



## Hertfordshire HAF Summer 2023 Case Study

Demonstrating the power of HAF in Hertfordshire

Theme: Local communities

### Happy Hours Out of School Club

“We invited officers from Hatfield Police station to come and visit us during the Summer Camp programme... This initiative in the local community truly enhances the children’s experience and knowledge regarding the police and reassures the children that the police are here to support us all.”

Our advice would be:

- Access the free training opportunities offered by the HAPpy Training programme.
- Attend the information sharing workshops.

### What is the opportunity or issue?

Police Officers from the Local Safer Neighbourhood Team were invited to the camp to enable the children to engage with the police in a positive and safe environment. Many of the children were afraid of the police due to parents, siblings and other family members having been in trouble with them previously. On the day of the visit, the camp had five children who had a parent in prison.

### How have you capitalised on the opportunity and/or overcome the issue?

Three police officers attended the session with a traffic speedometer and measured each child's running speed, before taking them to see a large police van which contained riot shields and police helmets. The children were very excited when the officers stayed for lunchtime, and those who were initially afraid of the police started to engage with them socially by asking lots of questions! This positive change was due to the professionalism of the police and their understanding of the children in attendance.

### What has been the impact?

The visit helped to alleviate the fears and worries that some of the children had in relation to the police. Their presence reinforced to them that the police are here to help us. After the visit the camp staff emailed the Chief Inspector to inform him about the success of the day. This initiative in the local community, truly enhances the children’s experience and knowledge regarding the police and reassures the children that the police are here to support us all.

### How do you plan to build on this?

Happy Hours Out of School Club aim to continue their relationship with the Safer Neighbourhood Team by inviting them along to other sessions they co-ordinate, as they have found it to be most beneficial to the youngest vulnerable members of the local community. Chief Inspector Kash Hussain MSc CMgr MCMI of Welwyn Hatfield Police Station has asked the team to share this experience with other local clubs and schools who may also benefit from their engagement, which they are committed to do.