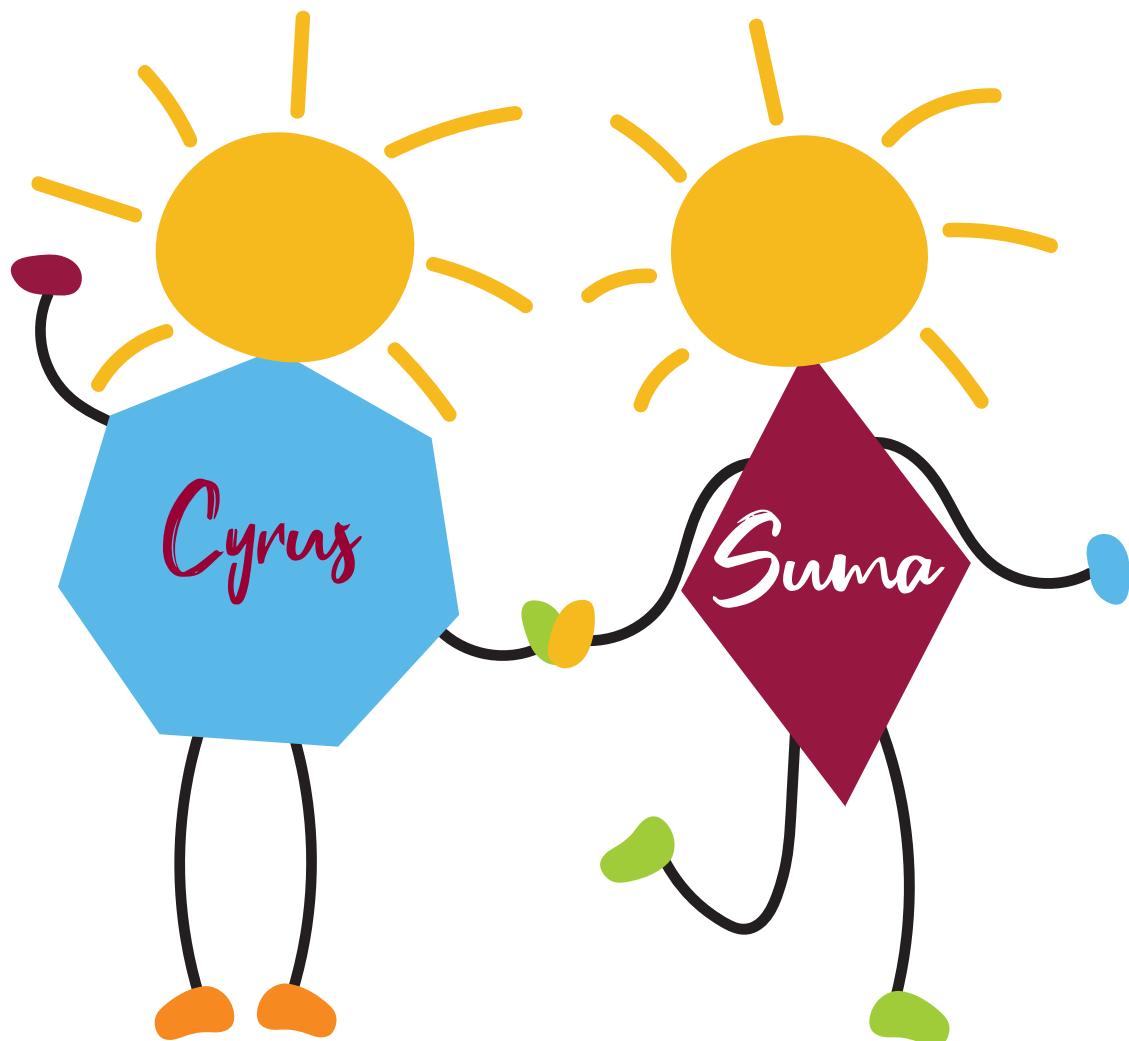




Summer Review!



*Please enjoy
reading about the
fantastic time we
have had!*



Summer 2021

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Introduction

Welcome to our Summer review document

This is the third year we have created a programme of activities for young people and their families In Hampshire. For 2021 the funding was provided by the Department for Education and distributed to local authorities. Organisations were then invited to bid for grant funding.

The team that delivered Connect4Families and Connect4Youth have a wealth of experience in community development. When planning this programme the ethos was to ensure that we created a 'legacy' and that everyone attending gained something to help them in later life.

Programmes ensured that:

- Activities were skilled based
- Family experiences were shared and gained
- Learning embedded across the programme
- Signposting using agencies attending events
- Information distribution – including FSM assessment
- Good hot food enjoyed together at all venues
- Good quality resources for all activities
- Skilled specialists providing that 'something special'
- Wow factor at every event
- Youth programme included
- Trips out and new experiences

The programme delivered for 2021:

16 individual Festival Days in Havant, Test Valley, Bordon, New Forest and Fareham

16 Youth Days
in Havant

8 Youth Days
in Romsey

8 Youth Days
in Andover



29th July – 19th August 2021
FAMILY FESTIVAL DAYS
YOUTH PROJECTS

"This was very fun and better than what we do at school. This was the best day ever!" Alfie

Impact of Covid 19

To ensure certainty for participants we took an early decision that to try and prevent the programme being cancelled, we had to, wherever possible, deliver activities outside.

So, we created the 'Family Festival Day'. Our motivation behind this was that risk would be reduced outside, there would be much more room to social distance, venues would be more amenable and the event would be safer for both families and staff attending.

Each venue was visited, and bespoke risk assessments created for each, risk assessments were reviewed daily. Throughout the programme staff were asked to take daily lateral flow tests, wear masks travelling to venues and whilst delivering the day. Cleaning products and sanitisers were widely available throughout.

Although we experienced small numbers of staff testing positive, both the level of planning and quality of staff ensured that the programme ran as planned. Specialists were also tested prior to attending.

Due to the nature of The Youth Programme activities we had to deliver these both inside and outside. This programme was more affected by young people self-isolating, which reflected school attendance numbers during June and July.

Parents and staff were extremely good at communicating any concerns regarding Covid-19.

We estimated a 10% daily reduction in attendance due to the effects of Covid-19.



"Outstanding day. Kids have had the best day. Great choice of things for all ages. Very friendly staff and as usual food was delicious.." Chantelle

Recruitment

The Team required for the summer was significantly smaller in numbers than previous years because we decided to have one team for the festivals that moved from venue to venue. This ensured continuity and prevented mixing of bubbles.

We recruited those that had previous experience with us for the following vacancies:

- Festival – Lead Playworker
- Festival – Deputy Lead Playworker
- Festival – 8 Playworkers
- Youth – Lead Youth Playworker for Park Community School
- Youth – Lead Youth Playworker for Romsey Community School/Harrow Way
- Youth – 2 Youth Playworkers for Park Community School
- Youth – 2 Youth Playworkers for Romsey Community School/Harrow Way
- 2 minibus drivers
- 1 lorry driver
- 10 specialists per day for Festivals
- 32 days of specialists for Youth Days

Safer Recruitment

Everyone engaged completed an application form, supplied references, was interviewed by two people, had both an identity and a DBS check and was paid through a payroll system.



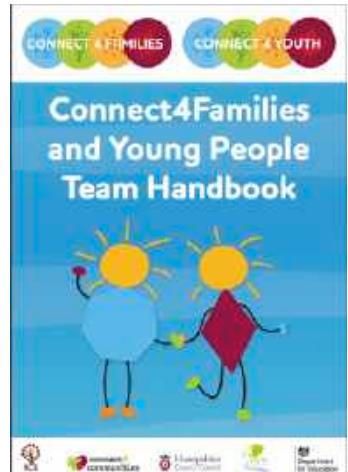
Induction and Training

The four coordinators all received excellent training and knowledge from the Hampshire County Council Connect4Communities team. All documentation they received was then cascaded to the staff.

Our Teams then took part in 2 virtual training sessions. Followed by 2 full days training in person before the start of the programme. The training consisted of:

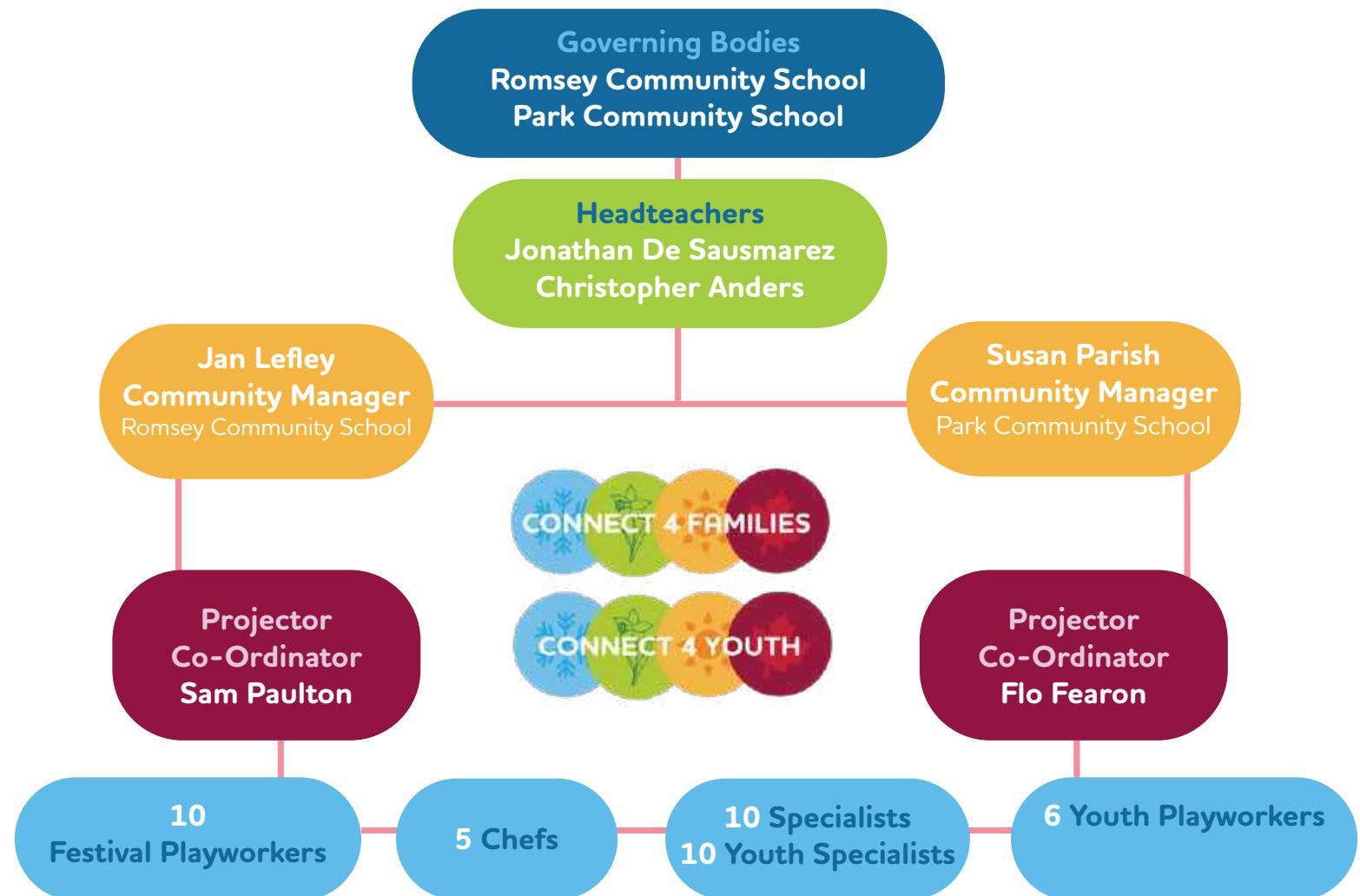
- Roles and responsibilities
- Safeguarding
- Behaviour that challenges – supporting families
- Risk assessments
- Health and safety – living in Covid times
- Manual handling – important in setting up festivals daily
- Managing mealtimes
- First aid
- Signposting
- Dress code
- Delivering the activities
- Grand Prix style how effectively can you unload a lorry, set up a Festival, and load back again all with a smile on your face!
- Identifying issues, how to approach families

Every member of the team received a Connect4Families and Young People Team Handbook and uniform t-shirts. The handbook illustrated reasons behind the choice of specialists and activities. It explained the benefits and how to encourage and extend the skills being shown. The programme was created by an Assistant Headteacher to ensure we maximised learning opportunities where possible.



"Safe environment for the children. Varied activities to keep the little ones engaged with an emphasis on health and creativity." Sarah

The Team



“Safe environment for the children. Varied activities to keep the little ones engaged with an emphasis on health and creativity.” Sarah

Connect4Families Festival Days

Connect4Communities asked us to provide the festivals in 5 areas. We identified the venues where data showed most need, according to FSM and deprivation.

Families experienced a wide range of activities every day, including: making smoothies, physical activities, wellbeing sessions, English, maths, geography, problem solving and arts and crafts.

To ensure facilities met required standards, all venues were visited, health and safety checks completed and Covid-19 risk assessments put in place.

A typical Festival Day

From June 2021 families were able to book through the website www.connect4.org.uk. Families arrived at 10.30 and registered. Each day there was a minimum of:

- 10 Specialist activities
- 10 Playworker led activities
- Lunch at 12 noon
- Conversation corner
- Selections of partner agencies attended

Specialists for the Festival Days

All the specialists were chosen because they enabled a child to experience a new skill alongside their parent. We believe we chose something for everyone, providing variety of skills, learning and enjoyment.

With many families on a limited income, the farm each day was a great addition.



The poster features a colorful design with a house-like shape at the top containing a fireworks graphic and three circular icons with trees. Below this, the text 'CONNECT 4 FAMILIES' is displayed. The main title 'CONNECT4FAMILIES FAMILY FESTIVAL DAY' is in large, bold letters. The time '10.30 – 2.30pm at a venue near you' is below it. A section titled 'Activities' lists various offerings: Petting Farm, Mr Giant Balloon modelling, Computer Xplorers, Clay making, Singing with Urban Vocal Group, Circus skills, Yoga for the family, Dallaglio RugbyWorks, Jewellery making, Arts and craft. To the right, two cartoon characters (a blue hexagon and a red diamond) are holding balloons. A pink box contains the hashtag '#HAF2021'. A large yellow star on the left has the word 'FREE!' written in it. At the bottom, a red banner provides booking information: 'To book visit www.connect4.org.uk or email admin@connect4.org.uk'. A small note at the bottom states: 'These events are all free to attend and are primarily aimed at but not limited to families on free school meals.'



Free fun activities and food for all to enjoy

Wednesday 28th July	Cams Hill School Fareham PO16 8AH
Thursday 29th July	Trotman School Havant PO9 3BD
Friday 30th July	Weyford Primary School Bordon GU35 0EP
Sunday 1st August	Phoenix Centre Andover SP10 5HW
Monday 2nd August	Forest Community Centre, GU35 0BS
Tuesday 3rd August	Carver's Clubhouse, Ringwood, BH24 1JD
Wednesday 4th August	Stockbridge Primary School Stockbridge SO20 6EJ
Thursday 5th August	Warren Park Primary School Havant PO9 4LR
Monday 9th August	Calmore Infants School Totton SO40 2ZZ
Tuesday 10th August	Ewart Recreation Ground, Hythe, SO45 6DG
Wednesday 11th August	Henry Cort Community College Fareham PO15 6PH
Saturday 14th August	Hayling Island Community Centre Hayling Island PO11 0HB
Monday 16th August	Bordon Junior School, Budds Lane Bordon GU35 0JB
Tuesday 17th August	Romsey Community School Romsey SO51 8ZB
Wednesday 18th August	Fareham Heathens Rugby Club Fareham PO14 1DJ
Thursday 19th August	Park Community School Havant PO9 4BU



"It's so important to find things we can do during the summer that are affordable and provide opportunities for children to learn and enjoy life." Caroline

Specialists

Balloon modelling:

- Balloon modelling is an exciting skill to engage children and inspire their creativity.
- Balloon modelling requires patience and practice and will teach children that they have to stick at something to become a master. You can experiment and be imaginative in this activity.

Computer Xplorers:

- In a world where technology is everywhere, upskilling children to be able to develop their skills in a safe and responsible way is vital.
- Engaging and develop imagination and creativity.
- IT sessions aim to develop confidence and basic IT skills that will allow children to function in a technology-driven world.

First Aid:

- A few basic skills for your child could make the difference in an emergency.
- First Aid makes children more risk aware so they can keep themselves and others safe.
- Confidence to respond in difficult situations, develops coping skills and strategies.

Clay modelling:

- Develops hand-eye coordination and allows children to be creative. How to present ideas in a 3-dimensional way.
- Clay develops fine motor skills and dexterity and encourages play-based learning.
- Children are free to make mistakes and try again, practising and developing their ideas until they are happy with them.

Crystals:

- Creative projects are vitally important to young people's development as they allow children to explore a range of resources, use their imagination and have fun!
- Using a range of colourful glass crystals, children will brighten up basic items, transforming them into their own project piece.
- Fine motor skills are developed through manipulating art materials which helps to support skills such as handwriting.

Yoga:

- Yoga gives young children a better awareness of their own bodies and how they move. Develops confidence and communication skills and is a brilliant way to relax.
- Yoga teaches children how to use breathing and poses to calm down and concentrate and can be used as a tool in daily life.
- Yoga has physical benefits such as enhancing flexibility, refining balance and improving co-ordination.

Circus skills:

- Engage children in gentle exercise whilst building self-confidence. Through learning circus skills, hand-eye coordination and gross motor skills are developed alongside the development of rhythm and reflex speed.
- Children develop the ability to concentrate and persist at a skill until it is mastered. Circus skills are fun, and research suggest that skills such as juggling even improve brain power!

Farm:

- Exploring animals is magical and an educational experience.
- Children will develop their vocabulary as they are exposed to different animals, breeds and farm equipment. It encourages a healthy lifestyle and raises questions about where our food comes from. An appreciation of nature is developed, and children can explore how crops are grown.
- Caring for animals develops a sense of responsibility and is a great way to get children to think about their own care.

Vocals:

- Singing helps to develop language skills through watching, listening and practising. Gives self-confidence and encourages communication. Music and singing are fun, and singing together builds a sense of community and belonging.
- Learning to sing as a child, causes the brain to do multiple tasks at once, aiding memory and concentration.
- Singing has physical benefits in terms of developing breathing techniques and helping with relaxation and wellbeing.

Rugby

- Rugby has a range of benefits for children in terms of both physical and social and emotional skills.
- Rugby is a social sport and relies on teamwork and communication skills as well as self-discipline.
- Physically, rugby develops the gross motor skills of kicking, catching, running, and jumping whilst improving balance and hand-eye coordination.

Baton twirling

- An art which develops performance skills and allows children to develop their motor skills. It develops agility and helps them to improve their mental alertness.
- Practicing routines allows children to develop their memory and to master a skill. Children develop hand-eye coordination and core balance through a number of different moves.
- Baton twirling also allows children to work as part of a team and develop confidence and performance skills.

"It's been great to learn new skills – particularly the Lego coding and singing tips, and find out about services in the local area." Zoe

Playworker led activities

Six activities were specifically developed and included in this programme because they were based on reading, writing, maths, geography, environment and physicality.

Planting seeds

Families first made their biodegradable plant pot out of old newspapers. They were then able to add compost, and seeds and then take home and put straight into the ground.

Water usage

This was showing families how much water we use, what we can do to save this precious commodity, how to measure liquid using different measures, starting the conversation, asking the questions and challenging misconceptions.

Monster reading trail

Families hunted around the festival for clues which described a mysterious creature. Once they felt they had enough clues they came back and drew what the creature looked like. They could label their image with the clues that they had discovered.

Create a story

We had a tub full of slips of paper with words on it. Families selected 10 words without peaking and then made a story up containing those 10 words. Families could tell their story or write it down. We also suggested they could pick 10 words and complete an evaluation postcard using them.



Journey around the world

We had a laminated world map and families were given a series of statements about famous characters who went on a journey. They had to use the map to discover which character travelled the furthest. They used string and ruler to convert into miles.

Mini Olympics

We just had to include this. A whole series of physical activities that they scored points for. Shot put, beanbags into hoops, keepy uppies, discus throwing and balance. This proved to be a very competitive activity.

We brought to the festivals a Smoothie Bike and children cycled to make their perfect smoothie.

We had a table every day of fruit and vegetable tasting. It is always surprising the number of tastes children have not experienced. We provided the popular arts and craft messy table.



"Kids had a really good day – they loved making smoothies by peddling the bike. Very inclusive for disabilities." Stacey

Food glorious food

It was extremely important to us that we provided hot food daily; hot food is not so easy when you are travelling from place to place and at most of the venues we did not have the use of a kitchen.

The Park Community Catering Team used a family favourite from last year, Jacket Potatoes and Quorn Chilli, with the added choice of; grated cheese, coleslaw, salad and baked beans. As always there was a great pudding to finish.

This worked well because the:

- Ingredients were not high risk
- Did not use a meat product
- Met school food standards
- It could be travelled and held hot safely
- It is popular with families



"Thank you for the wonderfully organised fun day. I think the festival idea is very good. The food was lovely and the programme of activities were great and varied. We felt that the day was pitched just right and we were not bored and feel very grateful for the event, and the fact that it was free. Brilliant!"

Nicole

120kg
Cheese grated



Steven Cross

Head Chef at Park Community School

**FOOD
USED**

192kg
Quorn Mince

160kg
Baked Beans

960kg
Potatoes
4800
Potatoes

48kg
Lettuce
250
Cucumbers
80kg
Tomatoes

"Lunch was easily adapted for everyone 10/10." Katy

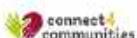
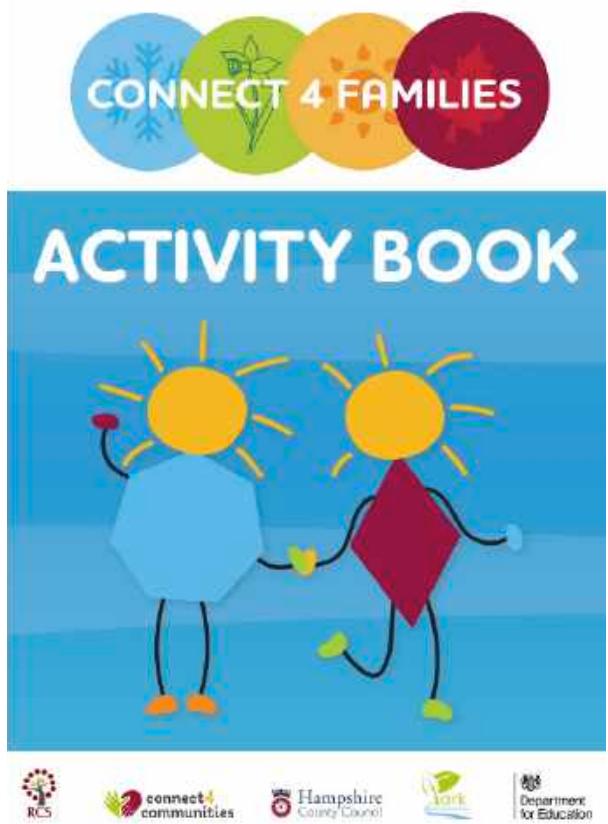
Partners, Agencies and Conversation Corner

At each festival there was a range of different organisations that could benefit families whether it be giving advice, signposting, food, listening ear, checking on entitlement to FSM, learning opportunities and disseminating freebies that we had received from various organisations.

This proved popular and organisations that took part all reported back the usefulness of the opportunity. Many of the families that spoke were the 'working poor' who are not catered for, or considered 'in need' when sometimes their circumstances are more precarious than those entitled to FSM. We offered information and advice about community pantries and employment opportunities. There was live music at every event.

Activity Book

Every family was given an Activity Book, created by us, to take home as a lasting momento containing receipes and craft activities to use in the home.



"Today has helped me gain more confidence and that no matter what you can do anything." Shailey

How did we do?

"I really enjoyed the singing class. It was my first time using a microphone and I had so much fun singing "This Is Me". **Dede**

"Brilliant day out for the family. Loads of activities for the kids with educational emphasis too!" **Carol**

"Absolutely brilliant day for all, really enjoyed my day out as a Nanny. Wish there was more of them." **Jackie**

"Wonderful event, we had loads of fun, informative and educational." **Zenia**

"I cannot believe this was free. My son and I had a great time. He particularly loved the karoke." **Kim**

"I liked it because it was very interactive and a new experience." **Thomas**

"Awesome day, thank you. I am genuinely blown away by the entire event. Our first free event, wasn't sure to expect." **Mel**

"We had a really good day! Was really surprised how good it was for a free event" **Finley**

"Thanks everyone we had a fab day. The kids' favourite bit was badge making and Mummy favourite bit was lunch!" **Sandra**

"I loved everything 100/10. Loved everything especially the balloon man, singing teacher and circus." **Jordan**

"Our first visit and we've had a lovely day. I have a range of ages with me and there was something for everyone." **Kathryn**

"Everything amazing, my children loved it all specially the colouring of t-shirts, circus and farm animals." **Hadil**

“Amazing – thanks for such a successful day – it was a great experience. Hope it can be done again soon.” **Rebecca**

“My son, 6, absolutely loved the circus. Staff very helpful and kind and polite.” **Kelly**

“Amazing day so many activities that were so well organised. My girls have had a great day.” **Jo**

“Very good sport and active activities and computers. Great for 10 years and above.” **Julie**

“Great day for the family. Friendly staff with lots of varied activities.” **Kirsty**

“Even the rain didn’t stop our fun today. Plenty of things to do. Very well organised.” **Amber**

“We have enjoyed the petting zoo learning about all the ways to look after them. The friendly staff.” **Joanne**



“My child thought the day was awesome. Such a lovely mixture of things to do.” **Emma**

“We showcased our music to families at Festivals and enjoyed the experience of live performing!” **Jessica and Veronica**

“Stayed all day, the live singer was so so good. Loved the petting zoo, keyrings, badges, boxing. Lunch provided was healthy and very tasty.” **Jade**

Connect4Youth Days

We were asked to provide 32 days of activities for the 11–16 age group in Havant and Test Valley. The question is what do you offer young people that will encourage them to choose what we had to offer rather than a computer screen, or extra time in bed?

We did some research and identified what seems to be currently popular with young people. Although initially disappointed with slow bookings, gradually throughout the second week numbers increased and by the end of the 16 days numbers were reasonable.

We engaged a range of specialists aiming to offer something for everyone, from those who wanted a physical activity, to those wanting to learn a new skill, do something they enjoyed, be creative or be challenged. We also included two mystery tours, one being a coach trip to an Escape Room, the other a trip to Queen Elizabeth Country Park for bushcraft and orienteering. The specialists we engaged were always supported by a Play Leader and 2 Playworkers.



"I liked trying something new like the graffiti art. I had a good day and liked the food too!" Joe

Activities for 11-16 years

FREE ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY SPECIALISTS

More details and to book on our website www.connect4.org.uk for each activity
LUNCH INCLUDED Limited places available

DATE TIME 10AM-3PM	Park Community School, Havant PO9 4B	Romsey Community School, Romsey SO51 8ZB	Harrow Way Community School, Andover SP10 3RH
Mon 26th July	Graffiti Art	Let's Get Physical	
Tues 27th July	Commercial Musical Bootcamp with UVG led by Amba Tremian	Creative Day	
Wed 28th July	Creative Day	Graffiti Art	
Thurs 29th July	Computer Xplorers	Computer Xplorers	
Mon 2nd Aug	Woodwork	Commercial Musical Bootcamp with UVG led by Amba Tremian	
Tues 3rd Aug	Let's Get Physical	Bake Off	
Wed 4th Aug	Mystery Tour	Mystery Tour	
Thurs 5th Aug	Escape to the Future	Escape to the Future	
Mon 9th Aug	Football with Pompey in the Community		Creative Day
Tues 10th Aug	Creative Day		Computer Xplorers
Wed 11th Aug	Bake Off		Commercial Musical Bootcamp with UVG led by Amba Tremian
Thurs 12th Aug	Computer Xplorers		Dallaglio Rugby Works Summer Camp
Mon 16th Aug	Commercial Musical Bootcamp with UVG led by Amba Tremian		Let's Get Physical
Tues 17th Aug	Dallaglio Rugby Works		Bake Off
Wed 18th Aug	Mystery Tour		Mystery Tour
Thurs 19th Aug	Escape to the Future		Escape to the Future



"The workshop was very enjoyable for everyone of all ages. There is something for everyone to do." Ayden

"I enjoyed todays dance session because we did different things and I also enjoyed the football." Chloe



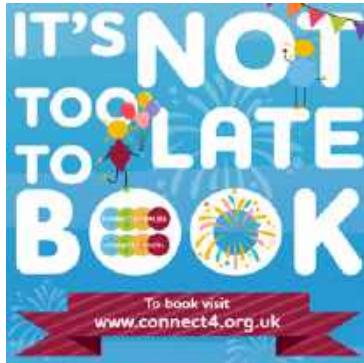
Marketing

In the run up to the end of term we sent marketing material to all schools close to the area where the activities were going to be held. Distribution of this through the various school's channels of communications had mixed results

Where to find information about the activities was also supplied to Schools across Hampshire by Connect4Communities..

We had a strong presence on Facebook and tagged many community groups into our posts. Creative in what we were posting, we received lots of positive feedback. Cyrus and Suma featured throughout, a firm favourite for the second year running.

Every night after a day of activities a selection of photos was posted to celebrate the day and encourage more families and young people to attend.



"Fantastic day, kids enjoyed all the activities, especially the petting zoo. Big shout out to the jacket potatoes" Kelly

Achievements

4719
bookings

3545
attended

57%
FSM
attended

1216
hours of
specialist
activity

32 days of
Young
People's
Programme

2990
individual
children
attended at
least once

75%
total
attendance

500+
feedback
comments

16
days of
Family
Festivals

Over 4,000
hot meals
provided

Partners

We received significant positive feedback from partners and agencies that were present at the festivals. They were able to engage with hard to reach families and young people. Many took names to follow up at a later date.

Citizens Advice
Portsmouth City Council Housing
Biscoe's Solicitors
Stop Domestic Abuse
Everyone Active
Family Support Service
Volunteer First
Hampshire Libraries
Hampshire Police
Home Start Hampshire
Forestry England
Hampshire Healthy Families
Connect to Support Hampshire
No Limits
Southern NHS school nursing team
Ready Easy
Social Prescribers
Motiv8
Havant and East Hants Mind
Bridge Advice Centre
Places Leisure

In our Conversation Corner

- Over 25 parents were supported to check if they were entitled to FSM.
- 9 people in the New Forest signed up for an employment project
- 120+ food bags were given out at the festivals
- 53 new sign ups for food pantries



"Even great in the rain. So many nice activities and great food too. A very happy family." Kelly

Going Forward

The summer was fantastic, with great engagement by families, young people and partners/agencies.

We need to consider the following based on what we have learnt.

- Engaging young people takes a lot of energy and time. It is about building relationships and the need to find what 'they like to do'. It is a slow process but brings great rewards when it works. There needs to be a greater co-ordination between young people, youth agencies, schools and HAF providers.
- We need to look at how we market and engage our target audience, youth, so that it appeals.
- We met lots of families whose circumstances had changed dramatically because of Covid. Many were working several jobs, still not able to cover their bills and not eligible for benefits. We need to consider how we meet their needs.
- Throughout summer we delivered at the weekends and it was very much appreciated by those parents that are separated allowing them to experience a family event. Also for those working it allowed them to attend as a family unit and experience fun. This generated footfall for some community centres who would normally be closed at the weekend and allowed them to engage with new users.

We believe that we have raised the profile of the benefits of this project to the community, councils, schools, agencies and partners. Without a doubt we are extremely proud of what Connect4Families and Connect4Youth achieved this year. We maintain that this has been no 'sticking plaster' and in the fullness of time the impact, benefit and legacy will be clear for all to see. All those that visited during the summer could see the benefit on the day. Families were engaged in learning, receiving information, were signposted, took part in physical activities and learnt about food preparation and cooking.

We received great support from the HAF Team at Hampshire County Council and from our Governing Bodies and Headteachers.

Thank you to everyone who has made this happen. As they say there is no 'I' in Team and it has been a great team effort. Everyone has worked incredibly hard, with tenacity and enthusiasm throughout.

Looking forward to Christmas!

***Best Wishes
Connect4Families and Youth Team***



"A great day out for my family. All ages enjoyed and liked the food!" Ruby

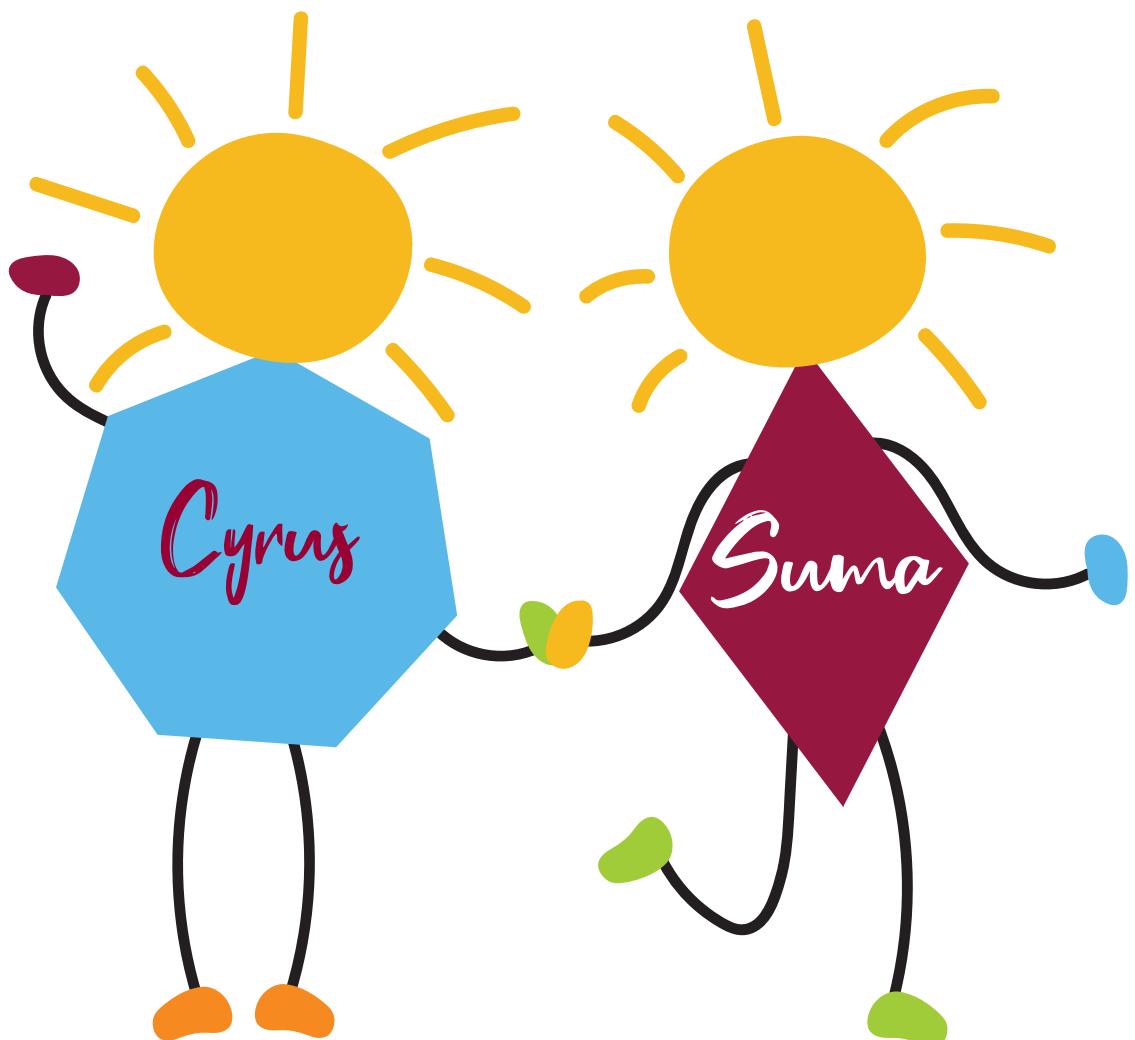
Feedback

500+ feedback comments received





*Thanks for
reading!
See you
next year!*



**Thank you to everyone that has supported
this programme you have been amazing!**

- Organisations that added value
- Staff, volunteers and centres
- Governing Bodies and Headteachers that gave us the freedom to fulfill our dream to do this
- HCC Connect4Communities for granting us the funding

**Thank you most of all to
everyone who came**

Summer 2021 was amazing!

www.connect4.org.uk

 admin@connect4families.com  facebook.com/Connect4Families

www.romsey.hants.sch.uk

www.pcs.hants.sch.uk

Jan Lefley - RCS Head Office, Romsey Community School, Greatbridge Road, Romsey, SO51 8ZB. Phone: 01794 522106

Susan Parish - Park Community School, Middle Park Way, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 4BU. Phone: 02392 489811