# HAF winter 22 case studies – from parents

1

The benefits for me are that the children are in a safe environment, away from the dramas of the estate. If the kids have had any arguments with the other kids, the staff always sort it out and stop it from becoming a whole estate drama. My HAF club always ring me and keep me updated with session times, new events and any concerns about my son not eating due to his new ADHD medication and they pack up a dinner to bring home. My other son is currently questioning his sexual identity and asked if he could have his nails pampered at the sessions, he was never made to feel different to any other young person in the room and he was very proud to show them off when he got home. My kids rarely leave the estate, so when they took the kids to the outdoor cinema event in Coalville town centre, I was, and they were a bit nervous and anxious. The kids loved it that much that I took them by myself to see a different film. This was something I was really chuffed about. My youngest kid is not able to attend the camp due to his age, but every time the staff drop off activity packs and meals so that he is felt included with his siblings and he cannot wait to be 10 years old so that he can go. He already has a great relationship with the holiday club staff.

**2**

We have been so grateful to have been able to send our son for the placements offered by HAF during the school holidays, most recently at Xmas 2022. My son has autism and the opportunity for him to participate in extra-curricular activities in a familiar setting with some of his peers and staff he is familiar with has been invaluable. He has enjoyed every day he has been there, and has asked to attend even during term time, he loves it. He has done various activities, from karaoke to baking biscuits, and I have seen a real sense of confidence in him since attending. These programmes are so vital for families like ours, as often the opportunities for our children to be included are not there. We really feel these programmes are confidence building, they help with my son's language development too and give him extra chances to make friends.

**3**

It kills me knowing my kids don't get a holiday every year by my HAF club gives my kids the chance to have an awesome summer and experience awesome stuff and challenges. It keeps us in a routine too. They also experienced a free trip to the Space Centre which i never would have been able to do for my kids, so they got to experience that amazing trip which they all enjoyed! My HAF club help me more than they realise! The summer one keeps me sane and keeps my kids busy and active, and gives them experiences i couldn't give them, without not paying my bills, and mostly it’s about meeting new people. it's brilliant! The pizzas we do all the time now for lunch when i am really skint and it's those little things that have helped me so much.