

## ANGUS COUNCIL

### INFORMATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2023/24

#### REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, DIRECTOR VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

#### ABSTRACT

This report provides information to members with regard to services in the Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth Directorate, albeit that a decision is not required in terms of the current Scheme of Delegation to Officers and the Order of Reference of Committees.

#### 1. BACKGROUND

Angus Council, at a special meeting on 19 November 2013 took a number of decisions which changed the way the Council conducted its committee business. Fundamental to this was the streamlining of processes with a focus on key strategy and policy matters.

One element of this was the production of "Information Reports". These information reports summarise information that would in the past have gone to a council committee for "noting".

The information schedules are in accordance with that principle.

#### 2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION - SCHEDULES

There is one schedule which contains key background information related to services delivered in the Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth directorate for the period 2023/24. These are accessed via the Council's internet page.

Where there are references to other documents (eg: consultation documents/audit reports) that are associated with the relevant schedule a link to that document has also been included.

#### 3. REPORT AUTHOR

This report and associated schedules have been compiled by Dawn Rennie, Team Leader who can be contacted by emailing [communities@angus.gov.uk](mailto:communities@angus.gov.uk)

List of Appendices:

Schedule 1 Holiday Food and Fun report

Schedule 2 Holiday Food and Fun data and information

## Information Report – Schedule 1

### Holiday Food and Fun

This schedule sets out an update on the 2024 Holiday Food and Fun Provision, provides information on the activities and the positive impact this funding has provided.

At the Special Council budget setting meeting in March 2023 £200,000 was allocated to the Holiday Food & Fun programme. Subsequently a further £83,000 was awarded from the Scottish Government.

Our 2023/4 spend totalled **£253,239.40** to January 2024 with an expected allocation of **£37,139.60** (for April 2024) allocated to partners by the end of the financial year this funding includes resource of 1 day a week to coordinate the programme.

This year we have worked with a total of **58 Partners during the four holiday periods**, with **18 partners** offering **Additional Support Needs** services including the provision of transportation for children who qualify for a school taxi.

The Summer Holiday Food and Fun investment generated **365 employment or volunteering** opportunities.

An impressive **16,283 children** participated in the sessions, enjoying access to a wide range of activities and healthy foods free of charge. We offered **5,083 free swim sessions**, a vital life skill.

#### Wider Impact and Outcomes

**Free food provisions throughout the holiday breaks:** Provision of food is one of the key drivers for attendance at events – access to healthy snacks and free social events with food all help reduce cost of living pressures for families (including those on a low income from employment).

**Free Activities for Children:** Positive feedback from parents and partners on the free universal swimming has been notable. Comments such as not being able to afford this activity otherwise; Taking children away from screen time; being active as a family group; access to a hot shower (saving the cost of heating water at home). Further comments can be seen in Schedule 2.

**Employment and Volunteering Opportunities:** The provision supports both employment and volunteering opportunities throughout Angus which may not otherwise have been possible. Partners have also created a number of long-term employment positions as a result of the initial engagement with Holiday Food & Fun provision.

**Continued interaction with services throughout the holidays support services to connect with families term time:** Staff working with families involved in the Children Families and Justice Service, note a huge improvement in relationships post - holiday provision. The capacity to build positive relationships in a less formal manner which later supports engagement in statutory provision.

**Impact on Attainment** the Scottish Attainment Challenge Team are working to gather data on impact on attainment post-Holiday Food & Fun provision. We know attendance for pupils who engaged with holiday provision was largely maintained or improved, because of the engagement by parents and children attending targeted holiday activities. Pupils have shown to return to class more settled and ready to learn.

**Improvement of parent health and wellbeing through specialist advice and social interaction:** When available, there is a high level of engagement with partners providing Mental Health and Wellbeing advice (e.g., Chams tent) along with Welfare Rights and other specialist agencies - these agencies often provide their services free of charge or at a low cost.

The Holiday Food and Fun programme brings additional socio-economic advantages. Officers responsible for assessing applications ensure most activities are kept within Angus, therefore,

contributing to the local economy and community wealth building principles. Partners endeavour to support local businesses by sourcing food and snacks from nearby establishments whenever feasible.

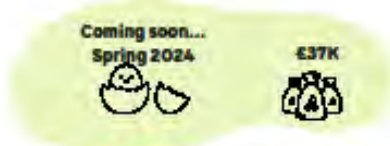
Working collaboratively, partners have identified strengths and weaknesses of provision. Of note, was the hugely positive impact on children and families and the creation of a “value for money” provision.

Public Transport was recognised as a problematic area. Lack of availability and confidence in accessing the buses were noted as barriers. Partners will look at individual projects to overcome these challenges. We have however, supported the provision of ASN Taxis to support our most vulnerable children to travel safely in order to access targeted provision.

### **Next Steps**

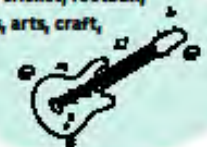
The work to develop the Holiday Food and Fun programme over the last 5 years has successfully built capacity with partners and created a network of providers. With the extreme financial challenges being faced by Angus Council, and reduced funding from Scottish Government we are in discussion around how the Holiday Food and Fun programmes becomes sustainable; a meeting has been arranged with Partners to develop the program further including exploring external funding and private investment to sustain the Holiday Food & Fun provision. The direct and indirect benefits from this initiative are significant and we understand the need to find sustainable solutions to secure this important provision long term and build on the outcomes achieved. Although efforts are ongoing to secure external and private funding it should be noted that more time is required for this to happen and funding is required to keep the coordinator resource in place and the activities running over the summer.

# Holiday Food and Fun Infographic



## Activities Include

Farm visits, footgolf, swimming, multi sports, rugby, cricket, football, community fun days, arts, craft, music, cooking...



## Additional Support Needs

Additional Support Needs - Free Taxi journeys throughout Angus. 18 partners provide specific ASN Sessions





## Evaluation quotes from parents/carers

Full contents of survey can be found here.  
Summer 2023 - Parent Evaluation Please click the responses tab.

“ My children absolutely loved New solutions summer fun, this was our second year going, it kept us in a good routine and kept not only my children but myself active and our minds stimulated. There was so much fun activities indoors and outdoors for us all to do together from treasure hunts to music, games to arts and crafts but our personal favorite was the outdoor fun from making fires to roasting marshmallows and making popcorn. My children are already asking if they can go back next summer.

“ My son spends a lot of time on his own with only his xbox for communication with his peers and these events certainly helped boost not only his social ability but built a little more self confidence in himself.

“ Having three children, it was incredible to have the opportunity to take them swimming for no charge. This is not an activity I do often due to cost mainly so I was very grateful for this. My children have gained lots more confidence in the pool.

“ My child attended all the free sessions offered by Strathmore Rugby Club. 2 hours of trying new activities & sports, plus spending time with friends & making new ones. Each child was given the opportunity to take home a packed lunch. The options available were varied & certainly filled my daughter up. The team were fantastic & my daughter thoroughly enjoyed it. Hopefully this will be offered again. We'll done.

“ Having 4 girls the cost of the cinema is a luxury we can't afford. Thanks to Angus council I was able to take all 4 girls to the cinema for the 1st time ever. They all thought it was great, and kept thanking me. Definitely a mum win. The pack lunches were an added bonus and meant I didn't need to feel bad about not buying food whilst we were there. Well done Angus Council.

“ My daughter loved art attack and murton trust. Was also nice to go to the swimming as a family. Really helped us out as a family. Summer holidays get very expensive so this was really good having the activities. Staff were very friendly too.

“ It meant my daughter could make new friends and I chatted to their parents

“ When money was short and the weather wasn't the best, I was still able to get my children out of the house and do something fun as a family. They thoroughly enjoyed going swimming.

“ It provided the opportunity to do activities with kids that i couldnt afford otherwise.

Making summer FUN for everyone

[angus.gov.uk/holidayfun](https://angus.gov.uk/holidayfun)

Angus Council  
Creating Angles