

APSE Scotland Soft FM Advisory Group Meeting – Tuesday 2 September 2025

(10.30am – 12noon)

Venue: MS TEAMS

Welcome from Chair: Cllr Jim McMahon, East Ayrshire Council

1. Free School Meal expansion

Speaker: Group discussion

This will provide colleagues the opportunity to discuss and debate the upcoming expansion to P6 and P7 (if receiving the SCP) and also Year 1 and Year 2 of secondary schools including the challenges and opportunities moving forward such as logistics and capacity. It will also provide an opportunity for representatives from the trial phase authorities for secondary schools to provide initial feedback following the school return on the 14th August.

2. Working with allergens

Speaker: Group discussion

This will provide colleagues the opportunity to discuss and debate the ongoing challenges including sharing best practice and experiences of managing allergens within local authorities. APSE's recent [round table briefing June 2025](#) provides information on APSE's member authorities in terms of their policies and procedures.

3. Recruitment and retention within soft FM services including multi-skilled operatives

Speaker: Group discussion

This will provide colleagues the opportunity to discuss and debate how facilities management teams are continuing to address the challenges surrounding recruitment and retention for example through changes to job roles and the promotion of career paths.

4. Using AI and other robotic cleaning technologies

Speaker: Group discussion

This will provide colleagues the opportunity to discuss and debate how facilities management teams are trialling and incorporating new technologies within cleaning and janitorial services.

5. Soft FM clinic: Any issues affecting service delivery

Speaker: Group discussion

This is the opportunity for attendees to discuss any challenges and solutions that councils are experiencing and adopting in relation to a particular issue including:

- **Local authority mobile food trucks**
- **PIs for health and safety accidents within soft facilities management services**
- **Cashless payment facilities for public conveniences**

5. APSE Update

Speaker: Louise Melville, Principal Advisor, APSE