

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree that local authorities should be under a duty to ensure that food and drinks which they provide in their schools, including nurseries, meet defined nutrient standards?

Yes

~~No~~

Comment (add separately if required)

2. Where children are attending independent schools, and where the provision of food and drinks are arranged or funded, by a local authority, should the food and drinks meet defined nutrient standards?

Yes

~~No~~

Comment (add separately if required)

3. Should local authorities be under a duty to promote uptake of school meals in their schools, including free school meals?

Yes

~~No~~

Comment (add separately if required)

4. Should local authorities be under a duty to ensure that those taking free school meals can do so anonymously, as far as is practicable?

Yes

~~No~~

Comment (add separately if required)

There are still too many schools where children in receipt of free school meals are easily identified. If we want to improve uptake, it must be done in such a way (using smartcards, for example) that poorer children are not deterred. Having to pay with a ticket when everyone else uses cash is unacceptable.

5. Should local authorities have the power to provide children in local authority schools with free drinks, fruit, vegetables, bread or cereal based snacks, which meet defined nutrient standards?

Yes

~~No~~

Comment (add separately if required)

Breakfast clubs and provision of drinking water have improved nutrition and academic performance. But having the power to provide free snacks is not enough without funding being provided to make this happen.

6. Should there be a duty on Scottish Ministers and local authorities to endeavour to ensure that all local authority schools are health promoting schools?

Yes

~~No~~

Comment (add separately if required)

We have a fantastic opportunity to improve the future health of Scottish children (and their attainment), and via their enthusiasm, that of their parents and grandparents. We need to do this not only through healthy food promotion, but also teaching children to cook using real ingredients instead of pre-packed meals which are often loaded with fat, salt and sugars. This has the potential of relieving poverty as well.

7. Any other comments? (add separately if required)

I find the rules for free meals eligibility unnecessarily complex. There is an income threshold but working tax credit families are excluded, regardless of family size or actual income.