



HAF Summer 2023 – Case Study

Name of Organisation: Wirral Youth Zone, The Hive.

Date of provision: July/August 2023

Intro:

Wirral Youth Zone is an open-access youth centre running on a sessional base for young people between the ages of 8-12 (and up to 25 with additional needs.) My role as Communities and Partnerships manager is to provide new and safe opportunities for young people, celebrate their milestones, and help guide their visions for their futures by collaborating within the community to make this a reality.

Opportunity:

The chance to offer an engaging, supportive and educational program of Holiday Club activities to those young people within our community most at need throughout the summer is one we feel privileged to have been able to do.

We were also able to run a Teen HAF offer at the end of summer and this group gained so much from the schedule of activities and workshops that we hope to work with them again soon.

Having access to HAF funding via Edsential and the Department of Education has helped us continue to engage some harder to reach groups in a period when we may see a downturn in numbers. This has enabled us to offer previously unseen levels of support and for that we are extremely grateful.

Barriers overcome:

Working alongside a network of family support workers, schools, social care and other agencies we were able to ensure our HAF offer was disseminated to the right people ensuring free and unfettered access to families and individuals who may not have been able to access our services historically.

Also, from an Inclusion/SEND perspective our integration levels grew to the point where we had over a 50% inclusion rate on some sessions which is a major source of pride for us. This offered independence the young people who attended (we have a team of dedicated Inclusion workers) and also the opportunity for some respite for the parents/carers involved.

During our HAF Holiday club offer we were able to signpost some members and their families to our other sessions (Juniors & Inclusion) whilst also offering access to our Wellbeing and Mentoring projects via Youth Worker referrals. We also identified several families who now benefit from our weekly food hamper deliveries which is funded by Wirral Council.

Our Teen HAF offer saw a group of six 13–15-year-olds join us for a week of enriching activities which included.

- Daily Cooking sessions involving Budgeting, shopping, prep & make and Nutrition.
- Physical activities including Boxing, Archery, Gym and Climbing.
- County Lines and Knife Crime Workshops.
- Employability Sessions.

This group came via a previous project called Inspiring Futures and helped improve their confidence, self-esteem and saw them working with a group of their peers at a time when they may have been feeling socially excluded or anxious about returning to school.

Impact:

Being fortunate enough to have received funding for both Summer Holiday Club and Summer Teen HAF via Edsential we have seen a massive impact across our community and positive feedback for both campaigns. The team bought into the ideology and ethos of HAF from the start and we believe this left us well placed to deliver an engaging, entertaining, and educational offer on all sessions. We were proud to share our success on social media throughout both campaigns.

Some of the highlights included:

- Energise Cycles – Road Safety Skills – 8 people who previously had never ridden a bike learned to ride during these sessions.
- Steen sports – Excellent Gymnastic and Trampolining sessions delivered.
- Therapy Dogs Nationwide – An excellent introduction to our offer.
- Catch 22 – County Lines workshop on Teen HAF
- No More Knives – Impactful knife crime workshop on Teen HAF
- Cooking & Catering masterclasses – Delivered by our fully trained catering team. Budgeting, Nutrition, Food Prep and cooking on a budget plus healthy alternatives.

With a solid emphasis on partnership working and collaboration we move forward with some great ideas for the future and how we can integrate what we have learned from Edsentials Training program into our overall offer. This future-proofs us as we seek to make ourselves stand out and to provide new and safe opportunities for young people, celebrate their milestones, and help guide their visions for their future.

We sincerely appreciate your support and hope the information in this report will galvanize our resources and lead to more investment in young people across the borough.

5 top tips for other providers:

- Engage your team from the onset – Buy-in creates enthusiasm.
- Do whatever training is on offer, it can only benefit your campaign.
- Don't be afraid of change – Fluidity is the key to success.
- Review your offer dynamically and consistently.
- Make each day better than the last.