



Derby HAF Annual Report 2024-25

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Introduction

The Holiday Activities & Food Programme (HAF) is funded by the Department for Education to provide free healthy meals and enriching activities to children from low-income families.

Poverty has been shown to manifest itself in numerous ways, and children in a household experiencing poverty will be more prone to mental illness, domestic violence, neglect, parental separation, and forms of abuse which serve to further compound the detrimental effects that children in poverty experience daily.

Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some low-income families. For some children, this can lead to a holiday experience gap. 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

There are many benefits for children who attend the HAF programme. We want to encourage all HAF providers to ensure a high-quality experience that will result in children:

- receiving healthy and nutritious meals
- maintaining a healthy level of physical activity
- being happy, having fun and meeting new friends
- developing a greater understanding of food, nutrition, and other health-related issues
- taking part in fun and engaging activities that support their development and well-being
- feeling safe and secure
- getting access to the right support services
- returning to school feeling engaged and ready to learn.

“Derby City Council is proud to continue supporting children and young people through the Holiday Activities and Food programme. It's all about making school holidays fun, active and healthy – and thanks to our fantastic providers, there's a brilliant range of activities on offer, along with nutritious meals. It's inspiring to see the programme going from strength to strength, with more families getting involved each year. At a time when many are feeling the pressure of the cost of living crisis, this free provision is making a real difference, helping ensure every child has the chance to enjoy a safe, enriching and memorable break.”



Councillor Paul Hezelgrave

Derby City Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Skills

Governance and Structure

The HAF Programme Board meets quarterly and is responsible for steering and monitoring the work of the HAF programme for Derby.



**HAF Strategic Lead /
Professional Advocate
for Children in Education**
Derby City Council (Chair)



HAF Co-ordinator
Derby City Council



Deputy Chief Executive
Community Action Derby



**Community Services
Manager**
Community Action Derby



**Communications and
Marketing Officer**
Derby City Council



Group Accountant
Derby City Council



**Childcare and Families
Information Team and
SENDIASS manager**
Derby City Council



**Physical Activity & Sport
Strategic Manager**
Derby City Council



Public Health Manager
Derby City Council



**SEND Project
Manager**
Derby City Council



Head of Early Help
Derby City Council



**Children and
Young People's
Strategic Lead**
Active Derbyshire



**Secondary School
Headteacher**

Our ongoing partnership with Community Action Derby has remained central to the HAF programme's success. By working closely with Derby's local Voluntary and Community Sector, we were able to ensure that clubs were offered in accessible, local, and familiar venues and provided by organisations already trusted and embedded within their communities. This approach has made the programme more inclusive and culturally appropriate, whilst also connecting families with a broader network of non-statutory support.



"By partnering with the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, Fusion Scape has strengthened its presence in the local community. Providing engaging activities and nutritious meals, we have welcomed new participants and forged lasting relationships. This progress has inspired more volunteers, enhancing our capacity and enthusiasm. Thanks to HAF, we now offer a broader, more inclusive range of activities tailored to local children, young people, and families, creating a meaningful and lasting impact across the city's communities."

Edward Nkwelle
CEO of Fusion Scape

In 2024–2025, over £1 million was invested into Derby's Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector via the HAF programme. This funding remained within local communities, generating new employment and volunteering opportunities, and strengthening the sustainability of local organisations. The HAF programme has also supported VCSE partners to build capacity, access staff training, and achieve vital accreditations, including OFSTED registration and Food Business certification.



"We are delighted to celebrate another year of working in partnership with Derby City Council on the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. The diverse range of providers that we have across the city ensures that thousands of children and young people are able to access fun activities and healthy food over the school holidays.

We are particularly proud of those organisations and volunteers in our communities who work tirelessly to support local families during this cost of living crisis – their commitment and dedication is key to the success of the HAF programme."



Kim Harper
CEO of Community Action Derby

Derby City Council receives funding for the HAF programme from the Department for Education. The Department for Education has invested over £200 million each year nationally, for the three years of the HAF programme. The funding is allocated to local authorities based on the number of children who receive benefits-related free school meals. For the 2024-25 financial year, Derby was awarded £1,423,950.

**For the 2024-25 financial year, Derby was awarded
£1,423,950**

**Direct grants to
HAF providers**

£1,184,326

Administration

Derby City Council
(HAF Strategic Lead
and Co-ordinator)

£71,198

Administration

Community Action Derby
(Managing application process, issuing
& monitoring of grants)

£71,198

Other costs

marketing, communications, transport,
provider training, booking systems

£97,228

Impact

5,860

children
supported

4,660

primary
aged

648

of which had
special educational
needs and
disabilities (SEND)

1,003

secondary
aged

263

of which had
special educational
needs and
disabilities (SEND)

38

providers
funded and
supported

197

Working with professional partners across the city, including social workers, family support workers, and school SEND teams, we supported an additional 197 children and young people who may otherwise have been isolated or at risk during the holidays; including children in care, refugees and asylum seekers, and children with additional needs

The HAF programme continues to be promoted widely across Derby, with marketing materials and branding visible across all parts of the city, including on lamppost banners and digital billboards on main transport routes.

The HAF team attended a range of events during the year to meet partners and families and promote the HAF programme, including Derby City Inclusion Partnership conference, Derby Child Poverty Summit, as well as many community events and school parents' evenings.

Derby City Council's Families Information Service continues to support the HAF programme by hosting the HAF webpages and ensuring families are not only connected to the HAF offer, but also to the wider childcare offer across the city.



"Working with partners across the city is the best way to spread the word about the HAF programme. Support from our colleagues in health, housing, social care, schools, Family Hubs and community groups ensures we can reach as many families as possible to help them access our clubs during the holidays."

HAF Project Manager
Derby City Council



"It's good that it's in the community...we don't have to travel far as it's literally round the corner and more accessible for us both."



HAF Providers for 2024-25

We are proud to work with such a diverse range of providers in the city, from small community organisations to schools, leisure providers and the football club. It ensures that children can access a club that suits their interests and sparks their imaginations.

During 24-25, we worked with six organisations who delivered provision specifically for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Alvaston
Achievers

Aspire
Community &
Wrestling

Baby
People

Bridge
The Gap

Chaddesden
Park Primary
School

Community
One

Derby
County
Community
Trust

Derby
Boxing
Academy

Derby
Museums

Derby
Theatre

Derby
West Indian
Community
Association

EFD Sport
and
Education

Elevation X

Everyone
Active

Freedom
Foundation
(SEND)

Fusion
Scape

Genius
Tuition

Imbue
Ventures
(SEND)

Inspirative
Arts (now ID
Derby)
(SEND)

Littleover
Community
School

Mr G's
Holiday Club

Murray Park
School

Nadia Jane
Performing
Arts

Open Doors
Forum

Premier
Education

Progressive
Sports

RCCG Solid
Rock

Safe &
Sound

Schools
Out Club

SEN-Fit
(SEND)

Shining
Stars
Nursery

Soccerstars
UK

St. James
Centre (SEND)

Superstar
Sports

The
Bemrose
School

Umbrella
(SEND)

Vox
Feminarium

YMCA
Derbyshire

Supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

There continues to be a high demand for holiday club places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Most of the professional referrals received were to support children with additional needs who were not eligible for free school meals but would be vulnerable or isolated during the holidays without some additional support.

We were proud to work with some of Derby's SEND providers in 2024-25 who specialise in supporting children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities:

- **Freedom Foundation** – delivered street dance and hip-hop techniques, dance routines, and keeping fit
- **Imbue Ventures** – helped young people develop skills in coding, technology and media, as well as physical activities and immersive experiences
- **Inspiritive Arts** – provided arts therapies (including drama, dance and music therapies) and well-being arts
- **SEN-Fit** – delivered fitness sessions, games, sports, and learning to prepare healthy meals
- **St. James Centre Funabili8y** – provided activities, games and trips, helping disabled young people live life to the max
- **Umbrella** – provided special theme days incorporating games, sports, arts and crafts

In addition to these specialist providers, many of our other HAF providers have experienced and qualified staff to be able to support children with additional needs in a mainstream holiday club setting.



“[Child] with limited verbal communication skills] absolutely loves it here - they've kept saying, 'Inspiritive Arts.' It makes such a difference to have something like this for her, thank you.”



“My son has ADHD and the staff were fantastic with understanding his needs, they reacted to his cues which allowed him to regulate. He would tell me about how kind and funny the staff were. He struggles to make friends and was able to tell me that the staff helped him to join in and have fun.”



“...they know they're safe with your team and their needs are being met without them having to ask.”



Photo courtesy of Umbrella

Quality assurance and training

Ensuring that our HAF provision is of high quality and meets the needs of Derby's children and young people is key to the programme.

During 2024, all our HAF providers were visited at least once by members of the HAF team. The visits ensured that all the HAF standards were being met, but also offered a chance to support providers in any areas where they needed advice or guidance.

Providers were assessed against the Department for Education's Framework of Standards, which cover:

- Food provision
- Awareness and understanding of healthy eating
- Signposting and referrals
- Enriching activities
- Accessibility and inclusiveness

In addition, checks were made to ensure the highest standards of safeguarding and health & safety.

To ensure standards remained high, a programme of training was delivered including:

- Certified Paediatric first aid training
- Level 2 Food Hygiene online training
- Safeguarding training
- Neurodiversity workshops
- Learning Disability and Sport workshop



"The YMCA Derbyshire YKidz team have accessed a range of training through the HAF programme. This has included paediatric first aid and food hygiene as well as key briefing events on operational elements of the programme. We also do in house training to ensure all staff understand safeguarding, health and safety, the programme delivery requirements and our expectations of them as a Y-Kidz member of staff. This mix of training is so critical to the success of the programme to ensure we have happy safe children."

Louise Curd

Director of Lifelong Learning,
YMCA Derbyshire



Photo courtesy of Kelly Seaton

Food provision

Every child attending a HAF club received a nutritious meal during their day. HAF providers worked with a range of community-based food providers to deliver delicious, culturally appropriate food.

Many providers actively engaged children in the preparation of the food, giving them a fun, hands-on experience while providing them with crucial life skills.

Our winter community events provided an additional opportunity to bring eligible families together to share a festive meal, while connecting them with other support services in the city, including food banks.



"This was a blessing for us. My son looked forward to it every day and even learned how to do smoothies! It gave me peace of mind knowing he was safe, learning, and having fun."

**Over 25,000
meals served**



"I played games, drew pictures, and learned about healthy food. I didn't know sugar was in so many drinks!"

**92% of the meals served
rated as 'good' or 'excellent'**



"I made a yummy tortilla pizza and I ate it for my lunch. I'm going to be a chef."



Photo courtesy of Premier



"Loved the strawberries and watermelon we had every day!"

Nutrition & healthy lifestyles

HAF providers engaged children and young people in a variety of ways to promote healthier lifestyles, including visits to local allotments and growing their own vegetables.

During the year, we worked with Pot Gang to provide HAF clubs with fruit, veg and herb seed kits, giving children the opportunity to get hands on and connect with where their food comes from. Children could take their kits home to watch their food grow and try out the recipes in the packs with their families.

Many of our providers working with older children were able to incorporate wellbeing sessions into the HAF clubs to address topics including mental health, drug and alcohol awareness, and managing social media.



"I enjoyed planting in the allotment. I am excited about eating the food we planted."



"[Child] is so excited to watch the seeds grow. He's not stopped talking about germination, he has most definitely learnt something new today."



Physical activity

The HAF programme promotes physical activity as one of its fundamental elements and during the year, children and young people had the opportunity to sample a great range of wonderful sports and activities, including:

- Football
- Boxing
- BMX
- Netball
- Swimming
- Cricket
- Basketball
- Dodgeball
- Wrestling
- Circus skills
- Dance
- Orienteering
- Fencing
- Archery
- Touch Rugby
- Athletics
- Boccia
- Rollerskating
- Ice skating



“I didn’t know netball was that interesting and exciting I will keep coming to the session and looking forward to get more involved in netball at school.”



“He’s come a long way since he joined these sessions. He knows where he’s got to go and what time...so he’s better at managing his own time with things like school and homework too.”



“You let us play football a lot. This makes us happy. When we are happy, we aren’t getting into trouble...”



Photo courtesy of SSoccersUK

The 2024 HAF programme has continued to offer the children and young people of Derby access to an exciting variety of enriching activities, including:

- Music lessons
- Indoor climbing
- Graffiti art
- Music production
- Escape rooms
- Theatre trips
- Small animal handling
- Wildlife walks
- Theme Park trips
- Ten pin bowling
- Science experiments
- Paintballing
- Museum Trips



"I loved HAF this summer. The trip to paintballing was one of the best parts. It was my first time, and it felt like a real adventure! Another highlight was the project where we built electric cars. I learned so much about how they work, and it was amazing to see the cars we built actually be presented in the final parent assembly."



"The staff are supportive and really kind to me. I know a lot of people here and have made so many friends."



"The Science Museum was so cool! I learned a lot about space and even got to do some experiments. It was really fun!"

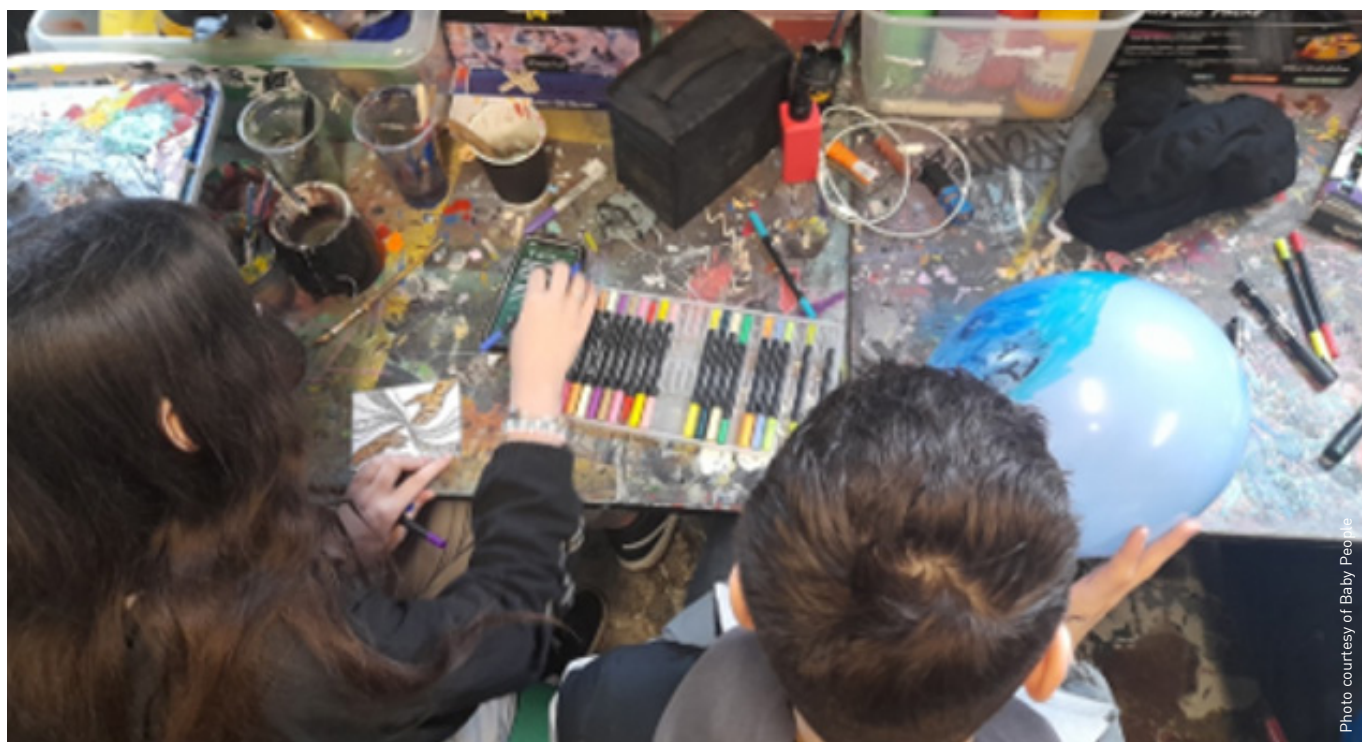


Photo courtesy of Baby People

The strong partnership between Derby City Council and Community Action ensures that HAF providers have access to a wide range of information and support.

Community Action continues to offer a citywide Cost of Living website and dedicated phone line, providing a centralised hub for providers to signpost families to essential support services. Community Action also coordinates the city's Community Asset Network - over 50 community venues offering residents a Warm Space to enjoy a hot meal and access practical support such as energy and food vouchers. By engaging with this network and offering a series of Winter HAF community events, we were able to more widely promote the HAF programme and increase the number of children and families benefitting from it. This targeted outreach led to the identification of three new HAF providers in previously underserved areas, ensuring more equitable access across the city.



"As a mum, I loved knowing that he was having fun, was safe and was able to have a hot meal (which he loved). The access to the food bank was also incredible, for a single mum having access to this food meant I could cook a hot meal on the days he wasn't there."

81% of HAF clubs were rated 'good' or 'excellent' for their support to families for signposting to other services



Photo courtesy of Imbue Ventures

Bridge the Gap

Bridge the Gap is a Community Interest Company committed to supporting children's mental health across the city. During the school holidays, they offered a bespoke provision full of enriching activities including emotional literacy craft sessions, yoga, animal experiences, as well as opportunities to learn about nutrition and be involved in food preparation. The team are highly skilled in creating a sense of belonging and ensuring each child feels seen, heard and supported.

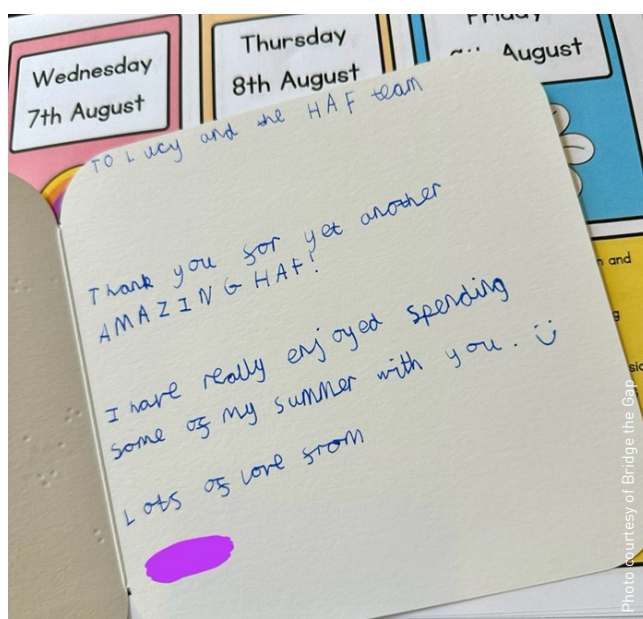
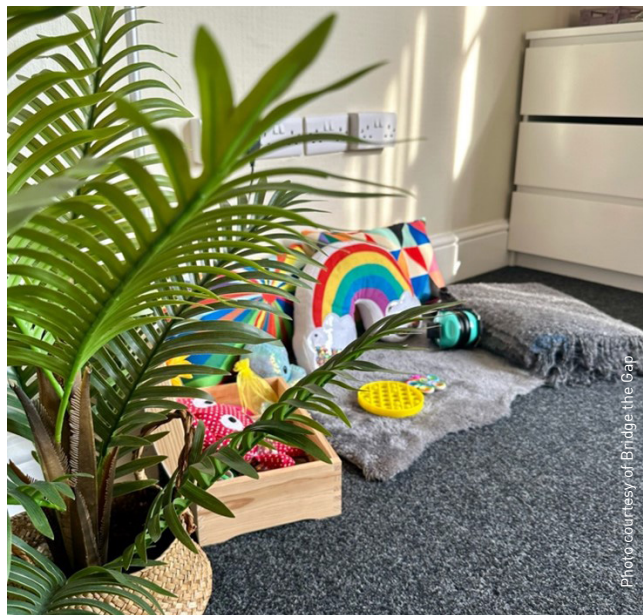
As a specialist provision, Bridge the Gap can offer a smaller group setting for children with additional needs, allowing for a higher ratio of staff to children and extensive preparation with each family prior to the sessions starting.

Over Easter 24, a thorough explanation of the provision, including an introductory email with photographs of the staff and a detailed infographic of the timetable for the week, especially helped one family with two siblings who attended the provision. These children had additional needs and sensory-related concerns and had not previously been able to attend other clubs. The children's parent said, *"We've tried several other places and they've never managed to go back after the first day as they find it so overwhelming, that either one or both of them has had panic attacks and have been unable to leave the house."*



"HAF meant that my two could have a school holiday experience in the same way as their peers can. Something that everyone should be able to access."

The children came into the provision nervously and anticipated it would be similar to school. The youngest sibling kept his hoody on throughout the first day, saying it provided safety. By the end of day one, both children were able to join in the group activities with the other children, they voiced their opinions and could be heard laughing and chatting with their new friends. By the end of the week, the youngest sibling had removed his hoody and was laughing and smiling with staff and new friends he had made.



Derby County Community Trust (DCCT) 'Christmas at the Community Corner'

Derby County Community Trust (DCCT) prides itself on creating meaningful experiences for all participants, funders and community partners. These are experiences that create a stronger and safer community in order to improve and change lives locally; particularly in the hardest to reach areas.

Over winter 24, DCCT opened up the doors of their 'Community Corner' to welcome local families to their 'Winter Wonderland' event. Working in partnership with local businesses and organisations, they put on a wonderful event where families could access hot food and drinks, take part in Christmas craft activities, meet Santa and receive a small gift, as well as taking the opportunity to get a photo pitch side.

Planned and facilitated by DCCT, the event saw 116 people visit throughout the day and every family left with a large take-away food hamper, supplied by Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance. PIB Insurance donated gifts and provided volunteers to help serve food. Local transport provider, Albatross Cars, was also involved to remove the barrier for any families who may have struggled to get to the event without help.



"Through our caring approach and the positive promotion of sport, physical activity, health and education, we will provide high quality opportunities that positively change lives and enhance our communities."

DCCT Mission



"We didn't expect the food bags, but it was a big help as my husband didn't get paid like he was meant to be. This helped us with food shopping and provided us with meals during the week. It was much appreciated and needed."



Photos courtesy of Derby County Community Trust

Plans for the 2025-26 HAF programme

An additional year of HAF funding for 2025-26 has been confirmed by the Department for Education, but the future of the programme beyond 2026 is yet unknown.

2025 offers the opportunity to build on the success of the HAF programme so far, with plans in place for:

- Introducing the 'Holiday Activities' system, allowing greater reach to eligible families and a more accessible booking system
- Continuing to support and build capacity of the voluntary and community sector to ensure future sustainability
- Strengthening links with partners through the Derby Poverty Commission and Poverty Action Group, ensuring the HAF programme is part of a wider package of support for Derby's families
- Connecting HAF with the Derby Promise – an initiative that enables Derby's children and young people to access careers experiences, build their skills, and explore the future of work



Photo courtesy of ID Derby



We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on **01332 956839** or **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ, ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਇੱਥੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ: **01332 956839** ਜਾਂ **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Polish

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku. Prosimy o kontakt: **01332 956839** lub **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Slovak

Túto informáciu vám môžeme poskytnúť iným spôsobom, štýlom alebo v inom jazyku, ktorý vám pomôže k jej sprístupneniu. Prosím, kontaktujte nás na tel. č.: **01332 956839** alebo na stránke **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Urdu

یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر ایسے طریقے، انداز اور زبان میں مہیا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے۔ براہ کرم **01332 956839** یا **derby.gov.uk/signing-service** پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں



Derby City Council

Derby City Council
The Council House Corporation Street Derby DE1 2FS
www.derby.gov.uk