

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 26 November 2012	<b>Meeting name:</b> Education Children's Services and Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Free Healthy School Meals Programme – Progress Report	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Kerry Crichlow, Director Strategy and Commissioning, Children's & Adult 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 obesity and to tackle poverty and inequality.
3. A decision was taken to phase the roll out. In September 2011 reception and year one pupils started to receive the free meals. In September 2012, this was extended to years two – four. The final phase will see pupils in years five & six join the programme in September 2013.
4. Members have received a number of previous reports concerning this programme.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

5. During the first year of the programme the take up reached 91% of reception and year one pupils. During the autumn term 2012, the take up has reached 92% of pupils from reception to year four.
6. Members have visited five primary schools to talk to school staff, catering staff and pupils, whilst also observing the school lunch period.
7. Surveys of the children and parents have taken place at seven of the schools, to seek the views of parents. This was reported to the last meeting of this sub committee. The outcome information from the children's survey is at appendix one.
8. Whilst community, voluntary aided and foundation schools are required to meet the food and nutrition standards and the Governing body are responsible for ensuring these standards are met. Free schools and academies are not, Cllr Catherine McDonald whilst cabinet member for children's services wrote to the primary academies to ask them to conform to the standards. Since the start of this school year in September, Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle the current Cabinet member has written to all new primary academies and primary free schools to ask them to operate to these standards.

9. As members are aware from previous reports, schools are also actively encouraged to sign their school up to the food 4 life partnership award scheme.

#### AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Kerry Crichlow, Director Strategy and Commissioning, Children and Adult Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Colin Gale, FHSM project manager	
<b>Version</b>	final	
<b>Dated</b>	13 November 2012	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team</b>	15 November 2012	