

# **Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition**

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**Paper for information: Government Update on Nutrition  
Related Activities – The Scottish  
Executive Health Department**

**Agenda item: 6**

Please see attached paper for information.

# Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

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## Government Update on Nutrition related activities – The Scottish Executive Health Department

1. The review of **breakfast club provision** on behalf of Scottish Executive, is now nearing completion. The results will enable targeting of further funds to breakfast clubs where the need is greatest. Breakfast Club Challenge Fund announced last November by Scottish Minister for Social Justice.
2. Work continues on **school meals**. A public consultation on proposals is currently underway.
3. Work continues on the **Berry Scotland** Project. This project aims to increase production, sales and consumption of Scottish soft fruits. A scientific co-ordinator has been appointed to review relevant research and research capacity on berries and to facilitate applications for further funding for the berry project. Scientific Co-ordinator is based at Dundee University under the direction of Professor Annie Anderson.
4. A **Vitamin D Working Group** report is being completed.
5. SEHD continues to work with other Government Agencies on **folic acid fortification**. Currently SEHD is in favour of fortification at the level concluded by COMA while recognising the need to reduce any potential morbidity resulting from this measure.
6. The Executive has decided that the issue of **thiamine fortification of alcohol beverages** should be reviewed further within the context of preventing Wernicke's Encephalopathy, a brain disorder related to thiamine deficiency. As such the matter has been referred to the an ad hoc group on Alcohol Related Brain Damage who are being asked to estimate the prevalence of Wernicke's

Encephalopathy in Scotland and review further whether thiamine fortification is likely to be a cost-effective public health intervention in Scotland. Should the group's view be that it could be, the Executive will enter discussions with FSA about progressing the matter including seeking advice from SACN.

7. The Executive is developing a major healthy eating initiative building on current work such as that related to school meals and breakfast clubs. This will form part of an integrated Health Improvement Plan for Scotland. Details are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.