

Recommendation 1: Increase the strategic support and advocacy given to the Healthy Schools Programme by the LEA

"Healthy Schools" is a priority within the Children's Services Departmental Strategic Plan 2006/7 and success is measured by the percentage of schools participating in the Healthy Schools Standards.

It is also integral to the Children and Young Peoples Plan for the Borough 2006/7.

Area needing improvement	Priority	Activity/strategy to deliver	Lead Agencies
Childhood Obesity	To promote healthy lifestyles within healthy Schools, communities and families	Bolton Obesity Surveillance Plan. Healthy Schools Initiative Sports Development Programme	PCT, Bolton Council Children's Services Department

The Annual Performance Assessment highlights childhood obesity as a priority under promoting 'Healthy Lifestyles' which is in the Local Area Agreement. An interim plan to provide data for reception and Y6 children by the 31 August 2006 has been developed. The Healthy Schools Programme is cited as a key delivery vehicle for ensuring that there is a co-ordinated approach to promoting Children's overall health and well being.

A local authority School Meals Strategic Steering Group has been functioning now for three months and it is following the guidelines from the National Food Standards Agency.

Recommendation 2: Influencing and enabling schools to make provision for children to have access to drinking water during lessons

A requirement for the Healthy Schools Programme accreditation is that all pupils have access to clean drinking water throughout the day. This includes water fountains and bottled water.

In addition, the School Improvement Service monitor the schools' contribution to the "Being Healthy" outcome for Every Child Matters through the school self evaluation form (SEF).

Recommendation 3: Explore the Potential for the 'Building Schools for the Future' Programme to assist in improving dining facilities and eating environments in schools

For Bolton, the provisional timeframe for inclusion in the Building Schools for the Future programme is from 2011 onwards. Over the next two years the Council will need to firm up its outline proposals and priorities. At this stage it is not about the detail of facilities to be provided at any one school, but rather the overall condition and suitability issues. In general whilst the priority is to provide improved curriculum facilities to support improved standards of teaching and learning, the need to improve social environments, including dining facilities, is

also important. DfES guidance on space requirements for schools is fully described in Building Bulletins.

In view of the timeframe for BSF, the uncertain level and amount of funding that might be available, it would be unrealistic to expect that all secondary schools in Bolton would all be totally re-built. Careful prioritisation will need to be undertaken and in the meantime the council will need to work with schools to make improvements to social and dining facilities in advance of the BSF programme. The school improvement service focus on this is through the school self-evaluation (SEF) monitoring, in both primary schools and secondary schools, because BSF is about secondary provision only.

Recommendation 9: Universal participation of schools in the Healthy Schools Programme and the National School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

91% of our schools currently participate in the Healthy Schools Programme. The 11 schools that currently do not participate have been targeted to ensure their future involvement. The Ofsted Inspection Framework picks up involvement as part of the Inspection. The LAC residential units have taken part in the Healthy Home Initiative with young people being central to providing evidence for the award. There is now a plan to pilot the initiative in Foster homes.