

Denbighshire County Council

Dinner Money Debt Policies

APSE National Catering
Advisory Group

23rd November 2018



Denbighshire County Council



Denbighshire County Council

School Meal Dimensions



Denbighshire Population:	93,734
Denbighshire School Pupils:	14,250*
Primary Schools in Denbighshire	60 inc 1 Special
Secondary Schools in Denbighshire	7
Number of Schools that buy back internal Catering Services service:	67 / 100%
Total Meals Served per Week:	25,000+



* Per Stats Wales School Census Data



Denbighshire Catering Services

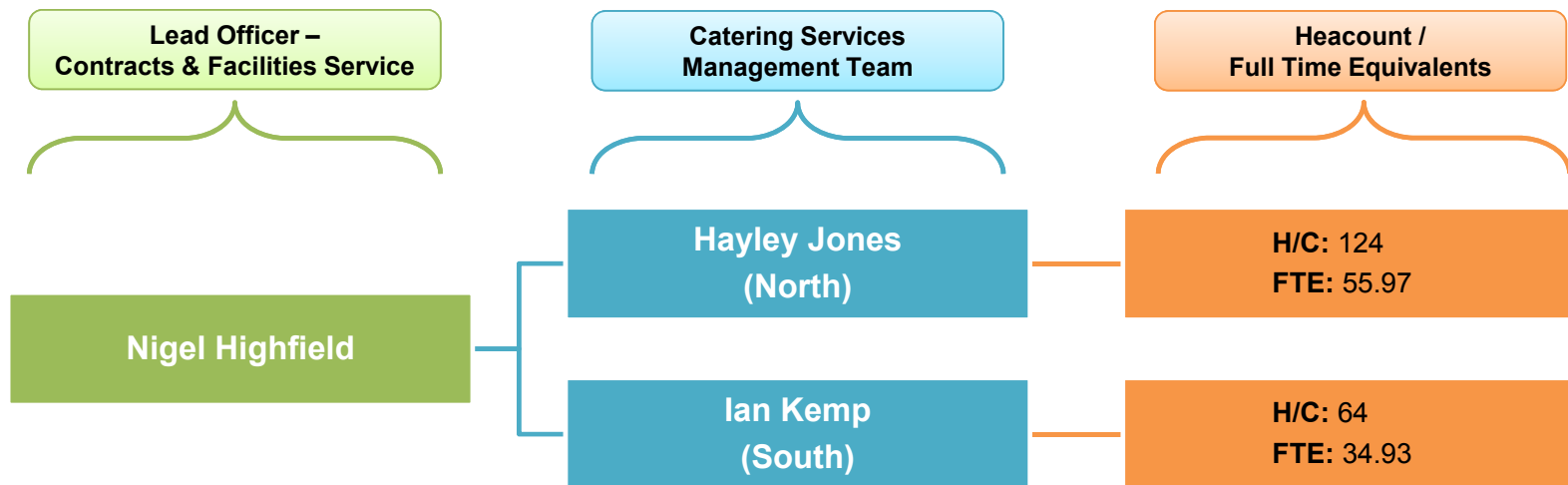
Denbighshire Catering Services



Dimensions



Headcount:	188
Full Time Equivalents (FTE):	90.90



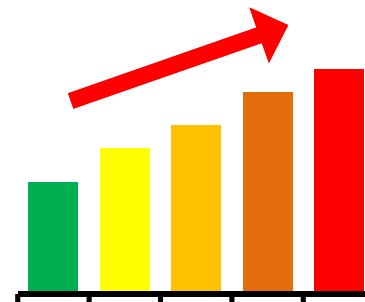
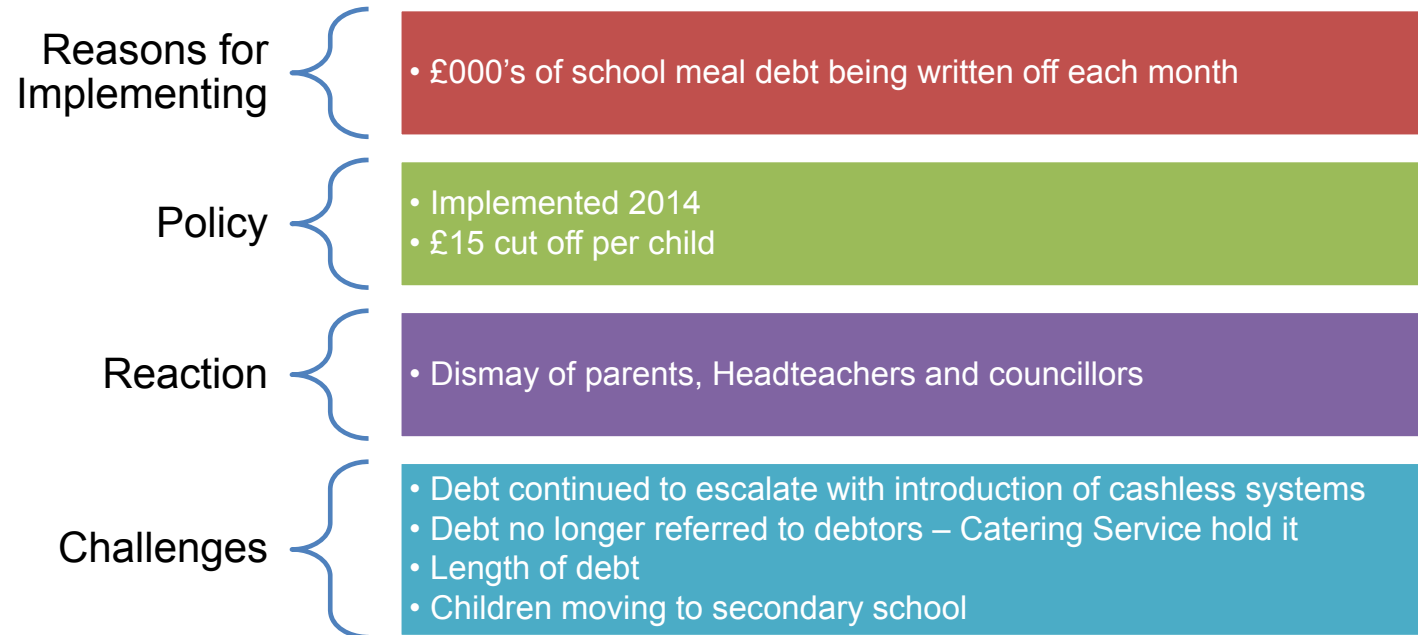


Dinner Money Debt Policies

1. Denbighshire Catering Services
2. Debt Policy – Implementation (January 2014) £20.00 allowance
3. Debt Policy Review – (July 2016 annually)
4. Challenges (DCC and nationally)
5. Where we are Today



Debt Policy Implementation



Debt Policy Review



Procedure for Collection of School Meal debts.



**Policy
Review:**

July
2018

Key Change:

Debt figure
lowered to £11
(1 week of
school meals)



Challenges (DCC and Nationally)



September 2018:

DAILY POST

Single mum threatened with social services over £13 unpaid school dinner bill

The outraged mum said she felt the council was making being poor a crime

MailOnline

Single mother hits out at school for 'criminalising poverty' after council threatened to report her to social services when she was late paying her child's £13 dinner money bill

- The letter warned failing to pay bill would be seen as a 'child protection concern'
- Mother, who wished to remain anonymous, said that she 'always clears the debt'
- The parent's child is a student at Twm o'r Nant School in Denbigh, north Wales
- Council said its aim was to 'avoid escalation of debt problems within families'

The Letter warned failing to pay bill would be seen as a 'child protection concern'

Council said it's aim was to 'avoid escalation of debt problems with families'

Challenges (DCC and Nationally)



mumsnet
by parents for parents

Rowan Davies (Head of Policy and Campaigns, Mumsnet) said schools should offer 'flexibility' to avoid parents feeling 'embarrassed'

NEXUS
EDUCATION

Damien Challenger (Managing Director – Nexus Education) has been on both sides of the table – as part of teaching network Nexus Education, and having received a letter for a £2 meal debt. He said sometimes language in communication with parents can be 'abrasive' and 'puts a parent on the defensive'

Challenges (DCC and Nationally)



CLILC • WLGA

Parents in Wales owed more than £400k in unpaid school dinner debts at the end of last year, figures have shown.

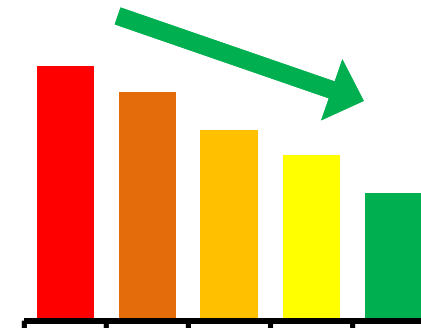


In seven Welsh authorities, the debt has leapt by nearly **90%** in the space of **5 years.**

Where we are Today



- Schools on board and engaged as in fear of recharges.
- Meals continue to be stopped and Cheese sandwich offered
- Debt has decrease from £48k to £22k





Questions

