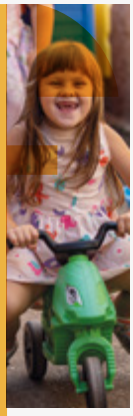
feast

Impact report

2021-2024

Including Annual Report, 2023/24



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Welcome

We're delighted to welcome you to the FEAST Impact Report for 2023.

FEAST has been delivered across North Yorkshire since Easter 2021, when Coronavirus meant that rather than in-person activities, over 12,000 activity bags and dozens of online activities supported our county's most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people. Since then, the programme has grown from strength-to-strength, so now is an important and valuable time to reflect on its achievements – from both this and previous years – and share how FEAST can continue to develop and grow.

School holidays can be a pressure point for many families. With the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, FEAST provides a much-needed opportunity for our children and young people to take part in a broad range of activities, learning new skills, having fun, meeting new people, and of course, having a healthy meal while they're there.

With a geography three times the size of Luxembourg, delivering a programme like FEAST across North Yorkshire is a complex mission. Coordinated by North Yorkshire Together, over 100 activity providers take part each year, offering everything from football clubs to forest schools, music-making to martial arts. We want to take a moment to give a personal thank you to all the partners who work tirelessly to make this happen and provide vital support to struggling families across North Yorkshire.

The FEAST Team

Front cover images (top row left to right): Sparkles Nursery, Sporting Influence, Dopeamin.

Photos © Oliver Dixon Photography and FEAST activity providers.

Executive Summary

Many families struggle during the school holidays. For some, food and childcare costs increase and income decreases. This can lead to a holiday experience gap, where children from low-income households are:

- less likely to access organised out-of-school activities
- more likely to experience 'unhealthy holidays' in terms of nutrition and physical health
- more likely to experience social isolation

These inequalities have been shown to have a negative impact on school attainment once children return to the classroom. This is significant as educational performance is key to social mobility and supporting people to move out of poverty.

In response, in 2021 the Department for Education (DfE) announced the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. This is a three-year funding settlement for every Local Authority in England to deliver enriching activities and healthy food to eligible young people, with a focus on children on benefits-related Free School Meals, across the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays.

HAF programmes support participating children and young people through providing:

- access to safe, non-stigmatising community-based activities
- School Food Standard meals and learning about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- more opportunities to be physically active, in a variety of interesting and interactive ways
- engaging and enriching activities that support and improve wellbeing
- social connections with others and the opportunity to make new friends
- support for families through healthy lifestyles activities and signposting to other services

In North Yorkshire, the HAF programme is called 'FEAST' – a name developed by young people, standing for 'Food, Entertainment, Arts and Sport Together'. North Yorkshire Council have commissioned North Yorkshire Together - the partnership between registered charities North Yorkshire Sport, North Yorkshire Youth and Rural Arts – to coordinate FEAST

North Yorkshire Together:

- designs and manages a grants application process for potential activity providers
- undertakes due diligence and quality assurance visits
- provides training, development and support to providers
- publicises the programme
- supports over 350 schools to distribute FEAST vouchers
- supports families and other partners, such as social services and Refugee Council, with queries about the programme

Since 2021, FEAST has developed into a robust, varied and much valued programme that is supporting more and more children and young people during the three main school holidays.

Check out the statistics from 2021 to now!

	21 - 22	22 - 23	23 - 24
Number of eligible children and young people	11,798	12,945	14,660
Number of activities attended	18,887	24,254	32,208
Number of activity providers	48	75	89
Grants given to deliver activities	£775,046	£954,878	£963,233

Our Partnership

Our Approach

The Department for Education recognises that HAF programmes are best delivered through strong partnership working, in particular with the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. North Yorkshire Together – a partnership between registered charities North Yorkshire Sport, North Yorkshire Youth and Rural Arts – has enabled a unique approach for the delivery of FEAST, with each organisation operating county-wide and having deep connections into grassroots communities through sports clubs, cultural organisations, schools, village hall networks, youth clubs and more.

By working with an overarching voluntary sector partnership, FEAST is able to provide a much broader range of activities than any single organisation or delivery model would otherwise be able to commission. It also serves as a useful and symbiotic method for North Yorkshire Council to support the development of the VCSE and SME sectors, through the annual investment of over £1m into the delivery of services and VCSE infrastructure.

Working with a wide range of activity providers results in better, locally based, more responsive coverage across the county, more options and opportunities for children and young people, and a focus on value for money, with around half of all activity providers being not-for-profit.

The partnership model also leverages the principle of Asset-Based Community Development to:

- Harness local understanding to generate local responses to local need
- Support local growth and the circular economy
- Support the county's journey towards net zero by focusing on local delivery wherever possible
- Strengthen the skills and experience of the VCSE and SME sectors
- Foster strong relationships and collaborations across the county, and share best practice
- Increase engagement with families, leveraging pre-existing relationships and connecting activity providers with new families
- Increase community cohesion and feelings of belonging.

By combining these strengths, FEAST creates a diverse, high-quality and well-loved range of activities from sports, music, arts and drama to coding camps, outdoor education, careers support and incredible trips.

Developing our Activity Providers

North Yorkshire Together has developed a robust, four-stage process to ensure activities are of the highest standard and meet the needs of children and young people:

1. Application – an open grants process where activity providers share their proposals, experience and budget.

2. Due diligence – independent research (e.g. OFSTED ratings, feedback, sector-specific knowledge), plus the review of key policies and procedures.

3. Training and development – Mandatory development sessions each holiday period, plus regular signposting to additional training via North Yorkshire Together partners, the Yorkshire and Humber Learning Community online hub and external providers.

4. Quality assurance – Trained North Yorkshire Together team members visit every FEAST activity provider when they first join the programme and at least every 12 months thereafter. Ratings are recorded across standardised metrics and shared with both activity providers and with the Department for Education. Feedback from staff, families and participants also inform this.

Examples of activity provider development in 2023/24

Healthy Eating and Lifestyles

Phunky Foods provided training in accessible and exciting ways to support children and young people to engage with healthy eating and lifestyles, supporting them to have longer, healthier and more fulfilled lives.

Dental Health

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust's Oral Health Improvement Practitioner shared resources to connect children and young people to dental health through play and learning, particularly reflecting on the dramatic decline in oral health since COVID.

Supporting Neurodiversity

A lived-experience training session from a North Yorkshire Council Youth Voice Creative Engagement Officer that shared personal and family experience of neurodiversity and the sometimes simple changes that can be implemented to create more accessible and inclusive environments.

Trauma-Aware Practice

Training from Leeds Beckett University on the increasing prevalence of adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress and trauma following the pandemic, the impact this can have on children and young people's development, and how activity providers can embed this learning into their practice.

Understanding and Embedding Accessibility

A Lancaster University training session that used art created by disabled people to support activity providers to think differently about accessibility and inclusion. Activity providers developed short, medium and long-term goals to make their activities more welcoming to children and young people with disabilities, thinking practically and positively about the changes that can be implemented.

Framework of Standards

The Department for Education has a robust framework of standards that activity providers must adhere to and deliver via their activities. Below we highlight FEAST activity providers that delivered particularly strongly in 2023/24 against the key framework standards.

Food

Every FEAST activity provides participants with at least one School Food Standard meal. Wherever possible these are hot and young people and their families are invited to participate in the preparation and cooking. FEAST is supported by North Yorkshire Council's Healthy Schools Programme Manager who coordinates a resource pack, training and advice for activity providers. Many activity providers have received free contributions from supermarkets and/or operate their own local food pantries.

Spotlight: PT Childcare

Wraparound childcare and holiday club PT Childcare is based at Le Cateau Primary School, Catterick.

Owner Beki Bulmer said: *"We love giving children memorable experiences of growing, planning, preparing, serving and then enjoying their food. The children love new experiences, like finding different fruit and vegetables to infuse with their water at the 'Hydration Station'. The children get involved with promoting recycling and composting too – and get to feed leftover veggies to our PT Guinea Pigs too!"*

All staff have food hygiene training and PT Childcare employ the school's cook each holiday period. This year, they also partnered with food solutions specialist TUGO who provided 500 free portions of dried pasta and frozen tomato sauce to be delivered to local FEAST providers.

PT Childcare with businesswoman Akshata Murty'

Physical Activity

Physical activity is an integral part of the FEAST offer, with each activity providing at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Spotlight: Nigel Carson Sport School (NCSS)

Having coached in Scarborough for almost 30 years, NCSS are committed to supporting their local community, welcoming many refugees and asylum seekers and children with additional needs to their activities. The NCSS physical activity offer is extensive, with children involved in decision-making and encouraged to create new games through play.

"NCSS freed my son from his responsibilities as a young carer. It gave him some 'me' time in a safe and fun environment, and a sense of worth and belonging as part of the group" ***– Parent of a FEAST-eligible child.***

Nigel Carson Sport School (NCSS)

Enrichment

All FEAST activities provide enriching opportunities that allow children to develop new skills, try new experiences, have fun and make friends. This can include everything from arts and crafts to outdoor education and trips.

Spotlight: Treetops

Treetops is a forest school, with sites near Tadcaster and Colburn. Treetops provides unique and exciting experiences such as bush crafts, den-making, problem-solving, painting with natural dyes and cooking on an open fire. Treetops enables children and young people to overcome personal barriers by promoting mental wellbeing through immersion in nature. Participants don't just have fun – they leave with both new skills and greater personal resilience.

"I was desperate for a break from my children's quite demanding needs. Treetops gave the children a sense of competence they just don't get at school, through learning new and exciting skills. We all had a better day as a result." ***– Parent of a FEAST-eligible child.***

Treetops

Signposting

FEAST activity providers provide signposting to other support that families may need. As most of our providers already work with families in their communities, they are well placed to offer this, enabling families to better access support such as food pantries, Job Centres and health advice.

Spotlight: Closer Communities

Closer Communities is a registered charity that supports families with children with additional needs, disabilities and complex medical health needs. Signposting is a core part of their service, and in addition to trained staff on hand to support families, they have leaflets, resources and even free-to-borrow books on a range of topics. They invite families to hear talks from local support agencies and are currently fundraising to publish a recipe book they've created featuring easy-to-make healthy meals.

Closer Communities

Supporting additional needs

FEAST works with a number of both specialist and inclusive activity providers to fund a wide range of activities for children and young people with additional needs across the county. To ensure this responds to the needs and interests of young people, we've worked with a group of young people with SEND to co-create an inclusivity quality standard for activity providers. Our activity providers also receive training and support, and many build in funding for additional workers or smaller ratios into their grant applications.

Spotlight: Thunk-It Theatre

Thunk-It Theatre is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company providing accessible theatre provision and performance to young people and their families. All practitioners on the project have extensive SEND experience, in a range of forms, including specialist care and support work for children and young people with autism and other neurodivergent conditions and learning disability/physical impairment needs. The children and young people attending develop new skills and knowledge such as improvisation, physical theatre, puppetry and also perform in front of friends and family! Thunk-It Theatre also partner with other FEAST activity providers to bring their unique skills and experiences into other settings.

Thunk-It Theatre

Our Reach

Eligibility

The number of children and young people eligible for FEAST has changed significantly since the start of the programme. Initially, only those on benefits-related Free School Meals were designated as eligible. From Christmas 2021, North Yorkshire Together started to utilise the additional flexibility provided by the DfE to designate some children and young people not on benefits-related Free School Meals as eligible by exception. Since then, many more children and young people have become eligible for the programme due to the cost-of-living crisis and a drive by North Yorkshire Council to support those eligible families to register for Free School Meals.

Eligible children and young people

Year	Primary	Secondary	Total
2021	6748	4618	**11366**
2022	7547	5063	**12610**
2023	8251	5523	**13774**
2024	10584	6216	**16800**

48% increase in eligible children and young people (2021 to 2024)

In-person Reach

The table below demonstrates how many individual children and young people participated in FEAST per holiday period. It also shows that number as a percentage of the total children and young people eligible.

Holiday	Primary	Secondary	Total
Summer 2021	2314 (34%)	240 (5%)	**2554 (22%)**
Christmas 2021	1061 (15%)	156 (3%)	**1217 (10%)**
Easter 2022	1813 (24%)	190 (4%)	**2003 (16%)**
Summer 2022	4350 (56%)	729 (15%)	**5079 (40%)**
Christmas 2022	990 (13%)	207 (4%)	**1197 (9%)**
Easter 2023	1869 (23%)	331 (6%)	**2200 (16%)**
Summer 2023	2591 (25%)	902 (15%)	**3493 (21%)**
Christmas 2023	1221 (12%)	226 (4%)	**1447 (9%)**
Easter 2024	1402 (13%)	395 (6%)	**1797 (11%)**

In Summer 2023, FEAST implemented an online booking platform which has enabled changes to the data collection methodology, making it both much more robust and easier to identify unique children. All figures from Summer 2023 onwards only count each individual child once, regardless of how many different activities they attend. Numbers for holiday periods prior to the implementation of the online booking system were collected manually and may have counted some multiple bookings as different unique children. This explains what looks like a reduction in reach from Summer 2023 onwards. Analysis demonstrates that the programme's reach has grown consistently over the period, and this would have been reflected across our data had the current data collection method been used throughout the course of the programme.

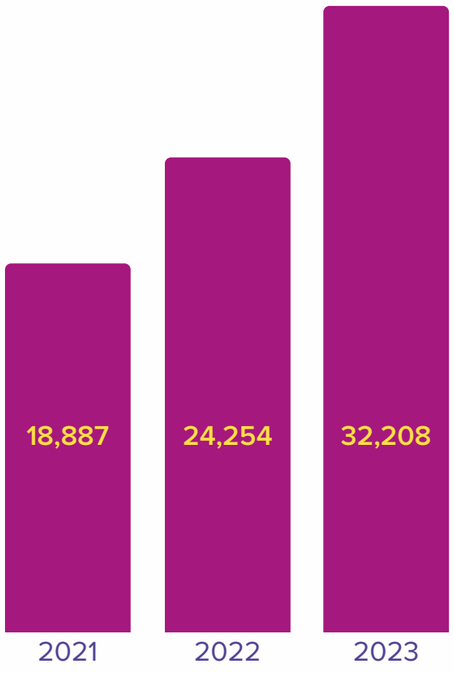
The new methodology has enabled us to determine the subsidy level per child as approximately £1000 per annum to cover up to 24 sessions over the year. This equates to £42 per child, per session, which is affordable from within our allocated funding at the current level of take-up, and benchmarks well against available paid-for provision.

Total number of places

Each holiday, the majority of children and young people engaging in FEAST activities come to more than one activity. The chart below shows the total number of FEAST places attended each year.

This shows a clear year-on-year increase that is a better representation of the growth of the programme than the unique number of children data, as this has had a consistent data collection methodology since the start of the programme. The total number of places data demonstrates that holiday upon holiday we are providing more places, ensuring great value for money.

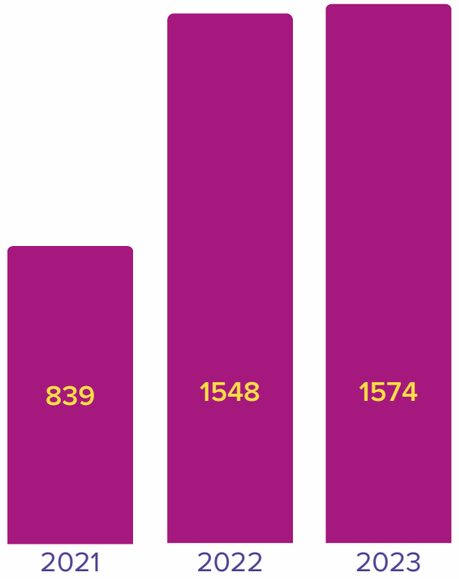
Number of places attended



SEND participation in FEAST activities

North Yorkshire Together and FEAST activity providers work hard to ensure accessible and inclusive activities for children and young people with SEND, across both universal and specialist settings. The table below demonstrates that significant progress has been made since 2023.

Number of SEND children and young people participating



Remote Engagement

FEAST has also supported families remotely over the three year programme. First during the pandemic, and subsequently during the Christmas holidays when the busyness of the period means some families can struggle to engage with FEAST activities.

In Easter 2021, all 11,366 eligible children and young people received an activity booklet and resource pack, which included arts and sports supplies alongside signposting and support around mental health, wellbeing and food provision. In Summer 2021, all eligible children and young people received an updated version of the activity booklet, and had access to 16 days' worth of online activity via the FEAST website. This approach was also available for children and young people accessing the programme in Christmas 2022. All of the online activities and resources created are still available for free via the FEAST website and continue to be promoted.

Paid-for Engagement

The Department for Education encourage that wherever possible, HAF activities are open to those who are not eligible for free spaces, through the provision of paid-for places. This creates open and equitable social experiences and reduces the potential of stigmatisation of those on benefits-related Free School Meals. Further, by leveraging an Asset Based Community Development approach, it ensures that the skills and experiences activity providers gain on FEAST – such as training in supporting those with additional needs, or best practice safeguarding processes – can be applied across an activity provider's full offer, improving the experience for all.

As shown below, a further 4,000+ children and young people a year are benefitting from the improved quality of activities that FEAST enables. These amounts fluctuate depending on variables beyond our control, and – as the places are not funded by FEAST – ensuring a consistent data collection methodology is more challenging.

Number of children/young people paying to attend FEAST activities

Year	Primary	Secondary	Total
2021	3866	377	**4243**
2022	9137	367	**9504**
2023	4624	459	**5083**

Marketing and Feedback

With an ever-growing number of eligible families across our large rural county, it is a huge challenge to reach all the children and young people who are eligible for this much valued programme of holiday support with the resources we have. What's more, some families face physical, social and psychological barriers that prevent them from accessing information about FEAST.

Alongside analysing data, it is also important to use feedback from those involved to support the programme to develop, learn from challenges and explore new ideas.

Our approach has been to focus our resources and energy into 'hub and spoke' model across four key areas:

- Reaching families
- Working with partners
- Working with schools
- Working with providers

Reaching families

For a wide reach, we combine cost-effective digital marketing such as social media advertising with highly targeted traditional marketing such as 'door drop' magazine advertising and posters in key locations. Each opportunity has been closely tracked so we can optimise to invest solely in those channels that perform best.

Key Highlights

- 69% increase in traffic to the FEAST website (41,077) from 22/23 to 23/24
- Doubled click through rates from free Google Ad Grants advertising in one year
- Press coverage in the Yorkshire Post, BBC Radio York, Harrogate Informer and more

Storytelling has played a big part of how we reach families, both on our own channels (like our social media and website) and external channels such as advertising and press. By sharing the experiences of families who have benefitted from FEAST, we've engaged with others who now want to take part. Below is an example that was featured in our press coverage and on our website.

Case Study

Turning life around for Madoc and his single mum Anna.

Anna lives in Harrogate with her two teenage sons, Madoc and Mani. As a single mum, the summer holidays are always a challenge, but especially so for Anna, who has Lupus, and was also recently diagnosed with breast cancer.

Madoc at a Dopeamine session

The family learned about FEAST shortly after the last Covid lockdown, when Madoc and his friends returned to school. He was disillusioned, overweight and starting to get into a bit of trouble, both at school and with the police. One of our FEAST activity providers Dopeamin visited Madoc's school and spoke to them on their level - Dopeamin were offering a chance for the students to be heard, to be understood and to express themselves.

Madoc attended the Dopeamin sessions through FEAST, and loved it from the very start. The young people didn't just learn how to exercise, but also how to eat well, how to look after themselves, and take care of their mental health. Madoc lost that excess weight and started to feel better emotionally and mentally too.

Mum Anna explains: "He feels good about himself, he's in the right head space, and he's got a routine. As a result, I'd say he's really turned a corner, and now he's training to be an electrician. It's a huge reassurance for me – I'm just so happy for him."

She adds: "I was amazed that I could book the Dopeamin sessions for free through FEAST – without those vouchers, I wouldn't be able to afford it. Thanks to these sessions, both my boys have something to do in the holidays – they're not just lazing in bed or hanging around the streets. When you're a parent with an acute health condition, sometimes I think your children are more vulnerable, because they don't want to worry you with their problems. Having someone else in their life like Adam, who cares for them too, reassures me that they're OK. And I just feel so lucky to have that there."

Working with partners

We cannot reach all the families in North Yorkshire who could benefit from FEAST by ourselves. But more importantly, some families need the reassurance of a trusted partner to feel comfortable booking an activity for their child.

That's why we've built relationships with some of the county's most influential and trusted organisations and empowered them to spread the word on our behalf.

We're proud to partner with the Refugee Council, North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre, Broadacres, Up for Yorkshire and many more, including a range of teams at North Yorkshire Council. We've equipped them with tailored toolkits to share with their audience and tracked some incredible results.

Key Highlights

- 123% increase in traffic to the FEAST website from 'referring' external websites from 22/23 to 23/24
- 288% increase in use of our QR code on printed materials for partners

"Over the last three years, FEAST has developed into an important part of North Yorkshire's support for children and young people. By connecting with our teams such Early Help and Social Care, FEAST has not only provided enriching activities and healthy meals, but it has provided vital respite, diversionary activities and information, advice and guidance that supports North Yorkshire Council to deliver the best it can for families across the county." ***– Mel Hutchinson, Assistant Director Children and Families Service, North Yorkshire Council***

Working with schools

A critical route to reaching families is via North Yorkshire's schools, and we are very fortunate to have a dedicated Pupils & Schools Lead on the FEAST team.

Through this, we communicate regularly with schools to share updates and toolkits, and to encourage them to share information about FEAST with their school community. As well as direct messages, we also place updates in Head Teacher e-newsletters, and support events at teacher conferences. Schools have their own FAQs page on our website, which we update regularly to ensure they are informed and equipped to spread the word about FEAST. We continue to be grateful to all our schools for supporting the programme and helping to ensure that eligible families are not missed.

Key Highlights

- Over 1,000 visits to the FEAST website in 23/24 from school communication links
- 95% of school respondents find distributing their FEAST vouchers easy or very easy
- 90% are aware of what FEAST activities happen locally

"You are doing an amazing job and helping a lot of families. Keep up the good work!" ***– Killinghall CE Primary School***

Working with growing network of activity providers

With their own established audience, our activity providers are great ambassadors for FEAST. We support them to spread the word with marketing training sessions, a marketing toolkit, a comprehensive provider section of our website and branded assets to help us achieve consistency across what we share.

In return, we're also glad to share the work of our providers in our press releases, our website blog and our social media channels.

Key Highlights

- 96% of FEAST providers say they want to deliver FEAST again
- 92% of all places offered by providers are filled
- Providers gave a score of 4.5 out of 5 to FEAST for the marketing and communications support they receive

"Thanks to FEAST, we now have new members, many of whom want to take part in activities outside of FEAST too. We also have parents wanting to take part in volunteering to support us further. Some said our FEAST activities have been a lifeline for them." ***– Neurodiverse Community Catterick***

Finance

As a large programme, funded by the public purse, it is incredibly important that FEAST provides value for money. All payments are made centrally by North Yorkshire Council and undergo a number of compliance checks prior to approval, to ensure expenditure is made and allocated within the terms of the DfE grant criteria.

The vast majority of the DfE grant is spent on the direct delivery of FEAST activities. Programme administration never accounts for more than 10% of expenditure. The 'Other' category includes costs such as promotions and marketing, the cost of our free travel service for children living in rural communities, wraparound support services and materials, nutrition and booking system

Last year, 70% of all funding was spent directly delivering FEAST activities, being invested straight into North Yorkshire VCSE and SME organisations.

Expenditure in the 'Other' category was relatively low in the first year of delivery due to the constraints of the pandemic and the lower cost of remote provision. In 2022/23 the programme started to introduce additional wrap-around provision and in 2023/24 this was increased further with the addition of specialist nutritional support. The booking system, that also coordinates the allocation and distribution of activity vouchers, was also implemented in 2023/24.

70% of all funding was spent directly delivering FEAST activities

Expenditure	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Programme Administration	**£103,000**	**£98,400**	**£118,000**
Programme Delivery Expenditure	**£775,046**	**£954,878**	**£962,233**
Other	**£75,635**	**£14,632**	**£293,630**
Total Expenditure	**£953,681**	**£1,167,910**	**£1,373,863**
Payments from DfE	**£953,681**	**£1,167,910**	**£1,373,863**

Governance

Governance is key to ensuring FEAST runs smoothly, is inclusive and equitable and is connected to and benefitting from a wide range of partnerships and collaborations across the county. Strong governance allows FEAST to leverage different types of expertise and to contribute to the challenges and opportunities of other strategic initiatives and teams across the council. We use different levels of governance to ensure the correct level of scrutiny and experience is brought to the delivery of this large-scale programme.

Operational Steering Group:

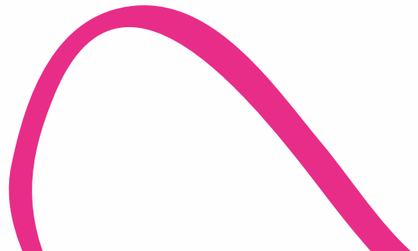
- supports FEAST to establish and execute its short-and medium-term goals
- enables those directly involved in the programme to discuss difficult challenges and consider a more holistic review of delivery and successes
- serves as a discussion and preparation ground for issues and ideas that will be progressed to the Strategic Steering Group for decision

Attendees include representatives from North Yorkshire Together, North Yorkshire Youth, North Yorkshire Sport, Rural Arts, Faye Levi Marketing and North Yorkshire Council's Early Help, Localities and Healthy Schools teams.

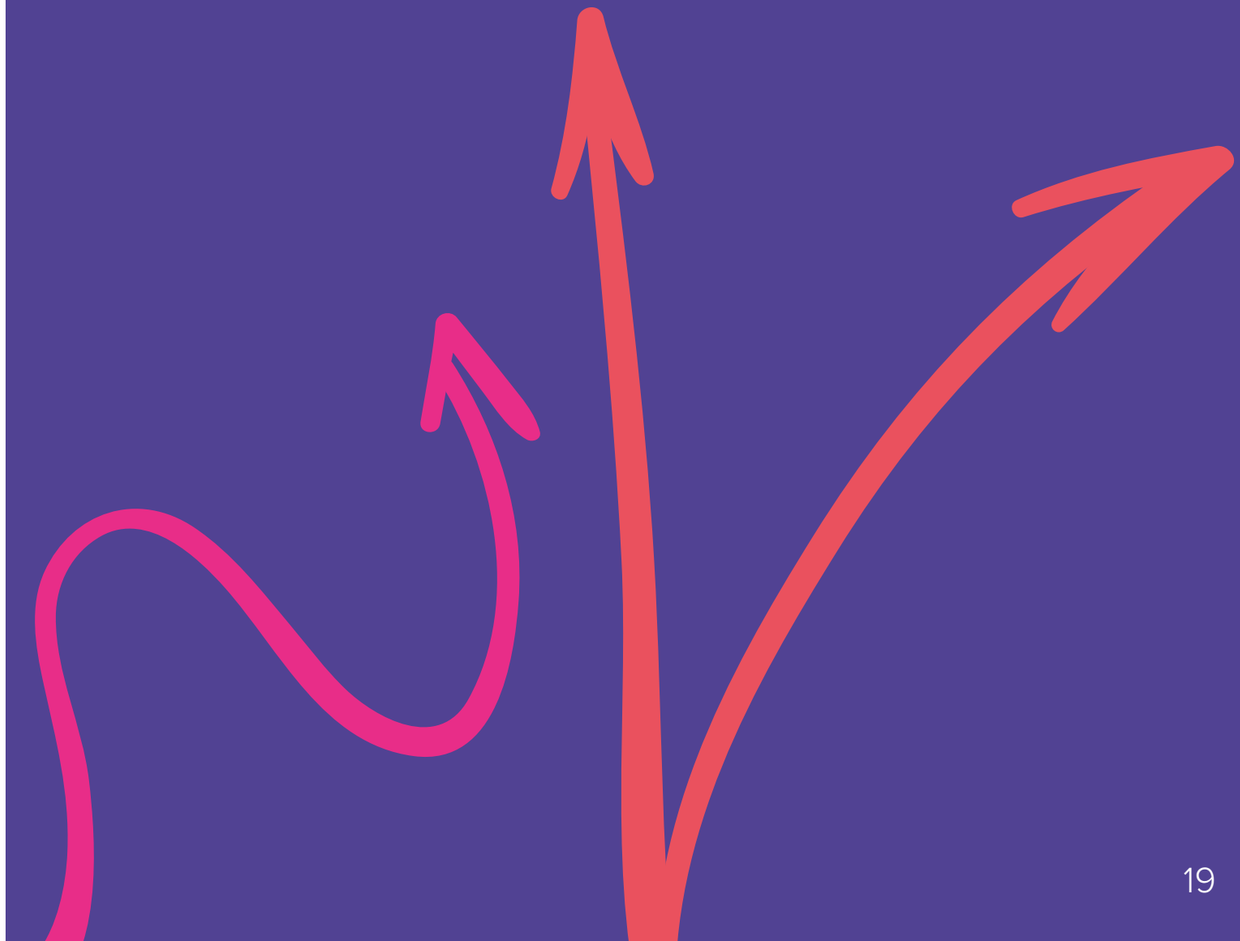
Strategic Steering Group:

- supports FEAST with all longer-term and strategic decision making
- discusses, establishes and informs the direction of the programme
- takes action to ensure the programme reaches its long-term goals
- connects to other strategic initiatives
- holds the programme to account for those who need it the most

Alongside the Chief Executives of North Yorkshire Sport, North Yorkshire Youth and Rural Arts, and the Strategic Director of North Yorkshire Together, Strategic Steering Group members include strategic leads from many North Yorkshire Council departments, such as Head of Localities, Communities Localities Lead, Early Help East Group Manager, Lead SEND Development Officer, Public Health Manager, Effective Practice Youth Voice & Creative Engagement Manager, Localities Migrant Programmes Manager, Community Development Programmes Manager, Head of Virtual School, School Improvement Service Principle advisor, Assistant Director Strategic Resources and Head of Culture and Archives. External partners include representatives from North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.



"I firmly believe that the success of FEAST is in a large part due to the strong and trusted relationships that exist between the Council and a range of voluntary sector and community partners. These local groups and clubs know their communities and vitally can make links with other groups in their areas such as local shops and cafes. Working with North Yorkshire Together, with their extensive knowledge and experience of delivering activities in our towns and rural communities, has been critical to ensuring that children and young people across North Yorkshire have been able to access this much-needed holiday programme." ***– Marie-Ann Jackson, Head of Localities and Chair of FEAST's Strategic Steering Group.***



Next Steps

FEAST provides a very necessary and highly valuable service to families across the county. In the last three years, FEAST has fed and enriched the lives of over 21,000 children and young people who face significant financial and/or other disadvantage.

Since 2021, FEAST has provided over 86,000 places at free activities – and in turn this means that we have provided at least 86,000 free, high quality meals for those at risk of experiencing 'holiday hunger'.

Funding for the programme nationally is currently secured until March 2025 for the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays between April 2024 and March 2025. We will continue to work hard on delivering our programme priorities to:

- Increase participation rates and continue to mitigate against non-attendance
- Increase volume of specialist SEND provision available
- Increase volume of secondary provision available through increased collaboration with youth settings and greater youth voice
- Increase opportunities for families' participation in activities
- Work closely with breakfast club and wraparound care coordinators.

Recognising the value of the programme, North Yorkshire Council through its partnership with North Yorkshire Together and other partners will shortly begin to identify potential further funding to extend this highly successful programme.

It is unknown at the time of publishing this report as to whether HAF will continue to be funded from national government. If further DfE funding for HAF is made available, there may be the option to explore the ability to extend into other holiday periods, or broaden eligibility criteria, if we are successful in securing any additional external investment.

If national funding for HAF does not continue, we will look to attract funding from other key funders or alternatively to provide a legacy within the existing activity provider network to ensure they can continue to thrive and provide vital support for those most disadvantaged within North Yorkshire.

Helmsley Arts Centre

Find out more about FEAST

North Yorkshire Council receives funding to deliver FEAST from the Department for Education. North Yorkshire Together is commissioned by North Yorkshire Council to coordinate FEAST.

To find out more about FEAST, visit northyorkshiretogether.co.uk/FEAST

You can also find out more at northyorks.gov.uk/community-and-volunteering/cost-living-support

If you are a school, a family, a member of the public or a potential partner for the programme, please email hello@northyorkshiretogether.co.uk

If you're a potential or existing activity provider, please email grants@northyorkshiretogether.co.uk

You can also phone **01845 980141.**

Please note, our team works part time. If we can't take your call, please leave a voicemail.

Neurodiverse Community Catterick

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Department for Education

HolidayActivities