

# **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Education Committee - 17 November 2003  
Personnel and Management Services Committee - 10 November 2003

**REPORT ON:** Education Department - Nutrition in Scottish Schools

**REPORT BY:** Director of Education and Assistant Chief Executive  
(Management)

**REPORT NO:** 727-2003

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of funding which is to be made available by SEED to local authorities to implement the recommendations contained in "Hungry for Success" and to seek approval for a proposed implementation plan and the establishment of 41 part time posts.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Education Committee is asked to approve the proposal described at paragraph 8.0 of this report;

2.2 The Personnel and Management Services Committee is asked to approve:-

2.2.1 the establishment of 41 "Eating for Health" Assistant posts at Grade GS2/3 (£12,789 - £14,211) (pro rata, term time only), 15 hours per week, for a fixed period of 3 years; and

2.2.2 that a qualification bar be placed at the top of GS2, spinal column point 12 (£13,416), progression beyond which is dependent on the postholder passing or possessing the appropriate qualification.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The financial allocations will be met with grant funding via the National Priorities Action Fund (NPAF) amounting to £361,000 in 2003/04. Payment will be made in arrears in November and March upon receipt of a NPAF payment claim form.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The proposals contained in this report will promote clear information on aspects of nutrition and encourage young people to make healthy choices when selecting school meal and snack options.

## 5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are clearly established links between health and educational achievement. The Scottish Executive seeks to maximise the number of children who have access to a nutritious meal and fresh fruit during the school day thereby promoting inclusion and equality.

## 6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 In February 2003, the Minister for Education and Young People announced acceptance of all the recommendations made by the Expert Panel on School Meals in the report "Hungry for Success". A three-year funding package has been made available to enable local authorities to implement these recommendations. The allocation available to Dundee City Council is:

2003/04 £	2004/05 £	2005/06 £
361,000	628,000	745,000

- 6.2 In addition, the Minister announced the introduction of a free fruit scheme for P1 and P2 pupils and provided funding for the three-year period to 2006, allocating £55,304 each year. Implementation of this aspect of "Nutrition in Scottish Schools" was the subject of a report to Committee in August 2003 "Free Fruit Initiative" (report No 508-2003 refers).
- 6.3 The Expert Panel identified seven key principles from which their recommendations stem and upon which they rest their vision of success for the provision of food in Scottish schools.

These are:

- 1 Positive School/Whole Child Ethos
- 2 Partnership working
- 3 Pupil consultation
- 4 Eliminating stigma
- 5 Managing the process
- 6 Influencing choice
- 7 Incentives to improve uptake of school lunches.

- 6.4 During the research phase of "Hungry for Success", members of the Expert Panel visited Dundee and spent time in one secondary and one primary school where they had the opportunity to sample food in a Café Discovery and to try out the pilot "Take 5" menus for primary age pupils. They also interviewed pupils at the schools visited and Education Department staff.
- 6.5 Informal feedback from the Scottish Food and Health Co-ordinator who led the Expert Panel confirmed that Dundee was already making good progress when matched against the seven principles laid out at Para 6.3 above, and indeed many examples of the good practices identified during the visit later featured in the final "Hungry for Success" report.

## **7.0 CURRENT SITUATION**

7.1 A short life working group was established to consider the recommendations contained in "Nutrition in Scottish Schools" document and to formulate an implementation proposal. This group comprised Head Teachers, Education Department staff, representatives from the Department of Dietetics at Ninewells Hospital and Tayside Contracts and the Staff Tutor for Health Promoting Schools.

## **8.0 PROPOSAL**

8.1 In view of the advancing programme of Café Discovery installations in secondary schools, it is proposed that the focus for expenditure in 2003/04 should be on the primary sector.

8.2 It is further proposed that the primary "Take 5" pilot menus be revised and rebranded as the "Dundee Diner's Code" which is described at Appendix 1.

8.3 In order to promote healthier eating regimes in primary schools for both tuck shops and school lunches, it is proposed to appoint 41 (one for each primary school) "Eating for Health" Assistants to work with pupils on health promotion activities and assist with food choices. These posts will be established for a fixed period of 3 years, however, it is possible that they may be established on a permanent basis in due course.

8.4 A key task for the Eating for Health Assistants will be to work with Tayside Contracts' staff to promote the Dundee Diner's Code.

8.5 Dundee College in conjunction with the SQA will provide a certificated course of study which will give the necessary initial training covering a range of mandatory core modules. These core modules will reflect the skills and knowledge required to comply with elementary food handling hygiene and to communicate information about the benefits of healthy food choices and will constitute the basis of the "appropriate qualification" relating to the qualification bar referred to in recommendation 2.2.2.

8.6 During the initial training, Dundee College staff will provide the authority with reports as required.

8.7 A member from the senior management team of the school will review the work of the "Eating for Health" Assistant and their achievement of the appropriate qualification.

8.8 A period of induction and on the job support will be put in place by the senior management teams of the schools for the "Eating for Health" Assistants. This will be addressed on an individual basis taking account of the needs of the personnel concerned.

## **9.0 GRADING OF THE POST**

9.1 It is proposed to grade the "Eating for Health" Assistant posts at GS2/3 (£12,789 - £14,211) (pro rate term time only) for 15 hours per week and to place a qualification bar at the top of GS2, spinal column point 12 (£13,416), progression beyond which is dependent on the postholder passing or possessing the appropriate qualification.

**10.0 PROJECTED BUDGET SPEND FOR 2003/04**

10.1

41 Eating for Health Assistants posts	97,000
Training	25,000
Food costs	40,000
Signage (Dundee Diners)	20,000
Monitoring and Evaluation	20,000
Advertising/Promotion	20,000
Improving the dining experience (décor/lighting/fixtures)	139,000
	<b>361,000</b>

**11.0 CONSULTATION**

11.1 The Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), the Depute Chief Executive (Finance) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**12.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1 No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

A. Wilson  
Director of Education

**3 November 2003**

J.C. Petrie  
Assistant Chief Executive (Management)

**3 November 2003**

***FIT FOR LIFE***

TO

**LOOK GOOD AND FEEL GOOD**

FOLLOW

**THE DUNDEE DINER'S CODE**

CHOOSE

**2 Builders**

1 portion from the **red** section for strong muscles and growth

1 portion from the **blue** section for strong bones and teeth

**2 Protectors**

2 portions from the **green** section to prevent illness and  
give vitality

**1 Filler**

1 large or 2 small portions from the **orange** section for energy  
and to stop you feeling hungry between meals