

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 23 April 2013	Meeting name: Education, Children's Services and Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Report title:		Free Healthy School Meals Programme – Progress Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director Strategy and Commissioning, Children's & Adults' Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee note the report and the continued 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 in children, and to tackle poverty and inequality.
3. Following the decision to phase the roll out of the programme 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 is on target and will see pupils in years five and six join the programme in September 2013.
4. Members have received a number of previous reports concerning this programme.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. As previously reported, during the first year of the programme the take up reached 91% across reception and year one pupils. The take up by pupils from reception to year four averaged across the autumn and spring term has now reached 93%.
6. To provide a snapshot measure of the impact on levels of obesity and overweight an additional set of children's measurements will be completed for year one pupils this year, using the same methods as the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), currently used for reception and year six pupils. Following discussions with the school nursing service, this will take place during the school summer term. The results of this snapshot are expected in the autumn term.
7. As a result of funding from public health, all primary school settings were offered the opportunity to take up a curriculum based programme on health from an organisation called PhunkyFoods. To date over half of the schools have taken up this free offer. This programme provides materials and on-line support for schools to equip teaching staff with the tools and training to deliver healthy lifestyle lessons to children from early years to key stage 2.

8. Discussions have taken place with two schools and a local community group that supports gardening and growing projects. These discussions have been focused on enabling children to understand more about vegetables, this will include preparing the ground, planting, nurturing, picking and eating the product. The community group has applied to the cleaner, greener, safer programme for funding to start projects at the two schools. The schools have agreed to provide school staff to support the programme as their contribution. It is anticipated, subject to funding, that the project to enable children at the schools to grow their own vegetables will start during the summer term. The project will involve training school staff and kick starting the process. Further developments are being considered to include more schools as part of a programme to teach children about growing food.

9. A further survey of children and parents to test their views and attitudes, will take place over the summer term to follow on from last year's survey, the outcomes of which were reported to this sub committee previously.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Kerry Crichlow, Director Strategy and Commissioning, Children's and Adults' Services	
Report Author	Colin Gale, FHSM project manager	
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Dated	9 April 2013	
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	No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team		16 April 2013