

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 9 July 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 of 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 & 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 full academic 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 current academic year has reached 92%.
6. A pilot gardening competition has been organised for this term, six of our primary schools have signed up to take part. It is planned for the judging to take place in July.
7. A new application process for entitled free school meals is currently being developed, it is anticipated that this will be in place for the children entering reception in September 2013. This new process will streamline the application system and ensure the Council and schools have accurate data for children who are entitled to Government funded free school meals. This should then ensure maximum levels of pupil premium funding goes to the schools.
8. We will work with our communications colleagues to provide additional information for schools to remind parents of the need to complete the application form for free school meals.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Kerry Crichlow, Director Strategy and Commissioning, Children's and Adults' Services	
Report Author	Colin Gale, FHSM project manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	25 June 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		