**The Health and Wellbeing Service**

**School Food Leadership Forum**

Forum 1: Monday 26th April 2021 15:30-16:30

Forum 2: Wednesday 28th April 11:30-12:30

**Attendees**

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| Adel Primary School |
| Allerton High School |
| Alwoodley Primary School |
| Benton Park School |
| Broadgate Primary School |
| Hunslet Moor Primary School |
| Morley Victoria Primary School |
| Park Spring Primary School |
| Roundhay All-through School |
| Wetherby High School |
| Whingate Primary School |
| Adel St John the Baptist C of E Primary School |
| Asquith Primary School |
| Cockburn Haigh Road Academy |
| Co-Operative Academy Priesthorpe |
| Five Lanes Primary School |
| Guiseley Primary School |
| Guiseley Primary School |
| Little London Primary School |
| Moor Allerton Hall Primary School |
| Pudsey Bolton Royd Primary School |
| Robin Hood Primary School |
| SS Peter & Paul |
| Shakespeare Primary School and Nursery |
| St Bartholomew's C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School |
| Wykebeck Primary School |

**Agenda and feedback from schools**

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|  | **Agenda item** |
| 1 | Welcome and housekeeping |
| 2 | Impact of the pandemic on children’s eating and school food  *Refer to PowerPoint*  **Comments from schools about the impact of the pandemic**   * *Schools are finding that children are hungry all the time as children are used to grazing throughout the day at home.* * *Children are also fussier than previously as they are used to parents making them what they want; this means that they are not choosing school dinners.* * *Parents have been complaining about the quality of school meals even though this hasn’t changed since pre-covid.* * *Lots of children have stopped school dinners and are bringing packed lunch instead.* * *Teachers are more aware of what children are bringing in packed lunches – these are often unhealthy with lots of sweets and processed foods. The quantity of food being brought in has increased as well.* * *One Y6 child didn’t want to come back to school because they wouldn’t be allowed to eat when they wanted.* * *There has been an increase in Free School Meals and pupil premium children moving away from school dinners and brining packed lunches but these are not always healthy options.* * *High schools have a pre-order system, but students are opting not to use this because it is more difficult and don’t want to engage in it - some students are bringing packed lunch and some are not accessing food at all.* * *Some schools have noticed weight gain in pupils since the return – they have implemented additional active sessions every day to try to combat this.* * *Grab bags have impacted on the number pupils taking up school meals.* * *On a positive – lots of children enjoy eating in the classroom as they can take their time and there is a family relaxed atmosphere.* |
| 3 | Key local and national updates on school food   1. Free school meals 2. Winter Grant 3. Healthy Holidays 4. Food Clubs & digital food map |
| 4 | Current challenges and successes  **Feedback from schools**   * *During lockdown some schools were concerned with food wastage as some families didn’t collect hampers despite asking for them. The voucher scheme was, therefore, much better. The school was able to reallocate the food to other families when possible.* * *Some schools have provided free breakfast to all pupils so that they do not get hungry throughout the morning, particularly with staggered lunch times.* * *Magic Breakfast or Kellogg’s breakfast club might be able to support schools. Magic breakfast packs can be sent home during lockdown too.* * *Dentistry is a concern and schools are seeing more pupils with dental issues. This is partly because pupils haven’t been able to see a dentist in a long time and they have also been eating more sugary snacks at home.* * *There are challenges for schools with getting access to the canteen for pupils whilst they are in bubbles – one school staggers lunch and year groups – 3 year groups access the canteen for hot meals one week whilst the other has grab bags and then they swap the following week. This has worked so well the school is going to continue staggering lunchtimes next year. This can have an impact on staff time though and needs planning well.* * *Engaging parents to pay for meals has been an issue – schools need to be supportive, but also need to manage payments as budgets are tight in schools*. * *Children are hungry throughout the day- schools are working on ensuring they know the importance of breakfast and are also providing healthy snacks.* * *Schools are seeing KS1 fruit being eaten more than usual and some are extending this to KS2* * *Seeing physical changes so are introducing the daily mile and extra activity in PE sessions.* * *Concerns over the ability to get hot meals to children – some schools are using the dining hall and some not. Some schools have hot food grab bags, some concerns that Catering Leeds have not offered this to all schools.* * *Schools are keen to get back into the dining hall although some have seen behaviour improvements so may stick to bubbles. One school has introduced reception to the dining hall with proper crockery and cutlery as some of these children had forgotten how to use a knife and fork.* * *Communication with catering service is crucial.* * *Little London provided food during lockdown and cooking clubs which provided bags of food and recipe cards. Have seen the quality of food go down due to lack of money.* * *Some schools are getting donations of fruit from supermarkets.* * *Some schools finding the hot food options difficult.* * [*Zarach*](https://zarach.org/) *– charity for school only to refer families in need – they provide emergency food packs delivered to the door as well as other things and do this quickly. Other schools recommended them and thanked Becky for her help. Becky from Shakespeare is the contact.* |
| 5 | Leadership responsibilities for food in school  *Refer to PowerPoint* |
| 6 | Next steps and opportunities  *Refer to PowerPoint* |
| 7 | Further resources and training  *Refer to PowerPoint* |
| 6 | AOB, further questions, comments and concerns.  Q> How much can the school claim for FSM and COVID funding.   1. The vouchers should have been £15 so schools can claim what they have spent.   Q> What is the approach for returning to real crockery?   1. Some catering companies are already using proper crockery and are washing it safely. It is encouraged that schools start to move towards proper crockery and cutlery and schools should speak to their catering agency about this.   Q> Do you have any template policies for school food/ packed lunches?   1. Link to Leeds for Learning was shared.   Q> How was the other £1.2M of the Winter Grant spent?   1. Under 4’s, food, energy, water, care leavers and families without children including vulnerable adults. |