

# Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the Development of Lifelong Learning

26 June 2006



## Review of School Meals

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### Report of the Head of Overview and Scrutiny

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#### Purpose of Report

1. To explain the review of school meal provision which has taken place following a Scrutiny study last year.

#### Background

2. Last year, a working group looked at school meal provision in County Durham. This involved visits to schools and the production of a number of recommendations for improvement particularly in relation to healthy options.
3. A review has taken place of progress against the recommendations and visits were made to one secondary school and one primary school to assess progress at first hand.
4. The attached report provides an up-date and an account of the visits to schools. In general, apparently against the national trend, the take-up of school meals in County Durham has shown an increase. There has also been an increase in the take-up of free school meals by pupils entitled to take these meals.
5. The majority of the recommendations made by the working group have either been achieved or are being followed through. The role of the school governor in monitoring school meals provision was an important issue which was raised.
6. Information has also been provided about new standards for school food which are to be introduced progressively from September this year. These standards will not just impact on school meals but also food sold in schools.

#### Recommendation

7. You are asked to note this information. The national move towards healthier food in schools is well underway in County Durham schools.

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