

# SUPPORTING REFUGEES THROUGH THE SUMMER HAF PROGRAMME WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE

SUMMER 2023 CASE STUDY

#HAF2023



Department  
for Education



Essex County Council



- County of Essex currently house 76 refugee families, each with an average of 5-6 people
- Majority of the 410 refugees are being accommodated in hotels with limited space and outside areas for children and young people to engage in physical activity
- Conversations were then had with hosting families and co-ordinators to support the young refugees through summer HAF clubs across Essex and Thurrock
- Some of the families are already receiving Holiday Activity voucher codes proving eligibility through their schools
- Although many refugees from local hotels are not yet registered with school systems, therefore they receive a 15% discretionary place offered by the Essex ActivAte programme

65

young refugees were allocated codes from the 15% discretionary places and supported through a summer HAF club



# CLUB FOCUS

- One district in Essex had high numbers of young people staying in a local refugee hotel, Skylark Hotel in South Essex, who wanted to access the summer HAF programme
- One of our South Essex delivery partners, Castle Point and Rochford School Sports Partnership, supported the Essex ActivAte locality lead and worked with Welcome to the UK to provide HAF support
- The programme took place across 16 days out of the 4 weeks of holiday clubs
- A minibus was funded for the children due to transport being a key barrier
- Costs were reduced by sending the children to the nearest HAF club to the hotel
- Ethnicities amongst the young refugees were Asian, Latin, Kurdish, Albania, Russian, Afghanistan, African, Romanian and Ukrainian
- They enjoyed different activities with the local community and children who were also eligible for free school meals



**unique refugee children engaged with the summer HAF programme and were rotated to ensure equal opportunities**



**total attended days**

# CLUB FOCUS

South Essex ActivAte, Castle Point and Rochford School Sport Partnership, Finefair and Welcome to the UK quickly mobilised the opportunity where all parties contributed:



Welcome to the UK held the relationship with the families at the hotel, planned a rotation of registers and organised a minibus for the first two weeks



Finefair coordinated children for morning pick ups, ready to attend the local HAF club and be present on arrival (communication to parents of rotations)



Castle Point and Rochford School Sport Partnership ensured qualified staff were present at the club, arranged additional meals and supported on fundraising



South Essex ActivAte shared responsibilities for this holiday period, ensuring all children had equal opportunities in attending, keeping it within the 15% allocation, sourcing a minibus for the remainder of the two weeks and organising registers for two weeks

# CHALLENGES



Restricting the numbers of children attending to fit within the 15% allocation of the discretionary places, despite them going through the school system







Allocating funding for transport to the venue each day due to demographic barrier



Integration was challenging due to language barriers, but as time progressed, leaders used their sports coaching skills to deliver activities that everyone felt comfortable taking part in

# OUTCOMES

-  Integration of children from different cultures and backgrounds, coming together through funded physical activities
-  As the days went on and the instructors adapted to the sessions, children supported each other with language translation and socialising
-  The refugees learnt a wide range of english language over the five weeks
-  The refugees enjoyed playing football and other physical activity due to being restricted at the hotel - it was clear their physical endurance improved over the holiday period

# LEARNINGS



Young female refugees enjoyed most of the sports but integration was slightly slower - the provider would like to offer more varied enrichment activities such as dance and arts and crafts during futue HAF clubs



Refugees arrived at the club hungry and always ate seconds and often thirds of the hot lunch provided - any excess food was sent back to the hotel for the refugee families which they really appreciated