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**Report to Emergency Decision Making Forum**

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**Date of Meeting: 10 April 2020**

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**Subject: Provision of free school meals during school shutdown**

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**Report by: Chief Education Officer**

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**1.0 Issue**

- 1.1. This paper outlines the options for ensuring that more families are able to take up their entitlement to Free School Meal (FSM) provision.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1. In order to continue provision of free school meals while schools are closed, Catering Services within Place Directorate organised a distribution of lunch grab bags via a van system to primary school locations across the Council area. This has been in place since 18 March and has continued throughout the Easter Holiday period. The vans also supply a month's supply of period products for families who need them.
- 2.2. In addition, all children who attend the Hubs are provided with a free school meal and snacks. We have also delivered to home for some specific groups/families ie Syrian Refugees, children from Lochies and Alloa Extended Support Provision, as well as to some more vulnerable/isolated families.
- 2.3. Overall the uptake of FSM has varied between 30-40% of eligible families. This paper outlines alternative options that could be considered in order to ensure that more families have access to food during this period. This system would be supported by further Council-wide wraparound arrangements.

**3.0 Options and Impacts**

- 3.1. Across Scotland's local authorities, different arrangements have been put in place for FSM (see Appendix 1). It would appear that no one system has been evaluated as meeting needs perfectly. Both Stirling and Falkirk are reviewing options. Stirling is currently only delivering a sandwich drop twice per week to families. Falkirk had been using a system through kitchens in a limited number of Primary Schools but take up has been low.
- 3.2. In reviewing practice across other areas, the Education Service has identified the following options for consideration:
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### 3.3. Option 1 - Continue to provide grab bags from the vans Monday to Friday

The advantage of this option is that parents and children get a fresh bag every day that has a mixture of sandwiches and some fresh fruit. Targeting of vulnerable groups for home delivery would continue. The disadvantage is that we are only reaching 30-40% of eligible children.

### 3.4. Option 2 - Extend home delivery to all eligible families twice/three times per week

The advantage of this is that it would support social distancing and isolation measures, with less families going out to pick up or purchase food. This could be done on the basis of a 2 or 3 day delivery to reduce the number of runs having to be undertaken each day. The disadvantage of such an approach is that it would be a logistical challenge for the authority to deliver 1200 meals over the week. In addition, the freshness of the food being delivered would be reduced.

### 3.5. Option 3 - Provide a grant to families

In Clackmannanshire we currently have 1,334 children eligible for FSM. This is fully funded by Scottish Government. Parents of pupils in Primary 4- S6 who are eligible for FSM and parents of pupils in P1-P3 who are in receipt of a clothing grant (all children in P1- P3 are eligible for FSM) could be paid a Grant.

The grant could be paid either as a bank transfer through our creditors system via BACS (the logistics of this are currently being explored with Finance) or in the form of a voucher that parents can take to any shop that has 'Paypoint' facilities (most local shops have this) where parents can cash the voucher. Some authorities are already using the grant system and the grant amount that is being paid varies across the country: Glasgow are paying £20 every two weeks; Perth are paying £23 every two weeks; and Falkirk are paying £35 over the two week Easter period. The advantage of this option is that parents would have a choice over where they used the money.

The advantage of the bank transfer is that parents would get the money directly. The disadvantages are that the bank details on record were only correct in summer 2019 and also parent's addresses may have changed. We would be implementing the system based on the parents who were registered at summer 2019.

The advantage of the voucher system is that vouchers could be issued quickly as the company providing them would send them out to parents. The disadvantage is that it is based on addresses that were correct in summer 2019. There may also be a bit of concern if significant numbers of parents attempted to cash vouchers and impacted on social distancing habits. No work has been done to contact the shops involved to ensure they are willing to participate in such a scheme.

### 3.6. Option 4 - Providing a voucher that can be redeemed in a shop

We have been contacted by one company that provides vouchers that can be redeemed in shops. The company currently only operates with the large

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supermarkets (Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Sainsburys) and the system works on the basis of an emailed code being provided to every parent that they can redeem at one of the 4 supermarkets. The Council will only be charged if parents redeem the vouchers and the vouchers cannot be redeemed for certain products eg alcohol or tobacco. The Council would be required to provide a letter to parents with a unique code. This system, although giving the Council assurances that the money is only being used for the purposes intended is potentially the most bureaucratic for the Council and parents.

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

- 4.1. Each option identified by the Service has advantages and disadvantages.
- 4.2. It is recommended that the EDMF agree to move to Option 3 (para 3.5), with the intention of having the new system in place during the week after the Easter Holiday period ie week beginning 20 April.
- 4.3. EDMF is also asked to delegate authority to the Chief Education Officer to finalise the details of the scheme which is approved. This will include the amount of the grant, which would be set in consultation with Finance colleagues, likely to be around £25 for a 2 week period, taking account of the additional arrangements in place with the additional Food Fund.
- 4.4. The Education Service will lead on administrative, resource and support arrangements to help families access the new system. This proactive approach would support the broader Council approach of wraparound and supporting Vulnerable Families, including food parcel deliveries, and linking with CTSI on referrals.

#### **5.0 Implementation**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Lead Implementation of new system for Free School Meals</b>	<b>Chief Education Officer</b>	<b>10 April 2020</b>

#### **6.0 Resource Implications**

- 6.1. Financial Details
- 6.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report.  
  
This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. No
- 6.3. Finance has been consulted and has agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

#### **7.0 Exempt Reports**

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7.1. Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below)

## 8.0 Legality

8.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

Attachments: Appendix 1: Free School Meals other LAs

### Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Lorraine Sanda	Chief Education Officer	2425

**Appendix 1**

**Free School Meals – Other LA’s**

<b><u>Name of School</u></b>	<b><u>Details on website</u></b>
<p><b>Aberdeen City Council</b></p>	<p><b>Free school meals</b>                      Supermarket vouchers are to be given to parents or guardians of pupils eligible for free school meals so they do not have to make a journey into schools. The scheme will mean vouchers to the value of £25 for each child will be issued for a 10-day period, the value per day being higher than the current price of a school meal. Vouchers will be issued fortnightly, also covering what would have been the upcoming two-week Easter holiday period.</p> <p>Vouchers will be emailed to parents or guardians who have provided an email address to their school and by text message where only a mobile telephone number is held. Any eligible parents or guardians who do not have access to email or a mobile phone should phone the Virtual School Helpline for help on 01224 523322.</p> <p>The scheme is due to start on Monday 6 April. For the remainder of this week, free school meals will continue to be provided at schools.</p> <p><b>Other support</b>                      Families eligible for free school meals will still be able to access services for children. Parents or guardians will be contacted through the GroupCall text system used by schools.</p> <p>Orchard Brae Primary School, Bucksburn Wing, and Mile End ASN Provision will continue to deliver services for children with complex needs and their families. A school helpline has been established to support children and families in need of assistance. The number is 01224 523322 and will be available from 9am on Monday 23 March.</p>
<p><b>Aberdeenshire Council</b></p>	<p><b>Arrangements for free school meals for those in need</b>                      Families eligible to receive free school meals – not those offered universally in P1-3 – are to receive a payment to cover the cost of these (£12.50 per child per week) directly from Monday, 30th March 2020. Payments will be sent in four-weekly instalments during term time.</p> <p>The council is able to make this payment to families in the same way as is done for school clothing grants. This only applies to families who are eligible for clothing grants too. We have decided to continue the service in this way until further notice to ensure we comply with the social distancing advice now in place and to ensure equity of service provision for all of our families across Aberdeenshire. This approach will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>If you are facing financial hardship and believe you may now be eligible for free school meals, please <a href="#">apply online</a> through our website. Eligibility is usually based on whether you are in receipt of one of the following qualifying benefits or allowances:                      Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit), Any income related element of Employment Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit (WTC), and have an income of less than £16,105, Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Working Tax Credit (WTC), and have an income of less than £6900, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.</p> <p>Children from families within the following categories may also be eligible:                      Student parents who have children at school providing you are receiving Child</p>

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	<p>Tax Credit and your income is less than £16,105, Parents or carers who have savings above £16,000, but very low income If you are not able to apply online, contact us on <a href="tel:01467533400">01467 533400</a>. Email <a href="mailto:fsm@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">fsm@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> if payment does not reach you or if you have any other concerns.</p>
<p><b>Angus Council</b></p>	<p><b>Free school meals update</b>  Published 2 April 1.05pm  A solution has been found to make sure that families have access to their free school meal entitlement while measures to tackle the Coronavirus Pandemic are in place.</p> <p>Our staff have been working closely and at pace across various services to come up with a solution that will see free school meal payments made automatically to eligible families.</p> <p>Families who have been in receipt of School Clothing Grant will receive the first payment into bank accounts tomorrow (Friday 3 April 2020). This initial payment will cover a four-week period, backdated to 23 March 2020. Payments will continue on a fortnightly basis, with the next payment reaching bank accounts by Friday 17 April.</p> <p>We will be contacting parents/carers of other children eligible for free school meals so that we can gather further information to enable payments to be made.</p> <p>For any queries or further information, please contact <a href="mailto:revenue@angus.gov.uk">revenue@angus.gov.uk</a></p> <p>If you are in urgent need of any additional support please fill in an online <a href="#">Crisis Grant application</a>. If eligible, these grants should be in bank accounts within 24-48 hours. You can also use our online benefits calculator and a range of welfare rights advice and support on our <a href="#">help with benefits and/or debts pages</a>.</p>
<p><b>Argyl and Bute Council</b></p>	<p><b>Free School Meals</b>  Argyll and Bute Council will be opening 10 of its school kitchens from Monday (23 March) to ensure that children who are entitled to free school meals can continue to receive those meals.</p> <p>The following kitchens will be open every weekday between 12 noon and 12.30pm so that a lunch can be collected for anyone entitled to a free school meal: Dunoon Grammar; Rothesay Joint Campus; Oban High; Colgrain Primary; Castlehill Primary; Lochgilphead Joint Campus; Tarbert Academy; Tiree High; Tobermory High; and Islay High.</p> <p>The number of kitchens that are open may also be expanded depending on demand in the coming weeks.</p>
<p><b>City of Edinburgh Council</b></p>	<p><b>Free school meals</b>  We've issued over 5,700 payments to families to meet the cost of free school meals due to school closures and you will get a letter from us to confirm this. We are also writing to families of children in P4 to S6 who received school meals but not a clothing grant to get details to arrange payment. You should receive a letter in the next week. We've also given additional funding to help support families with children receiving free school meals through the Easter holidays. Council Leader Adam McVey said:</p> <p><i>"I'm pleased that we've been able to ensure young people who receive Free School Meals will continue to be supported with this payment. We've also given additional funding to help support families with children receiving free school meals through the Easter Holidays.</i></p>
<p><b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b></p>	<p><b>Continuing Support</b>  My Child is Eligible For Free School Meals. Will They Continue to be Provided?  School canteens will be open next week and will be able to provide meals for</p>


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	<p>FSM eligible pupils who are attending. We are also working on ways to provide meals to FSM pupils who are not attending and this may include provision in school, delivery of packed lunches or a voucher/payment systems. We are still working on this and will inform parents about plans as soon as possible.</p>
<p><b>Dumfries and Galloway Council</b></p>	<p><b>Free School Meals</b>          Providing free school meals and ensuring the welfare and support of our children and young people is a key priority for our council. Due to the ever-changing circumstances of COVID19 we will make sure that a food pack is available to all children and young people who meet the qualifying criteria for free school meals. You must <a href="#">register for this service</a> .          This service will be provided every Tuesday and Friday and you can choose to have it delivered to your door or you can collect it from a central pick up point.</p>
<p><b>Dundee City Council</b></p>	<p><b>In response to the Scottish Government’s Food Fund announcement</b> <a href="https://www.gov.scot/news/coronavirus-food-fund/">https://www.gov.scot/news/coronavirus-food-fund/</a>(<b>link is external</b>)          Dundee City Council leader John Alexander said:          “This is a welcome investment from the Scottish Government for our efforts in Dundee to ensure that no one goes hungry during this health emergency.          “The council and its partners have already made significant progress in developing a network of Community Support Centres and the infrastructure to ensure that vital supplies can reach those most in need across the city.          “Our recently launched helpline for those shielding themselves against the virus has already been taking calls from people seeking urgent deliveries.          “We are also currently finalising arrangements around free school meals for families who qualify for school clothing grants.</p>
<p><b>East Ayrshire Council</b></p>	<p>For those families who have income-based free school meal entitlement and for members of the community who are self isolating, we will be delivering meals locally, with assistance from vounteers and partner organisations and in partnership with Vibrant Communities.          An <a href="#">online booking form</a> is available to register for this service.          If you have any queries about meal provision, please call 01563 554400.</p>
<p><b>East Dumbartonshire Council</b></p>	<p><b>Free school Meal Provision</b>          We are also working to put arrangements in place to support families, w ho are entitled to free school meals and more information will be provided as soon as this is available.</p>
<p><b>East Lothian Council</b></p>	<p>School teams have been working to make remote learning as easy and engaging as possible for children and young people. While we have been keen to ensure children and young people who are eligible for free school meals can continue to enjoy healthy lunches while schools are closed. We have arranged doorstep deliveries as well as making lunches available for those attending our Children’s Hubs.”</p>
<p><b>East Renfrewshire Council</b></p>	<p><b>Support for families</b>          Schools have closed to the majority of pupils, but in line with the announcement by the Scottish Government we will continue to provide learning for a limited number of pupils in identified key groups. This will include health and care workers, emergency services, energy suppliers, critical welfare services, those providing childcare and teaching staff, as well as some other areas of work. We're also in touch directly with families eligible for free school meals to ensure they continue to be provided with this vital resource.</p>
<p><b>Falkirk Council</b></p>	<p><b>Changes to free school meal provision from Monday 6 April</b>          No meal service (grab and go bags) will be provided over the 2 week Easter holiday break from Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April 2020.</p>

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	<p>Recognising the current situation and the challenges that families face it has been agreed that an additional one-off payment of £35 will be paid to:  All pupils who qualified for and received clothing grant during this term.  All S5 and S6 pupils who do not get clothing grant but qualify for free school meals.</p> <p>Where payments are normally made directly into bank accounts: these payments will be made by Tuesday 7 April.  Where payments are normally made by cheque: cheques will be issued by post on Wednesday 8 April.</p> <p>We are planning to resume the "grab and go" meal service from Monday 20 April 2020 as normal. If this changes updated details will be posted on our website.  We have reviewed the current meal provision and distribution centres in light of actual demand and to take account of availability of staff.</p> <p>From Wednesday 25 March 2020  Early Year Childcare Centre Changes  No meal uplift will be provided from the undernoted Centres but pupils/parents can collect them at other local schools:  ELC Centres affected  Denny ELC – now available from St Patrick's PS  Camelon ELC - now available from Bantaskin PS  Glenburn ELC - now available from Hallglen PS  Rannoch ELC – now available from Bowhouse PS  Queen St ELC – now available from Victoria PS</p> <p>From Thursday 26 March 2020  Primary School Changes  No meal uplift will be provided at the undernoted schools but pupils/parents can collect them at other local schools:  Schools affected  Blackness PS – now available from Grange PS  Bo'ness Public School – now available from Kinneil PS  St Mary's PS – now available from Bo'ness Academy  Sacred Heart PS – now available from Bowhouse PS  Comely Park PS – now available from Falkirk High School  Drumbowie PS – now available from Avonbridge PS</p> <p>From Monday 30 March 2020  Primary School Uplift Changes  No meal uplift will be provided at the undernoted schools but pupils/parents can collect them at other local schools:  Schools Affected  Bainsford PS – now available from Langlees PS  Laurieston PS – now available from Graeme HS  St Andrew's PS – now available from Graeme HS  St Joseph's PS – now available from Antonine PS  Carron PS - now available from Carronshore PS  Please note that this service will be constantly reviewed and may be changed to reflect demand and availability of staff resources.  We will update this page with the latest information when it becomes available</p>
<p><b>Fife Council</b></p>	<p><b>Education update – Wednesday, 1st April</b>  An update for children, parents and carers  Our normal school provision is currently closed to ALL children.  We have set up 29 Children's Activity Centres to care for children of our key workers, if necessary, to enable them to continue working.  Families of children registered for free school meals are receiving direct payments. Payment is based on those currently registered for FME/school clothing grant. P1-3 payment is made only to those receiving free school milk. Parents of any P1-3 children who are eligible but not already registered, should apply via <a href="http://www.fife.gov.uk/schoolbenefits">www.fife.gov.uk/schoolbenefits</a> You can also find out if you are</p>



	<p>eligible. Free School Meal Entitlement - Check here if you think you might be eligible but not already registered <a href="http://www.fife.gov.uk/schoolbenefits">www.fife.gov.uk/schoolbenefits</a>. If you have any difficulty accessing or filling in the application, please contact your <a href="mailto:headteacher/education.services@fife.gov.uk">headteacher/education.services@fife.gov.uk/</a> or <a href="#">Contact Council Tax Enquiries online</a>; or 03451 551155</p>
<p><b>Glasgow City Council</b></p>	<p><b>Free Meal Entitlement Contingency Plans during school closures</b></p> <p>We are currently issuing Farmfoods Cards to eligible parents and carers. It may take up to 10 days to receive your card. Please do not contact us before Monday 6 April if you have not received your card.</p> <p>Our parents and carers whose children and young people are currently entitled and in receipt of footwear and clothing grants and/or free school meals will be receiving information this week about the contingency plans in place to help replace free meal entitlement while pupils are not attending school.</p> <p>We are using the clothing grant and/or free school meals' data as this involves a larger number of families who will receive this support.</p> <p>Letters are being posted out direct to home addresses with a £20 pre-paid Farmfoods card that can be used to buy food at stores across the city - click here to find your nearest store <a href="https://www.farmfoods.co.uk/store-finder.php">https://www.farmfoods.co.uk/store-finder.php</a></p> <p>£20 will then be uploaded every two weeks to the cards for each Glasgow primary and secondary pupil in a family who currently receive a footwear and clothing grant and/or free school meals.</p> <p>Please hold on to the card - each card has a serial number on it which will be matched to the addressee - and we plan to top up the cards on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13 April</li> <li>27 April</li> <li>11 May</li> <li>25 May</li> <li>8 June</li> </ul> <p>Read our  <a href="#">Farmfood cards frequently asked questions [242kb]</a>.</p> <p>If you have an enquiry about the programme please use our <a href="#">online form</a></p>
<p><b>Highland Council</b></p>	<p>Highland Council will continue to provide school meals through e-vouchers to families throughout the school Easter break. This is to recognise the particular difficulties many families will be experiencing due to the Coronavirus emergency. This innovative and easy-to-use service is being delivered digitally through the use of e-vouchers which will ensure over 4,000 school children will continue to receive support for school meals while schools are closed. Families who are already receiving free school meal provision do not need to apply as the Council will automatically provide barcoded e-vouchers to eligible families. The impact of Coronavirus has caused additional hardship and this process will ensure that the most vulnerable children can get food. Those who have been impacted, and haven't yet claimed free school meals, are being encouraged to <a href="#">apply for free school meals</a> as soon as possible on the Council's website at this link. This will enable these families to benefit from school meal provision through the Council's e-voucher scheme. Arrangements are also in place to support vulnerable families who are receiving free school meals. Highland Council continues to investigate other ways of providing food across the Highlands for vulnerable groups within the rapidly changing environment. This includes working closely with High Life Highland, Eden Court and our many partners including the Third Sector. Cllr Alister Mackinnon, Budget Leader, said: "The provision of food for many families is vitally important now, more especially than ever. We have taken the decision to continue the provision over the Easter fortnight to make sure children and families have what they need". "The e-vouchers can be used in various supermarkets and staff are working really hard to extend this important scheme so that it reaches all families, especially those who live rurally, recognising that</p>

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	<p>transport is not easy at the present time". Help and support to apply for free school meals and benefits is available by emailing <a href="mailto:welfare.support@highland.gov.uk">welfare.support@highland.gov.uk</a>. A helpline number has also been set up for anyone who is struggling and needing urgent help during this crisis. The single line number – 0300 303 1362 – will connect callers to relevant Council specialist teams and will operate Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm. All calls are free.</p>
<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<p><b>School lunches food parcels</b>  Food parcels were delivered to 2,500 homes across Inverclyde to provide support to families entitled to free school meals and clothing grants.  Parcels were prepared at Greenock Town Hall and delivered across the area over the weekend.</p>
<b>Midlothian Council</b>	<p><b>Free school meals</b>  We are working with catering services to distribute food for children entitled to free school meals. More information will be given as soon as plans are finalised.</p>
<b>Moray Council</b>	<p>Meal vouchers to be available for pupils eligible for free school meals  Voucher system for free school meals  Supermarket vouchers are to be given to parents or guardians of pupils eligible for free school meals. This means that families will not have to make a journey into schools. The move will ensure children and young people will get access to the food and nutrition they need during coronavirus, while allowing social distancing to be better observed. Vouchers to the value of £25 will be provided for each child and will be issued for a 10-day period. The allowance per day is higher than the current price of a school meal. The children and young people eligible within this scheme are those in a Moray Council primary or secondary school whose household income has been assessed and a free school meal award made. This does not include other children within primary 1 to 3 who were eligible under the Scottish Government free school meal scheme. The scheme is due to start on Monday 6 April and eligible parents or guardians will be contacted directly about the vouchers. The first voucher will be issued on Monday 6 April covering what would have been the two-week Easter holiday period. Vouchers will then be issued fortnightly from Monday 13 April 2020 whilst schools remain closed.  Vouchers will be emailed to parents or guardians who have provided an email address to their school, or by text message if only a mobile phone number is held. Any eligible parents or guardians who have not given their email address to their child's school should email <a href="mailto:education@moray.gov.uk">education@moray.gov.uk</a> with 'free school meal voucher' in the subject line. Parents and guardians who do not have access to email or a mobile phone should phone us on 01343 563374. This number is currently manned 8.45am to 4pm, Monday-Friday.  Additional information about how schools are affected during coronavirus is available from <a href="http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_132517.html">http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_132517.html</a></p>
<b>North Ayrshire Council</b>	<p><b>Free meals for eligible children and families</b>  Late last week, we announced that young people eligible for free school meals and/or in receipt of a school clothing grant will soon receive a weekly food package for both them and their families in the weeks ahead.  We have received a high demand for this service and are aware some of you may have struggled to get through on the phone lines.  If you are eligible and have not yet managed to contact us by phone or email, please fill in <a href="#">this form</a>.  To take part in the scheme, eligible families must opt-in by contacting us.  Deliveries of the food packages will begin in the very near future and will be delivered to your home with lunch recipes and related ingredients.</p>
<b>North Lanarkshire Council</b>	<p>Free school meals for those who require them are available at the 10 town hubs</p>

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	<p>established to support children of key workers. See the list <a href="#">here</a>. School meals are available at the hubs between 12.30pm and 1.15pm. We are working hard on alternative arrangements for free school meals for those who require them and we will announce the details as soon as we possibly can.</p>
<p><b>Orkney Islands Council</b></p>	<p>Under normal circumstances, schools are not expected to provide free school meals to children who are not attending. These are, however, not normal circumstances and we will continue to provide this support.</p> <p>In the first instance, we are committed to reimbursing families whose children would usually receive a free school meal – for the cost of providing their own meals during the current week.</p> <p>This reimbursement will consist of a payment of £3 pounds per-day, per-pupil up to a maximum of £15 for the week.</p> <p>Arrangements for continuing to provide benefits-related free school meals will be introduced and communicated to parents at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Options currently being considered are the continuation of catering services in school premises and the provision of weekly food ‘hampers’.</p> <p>We are also aware that Scottish Government is currently developing a national voucher-based solution. It is likely that OIC will make use of each of these options depending on the individual circumstances of each school and/or pupil.</p> <p>If you believe that your child may be entitled to benefits-related free school meals, particularly if your child has previously automatically received a free school meal as a nursery or P1-P3 pupil, but have not yet applied - then you are encouraged to follow the application process <a href="#">which can be accessed here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Perth &amp; Kinross Council</b></p>	<p><b>School meal provision</b></p> <p>In response to a further update on the social distancing advice, a decision has been taken to cancel the provision of meals in school buildings this week. We will provide direct payments to families entitled to free school meals with the first payment being made this week. If you have not made an application for free school meals previously because of automatic entitlement (likely to Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils) parents should email <a href="mailto:ecsschools@pkc.gov.uk">ecsschools@pkc.gov.uk</a> or call 0345 30 111 00 to let us know bank details to process payment.</p> <p><a href="#">Contact us</a></p> <p>If you have queries about provision for your children, please view our <a href="#">Coronavirus: FAQs about schools</a> or call 0345 30 111 00. This line will be open from 8.45am tomorrow.</p>
<p><b>Renfrewshire Council</b></p>	<p><b>Will free school meals/clothing grants still be provided?</b></p> <p>Free school meals are being provided for the children in the groups who are attending school. The parents of children who qualify for a clothing grant will receive fortnightly payment direct to their bank account of £11.25 per child per week. These payments will continue over the Easter holidays and for as long as schools remain closed, even if over the summer. The parents of children in P1-3 who would normally receive a free school meal will only receive this payment if they are in receipt of a clothing grant.</p>
<p><b>Scottish Borders Council</b></p>	<p><b>Free School Meals key information</b></p> <p>Free school meals for all children normally entitled to them will be available to pick up from 11.30am-1pm, Monday to Friday.</p> <p>Free school meals can be collected throughout the Easter Holidays</p> <p>Any child who is entitled to a free school meal can walk to one of these locations to collect a lunch. Younger children should be accompanied by their parent/carer but please remember Scottish and UK governments’ social distancing guidance</p> <p>Some children and young people who live outwith a reasonable walking distance to a Childcare Hub will have free school meals delivered. They have been identified by their headteachers and should already have been contacted.</p> <p>Should your family not be entitled to free school meals but are currently</p>

Clackmannanshire Council EMDF, 10 April 2020 : Provision of Free School Meals (Education)

	<p>struggling during these difficult times, please contact us via email Covid-19Schools@scotborders.gov.uk or phone 0300 100 1800 and we will aim to support you and your family. School meal pick up locations, which <a href="#">include Childcare Hubs</a> Burnfoot Community School, Jedburgh Primary School (formerly Howdenburn), Chirnside Primary School, Galashiels Academy, Newtown Primary School, Earlston Primary School, St Ronan's Primary School, Innerleithen, Wilton Primary School, Langlee Primary School, Broomlands Primary School, Melrose Primary School, Eyemouth Primary School, Philliphaugh Community School, Halyrude Primary School, Duns Primary School</p>
<b>Shetlands Island Council</b>	<p>Could not see any information – only relating to key worker provision.</p>
<b>South Ayrshire</b>	<p>While schools are closed, all pupils entitled to a free school meal and clothing grant will continue to have access to food at lunchtime. Free school meals are being delivered to eligible children across South Ayrshire by our staff volunteers. From Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April, we will be delivering food boxes on a weekly basis. The boxes will contain a range of items, including fresh food, which can be used to prepare a week's worth of breakfast and lunch for eligible children.</p>
<b>South Lanarkshire Council</b>	<p><b>Free school meals</b> From Friday 3 April we have in place new arrangements to send PayPoint vouchers directly to parents/carers of children who are entitled to free school meals. These will replace the 'take and go' lunches that have been available from our emergency childcare hubs and some other schools. These lunches will not be available for collection after 3 April. Parents/carers of eligible children do not need to apply for this payment. A £30 voucher will be sent to you on a fortnightly basis using the mobile phone numbers or email addresses we already hold for you. If we don't have your number or email we will post the vouchers to you. The first £30 payments will be made on Friday 3 April, covering weeks commencing 30 March and 6 April. A second payment will be made on Thursday 9 April (as Friday 10 April is a public holiday), covering weeks beginning 13 and 20 April. Advance payments will continue every fortnight thereafter from Friday 24 April. Scottish Government guidelines suggest that payments should reflect what councils charge for school lunches. As the cost of a school lunch in South Lanarkshire is £1.70, the £30 fortnightly payment considerably exceeds that. The payment is also in line with the UK Government's £15 a week vouchers system. Payments will be made only to those entitled to means-tested free school meals. This includes children in Primaries 1 to 3, who will be assessed for free school meal entitlement. Again, this is in line with Scottish Government guidelines. For more information on eligibility see the <a href="#">Free school meals</a> page. The payment vouchers can be redeemed for cash at any PayPoint outlet, of which there are more than 100 across South Lanarkshire. Parents/carers can then purchase food for children, bearing in mind current advice on limiting excursions and social distancing. For details of PayPoint outlets see the <a href="#">PayPoint</a> website. Payments will be made automatically using information held by the council, so applications are not necessary. However, contact details can be updated and other enquiries can be sent by using the <a href="#">Free school meals enquiry form</a>.</p>
<b>Stirling Council</b>	<p>From Monday the 23rd of March 2020 packed lunches have been delivered to homes for all children from P1 to S6 who are entitled to free school meals.</p> <p>Please note: lunches will not be provided for all children in P1 to P3 as is the current position; it is only for those in receipt of <a href="#">the footwear and clothing grant</a>.</p> <p>The packed lunches will be delivered to home addresses of all eligible children from Monday to Friday between 10am and 2pm.</p>

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	<p>Since the 25th of March we have moved to making double and triple deliveries of packed lunches. This allows drivers and catering staff involved in this challenging operation to participate in other essential work during this national emergency.</p> <p>The schedule for deliveries is:          Wednesday the 25th of March - double delivery          Friday the 27th of March - double delivery          Tuesday the 31st of March - triple delivery          Friday the 3rd of April - double delivery</p> <p>If you need to report a problem with free school meals please complete the form below. If you have already reported an issue that has not been dealt with yet, please complete the form and add the details into the comments section.</p> <p>Please note: The delivery of free school meals will also continue during the Easter/Spring holidays.</p>
<p><b>West Dumbartonshire Council</b></p>	<p><b>Packed lunches</b>          All eligible two year olds and entitled three and four year olds in receipt of 1140 hour. This includes children private partner provider nurseries          All P1-3 pupils          All P4- S6 pupils entitled to free school meals          Between the hours of 12 and 2pm</p>
<p><b>West Lothian Council</b></p>	<p>The provision of school meals will continue at a number of West Lothian Schools across the Easter holiday break (Monday 6 April - Friday 17 April). Please note that this will also include the 'public holidays' of Good Friday (10 April) and Easter Monday (13 April).</p> <p>All Children Entitled to Free School Meals will receive a packed lunch or can pick up a takeaway hot meal and a breakfast cereal bar/cereal. Details on locations are listed below.</p> <p>Serving staff will ask all pupils if they have any allergies. You or your child must inform school staff if this is the case.</p> <p>Parent/Carers and pupils are asked to please note the updated list below which contains some changes. These changes start from Monday 06 April.</p> <p>The Secondary schools open for takeaway hot meal or packed lunch are:          Broxburn Academy          Linlithgow Academy          Inveralmond Community          The James Young High School          St Margaret's Academy          St Kentigern's Academy          Whitburn Academy</p> <p>The following secondary schools are NOT open:          Armadale Academy          Bathgate Academy          Deans Community High School          West Calder High School</p> <p>The Primary schools open for hot takeaway meals and packed lunch collections between 12pm-1.30pm will be:          Addiewell Primary School, Armadale Primary School, Balbardie Primary – NEW, Blackridge Primary School, Boghall Primary – NEW, Bridgend Primary School, Carmondean Primary – NEW, Deans Primary School, East Calder Primary School, Harrysmuir PS, Livingston, Howden St Andrew's Primary School, Livingston, Kirkhill Primary School, Broxburn, Kirknewton Primary School, Knightsridge PS, Livingston, Letham Primary – NEW,</p>

Longridge Primary School, Mid Calder Primary School, Murrayfield Primary School, Blackburn, Our Lady's Primary School, Stoneyburn, Parkhead Primary School, Polkemmet Primary School, Whitburn Pumpherstons and Uphall Station Primary School, Riverside Primary School, Livingston, Simpson PS, Bathgate, Springfield PS, Linlithgow, St Anthony's, Armadale – NEW, St John The Baptist Primary School, Fauldhouse, St Mary's PS. Bathgate, St Mary's, Polbeth – NEW, St Ninians PS, Livingston, Torphichen Primary School, Westfield Primary School, Winchburgh Primary School, Woodmuir Primary School

The following Primary schools will now have a packed lunch service only between 12pm - 12.20pm and can be collected from the delivery van

Bellsquarry Primary - layby in front of school  
Dechmont Infant School - main road in front of school  
Greenrigg Primary - main road in front of school  
Peel Primary - main school car park  
Seaford Primary - Cousland Terrace (Behind School)

All other primary schools are closed for collections.

A small number of children entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) who live at remote addresses will be contacted to offer help accessing these centres.

This provision will be revised once learning resumes on Monday 20 April.

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