

Record of operational decision

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| Decision title: | Decision to fund free school meal costs during the Easter school holidays at £15 per week for two weeks for c.2,770 eligible children |
| Date of decision: | 1 April 2020 |
| Decision maker: | Chris Baird, Director for children and families |
| Authority for delegated decision: | Council constitution 3.7.9 all necessary decisions in the case of emergencies |
| Ward: | Countywide |
| Consultation: | <p>Consulted with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families who supports the decision</p> <p>Consulted with the Section 151 officer who has given approval and notes that this should be funded from the COVID-19 grant.</p> <p>Consulted with the solicitor to the council who has required an officer decision to be recorded</p> |
| Decision made: | Agreed to fund £15 per week for two weeks for children eligible for free school meals. Numbers identified are c.2,770 but this may increase as more families identify themselves. Any increase before Easter next week will not be considerable. |
| Reasons for decision: | Government funding for free school meals does not cover the Easter school holidays. Not providing free school meal funding during the Easter holiday would increase the risk of hardship to children who rely on the school meal to provide a good meal each day and is made more necessary as part of the COVID-19 response. |
| Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations: | The decision provides support for children eligible for free school meals; a vulnerable group at a time of pressure and hardship on a significant number of families due to COVID-19 impact, including restrictions on the ability of parents to earn due to the national lockdown. This has greater impact on those on lower pay. |
| Details of any alternative options considered and rejected: | <p>To not fund</p> <p>This would leave a significant number of children potentially without a free school meal during the two weeks of the Easter school holidays.</p> |
| Details of any declarations of interest made: | N/A |

Signed.

Date: 1 April 2020