



All Party Parliamentary Group on School Food

Minutes of meeting

Wednesday 21st October 2015, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Committee Room 12, Houses of Parliament

Present

Sharon Hodgson MP (SH), Roberta Blackman Woods (RBW), Ian Lucas MP (IL)
Baroness Hollins (BH)

Nigel	Argyll	Elygra
Rob	Bailey (RB)	Association for Public Service Excellence
Susan	Baul	BMA
Paul	Blakeley	School Food Plan
Myles	Bremner (MB)	School Food Plan
Brett	Bunn	Office of Diana Johnson MP
Kath	Callaghan	Food Teachers Centre
Mike	Carden	Food for Thought
Ben	Chio	School & Nursey Milk Alliance
Annie	Connolly	Leeds University
Stephanie	Creighton	BMA
Alex	Cunningham	Magic Breakfast
Lauren	Dammaceo	Sustain
Louise	Davies	DATA
Sophia	Dettmer	Magic Breakfast
Greta	Defeyter	Northumbria University
Orla	Delargy	Leon
Darshana	Dholalina	Children's Food Trust
Olayinka	Ewuola	Eagle Solutions Services
Tamara	Gaak	Sharon Hodgson guest
Jess	Faulkner	Sharon Hodgson guest
Patricia	Fellows	Bidvest
Lindsay	Graham	Lindsay Graham Ltd
Pamela	Graham	Northumbria University
Sarah	Grant	School Food Plan
Libby	Grundy	Food for Life Partnership
Gemma	Hopwood	School Food Plan
Kim	Knappett	Association of Teachers & Lecturers

Letterhead designed by pupils at Harehills Primary School, Leeds



Andrew	Kyle	Elior
Alison	Last	Kellogg's
Tom	Lambeth	Food for Thought
Christine	Lewis	Unison
Meg	Longworth	Chartwells
Emily	Mann	Northumbria University
Carmel	McConnell	Magic Breakfast
Peter	McGrath	LACA
Linda	Mitchell	North Somerset Council
Rosemary	Molinari	Taylor Shaw
Jeanette	Orrey	Food for Life
John	Pukrin	Association of Teachers & Lecturers
Joel	Roberts	Oakhill Communications
George	Roycroft	BMA
Sally	Shadrack	Newham Partnership working
Gemma	Squelch	Food Growing Schools / Garden Organics
Di	Symes	AHDB
Anna	Taylor	Food Foundation
Verity	Treadwell	British Heart Foundation
Daniel	Tye(DT)	Office of Sharon Hodgson MP
Rachel	Warwick	Make Lunch
Glen	Watson	Office of Ruth Smeeth MP
Caroline	Wolhuter	Accord Group
Alex	Ward	Food Foundation
Nicola	Wilde	Wilde Food
Liz	Wright	HALSG

1. Chair's Welcome

SH opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She outlined the threat to Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) and urged people to sign the online petition currently standing at 39,613 signatures and requiring 100,000 by the end of October. UIFSM is not a protected area within the Education budget.

2. Apologies Minutes of last meeting

The list of apologies were as follows:

Neil	Carmichael	MP
Diana	Johnson	MP
Lorna	Hegenbarth	National Farmers Union
Sara Jayne	Stanes	Royal Academy of Culinary Arts

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

3. School food plan – Update – Myles Bremner (MB)

MB noted that since the end of June 2015 he was now under direct contract to the DfE. He hoped that there would be a successor body on school food and welcomed suggestions on the function of that. There has been consultation on the new food 'A' Level involving SH; workforce professional standards which are now on the LACA website; and teacher training by Sarah Grant and Paul Blakeney.

Over 50% of the 1500 Academies have voluntarily signed up to the new food standards. The DfE have yet to confirm how they might be evaluated. It has also been accepted that primary schools have a role to play in the 'Future Child Obesity Strategy' which will be DfE led along with Defra and DCLG.

Carmel McConnell (Magic Breakfast) stated that with over 1 million children going hungry in the mornings, the 184 schools and 22,000 children supplied within the DfE contract were not enough.

Linda Mitchell (P1000) questioned the impact on entitlement for free school meals from the changes to working tax credits from January onwards and universal credit.

Peter McGrath (Taylor-Shaw) commented that parents will have to make a decision between shoes or food. SH pointed out that school lunch is the only main meal for many. RBW stated that the SNP have calculated 22,000 children will lose out in Scotland

MB noted that of the 3 lots let by DfE to support school meals in England, lot 2 to secondary schools and KS2 had been terminated in regard to Children's Food Trust (CFT) and Food For Life Partnership (FFLP) although the element with the Design & Technology Association remains.

Christine Lewis (Unison) referred members to the Unison website whose research highlights the impact of limiting tax credits to 2 children.

4. LACA Update – Peter McGrath (PMc), Nigel Argyle (NA)

PMc introduced himself as the new National Chair of LACA and Sally Shadrack from Newham Council as the new Vice Chair.

Following their September board meeting they had agreed several actions including:

- Focus on National Schools Meals Week
- Survey in July highlighting the key issue of training
- Focus for the next 12 months on securing KS1 and lobbying for KS2
- Raising the profile of summer feeding projects
- Highlighting Scottish evidence that every £1 spent on meals returns £3

- Building on the economic argument for investing in school meals and the jobs it now supported

NA highlighted National School Meals Week 2015, now in its 22nd year, which was to take place between 2nd – 6th November 2015 (<http://www.nsmw.org.uk>). It was launched at the summit of Snowdon and carried the #SchoolMealsShoutOut with resources on the website. Two school caterers each day are working within the House of Commons with 100 placements compared to 65 last year. Roast Dinner Day (FFLP) will be on the Wednesday and they visit the Welsh Senedd on 5th November. Visit the website to sign up as an Ambassador.

RBW praised the campaign for protection of UIFSM and wished it were extended also. PMc highlighted the need for robust evaluation and engagement with head teachers and Janet Orrey encouraged peer visits to see other schools food offer.

5. Holiday Hunger Task Group Update – Lindsay Graham (LG)

LG congratulated Janet Orrey on her recent Lifetime Achievement Award

1.7 million children were registered for Free School Meals prior to the introduction of UIFSM The London Food Poverty report estimates 600,000 children are at risk in London alone.

The June event in Sheffield highlighted specific actions including the summer feeding report which includes feedback and the latest research and assessment from the child poverty action group in Scotland. It holds a snapshot of 13 projects around the UK of which there are hundreds. SH had visited one project in Gateshead which was community lead with school meal staff volunteering, but in itself unsustainable

Ian Lucas MP highlighted the hunger project which has run for last 18 months in Wrexham. It is church driven and there is a need to share information, highlight the issue and explain it to Government.

LG thanked all involved and indicated the next step was to publish a 'How to guide' incorporating 10 principles. She stated that this is an opportunity to close the attainment gap

SH noted that Ruth Smeeth MP held a holiday hunger adjournment debate the previous week to the APPG meeting and early day motion was tabled

Peter McGrath (LACA) argued that this is a cross sector issue and all have an input with small projects making a significant difference. Their scheme included engagement with families and cost £2 per head per child incl staff costs

SH was relaxed about whether the food comes from supermarkets or suppliers and Libby Grundy (FFLP) highlighted the surplus food network and Fareshare etc. LG argued that a clear and concise message across the whole UK is needed and intended to co-opt members from the devolved government areas for the next meeting on January 19th

SH thanked the members of the Holiday Hunger task group

6. Ofsted Update

SH noted that Ofsted had withdrawn the inspection framework guidance but had offered training of inspectors. A meeting is scheduled for 18th November with Sean Harford, National Director of Education.

MB commented that the Common Inspection Framework does contain reference to healthy eating and active lifestyle. The guidance sheet produced by the School Food Plan is to be circulated to inspectors by the Ofsted Policy team to ensure awareness.

7. Baroness Hollins (BH) British Medical Association (BMA)

BH introduced the very recent 'Food for Thought' report and the suggested sugar tax.

Only 10 per cent of boys and seven per cent of girls aged 11 to 18 years met the recommendation of at least five portions of fruit and vegetables every day. In the UK diet-related illness accounts for 70,000 premature deaths annually which equates to 12 per cent of the total number of deaths. Poor diet has the highest impact on the NHS budget, costing around £6billion per year, greater than alcohol consumption, smoking and physical inactivity.

Recommendations:

- Introduce a 20 per cent tax on sugar sweetened drinks
- Introduce UK wide targets to reduce calorie, fat, saturated fat and added sugar levels in certain foods
- The marketing of unhealthy food and drinks products to children should be prohibited (as a long term goal)
- The sponsorship of events, activities, individuals and groups that appeal in any way to children and young people should be prohibited
- Ensure that mandatory food standards apply in all academies and free schools
- Ensure a free fruit and vegetable scheme is available to all primary school children throughout the UK, five days per week
- Local authorities should work collaboratively with schools to achieve the wider implementation of the whole-school approach

- Local authorities should be provided with the power to restrict the future number, clustering and concentration of fast-food outlets locally
- Prohibit retailers from displaying unhealthy food and drink products at checkouts and in queuing areas, targeting children

Beverages are a significant source of additional sugar at around 21% of energy per day. A 20% tax will reduce obesity by 1.3% (180,000 people). The Government have no current plans and the Public Health England (PHE) report remains unpublished although Sarah Wollaston MP has called for its publication

According to PHE, in 2013 £10million was available for Change4Life whilst nearly £150million was spend on marketing unhealthy food and drinks products. This included £32million on the marketing of added sugar fizzy drinks.

MB welcomed this was a good summary but questioned how we meet the challenge in the world of politics. BH suggested there was a need for concerted action across many areas, debates in both houses, obesity is an epidemic which we are allowing industry to manage.

There followed a general discussion with comments on the low cost of sugary drinks in the supermarkets and the lack of good data. Greta Defeyter (University of Northumbria) added that there is no proven link between sugar and hyper-activity and any clustering is usually socio-economic.

8. Public Health within School Catering - Rosie Molinari (RM)

RM briefly outlined her case study on a Public Health Commissioner's experience in getting the most out of school food contract catering providers working collaboratively to deliver local health and education outcomes

Summary of benefits:

- Links national policy to practical expedients to achieve best outcomes for C&YP
- Capacity to 'add on' a range of PH priorities e.g. Dental cares; holiday hunger; cooking etc.
- Embeds PH expertise in to school to provide dedicated support to schools.
- Flexible, measurable & reproducible for & public services.
- Schools welcome and need the dedicated resources & will reciprocate to deliver outcomes
- Provides PH access to schools, & early years to embed good nutrition habits and education
- Draws on strength: individuals; skills, resources; cooks/kitchens communications (Jargon)

- Sustainable as it negated short term funding and secures continuity - long terms resources
- Included in retention contracts and secured retention
- Creates new career pathway for PH in private sector (healthy school model)
- Mutual interest in monitoring outcomes.
- The management of the qualified PH position does not require PH expertise.

9. AOB

Date of next meeting – 19th January 2016

Meeting closed at 4.00pm.

