

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 13 SEPTEMBER 2005
FREE FRUIT FOR NURSERIES

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Education Committee of the successful bid for mainline funding made to the Health Improvement Fund by the Community Dieticians in NHS Ayrshire and Arran to provide fresh fruit in nurseries across Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

The Health Improvement Fund is administered by the NHS in Scotland. One of its key objectives is to tackle health inequalities. NHS Ayrshire and Arran have identified strategic priorities and have allocated funding to support the development of health improvement focused work.

The Dietician Service in NHS Ayrshire and Arran put forward a bid to provide fresh fruit twice a week in local authority nurseries across Ayrshire to support and promote health improvement in children aged 3-5 years.

3. OUTCOMES

A total of £38,000 per annum from the Health Improvement Fund has been allocated to provide fresh fruit to all local authority nurseries across Ayrshire.

The outcomes of this initiative are as follows:

- to encourage children to eat fruit as part of their snack
- to provide a seamless link with the provision of fruit for primary 1 and 2 in schools
- to increase the knowledge and skills of caterers and nursery staff about fruit and the five a day message

In East Ayrshire, thirty three local authority nurseries will benefit from this initiative and a projected 1,856 children aged 3-5 years will have the opportunity to have fresh fruit during the academic year 2005/06.

It is also the intention of the Dieticians to explore the possibility of extending this initiative to the Council's Partner Providers of Pre School Education

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The allocation across Ayrshire from the NHS Health Improvement Fund is £38,000 per annum.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recent consultation exercise from the Scottish Executive, Nutritional Guidelines for Early Years and the 5 a day fruit and vegetables campaign promote access to fresh fruit for young children.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Education Committee are asked to note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

24 August 2005
KG/JA/JW

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Executive Nutritional Guidelines for Early Years June 2005.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR