

Chair of The Lead Association for Catering in Education



Universal Infant Free School Meals

Policy update

Role of Local authority caterers

Meeting the challenges of the future

Conservative party manifesto, 2017

“ *We have listened very carefully to the views of the sector on the proposal to remove infant free school meals and we have decided it is right to retain the existing provision. Universal infant free school meals ensure children receive a nutritious meal during the day. It saves hardworking families hundreds of pounds a year and it boosts educational achievement, especially among children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.”*

BuzzFeed

A Headteacher Says Her School Will Have To Close Its Kitchen Because Of The Tories' School Lunch Plans



Nearly 17,000 school dinner staff face redundancy thanks to Tory plans to scrap free lunches

THE TIMES

ELECTION 2017

Scrapping free lunches 'risks thousands of jobs'

theguardian

We abandon free school lunches at our peril

THE TIMES

It would be wrong to scrap free school lunches for infants

The Lead Association for Catering in Education estimates that almost 17,000 jobs could be lost if this pledge goes through.

Policy update

Current Government position

- September 2014 introduced to state funded schools in England for KS1
- Funding will continue until end of this parliament??
- 2016/17 £640m for Education budget + £32m to small schools first 2 years + £190m capital investment
- Next election

Policy update

£2.30 per meal

Capitol investment

Universal credit and FSM

50,000 additional FSM

Role of the LA caterers

- Provide advice
- Procure equipment
- Provide service
- Meet the demands
- Fund projects
- Provide for Special diets and intolerances
- Market the provision to parents
- Monitor the take up
- Survey schools, pupils and parents to improve the service

Role of the LA Caterers

- Family dining/service
- IT systems and automated payments advice/procurement
- Interactive menu ordering

Meeting the challenges

- Brexit
- Food and labour instability
- MAT programme
- Wage inflation
- Business or Social provider

Meeting the Challenges

- £2.30 unless reviewed will increase the net cost to schools
- Flexible charging
- Two tier menus
- Productivity
- Pupil premium and Universal Credit

- LACA and Industry commitment -
- Overarching aims
 - Campaign objective – ensure that removal of UIFSM is not included in any legislation for the next Queens speech (spring 2019)
 - Build robust case based on industry data and empirical evidence
- Actions
 - Further meeting/call following EPI research report
 - LACA scope out which data is required
 - Universal credit and issues

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- Thank you –