

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**28 July 2015**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**DERBYSHIRE FOOD FOR LIFE PARTNERSHIP (FFLP)**

**1. Purpose of the report:**

To inform the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities on the recent success and progress of the Derbyshire Food For Life Partnership, a national evidence-based programme raising the quality standards of food in catering services and preschool and school settings in Derbyshire.

**2. Information and analysis:**

- 2.1 FFLP is far more than a school meals programme. It harnesses the expertise of five partner agencies<sup>1</sup> and uses food as a way to improve the whole school community experience - making lunchtimes a more positive experience, enriching classroom learning, and engaging the wider community.
- 2.2 Public Health officers have commissioned FFLP to work with the school food catering service and school clusters, including Long Eaton, Chesterfield and Shirebrook areas to raise the standard of food provision in preschool and schools settings.
- 2.3 In June 2015 the council's Catering Service was awarded the **FFLP Bronze Catering Mark Award**. Achieving this standard demonstrates that the council have made important changes to the service by focusing on removing harmful additives, Trans fats and GM from the menu and ensuring that the majority of food on the menu is prepared freshly on site, supporting 350 primary schools and nurseries in Derbyshire.
- 2.4 In June 2015 an additional three schools were successful in achieving the **FFLP Bronze School Award** Barrow Hill Primary, Shardlow Primary and St Joseph's Catholic and Church Of England (VA) Primary School. Achieving this standard demonstrates that the schools have adopted a whole school approach, supporting nutritious school meals and engaging pupils, parents and the wider community in growing projects and cooking

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<sup>1</sup> Soil Association, Health Education Trust, Garden Organic, Focus on Food and the Royal Society for Public Health.

food, and reconnecting pupils with where food comes from through structured, curriculum-linked activities. The Long Eaton School will receive the bronze awarded in due course.

**2.5 In Derbyshire 79 schools are enrolled on the Food For Life Programme, seven schools have achieved the Bronze FFLP Award, two Silver, and two Gold.**

2.6 Many important and significant changes are taking place around school food including the independent School Food Plan, school meals food-based standards, Universal Infant Free School Meals, compulsory cooking in the curriculum and Ofsted's new inspection framework to assess "informed choices about healthy eating". Ofsted has formally included healthy eating in its [Common Inspection Framework](#) from September 2015. Inspectors will assess whether "*pupils can explain accurately and confidently how to keep themselves healthy and make informed choices about healthy eating.*" Inspectors will also look at "*the breadth and balance of the school's curriculum*" and will observe pupils during lunchtime and in the dining hall.

2.7 Schools have an important role to play in ensuring that no child starts the day or spends any part of it distracted by hunger or poor nutrition. The FFLP promotes a good food culture within the school, supporting pupils from lower income households to eat better and learn better. By building social capital and engaging local communities, schools also contribute towards longer-term solutions, changing the landscape of food and poverty in their local area.

2.8 At a national level, independent evidence shows that schools who are engaged in the Food for Life Partnership demonstrate improved educational attainment, address health and learning inequalities, raise Ofsted outcomes, increase the uptake of Free School Meals, support a range of existing learning initiatives and address health and wellbeing targets. Nationally FFLP can demonstrate improvements in the following categories:

**2.8.1 Improving Children's Health**

- A 28% increase in primary school-age children reporting eating 5-a-day.
- 45% of parents said their family was eating more vegetables, with 43% switching to healthier and more sustainable choices in the shopping basket.

**2.8.2 Improving Education**

- Twice as many primary schools received an Ofsted rating of outstanding following their participation with Food for Life.

- Many head teachers reported a positive impact on pupil behaviour, attention and attainment.
- 67.1% of schools felt the programme had a clear impact on their Ofsted report in terms of pupils' personal development and well-being.

### **2.8.3 Tackling Inequalities**

- In non-FFL schools, over 20% of primary school pupils and 30% of secondary school pupils are eligible to take up healthy free school meals, but choose not to eat them for fear of stigma or the lure of fast food outlets.
- In FFL schools over a two-year period, free school meal take-up increased by 13% in primary schools, 20.9% in secondary schools, and by 21% across the board in schools achieving our Silver or Gold award.

### **2.8.4 Improving Local Enterprise & Sustainability**

- Children eating school meals rose by 5% over two years, making them much more cost effective to cater.
- Over £3 in social, economic and environmental value was created for every £1 spent on Food for Life menus. This was mainly in the form of new jobs in the local economy.

## **3. Other considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

## **4. Background papers:**

No

## **5. Key Decision:**

No

## **6. Call-in:**

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?  
No

**7. Officer recommendation:**

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities notes the report.

**Elaine Michel**  
**Director of Public Health**