

NHPC 1261

Public Health Team - Aberdeen City - See Response

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM:
A CONSULTATION ON THE SCHOOLS (NUTRITION AND HEALTH PROMOTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

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1. Are you responding: (please tick one box)

(a) as an individual? go to Q2a/b and then Q4

(b) **on behalf of** a group/organisation? go to Q3 and then Q4

INDIVIDUALS

2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website)?

Yes (go to 2b below)

No, not at all We will treat your response as confidential

2b. **Where confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. The name and address of **your** organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on **the** Scottish Executive website). Are you also content for your **response** to be made available?

Yes

No We will treat your response as confidential

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4. We will share your response internally with other Scottish Executive policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. **Are** you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

No

Improving the Health and Nutrition of Scotland's Children – consultation on the (nutrition and health promotion) (Scotland) bill

Aberdeen City Response

1. **Yes** – If funded adequately. It should cover provision of all food and drink served/available in schools, this would ensure consistency and bring it into line with Hungry for Success recommendations. This should be expanded to cover provision within community learning as it sends out mixed messages particularly where co-location exists. Guidelines would be particularly beneficial to ensure provision out with school meals, particularly tuck shops and vending machines where food and drinks high in fat, sugar and salt continue to be sold in a number of schools. This also needs to extend to food and drinks sold within canteens which are not covered by Hungry for Success recommendations. The nutrient standards need to be easy for schools to apply, linked to existing standards, realistic and achievable in the current climate.
2. **Yes** - To ensure equality the standards should apply to all schools and should be inspected regularly by local authority officers.
3. **Yes** - The importance of promoting uptake of school meals is recognised and in particular free school meals. However, there are capacity issues in that schools could not currently cope with the potential increased demand for school meals (space and time). Point 52 within the document does not fully address these concerns, as a large number of schools are not included in this investment programme. Supervision within school dining areas is also an issue (not the responsibility of teaching staff, further reinforced under McCrone) and to promote uptake and ensure a safe environment exists for children and young people this needs to be addressed. We need to promote the changes that are taking place within school meals in Scotland and to let parents know it isn't just happening in England with Jamie Oliver's campaign. By being more pro-active in conveying this to parents it may help increase up-take.
4. **Yes** and the use of cash free systems is an effective way to do this.
5. **Yes** in principal but funding is essential. The terminology was confusing particularly the term 'power' and what difference will this mean?
6. **Yes** – The understanding is that this target has already been set (all schools to be Health Promoting Schools by 2007) and authorities are well on their way to achieving this. If it takes it a stage further and puts it in legislation this would be beneficial by adding further weight to the current Health Promoting School agenda. By putting health promotion at the heart of a school's business is the only way we will improve the health and well-being of our school communities.

General Comments – Throughout the document Health Promoting Schools is referred to as Health Promoting Environments, while the reasons behind this are understandable (taking it beyond the school), by changing the language it is confusing for schools and constant change is not helpful, even if it is only terminology.

We need to be conscious of issues around packed lunches and food/drinks brought in from home which can undermine this work. We also need to address the issue of food vans operating within close proximity to schools which can also undermine this work.

Practical cooking skills is a key contributor to people's poor diet in Scotland, the demise in practical cooking in schools is not helping and needs to be addressed as part of this agenda.

If the bill is wider than nutrition as the title and some of the content would suggest, why does it mention only a number of topics when there are many other aspects to a Health Promoting

School? It would be good if greater weight was given to these other topics, empathising that health promoting schools are about more than food and nutrition.

In terms of the language used in point 3 of the document, it would be better to use '*ensure*' rather than '*endeavour to ensure*' – how do you measure endeavour?

The more integrated into every aspect of school and home life health promotion in its widest sense becomes the better for all concerned.