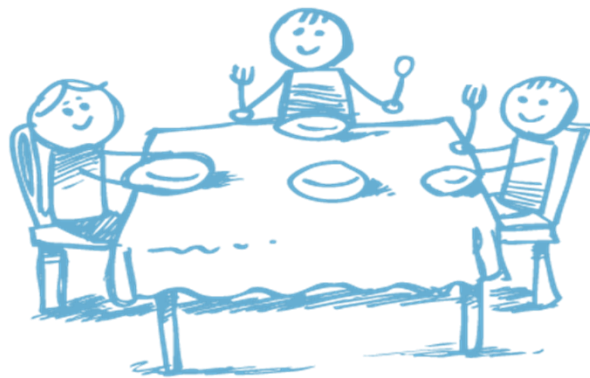


Holiday Club Survey 2017

Preliminary Findings



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Date: September 2017
Prepared for: APPG on Hunger

1. Summary

The preliminary findings from the Holiday Club Survey 2017 are:

- A rise in the number of organisations delivering holiday clubs since 2015 with a sharp rise in the establishment of new holiday clubs in 2017.
- The regions of the UK with the greatest number of responses to the survey are the North East of England, London and Scotland.
- Over two thirds of the organisations surveyed do not charge for their holiday club provision.
- The majority of organisations provide food and a range of activities for children.
- Voluntary or community based groups and church or faith based groups together make up over half of all holiday club providers.
- The majority of organisations rely on both paid and volunteer staff and partner with other organisations or agencies to deliver this provision.
- Holiday clubs are available to children of all ages but organisations predominantly focus their provision on primary school aged children (5-11 year olds).

2. Introduction

The national government policy of Free School Meals (FSM) is a universal benefit to all children aged 4 to 7 years and a means-tested targeted benefit to school aged children from low income families which provides children with a nutritious meal. During school term the FSM provision acts as a safeguard for children from low income families but there is no additional state provision for these children during the school holidays. The absence of this food provision for children from low income families has been shown to increase the risk of food insecurity for these families (Graham, Crilley, Stretesky, et al., 2016). The term 'holiday hunger' has been used to describe the hardship families on low income face during the school holidays when they do not have access to this free school meal provision (Graham, Stretesky, Long, et al., in press). Moreover the increase in financial pressures during the school holidays has a more general impact on the quality of children's lives as families lack money for entertainment, socialising and educational or developmental activities (Gill & Sharma, 2004; Kellogg's, 2015). In the absence of a national policy to address food security, physical activities and educational opportunities for children from low income families during the school holidays, local authorities, housing associations and the voluntary sector are providing a range of holiday provision projects. They operate a variety of models of holiday provision from food, educational, enrichment and physical activities (APPG on School Food, 2015). Research from Northumbria University's Healthy Living Lab ascertained a need for holiday club for families on low incomes and investigated the efficacy of these holiday club models in terms of cost, health, education and wellbeing (Defeyter, Graham, & Prince, 2015; Graham et al., 2016; Shinwell & Defeyter, under review).

In the absence of a national database of holiday provision clubs, the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on School Food highlighted the need to map existing holiday provision schemes across the UK and to identify gaps in the provision (APPG on School Food, 2015).

Working with the APPG on School Food, the Healthy Living Lab undertook a national survey in 2016 to map holiday provision clubs. The findings from this survey illustrated that whilst these clubs are located in areas of England with high childhood deprivation, there is a varied geographical distribution of holiday clubs with areas of poverty having little or no provision (Mann, Long, Stretesky, et al., under review.) Following on from this survey, the Healthy Living Lab, working with the APPG on Hunger, undertook a study during the summer 2017 to help identify need of provision, potential growth in the number of projects and the geographical distribution of projects in the UK.

3. Ethics

Ethical approval for this study was sought and approved by the University of Northumbria’s Faculty of Health and Life Sciences Ethics Board.

4. Method

A self-completing questionnaire was designed and distributed online via Qualtrics. The study adopted a non-probability sampling strategy and the questionnaire was distributed through the membership base of the APPG on Hunger. The online survey was active for three weeks from 27th July until 18th August 2017. As a result of a large number of responses received after this date, responses received up until 31st August 2017 were also included in the analyses. The results from the survey were coded and analysed, in SPSS and Excel using descriptive statistics and frequency tables. The preliminary results from the survey are presented below.

5. Results

A total of 837 organisations completed the survey of which 70.8% (N=593) provide holiday clubs to school aged children. There has been an increase of 82.5% in the response rate of organisations delivering holiday clubs in 2017 compared to the Holiday Club Survey of 2016.

Q: Does your organisation provide a holiday club(s) for school aged children?		
	2016	2017
Yes	325	593
No	103	244
Total	428	837

5.1 Location and type of organisation

Q: In which part of the UK is your organisation located?		
	N	%
North East England	105	18.2
London	77	13.3
Scotland	62	10.7
West Midlands	49	8.5
North West England	48	8.3
Yorkshire and The Humber	46	8.0
South East England	40	6.9
Wales	39	6.8
East Midlands	33	5.7
Northern Ireland	33	5.7
South West England	30	5.2
East of England	15	2.6

The North East of England represented the largest number of responses delivering holiday clubs followed by London and Scotland. The rest of the regions in the UK were fairly evenly represented with the exception of the East of England.

Q: Which organisation do you represent?

	N	%	
Voluntary or community based group	210	36.9	
Local Authority	111	19.5	
Church or faith group	95	16.7	
School	45	7.9	
Food bank	20	3.5	
Housing Association	13	2.3	
Other	75	13.2	

Over a third of all responses (N=210) were from voluntary or community based organisations.

5.2 Delivery of holiday club provision

Q: When did the holiday club begin?

	N	%	
Before 2013	76	15.5	
2013	21	4.3	
2014	20	4.1	
2015	33	6.7	
2016	89	18.2	
2017	250	51.1	

There has been an increase in the number of organisations delivering holiday clubs since 2015 with a sharp increase in the establishment of new clubs in 2017 with over half of organisations (N=250) establishing holiday clubs this year.

Q: How is your holiday club staffed?

	N	%	
Mixture of paid staff and volunteers	281	54.7	
Paid staff	125	24.3	
Volunteers	108	21.0	

Over half of clubs (N=281) rely on a mixture of paid staff and volunteers to deliver holiday clubs.

Q: Does your organisation work in partnership with other organisations to deliver the holiday club?

	N	%	
Yes	344	70.9	
No	130	26.8	
Don't know	11	2.3	

Over two thirds of clubs (N=344) work in partnership with organisations to deliver holiday provision.

Q: Is there a charge for attending the holiday club?

	N	%	
No	381	73.8	
Yes	104	20.2	
Don't know	31	6.0	

One fifth of organisations charge for their holiday club provision.

Q: How much do you charge per child, per session?

	N	%	
Up to £5.00	44	51.8	
£5.01 - £10.00	11	12.9	
£10.01 - £15.00	4	4.7	
£15.01 - £20.00	11	12.9	
Over £20.00	15	17.6	

For those organisation which charge for the holiday club, over one half the organisations responding to this question (N=44) charge up to £5 per session, with 18 organisations charging a nominal fee of £1 or under.

Q: On average how many sessions to you deliver per week?

	N	%	
1	65	15.3	
2	54	12.7	
3	72	16.9	
4	45	10.6	
5	113	26.6	
Over 5	76	17.9	

Almost one half of organisations (N=189) deliver on average 5 or more sessions per week.

5.3 Attendance

Q: On average how many children (0 - 4 year olds) attend the holiday scheme per session?

	N	%	
Up to 10	132		
11 - 20	34		
21 - 30	8		
Over 30	8		

Q: On average how many children (5 - 11 year olds) attend the holiday scheme per session?

	N		
Up to 10	89		
11 - 20	105		
21 - 30	78		
Over 30	134		

Q: On average how many children (12 - 18 year olds) attend the holiday scheme per session?

	N		
Up to 10	133		
11 - 20	45		
21 - 30	15		
Over 30	28		







The focus of holiday club provision is for primary school aged children (5-11 year olds) with 406 organisations providing holiday clubs for this age group.

Q: Do parents attend the holiday club?

	N	%	
Yes	245	53.5	
No	210	45.9	
Don't Know	3	0.7	

At over half of holiday clubs (N=245), parents or carers attend with their children.









Q: On average how many days per week do parents attend the holiday club?

	N	%	
1 day	92	42.0	
2 days	40	18.3	
3 days	26	11.9	
4 days	10	4.6	
5 days	31	14.2	
Other	20	9.1	

The majority of parents on average attend one day per week. For some of these holiday clubs parents are required to stay, stay when the club requires additional help or choose to stay with pre-school children.

5.4 Activities



Q: What is offered at the holiday scheme?

	N	
Craft / art activities	398	
Physical activities	390	
Educational activities	267	
Cookery	264	
Off-site visits or activities	206	
On-site advisory services for parents	99	
Off-site advisory services for parents	27	
Other	86	

The most common activities offered are craft or art activities and physical activities. Educational activities, cookery and off-site activities or visits are frequently offered by organisations.



5.5 Food provision

Q: Do you provide food at the holiday club?

	N	%	
Yes	429	91.9	
No	38	8.1	

The majority of organisations (N=429) provide food at their holiday clubs.






Q: Has your holiday club always served food?






	N	%	
Yes	324	80.0	
No	81	20.0	

Q: Which meals are served?

	N	
Lunch	350	
Snacks	234	
Breakfast	162	
Other	55	

Lunch is the most common meal provided at holiday clubs. The 'other' category consisted of dinner or tea, food to take home and eat or a sporadic offering of meals and snacks depending on the resources available.

Q: On average how many hot lunches are prepared and served in total each week?		
	N	
Up to 50	103	
51 - 100	65	
101 - 150	24	
151 - 200	16	
201 or more	33	

Q: On average how many cold lunches are prepared and served in total each week?		
	N	
Up to 50	79	
51 - 100	26	
101 - 150	17	
151 - 200	11	
201 or more	16	

Whilst both hot and cold lunches are served, organisations are focusing on delivering more hot lunches than cold lunches.

6. Discussion

In response to the lack of FSM provision during the school holidays, the majority of organisations responding to the survey deliver holiday clubs and offer a range of activities and food to school aged children at no cost to families. The survey achieved a wide response from a range of organisations from across the UK. The survey findings illustrate an increase in the number of organisations delivering holiday provision since 2015, with a notable rise in the number of new holiday clubs (N=250) established since the start of 2017.

The survey was widely distributed across the UK with the North East of England contributing the largest number of responses followed by London and Scotland. The rest of the regions in the UK were fairly evenly represented with the exception of the East of England.

Over half of the holiday club provision (N=305) is delivered by voluntary or community groups and church or faith groups. The survey findings illustrate that organisations rely on volunteers and paid staff as well as a partnership with other organisations or agencies to help deliver this provision.

Holiday clubs are available to children of all ages although the focus of the provision is predominantly for primary school aged children (5 – 11 year olds). At over half of holiday clubs (N=245) parents attend with their children.

For many families holiday club provision is free with over two thirds of organisations (N=381) not charging families to attend. As part of their provision, the majority of organisations offer food and a range of activities to children attending the clubs. Lunch and snacks are the most common meals provided; a greater proportion of hot lunches rather than cold lunches are prepared and served at these holiday clubs.

There is a variance in the number of holiday club sessions provided by organisations. As the majority of holiday clubs are provided free of charge, the number of sessions an organisation offers depends on staffing, relationship with partner agencies and resources. A more detailed report will be published by the Healthy Living Lab in the forthcoming months.

7. References

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