



Resource Pack – from the “Closing the Holiday Gap” Meeting

Cathy Henwood, Feeding Bradford Development Worker at Wellsprings Together Bradford, was leading this meeting in February 2018. A number of speakers were presenting on various topics. The information has been updated in January 2020.

Presentation by Lindsay Graham, Child Food Poverty Policy Advisor

The afternoon started with a video which highlighted the need for a holiday provision in disadvantaged areas <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5ShUqP3bRY>.

Lindsay gave information on the situation nationwide and a short Q&A session followed.

Later, a video was played, showing the positive impact a holiday scheme can have. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOumt9RnP9o>

Presentation by Paula (parent) and Natalie (Community Café Coordinator), Ravenscliffe

Paula is a single parent with 3 children who attends the Gateway Community Centre at Ravenscliffe. She is working in a minimum wage job which means her children are no longer entitled to free school meals. As a consequence, she has to choose at times between feeding the children or herself. Paula said the meal and holiday provision at Ravenscliffe was really important to her because it meant that she and her children could eat a good meal.

Cathy Henwood – Wellsprings Together

Whilst a lot of organisations and centres are keen to get involved in holiday provision, there are a number of obstacles that need to be overcome. The “round table” workshops have different topics and people attended 2 of them, choosing the ones that would be most beneficial to their organisation.

At some of the round tables, there were overlaps with topics from other tables – eg at the Resources table, some resources for certain activities were discussed, which would also have gone well at the Activities table. In those cases, we have doubled up the information under more than one heading.

The whole idea was to provide fun and challenging activities with food, rather than food being the main provision.

This pack includes information on:

- Food (including hygiene, sourcing, balanced diet)
- Volunteers and Policies (including Safeguarding)
- Activities
- Resources
- Recruitment of Participants – how do we recruit the children we want to reach



Round Table Workshops

Food (including hygiene, sourcing, balanced diet)

This group was led by Gareth (FareShare Yorkshire), and Zak (NHS / Dietitians)

The following topics were discussed:

Food Hygiene – Courses and General Guidance

Some Food Hygiene Courses are available online which are cost efficient. The CIEH (Chartered Institute of Environmental Health) runs online course at low cost, details on <https://www.cieh.org/training/courses/foodsafety/>. Courses also available from <https://www.mrsafetytraining.com/food-hygiene> Generally it is recommended that organisers have achieved Level 2 Food Safety.

Another resource is the Food Standard Agency's Guidance on food hygiene <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/multimedia/pdfs/hall-provision.pdf>

Guidance for charity and community groups providing food <https://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/caterers/food-hygiene/charity-community-groups/>

Sourcing Food and Funding for Food Provision

Other than large scale bids (see "Resources" section), people can source some funding and food for their provision locally – this is also about forming relationships with local businesses. Eg the bakers or caterers who throw unsold food out at the end of the trading day – worth going in with your "food provision hat" on and asking about donating that to the scheme. For information on bids, see the Resources section.

Fareshare <http://fareshare.org.uk/getting-food/>

Fareshare is a national provider of food for charities and community groups. This perfectly good food is redistributed from supermarkets and would otherwise go to landfill. Groups need to sign up to this service, and there are 2 ways to achieve this:

- Become a FareShare member
This will give you a weekly supply of fresh food and store cupboard staples for your group. Info on <http://fareshare.org.uk/getting-food/fareshare-membership/>
- Sign up to FareShare Go
This gives you access to free surplus food for your group, you will have the opportunity to collect it from a local supermarket. Info here <http://fareshare.org.uk/getting-food/fareshare-go-support/>

The food available from FareShare can vary depending on where the food is sourced from, but with a bit of notice there can be some reliable provision organised from different sources.



Storehouse Bradford

At the Storehouse (116 Caledonia Street, BD4 7BQ), surplus food is stored and distributed to local food providers, community groups, meal provision, foodbanks etc. A lot of their supplies come from FareShare or from local supermarkets, catering suppliers etc. For more info <http://www.innchurches.co.uk/services/storehouse/>

Available Resources, eg recipes

If a meal is provided, it is advisable to provide a balanced meal wherever possible, i.e. to include the 5 main food groups as part of a 2-course meal. It is advisable however to start with meals familiar to the young people and add in a side of veg, offer fruit salad for dessert, fruit juice, milkshake / ice cream to make it healthier. Recipes are available <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes#S4IqCwokR5i5Cm1M.97>

The Children's Food Trust also offer resources re food prep, meal planning etc. <http://www.childrensfood-trust.org.uk/>

Other organisations to check out are the Children's Trust, British Dietetic Association, National Dairy Council, Bradford Nutrition and Dietetics Service Nutrition Advisory Helpline (01274 783124), British Nutrition Foundation, Foods Standards Agency.

Breakfast & Lunch Provision

It was advised if offering breakfast to try and serve fortified breakfast cereals wherever possible with whole milk as this would be the most wholesome and nutritious. For cold meal provision, use the Eatwell Guide <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-eatwell-guide> as a good model of practice to ensure nutrient optimum nutrition.

A guide to healthy packed lunches is available here <https://www.bda.uk.com/foodfacts/PackedLunches.pdf>

Training Courses

Bradford Nutrition and Dietetics Service offer a Food and Nutrition Training Programme, for further information contact 01274 783124. The courses do get booked up quickly. Bradford Dietitians can also work with facilitators/ volunteers/ teams to run specific education sessions to train up on aspects of balanced diet etc, 01274 783124 for more info.



Volunteers and Policies (including Safeguarding)

This group was led by Dave Forrest (Bradford Volunteer Centre) dave@volunteeringbradford.org and Dionne Norman (Young Lives Bradford) dionnen@cabad.org.uk

If a person is looking for a volunteer role, there are drop-in sessions at:

- The Bradford Volunteer Centre, 19-25 Sunbridge Road BD1 2AY (1st Floor)
Tuesdays, 10 -12noon and Thursdays, 1pm-3pm or
- Shipley Library on 1st Tuesday of month, 2-4pm.

For information on volunteering and recruiting volunteers visit Bradford

http://www.volunteeringbradford.org/?page_id=12 or Keighley Volunteer Centre <https://www.keighleyvb.co.uk/>

People on all benefits can volunteer as long as they inform the Job Centre, volunteering can count towards half of the usual 35 "Work Related Activity" hours for those on Universal Credit.

The People Can Volunteering Kitemark is a free quality mark for community organisations, contact the Volunteer Centres to find out more.

General training courses for volunteers are available from <http://mylocalcommunity.org.uk/community-action-bradford-and-district/training/>. For info on food hygiene courses, see the "Food" section.

Safeguarding

Groups must ensure they safeguard the children and young people they work with, by ensuring they have the correct policies and procedures in place and staff and volunteers have received training for their role, in particular, if they work with children and young people they should be aware of how to recognise signs of abuse and know what to do. Projects should also have someone nominated as Designated Safeguarding Officer that people in the project can go to for guidance (see below for DSO training currently available).

For free advice and guidance on Safeguarding contact Young Lives Bradford – younglivesbradford@cabad.org.uk or telephone on 07422 966 143.

Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)

Free advanced face to face Safeguarding training is available from the [Bradford Safeguarding Children Board](http://bradfordscb.org.uk/?page_id=77) http://bradfordscb.org.uk/?page_id=77. They also provide an interesting range of e-learning, including Basic Safeguarding, which can be used to train up your volunteers and help them develop their skills.

Community Action Bradford & District (CABAD) Safeguarding training

Safeguarding courses are available from CABAD, check their website for up-to-date information on training courses. <http://mylocalcommunity.org.uk/community-action-bradford-and-district/training/>



Policies and Procedures

There is a page on the BSCB website for the voluntary and community sector which provides a model policy template and details of the Safeguarding Audit tool. This can act as a useful check list to help you ensure you have the right procedures in place for your group and we encourage groups to compete this. If groups are applying for funding from the Council they will be required to complete this. For details visit: http://bradfordscb.org.uk/?page_id=1208

Neglect Strategy

Bradford Safeguarding Children Board has launched its new neglect strategy on the 1 February. The safeguarding board says "Neglect remains a key priority for all of us, regardless of our role. It is everyone's responsibility to recognise and intervene to reduce the impact on neglect on children in line with our thresholds policy." Strategy and thresholds policy are available from the [BSCB website](#).

DBS

If the volunteers are supervised by a Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) checked person and there is no unsupervised contact with children, then there is no need for a DBS check for each individual volunteer.

It was noted by existing groups that engaging parents makes a huge difference to the outcomes, and if the children are supervised by parents and carers then there is even less need for DBS checks as the children are supervised. Where children are supervised by their parent/carer and where volunteers do not have unsupervised contact then there is no need for a DBS check. There is a flow chart which explains about DBS checks.

<file:///C:/Users/User/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/LWYIZIQB/DBS%20checks%20for%20children%20and%20young%20people%20flowchart.pdf>

If groups do need DBS checks they are free for volunteers however there is a £12 admin fee per check. www.keighleyvb.co.uk provides DBS checks.

There is an Update Service which allows people to give their unique reference number of their DBS check to employers who can then check if any changes have been made to the check since it was made. For a small annual fee this reduces the need for multiple checks, so it is like a portable DBS.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dbs-update-service-promotional-material>

For help with safeguarding training and policies, info here http://bradfordscb.org.uk/?page_id=459

Free safeguarding training and free e-learning tools are available from http://bradfordscb.org.uk/?page_id=77

For help with volunteering http://www.volunteeringbradford.org/?page_id=12

Refusing people who want to volunteer?

Organisations can refer rejected volunteers to the Volunteer Centres in Bradford and Keighley, although always give positive feedback.

For more information about Young Lives Bradford, a free support service for community groups working with young people, info here <https://mylocalcommunity.org.uk/community-action-bradford-and-district/young-lives-bradford-network/>



OFSTED

Questions were raised regarding the provision for under 8s and if the setting needs to be Ofsted registered. For information, click here <https://www.pre-school.org.uk/guidance-ofsted-registration-and-inspections>

If you are providing regular sessions of more than 2 hours for under 8s, you may need to be registered with Ofsted. This can be avoided if parents stay with the children.

Ofsted only requires registration of child care providers doing more than 2 hours of child care (under 8s) in any one day. For guidance and support contact Bradford Family Information Service <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/get-advice-and-support/families-information-service/> and see also Ofsted guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>

Activities

This group was led by Matt (StreetGames, Fit & Fed) and Natalie (Gateway Centre Ravenscliffe)

StreetGames is a national charity and works with all kinds of community organisations who provide sport and physical activity for young people aged 10 - 24 years and living in deprived communities. Our approach is known as 'Door-step Sport' - activities at the Right Time, Right Place, Right Style, Right Price and with the Right People - informal, youth-led and inclusive youth clubs.

Anyone interested contact Matt.Fisher@streetgames.org 07946 321680

StreetGames has a Fit & Fed toolkit available to projects that register as part of the national campaign. We can also help with bid writing, Food Hygiene training and sports activator training. Here's the link to register <http://www.streetgames.org/fandf/register-your-interest-fit-and-fed-campaign>

Transition activities – Primary to Secondary

This refers to a specific programme to help pupils make the transition from primary to secondary school and to tackle a phenomenon called 'learning loss' - programmes could include literacy, numeracy and ICT as well as healthy eating and physical activity and site visits to the Secondary School to help familiarise pupils for life at secondary school, for example, homework, new rules, form tutors and year groups, lunch, school nurse and PE. Some secondary schools have a transition manager to help prepare pupils and run sessions at primary schools. Springfield Centre Bradford has been running transition camps in previous years, for more info contact helena.rhodes@outlook.com

Other Activities that might be included

As well as academic learning other related 'literate for life' activities could be included in a holiday gap programme for example team building skills, communication, cooking on a budget, sports leadership, money management etc.



Qualified Sports Coaches – needed?

Sports coaches are expensive, £12 - £40 per hour, but they are insured, have DBS and are qualified to supervise children. Different sports and different levels of coaches are qualified to work with different age groups and numbers of kids. Usually a Level 2 can work in sole charge of a group. However it would always be best practice to work in pairs or alongside an assistant or volunteer. So, if you are organising a day-long holiday camp with a range of activities on offer, only pay for a sports coach when you are doing sport. Other qualified and responsible people may be more cost effective. For informal activities eg football matches or kick-about, sports coaches are not required.

What is the right age group?

StreetGames research from the last two summers has indicated the common age ranges from 10 – 14. Younger kids require OFSTED and older teens are more independent and harder work.

Keeping children interested with challenges and competitions

Change4Life offer some suggestions <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities/sports-and-activities#I7URdsgv8q70LPxw.97>

Competitions can be carried out with most activities, eg split children into groups and see which group can make the longest paper chain (before linking them together), do relay races in group and award points for 1st / 2nd / 3rd, ... There might be a “points system” introduced for the week / month / holiday that also could reward participation, good behaviour etc. Maybe small prizes for the “winners” at end of the holiday / scheme.

Good group ideas of different games for indoor activities

Circle Games are very popular, links here <http://www.games4youthgroups.com/circle-games.html> , <http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/site/camp-activities/circle-games.page-1.html> or try www.ultimatecampresource.com

Activity suggestions can be found on the Scouts website, one link is <http://scouts.org.uk/media/765110/109.pdf> - some will be more suitable to your setting than others.

Creativity, arts & crafts ideas – young people have amazing imagination and often just need gentle guidance. For example, junk modelling with the instruction “build a machine”, build a boat/house/car, etc. Junk materials are available from ScrapMagic, see Resource Section, or just start gathering any materials at home. Also, group collages are popular – take an (old) sheet and give a theme – eg “under the sea”, and provide junk materials (ScrapMagic) and glue / pens, and let them get on with it. More ideas on <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/>

Supermarkets, DIY suppliers etc can often supply big bits of cardboard (pallet liners) and similar “waste” products – ask them!

For both indoor and outdoor activities, you can use ScrapMagic’s Resource Library where you can hire at low cost themed equipment – eg for den building, making go-karts etc. The leaflet is here https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/cc974f_7ebd0bd38ce74393b222d056ef869f3f.pdf



Outdoor Activities

Other than sport and fitness-related activities, there are lots of low budget activities that can be carried out, some with a nature theme – bark rubbing, scavenger hunt (eg find something yellow /smooth / prickly...), leaf identification, pond/stream dipping & identification (spare clothes needed!), cloud identification, - you can find ID sheets for those from various sources online, a good source is the Woodland Trust.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/search/?activityKeyStage=100030578>

Also popular with young people – treasure hunts (arrows made of flour on the ground in the park / woods, and miraculously end up at the local play park where you might have a picnic lunch).

You might be able to visit local organisations, i.e. fire / police stations, RNLI, places of worship etc – they usually welcome visits from organisations, but will need booking in advance.

Equipment

Bradford Council's Community Play and Development service provide an equipment hire service – groups need to be registered at an annual cost of £30 and can then hire play equipment at low cost, info on

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/activities-for-children-and-young-people/community-play-and-development-service/> - the equipment hire is on the last page and doesn't give prices, but eg you used to be able to hire up to 10 items for £3 per week – including cricket bats, footballs, cones, etc.

The resource catalogue is here <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/3967/play-resource-catalogue.pdf>. They also can run activity days for you at a cost.

Another provider of activities is JAMES <https://www.facebook.com/JAMES-Project-378880565596257/>

Equipment Storage

The question was asked about storage of equipment – most groups do not have the storage capacity for bulky equipment.

There was no direct answer to this question, if anybody has any ideas please let us know.

Provision for under 8s

Questions were raised regarding the provision for under 8s and if the setting needs to be Ofsted registered. For information, click here <https://www.pre-school.org.uk/guidance-ofsted-registration-and-inspections>



Resources

This group was led by Sarah (bfunded - <https://www.bfunded.org.uk/>)

Sarah gave some very useful advice about resources, not only financial resources.

Fundraising

If only a small amount of money is needed, this can often be raised by carrying out sponsored activities, coffee mornings, jumble sales etc. These activities usually take place within the community and raise awareness of the group as well. Crowdfunding is another possibility.

Do not carry out any cold calling or writing.

A number of funders are keen for the group to match their funding.

Use any relationships that you have locally – people from local businesses often want to give back, eg the local bakers throw out perfectly good food at the end of the day which can be used for food provision – however be aware of food safety and hygiene rules.

Businesses are sometimes hard to approach, and it might be useful to ask for specific things and giving them options. It also helps to show a genuine interest in the business.

Small Grant Funding

All funders have different rules, deadlines etc. All provide guidance notes, and for any bid to stand a chance of being successful these guidance notes need to be observed. It is useful to read the guidance notes and the draft bid and compare those against each other.

Often funding deadlines are last minute – a suggestion is to get all the required documents ready, eg policies, constitution etc, that when a funding opportunity comes up, you are ready to go ahead with very little effort.

A useful tool is the Checklist – is your group ready to apply for small grant funding? (This list can be found on <https://www.bfunded.org.uk/community-news/news/handouts-from-wellsprings-together-holiday-food-event-8-feb-2018/>)

Steps for a small grant funding bid:

1. Get ready for funding checklist
2. Plan your project (pages 5&6 of the Fundraising Strategy Workbook)
3. Search for funding and make the most of the bfunded website
In this, you can save any searches you carry out.

Information and worksheets for all the above can be found on <https://www.bfunded.org.uk/community-news/news/handouts-from-wellsprings-together-holiday-food-event-8-feb-2018/>

A member from the bfunded team is happy to check your bids before submitting them to the funders. Details of the staff in your area can be found on the funding checklist on the website.



Some hints and tips about small grant funding:

Many funders want to improve the lives of children, but applicants need to be more specific, e.g. not put “everybody” as who would benefit. Suggestions were to use other criteria, e.g. improve health, learning, be happier, aiming to achieve improvement through activity and food programme in the holidays. The outcome of the project again needs to be specific, e.g. improve mental health of children. Funders generally want to make a difference in the world.

Funders grants take time, and they also don't cover everything, check the guidance notes for each bid. Most grant funders have success rate of less than 50%.

The areas of food / children / play are a relatively easy cause for funders to donate to.

Targeted Funding

Most funding is targeted for certain things. Read the guidance notes for each bid and decide which is best suited. The Bfunded team can check your draft bid.

Resources other than Money

There are lots of resources other than money available and needed – eg the community centre might need repainting – lots of companies carry out staff teambuilding days where they do such jobs for you. Other companies might donate paint, equipment and expertise.

If approaching local businesses, use any relationships that you have locally – people from local businesses often want to give back to the community, eg the local bakers throw out perfectly good food at the end of the day which can be used for food provision – however be aware of food safety and hygiene rules.

Businesses are sometimes hard to approach, and it will help to ask to be specific in your requests (paint?) and giving them options. It also helps to show a genuine interest in the business.

For craft activities, ScrapMagic is a fantastic resource – they have lots of “junk” materials from industry available for sale. A shopping basket full of materials costs £2, and you can fill as many baskets as you like. For more info, see <https://www.facebook.com/Scrap-Magic-126784224022289/> They also stock craft materials at low prices, glue, paper, scissors, paints etc. They also have a Resource Library where you can hire at low cost themed equipment – eg for den building, making go-karts etc. The leaflet for the resource library is here https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/cc974f_7ebd0bd38ce74393b222d056ef869f3f.pdf

Supermarkets, DIY suppliers etc can often supply big bits of cardboard (pallet liners) and similar “waste” products – ask them!

In Kind Direct <http://www.inkinddirect.org/> are an organisation who sell goods to charities only. They receive goods from companies / organisations and sell them on at low cost. Their website catalogue shows items in the categories of household products, toys, clothing, sports equipment etc. What they have available is very hit and miss though, as it depends on what gets donated to them. In Kind Direct charge a (low) fee for the items, usually 10% of the market value, but you need to open an account with them to see the prices. To open an account you need to be a registered charity and provide a charity number.

Newlands Furniture Service is a not-for-profit organisation helping the Bradford Community with furniture and household items. They are recycling good quality furniture and household items back into the community at affordable minimal cost. Info here <http://www.newlandsfurniture-service.co.uk/>



General info

There are regular training courses with bfunded, for info see <https://www.bfunded.org.uk/community-news/events/>

A really important point is to thank anybody you receive any help from – financial or otherwise. Donors really appreciate a thank you note (ideally with a picture showing what you're using their donation for), and this might make it easier for you to receive further funding in the future.

Recruitment of Participants – how do we recruit the children we want to reach

This group was led by Lindsay Graham and Jane (Communityworks)

Communityworks

3 years ago, Communityworks linked up with FareShare and put in a bid to Children in Need. They wanted to support a cook and now offer meals during the holidays to children in the BD3 area of Bradford.

Universal or targeted approach?

Getting the right children into the holiday clubs, "open to everyone" in areas like Baildon, for example, will mean many mums in four-wheel drives.

There is a debate over whether a universal or targeted approach works best. If we take a restricted approach - only targeting those in most need - how do we avoid stigmatisation. If we take an open approach, we have a tendency towards the "four-wheel drive" users in some areas.

In areas where there are people of mixed background and cultures, there will be particular challenges. (mw comment: there might be opportunities here to help different parts of the community to build friendships)

Among Roma families, the poverty is extreme. This group has been a focus for Communityworks.

Being clear about the offer

We heard about one group at which a childminder turned up with a large group of children. This childminder would likely have been paid by parents to provide activities & meals for the children but took advantage of the free offers.

It was felt that we should be very clear about the offer of the holiday clubs at the venue and in the marketing. The age range of the children and the capacity in terms of numbers are important to make clear. (Who the clubs are aimed at needs sensitivity and care not to stigmatise)

Civic links and fundraising

Find a councillor who has children in their portfolio. Invite them to a session and find out from them if there is any additional money to support the group.

The "hard to reach" and building relationships



WELLSPRINGS TOGETHER⁺

"It's easy to fill a holiday scheme but how do we know that we are reaching the most vulnerable families, that's what we are struggling with"

"Even if you find out where they are there is a challenge to get them there"

"Transport is an issue for many people"

We have heard some people within our communities described as "hard to reach". The discussion group challenged this notion suggesting that we had to take responsibility for not being available for some people. We should turn it round and talk about "services that are hard to reach" from the perspective of the most vulnerable users. How can we be more universally welcoming?

Housing associations can help us reach the right people.

"It's all down to relationships" was the most consistent point of agreement for this discussion group.

There is a fear among some people to come over the threshold. How can we do some "hand holding" to encourage people?

"Knocking on doors and building up relationships are important. How well we relate to the families will make a difference as to whether they engage"

Partnership working

There are agencies within our communities, which already hold relationships with those most in need. "Getting referrals from schools and other agencies is the key."

Entering into partnerships with schools, social workers, housing associations, school nurses, additional needs and other groups will be helpful. Head teachers can provide a way in.

Working with these groups, we can arrange for referrals and exchange intelligence and learning where appropriate. We can provide poorer families with a pathway of opportunities through mutual referrals.

Brownies and Scouts are among the places where children go and importantly they are led by people who are connected into their communities and perhaps have relationships with individual families. (It was wondered whether Brownies and Scouts attracted the children most in need, but there could be elements of hidden poverty)

Consider links with foodbanks

Turnout & Capacity

"It's better to start small and work up from there"

"We don't know how many people will turn up or how many people we can cope with - it's just first come first served"

"Booking in doesn't really work because people forget"

"Not everyone turns up when referred, we need to have relationships"

It was acknowledged that the first session is often very quiet but will build over time.



Hidden poverty

"In any given area there are pockets of poverty, even in areas that seem quite affluent"

"We have identified that there is hidden poverty - where there are big houses, big cars but little food"

"People will hide their poverty well"

Marketing

The timing of publicity is important. If you advertise too far in advance you will find people forget. Advertise very near to the time of the club.

Put flyers in GPs surgeries with a number to call for information or a Facebook page. The free activities should be the headline with the food as a bonus.

In multi-faith areas it will be better to advertise (and provide) vegetarian food as a standard offering.

Providing the opportunity for parents to eat as well will help to build up trust.

Working with volunteers

It is important that the volunteers are confident and well trained. There will be confidentiality issues and other safeguarding aspects. In some areas there will be significant language requirements e.g. in Roma areas.

Mental health issues can be a challenge and will perhaps require some training or preparation.

Content of the activities

Youth services can provide youth workers to come and provide some activities.

We recognised that not everyone referred to the holiday clubs will actually turn up - or if they do they may come for a couple of sessions and then disappear.

Making the food provision a secondary activity is important. "This is not about providing free food, that's just embarrassing"

Latch key children

At some projects, some children would turn up without their parents or guardians. This appears to be an experience shared by other groups. It raises safeguarding issues - "but better that they are with us" as someone said.

What kind of policies or training might be required? How do we organise registration and follow-up?

"Parents want a holiday as well, there are many 'latch key' children - parents we just don't see"

Duration of sessions

Advice was given about the duration of each session. 9.30am until 3.30pm is too long, much better for it to be, say, 10.00am until 2.00pm