

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

Paper for information: Government Update on Nutrition Related Activities – The National Assembly for Wales

Agenda item: 6

Please see attached paper for information.

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Government Update on Nutrition related activities - The National Assembly for Wales

Nutrition Strategy for Wales

1. The consultation on the draft strategy has been completed and an action plan is being developed. This is being led by FSA Wales in partnership with the Health Promotion Division of the Welsh Assembly Government. The strategy aims to improve nutrition among the whole population of Wales but the action plan will particularly focus on activities to tackle food poverty.

The Community Food Initiative

2. Over the last two years Assembly's Community Food Initiative has funded 32 innovative projects across Wales. The initiative aims to address the barriers to healthy eating among disadvantaged and vulnerable groups by increasing access to healthy food, improving basic skills and addressing issues of cost, preference, accessibility and availability. The grant scheme is currently being evaluated with plans to launch an enhanced scheme in April 2003.

Fruit Tuck Shops

3. In November 2001 the Assembly released £66,000 to the local healthy school schemes to help schools develop fruit tuck shops. As a result fruit tuck shops are developing in over 250 schools. These fruit tuck shops are run on a cost-recovery basis, which has been shown to be both feasible and sustainable in schools in disadvantaged areas.

Guidance on setting up fruit tuck shops in primary schools is available in a joint Assembly/FSA publication.

Breakfasts in Schools

4. A survey of breakfast provision in schools in Wales has been completed. A report is due to be published shortly.

Hospital Catering

5. A Nutrition and Catering Framework was produced by the All-Wales Catering / Nutrition Group for the Welsh Assembly Government. Published in July 2002, it is aimed at improving patient nutrition and hospital catering services and NHS Trusts in Wales are required to implement the Framework at all hospital sites.

Physical Activity

6. The Welsh Assembly's Health Promotion Division has prepared a *Healthy and Active Lifestyles Action Plan* designed to increase levels of physical activity, based on the recommendations of a Task Force convened by the Sports Council for Wales. The Action Plan will go out to public consultation later in the autumn.