

news update

Welcome to the sixteenth edition of the APSE best value consultancy news update, a quarterly news sheet to keep clients and associate consultants informed of what we are undertaking and also our future projects.

Parking Services benchmarking scheme initiated by London Borough of Hackney

As part of a project with the London Borough of Hackney, best value consultancy is currently undertaking a Parking Services benchmarking programme open to all London Borough Councils.

The project consists of a review of Council key performance indicators associated with parking services/enforcement and how they compare with other London authorities. Hackney



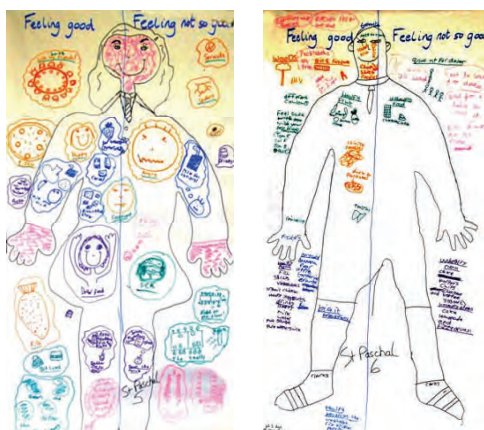
is hosting the inaugural meeting with 18 other London authorities in order to establish common KPI's for comparison.

The initial interest in this project is high and if the study is successful we will be looking to establish the group as a regular network for future work and comparison. For more information please contact dwalshe@apse.org.uk.

Liverpool school free school meals feasibility study

Best value consultancy is near completing its free school meal feasibility study for every primary school pupil in Liverpool as part of a plan to tackle the growing childhood obesity epidemic.

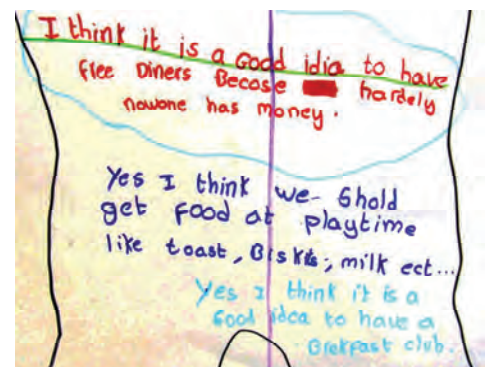
Town hall officials and health chiefs in Liverpool want to provide free healthy dinners to 26,000 youngsters, aged between four and 11. A three-year scheme has already begun in high schools which has seen healthy foods vending machines, free water coolers and free salad bars installed. The next step is to tackle better eating in primary school children.



A recent study into childhood obesity in Liverpool revealed that around one in seven primary school age pupils was overweight, with the numbers rising to almost one in five for 10 and 11-year-olds. Nationally, 23 per cent of four and five-year-olds are obese or overweight, while the figures are higher among ten

and 11-year-olds, where 32 per cent are classed as obese or overweight.

APSE best value consultancy is working with Professor Derek Colquhoun of Hull university. Professor Colquhoun carried out a study of results of a similar trial in Hull in which the three-year pilot increased the uptake of school meals from 36 per cent to 64 per cent before being scrapped last year. Results for



Liverpool's study are to be published in the new year. For more information, please contact dwalshe@apse.org.uk

Interim managers

Interim management is the ideal solution when you are heading for, or going through, change and transition.

Interim solutions provide self-employed interim professionals who possess the appropriate change management skills and experience to provide hands on support during critical phases. To find out more how interim solutions can help you please contact ebarrow@apse.org.uk

Leisure Trusts - the future?

APSE best value consultancy held its first leisure trust workshop on the 10th November 2008. As many authorities with established leisure trusts are considering options for the future, this one day consultancy workshop examined some key issues arising from developments in case law and thinking.



The workshop led by APSE's best value consultancy with legal input from Eversheds, one of the UK's leading legal practices, examined issues such as the role of leisure facilities as part of wider strategies to tackle health and social issues, procurement, and the benefits and implications of trusts. The workshop was attended by people from all aspects of leisure services and was well received.

For more information on leisure trusts contact amudd@apse.org.uk.

Survey solutions

Our wide ranging service includes, authority wide surveys testing the perception of, for example, environmental services, school meals and housing repairs down to single centre surveys of leisure centres.



Techniques to suit include mail distributed questionnaire, Telephone surveys, Focus groups, online and now via text messaging.

We cover all parts of the process including questionnaire design, sample selection, survey fulfilment, processing and analysis through to the final report. The service is offered as either standalone or an integrated part of other consultancy projects. For further information on survey solutions please contact dwalshe@apse.org.uk

A fair deal for education catering

DCFS has commissioned a study to benchmark the supply of school food ingredients to 150 local authorities in England. The results are intended to help procuring authorities obtain



better value for money by providing them with improved market intelligence.

In a market that is dominated by a small number of suppliers the exercise will strengthen the hand of purchasers who are unable to rely upon competition to deliver



optimum prices. For more information on apse benchmarking and consultancy services please contact dwalshe@apse.org.uk

To find out more about how the consultancy can help you, contact:

Andy Mudd, Principal Consultant

amudd@apse.org.uk, 0161 772 1811

Damian Walshe, Senior Consultant

dwalshe@apse.org.uk, 0161 772 1810

Emma Barrow,

Client Coordination Officer

ebarrow@apse.org.uk, 0161 772 1811

Website:

www.apse.org.uk/consultancy.html

www.apse.org.uk/interim.asp