



Lambeth's

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) Annual Report 2025



Funded by
UK Government



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I am pleased to present this annual report, highlighting Lambeth's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme across 2025.

Throughout the spring, summer, and winter school holiday periods, a total of £1,271,180 was allocated to deliver free, nutritious meals alongside a wide range of enriching activities for children and young people aged 4 to 16. The programme is primarily targeted at those eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals (FSM), while also making additional places available to other children and young people who require extra support during school holidays.

Overall, more than 47,000 free places were offered through the HAF programme in 2025. Children and young people were given the opportunity to engage in a broad mix of activities, including multi-sports, performing arts and musical theatre, water sports, coding sessions, leadership development workshops, mixed martial arts, and adventure play. In addition, a variety of trips were organised, such as visits to the theatre, museums, trampoline parks, theme parks, and lidos.

This report showcases the many successes of the programme. I am extremely proud of the dedication demonstrated by our providers in ensuring that children and young people across Lambeth can access safe, healthy, and enjoyable holiday experiences.

Councillor Alice Weavers

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People



Background

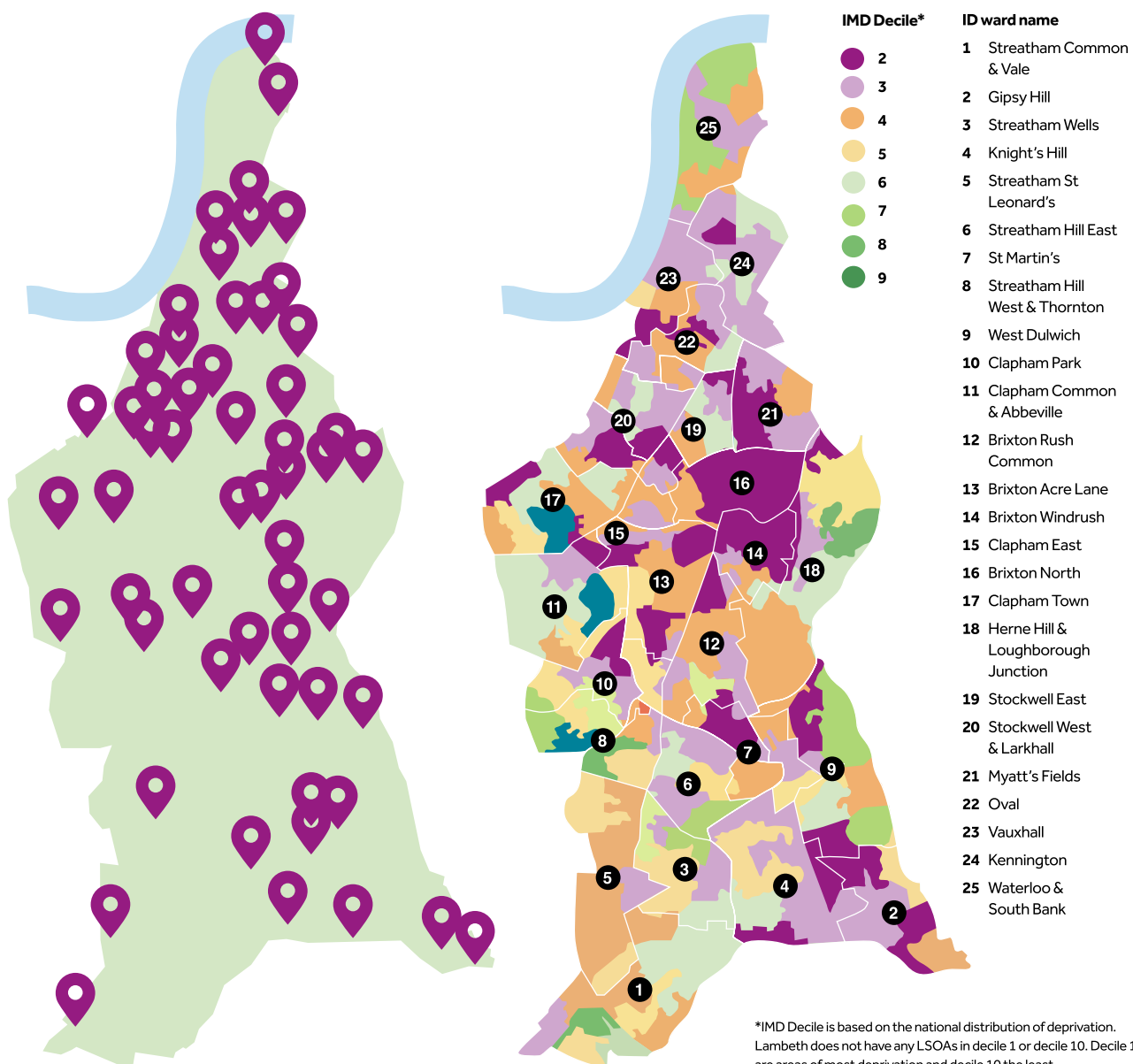
School holidays can place significant pressure on families due to increased costs, such as food and childcare, alongside reduced household income. This can lead to a holiday experience gap for some children and young people, resulting in reduced access to organised out-of-school activities and healthy meals, lower levels of physical activity, and an increased risk of social isolation.

Free holiday clubs help to address these challenges, and evidence indicates that they can have a positive impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of young people.

In 2025, Lambeth Council received £1,271,180 from the Department for Education to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme during the spring, summer and winter holidays. The programme[^] provides support to families on lower incomes and enables children and young people in Lambeth to access healthy meals alongside engaging and enriching activities during the school holidays.

In 2025, approximately 13,500 children and young people in Lambeth were eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals. The HAF programme funded free holiday club places in areas of highest need, and we worked closely with providers to ensure that eligible children were able to take up these opportunities.

Map of Lambeth's HAF clubs vs areas of high need in Lambeth:



[^] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2026-to-2027>

2025 HAF Holiday Clubs

(Not all providers delivered across all 3 holiday periods)

198 Contemporary Arts and Learning	Community Education Foundation & Lyncx (CEF Lyncx)	Longfield Hall	The Ashdon Jazz Academy
Activities 4 U	Contact Lambeth	Loughborough Community Centre	The Boury Academy CIC
AllStars Activity CIC	Dwayne Simpson Foundation CIC	Loughborough Junction Action Group	The Soul Shack LDN CIC
Art4Space CIC	East African Association	ML Community Enterprise	The Upper Norwood Library Trust
Autism Voice	Eritrean Muslim Community Association	Oasis Hub Waterloo	Triangle Adventure Playground Association
Bankside Open Space Trust - Living Space	Exceed Reading Stars LTD	Oasisplay	Tulse Hill Estate Residents Association
BiG (Besty's Inspirational Guidance) C.I.C.	Free to Be Kids	Omnibus Theatre	UINCAP
Big Up Communities	Fulham Football Club Foundation	OurCamps	UK Latin Community CIC
BIGKID Foundation	High Trees Community Development Trust	Parallel Youth Enterprise	Whippersnappers
Black Prince Trust	JJROB LDN	Pinnacle Group	Young People Matter
Brixton Community Based/Brixton Youth Theatre	Kennington Park Community Centre	Protouch SA	
Brixton Wings	Lambeth Somali Community Association	Rathbone	
Carers' Hub	Lambeth Tigers	Slade Gardens Community Play Association CIO	
CHIPS (Christian International Peace Service)	Lifelong Family Links (LFL)	South London Topcats CIC	
Code 7 Ltd	Lilford Area Residents Association	Springfield Community Flat	
Coin Street Centre Trust	Lollard St Adventure Playground	St. Matthew's Project	
		Streatham Youth and Community Trust	

SPRING

Lambeth's Spring of Food and Fun (31 March - 11 April)



Spring HAF breakdown	Description
Number of clubs operating	55
Number of places funded	10,337
Number of individual children and young people who attended	2,274
Number of primary school aged children	1528
Number of secondary school aged children	746
Number of healthy meals provided	10,883
Examples of enriching activities provided	Multisport, basketball, t-shirt designing, junk modelling, scavenger hunts, music production, adventure play, organised games, mixed martial arts, cooking classes, coding classes, music and illustration workshops, indoor rowing, art making with upcycled materials, performing arts, leadership workshops, roller skating, film making, hula hooping, dance and capoeira. A variety of trips were on offer including to museums, the Wetlands Centre, cinema, bowling, London Zoo and trampolining.

Highlights of Spring HAF:

- 6,700 pieces of fruit and sanitary protection items provided free to HAF funded children.
- The Felix Project delivered surplus food to several of Lambeth's HAF clubs via their Community Distribution programme. A number of HAF providers also received Heat & Eat meals from The Felix Project which are single portion meals that can be reheated and served on site or given out to be heated up at home.
- Extra funding for children with additional needs led to an 18% increase in attendance by children with SEND, compared with Spring 2024.

SUMMER

Lambeth's Summer of Food and Fun (28 July - 29 Aug)



Summer HAF breakdown	Description
Number of clubs operating	66
Number of places funded	32,649
Number of individual children and young people who attended	2,831
Number of primary school aged children	1,696
Number of secondary school aged children	1,135
Number of healthy meals provided	38,000
Examples of enriching activities provided	Multisport, basketball, creative media such as ceramics, printmaking and collage, T-shirt designing, junk modelling, music production, mixed martial arts, fitness, cooking, arts and crafts, adventure play, organised games, leadership workshops, roller skating, film making, hula hooping, musical theatre, capoeira. A variety of trips were on offer including to the Velodrome, museums, splash parks, theme parks, lidos and day trips to the seaside.

Highlights of Summer HAF:

- Over 22,000 pieces of fruit, snacks and sanitary protection items were provided free to children and young people over the summer.
- During August 2025, 13 young people with SEND visited 17 HAF providers who had received extra SEND funding. Their role was to review the provision and offer feedback and recommendations on how to ensure these clubs are accessible, inclusive and child friendly.
- Launch of Lambeth's HAF booking platform (<https://eequ.org/lambethholidayprogramme>) which provides families with a "one stop shop" experience where they can browse all HAF funded programmes that are available, have their child's eligibility for HAF checked, book places and if necessary, amend or cancel bookings.

WINTER

Lambeth's Winter of Food and Fun (22 Dec 25 - 2 Jan 26)



Winter HAF breakdown	Description
Number of clubs operating	36
Number of places funded	3,426
Number of individual children and young people who attended	1,086
Number of primary school aged children	713
Number of secondary school aged children	373
Number of healthy meals provided	420
Examples of enriching activities provided	Football, dodgeball, basketball, Zumba, aerobics, salsa, and street dance, festive arts and crafts and baking, basketball and indoor rowing. Trips included visits to the cinema, go karting, pantomimes, ice skating, Winter Wonderland, soft play and to climbing walls.

Highlights of Winter HAF:

- Over 3,300 pieces of fruit and snacks were provided and surplus food, that would have gone to waste, was delivered by The Felix Project.
- Several clubs received Christmas gifts for the children from local charities and retailers.
- We piloted a partnership with Active Lambeth, who run the borough's leisure centres. They offered our HAF providers slightly discounted packages of activities including ice skating and soft play at Streatham Leisure Centre and use of the climbing wall, karaoke and swimming at Brixton Leisure Centre.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Approximately £115,906 of Lambeth's HAF budget was allocated to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This funding was distributed across both specialist SEND and universal providers to ensure inclusive access to HAF provision.

This additional investment supported 1,392 children and young people, enabling providers to fund specialist staffing, targeted support, and appropriate equipment to meet a range of needs.

We continue to work closely with SEND colleagues and Lambeth's Parent Forum to strengthen and enhance the HAF SEND offer.

Contact Lambeth, a specialist SEND provider, joined the programme for Winter 2025, further expanding the range of tailored provision available.



Total HAF spend

- Programme spend – £1,156,639.72** (grants to holiday clubs, meals, additional SEND funding, pieces of fruit, sanitary products, promoting the programme)
- Administrative spend – £82,804.97** (project management and staffing costs)
- Booking system spend – £18,024.48**
- Other spend – £13,710.83** (costs associated with centralised booking system and licence for Independent Safeguarding Service)

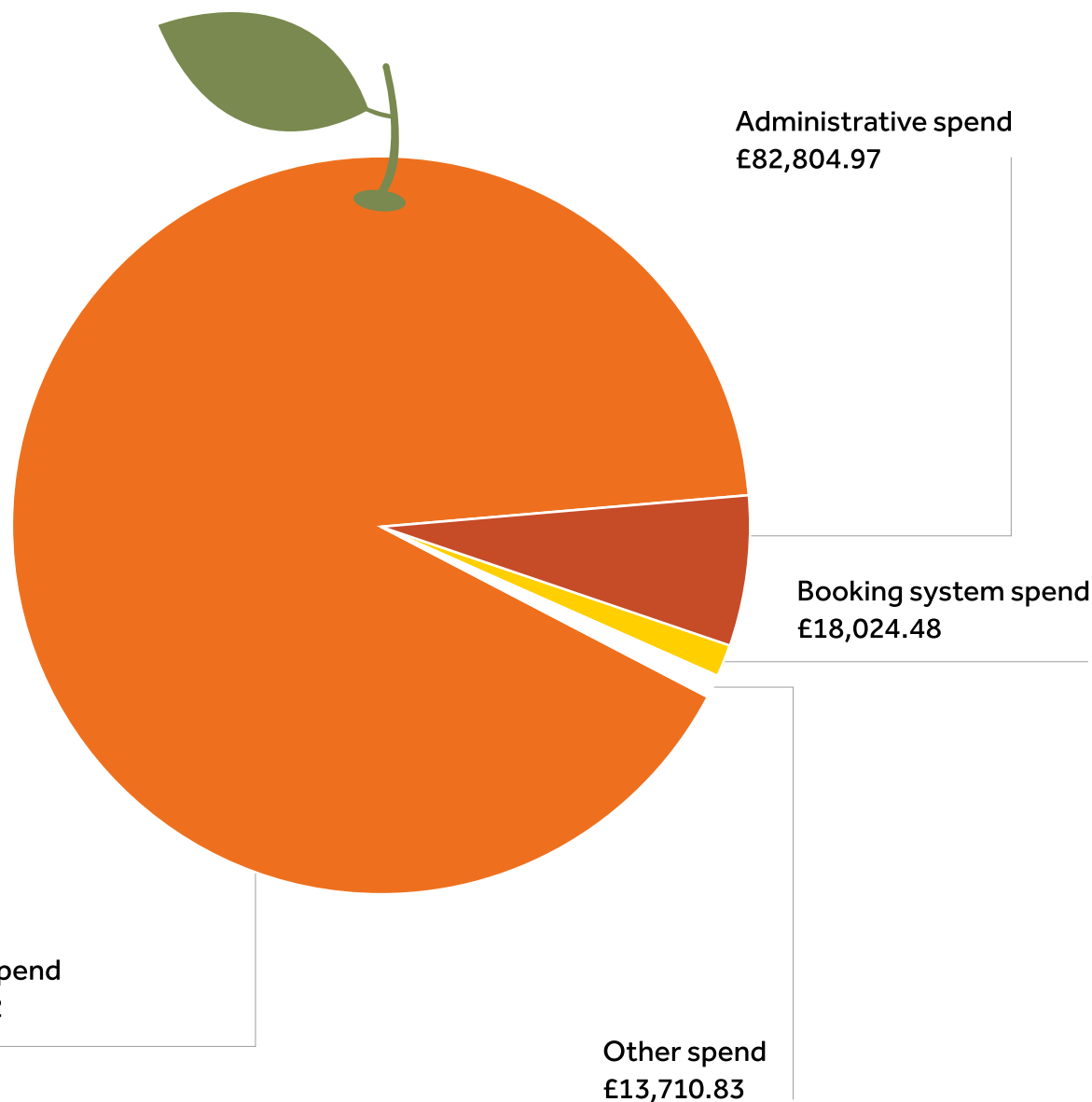
Total HAF spend (for April 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026) **£1,271,180**

Programme spend
£1,156,639.72

Administrative spend
£82,804.97

Booking system spend
£18,024.48

Other spend
£13,710.83



HAF advisors and signposting

HAF Advisors

We are grateful for the input from:

Lambeth Youth Council

Integrated Children's Commissioning and
Youth Services

Community Safety and Resilience

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People
and Families

Resident Engagement

Public Health

Child Friendly Lambeth

Communications

Families Information Service and Early Years

Metropolitan Police Community
Engagement team

SEND Young Advisors

Education

Fight4Change



Signposting and Support

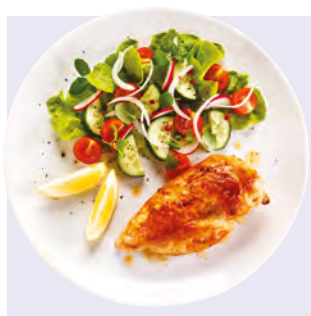
Lambeth's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme continues to engage families and carers through a coordinated approach to food education, signposting, and targeted referrals. Alongside delivering enriching activities, parents and carers were provided with practical guidance on healthy eating, budgeting, and preparing nutritious meals at home, helping to build confidence and promote longer-term behaviour change.

Providers played a key role in signposting families to wider support services, including

local food banks, community hubs, mental health support, and SEND services, ensuring a holistic offer beyond the HAF provision itself. In addition, referrals were facilitated through schools, social care teams, and health partners to ensure that those most in need were connected to the programme and wider support networks. This integrated approach has strengthened relationships with families, improved awareness of available services, and contributed to more joined-up support for vulnerable households across the borough.

Nutritional Education

The nutritional information element of HAF was delivered in a number of different ways:



Cookery sessions / cooking workshops:

Young people participated in structured, hands-on sessions where they learned how to prepare meals, develop practical cooking skills, and understand basic food preparation techniques.



Creative activities:

Art and creative sessions were used to explore nutrition themes in an engaging and accessible way, supporting learning through alternative formats.



Growing food:

Activities provided opportunities for children to learn how food is produced by growing their own fruit and vegetables, helping to build awareness of food sources and sustainability.



Nutrition-based games and activities:

Interactive games and group activities were used to teach key healthy eating concepts, including understanding food groups and making balanced choices.



"Take and Make" recipe kits

Families were provided with ingredient boxes, via the Mayor's Fund for London, designed to extend learning into the home, which included:

- Recipe cards
- Skills-based guidance materials
- Online video tutorials

These supported families to build confidence in cooking together and reinforced skills learned during sessions.

Reflections and Key Achievements

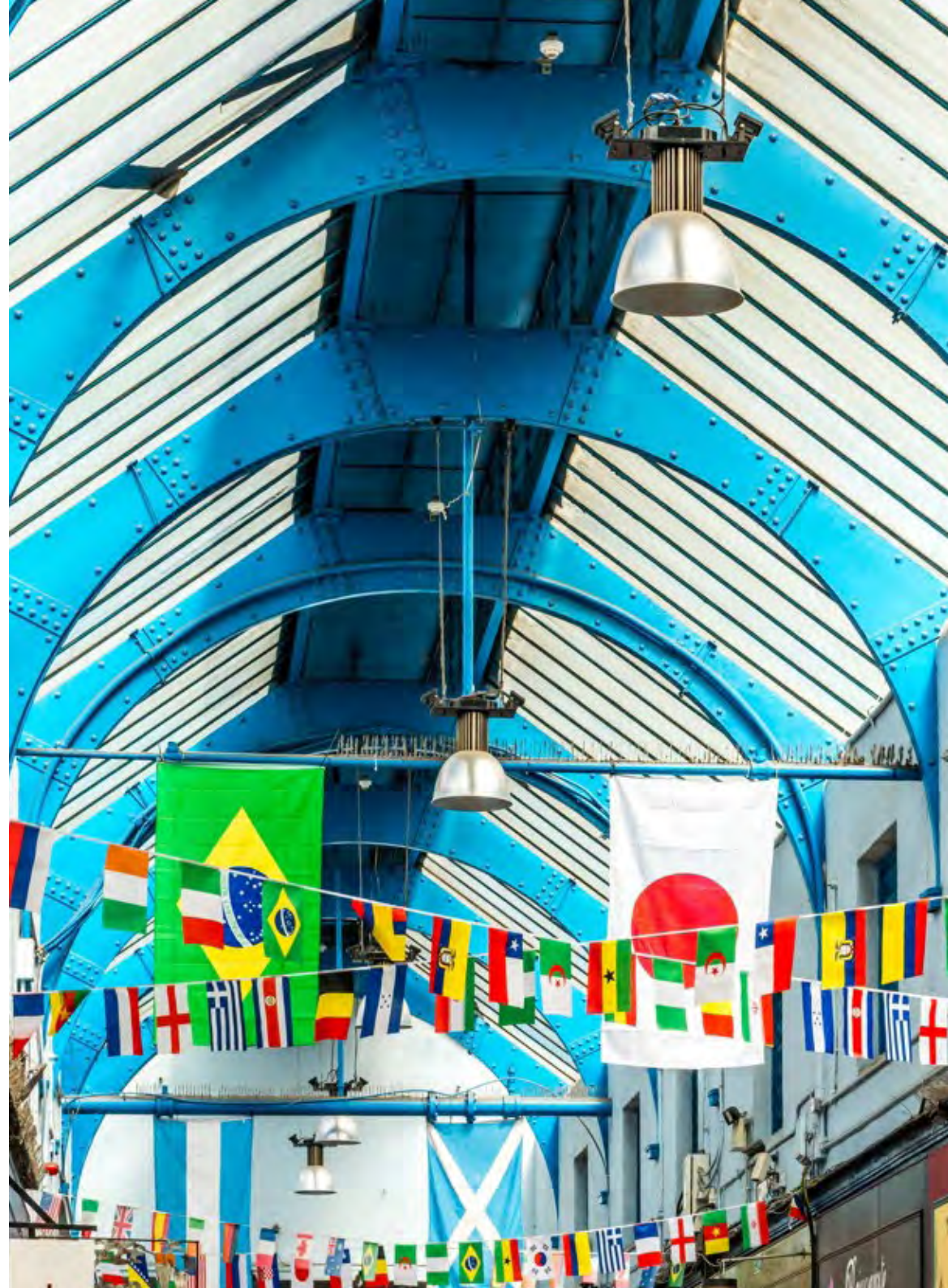
The 2025 HAF programme delivered significant impact across Lambeth, providing over 47,000 free places for children and young people aged 4–16, including those eligible for free school meals and others in need. Delivery across all holiday periods highlights its vital role in reducing holiday inequalities and supporting low-income families.

The programme offered a diverse, high-quality range of activities, including sports, creative arts, leadership opportunities and trips, alongside nutritious meals. This holistic approach supported children's physical health, social development, confidence and skills.

Progress in inclusivity was a key strength, particularly for children with SEND. Targeted funding enabled over 1,300 children to access provision through specialist support, resources and strengthened partnerships with SEND providers, demonstrating a continued commitment to equitable access.

HAF also enhanced its wider impact by integrating support for families, including food education, signposting and referrals to community services. This joined-up approach has improved engagement and contributed to longer-term wellbeing outcomes.

We welcome the Department for Education's continued three-year funding commitment and remain dedicated to strengthening provision to deliver positive outcomes for children and families across Lambeth.



Promotion and outreach

The HAF programme was promoted through a comprehensive range of channels to maximise reach across Lambeth communities. These included:

- Distribution of postcards and posters to a wide network of settings, including GP surgeries, VCS and food support organisations, pharmacies, day centres, leisure and sports centres, and all local libraries
- Display of posters on estate notice boards to increase visibility within residential areas
- Targeted communication with families through schools, including letters shared with pupils eligible for Free School Meals
- Information published on the HAF webpage on Lambeth Council's website
- Features in Tenant and Resident Association (TRA) newsletters
- Coverage in local publications, including Lambeth Talk
- Paid and organic advertising across social media platforms

HAF SUMMER

Lambeth's Holiday Activities & Food

Activities for children and young people from 28 July – 29 August.

  lambeth.gov.uk/haf

A place we can all call home

Lambeth

Testimonials from young people and parents

"My children have really enjoyed the summer holidays especially the trips, water park, gardening and playing in the playground as well as the Tuesday food making and the art and crafts. They always looking forward to going to the centre. They have made new friends. My autistic son who doesn't eat any fruit tried a banana that a staff member encouraged him to eat, since then he is eating bananas. My child is now trying to take turns and share. I like the fact that the staff come to their level to play with the children and listen to them"

"The family friendly activities, that featured the water jets and adventure playground with a zip wire and rope bridge kept the children entertained. So, once again a big thank you for all the staff for providing/organising the summer club. I am very grateful for all you do for autistic children and their families"

"They make the kids feel very safe and happy, so we enjoy coming here"

"It was wonderful to be able to take part in such great creative sessions"

"I would like to join in with more sessions- this is so much fun"

"I would like to thank you for a wonderful holiday and inspiring young children's dreams and goals in football. The amount that they have progressed, made friends and received praise in just a short space of time has been incredible. My two sons loved the food too. I want to thank you for everything that you have done to help us as a community"

