

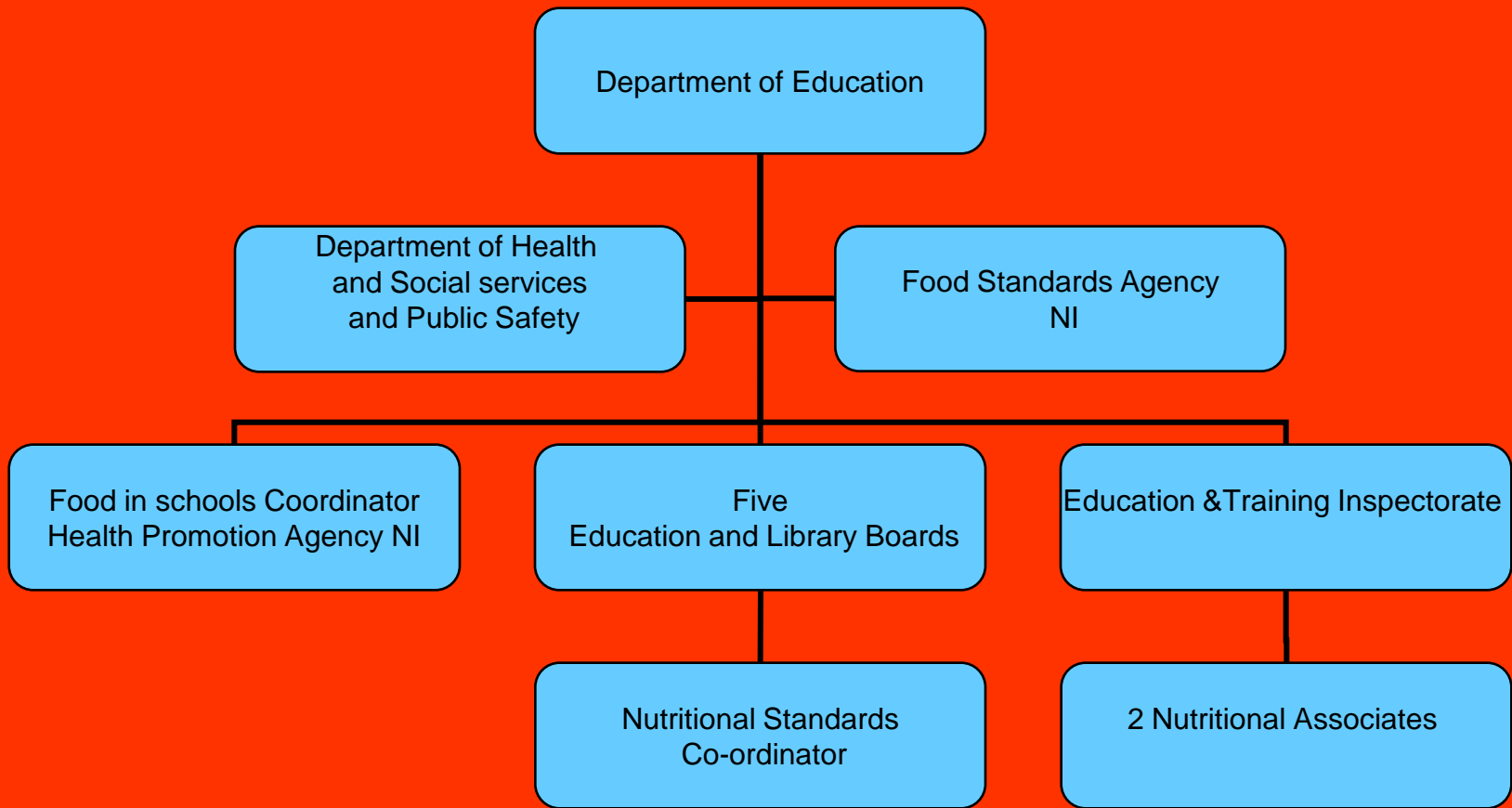
# Food in Schools

Northern Ireland

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# Food in School Policy

- Draft food in school policy
- Overarching joint policy from DENI and DHSSPS
- Sets out overall aims and objectives of government policy in relation to all food in schools
- Describes the range of strategies and plans for improving nutrition in schools

Legislation- Education and libraries NI order 1986 requires ELB's, Board of Governors of VGS and GMIS schools to provide milk and meals and other refreshments and facilities to consume them in, in accordance with arrangements approved by DE ensures nutritional standards are implemented

Links to:

- DHSSPS. Fit futures: focus on food, activity and young people, 2006
- DHSSPS Investing for Health, 2002
- Public Service Agreement to stop the rise in obesity in children and young people by 2011

# School Food: top marks

Programme includes

- Nutritional standards for school lunches ( Sept 07)
- Nutritional standards for other food and drinks in schools ( April 08 )
- School Food: the essential guide (to be launched new year)
- Research commissioned

# Research in schools

Aim of research is to gather baseline information regarding views and perceptions of school food which will inform future communication campaigns relating to food in schools

Includes 36 Primary schools and 56 Post Primary schools

Questionnaire sent to

Principals

Chair of Board of Governors

Teacher with a responsibility for  
Health and Well-being

Pupils

Parents of pupils

3,277 completed questionnaires from pupils

1,271 completed questionnaires from parents

462 completed questionnaires from principals and teachers

92 completed questionnaires from chairpersons of Board of Govenors

# The Role of the Nutritional Associates

- Appointed December 2006
- To monitor and promote improvement in the implementation of the food-based nutritional standards and the approaches schools and employing authorities are taking to the promotion of healthy eating
- Participated in a sample of scheduled and specialist school inspections across NI
- 193 schools across special, primary & post-primary phases

# Summary of Main Findings

- Majority of schools have demonstrated that good, or very good, progress is being made in the implementation of the food-based nutritional standards and the general approaches to promoting healthy eating
- In a minority of schools this practice is excellent

# Uptake Of Service Delivery

	Oct 2004	Oct 2005	Oct 2006	Oct 2007
Taking meals as a % of pupils present	53.76%	51.60%	51.12%	50.15%
Uptake of free meals as a % of entitlement	—	80.55%	81.26%	78.60%

# Thank you

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