



**Paper for information: Government Updates on Nutrition
Related Activities
Devolved Health Departments**

Agenda Item: 10

Please see attached paper for information.

Update from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Northern Ireland)

Fit Futures – Focus on Food, Activity and Young People

- The Fit Futures taskforce was established by the Ministerial Group on Public Health (MGPH) in response to increasing concerns about the health implications of rising levels of overweight and obesity in children and young people in Northern Ireland. The role of the taskforce was to examine options for preventing overweight and obesity in children and young people and to make recommendations to MGPH on Priorities for Action.
- The taskforce was also given the role of undertaking an extensive engagement/consultation process with stakeholders to stimulate action to tackle overweight and obesity in children and young people. This included direct engagement with a range of health and education professional, community/voluntary group, and children & young people and their Parents.
- The final report of the Fit Futures taskforce to MGPH was published in March 2006. The report includes a detailed analysis of the nature of the problem, with levels of overweight and obesity among five year olds in Northern Ireland being reported as having increased from around 16.5% in 1997 to almost 23% in 2003/2004 and significant inequalities emerging in relation to nutrition and physical activity. The report also contains a detailed review of the evidence base for preventing overweight and obesity and for improving childhood nutrition and increasing levels of physical activity in children. Based on this review the taskforce report identified a number of priority approaches and made over 70 recommendations in relation to six priority areas:
 - Joined-Up Healthy Public Policy;
 - Providing Real Choice;
 - Supporting Healthy Early Years;
 - Creating Healthy Schools;
 - Encouraging the Development of Healthy Communities; and
 - Building the Evidence Base.
- At the time of the reports publication the Health Minister gave a commitment to producing a response to the report, including a cross-departmental implementation plan. This response has since been developed and the implementation plan, which is available online at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/showconsultations?txtid=22125>, was been issued for consultation on 01 February 2007.
- This implementation plan seeks to clarify Government's long-term commitment to this agenda and in particular the commitment of Department of Health, Social Services, and Public Safety, the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, to work together to deliver on our joint Public Service Agreement commitment to stop the rise in levels of obesity in children by 2010.

- There has been a very positive response to the work of the Fit Futures Taskforce by Government Departments. The implementation plan therefore outlines some of the major policies and programmes that have been already established or amended as a result of Fit Futures recommendations. These include:
 - The Department of Education, in conjunction with the Education and Library Boards, has supported the implementation of New Nutritional Standards for School Meals in September 2005 with an investment of almost £3 million. The Department of Education has also just concluded a consultation on the standards that should be applied to all food provided in schools, including through vending machines.
 - Under the Extended Schools element of the Children and Young People funding package £10m is available each year in the period 2006-2008 for allocation to schools in disadvantaged areas. The focus of Extended Schools will include healthy lifestyles and tackling childhood obesity.
 - As part of the Sport in Our Community Programme, the Sports Council for Northern Ireland is making a major investment to encourage more children to develop the basic physical movement skills required to facilitate sustained involvement in sport and a healthy and active lifestyle.
 - Health and Social Services Boards and Investing for Health Partnerships have developed joint plans to help tackle the rising levels of obesity in children and young people.
 - School Development Regulations now require all schools to consider the arrangements for promoting the health and well-being of their staff and pupils as part of the school development planning process. The guidance on the regulations makes specific reference to the need to consider the issue of food in schools when reviewing arrangements to support health and well-being.
 - The Department is providing funding to employ WTE band 5 Nurses to recording BMI's in Year 8 / Year 9 children and to provide some follow-up to individuals outside the normal BMI range.
- The consultation period on the Fit Futures Implementation plan closed on 16 March 2007, the implementation plan is now being reviewed in light of the responses with a view to publishing the final plan shortly. Further information on Fit Futures can be found at: <http://www.investingforhealthni.gov.uk/fitfutures.asp>.
- Consideration is currently being given to how Fit Futures can be extended to the adult population.

Nutrition Matters

- In October 2005, the Health Promotion Agency, with the support of local community dietitians, published updated guidance on feeding children under 5 in childcare settings. The new guidance aims to assist childminders and childcare staff to support the children in their care to eat a healthy balanced diet and to encourage children to develop healthy eating habits. "Nutrition Matters" includes nutrition advice, meal ideas and suggestions to encourage "fussy eaters" to try healthy options. A training programme, based on the guidance in Nutrition

Matters, was delivered during 2006 to childminders and staff working in childcare and early years settings

Food in Schools

- Food in Schools Dietitian / Nutritionist Job description has been agreed and the post has now been advertised. This post will support the implementation of the joint Department of Educations (DE) / DHSSPS Food in Schools policy and contribute to DE's Nutritional Standards for School Meals policy. In addition, Work is continuing in conjunction with Department of Education and HPA to develop the policy document on Food in Schools and food-based nutritional standards.

Decent Food for All

- Progress is being made on the development of Armagh and Dungannon Health Action Zone's 'Decent Food for All' Toolkit. This toolkit supports the development of basic nutrition and cooking skills among people on low incomes

Update on Nutrition Work in Wales

Quality of Food Strategy

- As a result of the minority party debate held on the 17 October 2006, the proposal to produce a Quality of Food Strategy to improve the quality of food consumed in Wales was approved.
- Given the cross cutting remit for the Strategy, a Task and Finish Group was established. The group included representatives from each relevant Welsh Assembly Government department and representatives from the Food Standards Agency Wales, the National Public Health Service for Wales and academia.
- The first stage in the development of a Quality of Food Strategy for Wales has involved a review of the current situation across all relevant Welsh Assembly Government portfolios. The resulting document outlines the gaps and challenges which a cross cutting Task and Finish Group identified as needing to be addressed to improve the quality of food in Wales.
- In order to engage people across Wales in the *Welsh Food Debate* a communications plan has been developed which will take innovative approaches to engage the different interest groups, particularly socially deprived communities. Target audiences will be defined and user friendly, shorter publications targeted at specific groups will be produced and articles will be placed in appropriate publications. The Task and Finish Group report will be placed on the Assembly Government website for professionals to comment on and contribute to. The consultation will be launched on Tuesday 25 September at a Community Food Co-operative in Riverside, Cardiff.

The consultation phase will take place between September and December 2007. The feedback will then be analysed and will be used to:

- Develop a Quality of Food Action Plan, which will focus on health, sustainable development, social justice and education.
- Contribute to the development of a revised Agri-Food Strategy, which will have similar strategic goals to the previous one, but will have clear links to individual sectoral strategies.

Progress report on the implementation of Food and Fitness - Promoting Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Children and Young People: 5 Year Implementation Plan June 2006 – June 2007

- Contributions to this agenda have been made by various Welsh Assembly Government Departments and external partners, including the Food Standards Agency Wales (FSA), Sports Council Wales (SCW) and the National Public Health Service (NPHS), reflecting the plan's cross cutting remit. In line with the statement in the Implementation Plan all actions are evidence-based or innovative with evaluation built in as part of the programme.

Action in Schools

Action 1: Extend the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS)

- Additional funding has been provided to health and education services to support the target for 75% of LEA – maintained schools to be involved in WNHSS by March 2008 and all by March 2010;
- Over 1400 (76%) schools are actively involved in local healthy school schemes – an increase of 200 schools since the launch of the plan, and achieving the 2008 target a year early;
- Training has been delivered to Healthy Schools Co-ordinators on the Scottish *Growing Through Adolescence* materials which examines the link between nutrition and emotional wellbeing, including body image and eating disorders;
- Grants have been provided to local healthy schools schemes to support food and fitness projects in schools, including playground markings, bike racks, fruit tuck shops, school gardens, water coolers, healthy vending and staff training;
- Food Standards Agency Wales / Welsh Assembly Government *Fruit Tuck Shop Guidance* has been reprinted and over 800 schools involved in WNHSS are currently running fruit tuck shops;
- *Think Water*, guidance on the benefit of water consumption has been updated and distributed to all schools. Approximately 900 schools in the WNHSS currently have at least one water cooler provided for use by pupils;
- *Think Healthy Vending*, guidance on introducing healthier vending has been distributed to all secondary schools and catering contractors in Wales;
- The case study book, *In Perspective Food and Fitness*, was published in July 2006. It is being distributed to schools via local healthy school co-ordinators; A second copy will be issued with guidance from the Qualifications and Curriculum group on food and fitness in the school curriculum;
- The guidance document, *Developing a Whole School Food and Fitness Policy* was published in March 2007. It is available via local healthy schools co-ordinators and on the web. It is envisaged that schools will develop food & fitness policies as they consider food & fitness activities as part of their healthy school work; and their local healthy school scheme co-ordinators will guide schools through this process.

Action 2: Improve the food and drink consumed throughout the school day

- The Primary School Free Breakfast Initiative has been extended. All primary schools have now been offered the opportunity. Some 50% of the primary schools in Wales have now signed up to this initiative;
- Appetite for Life, the report from the Food in Schools Working Group which aims to improve the quality and nutritional standards of all food and drink served in schools was consulted on June to October 2006. An action plan for implementation has been drafted;
- Meetings have been held with a variety of food and drink manufacturers regarding meeting the nutrient and food based standards set out in Appetite for Life;
- Nutritional analysis software has been procured for all school catering providers;
- An Appetite for Life co-ordinator has been appointed based at the WLGA;
- The publication *Healthier Lunchboxes, Healthier Children* was sent to all primary schools for distribution to parents/carers;
- A booklet of ideas for schools in order for them to do work in their school on healthy lunchboxes has been developed and is currently in the print process;
- Lunchbox guidance including menus has been made available on the FSA website.

Action 3: Provide high quality PE, health related exercise and practical cookery skills

- 84 PE in School Sport (PESS) partnerships in operation through a partnership between the Welsh Assembly Government and SCW. Three Outdoor and Adventurous Activities pilot projects are taking place through PESS partnerships;
- Support materials on dance for key stage 2 and 3 being developed. Training for dance mentors being delivered;
- In 2006 over 100,000 young people participated in Dragon Sport delivered by SCW, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. 92% of primary schools are now actively involved and over 850 community Dragon Sports clubs have been established supported by around 2000 volunteers;
- The 5x60 programme, providing out of school hours opportunities for physical activity, was launched in October 2006. It is delivered by SCW, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. To date 39 of the 224 secondary schools have 5x60 officers and a programme of extra curricular activities.
- Between January and March 2007 a consultation was held on proposals for a revised school curriculum to be implemented from September 2008. These proposals strengthened considerably the place of food education in the school curriculum in Wales;
- A Cooking Bus for Wales is visiting primary schools delivering cooking lessons for pupils, a training session for teachers and a cookery session for parents of young children at each location;
- FSA Wales have provided a number of teaching resources to schools across Wales, including a mobile educational resource trailer that attends school events

across Wales to reinforce and build on key healthy eating and food safety messages;

- A cooking competition has been piloted as part of the Urdd curriculum;
- The Class Moves! resource has been modified for special schools, and is currently being designed for trialling;
- FSA UK is consulting on proposals to establish a consensus view on the minimum food skills and knowledge that young people should know, understand, and be able to apply by the ages of 7-9, 11-12, 14 and 16+ years. The food competencies help to ensure that young people can make healthier food choices.

Action in the community

Action 4: Provide an environment in communities that will encourage children and young people to access opportunities for physical activity and healthier foods

- Ten cycle schemes for crossing or connecting to the trunk road network completed;
- Funding and support continued to be provided to all unitary authorities in Wales to provide free swimming to children and young people. An additional £1.5million is being invested in leisure centres / pools to retain existing participants and attract new ones;
- 40 Safe Routes to Schools schemes implemented;
- 1914 Community Chest awards were made by SCW of which 815 were funding projects targeting young people specifically. Other projects also target young people as part of the general population;
- Support was provided for Breastfeeding Awareness Week in May 2007;
- A Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme in Wales was launched in May 2006. The scheme is open to local businesses that provide food or drink, hairdressers, shops, libraries and museums, community centres and health centres, in fact anywhere open to the general public. There are 40 participating premises across Wales and interest is growing;
- A pilot scheme is underway to look at ways of introducing or increasing healthy food options within leisure centres. Eight local authorities have been awarded grants and the pilots are being evaluated;
- A Food in Hospital Task and Finish Group, chaired by the Chief Nursing Officer for Wales, was established to produce a report on the provision of food in hospitals for patients, staff and visitors. Its objectives are to scope current promising practice across Wales; to link in with wider UK practice; to map existing practice with current guidance and to provide advice on the way forward. Examples of promising practice included those on children's wards. A pilot healthy vending project is taking place in the Children's hospital in Cardiff;
- The second round of the Food and Fitness grant scheme was launched in April 2006 and will run for two years to 2008. It aims to provide financial support for community projects that encourage more active lifestyles and/or healthier eating within priority groups which include children and young people;
- Wales Centre for Health provided a leaflet on obesity with supportive information to parents of 7 to 11 year olds in June 2006;

- Work continuing with DH and other devolved administrations regarding targeted obesity social marketing campaign aimed at 2 to 10 year olds and their parents and carers;
- Liaison with Ofcom regarding voluntary restrictions limiting TV advertising of food and drink, that are high in fat, saturated fat, salt or sugar, to children. Restrictions were introduced in February 2007. FSA UK developed a nutrient profiling model to support Ofcom in its work and has committed to review the model after one year of it being in use;
- Work continuing with DH and other devolved administrations regarding advertising of food and drink through non broadcast media.

Action 5: Develop skills in the community to enable children and young people to take part in physical activity and prepare healthier foods

- Support materials for infant feeding have been made available in relation to breast feeding, safe bottle feeding and first foods;
- The Pregnancy Book and Birth to Five publications continue to be updated regularly and made available to all new parents;
- National infant feeding guidelines for health professionals have been developed;
- A Breastfeeding Peer Support Grant Scheme has been launched and 22 local Schemes awarded funding to provide training and other support to mothers across Wales, with particular focus on the youngest mothers;
- FSA Wales provided an online toolkit for establishing and running a Get Cooking course;
- The National Federation of Women's Institute, Wales was funded from 2005 – 2007 to run gardening clubs in schools, and also FSA Wales Get Cooking courses to teach young people basic food preparation skills and ways of obtaining a varied, healthy diet on a low budget;
- Big Lottery Fund has launched its Way of Life programme. £7 million is available to fund community based projects working with families to promote a joined up approach to healthy eating and physical activity;
- A review of obesity referral schemes completed, demonstrating the need for a scheme in Wales targeting children and young people based on programmes that are already in place, have been evaluated and meet NICE guidance;
- Establishment of a pilot community based obesity referral scheme for children and young people.

Action on Training

Action 6: Develop and deliver training on food and fitness for those working with children and young people

- 5229 newly qualified sports coaches and 3770 sports leaders;
- Subsidised places were provided for Baby Friendly Initiative courses and workshops in Wales, to support and promote breastfeeding. Support was also

provided to enable an increased attendance from Wales at the 2006 UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Conference held in Cardiff;

- Baby Friendly Initiative awards in Wales currently stands at 9 Full Awards, 4 Certificates of Commitment and 4 Registrations of Intent in Maternity Services, with 4 Certificates in Community Services;
- In partnership with Community Dietitians in Wales, Open College Network accredited course for community food and nutrition skills have been developed at level one and level two. Courses are being delivered by dietitians across Wales;
- Grants are being provided to NHS Trusts across Wales to increase dietetic capacity in the community through utilising dietitian's expertise to train and develop community workers and / or peer educators, volunteers working with children and young people in the community on food and nutrition skills.
- Grant funding of £1.8 million has been made available to Local Educational Authorities in Wales to provide training to school catering staff in healthy eating and practical cookery skills;
- A grant has been awarded to ContinYou to provide training and support for the development of cooking clubs for children and young people to enable schools and other organisations to develop a strategic and co-ordinated approach to delivering and promoting cooking skills;
- Initial discussions have been held with the sector skills councils for health, sport and leisure with the aim of developing a workforce development plan to support the implementation of the plan.

Action on Evaluation and Dissemination

Action 7: Ensure that actions are evidence based or innovative with evaluation and that findings are shared

- Research Bulletin on Schools and Young People issue two, which provided literature summaries on nutrition, obesity and physical activity, was published in June 2006;
- A review of WNHSS has been commissioned, to be completed by March 2008;
- An evaluation of the use of guidance on packed lunches has been commissioned, to be completed by April 2008;
- Data were collected in 2006 as part of the ongoing Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Study and work is ongoing into an international report which will contain comparative data for 41 countries across Europe and North America;
- Data collection for the evaluation of the Primary School Free Breakfast Initiative is now complete, papers on the methods used have been published in scientific journals and a final report is due by the autumn;
- The evaluation report on the first round of the Food and Fitness grant scheme has been received. An evaluation of the second round of the Food and Fitness grant scheme has been commissioned;
- An evaluation of the Cooking Bus in Wales is being commissioned. The first stage will be a process/feasibility study, with the option of extending to a trial.
- An evaluation of healthy eating provision in leisure centres has been commissioned, to be completed by March 2008;

- Food choices research, jointly commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government and FSA Wales, regarding school meals has been published on the Welsh Assembly Government website;
- Wales participated in the UK-wide infant feeding survey. The final report was published in May 2007;
- Enhanced children's section incorporated into the Welsh Health Survey, including the measurement of height/weight;
- The NPHS has been commissioned to carry out a pilot children's height weight data collection in two LHB areas;
- Health Challenge Wales evidence for policy seminars organised through the Public Health Improvement Research Network (PHIRN), included sessions on the obesogenic environment and physical activity;
- SCW biennial sports survey data re primary school and young people sports participation is due to be published by late summer. Early indications show marginal improvements;
- FSA Wales commissioned a baseline study of food education provision in the school curriculum in Wales.

Update from the Scottish Executive Health Department

Hospital Food

- Draft NHS Catering and Nutritional Specifications are currently out for a targeted consultation with stakeholders. The draft specifications provide minimum standards for nutrient and food provision for patients in hospitals; and provides guidance on how these standards can be met, through assessment of the population's dietary needs, menu planning, guidance and practical suggestions on food choices suitable for different dietary needs, including special and therapeutic diets. The specifications will support the QIS Clinical Standards for Food, Fluid and Nutritional Care.
- The closing date for comments on the draft is 16 November. Copies of the document can be requested from Heather Curran or Syed Kerbalai on Heather.curran@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or Syed.kerbalai@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.
- A research exercise to determine the potential financial implications that might arise from implementing the NHS Catering and Nutritional Specifications is also underway.

SGF Healthy living Programme

- The Scottish Grocers Federation Healthy living Programme completed the first year of Phase 3 in July. The year has seen sustained growth in fruit and vegetable sales alongside an increase in participation to 280 convenience stores. The Programme is now working with Community Food and Health (Scotland) to engage with Black Minority Ethnic communities and will soon look to develop links with cash and carry operators to target independent stores in the most deprived areas.
- Phase 3 is set to run until July 2009.

Scottish Nutrition and Diet Resources Initiative (SNDRi)

- SNDRi develop diet leaflets for the primary, secondary and tertiary prevention areas. Objectives include resource development, developing educational resources for continuing professional development and education of pre-registration students and developing a marketing strategy.
- SNDRi's Annual Report for 2006/07 confirms that 190,000 leaflets were sold, 105,000 to primary care. A majority of sales were again outwith Scotland, including a small percentage to mainland Europe. Some of the top sellers last year were Healthy Eating with Diabetes, Eating Better - Feeling Better, Weight Loss on a Plate, Gluten-free and Irritable Bowl Syndrome.
- SNDRi have announced the commencement of merger talks with the British Dietetic Association (BDA). The two organisations will share expertise and resources building to a full merger in 2009. It is expected that the merger will

further expose markets outwith Scotland to SNDRi and make it easier for health professionals to access their resources.

Scottish Food and Health Alliance

- On 27 February 2007, the Alliance held its inaugural public event for members: 'Looking Back and Moving Forward: A Celebration of the Successes of the Scottish Diet Action Plan (SDAP)'. A report of the event is now available from the Alliance website [fha@health.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:fa@health.scot.nhs.uk).
- The Alliance has also completed a revamp of its website providing members with an interactive message board to promote food and health events. Aimed at anyone with a professional interest in food and health issues, the website also provides the latest news at national (Scottish) and local level.

Better Health, Better Care

- Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing announced in June 2007, the Scottish Government's intention to publish by the turn of the year an Action Plan for Health and Wellbeing.
- A public consultation document: "Better Health, Better Care" has now been launched to inform the development of the forthcoming Action Plan.
- The consultation document can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/08/13165824/0>

Healthyliving Award

- The Healthyliving Award is a national award scheme for the food service sector that rewards achievements for making it easier for customers to eat healthily when eating out.

The award has two main goals:

- To make the food served generally healthier by making broad changes to how food is prepared
- To help customers make informed choices about food by including healthier items on the menu which are clearly identified using the well-established healthyliving green apple brand.
- 600 outlets have registered for the award with around 120 establishments having successfully achieved it. These range from hospitals and day care centres to hotels and oil rigs.

Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act

- This Act was passed by Parliament on 14 March 2007. The Act will require local authorities to make sure all schools are health promoting; make sure food provided in schools complies with nutritional regulations; have regard to the nutritional regulations when placing pupils in an independent school; promote school lunches, protect the identity of pupils receiving free school lunches, have respect to Scottish Executive guidance on sustainable procurement when purchasing food or catering services for schools. The Act will also give local authorities the power to provide nutritious snacks either free or with a charge throughout the day. Advice on commencement will follow. More information is available at: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/HLivi/schoolmeals/schools_bill

Healthy Start

- Healthy Start children's vitamin drops and women's vitamin tablets are now available. NHS Boards are currently putting procedures in place to distribute them.

Information requested by SACN Committee at the last meeting in June 07:

Suggestions of health issues that need to be considered on a UK wide level:

- The Scottish Government has launched a wide-ranging consultation document to help inform its policies on health. Better Health, Better Care offers readers a broad view of how the new Scottish Government is looking to tackle issues around health in Scotland.
- Within Food and Health there are a number of issues where there should be a joint consideration and cooperation on a UK wide level. These include:
 - Food labelling
 - Folate Fortification
 - Sharing of data – scientific research and information about programmes such as the Healthyliving Award.
 - Broadcasting issues (e.g. promotion of foods to children)
 - Areas where we face common challenges – for example, methods to increase uptake of school meals.

Percentage of total funding that is nutrition related research:

- For 2006/07, it is estimated that 6.6% of the projected outturn for the committee budgets will be spent on nutrition projects. In 2005/06 it was 4.1%. We are currently funding 12 projects with a total value of £1,421,096.

Update on monitoring and evaluation of initiatives:

- We are happy to provide details of any formal evaluation report for any of our initiatives. In addition, we constantly monitor any initiatives that we fund and will include data on these through our regular update to the committee where this is perceived to be particularly relevant or important.
- If SACN would like data on any specific programme then we would of course be happy to provide it.

Clarification on the coordination of nutrition policy between the FSA Scotland and the Scottish Government :

- The Scottish Government works in partnership with the FSA Scotland on diet and nutrition policy through complimentary policy documents; Eating for Health – Meeting the Challenge (2004) and the FSA Strategic Plan 2005-2010 (2005).
- One example of an area where the Scottish Government and the FSAS have a particularly strong joint working relationship is in the development of nutritional standards for the public sector. This was identified as a priority in the policy documents of both organisations. To date this has included developing nutritional standards for schools, early years providers, prisons, care homes and we are currently working with the FSAS and other partners to develop nutritional and catering standards for NHS hospitals.
- Officials in both organisations meet via teleconference each week to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Clarification on what constitutes a nutritious snack:

The question of what constitute a nutritious snack seems to have arisen from our update on the Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007, which gives ministers the power to provide nutritious snacks throughout the day.

- The Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act gives local authorities the power to provide pupils, either free of charge or subject to a charge, with food and drink at any time of the day (other than at lunchtime which is covered by new subsection). This will, for example, enable education authorities to offer all children breakfasts or snacks in the morning or afternoon. These snacks, breakfasts, etc will have to meet the nutritional requirements that will be specified by Ministers in regulations.
- An expert working group was set up last August to make recommendations for these regulations. The group submitted a package of proposals for standards for food and drinks for school lunches and standards for all food and drinks outwith school lunches. The Expert Panel's recommendations are attached for your reference.

Examples of collaborative working between SERAD and health department

- Examples include the evaluation of local food to local schools pilot scheme in East Ayrshire. The scheme was evaluated to establish the costs and benefits of the scheme and to obtain feedback from all those involved in the food supply chain including parents and children. The feedback from children on the food served was positive and highlighted wider well being issues associated with local food models including local employment.
- Prior to the above, research was commissioned by SEERAD and a working group involving Health Department and Scottish Procurement Directorate was established to look at how producers could access the market for public sector food. Although the study included an exploration of the food procurement process in the education sector, the objective was to understand how Scottish producers could access the market. Although not aimed at evaluating Hungry for Success, one of the findings is that 'Hungry for Success' has led to greater opportunities for Scottish producers. The aim is to continue to identify cross working opportunities.
- Other areas include consideration of SDAP objectives within SEERAD food processing and marketing grant schemes criteria.
- It should be noted that the Scottish Government now uses Directorates instead of Departments in order to promote a more cross-cutting approach to policy making. Hence, the new Public Health and Wellbeing Directorate has a responsibility for food and health policy across the full range of sectors.
- The new administration has also put in place strategic objectives, one of which is a Healthier Scotland. Every portfolio, including those covered by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, is challenged to contribute to health and wellbeing wherever, whenever and however they can.