

UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS

- Take-up in pilots settled at around 87%
- In WF catered schools, average increase 25%.
- Potential for increased Junior paid meals
- Initial allocations based on 87% take-up – adjusted once actual numbers reported through Schools Census. £2.30 / UIFSM
- FSM funding is as current

IMPLICATIONS

- Feeding significantly higher numbers of children
- Sufficiency of kitchen and dining facilities
- Adequate levels of catering staff
- Management of timing, queues and clearing
- Support / encouragement for children eating their meals
- Ensuring a positive lunchtime experience is maintained for children
- Potential for loss of/reduced level of Pupil Premium

KITCHEN AND DINING FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- WF has invested £3.38m in school kitchens and dining facility improvements
- Government has provided a grant of £620,765 for improvements to support UIFSM
- Priority has been given to all schools providing UIFSM. School kitchens and dining areas now have capacity to provide increased meals
- Is a 2 year programme and will include Junior and Secondary school facilities

SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE ISSUES

- Extensive catering assistant recruitment programme since April. New catering assistants inducted and started last week – on-going
- Ensure continuous flow through counter and in dining area: lunch session times, queuing, help with choice, encouraging eating, clearing away
- On-going review with Cook/Catering Managers/Middays – learning from experience
- New system for school meals returns to finance – splits infants into UIFSM and FSM.

UIFSM – PUPIL PREMIUM

- Targeted communications with parents – UIFSM leaflet, school meal newsletters & Reception Welcome Packs, websites updated
- A total of 10988 infants within Waltham Forest
- 3147 UIFSM forms received to date
- 207 Incomplete and/or unsigned forms received
- A total of 2940 eligibility checks made resulting in 519 successful Pupil Premiums