

From: Roger Gough, Leader of the Council  
Richard Long, Cabinet Member - Education and Skills  
Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member - Integrated Children's Services  
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To: Cabinet – 15 March 2021

Decision No. 21/00035

Subject: **Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Leader Decision

Electoral Division: All

**Summary:** The Covid pandemic has had an impact on all children and young people in Kent. The effects will vary between individuals depending upon their circumstances, recognising these will be both positive and negative. However, it is recognised nationally and internationally that children and young people have sacrificed more than most over the course of the pandemic.

It is proposed that the County Council leads a wide ranging programme across the whole of Kent to reconnect children and young people to some of the things they have missed and provide a wide range of new opportunities over the remainder of this academic year, and the entirety of the next. This will be an ambitious programme which will require the support and endeavour of the whole Council and reaches across all Cabinet portfolios. The programme is in addition to rather than instead of existing services and commitments. The programme will focus on positive opportunities and hopefully draw together a wide range of partners and resources, including community resources, to invest in the children and young people of Kent.

The programme will be shaped with children and young people and seek to reconnect them to:

- Health and happiness
- Learning missed
- Friends, family and community
- Sports, activities and the outdoors
- Economic wellbeing

This report introduces the need for the programme, sets out the immediate activities required and the recommended approach to develop detailed plans for implementation of the next phase of the programme after the election. It is vital that

this programme is responsive to any changes in impact or need and is a universal offer for all children and young people in Kent.

It is recognised that the current period is unprecedented in the Council's history. This paper seeks to capture some of those challenges and opportunities in setting out the immediate steps being taken and those contemplated to support the County's children. These unique circumstances mean that the county will be exiting from the pandemic during the pre-election period and work must be progressed in order that any administration in power after May stands ready to deliver in this vital area.

To recognise the unique circumstances and the importance of providing a broader view of the membership of the Council, the Leaders of the Opposition parties have been invited to attend and speak at Cabinet on 15 March 2021.

Similarly, recommendation 7 provides a specific intention for the views, comments and input of non-executive Members to be noted as part of the development of this programme.

Finally, an informal Member group will be established and meet fortnightly during the pre-election period to ensure political oversight and involvement on a cross party basis.

**Recommendation(s):**

Cabinet is asked to;

1. Agree the creation of the 'Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme';
2. Confirm that this decision establishes the Programme via formal governance to ensure transparency, evidence a clear intention to deliver in the future and allow appropriate preparatory work to be undertaken, prior to a further key decision where scope, objectives, outcomes and funding for the full project may be confirmed;
3. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Members for Integrated Children's Services and Education and Skills, to take necessary actions, including but not limited to, entering into relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as required to establish the Programme and undertake relevant preparatory work within normal delegated spend thresholds;
4. Approve acceptance of the £5.3m specific grant funding from the Department for Education to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and confirm that this will be an integral part of the Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme;
5. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education to develop a funding framework, and manage and deploy the accepted HAF funding, in accordance with the grant conditions and arrangements detailed in the relevant appendix of this report.

6. Agree that full implementation of the Programme will be subject to a future Key Decision which will confirm;
  - i. The detailed scope, objectives and measurable outcomes of the Programme.
  - ii. The full funding allocation.
  - iii. Monitoring arrangements for delivery of outcomes and spend.
  - iv. Delegated spend arrangements via an appropriate framework.
  - v. General delegations as required to allow for effective implementation of the decision.
7. Note any comments or other input from non-Executive Members consulted as part of this decision.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Members have been united in expressing their concern about the impact of the pandemic on the young people of Kent. Throughout the past year it has been a clear priority for the administration and all Members in their role scrutinising the executive. Further, it formed a key part of the budget debate and was raised in the amendments proposed by the opposition groups. Similarly, Members have recognised the key role and responsibilities of the County Council in recovering from the pandemic for our young people.
- 1.2. It is recognised that the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the lives of all Kent residents substantially since March 2020 when the county entered the first national lockdown. However, this has been particularly felt by the young people of the county who have seen every aspect of their life and development impacted. A high proportion of the past year has been spent in lockdown and the remainder under restrictions that have materially impacted on the wellbeing, education and social development of our young people.
- 1.3. During those lockdown periods, state funded schools in Kent saw only 2000-2500 pupils attending daily, which represents about 1% of the school population. Similar numbers attended early year settings, representing about 7% of the cohort. Figures demonstrate that approximately 200,000 school children were unable to attend school between March and September 2020, and 40% of pre-school children did not return to settings.
- 1.4. Whilst all schools and settings were open to all pupils between September 2020 and December 2020, provision for many was disrupted with class or year group bubbles being required to self-isolate because of Covid-positive cases, or staff shortages. The impact of this period on their learning, wellbeing and friendships has been recognised as significant.
- 1.5. The pandemic has also impacted on other aspects of children and young people's lives. Evidence is already emerging regarding the effects on their mental and physical health. The Chief Inspector for Ofsted, Amanda Spielman, states in her most recent (Dec 2020) annual report that some

children have regressed, particularly in early years, and lost skills such as being able to hold a pencil. The report also indicates that ‘some children are thought to be at least 6 months behind where they should be’, presenting with issues around stamina and mental health in addition to gaps in learning.

- 1.6. While schools have worked to understand and measure gaps, these cannot be fully understood until teachers have had time to undertake a rounded assessment with students back in their classrooms. We therefore do not know the full extent of the issue for children and young people. Schools and settings also report regression in the social skills of young children and the school readiness of those who have essentially missed most of their nursery experience.
- 1.7. Disadvantaged pupils are likely to be disproportionately impacted by all these issues and we may well see the attainment gap widen for this group in the short and medium term. This group’s attainment was already below that of their non-disadvantaged peers prior to the pandemic.
- 1.8. Older students have experienced uncertainty regarding their public examinations and the results. Youth unemployment has risen disproportionately compared to that of other age groups, and the short-term economic prospects of young people remains uncertain. The UK’s jobless rate rose to 5.1% in the three months to December, with the number of people on company payrolls down 726,000 on pre-pandemic levels. Almost three-fifths of these were younger than 25 years of age. In Kent youth unemployment has risen from 4.4% in January 2020 to 9.5% in January 2021 (national is 8.7%).
- 1.9. In the last 12 months, all children and young people have seen a reduction in their ability to socialise, travel, see friends and family, take part in organised sports, clubs, outdoor and indoor activities, art, theatre, culture, music and entertainment.

## **2. The Proposal**

- 2.1 The programme brand “Reconnect” was the suggestion of our young people.
- 2.2 Discussions with them have demonstrated a clear preference on their part for a programme focused on positive opportunities rather than emphasising the “damage” that may have been done to them or their futures by the pandemic. Young people have made it clear that they want to feel optimistic and look forward. Initial discussions show that they want a programme of **additional** opportunities reflecting that.
- 2.3 Whilst acknowledging that the Council will continue to need to target our core resources at those most in need, this is a universal programme to bring the very best out of our talented and capable young people. Initial discussions with young people made it clear that they do not want the messaging to suggest we are trying to “fix a broken generation” or anything similar.
- 2.4 The programme brand “Reconnect” signifies that we are entering the phase of children and young people being able to reconnect with their education, their friends, their families, their passions and interests, and to try new things.

- 2.5 This must be a programme for all, recognising that all children and young people have missed opportunities, but it will recognise that some will need more support reconnecting than others, for some the gaps will have become wider than for others. It will be a programme of choice. It will harness the variety of funding streams that exist now, and in the future providing a vehicle for coalescing, corralling and delivering opportunities.
- 2.6 The County Council has a range of ideas, plans and powers that can give life to this programme but we recognise that we are not alone in that. Our colleagues elsewhere in the districts, boroughs and city councils will have their own ideas and plans and it is vital that we draw in partners who already occupy the space of supporting children and young people to work together cohesively for the benefit of our young people. We will capitalise on the spirit of the Kent community to support each other.
- 2.7 The intention is to make this a priority of the County Council, and that of other public bodies, charitable organisations and the Kent community. We intend this to be a programme that operates between now and the end of August 2022. We want Kent to “give a year to the children”.
- 2.8 Given the aspiration, this work needs to advance at pace in order that all necessary preparation, advice and information can be brought together with a clear scope, with defined outcomes, activities and funding sources. This will allow a substantive key decision to be taken after the election to set out the programme for the year ahead.
- 2.9 This is also a programme that will be for all Members. Accordingly, all views are welcome to sustain, inform and support the detailed planning for the next phase of the programme and ensure a rounded view of the opportunities, challenges and way forward.
- 2.10 This will be a programme which will need the entire County Council’s support and involvement. Whilst it will be led by the Children, Young People and Education Directorate, it is expected all parts of KCC, including our trading companies, will contribute.
- 2.11 A clear brand will be created for the programme, together with a communications strategy to engage children and young people, their families, and their communities. Following consultation with our Participation Unit, the name of the programme is proposed as “Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People” or “Reconnect” for short.

### **3. Aims of the Programme and Outcomes to be Achieved**

- 3.1 The programme aims to Reconnect Kent children and young people to:
  - Health and Happiness
  - Learning Missed
  - Family, Friends and Community
  - Sport, Activities and the Outdoors

- Economic Wellbeing
- 3.2 These themes resonated with the young people in the Participation Unit, with the emphasis being forward looking, positive, enjoyable and fun, rather than focused on a deficit model.
- 3.3 Work will need to be undertaken to develop a full suite of outcome and performance measures, but it is anticipated these will include:
- participation levels
  - feedback
  - improvements in resilience and wellbeing scores
  - demonstrable evidence of reduced learning loss
  - increased levels of volunteering
  - the number of young people supported into employment
- 3.4 It is important that outcomes and the scope of the project are developed in the coming months with young people. This is vital to ensure that the programme in all its various forms reflects the aspirations and needs of young people as seen by them.
- 3.5 The views of children and young people will be at the heart of the programme. It is not for us to second guess what they would find interesting, exciting and engaging. We will work with children and young people, their families as well as our delivery partners, schools and settings to construct and constantly evaluate the programme.
- 3.6 Similarly, given the approach to this programme will be very different, Members are asked to also contemplate the aims and outcomes and provide their views. The importance of this is reflected in recommendation 7 which explicitly references the input of non-executive Members. The fact that this is about “getting it right” is reflected in the fact that the Leaders of the Opposition Groups have been invited to attend and speak at the Cabinet Meeting where this paper will be discussed.
- 3.7 To provide an opportunity for cross-party input during the pre-election period, an Informal Member Group will be established and chaired by the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services. Standing membership of the group will include the opposition spokespeople on matters for children and young people.

#### **4. Activities, Funding and Timescales**

- 4.1 At this stage it is not possible to detail what provision will be made beyond broad headlines and that provides the opportunities for Members to give their views. Work will need to be undertaken with families and delivery partners to construct the programme, plus the level of resources that can be pulled together will be an influencing factor.

- 4.2 The full and final detail of the complete programme to run is a matter for Member decision and which will be brought forward after the election. The current intention is for the programme to begin immediately and then run until the end of the Summer Holidays in 2022. The ultimate direction will be one for Members after the election.
- 4.3 Importantly, the programme is about additionality and not simply reshaping or flexing base budget activity to reflect the post-Covid environment. In order to achieve the aims of the programme, dedicated funding and a vigour in chasing down funding opportunities and funding streams is required. It is anticipated that these will largely be one off and these will be fully clarified in the weeks and months ahead leading into the next key decision.
- 4.4 The proposal is for the programme to be provided with dedicated funding and be the umbrella for specific grant funding which supports the aims of the Programme. The activities and projects funded by the Programme will be additional to the core activity of the County Council's directorates, and the funding commitments will be time limited and will not be a recurring cost to the Council beyond 31 August 2022.
- 4.5 The dedicated programme team will be seconded until 31 August 2022. These posts will be funded from dedicated, or, where appropriate, external funding/grants that are sheltered within the Programme.
- 4.6 The use and impact of the Programme funding will be monitored closely, not only in order to provide update reports to Cabinet and the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee, but also to flex the response according to experience, and how need and demand changes across the County.
- 4.7 The funding from the Council for the full and final programme will be determined as part of the year end closing of accounts process. The amount of funding will be dependent on the level of revenue underspend at the end of the financial year. The financial implications of the programme will be set out in the future key decision report but will largely be from one-off funding sources such as revenue underspend.
- 4.8 Whilst the full long-term detail and vision of this programme cannot currently be set out, there are already known resources which it is proposed should be sheltered under the umbrella of the Reconnect Programme. Details of these are below and give an illustration of how the Programme could operate in some areas. In addition, work commenced or committed using other areas of COVID grant funding will be assessed and where appropriate brought under this programme.
- 4.9 Known funding streams

Scheme	Funding	
	Nationally	Locally
Holiday Activities and Food Programme	£m 220	£m 5.3

Digital Access (children)		0.1
Kickstart		1.3
Catch-up Premium	650	15.4*
National Tuition Programme	550	
Secondary Summer Schools	200	4.7*
Recovery Premium	302	7.1*

\* Estimated allocation direct to schools

- 4.10 The Holiday Activities and Food grant for Kent from the Department for Education has been finalised at £5.3m. The recommendations for this paper include the necessary decision making to accept and disburse this grant. The grant is given to Kent County Council to provide holiday activity support to disadvantaged children during the Easter, Summer and Christmas 2021 breaks. These will cover at least 4 hours a day, for 4 days a week, with one week of activity in Easter, 4 in the summer and 1 at Christmas.
- 4.11 In view of the timescales for delivery of an Easter Programme, a specific recommendation of this paper is that the Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education be delegated responsibility for delivery of the HAF programme and for the associated £5.3m grant. Further details of the HAF programme are contained as an Appendix to this report.
- 4.12 The Education People are being commissioned to develop the programme in partnership with stakeholders. Ongoing lockdown restrictions will affect the provision available at Easter 2021. Rules allow:
- outdoor provision for all children without restriction,
  - indoor provision to:
    - vulnerable children and young people
    - children on free school meals, where they are attending as part of the holiday activities and food programme
  - other children, where the provision is:
    - reasonably necessary to enable their parents and carers to work, search for work, undertake education or training, or attend a medical appointment or address a medical need, or attend a support group
    - being used by electively home educating parents as part of their existing arrangements for their child to receive a suitable full-time education
    - being used as part of their efforts to obtain a regulated qualification, meet the entry requirements for an education institution, or to undertake exams and assessments
- 4.13 The Council has secured £100k of financial support to help improve the digital access for children and young people. Working with Cantium Business Solutions we have identified 94 laptops which are being rebuilt for distribution to children and young people. Remaining funding will be targeted towards the provision of internet access. One intention is to work with charitable organisations who are similarly looking to collect and refurbish second-hand devices to better co-ordinate this activity and the distribution of devices, as well



as to maximise the value of the financial contributions we secure. Through this co-ordination the aim is to use the Reconnect brand to drive donations from businesses and individuals and create the network to recondition these and distribute them via our schools and settings. Another proposal is to work with Kent's Public Service Network to explore opportunities for providing internet access to children and young people with limited access at home.

- 4.14 Government has also announced funding to support academic catch up. £650m was announced for Catch Up Premium, which would be distributed to schools (£80 per pupil in years R to 11 in mainstream schools, and £240 per place for special schools and pupil referral units). £350m was provided for a national tutoring programme, which has been extended by £200m. £200m was recently announced for secondary summer schools, while £302m is to be provided as a one off "recovery premium" for primary and secondary schools to boost summer schooling, clubs and activities. While we will not control this funding, it is suggested that the Reconnect Programme work with schools to ensure our activities dovetail with and enhance the opportunities provided to their pupils using this funding.
- 4.15 There are also charitable organisations that are seeking to support children reconnect with and extend their learning, such as the Kent based Invicta National Academy. Working with these and schools to blend schemes, such as the holiday activities fund, will enable us to provide an enjoyable and balanced experience for children and young people.
- 4.16 It is intended that the programme should work with existing clubs and organisations to help them reconnect with children and young people. We know that lockdown will have broken some of the links, both child to club, and adult volunteers to club because their circumstances may have changed, and they can no longer commit the time. We will promote clubs and organisations to families and look to secure bursary funding to support fees and equipment for disadvantaged children to overcome barriers to participation.
- 4.17 It is understood funding to promote the community use of schools' sports facilities may be being made available via Sports England, which we will look to draw into the programme. Details of this have not yet been released.
- 4.18 The aspiration of the programme is limitless. We envisage libraries running book clubs, country parks being venues for outdoor learning and activities, leisure centres being available to children and young people free or at reduced rates, family learning in schools and centres, taster sessions in different sports and hobbies, through to premier sports clubs running academies. Again, the thoughts and views of Members would be particularly welcome on the opportunities and needs in order that subsequent activity reflects all of our communities.
- 4.19 We are working with our schools to create job opportunities for trainee Teaching Assistants using the Kickstart scheme. The aim is not only to reconnect these young people with training and employment opportunities, but to support our work on improving the outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The intention is to employ these young people on a supernumerary basis, provide high quality training and job experience in both

mainstream and special schools with a focus on supporting pupils with SEND. The ultimate aim is that these young people secure permanent jobs in mainstream schools because they have strong skills in supporting children and young people with SEND. We anticipate the first cohort will start after Easter and will therefore be part of the workforce available to support summer activities, thereby ensuring all children can be included. Securing two cohorts of 100 young people would attract £1.3m in funding from the DWP in wages, training and administration costs.

- 4.20 The initiatives above provide a flavour of the scope and aspiration of the programme using existing, known aspects that we are working on where funding has been clearly identified. The Reconnect Programme and brand will be the umbrella under which all additional activity meeting the aims of the programme will be sheltered. The intention is to create a brand that the Kent community can get behind but we need to work across the County on this. We see this as similar to “City of culture” and “Kent Together” style initiatives where individuals, clubs and businesses want to play their part, get behind the cause and be associated with the brand.
- 4.21 The initiatives above, which have external funding attached, fit within the aims of the programme, but also have grant conditions attached which will mean these are not universally available. While we will be creative in how we position funding streams alongside each other, dedicated funding is needed to make the programme universal, and to act as the seed funding to attract further resources.
- 4.22 Further formal and public decisions will need to be made after the elections in May, to agree the additional one-off funding needed for the scheme, and what will be funded by the Council and how.
- 4.23 Through this paper, Members are asked to commit to the principle of the Reconnect Programme being a priority subject to detailed funding and programme activity on the phases from June 2021 to August 2022 being agreed after the election.
- 4.24 In addition, we will establish simple mechanisms for businesses, charities, communities and public sector partners in Kent to offer funding or services in kind to the programme, or to offer to volunteer or be delivery partners in the programme

## **5. Additional Information**

- 5.1 This paper sets out the interim arrangements that allow for the coalescing and commencement of work under this programme with the Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education as the officer with accountability for the delivery of the programme and to be accountable for the resources provided and outcomes of the programme. The long term governance, funding and outcomes of the project will be brought before Members after the election for decision.

- 5.2 David Adams has been asked to act as the Reconnect Programme Director to drive this programme forward and to meet the expectations and aspirations of this paper and the associated ideas and input of Members. It is apparent that even in these initial stages, the Programme Director will need to pull upon staff resources across the County Council to deliver the programme.
- 5.3 Given the need to implement quickly, the Council will operate within existing data-sharing protocols whilst in parallel developing data sharing arrangements that will significantly enhance the Council's ability to target specific groups and individuals most in need of support going forward.

## **6. Equality Implications**

- 6.1 To reduce potential adverse impacts:
- 1) The programme aims to be universal, supporting all children and young people aged 2 to 19/24 years.
  - 2) A good proportion of the external funding has grant criteria targeting this to vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, with clear eligibility criteria such as entitlement to Free School Meals. This is intended to help ensure household income is not a barrier to participation.
  - 3) Efforts will be made to target specific groups who are vulnerable, either by raising their awareness of the opportunities provided by the funding to ensure they do not miss out, or by direct provision of support.
  - 4) Evidence on the impact of Covid-19 on protected characteristics will be sought and used to influence decision making.
  - 5) Any document made available to the public to support accessing funds will also be made available in accessible formats as appropriate.
  - 5) An EQIA screening will be completed by the appropriate organisation for all initiatives using this funding.
- 6.2 A programme level EQIA will be developed alongside the formation of the programme.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1 The nation is galvanising behind children and young people to ensure they are able to access opportunities to help them reconnect with all aspects of a healthy, safe, and enriched childhood.
- 7.2 We constantly aim for Kent to be the most forward looking area in England for care, education and learning, supported by specialist and early help services so that we are the best place for children and young people to grow up safely, learn, develop and achieve.
- 7.3 The Reconnect Programme is essential to the Council delivering this aim in a post-Covid environment.

## Recommendations

### Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to;

1. Agree the creation of the 'Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme';
2. Confirm that this decision establishes the Programme via formal governance to ensure transparency, evidence a clear intention to deliver in the future and allow appropriate preparatory work to be undertaken, prior to a further key decision where scope, objectives, outcomes and funding for the full project may be confirmed;
3. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Leader and the Cabinet Members for Integrated Children's Services and Education and Skills, to take necessary actions, including but not limited to, entering into relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as required to establish the Programme and undertake relevant preparatory work within normal delegated spend thresholds;
4. Approve acceptance of the £5.3m specific grant funding from the Department for Education to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and confirm that this will be an integral part of the Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme;
5. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education to develop a funding framework, and manage and deploy the accepted HAF funding, in accordance with the grant conditions and arrangements detailed in the relevant appendix of this report.
6. Agree that full implementation of the Programme will be subject to a future Key Decision which will confirm;
  - a) The detailed scope, objectives and measurable outcomes of the Programme.
  - b) The full funding allocation.
  - c) Monitoring arrangements for delivery of outcomes and spend.
  - d) Delegated spend arrangements via an appropriate framework.
  - e) General delegations as required to allow for effective implementation of the decision.
7. Note any comments or other input from non-Executive Members consulted as part of this decision.

## **Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 During the course of the current pandemic government policy towards the provision of free meals to eligible pupils has evolved and predominantly been based on the provision of vouchers to parents. For the coming holiday periods starting with Easter 2021 and up to and including the Christmas holidays the government have announced a new initiative called the Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF) which takes a different approach to making provision for children who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). This scheme has previously been piloted across a small number of Local Authority areas prior to national rollout. There are some case studies of delivery methodology and activities, but these have been on a very small scale and pre pandemic, dating from 2018 and 2019.

### **2. Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

2.1 The objectives of this government scheme for all eligible 5 – 16 year olds are to provide healthy food, enriching activities, physical activity and nutritional education to children and their parents during the holiday periods.

2.2 The DfE has been clear that this provision must be inclusive and accessible to children with SEND and those who live in isolated or rural areas as part of an offer to all eligible children.

2.3 As a minimum the provision is intended to extend to four hours per day for four days a week, over a four-week period in the summer and one week during the other holiday periods.

2.4 Whilst the focus of HAF is clearly on provision for eligible children who currently receive benefits related free school meals within its guidance the DfE encourages local authorities to make holiday clubs available to any children not eligible for free school meals, who can pay to attend.

2.5 In addition the guidance also states that if local authorities can demonstrate that they are offering the programme comprehensively across the full geographical area and are fully meeting demand from free school meal eligible children in the area they can seek approval from the DfE to use up to 15% of their allocation to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits related free school meals but who are considered by the local authority as vulnerable or in need of this provision. This may include children assessed as being in need, looked-after children, children with an EHC plan (education, health and care), children assessed as otherwise vulnerable, or children living in areas of high deprivation.

2.6 Nationally a maximum allocation of £220 million is being made available to all Local Authorities. KCC has been allocated a maximum of £530,560 for 2020/21 and £4,745,300 for 2021/22. A requirement of the allocation is for Local Authorities to submit regular reporting and monitoring updates both before and

after each of the holiday periods setting out planned delivery and actual take up, respectively. In respect of this financial year's allocation KCC was required to submit the first of these reports by 26<sup>th</sup> February. This plan set out how KCC will meet the government requirements. It has been accepted and funding for 2020/21 is being released by DfE.

- 2.7 The Interim Director of Education has commissioned the Early Years and Childcare team within TEP to deliver the HAF programme in Kent on behalf of KCC because of their strong links with the existing Out of School holiday scheme providers.
- 2.8 TEP's Early Years and Childcare team plans to work with existing providers and partners in the community to deliver the programme, in order to support continuity and longer-term sustainability of local projects.
- 2.9 TEP is currently recruiting a project team that will comprise a Programme Co-ordinator, two Programme Advisors and a Business Support Officer to ensure an effective and focused delivery of the programme in Kent

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 As previously indicated grant funding is being made available by the DfE. This will amount to £5.3m for Kent in total. Planned delivery will need to take place within this funding envelope. The DfE has confirmed that up to 10% i.e., £530k of the available grant can be used to meet the additional costs that Local Authorities may incur in administering the scheme. In light of this there are no revenue budget implications for KCC.

### **4. Legal implications**

- 4.1 The legal requirements in this grant are standard although there is a recognition that the impact of Covid19 may require some flexibility on the use of the grant. The key legal requirements on the Authority are as follows.
- a) The DfE will require the Section 151 Officer to confirm at the end of each financial year that the funding has been properly expended.
  - b) The Authority will not overspend on the Programme, over and above their maximum funding allocation, without the prior written approval of the DfE. Unauthorised overspends will not be reimbursed by the DfE.
  - c) The Authority must maintain reliable, accessible and up to date accounting records with an adequate audit trail for all expenditure funded by grant monies under this Determination.

### **5. Equalities implications**

- 5.1 As previously indicated the conditions of the grant require KCC to ensure that delivered activity is inclusive and accessible to all eligible children. As KCC's commissioned provider TEP are currently undertaking the EqIA screening in line with KCC policy.