
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	12 March 2019
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/13/19/RB
Contact Officer:	Ruth Binks	Contact No:	01475 712761
Subject:	Food For Life Accreditation – Bronze Level for Inverclyde Primary Schools		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Committee approval to introduce Food For Life Accreditation at Bronze Level to all Primary Schools in Inverclyde. Currently 3,527 primary school meals are served daily.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Food for Life Programme, fully funded by the Scottish Government and run by the Soil Association, currently operates across 12 Local Authorities in Scotland. The programme aims to support catering staff develop menus for schools that are based around fresh, healthy and sustainability produced locally food and drink.
- 2.2 The Scottish Government has committed through its Programme for Government to expand its investment in the programme in order to support all local authorities participate in the Programme. This includes the removal of the cost of the annual assessment which previously fell to local authorities and enhanced support from the team around training and guidance, promotion and supply chain activities.
- 2.3 The benefit of Food For Life accreditation for the Primary schools in Inverclyde means more local produce, ensuring that our children are enjoying fresh seasonal produce.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- approves the Food For Life Programme be embarked upon to improve Primary school menus for the young people of Inverclyde

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Facilities Management had previously around 3 years ago researched the implementation of Food for Life for the menus in Inverclyde Primary Schools; however the costs associated the joining fees and support package could not be met by the existing budget.
- 4.2 In July 2018 the fees for the annual assessment and support from the Food for Life Team were removed.
- 4.3 The Facilities Manager and Procurement Manager met with the Food for Life Team in September 2018 to investigate the possibility of this award now being available at no additional costs to the Catering Service. This was confirmed by the Food for Life Team.

5.0 CURRENT POSTION

- 5.1 The Facilities team have progressed this with several planning meetings with the Food for Life Team to be now at the stage that the Catering Service Hungry for Success Co-Ordinator has formulated menus that meet the standards required.
- 5.2 A further meeting is planned with the Food for Life Team in February to introduce this concept to the Primary Catering Managers. This session will be interactive and informative with the practical cooking demonstrations by the Food for Life Team.

The purpose of the session:

- An introduction to FFL, engaging and enthusing the local authority Caterers about FFL.
 - To enjoy preparing food together
 - To start thinking about how seasonality could feature in their own school kitchens
 - To demonstrate buy in from Facilities Management to all Catering Staff
 - Build an understanding of Seasonality and how it fits into FFL standards in an enjoyable and interactive way.
- 5.3 It is anticipated that an official launch would take place to launch this to the Community, by the Convener of the Education & Communities Committee.
- 5.4 It is anticipated that the introduction of this will have no cost implications for the Bronze Level Award.
- 5.5 To achieve the higher standards of Silver and Gold it is anticipated that additional costs would be incurred to achieve these levels

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 Financial Implications

One off costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
					To be met within existing Budget

Annually Recurring Costs/Savings

Cost Centre	Budget	With Effect	Annual net	Virement	Other
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	Heading	from	Impact £000	From (if applicable)	Comments
					None

6.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

6.3 Human Resources

There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report

6.4 Equalities

Has an Equality impact Assessment been carried out?

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

6.5 Repopulation

There are no direct repopulation implications arising from this

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Consultation has been ongoing with Primary School Catering Managers. Training sessions are also being undertaken by the Soil Association with this group.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The implementation of Food For Life to the menus in Inverclyde Primary schools will improve and enhance the meals offered to the school children in Inverclyde.

APPENDIX 1

Food for Life Served Here is Awarded at Bronze - level has to meet the following criteria

- Meals comply with national standards or guidelines on food and nutrition
- At Least 75% of dishes on the menu are freshly prepared (on site or at a local hub kitchen) from unprocessed ingredients.
- All meat is from farms which satisfy UK animal welfare standards
- No fish are served from Marine Conservation Society 'fish to avoid list'
- Eggs are from free range hens
- No undesirable additives or artificial trans fats are used
- No genetically modified ingredients are used
- Menus are seasonal and in-season produce is highlighted
- Information is on display about food provenance
- Menus provide for all cultural and dietary needs
- All suppliers have been verified to ensure they apply appropriate food safety standards
- Catering staff are trained in fresh food preparation and understand how Food for Life Served Here works

Accreditation

There are currently 12 Local Authorities in Scotland with Food for Life Accreditation, 7 Bronze, 3 Silver and 2 Gold. The FFL team are currently working with a further 6 Local Authorities toward Bronze level, with Inverclyde being the one furthest along on this journey.