

Item No.	Classification: Open		MEETING NAME: Education and children's services scrutiny subcommittee
Report title:		Free Healthy School Meals Programme – Progress Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Kerry Crichlow, Assistant Director Strategy and Support, Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee note the report and the progress to date.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Council took a decision to introduce free healthy school meals to all pupils attending primary schools in Southwark as part of its commitment to tackle the high levels of childhood obesity, and to tackle poverty and inequality.
3. A development phase commenced in January 2011 in ten selected school. This phase operated until July 2011. A report on the evaluation of this phase was considered by this sub-committee in October 2011.
4. Members asked for a further progress report in March 2012.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. All primary schools introduced free school meals for reception and year one pupils from the first day of the school year in September 2011.
6. In September 2012 the programme will be rolled out to all pupils in years two to four and extended to years five and six in September 2013 when it will include all primary aged pupils.
7. To be eligible for a free healthy school meal parents complete an application form which is assessed against the criteria for Government funded free school meals. If the child is not eligible for a Government funded free school meal, then the meal is funded by the Council.
8. A capital programme of £500k was agreed by Council in July 2011 to support schools that need additional equipment as the pupil numbers taking up a school meal increases. The programme was split into three phases. Phases one and two were completed in 2011, with phase three being put in place during 2012. The additional equipment requirements will not exceed the 500K allocated budget.
9. Initial information for the roll out from September 2011 suggested a take up in Reception and Year One of 84.5%. The take up as of January 2012 across these two year groups is now at 87%.

10. The evaluation framework for this programme is attached as appendix one.
11. In LA maintained schools Governors are responsible for ensuring that the meals provided are in accordance with Department of Education advice on food and nutrition standards published in September 2011, attached at appendix two. As part of the support given to schools, there is a governor's toolkit on the Councils website. Schools are also actively encouraged to sign their school up to the food 4 life partnership award scheme.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Kerry Crichlow, Assistant Director Strategy and Support, Children's Services	
Report Author	Colin Gale, FHSM project manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	27 February 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team	27 February 2012	