

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 16 SEPTEMBER 2003

REPORT ON IMPLICATIONS OF 'HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS'

Report by Director of Educational & Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of the implications arising from the Scottish Executive Report 'Hungry for Success' and provide information on additional resources that have been made available.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report 'Hungry for Success – a whole school approach to school meals in Scotland', was issued on 17 February 2003. Although it does not have a statutory basis, it does have significant operational requirements for school meals and for the curriculum.
- 2.2 The promotion of Healthy Eating has been a key feature of the school meals provision within East Ayrshire. In 2001 East Ayrshire became the only Council in Scotland to achieve Commended Status for all Primary Schools in the 'Scottish Healthy Choices Award Scheme' which is managed by the Consumer Council and the Health Education Board for Scotland (HEBS).

3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 A range of improvements, supported by additional funding, aims to improve nutritional standards, the health of young people and to tackle child poverty. The 25 recommendations in the detailed report are summarised below;
- 3.2 **Introducing National Nutritional Standards**
The establishment of Scottish Nutrient Standards for school lunches for primary and special schools by **December 2004** and for secondary schools by **December 2006**. Monitoring the implementation of the Standards will be allocated principally to the HMIE inspection regime.
- Eliminating Stigma**
Primary schools should review their ticket allocation practices to ensure anonymity for free school meals. Secondary Schools should adopt early introduction of a school meal application for multiple use cards (cashless meals).
- Improving the Diningroom Environment**
Improvements to diningrooms to enhance their atmosphere and ambience and encourage use as a social area should be considered a priority by Councils and taken into account in school estate planning.
Other aspects of review by schools should include reconsidering seating and tabling, queuing arrangements, length of lunch break, supervision of meals, introducing pricing as an incentive to healthy food and issuing menus to parents.

Adopting a Whole School Approach to Health and Nutrition

Schools are required to review links between learning and teaching on healthy eating in the curriculum and food provision in the school. Education authorities should promote partnership approaches and schools should develop mechanisms to deliver partnership working.

Senior management within schools should strongly support and endorse their school meal provision as part of the whole child approach.

4. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEALS

The Scottish Executive additional funding will support the recommendations in 2 key nutritional areas – school meals and a free fruit scheme. Authorities are further encouraged to review funding arrangements concerning facilities relating to the provision of school meals.

4.1 Funding for Nutritional Standards

East Ayrshire Council's allocation grant funding in support of implementing the National Nutritional Standard is:

2003/04 - £296,000 ; **2004/05** - £507,000 ; **2005/06** - £582,000 **Total** - £1,385,000

This can include additional staffing costs to improve service provision

4.2 Providing Free Fruit for Primary Years 1 & 2

Free fruit for the first two years of primary school will be financed through the National Priorities action Fund and each authority will receive an amount dependant on pupil numbers for each of the next three years. The figure for East Ayrshire Council is £48,492.

4.3 Introducing Cashless Meals/Removing the Stigma of Free Meals

To be financed through the Modernising Government Fund for appropriate schools.

4.4 Priority to Improve Diningroom Facilities

Through PPP and school estate budgets.

5. ACTION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 5.1 Further guidance on recommended nutritional standards and monitoring arrangements is still awaited from the Scottish Executive and further advice on the implementation of the recommendations of the report will be explained at the Scottish Executive seminar 'Making it Work' which will take place later early October of this year.

- 5.2 The recommendations of the report are wide reaching and will only be developed successfully by adopting a 'whole school' approach that is inclusive of both school meals and the school curriculum.
- 5.3 It is proposed therefore that a Steering Group be formed which will incorporate all stakeholders including Teacher and Pupil representation together with colleagues across the Council in relation to, curriculum development, ITC marketing and property development, and other agencies including plan Ayrshire and Arran Health Trust, to prepare an early action plan, targeted for October, for the implementation of the recommendations of the report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Additional funding for school meals for the financial year 2003/04 is £296,000 ; the financial year 2004/05 is £507,000 and financial year 2005/06 is £582,000 which will be received in the Council's Revenue Support Grant. A further amount of £48,492 will be made available through the National Priorities Action Fund for the provision of free fruit on Primary Schools Years 1 & 2.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Nil

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The priority to develop a Healthy Eating Culture is contained within the Council's Healthy Eating Policy drawn from 'Eating for Health – A Diet Action Plan for Scotland'.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Education Committee note and welcome additional resources to promote school meals and approve that;

- (i) A further report should be prepared for the Education Committee detailing an East Ayrshire Action Plan in response to the report 'Hungry for Success'; and that
- (ii) it would be appropriate therefore to consider a short term multi-disciplinary Steering Group to prepare the Action Plan to establish the financial, nutritional, curricular, school ethos, school management and school estate budgetary implications.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
29 August 2003

**Background Papers: Scottish Executive Report Final Report of the Expert Panel
on School Meals – Hungry for Success**

Members wishing further information should contact Robin Gourlay, Contracts Manager
Tel: (01563 555710) or John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services Tel:
(01563 576017)

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : ROBIN GOURLAY