

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
DATE: THURSDAY, 25 APRIL 2013
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING
SUBJECT: SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide members with a comprehensive update with regards to the implementation of various initiatives within the school meals service and provide a progress report on the Appetite for Life programme, which is a Welsh Government initiative designed to improve the health and wellbeing of children.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 In 2011 the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) were commissioned by Flintshire County Council to conduct a review of the school meals service and provide recommendations as to the future structure and financial viability of the service to ensure that it is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the council, schools, parents and pupils.

2.03 Appendix 1 highlights the main areas of work currently in progress with anticipated efficiencies and completion dates.

2.04 Completion of this work which is being project managed under the Flintshire Futures programme will result in a resilient high quality modern school meals service, in which investment in staff, technology and updated working practices will secure efficiencies and ensure service improvements.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 In order to secure the future viability of the school meals service, organisational redesign and practice change will be implemented as part of the review programme. The aim of this work is to generate additional income through new business, control and reduce material costs, whilst promoting flexibility in staffing arrangements and reduce management, supervisory and staffing overheads.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That members note the contents of this report and that further updates can be provided at key project milestones.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 Invest to save and improvement costs are estimated to be circa £133K however this figure will be offset by the following efficiencies:

- Primary School Staffing review circa £100K
- Primary School material cost reductions circa £30K
- Secondary School Staffing review circa £22K
- Secondary School material cost reductions circa £26K

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 The service will continue to offer Free School Meals and Breakfast Clubs in accordance with Welsh Government and County Council policies and we will monitor this provision to ensure that it provides these services to the highest possible standards and within the budgets set.

6.02 The service is aware of the Council's responsibility to offer appropriate remuneration of catering, cleaning and other facilities management roles and is working with HR on the part 3 Single Status negotiations to eliminate outdated payment practices.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 There will be no environmental impact as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIP) will be carried out in each service area during the review period in consultation with HR, the TUs and employees.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 The review programme will result in flatter leaner structure based on the Council's policies on 'spans of control' meaning no single line reports or deputies and introducing new ways of working more closely with other council departments such as HR and Environment.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 The workforce and Trade Unions will be consulted at all key milestones in the review programme.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Consultations have taken place with Trades Unions and individuals with regards to the primary school staffing review.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 List of School Meals initiatives and efficiencies.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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