

SPECIALIST YOUTH PROVISION WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE

SUMMER 2023 CASE STUDY

#HAF2023



Department
for Education



Essex County Council



OVERALL SECONDARY SUMMER HAF OFFER

Across the summer 2023 HAF programme, Essex ActivAte delivered:



secondary clubs
across Essex



secondary clubs
across Thurrock



clubs were specialist youth
provision working with the
Active Essex Foundation's
Sport and Youth Crime
Prevention Team



secondary spaces offered
across Essex and Thurrock
through the Essex ActivAte
programme



SPECIALIST YOUTH OFFER WITH THE ACTIVE ESSEX FOUNDATION

As part of the secondary offer:

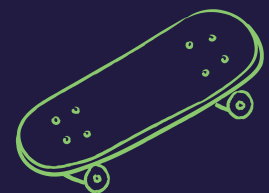


19 delivery partners worked closely with the Active Essex Foundation's (AEF) Sport and Youth Crime Prevention Team (Sport Navigators and Sport Connectors) to engage young people who were harder to reach or at risk of becoming involved in the youth justice system

Activities to support children's physical and mental wellbeing included:



organised full HAF delivered sessions



Skate jam events



Horse riding



Outdoor activity sessions



Drop in park sessions



Climbing walls



Boxing



Mental wellbeing and specialist SEND hubs

SPECIALIST SUPPORTED SECONDARY HAF OFFER



THE AIM

Divert them away from becoming victims or perpetrators of exploitation and youth criminal behaviours/activities towards a positive lifestyle with positive outcomes



THE OFFER

The specialist delivery partners were able to offer different sport and physical activities with mentoring, life skills and opportunities for volunteering, also qualifications to engage vulnerable young people

The youth specialist delivery partners covered three tiers of engagement:

DOORSTEP PARTNERS



- Delivered to HAF guidelines
- 4 hours of activity and enrichment
- Group sessions with specialist trained youth leaders

SECONDARY INTERVENTION PARTNERS



- Delivered smaller groups with focused intervention using mentors

TERTIARY INTERVENTION PARTNERS



- High level intervention working on a 1:1 or very small groups with specialist trained youth leads and youth intervention workers

SPECIALIST SUPPORTED SECONDARY HAF OFFER

The secondary offer allowed flexibility to fit the requests and the needs of the young people by:



Offering shorter hours i.e. 2-3 hours or whole days for off-site excursion's and flexible delivery times including afternoons, evenings and weekends



Detached and fixed venue options - taking the provision to where young people socialise



Some young people needed small groups, higher staff numbers and well trained coaches to cope with their challenging behaviours



Sessions included mentoring and 1-1 life skills and/or group based



Some providers offered daily sessions whilst the majority only offered two/three times a week



The majority of provisions were open booking or turn up sessions, however the tertiary cohort were via referral



The team worked with referral partners from health, the education access team, social care, police, youth justice system, child exploitation, missing teams and the community policing team. Young people could also self-refer or attend any of the drop in sessions as they wished!



The Barnardos invisible children report also highlights the potential for young people to be at greater risk of exploitation or potentially engaging in anti-social behaviour, youth criminality in holiday periods.

[Read the report here.](#)

CHALLENGES

Following a trial of specialist, secondary clubs in 2022, we understood the need for the sessions, however:

1

Partners found it difficult to engage consistent numbers by delivering the full HAF offer (4 days, 4 hours). This resulted with some provisions seeing lower than expected numbers, negative feedback from the young people and delivery partner numbers decreasing

2

The team and Active Essex brought partners (locally trusted organisations) together to discuss delivery options, best practice and what worked well, going on to exploring flexible and adaptable activities, which in return, encouraged more delivery partners to take part in 2023!

MATCH FUNDING

- An extensive programme of training was put in place using funding from the National Lottery and Local Delivery Pilot to develop and support our locally trusted organisations (LTO'S)
- Training programmes included: Managing Challenging Behaviour, Mentoring, High Risk Intervention and Mental Health First Aid
- This funding was also used to support the Active Essex Foundation Team who provided the sports connectors to assist the referral routes and made the initial contact with the young people

SUMMER OUTCOMES

- A recent visit with the Department For Education to one of the HAF summer clubs gave us an insight to the Leaders In Training programme (LIT)
- One of the young leaders explained how she had got involved in the programme through the support of an Active Essex Sports Connector
- She had been in trouble with the police and school, but felt unsupported around her interests, which was a catalyst for her negative behaviour
- She has a passion for horses, although her family cannot support this financially
- Through the HAF programme and the specialist provider, they managed to connect the young person with a programme which allowed her to volunteer with horses and through the holidays, she supports other young people who were in similar circumstances to her



secondary young people supported through physical, enrichment and food activities



fill across secondary clubs this summer



“I’m no longer disruptive and spend most of my time riding and looking after the horses which makes me feel very happy!”

— Young Leader



[Watch Lily’s story with ATF here.](#)



PARTNER AND PARTICIPANT QUOTES



“One of our secondary young people has received 1:1 mentoring. They have made positive changes, stopped using cannabis, does not go missing, is settled and now living a positive, stable life. They are now an active volunteer teaching young people how to make music and allowing them the opportunity to make their own songs - it’s fantastic to see their development!”

— **Locally Trusted Organisation**



“All of the young people have got really stuck into the club and have showed they are capable of doing many different things! I had one of the participants tell me at the final session that they are going to attend college and get an apprentice in bricklaying, which is always a proud moment as when they first joined, they were addiment not to do anything in life and had no future goals.”

— **Locally Trusted Organisation**

