

Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) and Short Breaks (SB) – Provider Q&A

This Q&A is designed to support applicants who are considering delivering jointly funded HAF and Short Breaks provision.

1. Is Short Breaks (SB) funding a fixed rate per child?

No. SB funding is not a set rate per child per session. We expect grants to be in the range of £5,000 - £27,500 annual value (See factsheet for further details on funding). Costs vary by provider depending on the nature of the offer and the needs of the children being supported. Your application should clearly explain and justify your costs.

2. How long should a Short Breaks holiday session be?

A **four-hour session** is considered reasonable for SB holiday provision and aligns with the typical length of a HAF session.

3. Are parents of non-FSM children expected to contribute financially?

Yes. Parents of non-FSM children are expected to make a contribution, similar to what they would pay for mainstream holiday clubs. SB funding then “tops up” this contribution so the additional needs of the child can be supported.

HAF-funded places are fully funded, so parents of FSM children do not make a contribution.

4. How many sessions should we offer during the holidays for SB-funded children?

To engage as many families as possible, providers should aim to offer two sessions per week during school holiday periods for SB-funded places.

Government guidance for HAF-funded children is:

- **4 days** at Easter
- **4 days** at Christmas

- **16 days** in the summer
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5. How should food be provided when mixing HAF and SB places?

- HAF will fund meals for FSM children.
- For non-FSM children, providers can:
 - offer the same food for a reasonable cost to parents, or
 - allow children to bring a packed lunch.

While it is ideal for all children to have the same meal, we understand that this is not always possible and some parents prefer to send a packed lunch.

6. Can Short Breaks funding be used for family sessions where parents stay with their children?

No. Family activities (where parents remain on site to supervise) cannot be funded under SB because they do not meet the criteria for respite care.

These activities would need to be funded through HAF Family activities instead.

7. How will reporting work if we deliver joint HAF/SB provision?

We are exploring improvements to streamline reporting.

A meeting with the Synergy Team is taking place to look at how we can avoid providers having to add individual children manually.

Further guidance will follow.

8. What is the purpose of aligning HAF and Short Breaks provision?

The aim is to ensure all children can access high-quality holiday provision that meets their needs. Joint commissioning helps ensure children who are FSM and non-FSM, and those with additional needs, can attend clubs together and enjoy inclusive activities.

9. Can I continue to apply through HAF for Specialist SEND Provision?

No. All HAF holiday clubs targeted at children with SEND must now apply through SB grants. This approach allows us to align and streamline both programmes.

10. How will I apply for the HAF element?

At this stage, providers should apply through the SB grants process and indicate within their application that they wish to deliver HAF-funded places as part of their offer.

If the SB application is successful, the HAF Team will then contact providers to agree the fully funded HAF places for children eligible for FSM.

11. How will the HAF/SB schemes be promoted?

Both schemes will continue to be promoted via the Family Information Service (FIS) webpages and directory, alongside all other activities available for children, young people, and families.

12. Do the funding amounts available in SB factsheet include HAF costs?

No. If you have indicated that you wish to deliver HAF Funded places, this will be in addition to the maximum funding available through SB.