



UNIVERSITY
of York



Supporting Free School Meal Auto-enrolment in Yorkshire & beyond

APSE Catering Advisory Group
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Why Auto-Enrolment?

- ❑ ↑ eligible for FSM nationally (~23%)
- ❑ 25% eligible in Yorkshire
- ❑ 11% of eligible do not apply
 - ❑ Administrative/technical burden
 - ❑ Language/literacy barriers
 - ❑ Access barriers
 - ❑ Stigma
 - ❑ Shame
- ❑ Benefits - for families, young people, schools, communities

Sheffield Case Study

- ❑ Introduction of the Auto Award Process in 2016
- ❑ Families are identified that have claimed Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support but have not applied for FSM
- ❑ They are then contacted to ensure that they are claiming everything they are entitled to
- ❑ Undertaken annually in Aug/Sept
- ❑ Resulted in significant impact





Academic Year	Letters issued	opt outs/ objections	New Primary claims	New Secondary Claims	Children identified - EY	Est. PP funding to school (does not include EY)
16/17	3524	30	783	406	not recorded	£1,392,600.00
17/18	2183	46	499	245	not recorded	£879,340.00
18/19	2494	39	399	205	701	£697,968.00
19/20	1652	16	132	90	504	£252,780.00
20/21	1238	5	145	141	365	£318,220.00
21/22	958	0	70	43	249	£128,530.00
22/23	1150	2	75	52	299	£149,145.00
			2103	1182	2118*	£3,818,583.00

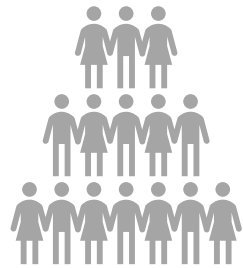
*In reality the total will be greater than £3.8m as this does not include the cumulative, year on year effect of Ever 6. It is estimated that the real total is at least £10m.

Brenner & Co



Project Aims

To support the set-up of auto-enrolment processes for FSM across Yorkshire & beyond and evaluate its implementation and impact



First cohort of councils to universally deliver auto-enrolment



Informing national advocacy and policy on FSM registration

Methods

1

Support LAs to implement auto-enrolment

- Webinars and workshops
- Become part of a network that offers support
- Toolkit, Case studies, templates, Q&A document

2

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Capture differences in auto-enrolment implementation processes, build a picture of the impact auto-enrolment has had on: FSM registration, uptake, and pupil premium
- Conduct an economic narrative analysis: set-up and delivery investments balanced against outcomes

3

Advocacy and Dissemination

- Use findings to advocate for a universal roll out of auto-enrolment processes.

Auto-Enrolment process

Governance

- DPIA / Business case

Data

- Data-linkage across databases to identify FSM entitled pupils not currently receiving FSM

Delivery

- Issue opt-out letters

Registration

- Add FSM claim to the system and notify schools

FixOurFood
Findings
(Nov 2023)

EARLY FINDINGS

In the 1st year of launch,
FSM AUTO-ENROLMENT in 5
LAs has led to...

2814

Additional

FREE SCHOOL MEAL

registrations

£4.7M

Additional school income
including

PUPIL PREMIUM

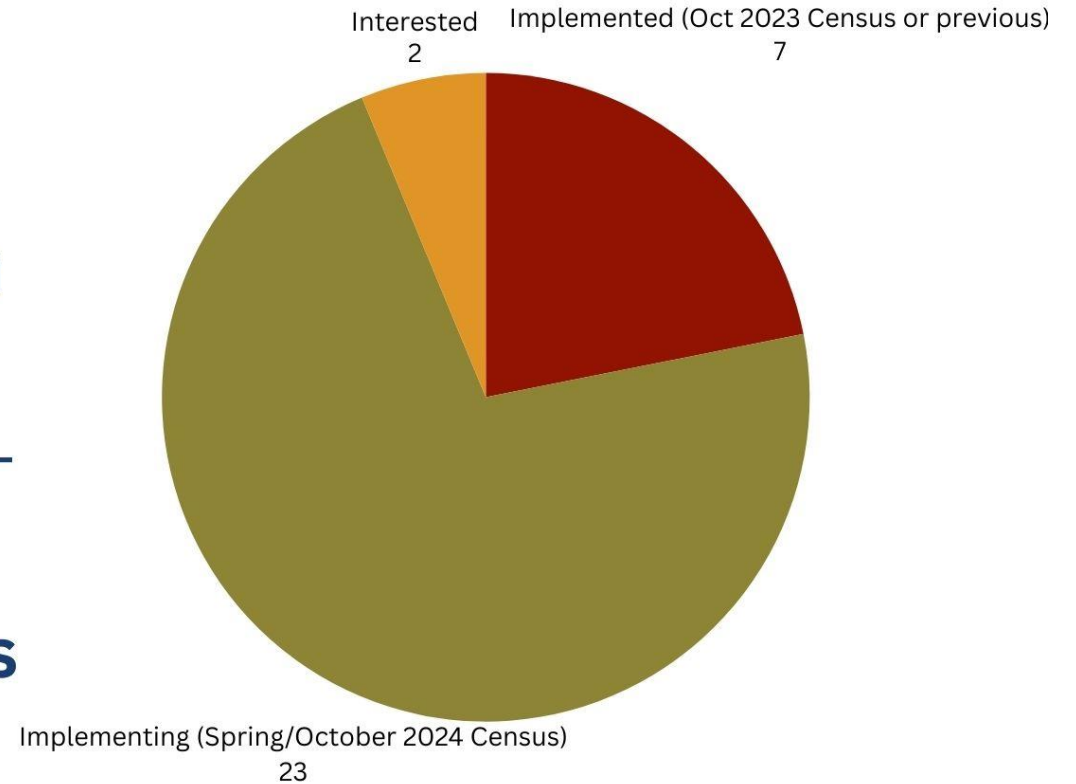
*WE'RE GLAD THAT WE DID IT,
THE FIGURES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES
AND THE NUMBERS, BUT WE WERE MORE
IMPRESSED BY... THE MAJORITY OF THE
CHILDREN WERE FROM THE MOST
DEPRIVED AREAS SO WE'RE HITTING THE
SPOT.*

Auto-Enrolment Uptake

FixOurFood - Local Authorities who have expressed interest in research participation

Free School Meal Auto-Enrolment
Implementation Status

- Implemented (Oct 2023 Census or previous)
- Implementing (Spring/October 2024 Census)
- Interested

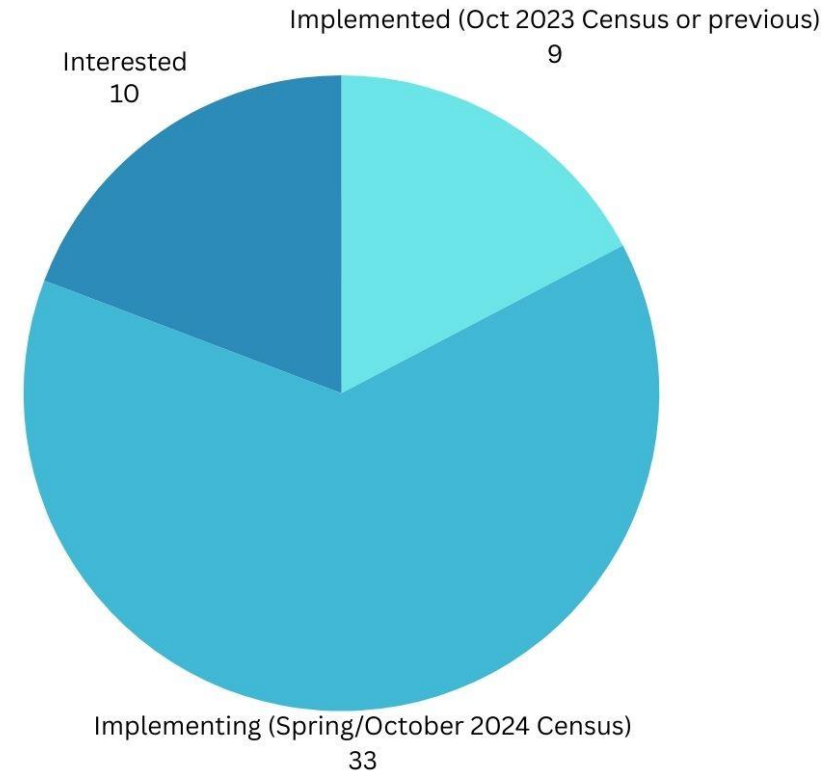


Auto-Enrolment Uptake

All Local Authorities

Free School Meal Auto-
Enrolment
Implementation Status

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- Interested



Auto-Enrolment Uptake (n=52)

Region	Implemented (Oct 2023 census or previous)	Implementing (Spring or Oct 2024 Census)	Interested in Auto-enrolment
East England	0	2	0
North East	0	1	0
Cumbria	0	1	0
Yorkshire	5	7	1
North West	0	10	0
West Midlands	0	0	2
London	4	12	7
Total	9	33	10

Research Updates

Local Authority interviews

School/Caterers & Parent interviews

National Stakeholder interviews

FixOurFood FSM Auto-enrolment RESOURCES

<https://fixourfood.org/what-we-do/our-activities/schools-and-nurseries/gated-content/>

