

Record of operational decision

UPDATED March 2020: Decisions in relation Covid-19 should be published on the same day as the decision or at the very latest 24 hrs later.

Decision title:	Decision to fund free school meal costs during the May half term school holidays at £15 per week for one week for c.2,770 eligible children
Date of decision:	22 May 2020
Decision maker:	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 children eligible for free school meals. Numbers identified are c.2,770 but this may increase as more families identify themselves.
Reasons for decision:	Government funding for free school meals does not cover the may half term school holiday. Not providing free school meal funding during the 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:	<p>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.</p> <p>The potential cost for the identified children is £41,550 but could be more.</p>
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 May half term school holiday.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	N/A

Signed

Date:

Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.