

Mapping of Holiday Provision in the UK Summary Report

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1. Introduction

In the absence of a national dataset on holiday provision for children and their families, the Filling the Holiday Gap Update Report, published by the APPG on School Food (2015), recognised the need to map existing holiday provision. Researchers from Northumbria University undertook a quantitative investigation to identify and map holiday provision programmes in the UK.

2. Objectives

The aims of the survey were to:

- Identify the types of holiday provision programmes available
- Identify how families are signposted to holiday provision programmes
- Map holiday provision programmes in the UK against levels of childhood deprivation.

3. 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 School Food and the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE). The online survey was active for three weeks from 29 April 2016 to 21 May 2016. The results from the survey were coded and analysed, in SPSS and Excel using descriptive statistics and frequency tables.

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

4. Findings

The survey was distributed through the membership base of the APPG on School Food and APSE and a total of 428 organisations completed the survey.

4.1 Location and Type of Organisations

Over half of all responses were from voluntary or community based organisations and local authorities. In addition schools, church or faith groups, foodbanks and housing associations were also represented (see Figure 1). The 'other' organisations consisted of charities, nurseries or childcare providers, food redistribution organisations and the NHS. As illustrated in Figure 2, the survey was widely distributed across the UK; London represented the largest number of responses and it was fairly equally represented by the rest of the regions, with the exception of East of England. The majority of organisations in Wales and Scotland completing the survey were local authorities. Almost three-quarters of organisations participating in the survey (71%) are currently operating, or planning to deliver holiday schemes in the next 12 to 18 months.

Figure 1: Type of organisations

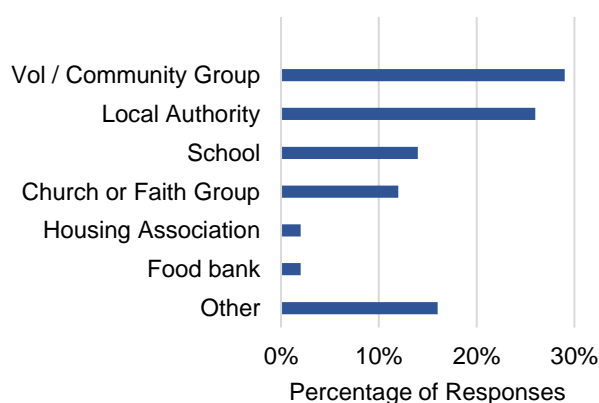


Figure 2: Location of organisation

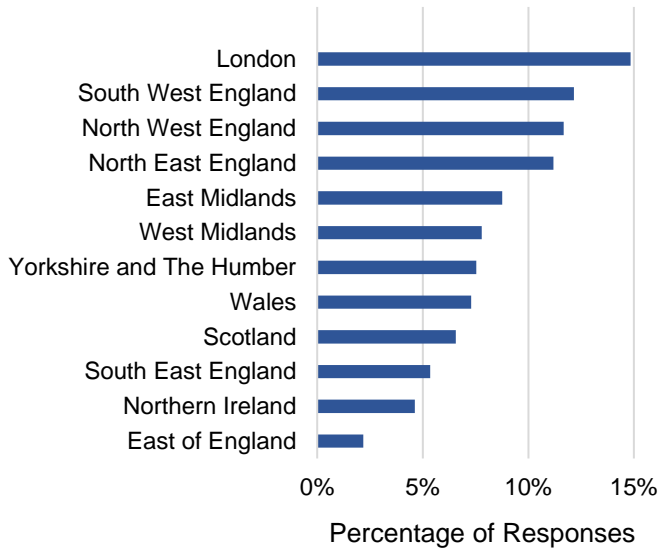
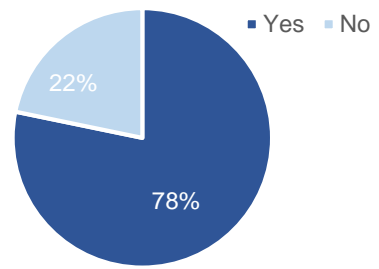


Figure 4: Food offered at holiday scheme

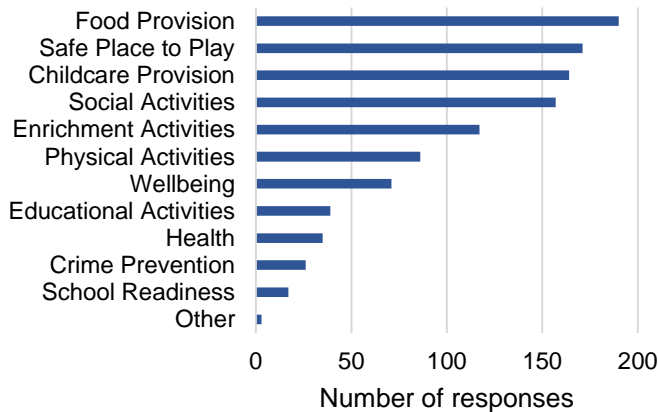


The organisations were asked to select the activities they offered at their scheme (see Figure 5). The most common activities offered are craft or art activities, physical activities and cookery. Educational activities are also frequently offered at holiday schemes despite being considered a low priority need for children during the school holidays by organisations.

4.2 Needs for families and children in the community during the school holidays

Organisations were asked to select and rank the top three needs for families and children during the school holidays in their community (see Figure 3). The priority needs considered for families and children are food provision, a safe place to play, childcare provision and social activities. Whereas educational activities, health, crime prevention and school readiness are considered the lowest priority of needs for families and children in their communities

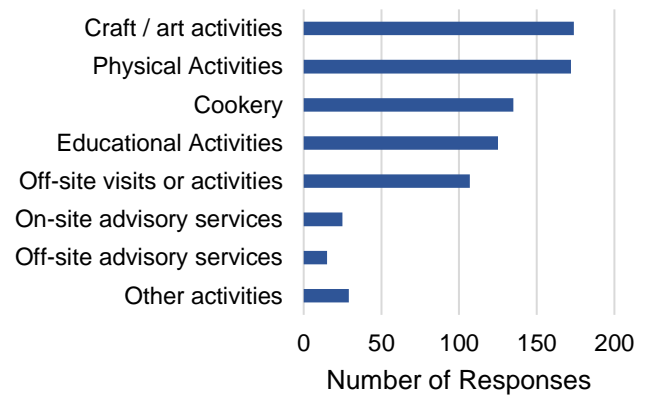
Figure 3: Priority needs for families and children in the community



4.3 Activities and food offered at holiday schemes

In response to the needs of families and children during the school holidays, the majority of organisations which operate, or plan to deliver, holiday schemes (78%) provide food at their holiday scheme (see Figure 4).

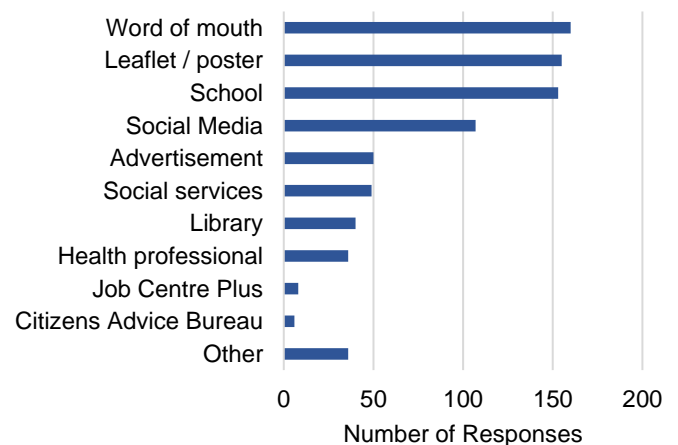
Figure 5: Activities offered at holiday scheme



4.4 Signposting families to holiday schemes

Organisations were asked to select the ways in which their holiday scheme is advertised in their community. The most common methods of signposting families to holiday schemes are by word of mouth, leaflet or poster, through schools and the use of social media.

Figure 6: Advertising holiday scheme



4.5 Delivering Holiday Schemes

Organisations were asked to select the type of assistance needed to deliver holiday schemes. As illustrated in Figure 7, government funding was the most common item selected followed by a national portal for organisations to access training.

Figure 7: Assistance with delivering holiday scheme

Type of Assistance	No of Responses
Government funding	166
National portal to access training	69
National portal to access information	58
National policy	56
Local policy	55
Other	8

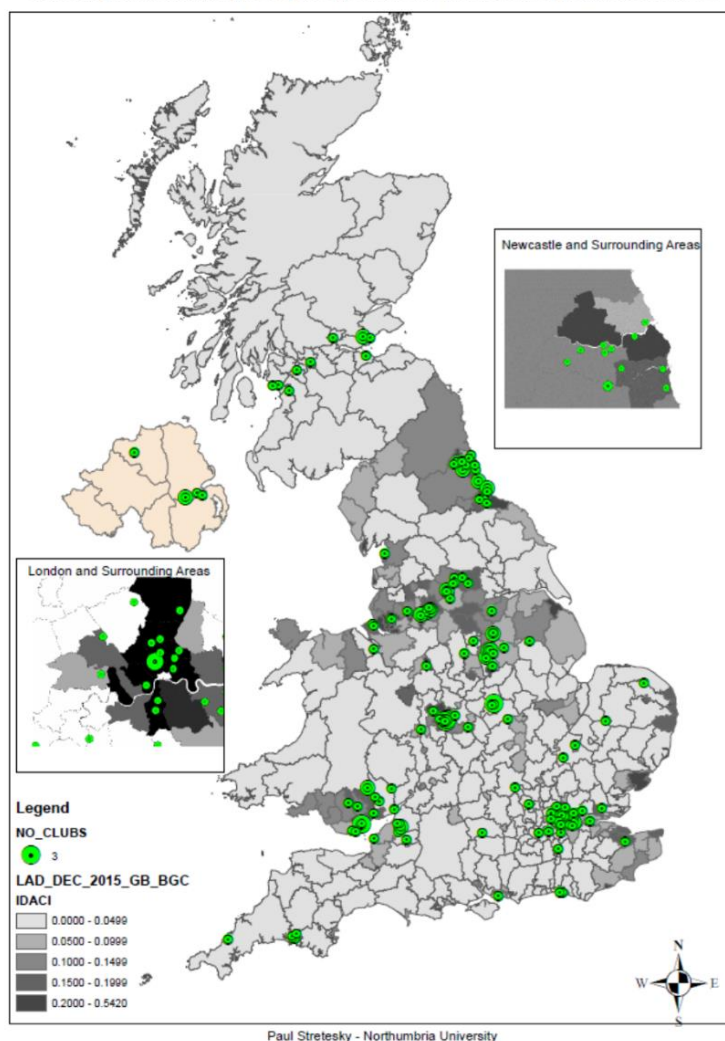
4.6 Mapping of Holiday Provision

From the organisations that took part in the survey 175 organisations submitted their postcode details for the purpose of mapping holiday provision for the APPG on School Food. The map in Figure 8 illustrates the location of these holiday provision programmes across the UK. The holiday provision programmes are represented by the circles based on the first part of the postcode; larger circles represent more than one programme in that location. The holiday provision programmes were mapped against childhood deprivation levels. The map illustrates childhood deprivation in England using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index. This index is a subset of the Income Deprivation Domain and measures the proportion of all children under the age of 16 living in income deprived families. This includes both people out of work and in receipt of benefits, and those that are in work but who have low earnings and satisfy the respective means tests i.e. in receipt of Child Tax Credit but with an income below 60% of the national median before housing costs. The proportion of Income Deprivation Affecting Children is calculated for areas within Local Authorities and there are around 30,000 areas in England alone. This map therefore represents the share of those low income areas in each local authority. Each local authority has a score which is the national share of most deprived areas for children. The darker the shading, the greater the level of childhood deprivation. Some caution needs to be used when interpreting this map since there is variation in poverty within local authorities.

The map illustrates that holiday provision programmes are located in areas with greater levels of childhood deprivation. There was a stronger response rate from organisations in North East England, North West England and the London Boroughs.

Figure 8: Mapping of holiday provision schemes against childhood deprivation

United Kingdom: Holiday Hunger Programs by Childhood Deprivation Across Local Authorities, 2016



5. Conclusion

The survey achieved a wide response from a range of organisations across the UK. The majority of organisations which responded to the survey are currently operating or planning to deliver holiday schemes. The mapping of holiday provision schemes illustrates that these schemes are located in areas of high levels of childhood deprivation, with a greater concentration of organisations in the North East of England, North West of England and London Boroughs. Organisations cited the priority needs for families and children in their community, during the school holidays, are food provision, a safe place to play, childcare provision and social activities. Many organisations are responding to these needs by providing food and a range of activities at their holiday schemes. To signpost families to their holiday schemes, organisations are most likely to depend on word of mouth, the distribution of leaflets, advertisements through schools and the use of social media. Organisations cite government funding as a significant factor for providing assistance with delivering holiday schemes.