

Cabinet - 15 June 2016

Healthy Eating Services in Schools

Portfolio:	Councillor Robertson, Health
Related portfolios:	Councillor Burley, Children's Services and Education
Service:	Economy and Environment Directorate - Public Health
Wards:	All
Key decision:	Yes
Forward plan:	Yes

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Council's Public Health team is seeking to procure a new healthy eating service in primary schools, early years settings (such as nurseries) and special schools to be in place by December 2016.
- 1.2 This new service will embed a whole school approach to growing, preparing and cooking healthy food.
- 1.3 In addition, this new service will support the new OFSTED common inspection framework health-promoting school requirements for schools that were published in June 2015 and came into effect in September 2015 (please see Ofsted requirements in **Appendix A**).
- 1.4 This is a key decision because it will affect primary age children across the whole of the Borough of Walsall.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the procurement of a healthy eating programme in primary schools, early years settings and special schools.
- 2.2 That Cabinet note the intention of the commissioner to return to Cabinet to seek approval to award a new contract once the procurement process has been undertaken.

3. Report detail

- 3.1. Through National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data we know that in 2014, 25.3 % of Walsall children were overweight or very overweight when they entered reception (age 4 or 5)¹, increasing to 37.6% children being overweight or very overweight in Year 6 (age 10 or 11)².
- 3.2 In order to support healthy weight in children the Council needs to:
- a) support families where children are overweight to manage their weight; and
 - b) encourage children's healthy eating.
- 3.3 The Lifestyles service for which Cabinet approved the contract award in April 2016 will support weight management in children by working with the whole family. Healthy eating in schools will compliment the Lifestyles service by encouraging children to choose healthy eating options.
- 3.4 The Council's Public Health team previously commissioned a private company (Food Dudes) to deliver a healthy eating programme in two-thirds of Council primary schools and in some nurseries. Food Dudes ceased trading in September 2015 and was wound-up in October 2015, with no continued or replacement service offered by its Liquidators, at significant cost to the Council. However, the programme was valued by schools, primary age children and their parents.
- 3.5 The School Food Plan became mandatory for all maintained schools, new academies and free schools from January 2015. Launched by the Department of Education it provides a new set of standards for all food served in schools³. Public Health now propose to develop a healthy eating service which will compliment the standards to encourage healthy eating for all children in nurseries, primary schools and special schools to increase health and wellbeing and support child healthy weight and healthy eating within Walsall. In line with this recent guidance this may involve:
- a) Provision of nutritional advice;
 - b) Simple labelling of food e.g. a traffic light system for high fat or high sugar foods;
 - c) Development of cooking skills;
 - d) Involving children in planning menus;
 - e) Providing a pleasant dining environment;
 - f) Support around growing healthy food;
 - g) Online resources.

¹ Public Health Outcomes Framework, excess weight in 4-5 year olds. Available at

<http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/3/gid/1000042/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/102/are/E08000030/iid/20601/age/200/sex/4>

² Public Health Outcomes Framework, excess weight in 10-11 year olds. Available at

<http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/3/gid/1000042/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/102/are/E08000030/iid/20602/age/201/sex/4>

³ School Food Standards Available at: <http://www.schoolfoodplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/School-Food-Standards-Guidance-FINAL-V3.pdf>

- 3.6 Based on the market, procurement of this service may involve buying a licence for an evidence based programme for healthy eating in schools. This will be delivered by the provider who will be required to cascade training and knowledge to Council staff in order to reduce future delivery costs and ensure a legacy. It is anticipated that efficiency savings will be made as a result of this procurement and the remodelling of this service.
- 3.7 The proposed timetable for the procurement of this new service is in Table A, below:

Table A

Seek Cabinet approval to procure a Healthy Eating in Schools service	June 2016
Commence tendering process for Healthy Eating in Schools	July 2016
Seek approval from Cabinet to award contract to a new provider	October 2016
Contract starts for Healthy Eating in School	December 2016
Engagement with schools	December 2016 and January 2017
Service offer rolled out in schools and nurseries	February 2017

4. Council priorities

- 4.1 The provision of a healthy eating in schools programme will impact on the following priorities for the Council outlined in the Corporate Plan:
- a) Improving health and well being, including independence for older people: The proposed service should increase support to children and young people in school settings groups to ensure long term health, residents who have the greatest potential to benefit. Knowledge gained by children in school will also impact on family life;
 - b) Improving safeguarding, learning and the life chances for children and Young People: The proposed new service will offer healthy eating support to children and young people and improve their health which has a direct impact on attainment and employment prospects.
- 4.2 The healthy eating in schools programme will have a positive and sustained impact on the objectives and priorities set out above, and for the Council's Health portfolio generally, both through active engagement with Walsall residents, support for children and through partnership working with various Council services, in particular, Children's Services.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 Failure to deliver demonstrable improvements in Public Health against key national performance indicators may mean that the Council fails to achieve uplifts in Public Health grant allocation from the Department of Health in future years.
- 5.2 The healthy eating in schools programme support will be procured in accordance with Public Contract Regulations 2015. As with all tender exercises, there are inherent risks which will be mitigated through project planning by the new service provider in collaboration with partner agencies and commissioners.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The current budget for this service is £390,000. Based on the Council requirement to make savings, it is anticipated that the new service model will be procured to the value of approximately £260,000 per year. This will deliver savings of £130,000 per year.
- 6.2 There is a recognition that the Council is operating within a challenging financial climate, which will have a direct impact upon the future budget available for these services. In line with procurement advice, there will be break clauses built into contracts to allow for any potential reductions in contract value in line with future Council priorities. The new contracts will be managed within the allocated budgets for Public Health.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The guidance which enables local authorities to offer public health support to the population is set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. This allows local authorities to exercise any of the public health functions of the Secretary of State relating to the health of the public in the authority's area.
- 7.2 The Council's Legal Services will assist with using the most appropriate procedures and preparing the contract and any ancillary legal documents.

8. Procurement implications

- 8.1 All tenders will be sought in full compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015. It is anticipated that the procurement of the service will qualify for the "Light Touch" regime within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 8.2 The Council's Procurement Team will assist with conducting and managing the procurement process in a compliant manner.

9. Property implications

None anticipated

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1 In September 2012 the Council adopted the Marmot objectives⁴ as objectives for improving Health and Wellbeing and reducing inequalities for the people of Walsall. These objectives have provided the framework for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Sustainable Communities Strategy, and “The Walsall Plan”.
- 10.2 Reducing inequalities and improving child health is an explicit objective of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Council’s Corporate Plan. Public Health procurements and contracts seek to maximise improvement in health and wellbeing, including narrowing the gap in outcomes between the most deprived and least deprived in Walsall.
- 10.3 There remains a strong economic case for investing in early intervention in childhood and continuing to ensure that support for healthy relationships, emotional health and wellbeing and healthy eating is delivered in schools.

11. Staffing implications

Current Council services such as A*Stars (Active Travel), Clean and Green Park Rangers and Sports Development will be part of the healthy eating and healthy weight work in schools and it is anticipated that they will be closely involved in supporting schools to achieve their healthy eating aims.

12. Equality implications

- 12.1 A consultation was undertaken in December 2015 which explored the need for wider lifestyle intervention, including healthy eating and healthy weight services for children aged 0-12 years. There was an overwhelming agreement from residents and stakeholders that healthy eating services for children is a priority area.

⁴ Fair Society Health Lives (The Marmot Review) Available at:
<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/projects/fair-society-healthy-lives-the-marmot-review>

- 12.2 The EqlA completed in December 2015, showed that there was no indication that people with protected characteristics would be adversely impacted by the proposal.

13. Consultation

- 13.1 Discussion has taken place with six schools indicating support to re-introduce a healthy eating programme to support children in nurseries, primary schools and special schools.
- 13.2 A consultation is taking place in May 2016 with Walsall school staff and young people to find out what operational elements of a healthy eating programme would be of most value to these key groups. It also seeks to find out from school staff whether there is an interest from schools in funding additional non-core support such as cooking groups for parents. This consultation will inform the development of the operational requirements of this new model.


Background papers

None

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Barbara Watt
Director of Public Health

6 June 2016



Councillor Robertson
Portfolio holder for Health

6 June 2016

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'SN', with a stylized, cursive script.

Simon Neilson
Executive Director

6 June 2016

Ofsted Expectations

OFSTED The common inspection framework: education, skills and early years (August 2015) Available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461767/The_common_inspection_framework_education_skills_and_early_years.pdf

The common inspection framework: education, skills and early years

The Common Inspection Framework came into force in August 2015 and covers all the education services that Ofsted inspects, including:

- Maintained schools and academies
- Early years settings
- Non-association independent schools
- Further education (FE) and skills providers

The Common Inspection Framework has a clear focus on the culture, ethos and environment of a school and how this impacts the health and wellbeing of pupils and their readiness to learn. Regarding Food and physical activity in schools inspectors will;

- Look for evidence of a culture or ethos of exercise and healthy eating.
- Look at the food on offer and visit the canteen to see the atmosphere and culture in the dining space and the effect this has on pupils' behaviour.
- Speak to school leaders about how they help to ensure a healthy lifestyle for pupils by helping them gain knowledge of a good diet, physical exercise and mental and physical wellbeing.

Inspectors will ensure that:

Pupils can explain accurately and confidently how to keep themselves healthy. They make informed choices about healthy eating, fitness and their emotional and mental well-being. They have an age-appropriate understanding of healthy relationships and are confident in staying safe from abuse and exploitation.