



All Party Parliamentary Group on School Food

Minutes of meeting

Tuesday 21st January 2014, 10.30 – 12.30pm

Committee Room 10, House of Commons

Present

Sharon Hodgson MP (SH), Steven Mosley MP (SM) Lord Curry (LC)

Nigel	Argyll	Elygra
Rob	Bailey (RB)	Association for Public Service Excellence
Christine	Blowers	Unison
Myles	Bremner	School Food Plan
Tom	Bradley	Office of Stephen Mosley MP
Chris	Brockhurst	Department for Education
Juliane	Caillouette Noble	Jamie Oliver Foundation
Nigel	Carter	British Dental Health Foundation
Malcolm	Clark	Children's Food Campaign
Debbie	Clarke	Wigan Council
Annie	Connolly	City University
Dan	Corlett	Farming & Countryside Education
Greta	Defeyter	Northumbria University
Olayinka	Ewuola	Eagle Solutions Services
Cathy	Finnegan	Citizens Advice
Stephen	Foster	Chartwells
Tony	Goodger	AHDB
Lindsay	Graham	Lindsay Graham Ltd
Lorna	Hegenbarth	National Farmers Union
Sarah-Jane	Skanos	Chefs adopt a school
Neil	Lovell	Jamie Oliver Foundation
Serena	Macbeth	Hyperactive Children's Support Group
Alex	May	Compass Group
Carmell	McConnell	Magic Breakfast
Linda	Mitchell	PS100
Rosemary	Molinari	Compass Group
Caroline	Morgan	Local Food Links
Kevin	Morton	Office of Diana Johnson MP
Jeanette	Orrey	Food for Life Partnership
Andrew	Pakes	Tetra Strategy
John	Puckrin	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Joel	Roberts	Tetra Strategy

Letterhead designed by pupils at Harehills Primary School, Leeds



Secretariat - APSE

Leah	Schabas	School Food Plan
Davina	Smith	City University
Gemma	Squelch	Garden Organics
Daniel	Tye	Office of Sharon Hodgson MP
Nicola	Wilde	Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board
Marjon	Willers	Islington Healthy Schools
Stephanie	Wood	School Food Matters
Alison	Young	Durham County Council

1. Chair's Welcome

SH opened the meeting and wished everyone a happy new year. She also introduced the press pack and noted the recent report on the opening of a social supermarket

RB announced the list of apologies as follows:

Luciana	Berger MP	
Tim	Blowers	Derbyshire Council
Anne	Bull	Rhonda Cynon Taff Council / LACA
Cllr Dora	Dixon-Fyle	Southwark Council
Lucy	Powell MP	

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

3. National School Meals Week update – Nigel Argyll (NA)

SH gave apologies from Anne Bull as she was unfortunately detained in Wales and this was to have been her last meeting.

NA stated that the main purpose of NSMW was to raise the profile of the industry. For NSMW 2013, 120 MPs & Lords attended the July meeting in Parliament. The campaign included 500,000 free meals served, 4,000 signed up as ambassadors, 2,000 downloads from resource pages, 7 premier league football teams involved. Cheshire West used bus advertising and several suppliers launched new products. Anne Bull was on the Daily politics show plus more regional TV and papers. Change for life also used their channels to promote the event.

For 2014 the emphasis is now on 'The Great School lunch'.

The website is up and running with links with Change for life which through their smart swap campaign are promoting swapping a packed lunch for a nutritious hot school lunch

4. School Food Plan update - Myles Bremner (MB)

MB gave an update on all actions within the School Food Plan.

A decision on revenue funding is imminent and progress has been made on deciding the final price for meal. They also recognise the challenge for small schools

There is a Q&A on School Food Plan website and will be added to as further questions received.

Standards testing now complete in 32 schools and 320 caterers. They tested a week's menu against the revised food based standards. Final set of standards has been sent to Ministers for approval followed by consultation with the aim to have them available for use by schools from September

There are 3 tender lots of funding available with closing date last Friday. National College for Teaching, Leadership and Learning are producing 3 modules on leading an effective school module plus an edited summary

The 'What works well' website is funded by charity to £120,000. The Behaviour Change company and content manager, Emma Noble, are currently gathering case study data. Chris Collins, the Blue Peter Gardener, is to write garden aspects. A queuing expert is sought. Toolkit aimed at Universal Infant Free School Meals will be launched in February and main website in March.

MB has had a meeting with Public Health England and the Minister, Jane Ellison. They will support putting resources into promoting standards and guidance and have written to all their regional directors to highlight to Health & Wellbeing boards

Flagships to be launched for bidding in February
Small Schools taskforce led by Brad Pearce, seconded from Plymouth Council, to be launched in Spring with emphasis on South West emphasis.

Christine Blowers (Unison) asked about the workforce. MB said that People First would lead on producing standards for staff and training. Hotel Olympia have agreed to help showcase standards in a conference session

RB asked about the mechanism for payment
One letter has been sent to head teachers and one to directors of children's services

SM asked about implications for Pupil Premium. MB recognises the difficulty but after teething problems in pilots, pupil premium registration went up. In the longer term the DfE want to look for a new registration process, but the toolkit will include examples.

Linda Mitchell (P100) asked about areas where there was a low FSM entitlement and effect of Universal Credit. MB stated that DfE/Treasury are having discussions

Malcolm Clark (Children's Food Campaign) highlighted the Academies Show.

5. AGM

Proposed

- Sharon Hodgson MP - Chair
- Roberta Blackman-Woods MP – Vice Chair
- Stephen Mosley MP – Vice Chair
- Diane Johnson MP – Hon Secretary
- APSE as Secretariat

Lord Currie proposed to re-elect on block which was agreed

6. Food Banks & Child Hunger Position Paper, Lindsay Graham (LG)



LG thanked those who had helped with the first draft of the position paper 'Filling the holiday hunger gap' and noted that SM has spoken in recent debates.

The Scottish report from Herriot-Watt University covering 8 cities in Scotland found abnormally high numbers of children reliant on foodbanks. The Trussell Trust calculates that it is feeding 6,000 children in Scotland and the Trust only operate 1/3 of foodbanks

A series of recommendations have been made in the position paper and contributions and further evidence is now requested.

Carmel McConnell (Magic Breakfast) highlighted her programme for holiday feeding and the establishment of a Child hunger working group, linked to the School Food Plan

Cathy Finnegan (Citizens Advice Bureau) added that Citizens Advice have not specifically looked at where FSM and foodbanks overlap although 1/3 of foodbank referrals were families without children. They will include a question in their twice yearly survey, but currently see no trend in stats to show increase as yet over school holiday periods.

Olayinka Ewuola (Eagle Solutions) stated that she is aware of a reduction in club provision through the holiday period in Southwark.

Christine Blowers (Unison) asked that the context of child and youth poverty and zero hours contracts be considered

LG stated that we are looking for case studies across the UK. There are 170 days where FSM children have no provision. Also interested in local authority child care provision during holidays.

Comments and amendments by 10th Feb to RB and paper then ready for March and FSM day. SH welcomed what will be the third paper from the APPG to feed the debate

Greta Deyfeter (University of Northumbria) said her recent research compared nutritional intake over holiday periods and saw differences over every holiday period. A paper is to be published shortly

Rosie Molinari (Chartwell's) asked about the impact on readiness to learn. Greta Deyfeter, responded that there is a difference between nutrition and growth of BMI and confirmed that there is stunted growth over the Summer. 'Readiness to learn' is difficult to define and would require a cognition test before and after the summer holiday

Olayinka Ewuola (Eagle Solutions) stated that as a school governor they look at regression over holiday and have seen evidence. Greta confirmed that you would expect that but it was not necessarily linked to nutrition. Greta's paper 'Adolescents & Breakfast' has just been published

SH had visited Greta at Northumbria University before Christmas and was amazed by the facilities and work.

SM asked 'How to take forward? LG asked for comments and amends by Feb 10th and will add references and recirculate

Jeanette Orrey (Food for Life Partnership) asked about standards for holiday feeding. LG suggested that providers stick to the National Food Standards throughout the 170 non-school days

Rosie Molinari (Chartwells) In Summer 2013 Chartwell's ran a headteacher survey and included a question on their concerns in relation to hunger on return from Summer holidays. Of 230 responses, 20% expressed concern.

7. Ofsted and School Food Inspections - Mike Cladingbowl (MC)

SH introduced MC and gave a background to the APPG's interest and impact on pupil premium and how nutrition can be used for 'narrowing the gap' and potentially summer feeding

MC gave his apologies for the time to arrange a representative and the fact he's not Sir Michael Wilshaw. He has met Henry Dimpleby and Mathew Purves was also approached to get the wording right in the Schoolfood plan

Michael Wilshaw is on record as saying he wants everything to be good which includes buildings, environment, promoting orderly behaviour and respect. 2 million children are in schools that are inadequate and half of those been less than good for more than 3 years. HMI now makes more frequently visits to inadequate schools.

The Inspection framework can drive behaviour so they have made sure the levers for inspection include additional guidance on leadership and promoting good effective learning including behaviour in the dining room.

Ofsted will Not be looking at nutritional content as they are not qualified to do that. The requirement is to visit school hall/canteen and look at the overall offer.

Pupils at weaker schools in particular disappear off for lunch. Inspection reports don't always report on detail; they are by exception only. The Framework is a driver and outstanding schools are exempt and 'good' only every 5 years. Many schools are demonstrating leadership on:

- Choices on nutrition
- Importance of celebrating healthy eating
- Sourcing local food
- Gardens / Chickens
- Organic /Farming

Too many children are not doing well enough and the focus of the Inspectorate is on the core subjects of English and Maths. There is research to argue that link between nutrition and attainment and some argue the same for physical activity. The Inspectorate is looking at use of sport premium for promotion of physical activity in sport. Use of pupil premium will be evaluated and a report on how different uses lead to different improvements may include outcomes from breakfast and after school clubs. SH offered the APPG position paper on pupil premium.

Linda Mitchell (past Chair LACA) sought clarification on wording in regard to food/behaviour. MC - Specific without commitment – ‘will have a look at what kids are eating and does it look ok’.

Stephanie Wood (School Food Matters) agrees that inspectors should not be asked to look at nutrition but that reference is made to the School Food Plan

MC stated that inspection has not always got to behaviour. There is a difference between conduct and attitude. Inspectors will be reminded to look during break and lunch times at behaviours.

Alison Young (Durham County Council) led on UIFSM Pilot and had concerns over inspection during the first 3 weeks of bedding in new inspection routine. MC – noted.

LG stated that HMI inspectors in Scotland do monitor nutrition and asked what skills inspectors have in nutrition and home economics. MC agreed to meet LG separately and stated that the imperative should be attendance and achievement. Inspector training will revisit the guidance next time it is overhauled, but highly unlikely that will divert resources away from the main focus.

Carmel McConnell (Magic Breakfast) asked how help could be given. MC said he was happy to meet a small group from APPG. MC said that some academies have the attitude that if children don't come to school ready or prepared to learn then it's the schools problem and for them to take action

John Pukrin (ATL) asked whether inspectors could check vending machines at those schools where standards don't apply as sugary drinks disrupt behaviour and concentration

MC asked why single out academies and free schools. Poor schools pay poor attention to vending machines regardless of their status. Some shocking schools are maintained. There are regulations and Ofsted are inspectors not regulators.

Christine Blowers (Unison). The Further Education joint statement has asked that inspectors are mindful of professional standards. MC suggested contacting Matthew Coffey at Ofsted in regard to professional standards on delivery of catering

Olayinka Ewuola (Eagle Solutions) stated that half a term a year spent in the school hall. MC agreed that it is important time, should be productive and children encouraged to be active in clubs and structured activity. He highlighted the scholarship programme in Kirby Lonsdale in music and arts. At the beginning of lessons 5/10mins may be lost every lesson = 2.5 hour a week wasted.

MB offered to assist on the changes in school food and teaching modules for inspectors around implementation of the school food plan. MC welcomed any information that may help.

Jeanette Orrey (Food for Life) Education or welfare and head are often disengaged. Ofsted congratulated school catering staff when her school was inspected and that boosted morale.

Marjon Willers (Islington Council). School Meal take-up was looked at in previous inspections and is still important in closing the gap in achievement. MC stated that

schools need to maximise Pupil premium funding and chase eligible children as it could potentially distort performance data.

Serena MacBeth (Hyperactive Children's Support group). Evidence on how food and behaviour are linked. MC suggested that was the job of the headteacher

8. Free School Meals in London - Fiona Twycross (FT)

FT (Member of the London Assembly) highlighted the coming first anniversary of 'Food Poverty London' an investigation into childhood hunger and food poverty. The Mayor has signed up to the 2020 vision of a zero hunger city which all parties should adopt.

Survey suggested that 95% of teachers regularly see children arriving at school hungry.

Ideally children should be receiving 3 meals a day although some authorities had backed off extending Free School Meals. School kitchens should be seen as a community resource and should also provide frozen meals to allow meals to be taken home.

SH commented that people in London can be as poor as those in the NE

MB suggested that the statement by the Mayor and appointment of Rosie Boycott had a huge effect

Feedback to Fiona.twycross@london.gov.uk

9. AOB

Date of next meeting –

APPG – March – Don Bundy from the World Bank

Meeting closed at 12.30pm.