

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - HEALTH** held on Monday, 25 September 2023 at Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock.

### **PRESENT**

Councillor J Wharmby (in the Chair)

Councillors M Foster, D Allen, P Moss, G Musson, L Ramsey, P Smith and A Sutton.

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor E Fordham.

Also present: Dan Careless (Strategic Lead for School and Learning), Councillor Alex Dale (Cabinet Member - Education), Joanne Davidson (Catering Service Manager), Ellie Houlston (Director Of Public Health), Danny Sunderland (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Jackie Wardle (Improvement and Scrutiny Officer).

#### **30/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **31/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

#### **32/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

#### **33/23 NOTICE OF REQUISITION - INCREASE IN COSTS OF SCHOOL DINNER MEALS**

Three Members of the Committee had submitted a requisition notice which now required the Committee to look at the potential impact on children's health following the decision of the Cabinet Member for Education to increase the price of school meals.

Councillor Alex Dale, Cabinet Member for Education attended the meeting along with officers from Public Health to provide a brief explanation of the rationale behind the decision and the other options that had been considered.

On behalf of the Members who had submitted the requisition notice, Councillor Dave Allen highlighted a few areas of concern relating to the decision and the potential impact this would have on children's health. These included the low take up of free school meals which was already

being experienced and the number of families who were not entitled to this service but had a relatively low income. School meals provided children with a balanced diet which may not be the case if families were forced to provide a cheaper packed lunch.

Councillor Allen also made reference to a publication by Henry Dimbleby which had made several recommendations to improve the quality of school meals and food education and actions to assist disadvantaged children. Councillor Allen requested the Chairman to consider setting up a working group to look at various issues and the potential impact on children's health arising from the increase in price of school meals.

The Chairman and the Committee agreed to establishing a working group and in order to commence the process, Councillor Allen would submit a Scrutiny Review Proposal Form to enable the Scrutiny Officer to draft a scoping report.

**RESOLVED:**

To establish a Working Group to examine the health aspects concerning school meals.

**34/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

To move that under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that in view of the nature of the business, that if members of the public were present exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed to them and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**35/23 TO CONSIDER THE EXEMPT REPORT TO THE CABINET MEMBER ON SCHOOL MEALS (DATED 10 JULY 2023)**

Members of the Committee received the exempt report of the Executive Director – Children's Services that had been submitted for approval to the Cabinet Member for Education on 10 July 2023.

**RESOLVED:**

To note the report.

The meeting finished at 11.17 am

