

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Report by Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services**

**Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee: 2 August 2006**

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**Subject: ' Buzzing for Health' Awards Ceremony**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To update the Committee on the second successful 'Buzzing for Health' school meals awards ceremony which was held at the Beardmore Hotel and Conference Centre, Clydebank on Friday 16 June 2006.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** In January 2002, Scottish Ministers established an Expert Panel to make recommendations that would form the framework of a national strategy for school meals. The Panel's remit was to provide costed recommendations and a fully developed implementation strategy to:-
- Establish standards for school meals
  - Improve the presentation of school meals to improve general up-take
  - Eliminate any stigma attached to taking free school meals
- 2.2** In February 2003, Hungry for Success, the report of the Expert Panel on School meals, was published.
- 2.3** In their recommendations, the Panel sought to set out a system of National Standards under local, partnership-operated control. Local authorities working in partnership with catering professionals, schools and the school communities – teachers, parents and pupils themselves are key agents of success in implementing these standards.
- 2.4** The standards were to be achieved in all primary schools by December 2004 and in all secondary schools by December 2006.
- 2.5** The Hungry for Success Report made a series of recommendations that were considered necessary to achieve full implementation of the revitalised school meal service. Recommendation 20 stated that "Education authorities should consider the introduction of staff incentive schemes to recognise innovation and celebrate success".
- 2.6** As the new schools meals service was fully implemented in all of the Council's primary and special schools by December 2004 and work was progressing in all secondary schools, a decision was taken to hold an awards ceremony last year to recognise the contributions made by catering and educational staff.

**2.7** As part of the theme for school meals the 'Healthy Bee' that was incorporated into the Council's healthy vending machine initiative was used to promote the new school meals service. It was decided that the same theme would be utilised for the awards ceremony and the title 'Buzzing for Health' would be the title of the awards.

**2.8** All schools were asked to participate in the awards scheme by submitting a written application form and independent site inspections were undertaken to determine a shortlist of applicants for the primary and secondary school sectors. An awards ceremony was held in the Beardmore Hotel and Conference Centre, Clydebank, on Friday 29 April 2005, where the winners and runners up were announced.

### **3. Main Issues**

**3.1** The Buzzing for Health Award ceremony was considered to be a huge success in 2005 and undoubtedly achieved the recommendations highlighted in 2.5 above. A decision was made by the 'Hungry for Success' Steering Group to hold a similar event in year 2006 using the same judging criteria.

**3.2** The second awards ceremony was held in the Beardmore Hotel and Conference Centre, Clydebank, on Friday 16 June 2006, where the winners and finalists were announced.

**3.3** Winners of the primary and special school sector were Whitecrook Primary and the two other finalists in this category were Aitkenbar Primary and St. Mary's Primary, Duntocher. The winning secondary school was Dumbarton Academy and the other finalist was Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School. Catering staff from each of the above schools were present to receive the relevant awards which were presented by Lindsay Graham, National Development Officer for Scottish Health Promoting Schools Unit.

**3.4** In addition to the 'Buzzing for Health' awards, a further award was presented to Whitecrook Primary School as winners of a district wide 'hand-washing' campaign and competition which was organised by the Council's Environmental Health Section. The school received £500 and two further schools received £250 each as runners up.

### **4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** The event was organised by the Hungry for Success Steering Group.

### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** The awards ceremony was funded through sponsorship arrangements with catering suppliers and Hungry for Success funding.

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1** The 'Buzzing for Health' awards evening plays a significant role in motivating employees and encouraging new and innovative healthier choices for school meal provision. Furthermore, the awards evening provides the Council with an opportunity to recognise those schools which are clearly performing in line with the national 'Hungry for Success' guidance.

## **7. Recommendation**

- 7.1** The Committee is invited to note the continued success of the Awards Ceremony in recognising delivery of services which meet national 'Hungry for Success' school meal standards.

**David McMillan**

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**Date: 13 July 2006**

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**Wards Affected:** All

**Appendix:** None

**Background Papers:** None

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