoring information is not received by a set date. The Council may consider requests to repay in part, or not at all if the project is not completed due to circumstances beyond the applicant's control.

The HAF funding can be used towards:

- Staff delivery time
- Staff time for admin and programme management
- Resources and materials
- Venue hire
- Food provision
- Marketing and publicity
- Parental and community engagement activities e.g. outreach workshops / assemblies /shows
- Enriching activity

The Council aims to reach and include as many benefits related FSM eligible children and young people as possible, which requires the funding to be allocated responsibly. Where it is recognised that organisations and activities have differing costs, it is possible that the funding will only cover a percentage, rather than all associated costs. It is strongly recommended that the programme is also offered to paid spaces for children and young people who are not eligible for HAF funded spaces. Additional funding sources may also be sought.

6. Delivery specification

HAF delivery takes place over three distinct school holiday periods: 1 week during the Easter break, 4 weeks in the summer break and 1 week during the Christmas break. Holiday dates may vary depending on area, school and need.

Each session must be a minimum of 4 hours long, and you must offer sessions for a minimum of 4 days per delivery week. The funding amount offered per space will remain the same, regardless of the length of the session.

The funding received covers the provision of an engaging and enriching activity, alongside the provision of a nutritious meal. During the Easter and Christmas breaks, a hot meal is considered best practice. HAF delivery providers must provide at least 1 meal a day (breakfast, lunch or an evening meal and all food provided at HAF clubs (including snacks) must meet school food standards.

Where the Council will deliver a robust communications plan to advertise the programme with local education settings, delivery partners will be responsible for making use of existing partnerships, networks and relationships at a local level to maximise the number of bookings for their activities.

Where SEND is identified as a need for a child or young person, it is the delivery provider's responsibility to contact the family and discuss the child or young person's additional needs.

Families will receive HAF e-voucher codes via e-mail/text message, they will use this code to create an online account to book their child on available activities across Chorley. The provider has responsibility to mark attendance on the booking system.

The council is not seeking applications from organisations who only wish to offer either activity **or** food and are not able to deliver a programme covering all the HAF framework standards, however, organisations may work in partnership to achieve this. In these cases, one organisation is expected to act as the lead.

HAF delivery providers are expected to support the improvement and development of the programme by attending programme specific training and stakeholder meetings.

Additional support for families

HAF providers should be able to offer information, signposting or referrals to other services and support, that would benefit the children who attend their provision and their families.

Other services and support could include:

- Citizens Advice Bureau
- School nurses, dentists, or other healthcare practitioners

- Children and Family Wellbeing Service
- Home Start
- Social Prescribers
- Finance and budgeting training partners
- Chorley Buddies food clubs
- Libraries

There are many ways that providers can meet this element of the programme, for example, through trained and knowledgeable staff engaging with families during drop-off and pick-up times, the provision of signposting resources such as leaflets and posters, communicating regularly with your council HAF Coordinator, and additional drop-in sessions for families wrapped around HAF provision, delivered by local support services.

All HAF provision must:

- Meet the DfE HAF Standards Framework, providing all eligible children and young people with food, enrichment activities, physical activities, nutritional education and signposting and referrals to support families (see for full DfE HAF Standards Framework).
- Provide completely free places to HAF funded eligible children and young people.
- Provide the same offer of activity and food to HAF funded spaces and any paid spaces.
- Adhere to their own policies, procedures and safeguarding outlined within this document in section 3 - 'Supporting Documentation'
- Only provide free HAF funded places to children and young people who live and/or attend school in Chorley.
- Be fully accessible and inclusive.
- Be delivered in a suitable, accessible, and welcoming venue.
- Demonstrate good value for money.

Chorley Council are particularly interested in funding HAF provision that:

- Responds to local need and demand, particularly offering a programme of activity for a diverse range of children and young people across the breadth of the borough.
- Is open to all children and young people, by offering paid places or securing funding from other sources.
- Provides good quality volunteering opportunities for young people (and their families where appropriate), including access to the Chorley Together network.
- Uses local businesses to help deliver the HAF activity programme – e.g., local food suppliers, design, print, equipment and venue hire.

7. Reporting and assessments

Providers will be required to comply with the reporting and assessment requirements of delivering HAF activity. This includes:

- Safeguarding assessment.
- Quality assurance self-assessment and Quality assurance visits from HAF programme co-ordinators.
- HAF delivery performance assessment through the online booking system:

- Analysis of bookings and attendance
- Analysis of FSM and paid places
- Analysis of SEND attendance
- Review of areas of success and challenges faced
- Impact case studies.

If you have any further queries, you can contact the HAF Coordinator by emailing HAF.programme@chorley.gov.uk