

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No. 47

To: Education (Resources) Sub-Committee	Subject: Free Meals in Secondary Schools
From: Director of Education Director of Community Services	
Date: November 2005	
Ref: MM/BD/FC	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update committee on the actions taken to increase the uptake of free school meals in secondary schools.

Recommendations

The education (resources) sub-committee is recommended:-

- (i) to note the action taken to increase the uptake of free school meals
- (ii) to request a further report on working groups established to further promote uptake.



Members wishing further information about the paper should contact:

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North Lanarkshire Council : Department of Education

Free Meals in Secondary Schools

Joint Report by the Director of Education and Director of Community Services

1. Introduction

1.1 At the education resources sub committee on 18 August 2005, it was requested that a further report be submitted on the action taken and to be taken to try to maximise the number of pupils in secondary schools who are eligible both to register and to take up free school meals. The purpose of this report is to update committee on the actions taken to increase the uptake of free school meals in secondary schools.

1.2 Current Position

Appendix 1 shows the position in January 2005 taken from the Scottish Executive census. It includes details of numbers of pupils on register and entitled to free meals. Details of uptake of free meals are also given.

2. Current Initiatives

2.1 There are a number of initiatives and developments focusing on school meals generally and free meal uptake particularly through joint working between the departments of education and community services.

2.2 Hungry for Success Reward Scheme

2.2.1 As a result of the installation of the Cashless Payment System within all secondary schools, a reward scheme is about to be launched whereby pupils will be able to collect points. The more healthy items chosen from the school lunch menu, the more points collected, resulting in the top point scorers in each secondary school being awarded prizes such as CD vouchers, cinema tickets, sports vouchers and passes to local attractions. In addition, top point scorers will be entered into a North Lanarkshire wide draw with the chance to win top prizes such as IPODS, vouchers for sport retail outlets and Access NL passes to local sport facilities. It is hoped that this will be a major incentive for pupils to stay in the school at lunchtime and take school meals.

2.2.2 Starter Packs

At the beginning of the new school term, pupils Primary 1 and Secondary 1 were issued with a starter pack which included details of the school meals menus, the application form for registering for free meals and clothing grant as well as novelty marketing items, all of which helps to continually raise the awareness of the school meal service both for free and paying pupils.

2.2.3 Health Promoting Schools

Within each school there is a health promoting school committee comprising all member of the school team including the catering manager and pupil representatives

A key role of the committee is to jointly consider ways to continually improve the school meals service within their own school.

2.2.4 Information Screens

A supplier has been identified for the supply and installation of information screens into schools.

It is proposed to display appropriate and relevant information to pupils such as healthy eating and the Hungry for Success reward scheme.

The screens will be in operation from February 2006.

2.2.5 Dining Room Refurbishment

As part of the Hungry for Success de-branding exercise, the dining room serveries in secondary schools were replaced and modernised which aimed to improve the environment and dining experience for pupils.

3. Joint Working Groups

3.1 In order to continue developing initiatives and incentives, two working parties involving education and catering staff have been formed to focus on improving the service and promoting uptake. The key issues to be addressed include the following:

3.1.1 Mobile Food Vans

The department of education object to applications for mobile food vans to be outside schools but the planning applications are still approved by council

3.1.2 Food Purchased outwith School

To review the practise of food purchased outwith the schools in local shops etc. and allowed to be consumed within the school dining room.

3.1.3 Application Form and Guidance Notes

To review and make more accessible and user friendly the process for parents/guardians to apply for free school meals for their children in order to ensure all pupils who are eligible will be registered and then will be encouraged to take the free school meal available.

3.1.4 Benchmarking with Other Local Authorities

To benchmark with neighbouring local authorities where the uptake of free school meals in secondary schools is higher than that of North Lanarkshire in order to learn practises, which could be applied to our school meals service.

3.1.5 Marketing Plan

To develop a 3 year marketing plan for the school meal service in both primary and secondary schools. Previous marketing initiatives such as 'Web-bite' in secondary schools and " Digi-Dude" in primary schools resulted in an increase in meal uptake.

Therefore it is important to develop a marketing plan to continually meet the changing demands of our pupils.

3.1.6 Pre-order Packed Lunch

To pilot a pre-order packed lunch system so that pupils can takeaway, as they may be involved in school lunch time social and sporting activities.

4. **Recommendations**

The education (resources) sub- committee is recommended:-

- (i) to note the action taken to increase the update of free school meals
- (ii) to request a further report on working groups established to further promote update.

Authority code: 320

School name	School code number	Number of pupils							% Uptake of free meals
		On School Roll	Entitled to free meals	Entitled and registered for free meals	Total on the school roll who are present	Present and taking meals (free or at charge)	Registered for free meals and present	Registered, present and taking free meals	
Abronhill High School	8359334	524	81	75	493	153	71	42	52%
Airdrie Academy	8505438	1066	184	173	949	333	151	126	68%
Bellshill Academy	8516634	704	158	119	639	144	96	50	32%
Braidhurst High School	8516839	508	171	166	448	143	136	53	31%
Brannock High School	8519234	670	97	92	611	326	77	61	63%
Calderhead High School	8517231	545	118	114	467	82	51	36	31%
Caldervale High School	8505632	925	193	174	844	623	134	120	62%
Cardinal Newman High School	8518637	977	210	197	895	284	173	155	74%
Chryston High School	8342334	721	100	98	667	265	80	78	78%
Clyde Valley High School	8517932	707	209	199	628	319	166	129	62%
Coatbridge High School	8506132	782	168	157	713	263	131	87	52%
Coltness High School	8517738	814	127	107	757	216	94	70	55%
Columba High School	8506434	550	122	89	503	118	76	52	43%
Cumbernauld High School	8357234	695	136	127	565	240	99	63	46%
Dalziel High School	8516936	946	96	92	873	414	78	60	63%
Greenfaulds High School	8357331	1069	113	113	969	381	92	83	73%
Kilsyth Academy	8358532	838	101	94	765	362	73	48	48%
Our Lady's High School	8357439	853	110	110	785	468	96	96	87%
Our Lady's High School	8517134	637	119	111	600	426	89	71	60%
Rosehall High School	8506639	431	85	85	390	139	73	32	38%
St Aidan's High School	8517436	1251	161	151	1149	248	133	61	38%
St Ambrose High School	8506736	1349	159	159	1239	494	123	75	47%
St Margaret's High School	8505934	1240	256	249	1107	564	209	159	62%
St Maurice's High School	8358931	1066	106	101	988	429	91	62	58%
St Patrick's High School	8506930	687	128	125	618	190	102	84	66%
Taylor High School	8519137	797	134	132	697	556	110	77	57%
		21352	3642	3409	19359	8180	2804	2030	56%