

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Joint Report by Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services and Director of Education and Cultural Services

Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee: 03 May 2006

Subject: McDougall's Healthiest School Food Award 2006

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of the outcome of the Council's participation in the McDougall's Healthiest School Meals Award for 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1** This Award was launched at the Association of Service Solutions in Scotland (A.S.S.I.S.T.) Facilities Management Conference in September 2005 and sponsored by RHM Foodservice to recognise the demands on caterers within the local authority sector and reward those who are making significant steps towards providing healthier school meals and promoting a healthy balanced approach to nutrition. The competition was open to all state run primary schools in the United Kingdom.
- 2.2** Winners of the Award received a first prize of £2,000 cash and free products to the value of £1,000 from RHM Foodservice.
- 2.3** Two Highly Commended Runners-up each received £750 cash and free products to the value of £500 from RHM Foodservice.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Entry forms were submitted to RHM in October 2005 and the top 20 responses, as chosen by an independent panel, progressed to round two for judging. The top 20 schools selected then had to submit a week's menu cycle for nutritional analysis by December 2005.
- 3.2** The Council was notified in January 2006 that St. Patrick's Primary School, Dumbarton, had been selected as one of the three finalists from across the UK and the school was visited by the judging panel during January 2006.

- 3.3** Within St. Patrick's Primary School approximately 70% of pupils eat school lunch with the remaining 30% bringing packed lunches. The school also operates a breakfast club and healthy eating tuck shop to encourage pupils to eat a balanced diet throughout the day. Effective partnership and liaison between school management, catering staff, teachers, pupils and parents assists in educating the pupils in healthy diets and lifestyle.
- 3.4** St. Patrick's Primary school were the 2005 winners of the in-house 'Buzzing for Health Awards' run by West Dunbartonshire Council, and are an excellent example of best practice in relation to healthy eating and nutrition.
- 3.5** The Head Teacher and Catering Manager of St. Patrick's Primary School and the Catering Area Manager from Facilities Management were invited to attend the Local Authorities Caterers Meeting in Manchester on Thursday 9 March 2006.
- 3.6** The results of the competition were announced as:-
- Overall Winners - Trinity School, Liverpool
 - Highly Commended - St. Patrick's Primary, West Dunbartonshire Council
 - Highly Commended - Newtongrange Primary, Midlothian

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1** All travel and overnight accommodation expenses were met by the sponsors

5. Personnel Issues

- 5.1** Employees who attended the awards presentation on behalf of West Dunbartonshire Council were:-

Kathleen Coyle, Head Teacher, St. Patrick's Primary School
Mandy Hampson, Catering Manager, St. Patrick's Primary School
Linda Shaw, Area Manager - Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1** Since introduction of the Scottish Executive's Hungry for Success nutritional guidelines, primary schools within West Dunbartonshire have made significant development in the provision of healthy and balanced diet provision. St. Patrick's Primary School is an excellent example of best practice in relation to healthy eating and nutrition and a deserved recipient of the Highly Commended award issued by RHM Foodservice .

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Committee is invited to:-

- (a) note the success of St. Patrick's Primary School in achieving the RHM Foodservice Award in recognition of the provision of healthy school meals and promotion of best practice in the vital area of improving nutrition; and**
- (b) record its congratulations to all involved in this significant achievement.**

David McMillan
Director of Housing, Regeneration
and Environmental Services

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Director of Education and
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Date: 18 April 2006

Wards Affected: Ward 12 – Dumbarton East

Background Papers: None

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