

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
20 AUGUST 2008**

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORTING – SCHOOL MEALS IN  
SCOTLAND 2008**

**BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify the Committee of performance information with regard to free school meals and healthy eating.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Children and Young People's Services Committee in terms of Section D(1) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising all the functions of the Council as Education Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee scrutinises and notes the information contained in Appendices 1 and 2.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Further to the report approved at the Educational Services Committee on 9 August 2006, performance information is reported to Committee following publication of a series of Scottish Government statistics notices throughout the year allowing comparisons with national and comparator authority average levels.

**4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan**

The contents of this report are in accord with the Working Principles of the Corporate Development Plan

**(b) Policy and Legal**

None.

**(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

None.

**(d) Consultations**

This report has been circulated to Senior Officers in Educational Services who are in agreement with the contents.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 That the Committee scrutinises and notes the contents of this report.**

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Background Papers: Scottish Government Statistics Publication Notice, School Meals in Scotland 2008, ISSN 1479 7569  
Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services Committee/20 August 2008/Public Performance Reporting - School Meals in Scotland

**APPENDIX 1****PERFORMANCE INFORMATION****School Meals in Scotland 2008**

The following information summarises the Scottish Government Statistical Notice which was published on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008 on the results of the latest annual survey of school meals undertaken in early 2008.

In Moray, over the past 3 years, there has been a lower level of entitlement to free school meals for Primary and Secondary pupils in comparison to our comparator authorities' and national averages. All parents are provided with details of free school meal entitlement criteria and application instructions, it is thereafter the parent's decision as to whether they submit an application.

Pupils entitled to free school meals are those within families who receive Income Support (IS) or Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA). Those within families who receive support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 may also be entitled. Children who receive IS or IBJSA in their own right are also entitled to receive free school meals. Also entitled are children whose parents or carers receive Child Tax Credit, do not receive Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) of below £14,495.

The survey results included those schools participating in the trial of free school meals for all pupils in P1-P3 in five local authorities (East Ayrshire, Fife, Glasgow, Scottish Borders and West Dumbartonshire). This change in provision obviously affected uptake rates in these areas, making comparison with previous years more difficult. The full findings from the monitoring of the trial are due to be published later this year.

- **Primary Schools**

In Moray, there are 7,055 pupils on the school roll, with 664 entitled to free meals and 649 registered. 605 registered pupils were present on census day with 550 of those taking free meals.

In Moray, 9.4% of the primary school roll were entitled to receive free school meals, remaining lower than national and comparator authority levels. 9.2% of the primary school roll were registered to receive free meals. Moray is very successful at registering those pupils entitled to free school meals in comparison with national levels.

Of those primary pupils registered for free school meals and present on census day, 84.7% took a free school meal, remaining above that of our comparator authorities' (79.9%) and national (81.3%) average levels.

Of the 6,706 pupils present on schools meal census day, 2,737 (40.8%) primary pupils took either a free or purchased school meal, below that of our comparator authorities' (50.3%) and national (49.6%) average levels. Moray's result equals that of the previous reporting year, against increases in our comparator authorities' and national averages.

In April 2008, Moray Council launched the 'Be Bright, Eat Right' initiative focused on encouraging children throughout Moray back into the school canteen at lunchtime to enjoy healthy, wholesome school meals. Results to date have shown an increase in school meal uptake throughout primary schools and it is expected that this will be reflected in next year's Scottish Government Statistics publication notice.

- **Secondary Schools**

In Moray, there are 5,778 pupils on the school roll, with 506 entitled to free meals and 505 registered. 405 registered pupils were present on census day with 324 of those taking free meals.

In Moray, 8.8% of the secondary school roll were entitled to receive free school meals, a slight decrease on last year, remaining lower than national and comparator authority levels. 8.7% of the secondary school roll were registered to receive free meals. Moray is very successful at registering those pupils entitled to free school meals in comparison with national levels.

Of those secondary pupils registered for free school meals and present on census day, 64.2% of those registered took a free school meal, remaining above that of our comparator authorities' (62.8%) and national (55.8%) average levels.

Of the 5,195 pupils present on schools meal census day, 1,925 (37.1%) secondary pupils took either a free or purchased school meal, below that of our comparator authorities' (49.5%) and national average levels (42.9%). Although Moray's result is below that of our comparator authorities' and national average levels, there has been an increase from the previous reporting year, against decreases in our comparator authorities and national averages.

In secondary schools, works have been undertaken to improve the ambiance of canteens to create a more café style atmosphere with, for example, a greater selection of food and the addition of music. Moreover, cashless catering is operating in all secondary schools. These measures should result in an increase in the uptake of school meals in next years Scottish Government Statistics publication notice.

### **Healthy Eating**

The three aspects of the Scottish Government's healthy eating campaign which were measured in the school meals survey are –

- Anonymised system: whether there is a system in place (e.g. a swipe card system) that ensures that recipients of free school meals remain anonymous.
- Drinking Water: whether there is an adequate supply of readily accessible drinking water for pupils and staff, which is free, fresh and chilled, provided with drinking cups, glasses or drinking bottles both within the dining room and available during period of learning.
- Free Fruit: whether the school has extended the national scheme requiring P1 and P2 pupils to be supplied with free fruit at least three times per week, in addition to any fruit provided as part of the lunch.

In Moray, 46 (100%) primary schools operate an anonymised system for recipients of free school meals, significantly above that of our comparator authorities' and national average levels. In Moray, this result has improved by 50% from the previous reporting year following a review of the processes used in operating an anonymised system in primary schools. In the secondary sector, 8 (100%) secondary schools operate an anonymised system, again an increase from 2006/07 and significantly above that of our comparator authorities' and national average levels.

In Moray, access to drinking water is provided in all primary schools with 42 (91%) of providing access to drinking water in accordance with the Scottish Government definition. This result remains above the national level but below that of our comparator authorities' average. In secondary schools, the authority meets the requirements of the Scottish Government definition in all 8 secondary schools, above that of our comparator authorities' and national average levels.

In line with the Scottish Government guidelines on healthy eating, all P1 and P2 pupils in Moray receive free fruit at least 3 times per week.