

The Summer of Fun 2022

1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022

To support children and young people's recovery from the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic

Guidance for stakeholders

May 2022

This is non-statutory guidance from the Welsh Government to support the approach to utilising the Summer of Fun funding allocation. Queries about this guidance should be directed to: PlayOpportunities@gov.wales

1. Foreword

In 2021, the Welsh Government provided £5m in funding to support children and young people across Wales with access to a range of free activities and opportunities to support their wellbeing and development through a Summer of Fun. Building on this, we went on to provide £20m towards a Winter of Wellbeing, which took place from October 2021 and ended in March 2022.

Both the Summer of Fun 2021 and Winter of Wellbeing programmes formed a core part of our response to the Coronavirus pandemic. They aimed to support the social, emotional, physical and mental wellbeing of our children and young people and allow them to start to recover from the events of the past two years and re-engage with the wider society.

On 17 March 2022, the Deputy Minister for Social Services announced £7 million additional funding to support a further Summer of Fun in 2022.

This increased package of support aims to build on the success of the previous schemes and to continue important support for the wellbeing of children and young people aged 0 – 25 years. Engagement with play, sporting and cultural activities will enable children and young people to continue their recovery from the restrictions of the last two years, with the added benefit of supporting families with the costs of activities over the summer holidays.

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3. Core Purpose

Aims

- 3.1 The Summer of Fun 2022 aims to provide all children and young people aged 0 – 25 in Wales with the opportunity to access free activities aimed at supporting their development and wellbeing. Ministers have agreed it should build on the Summer of Fun 2021 and the Winter of Wellbeing to provide:

- a universal entitlement to free at the point of entry play, sporting and cultural activities for all children and young people aged 0-25 to help towards reducing the cost of living for families across Wales;
 - further supporting the physical, emotional and social wellbeing of participating children and young people aged 0-25, enabling them to better engage with learning and to reengage with wider society; and
 - further sustainability for the providers operating in this space, to move towards a more sustainable footing both financially and in terms of what they can offer to children, young people and their families.
- 3.2 To achieve this, we are providing funding to our stakeholders to deliver opportunities and activities that are:
- free at the point of entry
 - easily accessible and hosted within local communities
 - age appropriate
 - support equality of access for children and young people of all abilities
 - available and provided in Welsh or English. Bilingual provision should not be used in place of specific and dedicated Welsh medium provision
 - support digital enablement
 - delivered according to Welsh Government [COVID-19 Advice guidance](#)
- 3.3 We believe access to activities such as these is critical in the recovery from Covid-19 and will support the social, emotional, physical and mental wellbeing of all children and young people, and that in turn is integral to supporting them in reengaging with learning and education, enabling all children and young people to reach their full potential.

Outcomes

- 3.4 Our desired outcome from this package of wellbeing support is to make a direct contribution to our Programme for Government commitments and wellbeing goals. We want to work with our partners and stakeholders to contribute towards the following wellbeing objectives and related commitments:
- 3.5 Push forward towards a million Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive by:
- widening access to our heritage, harnessing the creativity and sporting ability of people in Wales, and ensuring that these industries have the support they need to maintain their proper place on the world stage.
 - promoting equal access to sports and support young and talented athletes and grassroots clubs.
 - promote the Welsh language and strengthen Welsh language education provision.
- 3.6 Protect, re-build and develop our services for vulnerable people by:
- increasing sustainability for the providers operating in this space and supporting local supply chains. With the funding from this scheme, we want to support them in resetting their services and moving to a more

sustainable footing, both financially and in terms of what they can offer to children, young people and their families.

- making sure no child or young person in Wales is left behind after the coronavirus pandemic by providing funding for their wellbeing.

3.7 Celebrate diversity and move to eliminate inequality in all of its forms by:

- continuing our strong partnership with voluntary organisations.
- encouraging inclusion to ensure that activities / opportunities / provision can be accessed with support which is mindful of the diverse communities and cultures.

3.8 Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work by:

- continuing to support our partners in local government and invest in local public services and local democracy – the glue that binds communities together.
- supporting Wales' long tradition of volunteering, local charities, faith groups and community organisations, and ensure that communities can thrive as centres of social exchange, leisure, sport and culture.

Audience

3.9 The Summer of Fun is an opportunity for all children and young people from 0 to 25 years. However, providers may want to consider how they can reach those groups who have experienced the greatest impacts and provide inclusivity within this age range. A different approach to providing accessible activities and communication may be required.

3.10 Any funding allocations or referral to schemes should not result in any stigmatisation of children and young people.

4. Local Authority - Approach to Funding

4.1 A [Smart Survey proposal form](#) must be completed and returned by **30 May 2022**. Please email the PlayOpportunities@gov.wales to inform the Play Policy team that you have completed a proposal form.

You should complete one form to cover your whole programme of activities for the Summer of Fun 2022. Some of the questions in this form will ask you to enter information about the individual initiatives or organisations that you intend to fund. The questions in this form allow you to enter information about 20 separate initiatives – if you plan to fund more than 20 separate initiatives, please complete an additional form.

Funding Expectations

- 4.2 Funding will be allocated to the 22 Local Authorities in Wales to deliver the Summer of Fun programme in their authority area. The allocation is calculated using the sum of the three main schools Indicator Based Assessments (IBAs) from the local government settlement funding formula. The formula is intended to reflect variations in the need to spend which might be expected if all authorities responded in a similar way to the demand for services in their area. This is the mechanism for distributing Revenue Support Grant (RSG)¹ to unitary authority and police forces. It has also been used by the Welsh Government to allocate other grants. Local Authorities have experience of funding being allocated using this method and are involved in the development of the formula.
- 4.3 Local Authorities are expected to make the best use of the funding allocated to maximise the outcomes for children and young people. Local Authorities who feel they are not able to spend their full allocation should discuss this with the Welsh Government Play Policy team as soon as possible so that possible solutions can be sought, including allocation of any underspends to another local authority. There is no obligation to accept this additional funding.

Programme of Activities

- 4.4 The primary purpose of the funding is to provide free activities aimed at supporting the development and wellbeing of children and young people aged 0-25. The activities must take place between 1 July and 30 September 2022. The Summer of Fun is intended to be an inclusive programme of activities, easily accessible by all children and young people who want to take part.
- 4.5 Some considerations are outlined below:
- Ensure there is an inclusive and balanced programme of age appropriate activities, easily accessible by all children and young people who want to take part;
 - Provide equality of access for children and young people – this may mean tailoring or increasing some services to address inherent disadvantages;
 - Offer a range of play, sporting, cultural and other activities for children and young people in a variety of settings;
 - Provision should be available and provided in Welsh or English. Bilingual provision may be appropriate in some circumstances, but should not be used in place of specific and dedicated Welsh medium provision.
 - Wherever possible, activities should be held in accessible locations that can be accessed on foot or by public transport.

What can be funded

- 4.6 Funding can be used to complement or extend the support you provide in your local authority and should not replace any existing funding. The funding can be used for provision on weekdays or weekends, held during the day or in the evenings.

¹ <https://gov.wales/local-government-revenue-and-capital-settlement-2021-2022>

Points to consider when organising activities:

- 4.7 Support pre-existing providers and programmes to put on more activities, or run their planned programmes over longer periods offering more opportunities to benefit children and young people.
- 4.8 Enable pre-existing providers to hire more staff with the relevant qualifications and training, increasing the numbers of children and young people they can support if regulations allow.
- 4.9 Invest in additional spaces at pre-existing programmes to enable more children and young people to benefit.
- 4.10 Boost volunteer-led activities, or those provided by grass-roots organisations, including opportunities for children and young people to engage in volunteering activities and accreditation.
- 4.11 Work together with other local authorities to procure services to arrange and fund regional activities.
- 4.12 The funding must link to your Play Sufficiency Action plans and be reported on in your 2022-23 Progress on Action plans, which are due to be submitted to the Welsh Government on 1 June 2023.
- 4.13 Funding can be used for the provision of healthy meals, snacks and drinks (it does not need to be a hot meal) which must be provided in line with the [Welsh Government's food and nutrition guidance for childcare providers](#).

Points to consider when making food available

- Food must be provided by a food provider registered to provide food with their local authority and hold relevant Food Hygiene certificates, or providers must hold such certificates themselves.
- Providers must obtain consent to provide food to children, ideally, as part of their registration process. This consent must include information on allergy risks and treatment plans. Risk assessments relating to food provision must be carried out.

Note: Currently Free School Meals (FSM) are available to vulnerable children and young people in Wales during the school day and during school holidays until the end of the Summer holiday 2022. Food can also be provided via the Summer of Fun programme at this time, at the discretion of local authorities.

The offer of food must be for all participants, not just the vulnerable, to avoid any stigmatisation.

- 4.14 You are able to support national organisations funded under part 5 of this guidance to run your activities as long as they are separate from the activities that are directly funded and no double funding takes place.

- 4.15 In order to ensure that children attending childcare or out of school holiday provision in vulnerable communities are not disadvantaged, you are able to offer:
- funding to cover travel and additional staffing costs to enable children and young people to attend Summer of Fun provision or low cost day trips to local amenities.
 - You are able to offer funding to enable childcare and out of school providers to participate in and celebrate National Playday which takes place on **3 August 2022**.
- 4.16 You must claim all project related costs, for example: additional cleaning, PPE etc.
- 4.17 Up to 10% administration costs can be claimed to cover general administration costs, translation costs and staff costs.

What cannot be funded?

- 4.18 The funding should not be used for junk food, sweets and unhealthy treats, either as part of meals or snacks or as part of activities (for example as prizes for games).
- 4.19 The funding should not be used to fund childcare or places in out of school holiday provision, unless the children are deemed as vulnerable by your local authority.

Points to note

- 4.20 Be aware of what activities other organisations might also be planning in your community and how you can complement their programme (or vice versa) and ensure you don't duplicate or compete.
- 4.21 Consider the providers available in your local area and how you can support them to develop and grow following the pandemic.

Collaborative working

- 4.22 Local authorities should inform social prescribing services about their plans as this will help signpost people to activities.
- 4.23 Local authorities should consider what teams within their authority they will need to include in planning and delivering the Summer of Fun. Consider Children's Services, Families First, Youth Engagement, Youth Workers, Flying Start, Youth Offending Services, childcare, play and others.
- 4.24 Specifically, local authorities should work collaboratively to ensure arrangements are in place to support vulnerable children to access activities.

These may be children with a social worker, or known to Child Services and partner organisations.

4.25 In order to assist you with cross policy working, we will provide you with a list of key contacts we would encourage you to work closely with. The list will only include contacts for your local authority area. This will include:

- your local County Voluntary Council (CVC);
- Local authority transport co-ordinating officers re the purchase of bus passes to enable young people to attend provision; □ Local authority community cohesion officers;
- Local authority people seeking sanctuary contacts.

5 National Organisations - Approach to Funding

5.1 A [Smart Survey proposal form](#) must be completed and returned by **30 May 2022**. Please email the PlayOpportunities@gov.wales mailbox to inform the Play Policy team that you have completed a proposal form.

You should complete one form to cover your whole programme of activities for the Summer of Fun 2022. Some of the questions in this form will ask you to enter information about the individual initiatives or organisations that you intend to fund. The questions in this form allow you to enter information about 20 separate initiatives – if you plan to fund more than 20 separate initiatives, please complete an additional form.

Funding Expectations

5.2 Funding will be allocated to the national organisations on a direct award basis and for delivery of the activities agreed as part of the smart survey proposal form. Organisations are expected to make the best use of the funding allocated to maximise the outcomes for children and young people. Any Organisation who feels they are not able to spend their full allocation should discuss this with the Welsh Government Play Policy team as soon as possible so that possible solutions can be sought, including allocation of any underspends to another Organisation. There is no obligation to accept this additional funding.

Programme of Activities

5.3 The primary purpose of the funding is to provide free activities aimed at supporting the development and wellbeing of children and young people aged 0-25. The activities must take place between 1 July and 30 September 2022. The Summer of Fun is intended to be an inclusive programme of activities, easily accessible by all children and young people who want to take part.

Points to consider when organising activities:

5.4 Provide equality of access for children and young people – this may mean tailoring or increasing some services to address inherent disadvantages.

5.5 Provision should be available and provided in Welsh or English. Bilingual provision may be appropriate in some circumstances, but should not be used in place of specific and dedicated Welsh medium provision.

5.6 Wherever possible activities should be held in accessible locations that can be accessed on foot or by public transport.

What can be funded

5.7 As with the funding for local authorities, the primary purpose of the funding is to provide free activities aimed at supporting the development and wellbeing of children and young people aged 0-25. The activities must take place between 1 July and 30 September 2022.

5.8 This could include:

- establishing new activities, or running activities in new areas;
- creating more spaces within existing programmes;
- providing activities currently only available through the medium of English to be available through the medium of Welsh;
- allowing existing programmes to run for longer periods;
- providing activities for an age group or within another area where it wasn't possible before due to funding barriers.

5.9 Funding can be used to complement or extend existing provision, but only where additional benefits can be clearly demonstrated. This should not duplicate or replace existing funding.

5.10 Funding can be used for the provision of healthy meals, snacks and drinks (it does not need to be a hot meal) which must be provided in line with the [Welsh Government's food and nutrition guidance for childcare providers](#).

Points to consider when making food available

- Food must be provided by a food provider registered to provide food with their local authority and hold relevant Food Hygiene certificates, or providers must hold such certificates themselves.
- Providers must obtain consent to provide food to children, ideally, as part of their registration process. This consent must include information on allergy risks and treatment plans. Risk assessments relating to food provision must be carried out.

Note: Currently Free School Meals (FSM) are available to vulnerable children and young people in Wales during the school day and during school holidays until the end of the Summer holiday 2022. Food can also be provided via the Summer of Fun programme at this time, at the discretion of the provider.

The offer of food must be for all participants, not just the vulnerable, to avoid any stigmatisation.

5.11 In order to ensure that children attending childcare or out of school holiday provision in vulnerable communities are not disadvantaged, you are able to offer:

- funding to cover travel and additional staffing costs to enable children and young people to attend Summer of Fun provision or low cost day trips to local amenities.

5.12 You must claim all project related costs, for example: additional cleaning, PPE etc.

What cannot be funded?

5.13 The funding should not be used for junk food, sweets and unhealthy treats, either as part of meals or snacks or as part of activities (for example as prizes for games).

6 Marketing and Communications:

6.1 All funding derived from the Summer of Fun will be branded as “The Summer of Fun” or “Haf o Hwyl” in Welsh.

6.2 The Welsh Government communications lead Sioned Glyn – email: Sioned.Glyn@gov.wales, will continue to liaise with the local authority communications leads. We will ask the successful national organisations to provide us with a communications contact.

6.3 All creative assets developed to promote your activities will adhere to the Welsh language standards and be branded The Summer of Fun. A media pack (to follow) will be distributed to all communications leads. Documents will be available to you via Objective Connect.

7 Monitoring and Evaluation:

7.1 By receiving this funding, organisations are committing to providing monitoring information to inform the management and evaluation of this programme, which the Welsh Government will carry out internally.

7.2 A Smart Survey form (to follow) will need to be completed.