



Feeding Derbyshire Healthy Holidays Programme

A Report on Summer 2020 provision

Introduction

Feeding Derbyshire worked with 18 independent Healthy Holidays Clubs across all districts of Derbyshire. We made a universal offer to the holiday clubs, providing food and take-home activities to children living within the areas they served. Club organisers ensured that vulnerable families and those on Free School Meals were made aware of and signed up to the programme.

School Holiday Clubs supported:

18 in total - although two decided to work in partnership.

17 Holiday Clubs selected to receive a FareShare subscription.

This summer, the FareShare offer consisted of four days' supply of food for each week that a child attended the holiday club. This included:

- 2 pieces of fresh fruit per day for each child
- Breakfast products
- Lunch making ingredients
- Hot meal ingredients

Locations

Heanor, Langley Mill, Loscoe, Langley, **Amber Valley**

Riddings, **Amber Valley**

Hurst Farm Estate Matlock, **Derbyshire Dales**

Kirk Hallam, **Erewash**

Long Eaton, Sawley and Sandiacre, **Erewash**

Rother Ward **Chesterfield**

Staveley, Barrow Hill, Poolsbrook, Hollingwood, Mastin Moor, Duckmanton , Inkersall, **Chesterfield**.

Grassmoor, **Chesterfield**

Buxton, **High Peak**

Creswell, **NE Derbyshire**.

Doe Lea, **NE Derbyshire**

Holmewood and Heath, **NE Derbyshire**

Sharley Park, Danesmoor **NE Derbyshire**

Swadlincote, **South Derbyshire**

Total Number of Children/Families Supported

FareShare supply figures: 1328

Actual figures reported by the holiday clubs to Feeding Derbyshire: 6014 (some projects supported adults within the families and used additional resources to provide for them).

Reaching vulnerable children

From the feedback received:

- 5 projects did not target particular children or take referrals for their Holiday Club – they had a universal offer.
- An additional 3 projects had a universal offer but made sure that vulnerable families were made aware of the provision
- 7 projects targeted specific children, families, or a deprived residential area. Referrals primarily came through schools, although many project leads already knew of vulnerable families needing support.

Number of weeks and days the projects operated

12 projects ran for the full 6 weeks of the summer holidays

2 ran for 5 weeks

1 ran for 4 weeks

1 ran for 2 weeks

Most of the projects ran for one or two days of the week, but two projects ran for 3 days over a 6-week period.

Total Cost of Programme

Costs to School Holiday Clubs (including monies spent from Feeding Derbyshire Grant) £18032.12

Cost of FareShare Subscriptions £33,794 19 (funded by Feeding Derbyshire and Central England Co-op)

Cost of one-off grant £2000.

Total Cost: £53826

Cost per child: £8.95

FareShare Figures

Region	Total weight redistributed (kg)	Retail value	Meal equivalent	CFMs	Number of children
Derbyshire	75,593.10	£101,841	188,986	17	1,328

Food supplied to families

All of the School Holiday Clubs used the FareShare food to provide food bags for the children to take home with them. The food included in the parcels was suitable for breakfast, lunches and cooked dinners.

Snacks were also supplied. Some of the clubs were associated with the Feeding Derbyshire Batch Cook Scheme and were able to supply freshly cooked ready meals to take home too.

Four clubs provided snacks to eat and lunch bags/packed lunches for the children who attended and stayed to take part in socially distanced activities on nearby green areas or in sports halls. One club organised pizza making/cake decorating activities.

The majority of clubs worked on a food collection basis only: the social-distancing restrictions in place due to COVID-19 made it very difficult for some venues to safely offer activities on site.

14 clubs stated that the food provided by FareShare was either appropriate or very appropriate. 2 clubs felt that the food was neither appropriate nor inappropriate.

Food donations from other sources

14 clubs topped up the food they received from FareShare from other sources. These included:

- Using the Feeding Derbyshire Grant to purchase items from local shops
- Using other funds to purchase items from local shops
- Donations from Morrisons
- Donations from Tesco
- Donation from the Rotary Club
- Donations of fruit and vegetables from local allotments
- Donations from the public direct to the clubs
- Donations from local bakery
- Donations from local pudding supplier
- Donations from club organisers and volunteers
- Donations from Community Garden
- Batch Cook ready meals

Clubs often had to top up on cereals, bread, and sandwich fillings as these could not be guaranteed through FareShare surplus.

Some clubs purchased sanitary items, toiletries, nappies, wipes, and baby food for their families too.

Estimated proportion of children who would have gone without food

We asked the club organisers to estimate the proportion of children using their projects, that would have gone without food if they had not received the support offered? Responses:

- 2 clubs estimated around 30%
- 6 clubs estimated 50 – 60%
- 4 clubs estimated 70 – 80%
- 4 clubs estimated 100%

Feedback from the families attending the clubs

The feedback received from the families and club organisers was very positive. The comments made highlighted the financial predicament many families found themselves in this summer. Please see Appendix A for more details.

Some families were unsure about some of the items provided in their food parcels – pak choi, mangoes and lentils were particularly difficult for them to utilise and there was rather a lot of them! Ready meals in clear plastic packs looked unappetising and some families threw them away.

What the Holiday Clubs felt went really well this summer

- Although COVID-19 meant that stay and play activities were difficult to deliver this summer, more food bags than ever were provided. This was a result of the generous FareShare offer and because the numbers attending the clubs to collect parcels did not have to be restricted, as they would have been if the children had stayed to play at the venues. This meant that many more families were supported than in previous years, and at a time when their situations were made more complicated by COVID-19.
- The support provided by Feeding Derbyshire and FareShare. The improved communication between the clubs, FareShare and Feeding Derbyshire was much appreciated.

- The selection of food was really good this summer. The availability of extra fruit was appreciated. FareShare were happy to discuss and amend some deliveries to ensure that they were as suitable as possible (given that all the food is supermarket surplus)
- The support and teamwork of the holiday club volunteers.
- Partnership working with other community organisations to provide volunteers and activities.
- The availability of the cash grant meant that clubs could top up on sanitising items, toiletries and additional foods where necessary.
- The access to downloadable and printable activities.
- Just managing to deliver food and some activities despite the COVID-19 restrictions!
- Some projects were able to notice families that would otherwise have gone under the radar. They were struggling despite being in work and were not eligible for Free School Meals.

What the Holiday Clubs felt was difficult this summer

- Organising volunteers and venues at such short notice. It would be better to plan holiday provision much earlier than two weeks before the holidays are due to start.
- Providing suitable lunch items – the FareShare surplus did not always include bread or sandwich fillings.
- Storage of such large quantities of food.
- Dealing with COVID-19 restrictions – not all clubs could run as many sessions as they would have liked to.
- A lack of volunteers available to support some clubs.
- The bags provided by East Midlands Co-op and FareShare were not big enough and there were not nearly enough.
- Negative Facebook comments about people collecting food parcels was picked up on in one area.
- Not always being able to ‘catch sight’ of vulnerable children as parents and carers would often collect the food parcels alone. We were not always able to ask the children if they had eaten a good dinner the night before, or had a suitable lunch.
- Some families that had signed up for food parcels had to be ‘chased up’ during the holidays to come and collect them. This raised concerns about the welfare of the children and level of need.
- Some families were without transport and volunteers had to deliver the food parcels to them. It meant that the children could not take part in the small number of activities that were arranged.
- Providing drinks ‘safely’ during activities was difficult as bottles of water were not always available through FareShare.
- FareShare delivery times were hard to pin down and this meant that volunteers had to hang around a long time waiting for the food to come.
- Some of the FareShare food lacked variety and was the same each week – lots of pasta and rice, which the families ended up returning as they had so much already. There was a lack of vegetarian options.

The challenges going forward

- **Funding food supplies for the rest of the school year.**
Feeding Derbyshire managed to secure funding for the summer holiday provision and this was match funded by the East Midlands Co-op. This enabled FareShare subscriptions to be purchased for the School Holiday Clubs for the six-week period. However, this funding offer came in late and left little time for planning and mobilising volunteers. Going forward, funding needs to be secured in good time – with different funding pathways explored including local community support.

- **Ensuring there is adequate time to plan for each school holiday.**
In part, this is reliant on getting funding in place in good time, recruiting volunteers and building local partnerships to enable the delivery affordable activities.
- **Meeting the level of demand within our communities.**
Many school holiday clubs saw demand for their food parcels rise as the summer went on, and some have secured additional supplies from FareShare into the new term as families are struggling to cope. There is a sense that we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg, and there are worries about a wave of local redundancies, evictions and people's savings being 'burnt out'.
- **Reducing stigma**
Many families may have 'missed out' this summer due to pride, embarrassment and stigma. A Community Shop/ Affordable Food approach is being delivered in some locations and this could be rolled out more widely. This 'model' would also help generate funds, enable families to budget and restore dignity.
- **Continuing provision during a pandemic**
Many clubs are concerned about their ability to plan and make provision for local children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing, staying safe, keeping premises sanitised, the availability of volunteers, increased need and the cost of running are key considerations. Creating an environment where families felt it was safe to stay, eat and play.
- **Funding quality activities for children to take part in, especially those in deprived areas**
- **Ensuring a suitable variety of food – either from FareShare or alternative sources**
- **Improving communication about FareShare delivery times**
- **Taking care of the mental health of the families who are presenting for food parcels**
- **Infant provision – baby food and items**
- **Providing more holistic support and advice to the families attending the school holiday clubs**
- **Addressing transportation and travel issues**
- **Recruiting and keeping hold of volunteers**

For more information on the work of Feeding Derbyshire

Please contact Jo Peck j.peck@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

Or visit [Facebook](#)

Or go to the Rural Action Derbyshire [website](#)

Do you help organise and run a School Holiday Club that provides food for families needing a little extra support? You might like to join our Feeding Derbyshire School Holiday Clubs private group where we will be sharing ideas, funding opportunities and activity options for the coming school breaks. To join the Feeding Derbyshire School Holiday Clubs private Facebook group please follow this [link](#)



Appendix A

Comments made by families attending the School Holiday Clubs

Project 1 SE Derbyshire

- "This has made such a difference to us"
- "My son loved getting his lunch bag, the food parcel, as well as the activities for him to do in the box!"

Project 2 NE Derbyshire

- "Really good work the Breakfast club team!"
- "There are a lot of people who are so thankful to you!"
- "Such generous donors"
- "Well done to all involved"
- "Thank you for everything you do, and thanks to all the other volunteers"
- "Amazing, couldn't have survived school holidays without the help"

Project 3 near Chesterfield

- "Thanks for the help it makes the school holidays easier...grateful for the extra help"
- "Great selection, lots of different stuff to try"

Project 4 NE Derbyshire

- "I just want to say thanks to all the team for these past few months. Without the weekly food parcels, I'm not sure how we would have managed. They really have gone above and beyond to help people struggling from being furloughed, it's been an absolute god send. So, thank you so much we will forever be grateful xx"
- "We don't know how we would have managed without the team, I'm self-employed and wasn't entitled to the government grant as we only had 2 years self-employed earnings. Being unable to work we lost everything. They helped us with a £98 electricity grant and with weekly food. The project has been our lifeline. Thank you. Xx."
- "I was furloughed then my partner had a heart attack. We were really in a bad way financially and didn't know where to turn. The team made sure we received food, energy vouchers, benefit advice and a friendly ear. The team has been incredible."
- "We were destitute; we both lost our jobs due to the virus and were in the 5-week Universal credit waiting period. We have 5 children and had nothing in the cupboards. The team made sure we had food and electric to manage over the wait and was amazing. No judgement, just huge amounts of support and compassion. I cried so hard with despair. They were incredible. Thank you so much, I don't know what we would have done without them."

Project 5 Derbyshire Dales

- Young people and parents were excited and grateful for the food received.
- I spoke to a number of parents who explained how this summer had been more challenging than most, in terms of finances and being able to put food on the table.
- One parent in particular explained how the effects of COVID-19 on her partner's employment had left them in a worse financial position than usual, and how much access to the food and support had helped during the Summer period.

Project 6 Amber Valley

- We have received many comments saying that without us they did not know how they were going to survive through the holidays.
- Covid has hit many families hard and added to that was the pressure of the six weeks holidays and worries that the school vouchers would no longer be provided.
- Our project was a lifeline to them.

Project 7 High Peak

- Our community now like courgettes as we provided recipe tips with these.
- “Can I live here?” one three-year-old asked.
- “These apples are only for ladies!” A five-year-old fighting with brothers for all the pink lady apples. “My mum is out and me and my brother are really hungry” 14-year-old girl with 6 year old brother
- Mums told us the quality and quantity of food was the best they had had. We fed teenagers who would have had nothing to eat at all during the day. One 6 year old told me his tummy has didn't rumble at all this holiday. Lots of thanks from mums who have loved the variety and quantity, some have even been in tears.

Project 8 SE Derbyshire

- “Thank you again for everything over the holidays. I can't say how much it has helped”
- “These food donations are very much appreciated at this time”
- “You are amazing”
- “It has really helped”

Project 9 Chesterfield

- The food was received with gratitude.
- With the school meal vouchers and the food we sent, families were able to eat a balanced diet and eat 3 meals a day.
- “We could pay our bills” was a frequent comment.
- We heard people say, “we had no food in the house until our food bags arrived” (the bags included additional food during the holiday for children as well as home activities). They said the children were hungry and during lockdown food was a focus: “The joy at discovering food for them and often a treat was a great relief”
- We got big ‘thank yous’ for the birthday cakes, cards and chocolate sent on their birthdays and to cheer them up.