

## 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)

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)

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)

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

*Attached comments.*

**Response to the consultation on the schools (nutrition and health promotion) (Scotland) bill**

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, all providers and stakeholders should be involved and committed to this process. There needs to be consistency in attitudes and approaches to provision provided in schools. In consultation with parents and partners it would be appropriate to have uniformity in attitudes to tuck shop provision, packed lunches, catering vans in school grounds etc. A healthy balance of food should be included with appropriate labelling to keep all parties informed. The rights of choice and the individual have still to be considered in all provision. Within an environment which provides quality and supports change impact could be apparent

The encouragement of health promotion within the wider spectrum of fair trade should not be ignored.

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?

The expectation should be that children attending independent schools will be regarded in a similar fashion to those not attending, however responsibility goes beyond the local authority to the school, community and the home environment.

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

In an ideal situation children would be opting voluntarily to school meals, however the rights of choice and the individual have got to be taken into account. Provision of school meals has got to be made attractive - this includes the eating environment, the time allocation as well as the food. Increased numbers would have an impact on staffing – catering supervisory and teaching this would need to be taken into consideration also.

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?

The issue of free meals has got to be handled with care; anonymity is crucial. Card systems would appear to be working, perhaps the issue of one card e.g. The Young Scot Card with multi function would be a solution.

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?

The provision of free drinks, etc. should be encouraged, however this would need to work hand in hand with oral health and again in particular in the primary sector this could have an impact on supervision and staffing. Appropriate measures would need to be in place to allow pupils time to eat and drink etc.

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

The responsibility of ensuring health promotion goes beyond the local authority it is the responsibility of everyone. However the Health Promoting Schools HMIe document ensures that this can be monitored and clearly evaluated.

7. Any other comments?

It would have been beneficial for the consultation to have looked at health promotion in schools separately from nutrition as a consequence other influences have been ignored eg. drugs, emotional health, etc.

The role of parents and carers and their cooperation is crucial to ensuring that pupils readily opt in to healthier options.

Schools have to ensure that adequate provision is made to allow pupils time to eat in a civilised fashion in some cases this may demand staggered lunch times, etc. Within the curriculum health promotion and healthy eating must be an integral part – this should not just be confined to PSE but to the delivery of every area of the curriculum.