

## 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

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

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

Comment (add separately if required)

Actually I think all school meals should be free for all children. Whenever there is means testing of services or benefits, some people who would be entitled will miss out. This is due in large part to the stigma of claiming a means tested benefit, and particularly so when children are involved. I strongly believe that the health of our poorest children is too important to be left to the individual capacities of parents living on a low income. If school meals for all were free, then parents would for the most part not give their children money for lunches, and children would eat the meal available in the absence of the ability to go to the chippy. As long as school meals are not free, many children will choose to eat out of school, from unhealthy take aways.

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

Comment (add separately if required)

But see above. I do not believe it is possible to entirely anonymise this process – making school meals free for all would be the simplest way.

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

Comment (add separately if required)

Children should have water available at all times, and should be encouraged to drink sufficient water throughout the day. Breakfast should be available free for all who want it – see above on school meals. If children don't eat before school, they don't concentrate as well,, and their behaviour is often worse. Free fruit at break time is a cheap way of improving behaviour.

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

Comment (add separately if required)

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