

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

<b>Meeting:</b>	Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee
<b>Date:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2003
<b>Subject:</b>	Response to the Sub-Committee's Reviews in 2002-03
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr Bill Stephenson, Education and Lifelong Learning
<b>Status:</b>	Part 1
<b>Ward:</b>	All Wards

### 1. **Summary/Reason for Urgency (if applicable)**

This report provides the response of the Education and Lifelong Learning Portfolio Holder to the two review reports from this Sub-Committee in April 2003.

### 2. **Background**

2.1 At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2003, this Sub-Committee received the reports of the two Scrutiny Review Groups on:

- Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles in Schools.
- Distribution of SEN Statements in Mainstream Schools.

2.2 The Sub-Committee endorsed the recommendations in the reports, subject to some amendments, and requested that they be referred to the Portfolio Holder for Education and Lifelong Learning. The review reports were also included in the Cabinet Information Circular.

2.3 As set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 16.4 to 16.8, the Portfolio Holder is expected to respond to the recommendations referred from the Sub-Committee. Appendix 1 sets out this response. I welcome the content of the two reports and have discussed the recommendations with the Head of Children and Community Services and will be monitoring the progress of the recommendations to ensure that they are implemented as set out in the response column in Appendix 1. I note that this Sub-Committee will be receiving a progress report on the Healthy Lifestyles in Schools review at the joint Scrutiny meeting with the Health and Social Care Sub-Committee in September and that the Sub-Committee will be reviewing other aspects of the SEN assessment process during this year.

### 3. **Conclusion**

3.1 These first review reports from the Sub-Committee have identified helpful areas for further development, which will be taken forward by officers in the Education Services and with colleagues in other directorates or other partner agencies.

### 4. **Author**

4.1 Cllr Bill Stephenson, Portfolio Holder for Education and Lifelong Learning.

**Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee Review**

**Healthy Lifestyles in Schools**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b>
(i) That the variety and quality of free school meals (packed lunch provision) be urgently addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <input type="checkbox"/> This was referred to the Head of Contract Services who reported that the Tuck Box menu will be revised for new menu launch in September 2003.</li> </ul>
(ii) That the free school meals (packed lunch provision) be additionally assessed in order to ensure that the quantity of food was appropriate to the age of the child consuming it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <input type="checkbox"/> The Head of Contract Services responded that since the implementation of the Tuck Box in 1995, all menus have been subject to review by the Community Dietician to ensure compliance with relevant standards.</li> </ul>
(iii) That schools encourage PSHE co-ordinators to attend the termly meetings as well as explore other means for the exchange of ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Termly meetings are publicised through the INSET programme and the Curriculum Leader PSHE also send out reminders.</li> <li>• The next issue of Kaleidoscope (for all schools) will be on Healthy Schools – to be published in the autumn term.</li> <li>• The PSHE web site will be updated.</li> <li>• Good practice will be shared at the next Healthy Schools celebration.</li> </ul>
(iv) That all schools be encouraged to consider ways in which water can be made freely available to all pupils throughout the school day without incurring extra financial cost to pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing water in schools will be an article in the next Healthy Schools newsletter – to share successful practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b>

<p>(Note that Health and Safety guidelines, in relation to the accessibility of water during certain lessons, eg. science, be adhered to).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is intended that a high school joining the Healthy Schools programme (in the next Recruitment phase) should be approached to pilot ways to make water accessible.</li> </ul>
<p>(v) That the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee be requested to work with the PCT to examine ways in which resources allocated to school nurses could be increased. Members felt that the role of the school nurse was very important and it was felt that increased involvement and activity of school nurses with pupils, parents and staff would be highly beneficial to schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reference was made from the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee to the Health and Social Care Sub-Committee at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2003. The issue of school nursing will be placed on the Agenda of the joint meeting of these Sub-Committees in September.</li> </ul>
<p>(vi) That ways be explored of explaining the nutritional values of foods served from school canteens: eg. primary schools' canteens could use pictorial examples, eg. a skeleton/bones to show that the food was high in calcium, whereas secondary schools could classify the different food groups, eg. 'low in fat' or 'high in fibre.'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Head of Contract Services has explained that nutritional values will be demonstrated in ways appropriate to the customers' age group at schools' cafeterias, operated by the Council's Catering Service, from September 2003.</li> <li>Schools will be encouraged in the Healthy Schools programme, working on the theme of healthy eating, to look at ways to promote nutritional values and healthy eating.</li> <li>There will be liaison with Food Technology curriculum development.</li> </ul>
<p>(vii) That schools be encouraged to actively work with parents in relation to getting the healthy lifestyles message across.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recommendation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools will be encouraged to promote healthy lifestyles through the Healthy Schools programme, eg. launch of programme at parents' evenings, information through school newsletters.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Response</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools will continue to be encouraged to work with parents when sharing policies, eg. drug policy and specific events, eg. Eat 2b Fit campaign and National School Fruit Scheme.</li> <li>• Schools involved in the Healthy Schools programme will be advised of the benefits of having a parent representative on the task group.</li> <li>• Plans are underway for sessions on health for parents to be piloted through the Family Learning programmes in schools.</li> </ul>
(viii) That a copy of the final scoping report on Healthy Lifestyles in Schools be sent to governing bodies in Order for governors to encourage healthy lifestyles With their individual schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was sent to all Chairs of Governing Bodies on 7<sup>th</sup> May.</li> </ul>
(ix) That schools be requested to designate a governor to oversee the promotion of healthy lifestyles in schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This recommendation is being included in the next letter to all Chairs of Governors.</li> </ul>
(x) That a report be received at the joint meeting of the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee and Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee, which would outline steps taken to implement the findings of the Scrutiny Review Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <input type="checkbox"/> A report will be submitted to the joint meeting.</li> </ul>
(xi) That specialist colleges be encouraged to share and develop their expertise and facilities with their cluster schools and the wider community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <input type="checkbox"/> This is being carried forward as part of Harrow's approach to developing specialist colleges.</li> </ul>

## **Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee Review**

## Distribution of SEN Statements in Mainstream Schools

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Response</b>
(i) That SEN support (learning support, equipment, adaptations to the pupil's physical environment, eg. ramps) be in place prior to SEN statemented pupils arriving at school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding is available for schools from the date of the completion of Final Statements. Any essential equipment is arranged as soon as the relevant professionals have agreed what is required.</li> </ul>
(ii) That the number of SEN statemented pupils in each school year group be carefully monitored to ensure there is no detriment to other pupils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will continue to be monitored.</li> </ul>
(iii) That officers look into the possibility of increasing the number of Parent-Partnership Co-ordinators with a view to increasing by at least 20 hours the number of hours available. (To be considered in the budget for the next financial year).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be considered as part of the 2004-2005 budget-setting process.</li> </ul>
(iv) That officers continue to closely monitor the schools that have rejected or challenged SEN statemented pupils' applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will continue to be monitored.</li> </ul>
(v) That schools be provided with more guidance in relation to the new statutory regulations in relation to special educational needs provision and disability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further training for SENCOs and other school staff about the SEN and Disability Act will be arranged.</li> </ul>
(vi) That the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee receives a report each year detailing the number of SEN statemented pupils in each year group in each school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be provided by officers on an annual basis.</li> </ul>