

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT / **AGENDA ITEM NO.** 3

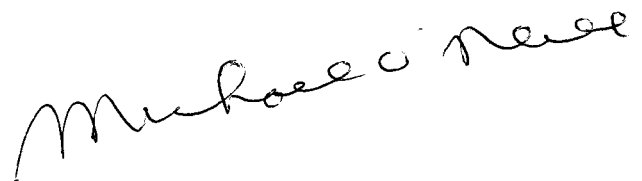
To: EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject: CATERING SERVICES - DEVELOPMENTS IN SCHOOL MEALS
From: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Date: SEPTEMBER 2004	Ref: BD/MD	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update members on initiatives and developments in the school meals service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The education (resources) sub committee is asked to note the content of this report.



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NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Catering Services – Developments in school meals catering

Joint Report by The Director of Education & The Director of Community Services

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last raised service review in 1996 the two developments have collaborated on a number of new developments in the school meals service. This report provides an update on these initiatives and includes evidence that they have been successful in promoting the update of school meals and the selection of healthier menu choices.

2. SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Web-bite

The Web-bite initiative has been introduced into 18 secondary schools. It has provided not only modern dining rooms refurbished with modern high street style layout and decoration but also a faster service to reduce queuing time

During the financial year 2003/04, Coatbridge High was refurbished to 'Web-bite' standards with funding assistance from the Head Teacher.

2.2 Digi-Dude

This primary school initiative encourages healthy eating through the branding and marketing of the character Digi-Dude. All 130 primary schools are involved. In addition the Fast Track concept has been introduced into 18 primary schools. This is a primary school version of Web-bite with a refurbished dining room and multi queue points. It speeds up the service in schools with a large school roll. The uptake of healthy options has increased by up to 50% within these schools. The facilities at Greengairs and Sacred Heart Primaries were refurbished in August 2004.

2.3 Sports Bars

Continuing the healthy eating theme in conjunction with Digi-dude, 14 primary schools have an additional sales counter into the dining room. Only healthy options are served from this counter. They are marketed with a sport theme to encourage pupils to eat for fitness.

2.4 Cook-Freeze Unit/Regeneration Meals System

The Cook Freeze unit operating from New Stevenson Primary has continued to expand its service to 22 primary schools. Homemade meals, snacks and a variety of homemade breads designed for primary pupils are cooked, frozen and distributed to Primary Schools where a kitchen production facility is not available.

Menu items are regenerated at each site producing a choice of good quality, hot and nutritious meals and snacks.

The Cook Freeze Unit will service a further 11 primary schools after they are refurbished in the current financial year.

2.5 Cashless Payment System

In total 17 schools now operate this system. It removes the stigma associated with free meals. Cashless systems will be installed in a further 11 secondary schools by March 2005. The multi-functional Young Scot Card system will be used .

2.6 Tuck Shop and Vending Operation Partnership

Catering Services has successfully developed a partnership arrangement with Head Teachers to provide this additional service.

A tuckshop service is provided in 36 primary schools and a vending and/or snack service in 22 secondary schools.

The key benefit is that the profit is shared between the school fund and reinvestment into the School Meals Service. Healthier options are promoted in these services for the benefit of the pupils. The number of water and still drinks in vending machines are programmed to increase to 95% over the next 12 months

3. HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS

3.1 In March 2003 the Scottish Executive awarded North Lanarkshire Council £4.5 m over the period 2003-2006 to implement the 24 recommendations contained within the "Hungry for Success" report.

3.2 Many of the key recommendations have been addressed and indeed overtaken during 2003/4.

3.3 The work to implement report recommendations is continuing with a number of areas being addressed during 2004/5. Amongst the main developments are:-

- The continuation and extension of menu development based on nutrient standards. This is currently being piloted in a number of primary schools and will be piloted in identified secondaries by December 2004.
- The production of curricular support packs for all stages, to support nutrition/healthy eating. This will involve the setting up, of a working group to develop and produce the support materials.
- debranding in all secondary dining centres will continue. This work was started during 2003/4 and will be rolled out to further secondaries during this financial year
- Purchase of software, for use within the classroom environment which will link nutrition and healthy eating to sport and exercise, in primaries 5,6 and 7.
- vending services will continue to work towards a target of 100% non-carbonated drinks by August 2005. Education and community services will continue to work in partnership to increase the percentage of healthy options available from vending machines.
- labelling of food provided in school dining facilities will be introduced, to show nutritional information and content

3.4 The implementation group along with the recently appointed nutritionist and craft trainer will also be looking at a number of further initiatives during this financial year:-

- Development of "The healthy lunch box"
- Extension improvement of the existing reward scheme to secondary, as well as primary
- Parents newsletter
- More intensive publicity and promotion of the "Hungry for Success" initiatives being introduced by North Lanarkshire Council.

4. **PERFORMANCE**

4.1 School meals update

The Scottish Executive's Statistics Publication notice of 22 June 2004 detailed the results of the annual survey of school meals. The information was collected in January 2004 from all Education Authorities in Scotland. This information was also compared with historical statistics showing performance from 1997 to 2004.

A sample of the main findings from this comparison which highlight a performance of continuous improvement for North Lanarkshire are illustrated below

<u>Pupils present taking School Meals in Primaries (Table 11) 1997</u>		<u>2004</u>
North Lanarkshire Council	32.3%	43.3%
Scottish Average	44.9%	48.9%

Pupils present taking School Meals in Secondaries (Table 17)

North Lanarkshire Council	32.9%	50.3%
Scottish Average	40%	48.8%

Pupils entitled and taking free meals in Primaries (Table 10)

North Lanarkshire Council	66.2%	73.3%
Scottish Average	75.7%	76.3%

Pupils entitled and taking free meals in Secondaries (Table 16)

North Lanarkshire Council	53.9%	61.9%
Scottish Average	56.7%	55.9%

The statistics are evidence that the initiatives introduced since 1998 have resulted in positive response from pupils greater than the average performance across the other Scottish Education Authorities.

4.2 **Current Promotions**

Freshly Squeezed Orange Juice

As an initiative to increase the uptake of health promoting products, Catering services has trialed a machine to provide freshly squeezed orange juice which will be based in one location for production and delivery to a number of schools and leisure facilities.

The juice is made from pure oranges with no additives etc.

Seafood Week: 1st - 8th October 2004

Seafood week is designed to increase awareness of the benefits of fish in the diet and to encourage the consumption of fish within our schools, particularly as oil- rich fish must appear on school lunch menus at least once per week.

Working with the Sea Fish Industry Authority, resources have been issued to all schools including information leaflets, seafood squad aprons, chef's hats and stickers.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The education (resources) sub committee is asked to note the content of this report.

SUMMARY OF SCHOOLS OPERATING NEW INITIATIVE

Web-bite

St Maurice's High
Columba High
Calderhead High
Brannock High
St Patrick's High
Kilsyth Academy
Our Lady's High (Cumbernauld)
Coltness High
Airdrie Academy
Clyde Valley High
Taylor High
Bellshill Academy
Cumbernauld High
Cardinal Newman High
Chryston High
Coatbridge High

Digi-Dude Fast Track

Woodlands Primary
St Margaret's of Scotland Primary
Abronhill Primary
Whitelees Primary
Kildrum Primary
Kirk O Shotts Primary
Stepps Primary
New Monklands Primary
Cathedral Primary
Noble Primary
St Augustines Primary
St Bernadettes Primary
Cumbernauld & St Andrews Primary
Stane Primary
St Andrew Primary
St Edwards Primary
Greengairs Primary
Sacred Heart Primary

Regeneration Meals System

Langloan Primary
Holy Family Primary
Old Monklands Primary
Glengowan Primary
Victoria Primary
New Stevenson Primary
Newarthill Primary
St Mary's (C/cruix) Primary
Newmains Primary
Our Ladys and St Francis Primary
Clelland Primary

Cashless Payment System

Columba High
Rosehall High
St Monica's Primary
Old Monklands Primary
Bellshill Academy
Cardinal Newmain
Coltness High
St Aidan's High
Our Lady's High
St Patrick's High
Clyde Valley High
Cumbernauld & St Andrews Primary
Greenfaulds High
St Ambrose High
Braidhurst High
Caldervale High
Coatbridge High by March 2005
St Maurices High by March 2005
St Margaret High by March 2005
Brannock High by March 2005
Calderhead High by March 2005
Kilsyth Academy by March 2005
Our Ladys High (M/well) by March 2005
Cumbernauld High by March 2005
Chryston High by March 2005
Taylor High by March 2005
Abronhill High by March 2005

Sports Bars

Lawmuir Primary
Holy Family Primary
Dykehead Primary
St Patricks Primary (Shotts)
Stane Primary
St Brigids Primary
Allanton Primary
Berryhill Primary
St Bernadettes Primary
St Matthews Primary
St Aidens Primary
St Brendans Primary
Clelland Primary

Cook Freeze Unit

New Stevenson Primary

Regeneration Meals System by March 2005

St Joseph Primary

Auchinloch Primary

Banton Primary

Gartcosh Primary

St Bartholomew's Primary

Townhead Primary

Greengairs Primary

Lammermoor Primary

Muirhouse Primary

Glencairn Primary

Sacred Heart Primary