



*'giving a voice to parents & carers
of children with additional needs'*

VOICE4PARENTS REPORT ON HAF FEEDBACK RECEIVED – SUMMER 2023.

Over the past 18 months, Voice4Parents have received significant feedback that suggests that the HAF SEND offer doesn't meet the needs for many SEND Families.

With this in mind and the Short Break summer Activities offered via V4P this summer, we have taken the opportunity to ask further questions on whether families access HAF and if not why not.

Do your child/young person access HAF activities?

Yes 135
No 99
Unsure 42

The following comments were received from families in regards to HAF:

- My daughter is selective mute and has autism and will not attend haf activities
- I can not get to any HAF activity as I'm on my own with 3 children all different ages
- Not school age yet
- I never took them to activities because with 5 children and one disabled it is very hard
- He is unable to access most activities due to his needs. We try to access some but they do not always provide food
- We have never used the code. Don't know how to use the code or what we could book?
- My SEN children cannot cope in new environments and being around other children or adults.
- Home is their safe space when not in school.
- Struggle to use as childcare to work as no HAF activities at SEN schools or that will provide 1:1
- Have to attend an activity with them -this is generally not allowed, lots are now fully booked, or not suitable
- CYP doesn't as I'm not confident they could manage his behaviour
- Activities do not cater for my child – not fully accessible
- Don't understand what HAF is or how to use online
- Find it difficult to get out due to my son been house bound
- Time not taken to know my CYP – He is shy
- She is unable to access as isn't even accessing school at the minute so I have no chance of getting her by herself to a club by herself were awaiting appointments had some
- The activities on HAF are not suitable for my child I cannot leave my child with strangers he cannot communicate

- As a family with a severely disabled boy in it - we rarely can do family activities so the HAF IS NOT appropriate for us and you have to participate to get the free meals.
- She has anxiety and refuses to leave home
- HAF activities are not suitable. Age and sen appropriate
- My son has adhd and Social issues so wont interact with others so cannot access with either of my children as I cant leave my son to take my daughter
- My child cannot currently attend the activities as I will have to stay with him but I also work part time and unable to do this. His little brother also isn't able to attend as he is not in full time school yet. My son who is in school is disabled and isn't able to attend normal HAF activities.
- My child has siblings who he likes to do activities with and he doesn't like going to activities on his own he gets anxious
- Unable to attend these activities due to anxiety
- Home Educated so not acknowledges as eligible
- Under 5 so cant qualify
- I have received the vouchers however they are always no vacancy when I make inquiries.
- Wouldn't cope with a full day of activities
- All places are too far away and none are local to us
- Most of the activities are not suitable for my child and would struggle with chosen food and can't be attended by parents
- Cant attend as his behavioural needs aren't catered for
- She won't engage with them and refuses to go due to her autism.
- Cant attend as daughter is 17
- Hard to get out without carers or help and finding activities all 4 children will take part in
- There's nothing suitable for her age/ interests to go to.
- He doesn't participate in activities due to social anxiety and transport issues
- No SEND Offer
- It is difficult to get my eldest daughter with SEND into HAF activities. She has violent challenging behaviour issues and needs support from adults 2:1
- Activities cant meet his needs.

Further to this we were also made aware that even though HAF is meant to provide a meal for CYP – SEND needs aren't taken into account by SEND Providers/LA and that many parent carers have faced additional financial hardship over the holiday periods due to the additional cost of providing food for their CYP – food that most times would be provided free of charge via free school meals.

The following comments were received in regards to meals provided via HAF:

- CYP has to take a pack lunch due to not liking food and 2nd child doesn't like dairy
- Her ARFID means she won't eat what is available
- Fussy eater
- The food is not appropriate for them with restricted diets
- He finds it difficult to eat others food. We have to pack something.
- Will only take packed lunch due to only eating certain foods due to autism and sensory difficulties
- Do not provide food that she will eat
- Food isn't suitable for him
- Unsafe to eat orally,peg/pump fed

- He doesn't like to eat different food from different packing and different smells of food. It makes him irritates and upset too.
- My oldest daughter has free school meals when she's at school but due to home educating our other two, we cannot access free school meals for them.
- He is entitled but never goes due to him being Autistic it's a shame they can't provide a voucher of some kind for children that don't like to attend the club's due to their needs
- unsuitable - my son needs meals blended and he cannot eat foods he is not familiar with as his diet is so restricted to his "safe foods", he cannot eat solids or chew food.
- Limited diet
- Blended diet that isn't catered for
- Doesn't like the food there