



Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme: guidance for local authorities and day care settings

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland. For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

Key Issues:

The Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme: guidance for local authorities and day care settings was released by Scottish Government on 7 June 2021. This statutory guidance replaces the UK Nursery Milk Scheme with a new scheme, of which payments will be made under from 1 August 2021.

The full guidance can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-milk-healthy-snack-scheme-guidance-local-authorities-day-care-settings/>

1.0 Introduction

The Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2021 introduce the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme which funds a daily portion of plain fresh cow's milk (or specified alternative) and a healthy snack (either fruit or vegetables) for pre-school children spending 2 hours or more in a regulated day care or with registered childminders. The main aim of the scheme is to support the development of healthy eating habits in later life. For information on the regulations please see [APSE Briefing 21-22](#).

The UK Nursery Milk Scheme will no longer be in effect from 31 July 2021, but there will be

a 6 month period allowed for transitional arrangements.

2.0 How the scheme will work

The scheme will run annually from 1 August to 31 July, with payments and the provision of milk and a healthy snack starting from that date. The scheme does not require proof of purchase to be retained (although this is still recommended for local authority monitoring and auditing purposes).

The scheme will provide 189mls of plain fresh cow's milk (whole milk for children 1 year and over, semi-skimmed milk for children 2 years and over, or first infant formula for children under 12 months); allowances have been made for the provision of plain fresh goat or sheep milk or a specified non-dairy alternative to be provided where children cannot consume the above for various reasons. The scheme also provides a serving of fruit or vegetables for children over 6 months old.

Funding is being provided by Scottish Ministers which has been agreed with COSLA; this includes the funding for the milk and healthy snack costs themselves as well as a fee going to local authorities for administering the Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme. Funding is available for eligible childcare providers providing pre-school day care. Children that are in receipt of 2 hours or more childcare are eligible (provided that the provider is registered with the Care Inspectorate and the local authority). Local authorities will be notified of the schedule of payments from Scottish Ministers and their allocation of funding.

Local authorities will be tasked with establishing local registration schemes and will both calculate and arrange upfront payments. The settings will use this funding to purchase the milk and healthy snacks and will be encouraged to purchase locally and support local produce. Local authorities will be delegated a number of responsibilities and have several duties under the Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme such as determining the appropriate payment period and making these payments, establishing and operating a registration process, collecting registration and monitoring data as well as reporting the number of

registrations and an annual monitoring return to Scottish Ministers. Appropriate monitoring of the scheme is important, and local authorities' own existing internal audit processes should provide the appropriate level of assurance for the Scheme.

Some flexibility has been allowed as part of the scheme so that local authorities are able to tailor it to suit local needs. A suggested template for registrations is provided in [Annex F](#) of the guidance. An initial return to Scottish Ministers should be provided by 15 July 2021.

3.0 APSE Comment

APSE notes the introduction of the Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme in Scotland. APSE's Scottish catering and cleaning members have been instrumental in improving the quality of Scotland's school food and have been at the forefront of many innovations and a great deal of best practice in the delivery of those services. The guidance document mentions that since this is a new scheme it is anticipated that there will be learning to take from the first year. The delivery of the scheme will no doubt be a regular agenda topic at the APSE Scottish Soft FM advisory group throughout the coming years. APSE encourages our members to continue to use our meetings, which are free to attend for members, as a place to share progress and best practice in the implementation of this Scheme and the continued improvement of school food in Scotland.

Reminder: APSE has set up a COVID-19 Information Hub to deal with frontline service issues as they arise, ensuring greater resilience and learning between each other during this difficult time. You can access this hub by clicking [here](#) and you can also join our WhatsApp Support Network by clicking [here](#).

Garry Lee
Research and Coordination Officer

Louise Melville
Principal Advisor (Scotland)