

Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Council Motion: Restricting New Hot Food Takeaways Near Schools

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to give consideration to a response to a motion which was referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 28th March 2018 related to restricting new hot food takeaways near schools.

Executive Summary

A motion was agreed at Council related to the restricting new hot food takeaways near schools at Council on 28th March 2018. Council resolved to refer the motion to the Overview and Scrutiny Board into the merits and practicalities of adopting recommendations set out in the motion. Health Scrutiny, at its meeting held on 3rd July received information related to the motion. Health Scrutiny agreed that the draft response be referred to the Board and that consideration be given to the possibility of incorporating the issue of obesity into the proposed workshop related to Urgent Care.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Board is requested to:

1. Agree the proposal to incorporate the issue of obesity into the proposed workshop on Urgent Care.
2. Agree that an update be provided to Council on the Council Action Report.

Council Motion: Restricting New Hot Food Takeaways near Schools**1 Background**

- 1.1 A motion was referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board at the Council meeting held on 28th March 2018. The full motion is as follows:

“This Council notes that:

- Childhood obesity has risen to epic proportions. In October 2017, the medical journal, The Lancet, reported one in every ten young people, aged 5 to 19, in the UK are classed as obese;
- In Oldham, sadly the situation is even worse. The Public Health England profile for the Borough, published July 2017, reported that 21.9% of children at Year 6 (660 in total) were classed as obese;
- Obese children are more likely to become obese adults, putting them at risk of developing serious health conditions (such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke and certain types of cancer);
- Takeaway food, where it is unhealthy, so called junk food, is undoubtedly a contributing factor in the increase;
- Although the Oldham School Meals Service is a Gold standard provider, regrettably some pupils chose to eat at or from takeaways;
- In June 2016, the Royal Society for Public Health called for a ban on the delivery of takeaway meals to school gates. A survey conducted by the RSPH amongst young people found half had ordered takeaways on their smart phones and a quarter had paid for fast food to be delivered to the school gates;
- At least 22 local authorities have adopted Supplementary Planning Document and Local Plans that include a prohibition on new fast food takeaways within 400 meters of local schools (a buffer zone);
- In July 2012, Oldham Council adopted a Supplementary Planning Document which placed restrictions on the density of hot food takeaways, but which did not include any restriction on new takeaways within a specified buffer zone.

Council resolves to ask the Planning Committee to investigate the desirability and practicality of:

- Introducing a prohibition on new takeaways within a 400 metre buffer zone as part of the Local Plan;

Council shall also contact all schools within the Borough to seek reassurances they:

- Enforce a ‘stay-on-site’ policy at lunchtimes;
- Ban the delivery of takeaways to the school gates for collection by pupils;

And ask them to do so; if they do not.”

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee were informed that officers in Public Health and Planning were working together to compile relevant information to assist members in considering the desirability and practicality of limiting new takeaways near schools. This included information on the current locations of takeaways and schools, alongside information about overweight and obesity in children. Information about the experience of other authorities which had introduced similar restrictions on takeaways is also being gathered. Discussions are underway with the Chair about including a workshop on tackling overweight and obesity as part of the Health Scrutiny Work Programme within the next few months.

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- 2.2 Most Oldham schools have a stay on site policy (all primary schools, most secondary) during breaks/lunch times for safeguarding reasons, which is promoted as good school management practice from the DfE.
- 2.3 Whilst on site, many schools do offer a varied healthy option menu for snack and meal choices. The Education Catering Service provides high quality, high nutritional health options to 78 primary schools, which has been recognized nationally (Gold Food for Life Catering Mark and the prestigious Best Of Organic Market 'BOOM' Award), which serves circa 13,000 meals per day. In addition, most schools do not allow the delivery of takeaways to the school gates. However, this will be raised at the next Primary and Secondary Headteacher meetings to confirm that this is the case.
- 3 **Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider**
- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board is requested to agree the proposals to incorporate the issue of obesity into the proposed workshop related to Urgent Care as discussed at the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 3rd July 2018.