

# Free School Meals

snook

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“How do we ensure that the children who need free school meals actually get them?”



# The project

The Scottish Innovation Partnership (SIP): Scottish Government and the Hunter Foundation funding projects as part of the Child Poverty strategy.

The project is a collaboration between North Lanarkshire Council and Snook.

Local authorities have identified that thousands of children are entitled to free school meals, but aren't registered.



# Not just free school meals

- clothing grant
- free breakfast club
- weekend and holiday club
- Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)
- head teacher salaries
- reduced cost of school trips



**2** schools

**100+** children.

**7** workshops

**20** council staff

**23** school staff

**12** stakeholders

**8** parent and carer interviews.

**100s** of calls, emails and tweets

**1** “Dear people in power” booklet

**31** memes

*Lost count on the number of meetings!*



# Children voices



School  
hunger is  
still a huge  
issue.

What I had for lunch on Monday... *Burger*



What I had for lunch on Tuesday... *Ham sandwich*



What I had for lunch on Wednesday... *Ham sandwich*



What I had for lunch on Thursday... *Pizza*



What I had for lunch on Friday... *Fish + chips*



What I like to eat at home... *Spaghetti + meatballs*

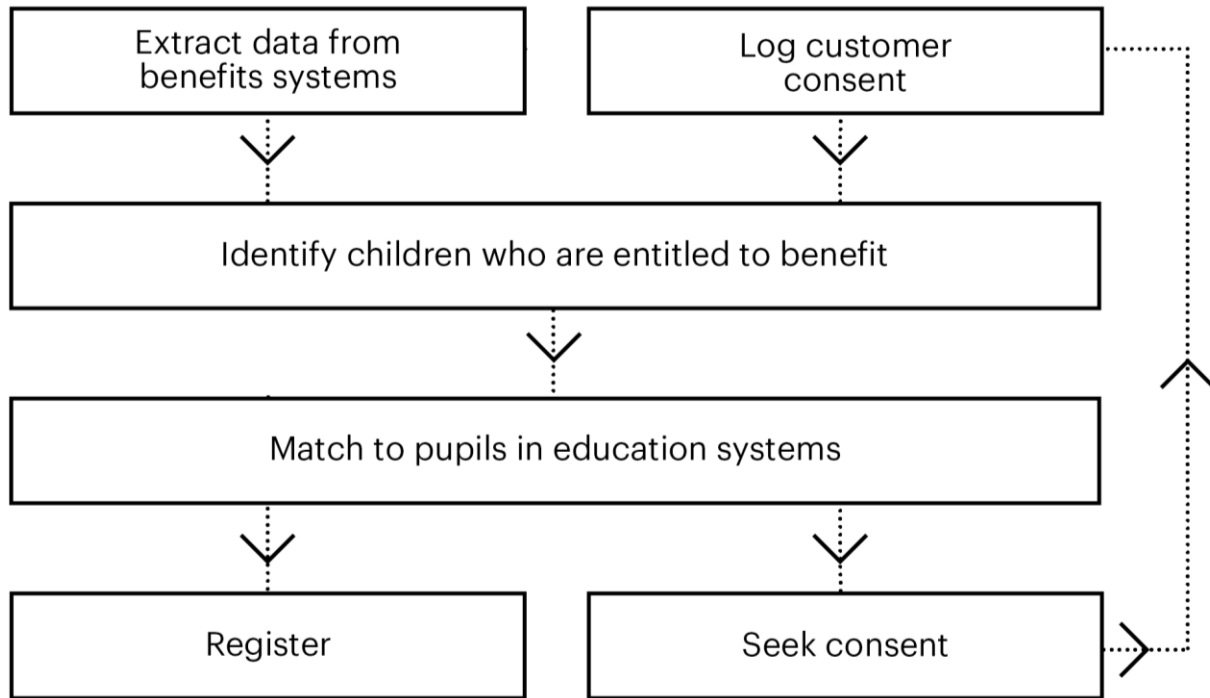




# Findings

1. Free School Meals are falsely associated with stigma.
2. The policy doesn't reach all those who need it
3. Uptake is hampered by poor food quality and service provision

How do we register the pupils who are entitled to free school meals?



By October 2019, North Lanarkshire Council had identified an **additional 2,472 pupils** for Clothing Grant and Free School Meals.

The same proportion applied to **Scotland** would mean **35,314 pupils** are missing out.

The system reduces the manual process by 10 to 30 min per child = **saves 18 days a year**

# In the future

What other benefits could we make more accessible?

E.g. Education Maintenance Allowance,

Open Government licence so that other councils can apply the same approach.

# Thank you

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