

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Education Operational Delivery Committee
<b>DATE</b>	14 June 2022
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Free School Meals Annual Update
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CUS/22/087
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andy MacDonald
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Derek McGowan
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Paul Tytler
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1.1

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the annual report on free school meals during 2021/22

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee -

- 2.1 Note the increase in registration for free school meals during 2021/22

### 3, CURRENT SITUATION

#### Free School Meals 2021/22

- 3.1 The number of children registered for free school meals has increased from 4281 to 4678 over the year, an increase of just over 9%.
- 3.2 The total number of registrations includes children in P1 to P5 who are now entitled to free school meals through universal entitlement.
- 3.3 While there has been increases at schools in priority neighbourhoods, increases have been seen across schools in the city, including those in areas outwith priority neighbourhoods.
- 3.4 A range of interventions are contributing to increased registrations.
- 3.4.1 Vouchers have been distributed to families during holiday periods
- 3.4.2 Improvements by benefit processing teams in automatically awarding educational benefits when applications made for housing benefit and council tax reduction.
- 3.4.3 Continued engagement with parents to maximise registrations.

3.5 Factors affecting uptake include the preference for pupils to avoid queues and to leave school at lunchtimes. Work is in progress to establish a food hub at either St Machar Academy or Northfield Academy to test an alternative approach. The food hub will be outwith the main school building and provide 'grab and go' food provision, allowing pupils to be outwith school to meet their friends but still uptake their free school meal entitlement. This approach has proved successful elsewhere and is aimed to be in place for the start of the new school term in 2022.

3.6 Further work required in 2022/23

3.6.1 Continued work with parents to ensure registrations and uptake continues to increase in light of the ongoing cost of living crisis

3.6.2 Continued work with officers across services to ensure our benefit and claim systems continue to ease the process of taking up entitlement

3.6.2 Testing the approach to support uptake of free school meal though the provision of a food hub at either St Machar or Northfield Academy

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No new financial implications arising from this report

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No new legal implications arising from this report

#### 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 No environmental implications arising from this report

#### 7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)  *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	N/A			
<b>Compliance</b>	N/A			
<b>Operational</b>	There is a risk that families will experience food poverty	We will continue to monitor effectiveness of systems and processed to maximise registrations and uptake of free school meals	L	Yes

<b>Financial</b>	There is a risk of reduced income due to fewer school meals being paid for	Scottish Government Grant funding and monitoring of impact on budgets	L	Yes
<b>Reputational</b>	N/A			
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	N/A			

## 8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
<u>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	N/A
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	Maximising uptake of free school meal entitlement will contribute to improve health and development of children
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	Maximising uptake of free school meal entitlement supports the delivery of LOIP stretch outcome 13 – No one in Aberdeen will go without food due to poverty by 2026

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	Maximising the uptake of free school meal entitlement has the potential to impact positively on a range of protected groups and there would be no negative impact on equalities and human rights
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Free School Meals Annual Update 2020/21 OPE/21/139

## 11. Appendix

11.1 School Meal uptake by school

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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## Appendix 1

<b>Sector</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>School Roll</b>	<b>P6- P7/Secondary/Sp ecial</b>	<b>No. register ed for FSM</b>	<b>% register ed for FSM</b>
Primary	Abbotswell School	216	62	9	14.5%
Primary	Airyhall School	362	106	6	5.7%
Primary	Ashley Road School	421	119	5	4.2%
Primary	Braehead Primary School	278	82	11	13.4%
Primary	Bramble Brae Primary School	142	42	21	50.0%
Primary	Brimmond School	399	105	19	18.1%
Primary	Broomhill Primary School	412	104	5	4.8%
Primary	Charleston School	257	71	5	7.0%
Primary	Cornhill Primary School	366	100	20	20.0%
Primary	Countesswells School	83	17	4	23.5%
Primary	Culter School	307	94	8	8.5%
Primary	Cults Primary School	635	193	5	2.6%
Primary	Danestone Primary School	226	62	5	8.1%
Primary	Dyce Primary School	424	129	15	11.6%
Primary	Fernielea School	249	67	18	26.9%

Primary	Ferryhill Primary School	386	103	4	3.9%
Primary	Forehill Primary School	205	55	3	5.5%
Primary	Gilcomstoun Primary School	251	93	25	26.9%
Primary	Glashieburn Primary School	233	80	7	8.8%
Primary	Greenbrae Primary School	317	71	4	5.6%
Primary	Hanover Street Primary School	237	72	22	30.6%
Primary	Hazlehead Primary School	324	76	4	5.3%
Primary	Heathryburn School	326	101	21	20.8%
Primary	Holy Family RC Primary School	142	40	3	7.5%
Primary	Kaimhill School	350	86	27	31.4%
Primary	Kingsford School	330	101	18	17.8%
Primary	Kingswells School	407	120	4	3.3%
Primary	Kirkhill Primary School	281	83	31	37.3%
Primary	Kittybrewster School	294	92	20	21.7%
Primary	Loirston Primary School	322	94	4	4.3%

Primary	Manor Park School	232	59	27	45.8%
Primary	Middleton Park School	195	64	0	0.0%
Primary	Mile End School	564	149	15	10.1%
Primary	Milltimber Primary School	286	88	1	1.1%
Primary	Muirfield School	148	42	9	21.4%
Primary	Quarryhill School	309	74	31	41.9%
Primary	Riverbank School	338	93	41	44.1%
Primary	Scotstown Primary School	171	47	6	12.8%
Primary	Seaton Primary School	177	43	14	32.6%
Primary	Skene Square School	369	103	17	16.5%
Primary	St Josephs School	366	106	12	11.3%
Primary	St Peter's RC Primary School	170	46	6	13.0%
Primary	Stoneywood School	328	68	7	10.3%
Primary	Sunnybank School	276	77	21	27.3%
Primary	Tullos Primary School	300	84	37	44.0%
Primary	Walker Road School	309	95	31	32.6%
Primary	Westpark School	252	75	27	36.0%

Primary	Woodside Primary School	308	83	27	32.5%
Secondary	Aberdeen Grammar School	1148	1148	90	7.8%
Secondary	Bridge of Don Academy	689	689	89	12.9%
Secondary	Bucksburn Academy	825	825	100	12.1%
Secondary	Cults Academy	1134	1134	67	5.9%
Secondary	Dyce Academy	565	565	62	11.0%
Secondary	Harlaw Academy	978	978	158	16.2%
Secondary	Hazlehead Academy	946	946	118	12.5%
Secondary	Lochside Academy	1048	1048	259	24.7%
Secondary	Northfield Academy	766	766	295	38.5%
Secondary	Oldmachar Academy	801	801	60	7.5%
Secondary	St Machar Academy	924	924	263	28.5%
Special	Orchard Brae School	117	117	44	37.6%
Special	School for the Deaf	15	15	11	73.3%
		24236	13972	2298	