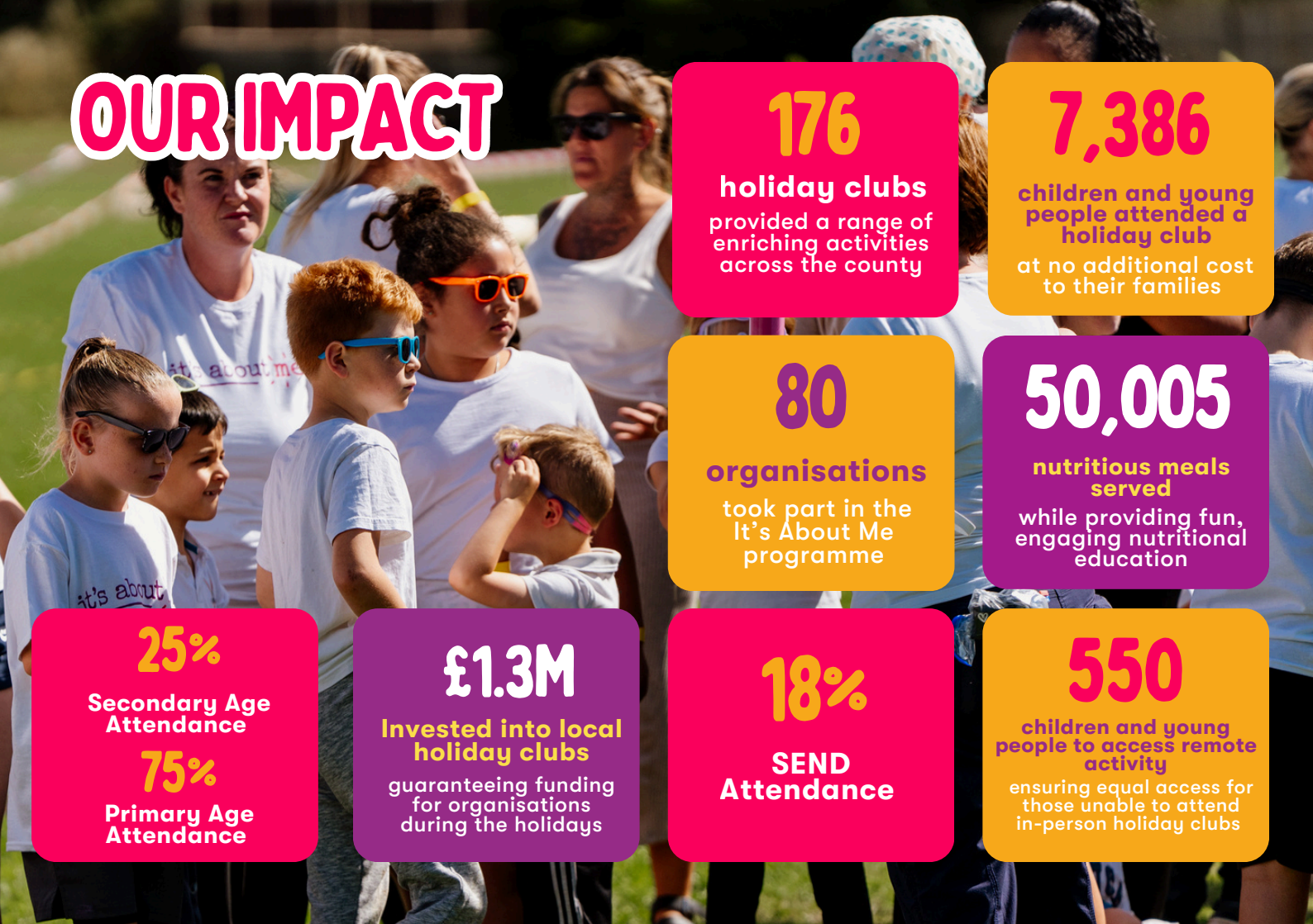
it's about me

Derbyshire's Holiday Activity and Food Programme

DERBYSHIRE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME

IMPACT REPORT SUMMER 26

STREET GAMES | DERBYSHIRE County Council | Funded by UK Government | BEST START IN LIFE



OUR IMPACT

176

holiday clubs

provided a range of enriching activities across the county

7,386

children and young people attended a holiday club

at no additional cost to their families

80

organisations

took part in the It's About Me programme

50,005

nutritious meals served

while providing fun, engaging nutritional education

25%

Secondary Age Attendance

75%

Primary Age Attendance

£1.3M

Invested into local holiday clubs

guaranteeing funding for organisations during the holidays

18%

SEND Attendance

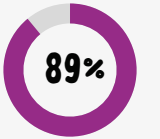
550

children and young people to access remote activity

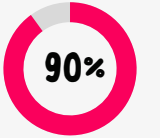
ensuring equal access for those unable to attend in-person holiday clubs

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE FEEDBACK

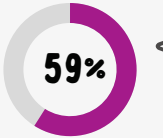
133 Responses



of children and young people said their holiday club made them feel **more positive**



of children and young people rated their holiday club as **'Very Good'** or **'Good'** overall



of children and young people said the holiday club made them feel **ready for school**

"WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR HOLIDAY CLUB?"

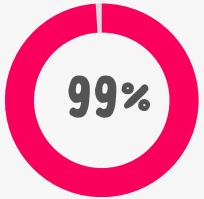
"Like watching the sports, enjoyed playing on the park."

"It is very fun to go to and I have been going for a couple of years and I love it."

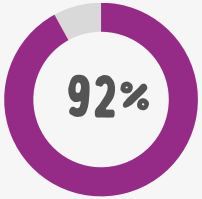
"It was good and there's a lot to do"

"The bubble and colour run were great fun, the maze and inflatables were my favourite. I've seen my old friends and met new friends and enjoyed loads of healthy foods.."

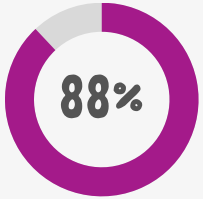
“WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO FEEL YOU DO YOU DO AT YOUR HOLIDAY CLUB?”



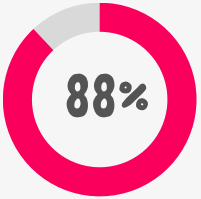
say they **did fun activites** that they enjoyed



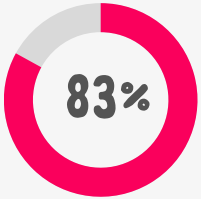
say they **take part in sport, fitness and physical activity**



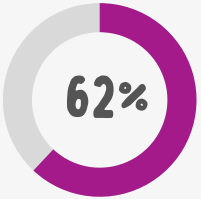
say they **made new friends or socialised**



say they **eat healthy, nutritious meals**



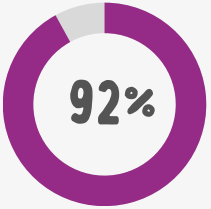
say they **try out new experiences**



say they **increased their awareness of healthy eating, lifestyles & positive behaviours**

PARENT & GUARDIAN SURVEY RESULTS 79 Responses

of parents & guardians **would recommend their local holiday club to other families**



of parents & guardians **rated their holiday club as 'Very Good' or 'Good' overall**

TESTIMONIALS

"The staff did a fantastic job with my child, he was very nervous and upset and they did a great job of reassuring him, especially when he was nervous to go swimming."

"The club wasn't at her school, so she was scared. Staff helped her settle and she loved going. They took good care of her and found things she liked doing."

"My child is neurodiverse and its great he gets on with the staff and he wears his energy off."

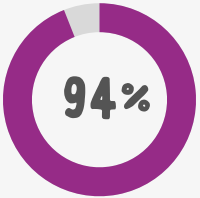
"My daughter never likes holiday clubs, always difficult to stay. Here, she wants to keep coming back."

"My son and I have felt very welcome when we have attended the club and the cooking class on a Friday is really good. Thank you for your help during the 6 weeks holiday."

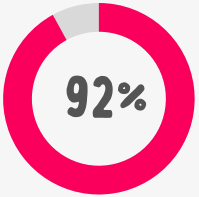
"My son enjoys holiday club and feels very safe while coming here. We have both found it is very welcoming."

"It's my daughter's first time attending these sessions. She has had an amazing time and looks forward to going to the sessions. She always has a lot to tell us about what she has done and she really enjoys the swimming. All the staff are lovely and happy to help with any questions."

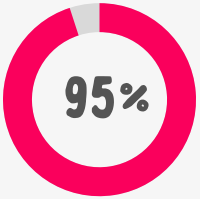
“Which of the following do feel your children do at their holiday club?”



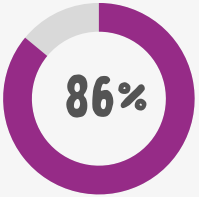
say they **take part in sport, fitness and physical activity**



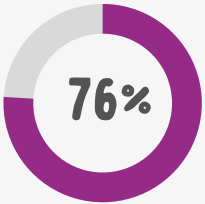
say they **participated in fun, engaging activities**



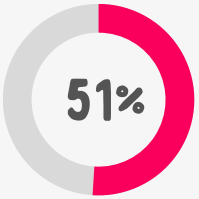
say they **socialise and make new friends**



say they **eat healthy, nutritious meals**



say the holiday club made them feel **ready for school**



say they **increased their awareness of healthy eating, lifestyles & positive behaviours**

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

50
learners accessed training

As part of the It's About Me training programme, we delivered the core HAF training offer across four courses, with 35 learners attending in total.

- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Safeguarding
- Risk Assessment
- First Aid at Work

We also worked with organisations to identify the additional training they would find most useful. In response, we delivered four further courses tailored to provider demand.

- SEN Inclusion
- Understanding Behaviour that May Challenge
- Positive Handling
- Youth Work Induction Workshops

These additional courses were attended by 15 learners.

Overall, training attendance was lower than anticipated. To help improve engagement, we contacted providers directly to encourage participation in courses that we felt would strengthen the quality of HAF provision. However, feedback from organisations highlighted ongoing capacity challenges.

Many providers reported that limited staffing levels, operational demands, and a lack of available funding made it difficult to release staff to attend training.

Despite lower attendance numbers, feedback from those who attended was extremely positive. Learners consistently reported that the training helped to develop their skills, would support them in their roles, and was delivered by knowledgeable and well-prepared tutors who were able to answer questions effectively.

""It was very in depth and loads of examples were used to help us to understand."

"Very hands on. Not a moment was wasted. Excellent approachable staff. Strong emphasis on inclusion. The free kit bag! Superbly staged, started basic and gave examples of progression."

"All aspects! Breakout rooms where we had chance to learn from others and the group discussion were useful, as well as the knowledge from the trainers."

FOOD WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

As part of the continuous development for holiday clubs, we offer a series of food-based training courses. This Spring, these included **Let's Talk About Food** and **Food Standards** training, the latter being mandatory for all new holiday club providers.

18
Let's Talk About Food

53
Food Standards Training

SPORT, SUPPORT AND POSITIVE CHANGE: TRANSFORMING YOUNG LIVES IN PETERSHAM

SUPPORT THROUGH SPORT

Support Through Sport CIO, based in Long Eaton, uses sport and physical activity to engage, support and empower children and young people, delivering youth clubs, sports sessions, holiday programmes, mentoring and outreach work across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The organisation delivers the Petersham Youth Project in partnership with Hope Long Eaton CIC, funded by the Community Safety Partnership Team at Erewash Borough Council. Building on this existing work, Support Through Sport delivered a Summer 2026 holiday programme for young people aged 12-17, providing a safe, structured alternative to spending time on the streets.

"It's About Me funding has made a significant difference to our organisation. Without this funding, our Petersham Youth Project would normally operate during term time only. The funding also covered additional staffing and venue costs and, as a result, we were able to offer a wider range of activities, workshops and partner-led sessions than would otherwise have been possible." **Support Through Sport**

The HAF programme was delivered in partnership with Hope Long Eaton CIC, whose contribution played a key role in the programme's success. Hope Long Eaton provided additional staff throughout the summer to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants.

They also purchased and coordinated the provision of hot meals, snacks and drinks for young people attending the programme. Their staff team have worked in the Petersham area for many years and have developed strong, trusted relationships with local young people, families and residents, helping to maximise engagement and strengthen community connections.

DEVELOPING DERBYSHIRE'S REMOTE HOLIDAY OFFER

IT'S ABOUT ME

Since 2022, the Derbyshire Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme has provided a remote holiday offer to support families during school holidays. Delivered through the It's About Me team, the offer includes Primary-age and Secondary-age Activity Packs, which have proved incredibly popular with families since their introduction.
Recognising the importance of continually developing the offer to meet families' changing needs and interests, the team sought feedback from its network of families in early 2026.

Understanding Family Needs
The team surveyed families to understand what they valued most about the Activity Packs, which activities they wanted to see included and the factors influencing their choices.

The findings provided valuable insight into how families use the packs and highlighted opportunities to make the offer more inclusive and engaging.

Key findings included:

- **Repeat engagement:** Most families reported ordering Activity Packs repeatedly, demonstrating sustained interest in the offer.
- **Complementary provision:** 53% of surveyed families also attended a HAF club, highlighting how the remote offer can complement in-person holiday activities.
- **Accessibility and inclusion:** Among families who did not attend a HAF club, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) requirements were frequently identified as a contributing factor.
- **Extended engagement:** Children often used their Activity Packs over multiple days, demonstrating their value as an ongoing holiday resource.
- **Popular interests:** Arts and crafts and music emerged as the most requested themes, helping the team understand which activities families were most keen to access.

Developing the Offer
The feedback highlighted the need to broaden the range of Activity Packs available, ensuring that children could access activities suited to their interests, ages and individual needs.

In response, the It's About Me team expanded its offer in 2026, introducing four additional packs:

- **STEM Secondary** – activities focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics for secondary-age children.
- **STEM Primary** – engaging STEM activities designed for primary-age children.
- **SEND Secondary** – a pack developed to better support the needs of secondary-age children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- **SEND Primary** – a pack designed to better support the needs of primary-age children with special educational needs and disabilities.

This expansion builds on the success of the original Activity Packs while providing families with a wider choice of resources tailored to different age groups and needs.

Impact and Learning
The survey demonstrated the value of listening directly to families when developing holiday provision. By gathering feedback on how the packs were used, which activities children enjoyed and what barriers families experienced, the team was able to identify practical opportunities to strengthen the remote HAF offer.

The introduction of dedicated STEM and SEND packs represents an important step towards providing a more varied and inclusive offer. It also reinforces the role of remote provision in complementing face-to-face HAF activities and supporting families who may face barriers to attending clubs.

Looking Ahead
The continued development of the Activity Packs reflects the It's About Me team's commitment to responding to family feedback and improving access to engaging holiday activities.

Building on the findings from the 2026 survey, the team can continue to review family preferences, explore opportunities to incorporate popular themes such as arts and crafts and music, and ensure the packs remain relevant, accessible and enjoyable for children across Derbyshire.

WITH THANKS TO

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