

**TOGETHER
MIDDLESBROUGH
& CLEVELAND** ⊕

A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN
THE DIOCESE OF YORK AND CUF

FEAST OF FUN

The logo for 'FEAST OF FUN' is rendered in a bold, sans-serif font with a color gradient from orange to red. The word 'FEAST' is on the top line, and 'OF FUN' is on the bottom line. The 'O' in 'OF' is replaced by a circular icon containing a fork and a knife. To the right of the text, there are three balloons in shades of orange and red, with strings and bows.

Evaluation Report
2019

Author: Heather Black & Jenna Casey

Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland Registered Charity 1159355 Registered Company 9196281 c/o
The Trinity Centre, James Street, North Ormesby, Middlesbrough TS3 6LD www.togethermc.org.uk

Acknowledgements

Summer 2019 Feast of Fun is the product of 6 years of growth and development of the programme across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. We would like to thank the hundreds of staff and volunteers whose time, energy, and passion made Feast of Fun possible. Without you we would not be able to provide support to hundreds of local children, young people, and families who struggle during the long summer holidays. We would also like to thank all the parents, children, young people, and volunteers who kindly took time to be interviewed, giving us valuable insights into the need for holiday provision and the difference it makes.

This year saw more businesses and organisations partner with Feast of Fun than ever before. We would especially like to thank Quorn Foods, the National Literary Trust, Middlesbrough Environment City, Middlesbrough College, the North York Moors National Park Centre at Danby, the Bowes Museum, RSPB Saltholme, Teesside University, Teesside Wildlife Trust, the Wensleydale Railway, and Kirkleatham Museum. Thanks also go to Middlesbrough Council, Meals and More, the Ballinger Charitable Trust, and Awards for All for the funding provided to support the programme. We are also indebted to the many churches and individuals who gave donations and organised fundraising activities to support Feast of Fun.

Feast of Fun 2019 Evaluation Report

Executive Summary

Background

There have been growing concerns about childhood hunger during school holidays in the UK. The Feast of Fun programme in Middlesbrough and in Redcar & Cleveland aims to alleviate some of the challenges faced by local families during the school holidays. This report documents the evaluation of the Feast of Fun programme delivered at 39 venues by 29 groups across Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland during the 2019 summer holidays.

The evaluation aimed to document the programme provided by Feast of Fun, to explore the challenges face by local families during the summer holidays, and the benefits of participation in the Feast of Fun programme. We asked every group to fill out an evaluation form as well as conducted impromptu interviews with 14 parents and grandparents, 24 children, and 7 volunteers.

The key findings of the evaluation are:

- There is a clear need for holiday provision in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland
- There are additional challenges, as well as childhood hunger, that families face during the school holidays
- There are significant benefits for children and the whole family from Feast of Fun activities
- The community nature of Feast of Fun holiday clubs is a key factor to their success
- The Feast of Fun programme represents excellent value for money
- There is potential for future growth of Feast of Fun

The Challenges Families Face & The Need for Holiday Provision

The evaluation shows that there is a need for holiday provision in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. Parents, volunteers and group leaders all reported there was a real need for the provision offered by Feast of Fun. This was also supported by the increase in the number of children, young people and adults who engaged with our 2019 programme compared to 2018. Last year 974 children and 415 adults took part in Feast of Fun, while this year we had 1,315 children, 506 young people, and 467 adults.

Some of the financial challenges families face during the school holidays are: feeding children who would otherwise receive free school meals, finding cost-effective activities to occupy the children, and even cost-effective childcare for working parents. Not only is this a financial burden, but parents and grandparents reported they felt more isolated during the summer holidays and found that trying to find free or low-cost ways to entertain children was an added source of stress for them.

The Benefits for Children, Young People & Families from Feast of Fun

The results suggest that there are many ways that children, young people, and adults benefited from being a part of Feast of Fun. Families reported that receiving meals for the whole family reduced the extra financial burden they feel during school holidays. The Feast of Fun programme also provided children and parents opportunities to get out of the house and spend time in a safe environment. Parents mentioned that they valued being able to talk to other parents and volunteers at Feast of

Fun programmes, which helps to reduce potential isolation and loneliness. The sense of community felt at Feast of Fun also had a positive effect on particularly older volunteers who could also face similar circumstances of isolation and loneliness.

The Feast of Fun programme also provided children, young people, and families with new and exciting opportunities to learn and experience things they wouldn't have had access to. We were able to facilitate this through partnerships with local businesses and organisations that provided their support free or at cost to the programme. There were day trips to the North York Moors National Park Centre at Danby, RSPB Saltholme, Bowes Museum, Teesside University, Teesside Wildlife Trust, Kirkleatham Museum, and the Wensleydale Railway. The National Literacy Trust provided over 2,000 free books and comics for children and young people. The North East Charity Kids Kabin led workshops in woodwork and pottery. Cooking experiences were provided by Quorn Foods. Healthier fun and nutrition workshops were provided by two local chefs from Middlesbrough Environment City. The grant funding provided to groups also allowed them to bring in organisations to run workshops including music, drumming, performing arts, pottery, woodworking, dance, sport, fitness, yoga, animal experiences and author/storyteller experiences. All of these enrichment opportunities helped children and young people from low-income families enjoy experiences and activities they wouldn't otherwise be able to access.

The Community Nature of Feast of Fun Holiday Clubs

A key benefit of the Feast of Fun programme is the fact that it's rooted in local communities, which makes it accessible for local families. All of the groups involved in delivering the programme are embedded within their community as well as being made up of staff and volunteers from that community. Feast of Fun is clearly provided by the community, for the community. This aspect of the programme not only brings people together but also strengthens local relationships, gives people a shared sense of purpose, and builds stronger, more cohesive communities.

Value for Money

The Feast of Fun programme represents extraordinary value for money. Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland spent £30,080 in grants to Feast of Fun groups and direct delivery costs, but the total value of the programme delivered is over £124,700. The added value came from staff and volunteer time from Feast of Fun groups, financial and in-kind donations raised by local groups, and partnerships between the Feast of Fun programme and local organisations and businesses. These costs do not include the staff time given by Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland in supporting and developing the Feast of Fun programme.

The Potential for Future Growth of Feast of Fun

The majority of existing Feast of Fun groups reported that they hope to work with more families in the future. This growth in capacity will need to be both in terms of the numbers of children attending the clubs, and the number of sessions provided. The key limiting factor is that groups are run mainly by volunteers, further support with staffing and volunteers will be necessary. There is also clearly a need to increase in the number of Feast of Fun groups delivering the programme, particularly in areas where the levels of Free School Meals are very high. New churches, community groups and schools will need to be identified to grow provision. Currently Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland provide all the development support for Feast of Fun. If holiday provision is to grow, additional resources for staffing to provide this development and support for local groups will be required. It is important that as capacity in the programme grows, the local nature of Feast of Fun and its ethos is not lost, as this is a key strength of the programme.

Feast of Fun 2019 Evaluation Report

The Development of Feast of Fun

Feast of Fun is a programme of support for low income families during the summer holidays, which has been running since summer 2014. The programme was started by Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland working with local churches in response to concerns about the challenges faced by low income families in the summer holidays. Since 2016 the programme has been working in partnership with Public Health. Feast of Fun provides a safe place for children to learn and play together in their local community, with a healthy meal, enrichment activities and opportunities to participate in sports and games. Feast of Fun also provides children and families with day trips, providing experiences outside of their local communities, which they would not normally be able to enjoy. This grass roots model has the capacity to provide community development opportunities as well as providing healthy food & activities during the school holidays. It is a partnership of schools, churches, community hubs, and local businesses, which is the model proposed in the APPG report.

Each local group offers a programme of activities and food for one or two weeks or 1-3 days per week across the summer holidays, depending on local capacity. A set of guidelines based on the national guidance '*Filling the Holiday Gap*'¹ has been produced to ensure all venues have the necessary policies and procedures in place. Feast of Fun is promoted in local communities and schools, with schools signposting their most vulnerable families to attend. A full programme of activities is produced, which has enabled social workers and Early Help Hub staff to refer families into the programme.

In previous years all the groups met together to plan the summer programme and to share ideas. After summer 2017 it was agreed that the Feast of Fun programme had grown too large for this model to work well. Therefore, since 2018 groups were arranged into clusters according to geography resulting in 6 clusters: Redcar & Cleveland, Middlesbrough: East, West, Central, Newport, and South. Cluster groups met together from January 2019 to develop their holiday clubs, plan activities, and organise co-ordinated publicity and links with schools. During summer 2019 the programme operated in 30 venues across Middlesbrough, and 9 in Redcar and Cleveland and the programme aimed to work with 1,500 children and their families. For a full list of Feast of Fun clubs see Appendix 1.

Partnerships

Since 2014, Feast of Fun has developed partnerships with a wide variety of local organisations that provide in-kind support.

- Quorn Foods, Stokesley – mince, sausages and burgers, Quorn fillets, Quorn nuggets, Quorn balls & 6 free cooking sessions
- North York Moors National Park – transport and activity days at the Moors Centre, Danby (10 trips in summer 2019)
- The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle – transport and entry to the museum (3 trips in summer 2019)
- RSPB Saltholme – transport and activity days (2 trips summer 2019)
- Teesside University – activity days in partnership with their sports and English departments (2 trips in summer 2019)
- Teesside Wildlife Trust – transport and day of outdoor activities (1 trip summer in 2019)

¹ <http://www.fillingtheholidaygap.org>

- Wensleydale Railway PLC — transport and activity days at the Scruton Railway station as well as a train ride from Leeming Bar station up the dale to Leyburn/Redmire and back (3 trips in summer 2019)
- Kirkleatham Museum – transport and day of activities at their centre (1 trip in summer 2019)
- CMC Coaches – provided discounted transport for trips
- Faithfully Ageing Better (part of Ageing Better Middlesbrough) – older volunteers who share their time and skills to volunteer in the clubs
- National Literacy Trust – provided 2,000+ free books and comic books for children to keep and activity packs for Feast of Fun groups to use.
- Kids Kabin – free woodwork and pottery workshops
- Middlesbrough Environment City – free food hygiene course for Feast of Fun groups and free cooking workshops

Methodology

To evaluate the Feast of Fun programme for summer 2019, each local group was asked to complete an evaluation form which included questions about beneficiaries, the food and activities provided, local partnerships, staff and volunteers, funding and resources (see Appendix 2). All 29 Feast of Fun groups completed the evaluation forms, providing information about their holiday club.

Informal, impromptu interviews were conducted with parents/grandparents and children who took part in the programme, along with volunteers. Participants were asked open-ended questions according to an interview schedule (See Appendix 3). The interviews were noted due to noise and accessibility because background noise made recording impractical. In total 45 interviews were conducted, 14 with parents or grandparents, 24 with children, and 7 with volunteers.

Results

The results of both the evaluation forms completed by groups and the interviews with parents, children and volunteers can be broken down into the following themes:

- The need for Feast of Fun in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland
- The challenges faced by families during school holidays
- The benefit to families who participate in Feast of Fun
- The community nature of Feast of Fun, which strengthens families and communities
- The cost effectiveness of the Feast of Fun programme
- Suggestions for improvement and development of Feast of Fun.

The Need for Holiday Provision in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland

This summer 1,315 children, 506 young people and 467 adults came to Feast of Fun holiday clubs across 208 sessions, and in total 9,857 meals were provided, in addition to drinks and snacks.



Feast of Fun groups reported that for some families accessing the holiday clubs were very vulnerable families for whom the Feast of Fun programme was a lifeline.

One mum said, *“The summer has been challenging because I’ve just had a baby and struggle to feed my kids.”* (Parent 10)

Having meals provided at the Feast of Fun holiday clubs for the whole family meant that the parents were able to eat and some of that pressure was relieved.

Another parent commented, *“We struggle for food and especially healthy food. Here we are eating healthy food in a positive way where the children are encouraged to try new foods, and we get to eat together as a family.”* (Parent 5)

Challenges Families Face During School Holiday

Not only did parents who attended Feast of Fun groups express their need for food provision, but they also communicated their financial struggles as it relates to entertaining their children, the cost of childcare, and the increased cost of having children at home during the holidays:

“The summer is a difficult time for us because of not having enough money to pay for trips out and my children struggle standing in queues for long. That on top of having to buy food and clothes is tough.” (Parent 3)

“The summer holidays are a challenge for me because I don’t have family up here and play schemes are too expensive.” (Parent 6)

“Some [parents] can’t balance having enough to do fun stuff and other having enough for food.” (Volunteer 7).

Benefits for Families Involved with Feast of Fun

Feast of Fun benefited families in many ways. Outlined here are food provision, financial benefits, a wide range of activities, socialising and support for adults, and the chance to experience new opportunities.

Food Provision

Feast of Fun isn’t possible without the feast—at every holiday club the children and young people were fed, and at almost all of the holiday clubs parents and siblings were invited to join in the meal as well. In total 9,857 meals were provided along with healthy snacks for the children and refreshments for the adults.

“The biggest challenge I face during the summer holidays is having the money to do three full meals a day with snacks in between and trying to find something fun to do with my kids.” (Parent 7)

The number of meals provided across the Feast of Fun summer program		
Hot Lunch/Evening Meal	Cold Lunch/Afternoon Meal	Total Number of Meals
5,611	4,246	9,857

One mum expressed, *“Feast of Fun gives me a sigh of relief because I know that my kids are going to get fed and be entertained.”* (Parent 10)

“Feast of Fun helps families when you’re off school. It makes sure they get a meal a day. Everything helps.” (Volunteer 7)

For others they appreciated the fact that they were able to encourage their children to eat healthier and to try new foods. One child mentioned that they tried Quorn chili for the first time because they were a part of making that dish during Quorn’s cooking workshop (Child 3).

Another child tried a different recipe they made with the Quorn chef, Sunshine rice. Her mum remarked, *"I was so surprised she tried new food from Quorn. She is usually a picky eater."* (Parent 15).



One child said that their favourite food was chicken nuggets but said, *"I have never tried salad or tasted lettuce before, but it's quite nice."* (Child 7).

As well as trying new foods, many parents mentioned that they were able to take what they had learned from the cooking workshop or copy a similar dish made at a Feast of Fun at home. *"We especially loved the Quorn cooking lady. That was a big thing her cooking workshop. We made recipes at home."* (Parent 3)

Financial Benefits

Across all participants in Feast of Fun, they reported that the holiday clubs were a financial help to families. It assisted them by providing food and low-cost activities, which reduced the burden on holiday finances: *"The holidays are a challenge for our family because it gets expensive on our own. We liked that you can take your kids out for a free day trip."* (Parent 4)

Wide Range of Activities

Children, young people, and parents all said that they enjoyed participating in the wide range of activities at the holiday clubs. Not only were the activities fun, but they also gave children the opportunity to learn new skills like arts and crafts, dance, woodwork, pottery, yoga, and music. Some holiday clubs even chose certain themes, which provided opportunities for the children to learn new things such as facts about animals, the moon landing/outer space, the Dr. Seuss books, and discover new countries and cultures around the world.

One boy said, *"Something new I tried was dancing."* (Child 2), and his parents added that this was a big deal that he had joined in with the dance workshop because he usually was too shy to join in.



Six different groups incorporated animals into their Feast of Fun. Zoo Lab was one organisation that brought all different types of insects and animals for kids to learn more about and interact with.

"My favourite thing was holding the animals from Zoo Lab." (Child 11)

There were also physical activities and sport at Feast of Fun groups. Most clubs ran games or brought in activity instructors to provide dance classes or football skills. A few groups booked in sports coaches and a yoga teacher for every session they held. A lot of children mentioned dodgeball

or football as their favourite thing they did at Feast of Fun. One child said, *"I like coming to Feast of Fun because it keeps you fit and healthy."* (Child 7), and another boy at the group said, *"I think Feast of Fun is good because we get to play sport, and if we did have this then we wouldn't get to play sport."* (Child 21)

The yoga was a new experience for almost all of the children and parents that took part. Their group leader said that it was a good experience for parents and children to do together. At the end of their practice the teacher had them share something they were thankful for, which was a touching experience for everyone. One girl said, *"I learned how to do yoga. It's my favourite thing. It helps me relax and feel more peaceful."* (Child 15)

Another boy said, *"I like playing football, but yoga was good too. I was so relaxed that I fell asleep."* (Child 13)

Another benefit of all the exciting activities at Feast of Fun was how they encouraged children to do something other than look at screens. Children and parents commented on how they were glad they got the chance to do something other than look at a screen or play a video game.

"I like coming to Feast of Fun because it keeps me away from screens and the iPad." (Child 6)



"I like that you get to do crafts all day. If I wasn't at Feast of Fun, I'd be hanging out in my house on my phone." (Child 15) Their mother then chimed in to add that she was very grateful to get her child off of her phone for a few hours.

"I liked having the fire engine come and learning the drumming. If I wasn't here, I'd be watching TV all day." (Child 19)

Altogether, the children, young people, and parents seemed to thoroughly enjoy and benefit from the wide range of activities offered at Feast of Fun.

Socialising & Support for Parents and Grandparents

Many parents and volunteers mentioned how much they appreciated the social aspect of Feast of Fun. The friendly and welcoming nature of Feast of Fun groups including and catering for parents and carers was clearly reducing potential isolation during the school holidays. One mum said, *"Feast of Fun makes a difference for her as a parent because my husband works away, and I suffer from anxiety and depression. So, I need to get out of the house, and take the kids out and about. Now I know I can trust Feast of Fun."* (Parent 3)

“Feast of Fun gives me the chance to meet new people and make friends.” (Parent 4)

One mum shared her personal struggle to get out of the house, *“I want my daughter to get out more, but I have health issues and can’t take her to the park because I can’t walk that far. But coming to Feast of Fun is great because I can sit and have a coffee while my daughter plays and has fun. It works great for me.” (Parent 9)*

“It makes a difference to my social life as a parent because sometimes you lose that as a parent.” (Parent 12)

Many parents remarked that it was good for their children to make new friends or see their school friends. *“It makes a difference to kids who usually don’t come off of the Xbox, but now they are interacting with other kids.” (Parent 14)*

“It’s important for our kids to keep in touch with their friends from school.” (Parent 6)



Even the volunteers recognized the social importance:

“I think this is important for parents to get a break so that they can do things they need to do.” (Volunteer 2)

“I think it’s nice for kids to come together, especially in the modern age to have the chance to make friends.” (Volunteer 3)

A few parents said that they felt a positive atmosphere when they walked into the building for the Feast of Fun holiday club. One dad said, *“I feel loved and cared about. It makes a difference in our lives.” (Parent 5)*

New Opportunities

One of the greatest benefits to children, young people, and families taking part in Feast of Fun holiday clubs were new opportunities they were given that they would not have otherwise been able to experience. Feast of Fun was able to partner with the Moors National Park Centre at Danby to provide families with day trips to the countryside which included activities such as learning survival skills and den building.

There were also 3 new trips in partnership with the Wensleydale Railway. The groups enjoyed exploring an old train station guided by volunteers dressed in historic dress. The children were able to join in and dress up as well and learn about the history of the railway. Everyone enjoyed the lovely train ride across the countryside.



Feast of Fun also partnered with The Bowes Museum to provide 3 trips for groups of families and one group took a mini bus for older people to join in. They got to take part in the museum’s Lego scavenger hunt and participate in fun activities organised by the museum staff. A few other groups also went on trips to Kirkleatham museum, RSPB Saltholme and the Margrove Heritage Centre in partnership with Teesside Wildlife Trust.

Teesside University also hosted two free activity days for two groups who were in walking distance. The first day was provided by their sports department. The children enjoyed playing football, rock climbing, tumbling, stretching, and meeting athletes from the University. The second day was with the English department that coordinated a talented storyteller to provide an afternoon of storytelling. Children enjoyed interacting with the stories as well as crafting their own.

Overall, children and parents alike were able to visit new places and experience new things:



“Something new I learned was how to use a scale to way a parcel in the old train station on the Wensleydale trip.” (Child 1) After this was said, the parent said that getting to go on the train was something that they wouldn’t usually get to do.

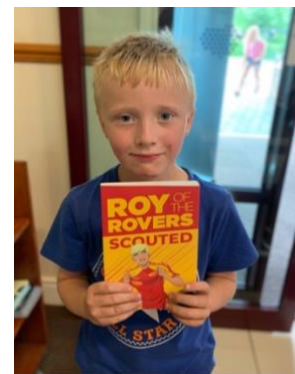
During lunch at the sport day at Teesside University a parent remarked that, *“It’s the best thing they’ve done all summer.”* (Parent 11)

When asked what they like best about the Bowes museum trip, he replied, *“Everything!”* (Child 24) Another child said that their favourite thing about Feast of Fun was the trip to Danby because they *“loved making dens in the forest.”* (Child 12)

In addition, a grandparent said, *“We loved the day out to Danby. It was very organised and put together, which made it a great day out.”* (Parent 2)

Fun with Books

The fun didn’t stop there. Through a partnership with the National Literacy Trust 2,000+ books and comics were given to children and young people to take with them, giving them the opportunity to develop their literacy skills further over the school holidays. In many cases families were not in a position to buy their children books to read, which Feast of Fun wanted to offset by providing free books and reading corners or spaces at every group to encourage children to keep reading. One group booked in a local author to come and inspire their children about reading, writing, and illustrating books.



Feast of Fun holiday clubs received funding to provide for paid activity instructor to come to the club and run a workshop. From physical activity instructors like sport coaches, dance teachers, or yoga instructor to a zookeeper from Zoo Lab or create their own choir/band, learn drumming, and singing. These are enriching, life-giving activities that provide valuable opportunities for these children and young people who many not have otherwise been able to experience.

When asked why Feast of Fun is worth funding, one volunteer replied saying, *“Because it gives children new experiences of different activities and food. Kids are looking forward to coming, and we’ve been able to provide free school uniforms as well.”* (Volunteer 7)

Strengthening Family and Community Relationships

There has been a shift in focus in Feast of Fun from simply supporting the children to a more holistic view of the whole family. Parents and younger siblings are invited to join in or enjoy time to relax with a cup of tea/coffee and watch the activities. Other groups where the children can be left, invite the parents to return early so that the whole family can enjoy a meal together. Parents reported that Feast of Fun gave them the chance to have quality time with their children.

When asked how Feast of Fun is making a difference in their lives one mum replied, *“It’s good for the kids to make new friends, and we get quality family time.”* (Parent 12) a different mum at the group said, *“It makes a difference to her as a parent by giving me quality time with my children.”* (Parent 13)

Parents and Volunteers also valued the fact that Feast of Fun is provided for the local community by the local community. Different people from different backgrounds were able to come together and share food, helping to build relationships and a stronger sense of community. In one group they made friendship bracelets, and one younger sibling wanted to join in the fun; she was only two years old. When she finished, she went over to the Vicar (new to the area and of a different ethnicity) and offered her little, handmade bracelet with the word, “Friend”.

A Supportive & Safe Environment

Feast of Fun’s supportive atmosphere is seen in every group’s commitment to provide a very inclusive environment, welcoming people from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and faiths. When asked why one should support Feast of Fun, one mum said, *“Because it makes a difference to children’s lives, and we especially like that it is inclusive of all families of all faiths.”* (Parent 1) Another foster mum was appreciative of the free activities that she and her children could join in and be a part of. Another parent was impressed with how well the Feast of Fun group catered to their child’s allergies saying, *“They’ve been good with my child’s allergies, very inclusive and accommodating. The volunteers are amazing.”* (Parent 6)



Not only is the nature of Feast of Fun supportive, but it’s also a safe space. One of the most frequent answers to the question, what difference does Feast of Fun make for your child, had to do with them having a safe place to go that kept them off of the streets. *“It’s very important to have Feast of Fun because there is nothing else for the kids, and there are bad things going on at the parks. The kids need a good place to go.”* (Parent 7)

“I think Feast of Fun is worth funding because it keeps the kids off the streets and out of trouble.” (Parent 10)

“Fund Feast of Fun to keep the kids off the streets and out of mischief. It gives them something positive to do.” (Parent 13)

“If there is something fun for kids to come together to be a part of, then they won’t get into trouble out on the streets.” (Parent 14)

“The children come first, and it is so beneficial for them to have a safe space, good meal, and get to hang out with their friends.” (Volunteer 2)

Feast of Fun Volunteers

The volunteers helping with the Feast of Fun holiday clubs came from the local communities, either as members of the local church or community group. Some volunteers were recruited from Faithfully Ageing Better (part of the Ageing Better Middlesbrough programme). The 323 volunteers, of whom 150 were over 50, were essential to the success of the programme. There were multiple reasons they volunteered which included: an awareness of the need for the holiday clubs in their community, the volunteer’s personal sense of loneliness and isolation, the faith of the volunteer, or they simply enjoying working with children and families.

Volunteers said that it was not just the families that benefitted from involvement with the Feast of Fun programme. Volunteers reported getting great satisfaction from the smiles of children enjoying the holiday clubs, and for older volunteers that working with the children and families made them feel young again. Some volunteers were parents who attended the group. They also suggested that helping at Feast of Fun holiday clubs empowered them look for jobs after gaining confidence and experience when working with children.



One of the older volunteers, who usually helped at a toddler group, and when asked why she volunteered at Feast of Fun said, *“I’m on my own. I usually meet up with friends when I’m out but volunteering at this gives me purpose.” (Volunteer 4)*

Another older volunteer remarked, *“It’s good for my heart to help out. I used to work at a school, and I miss seeing the kids. I’ve also enjoyed being able to chat with people.” (Volunteer 5)*

A volunteer who brings her children to the club said, *“I enjoy volunteering because it’s nice to give back to the kids. It’s nice for kids to get out. I like introducing them to new things and new foods.” (Volunteer 7)*

Funding

Each group running a Feast of Fun holiday club applied to Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland for a grant. Groups could apply for money to cover the cost of food, materials and resources, volunteer travel expenses, venue hire, publicity and promotion, and the cost of bringing in activity instructors. In addition there were the free day trips, including transport, to the Moors National Park Centre at Danby, the Bowes Museum, Wensleydale Railway, Kirkleatham Museum, Teesside Wildlife Trust, or RSPB Saltholme, or Teesside University. Grants were issued according to the number of children and sessions each group provided. Staff time was not covered by the Feast of Fun grants so groups with

paid staff covered these costs. In total Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland gave grants to the 29 Feast of Fun groups of £30,080. Groups were encouraged to find their own sources of additional funding and to approach local business for in kind donations. Groups were very successful in this and found additional funding from a variety of sources that totalled a value of £20,882. In addition, partners provided in-kind support with trips, activities and resources, it is difficult to put an exact value on all the in-kind support, but we estimate a value of at least £26,830

The Feast of Fun programme could not run without the 323 volunteers who gave 5,212 hours of their time to enabling the holiday clubs to run (this accounts for the time spent with children and families at holiday clubs and does not include time on planning and preparation). Calculated at the real living wage rate this contribution of volunteer time is worth £46,908. In total the value of the programme delivered was £124,700, at a cost to Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland of £30,080.

Total value of Feast of Fun	
Source of Funding	Value (£)
Feast of Fun grants awarded to groups	30,080
Donations and other funding raised by groups	20,882
Value of volunteer time (at Real Living Wage)	46,908
Quorn cooking experiences and food products	4,750
Books	14,000
Day trips and workshops	8,080
Total value of programme delivered	124,700

In total, Feast of Fun groups spent on average £4.59 per child, per session (excluding staff and volunteer costs). Volunteers and group leaders felt that this represented very good value for money.

Potential for Future Growth

The results suggest that the Feast of Fun programme will need to grow in the number of sessions and clubs provided within the Feast of Fun network if it is going to support more children and families. This could be challenging due to the reliance of groups on volunteers. Nevertheless, the majority of existing groups reported that they hope to work with more families in the future suggesting a desire for the groups to grow in capacity. There is also clearly a need to increase in the number of Feast of Fun groups delivering the programme, particularly in areas where the levels of Free School Meals are very high. It is important that as capacity is grown, the local nature of Feast of Fun and its ethos is not lost as this is a key strength of the programme.

For the past six years Feast of Fun has been developed and supported by staff working for Together Middlesbrough & Cleveland. For summer 2019, there was an additional part-time member of staff dedicated to the development and delivery of Feast of Fun for 20 hours a week over 7 months. If Holiday Provision is going to grow across Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland, then additional staffing to provide development and support for local groups will be required.

Conclusion

There is a clear need for holiday provision of food and activities in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland due to the financial and social difficulties local families experience during the school holidays. Feast of Fun provides an outlet to alleviate these challenges by providing children, young people and families with meals, enriching activities, day trips, and opportunities to socialise. This presents children and parents who are involved with the chance to learn and experience new things whilst spending quality time together. Feast of Fun is also beneficial for the whole family and to local communities, not solely the children who attend the holiday clubs. Volunteers at Feast of Fun also receive satisfaction from helping out, and it reduces loneliness and isolation amongst older volunteers. The programme provides very good value for money due to its charitable nature attracting donations. There is a desire to grow Feast of Fun provision; however, to do this capacity within individual groups needs to be grown, as does capacity across the programme.

Key findings:

- There is a clear need for holiday provision in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland
- There are many challenges that families face during the school holidays
- There are many benefits for children and the whole family of involvement with Feast of Fun
- The significance of the community nature of Feast of Fun holiday clubs
- The Feast of Fun programme represents excellent value for money
- There is potential for future growth of Feast of Fun



THANK YOU



Appendix 1: List of Groups Participating in Feast of Fun Summer 2019

	Feast of Fun group	Location
	Abingdon Primary School	Abingdon
Middlesbrough	Breckon Hill Community Centre	Breckon Hill
	Caldicotes Primary School	Thorntree
	Coulby Newham Baptist Church	Hemmlington
	Easterside Hub	Easterside
	Grovehill Hub	Grovehill
	Linx Detatched Youthwork	Coulby Newham & Hemmlington
	Linx Detatched Youthwork	Breckon Hill & Whinny Banks
	Linx Detatched Youthwork	Newport
	Linx Detatched Youthwork	Grove Hill
	Middlesbrough Community Church	Central Middlesbrough
	Newport Hub	Newport
	St Barnabas Church	Ayresome
	St Mary's RC Cathedral	Coulby Newham
	Salvation Army	Central Middlesbrough
	Starz Kids	Easterside
	The Church of the Ascension	Berwick Hills
	The Genesis Project	Grovehill
	Thorntree United Hub	Thorntree
	Trinity Catholic College	Easterside
	Trinity Family Friendly Centre	Whinney Banks
Trinity Youth and Childrens Project	North Ormesby	
Youth Focus: North East	Newport	

	Youth Focus: North East	Pallister Park
Redcar & Cleveland	Blaze	Grangetown
	Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum	Carlin How
	Guisborough Bridge	Guisborough
	Eston Salvation Army	Eston
	Hope 4 East Cleveland	Loftus
	Hope 4 East Cleveland	Skelton
	St Hilda's Youth Project	Liverton Mines
	St Peter's Redcar	Redcar
	The Beacon Project	Guisborough

Appendix 2: Feast of Fun Evaluation Form Summer 2019

Feast of Fun Evaluation 2019

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in Feast of Fun 2019, providing fun & food for local children & families during the summer holidays. We want to collect some information about how the programme has made a difference this year, and so ask that you take some time to fill in the form & return it to FeastofFun@togethermc.org as soon as possible after your programme of activities has finished.

Project Details

1. Name of church/organisation
2. Name of summer project
3. Dates and times of project

Beneficiaries

4. How many people attended each session? Please add rows to the table if necessary.

Children	Adults	
Date of Session	No. Children	No. Adults

5. How many individuals attended over the whole of the programme? (Please count the total number of children & adults on your register only once, not every time they attended). For example, if your club had 40 children at each session, but across all the sessions there were 50 different children because some didn't attend every session, you would record 50 children.

Children:

Adults:

6. How many of these children/parents were new to your project?

7. What do you think were the key benefits for the children and families who took part?

8. Please provide a brief case study or quote(s) from a child or family who benefitted from the project, where you know it made a real difference.

Staff/volunteers

9. How many staff/volunteers helped with the project in total?

Paid staff:

Volunteers:

10. How many of your volunteers were aged 50 and over?

11. Where did the volunteers come from?

Volunteers from:	Total number
Church(es)	
Local community	
Parents/grandparents	
University/college	
Faithfully Ageing Better	

Partnerships

12. Did you work with any other groups or organisations e.g. Quorn, North York Moors, sports staff? Please provide details & how this added value to the club/activities

13. How important was it to work with other groups in a cluster as part of Feast of Fun? What were the key benefits?

Food

14. How many meals did you provide in total over the course of the programme?

Breakfasts		Lunches/Evening meals	
Hot	Cold	Hot	Cold

15. How many portions of fruit juice/fruit/vegetables/salad did each child have each day?

Fruit juice:

Fruit:

Vegetables/Salad:

16. Please give an example of a typical meal served at your holiday club.

17. Were you able to secure other sources of free/low-cost food? e.g. breakfast cereals, burgers/hotdogs Please give details.

Activities

18. On how many days did the children take part in physical activities e.g. Dancing, sports, active games?

19. What kind of physical activities did you have as part of Feast of Fun?

20. Please tell us about anyone you brought in to lead a physical activity workshop.

21. Please list all the opportunities children at your Feast of Fun had to learn new skills, have new experiences, and access learning resources (e.g. a cooking workshop, learning about different countries, a circus skills workshop)

Funding and resources

Please can you complete the table below to report on how you spent the grant you received.

(If you need a copy of the budget you submitted please get in touch). If you have an underspend that's fine, please let us know & we can discuss how you might like to use it for future activities.

Total Grant Received	
Costs	
Materials and resources	
Volunteer expenses	
Publicity and promotion	
Contribution to use of venue	
Food @£2 per head	
Trips	
Instructors (Arts/Sports)	

Total	
--------------	--

22. Did you use additional funding e.g. existing funds, other grant funds, local fundraising e.g. for trips? If so, how much additional funding did you use? (We would like to understand the full cost of all the activities you provided).

Looking ahead

We will begin planning for 2020 from Sept/Oct 2019 and will be submitting funding applications, it would help with future planning if you could answer the following questions.

23. Would you like to be part of Feast of Fun 2020?

24. How many children/families to you plan to work with? e.g. the same/more/less

25. Do you have any comments or suggestions that would help to develop Feast of Fun 2020?

Thank you for completing this evaluation, which will provide evidence as we seek for funding for 2020.

Appendix 3: Interview schedule

Feast of Fun 2019 Interview Questions

Parents:

- How did you find out about the Feast of Fun holiday club?
- What challenges do you as a family face during the summer holidays?
- What difference does Feast of Fun make for;
 - You as a parent?
 - Your children?

(prompts: entertaining the children, feeding the family, etc.)

- We will be taking the findings from this summer to funders to ask for funding for Feast of Fun next year. If you had the chance to talk to a funder, what would you like to say to them?

Children:

- What do you like best about coming to Feast of Fun?
- Did you like the food? Have you tried anything new of different?
- What activities have you enjoyed? Have you learned anything new?
- What would you be doing if you weren't here?
- We will be taking the findings from this summer to funders to ask for funding for Feast of Fun next year. If you had the chance to talk to a funder, what would you like to say to them?

Volunteers:

- Why are you helping at Feast of Fun?
- How do you think Feast of Fun helps families?
- What do you get out of helping?
- We will be taking the findings from this summer to funders to ask for funding for Feast of Fun next year. If you had the chance to talk to a funder, what would you like to say to them?