

Glasgow Children's Summer Food Programme 2018



Monitoring and Evaluation Report October 2018



Contents

1.	Introduction and Overview	Page 2
2.	Aims of the Fund	Page 2
3.	Fund Criteria	Page 3
4.	Timescales	Page 3
5.	Key Findings	Page 4
	a. Application breakdown and figures	Page 4
	b. Breakdown of funds	Page 4
	c. Over spends and fund movement	Page 5
	d. Under Spends	Page 5
	e. Number of beneficiaries	Page 5
	f. Number of meals served	Page 6
	g. Service delivery within Glasgow wards and sectors	Page 6
	h. Service delivery within wards	Page 6
	i. Financial breakdown of wards	Page 7
	j. Service delivery within sectors	Page 9
	k. Financial breakdown of sectors	Page 9
	l. Ages of children supported	Page 9
	m. Breakdown of those supported	Page 10
	n. Map of venue locations	Page 11
6.	Detailed Analysis	Page 12
	a. The difference this fund has made	Page 12
	b. Challenges	Page 14
	c. Learning	Page 17
	d. Networking and Partnerships	Page 20
	e. Feedback regarding VAF	Page 21
	f. VAF Learning and Recommendations	Page 22
7.	Appendices	Page 24
	a. Selection of photographs	Page 24
	b. Case studies	Page 26

Introduction and Overview

The Glasgow Children's Summer Food programme was very much welcomed and praised by all the organisations who applied and received funding. The fund was described as not only valuable, but essential and has been appreciated by families. Organisations felt that it helped reduce the stigma around food poverty during the school holiday as the fund was universal to all children. This allowed children to be treated and seen as equals. They acknowledged that the fund delivered food in a dignified way, with the focus being on fun summer activities rather than on the food. As the food and activities were offered for free, it enabled more children and young people to attend along with their families. However, some organisations noted that the fund should be aimed at children and young people in the most deprived areas. There was a sense from everyone, however, that they were very keen to be involved in any initiative that helps to alleviate issues associated with food poverty.

Organisations stated that the fund has improved the health and wellbeing of children and young people across the city, as well as supporting their families. It has allowed them to help change a culture in the mind-set of health and wellbeing. There has been a feeling of communities coming together, barriers being broken down and children, young people and their families integrating with others, when normally some would be socially isolated. This fund has helped to build equality and relationships within the community.

Given the opportunity, these funded organisations would like to run similar projects during all school holidays. It was acknowledged though that food poverty is not an issue only during school holidays. This fund allowed organisations to enhance the activities normally offered, or to offer a completely new programme for the summer. It also enabled more children and young people to attend, allowing them to receive regular healthy meals and snacks while participating in a wide variety of activities.

Aims of the fund

This new children's summer food fund aimed to enable community organisations in Glasgow to provide nutritious food for the children using their services during the school summer holiday. Up to £2 million was available, through awards of between £500 and £25,000, to challenge 'holiday hunger'. Glasgow City Council created this fund to enable c. 15,000 children to be fed over the holiday period, in ways that supported their well-being and a healthier relationship with food. Applications were welcomed from organisations able to offer food as part of their holiday provision; 'not for profit'

holiday clubs, community cafés or organisations working with families in their homes. This fund was for children of nursery or school age (0-18years) to enable more of the city's children to thrive.

Fund Criteria

To be eligible for funding, applicants had to meet the following criteria:

- A third sector/not for profit organisation working in the Glasgow City Council Local Authority area;
- Able to run the project during the Glasgow City Council school summer holiday (27th June – 14th August 2018);
- An organisation with a bank account in their own name, with at least two signatories on the bank account;
- If successful, individuals and organisations were expected to have knowledge of the current Food Laws and either have or be prepared to be registered with Glasgow City Council's environmental health department.

Timescales

4 th May 2018	VAF appointed by Glasgow City Council as fund managers
14 th May 2018	GCSFP fund launched and open for applications
1 st July 2018	Initial closing deadline for applications extended
20 th July 2018	Final deadline for applications
27 th June 2018	Summer holiday begins and funded projects start
14 th August 2018	Summer holiday ends and funded projects conclude

Key Findings

97 organisations were funded over summer with over 14,500 children benefitting. All 97 submitted a monitoring and evaluation report.

Application Details and Figures

The following table highlights the number of applications that were received and a breakdown of the costs requested at application stage and the values of the applications that were funded, rejected and those that withdrew.

	Number	Amount
Applications Received	104	£951,480.40
Applications Funded	97	£881,184
Applications Rejected	4	£55,276
Applications Withdrawn	3	£10,593

During the process, three applications were funded but were withdrawn by the applicants for different reasons: Staffing issues; No longer requiring the fund; Time constraints to ensure child protection policies and training were in place in time.

The other four applications were rejected for a number of reasons: It was not clear how children and young people would benefit from the fund; There was not value in terms of the money spent on food compared with activity costs and the number of children who would benefit; There were no activities being provided meaning a higher risk of children and young people being stigmatised; They were part of a school so already receive funding from GCC.

Breakdown of Funds

This table breaks down the costs of the total funds provided to the 97 organisations. One organisation has to still to provide actual final spend figures against its award of less than £2,000.

	Amount funded for the 97 organisations	Actual spend (from 96 out of 97 applications)
Food/Ancillary costs	£533,265	£487,620.18
Other direct project costs	£315,724	£341,075.57
Management costs	£32,195	£34,644.07
Total	£881,184	£863,359.82

Over spends and fund movement

There were a number of organisations that did record an over spend and they are absorbing those costs. This reflects the difference in the table above which shows an increase in actual spend to what was originally funded.

There were several organisations that requested additional funding, which was granted, to extend their summer programmes and introduce additional projects due to the overwhelming demand.

Some organisations contacted VAF during the summer to ask if they could transfer money they had saved on one area of their project, and spend it on another area that they hadn't anticipated costing as much. Where appropriate, these requests were granted.

Under spends

Out of the organisations that submitted their full financial reports, 30 of them recorded an under spend which is being reclaimed by VAF to be re-invested in the fund. The majority of under spends were noted within the food/ancillary costs budget. This appears to be because organisations were able to source food more cheaply. Some organisations were unable to deliver as many days as they had initially planned because of the tight timescale of the fund as well as venue cancellations, so under spends were noted here too.

Underspend to reclaim	£43,191.74
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With the under spends reclaimed, the total amount distributed to the 97 organisations:

Total Amount Funded	£837,992.26
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Number of beneficiaries

During the application stage, all organisations who applied predicted they would be able to provide food and activities that would benefit 20,281 children and young people. However, when analysing the actual numbers of children and young people in the monitoring and evaluation reports submitted by the organisations, it became clear that some organisations were putting in figures that referred to the amount of meals they would provide, rather than how many individual children would benefit. The actual figure of children benefitting from the fund is noted in the table below.

Number of children benefitting	14,674
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Number of meals served

Different organisations provided a variation in meals and snacks. Depending on the model of project there was a mixture of breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks served. Some organisations only provided one meal per day, while others provided two and some three per day. The total amount of meals (including healthy snacks) is noted below.

Number of meals served	131,508
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Service delivery within Glasgow Wards and Sectors

A breakdown is provided in the tables below highlighting the number of organisations delivering summer projects within each of the Glasgow City Council wards and sectors. The tables also give a financial breakdown along with the number of children benefitting from the fund.

From the information provided by the funded organisations, it is clear that children attended projects outwith the wards and sectors that they actually live in. In terms of Ward 7 – Langside, the table shows that no projects were delivered here, but the monitoring and evaluation reports highlight that children who live in this ward did attend projects in neighbouring wards.

Service delivery within Wards

Ward Name	No. of Projects	Predicted Beneficiaries	Actual Beneficiaries
Ward 1 - Linn	6	1,260	1,009
Ward 2 – Newlands/Auldburn	1	20	20
Ward 3 – Greater Pollok	9	688	412
Ward 4 – Cardonald	4	272	354
Ward 5 – Govan	8	2,472	585
Ward 6 – Pollokshields	2	128	177
Ward 7 – Langside	0	0	0
Ward 8 – Southside Central	7	1,153	1,427
Ward 9 – Calton	13	1,439	2,403
Ward 10 – Anderston/City/Yorkhill	4	263	261
Ward 11 – Hillhead	2	57	66
Ward 12 – Victoria Park	2	1,500	196

Ward 13 – Garscadden/Scotstoun	3	244	263
Ward 14 – Drumchapel/Annie'sland	8	701	767
Ward 15 – Maryhill	8	910	702
Ward 16 – Canal	7	2,201	1,342
Ward 17 – Springburn/Robroyston	10	980	892
Ward 18 – East Centre	5	452	391
Ward 19 – Shettleston	6	450	554
Ward 20 – Baillieston	6	247	287
Ward 21 – North East	16	1,410	2,021
Ward 22 – Dennistoun	7	403	530
Ward 23 – Partick East/Kelvindale	2	42	19

Financial Breakdown of Wards

		Food Costs	Other Direct Project Costs	Management Costs	Total
Ward 1	Requested	£22,601	£14,687	£1,543	£38,874
	Approved	£26,648	£13,068	£1,708	£41,423
Ward 2	Requested	£250	£0	£13	£263
	Approved	£250	£0	£13	£263
Ward 3	Requested	£32,933	£16,686	£4,829	£54,448
	Approved	£39,123	£18,425	£2,217	£59,765
Ward 4	Requested	£14,974	£5,772	£720	£20,466
	Approved	£14,177	£5,998	£683	£20,858
Ward 5	Requested	£28,377	£18,059	£2,046	£48,212
	Approved	£25,525	£14,566	£1,723	£41,814
Ward 6	Requested	£6,958	£3,360	£508	£9,825
	Approved	£6,958	£2,739	£470	£10,167
Ward 7	Requested	£0	£0	£0	£0
	Approved	£0	£0	£0	£0
Ward 8	Requested	£19,086	£20,150	£1,803	£39,477
	Approved	£22,198	£14,672	£1,484	£38,355
Ward 9	Requested	£65,955	£19,344	£3,684	£89,044
	Approved	£66,747	£15,391	£3,404	£85,542

Ward 10	Requested	£14,690	£17,586	£1,869	£33,945
	Approved	£12,870	£21,345	£1,700	£35,915
Ward 11	Requested	£2,970	£1,723	£31	£4,724
	Approved	£2,186	£2,585	£31	£4,802
Ward 12	Requested	£9,987	£1,565	£60	£11,612
	Approved	£13,440	£3,865	£60	£17,365
Ward 13	Requested	£9,089	£1,210	£423	£10,722
	Approved	£8,214	£1,100	£326	£9,640
Ward 14	Requested	£14,138	£9,356	£696	£23,065
	Approved	£14,958	£6,303	£556	£21,817
Ward 15	Requested	£39,745	£19,365	£3,286	£61,396
	Approved	£30,815	£26,481	£2,476	£59,772
Ward 16	Requested	£47,602	£21,610	£2,643	£68,755
	Approved	£45,710	£26,614	£2,513	£74,836
Ward 17	Requested	£46,975	£24,201	£2,964	£71,139
	Approved	£45,033	£21,197	£2,701	£68,930
Ward 18	Requested	£11,369	£13,744	£1,204	£29,439
	Approved	£11,277	£17,341	£1,224	£29,841
Ward 19	Requested	£28,468	£32,238	£2,527	£62,466
	Approved	£28,124	£30,900	£2,210	£61,234
Ward 20	Requested	£25,779	£17,580	£2,116	£45,475
	Approved	£26,997	£16,936	£1,875	£45,807
Ward 21	Requested	£70,021	£40,637	£4,400	£114,179
	Approved	£68,904	£42,046	£3,339	£114,289
Ward 22	Requested	£27,163	£17,190	£1,828	£46,171
	Approved	£22,453	£14,154	£1,486	£38,093
Ward 23	Requested	£1,533	£925	£0	£1,533
	Approved	£658	£0	£0	£658

Please note that if an organisation delivered a service in more than one ward, then the total amount funded to the organisation was divided evenly across all wards they worked in

Service delivery within sectors

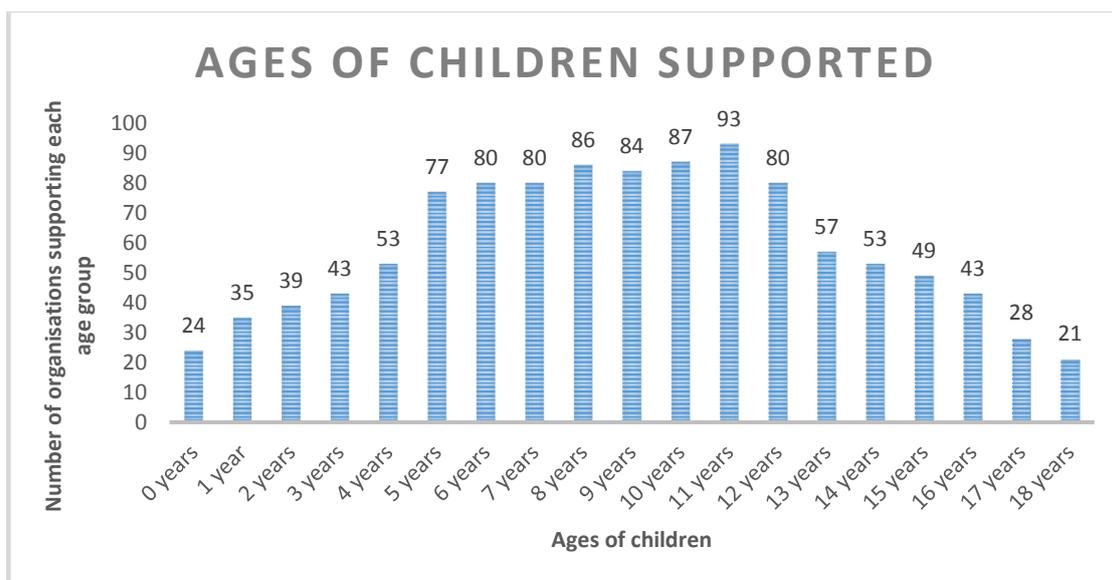
Sector	No. of Projects	Predicted Beneficiaries	Actual Beneficiaries
North East	41	5022	6436
North West	24	6012	3838
South	26	6004	4152
City Wide	6	251	248

Financial Breakdown of Sectors

		Food Costs	Other Direct Project Costs	Management Costs	Total
City Wide	Requested	£16,864	£7,288	£1,175	£25,327
	Approved	£15,954	£6,594	£1,095	£23,643
North East	Requested	£256,686	£143,279	£18,034	£415,603
	Approved	£244,161	£140,309	£15,522	£399,992
North West	Requested	£133,222	£83,092	£7838	£218,727
	Approved	£124,944	£98,219	£6542	£229,705
South	Requested	£133,890	£83,328	£12,144	£225,572
	Approved	£148,205	£70,602	£9,036	£227,844

Ages of Children Supported

Children and young people of all ages benefitted from this fund. The organisations were asked to state the different ages of children they supported across their summer projects. The graph indicates that children aged from 5yrs to 12yrs were supported by more organisations across the summer holiday.

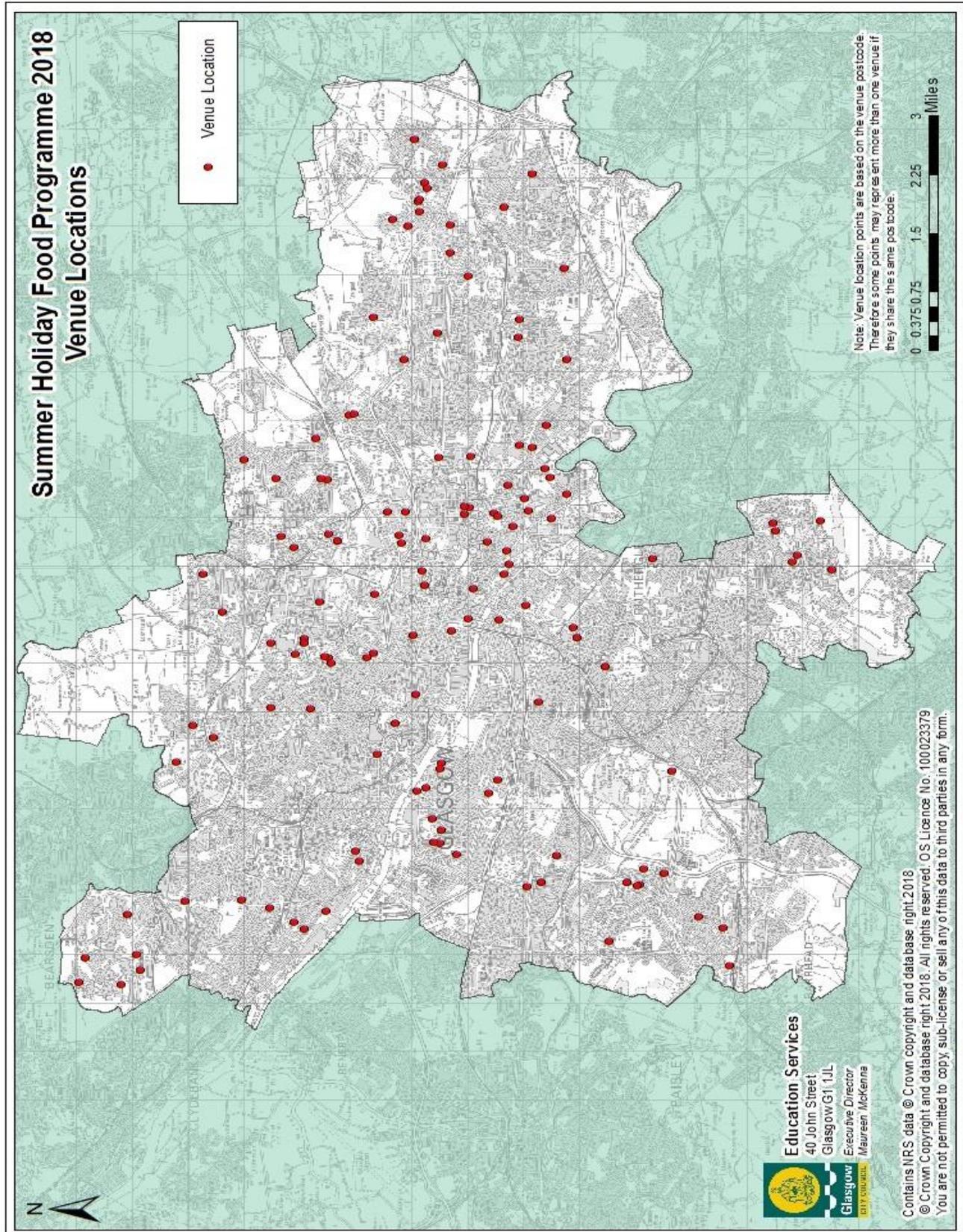


Breakdown of those supported

All organisations were asked to provide a snapshot of the children and young people they supported. They were asked to estimate the percentage of children and young people who were from a BME community, had a disability or had additional support needs, as well as the gender of those who attended. The table below outlines these percentages based on the 14,674 children and young people who benefitted from this fund.

	Percentage of Children
Male	47%
Female	52%
Non-Binary	1%
BME background	25%
Disability/Additional Support Needs	12%

Map of venue locations



Detailed Analysis

The differences this fund has made

The funded organisations all provided details and snapshots of how this fund has made a difference and had a positive impact on children, young people, families, organisations and the community.

1. In relation to the children and young people there were a variety of benefits highlighted.
 - Children and young people had the opportunity to meet new people and create new friendships. It also allowed them to maintain existing friendships during the holiday as often they don't see each other out with school.
 - Increasing social interaction and reducing isolation was also noted as a big benefit. Many children and young people mixed with others who they wouldn't normally have done so. It was highlighted that many barriers were broken down with children and young people from different communities mixing well together. They got to know their wider community much better.
 - This summer programme helped build the confidence of the children and young people and increase their self-esteem. They were developing independence, new skills and experiencing new opportunities in a safe environment. For many, they were able to develop cooking skills.
 - It was noted that children and young people felt equal to each other as a result of this fund being open to everybody. The stigma around food poverty was also reduced as the main focus was on the activities, with the food element being part of the summer programmes.
 - They all had something to look forward to, with less time being spent on their own in their house and less time saying they were bored during the holiday. They felt they had great stories and experiences to talk about when they went back to school.
 - Many children and young people learnt how to appreciate playing out doors and increased the amount of physical activity they were involved in. A number of organisations noted an increase in children and young people playing outside after the summer sessions had ended for the day.
 - As a result of having access to regular healthy meals and snacks, many said that they felt fitter, happier and healthier and

also had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing. It was also noted that many children and young people slept much better during the holidays. There was also a reduction in the amount of children and young people bringing unhealthy food, snacks and drinks with them.

- Some noted an improved and easier transition for children and young people going back to school after the holiday.
2. There were many benefits for the families as well. The majority of organisations highlighted what differences this fund made to them.
- One of the biggest benefits was financial. As there was food and activities provided for free, there was less financial pressure on families throughout the summer holiday. It also meant that for some families with more than one child, they were able to allow all of their children to go instead of only being able to afford for one child to attend. Some families commented that they didn't face the stress of having to afford the cost of entertaining and feeding their children during the summer holiday. This also helped reduce them being isolated in their community as normally they wouldn't be able to afford to attend. For some, these projects meant they could avoid costly child care costs and remain in employment during the summer.
 - There was a positive social impact as well for families. They got to meet and interact with new families, make friends and get to know their wider community. The projects were highlighted as great way to get families to come together. For some, it also built their confidence to travel to places around the city. Families from different cultures were able to interact with each other, something they wouldn't normally have had an opportunity to do.
 - In general, this fund helped make their lives easier and less stressful and they did not have the anxiety and worry about looking after and entertaining their children during the holiday.
 - As a result of attending, families were able to increase their awareness of organisations and other services available to them. This has allowed some families to plan after school support so that they can gain employment or attend college. Some programmes also had information and guests attending who could offer families advice and support on budgeting and welfare rights and NHS dental hygienists also attended some projects.
 - There was also an opportunity in many projects for parents and families to develop their own skills and increase their confidence in cooking. It also enabled parents to see the skills their children had in a variety of activities and settings.

3. The difference this fund made for the community were also noted by the organisations.
 - Communities noted the positive impact this fund had, with organisations linking in and engaging widely with the community.
 - Local business benefitted as much of the food provided was sourced locally. There was also a lot of interest in the fund by local businesses, with many looking to add value, with some wanting to develop relationships with the organisations and others donating gifts to them.
 - Communities have been given a sense of value, with stronger relationships being built up. Historical 'territorial barriers' have been broken down in some areas with children and young people across these communities engaging and playing with each other.
 - Many socially isolated families have been able to connect with their communities as well, strengthening the community relationships.
4. Organisations have highlighted the difference this fund has made for themselves.
 - They have been able to reach out to the wider community and support more children and families, with many signing up to their activities after the summer holiday. This will help the organisations to develop beyond the summer.
 - The level of trust and confidence in the organisations has increased within the community, with many new partnerships forming.
 - Positive partnerships created have allowed organisations to reach out to some of the more socially isolated and hard to reach groups within their community.
 - Organisations have gained new volunteers after word about the summer programmes got out. Volunteers have also learnt new and improved skills

Challenges

VAF asked all funded organisations to highlight any challenges they faced throughout this fund. These challenges have been summarised below, grouped in to seven key areas. It should be noted that despite the challenges faced, organisations found solutions to make a success of the fund. Their feedback indicates the organisations have the expertise and experience to overcome challenges in a positive manner.

1. The biggest challenge noted by the majority of organisations, was the timescale from the fund being launched to the start of project delivery. As a result, they indicated the following challenges and the impact it had on running their summer projects:
 - The short time frame had an impact on how they planned, organised and prepared for the summer programmes. They highlighted that there were challenges securing venues and catering provisions, which resulted in some changes being made once they had started. Some indicated that with more time, they would have planned their activities differently and would have tried to be more creative with food delivery. For some, they had to change their activity plans as the activity providers they planned to use had already committed to other programmes or were no longer available.
 - Unable to advertise their projects as much as they would like, as the schools closed before they could get their flyers out to the school pupils. They relied on other advertising methods such as social media and word of mouth. Some organisations stated that with more time, they would have focussed their advertising on those communities that would benefit most from this fund.
 - In the planning stages they would have liked to engage more with children and young people, families and communities to help shape the delivery of the projects. They were unable to engage with schools in time to identify children and families who would benefit most. Due to time limitations, they felt they were unable to involve others in the planning. However, many acknowledged that throughout the summer, they adapted their projects based on feedback they received at the time.
 - They faced a number of challenges recruiting staff/volunteers and providing training/inductions for them. Some staff/volunteers were no longer available at short notice or had committed their time and resources elsewhere. Some organisations suggested that with more time, they could have recruited more staff and volunteers allowing more children and young people to benefit.
 - Some organisations feel they did not reach their full potential and with more time, they would be able to reach out to more children and young people within their communities.
2. In terms of project delivery, there were a number of challenges fed back to VAF.
 - One of the biggest challenges here, was having a high volume of children attending - a large number being unexpected. This meant that organisations had to recruit additional staff and volunteers, adjust rotas/staffing ratios and reorganise groups

accordingly. In some cases, they had to cap the numbers of children attending and signpost them to other projects and organisations. Some changes had to be made as children, young people and families arrived later than planned.

- Some faced challenges as a result of communication barriers, but this was overcome with volunteers who were able to translate. Many organisations stated that they liaised closely with families to ensure they had the knowledge and understanding to support some children and young people with their additional support needs.
 - There were also challenges faced around engaging with some families and certain age groups of children and young people. For some it was a new experience and they didn't know what to expect from the projects. For others, there was a lack of confidence and self-esteem. These organisations detailed that they worked through these challenges or that they liaised with partner organisations with expertise to support them with the challenges faced around engagement – by adapting activities and timings of the projects.
3. For many organisations, providing a food element to the project was new to them and faced a number of challenges.
- Some found the planning and organising of this aspect time consuming so reworked how they provided the food. As a result, some changed from making the food themselves to buying in food from local catering providers or purchasing packed lunches. This was sometimes due to cost or available food storage facilities.
 - Some organisations had to change their food provider to meet the needs of their projects or renegotiate their costs due a change in number of children and young people attending.
 - Other challenges highlighted were around dietary needs. Some caterers were unable to provide foods that met certain cultural backgrounds. They had to consider allergies and ensure that they changed the menu regularly to keep everyone engaged. This was solved by involving the children and young people in the menu planning.
 - Some projects had to think creatively to encourage children and young people to try eating a variety of healthy foods and snacks.
 - For a number of organisations, they had to set up systems of operations for the first time, to ensure appropriate food standards were being met.
4. There were also some challenges highlighted in relation to the venues used by some of the organisations.

- Given the knowledge gained from running the project during the summer, some will look to source a larger venue to allow more children and young people to attend, but also to provide additional rooms and space for extra activities.
 - Some faced unexpected costs for the venue, double bookings and cancellations and shared venue space which created some challenges to overcome.
5. A couple of organisations indicated that they faced some financial challenges due to the time it took funds to be released to them.
 - These were smaller organisations within a partnership application with a number of other organisations. The funds are only released when all organisations in the partnership bid meet the in principle conditions put in place at the assessment stage. In some cases, funds were released after the project start date depending on how quickly the in principle conditions were met.
 6. Meeting child protection requirements in relation to this fund created a few challenges for some organisations.
 - For several, additional in principle conditions were put in place to ensure that they had met the criteria in relation to child protection policies, child protection training and appropriate staff/volunteers having children's PVG checks in place. This delayed some projects as it was time consuming to meet these requirements.

Learning

As part of the monitoring and evaluation process, all funded organisations were asked to detail anything that they learnt while running the summer programmes.

1. There were a number of areas that organisations learnt in relation to the delivery and provision of meals and snacks.
 - There appeared to be a big positive impact of all the children and young people sitting down together in one area eating at the same time. Some mentioned that eating is a common part of everybody's day, no matter any differences in culture, language and background. Some felt that it helped the children bond.
 - Eating together allowed staff, volunteers and the children and young people to be positive role models for each other. There was also a number of comments stating that children and young people were trying new foods in this social environment, as they

would see their friends trying them and would enjoy trying together.

- Positive benefits of eating healthy foods and snacks in terms of the children and young people's health and wellbeing. For organisations who provided breakfast, they noted an improvement in concentration levels of the children and young people and that they appeared more focussed on activities. Others who didn't provide breakfast noticed that some children were arriving hungry, so they adjusted how they delivered their meals, by introducing an additional 'breakfast table' late morning, where children and young people could take a healthy snack before their lunch.
- As a result of providing meals and snacks, the children and young people's energy levels increased and length of participation increased. There was also acknowledgement that for some children and young people, the food helped increase their happiness and even helped reduce certain challenging behaviours.
- Organisations also highlighted learning around children and young people's perceptions and understanding of healthy food and a willingness to try new things. Some organisations fed back that they were surprised how many children and young people were willing to try new foods. They also received comments that fresh food tasted better than 'shop bought'. Others noted that some children and young people were unaware of different types of fruit and veg, but were quick to pick up what foods and drinks were healthy or not and which contained high levels of sugar.
- For many, they quickly learnt that involving the children and young people in the menu planning had many benefits. Involving them to plan, empowered them and they were then more likely to try different types of healthy foods. This was also noticed if children and young people were involved in planning, preparing and cooking meals, they really engaged and were keen to eat more than they normally would as they had a sense of pride.
- Some organisations noted that they would like to have more time to plan the menus with children, young people and families to get a better understanding of their likes and dislikes and incorporate them in to the menu.
- There was a wide variety of ways that food was provided - homemade, community chefs and local cafes/businesses delivering food. Many organisations adapted the best way to provide food depending on their projects and the feedback they

received from children and young people, families and staff/volunteers. One of the main things learnt was that they saw the benefits of food based activities and wish to develop them and provide them on a more regular basis.

2. There were also learning achieved as a result of their activity provision in terms of what works going forward.
 - Similar to food provision, it was noted that the majority of organisations felt that activities ran better with more engagement and participation if the children and young people were consulted and involved in planning the activities.
 - Cooking activities with the children and young people were very popular and helped broaden their understanding of healthy food. Some have highlighted that they will continue to do more cooking sessions and activities in the future.
 - Activities for all ages encouraged more children and young people to attend with many organisations saying that without the activities, there would have been much lower attendance.
 - Organisations who had families attending noted that there were positive signs of increased bonding between family members and the opportunity to learn new skills.
3. A number of organisations highlighted a number of areas they have learnt from and will consider in future project delivery.
 - It is very important to obtain feedback from children and young people, families and staff/volunteers at all stages of the project. This helps to shape the delivery in a constructive and positive manner, by being adaptable and responsive. It was felt that it is important to be creative in the planning to create more ways to engage with families and encourage their participation for certain activities and events.
 - Some organisations adapted their times of delivery based on feedback and would increase the length of sessions in the future. They also felt running a mix of day and evening sessions worked very well and in some cases, it was more beneficial to split the full day session in to two half day sessions. There was evidence from organisations that they were responsive and adapted to feedback and observations to deliver projects that met the needs of everyone.
 - Others fed back that they would look to recruit more volunteers to enhance service delivery ensuring more quality sessions were delivered, mainly because of the unexpected high volume of children and young people attending.
 - In relation to the high volumes of children and young people attending, many organisations are considering some sort of pre-

registration. This would allow them to plan activities more effectively and cater more efficiently based on knowing the actual amount of children and young people that will be attending each session.

- In relation to transport, many organisations said that providing transport was extremely beneficial to ensure children and young people attended – they realised if there were travel costs involved, they were less likely to come along.
 - In terms of venue, some organisations highlighted that they would look for different venues to use, so that they had more space and more rooms, including catering facilities.
4. There were also a number of things learnt in relation to the communities and organisations working together.
- It was noted by a number of organisations that the knowledge of communities is invaluable and that it is necessary to work in partnership with communities to benefit all.
 - It was noted that the projects helped to break down barriers and bring communities together. Through activities and the provision of food, it allowed many who are socially isolated in their communities to meet up and join in with others. This meant that the organisations gained a better understanding of what challenges certain families were facing.
 - By communicating closely with their community and involving them in their projects, some organisations felt that the relationships and trust between everyone grew.

Networking and Partnerships

The majority of funded organisations used existing networks and partnerships or created new partnerships to deliver their summer projects. Some who didn't, mentioned that they would like to in the future, but they didn't have time to plan and develop these relationships. Many indicated that partnership working helped reduce duplication of services within the local area.

1. The partnerships developed and created were in relation to providing activities.
 - Many stated that they used the expertise and knowledge of specific activity providers to ensure different types and quality activities were offered. This allowed children and young people the opportunity to try a range of new experiences, some of which they wouldn't normally have had the chance to experience.

- They also mentioned that many of the activities will have a lasting, positive impact on the children and young people, enabling them to create many memories.
 - Some organisations also arranged for Police Scotland, the Fire Service and NHS teams to come and join in with activities, offer advice and help improve relationships with these bodies within the community.
2. There were a number of other benefits that organisations highlighted as a result of working closely with other organisations and businesses.
- Many felt that they were able to advertise their services further afield and reach out to the wider community as a result of networking with others. This helped to attract new families who had never attended before. They were able to identify between them children and families who are more vulnerable.
 - Local businesses were very supportive of the organisations and the work they were doing with this fund. They looked at ways they could work together in the future. These partnerships are helping to build relationships within the community.
 - Partnering with other organisations enabled more children and young people to attend, as they shared larger venues, supported each other with additional staff/volunteers and allowed staff to develop new skills and experiences by working across organisations.
 - The networking and partnerships also allowed organisations to split the workload, with some focussing on activities and others focussing on the food provision. They are able to focus their expertise and knowledge to enhance service delivery.
 - Organisations were also able to support each other with training and upskilling staff to deliver a variety of activities. Some organisations were also supported to develop questionnaires to help monitor and evaluate their projects.
 - There was also opportunities to create inter-generational connections and relationships.
 - By working in partnership, families were able to see what other organisations and services are out there, that have the potential to benefit them beyond the summer programme.

Feedback regarding VAF

The majority of organisations praised the work of VAF and that they handled everything exceptionally well given the timescale and quick turnaround of the fund. Many stated that they found VAF very friendly, efficient and helpful.

When needing support and advice during the process, VAF were found to be professional and responded to queries quickly and efficiently. It was mentioned that VAF had a good understanding of projects and the fund as a whole and suggested we were all in it together. If any organisations found themselves confused with the criteria or process, VAF offered support and guided them throughout, enabling a seamless and straightforward process. It was also highlighted that they were pleased to see that VAF were ensuring all relevant health and safety procedures were being met by organisations.

However, some indicated that they felt that the amount of paperwork and information being asked for by VAF, for the level of grant being provided was too much. It was suggested that it was not necessary to register with environmental health as they felt it was not relevant.

VAF Learning and Recommendations

Throughout this fund, VAF have made observations and listened to feedback from all organisations about the process and have developed some learning.

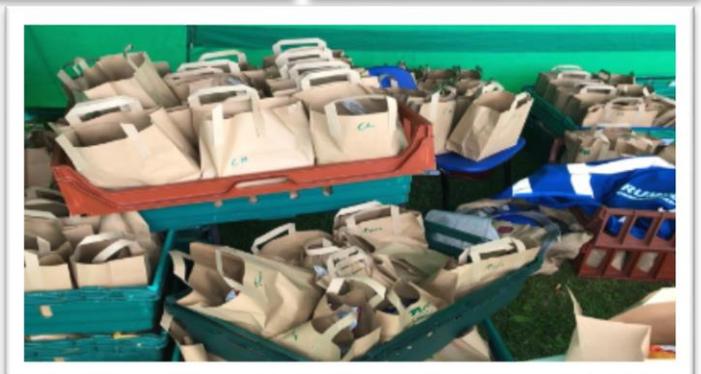
- Within the application, there were a number of organisations that provided referees that could be deemed as inappropriate. Elected members and GCC staff were named, which could mean a potential conflict of interest if VAF were required to take up references. Clarity on eligible referees should be provided.
- There was a very big difference in the style and content of child protection policies across all organisations. Some were extremely thorough and detailed, whereas some were much shorter and quite vague. There is potential for support, guidance and training for organisations to ensure they have robust policies in place and are protecting themselves, their staff as well as children and young people. This is perhaps an area that GCVS could provide some support in.
- Some organisations receive funding from other GCC funds as well as external funders. VAF were able to check with the IGF team at GCC however clarification required from organisations about other funding they receive to ensure there is not the risk of double funding. This could be added to the application form.
- It would be helpful if GCC could provide clearer guidance for future funds on what organisations can apply for and the limitations of spending on activity, staffing, equipment and capital investment costs. This information would help reduce any confusion.

- The level of support provided to organisations during the assessment stage was much higher than anticipated. VAF had to liaise closely with the majority of organisations to clarify costings and other aspects of their applications to ensure the majority of applicants could be funded. This can be noted in the financial breakdown of costs, where a number of the requested totals do not add up correctly. In comparison to other funds managed by VAF, the majority of applications in this fund, would have been rejected based on the content of applications and the high volume of applications overall. However, VAF were keen for as many organisations as possible to receive the fund, so provided as much support as possible. For future funds, VAF will provide costing spreadsheets to support organisations.
- It was fed back that this application process did not suit partnership bids very well. VAF are looking at ways to adapt the application form and provide attachments to ensure a more user friendly process for partnership applications.
- VAF issued an overall award broken down into three broad cost headings. This may not have been understood by everyone and so a more detailed approved budget is suggested with the grant offer letter in the future.

Appendices:

Selection of Photographs

more photos and videos can be found on #HoFoP





Case Studies

Selection of five case studies provided by the funded organisations.

Case Study 1:

C has been coming to our clubs for over a year. During that time he has never eaten anything and his mother has told us that he has a food phobia – he vomits regularly when being offered food, the exception being bread with chocolate spread or McDonald's. C was attending the play scheme and said he would sit at the table during lunch with his friends but would not eat. We agreed and did not put food in front of him, although we always asked if he would like to try. On the third day we were serving bangers n mash, which C thought sounded funny and he asked if he could taste a bit, just of the sausage. We said yes, but made it clear that if he didn't like it he could leave it. This continued every day since then and his mother was absolutely delighted that he tried. Although he did not eat a full meal, he did try most things and ate significantly more than expected. They now come to our weekly community meal and C always takes something to eat, even just a little bit.

Case Study 2:

K and L are 5 and 3. Mum says they never sit down as a family to eat because the kids 'can't sit still'. She says that the kids are 'fussy' and she struggles to get them to eat properly. She tends to repeat the same meals every night as she can't afford to try new things. She lets them fill up on yoghurts and snacks as she worries that they'll go hungry. Mum eats her dinner when the kids are in bed.

At mealtimes, the children were encouraged to sit at the table with the rest of the group, something that was facilitated by everyone participating. With mum sitting eating with them (and support from staff) the children were able to sit for longer time periods than normal. Even when they did leave the table they would often return as others were still sitting there. They were also able to be more adventurous and try out new foods first time. Mum was amazed that the children were able to manage so well and really enjoyed eating with them. She has resolved to sit down as a family at meal times and try new, healthy foods with the children.

Case Study 3:

On the first day of summer camp this year, we had four children between the ages of 5-11 dropped off to participate at camp first thing each day. Each day the children were very hungry and were hoping to get something to eat. The

four children were all siblings and came from a single parent household where the mother worked part-time each day. Every day we provided a breakfast for them in addition to a hot lunch and an additional bag of food to take home for dinner that night and/or breakfast the next morning or over the weekend.

This was clearly a mother who was working very hard to provide for her children but was in need of a little bit of additional support and help. After a few days of camp we had a chat with her to see if there was anything else we could do to help and she said that the summer camp had changed her life. The camp had allowed her to focus on other things instead of having to constantly worry about providing breakfast each day. Dinner was not as big a worry because her parents helped and often made dinner for them all, but breakfast was, and during the school holidays as the money that was normally spent on breakfast was spent on lunch which meant there was no extra money. Quite often she would go without food herself to ensure that all the kids had something to eat.

“Just knowing the kids can come here, have fun, get something good to eat at lunch and early in the morning has made everything so much easier. I am not having to worry every single day about food during the summer. I can go to work and then come up here and see them. They are happy and running about every day.”

I am delighted to say that all four children are now regularly involved in sessions every week and that we have been able to find additional support to ensure that things are not as hard for the whole family.

Case Study 4:

One of the young male children aged 7 who attended this programme was very shy and had no confidence in himself and always withdrew from other children attending. He would never try and socialise with the other kids and most definitely not eat in front of them; he saw his weight as an issue and was embarrassed by it, this was also highlighted by the way his father commented on his weight.

Through the holiday hunger program we started to encourage him to sit at the breakfast table with other children. We started to see signs of improvement in this child though not all good, as he started to show off a bit and get in trouble with the staff. This however was a sign of him trying to socialise and make friends within the group. Within the next 5-10 day's staff started to witness a significant change in his confidence levels. He started to mingle with the children at the breakfast table and became confident enough to start eating in front of them. This development was through staff encouraging the child to eat and try different foods through fun methods like cooking activities and making their own packed lunches and snacks for park visits. We also saw

the child attempting to make friends a lot more than before and even started to engage with the staff.

Within the final week of the program the child was now eating full breakfasts and dinners and was also having fruit after each meal. There was also a huge improvement in the child's behaviour and confidence as he became more vocal in activities and is now included in a close group of friends that he has made through attending this program.

This program has taken a child from being excluded with low confidence and self-esteem to becoming a confident child who now manages his eating choices choosing more healthy foods. We still have a job of work to do to try and encourage his father to continue with this back home.

He is now a regular user of our other clubs and mixes in well with the other children.

Case Study 5:

The 'bring your grandparent to brunch' project brought new youth work opportunities to the area. Using our 'Older Persons Hub' as a base, the project invited young people to come along with their Grandparents to take part in cooking and arts and crafts activities. All participants share the meal they have prepared and take away the recipe and ingredients to re-create it at home.

A local resident approached us to ask if her granddaughter could join the summer programme

*'I saw in "Focus" that you are offering activities for 5-12 year olds during the summer holidays. Is it possible just to drop in?
I have my 7 year old granddaughter on a Tuesday, and she'd love the arts and crafts. A couple of hours in the afternoon would be perfect, but a whole day would probably be too much'*

The team responded to say that the young person would be welcome to join the club however they might enjoy the Bring your grandparent to brunch sessions a lot more

The resident attended and sent an e-mail to the team to thank them for the referral.

'Thanks! We went and loved it! What a super idea! Great fun - we'll be back. And enjoyed the Singing Club afterwards as well!'

The tenant attended the sessions and joined in with the older persons singing group after, she is now engaged with our older person's service and will be joining in many more activities when the kids return to school.