

Growing/Food in Schools Meeting 7th July 2006 at The EWE Centre

Present

Rich Hurst, EWE Centrer hurst100@durhamlea.org.uk

Mike Tones, Durham County Inspector for ESD mike.tones@durhamlea.gov.uk

Alison Young, Durham Education Development Service, Food & Health Advisor a.young@durham.gov.uk

Michelle Panchen, Easington PCT michelle.panchen@easingtonpct.nhs.uk

Gerardine O'Connor, Durham Dales PCT, gerardine.oconnor@durhamdalespct.nhs.uk

Jenny Hathaway, Continyou jenny.hathaway@continyou.org.uk

Kay Mills, Groundwork West Durham, kay.mills@groundwork.org.uk

Jason Martin, Groundwork East Durham, Jason.martin@groundwork.org.uk]

Apologies

Maureen Bennett, Durham EDS PSHE Inspector mbennett@durham.gov.uk

Mick Marston, Federation of City Farms mick@farmgarden.org.uk

Gary Richardson, Countryside Foundation for Education gary-richardson@countrysidefoundation.org.uk

Introductions & Interest

Jason Martin, Groundwork East Durham

- GED develop community allotments and gardens in Sedgefield and Easington districts
- Schools do get involved to differing levels of take up

Michelle Panchen, Easington PCT

- Easington PCT 5 a day team
- Works with nurseries and primary schools on growing clubs and garden to grill clubs

Alison Young, Durham County C&YPS

- Food and Health Advisor
- Supporting schools on the new standards for food in schools (broad remit, not just school meals)

Jenny Hathaway, Continyou

- DfES contract to support extended services in NE
- Project Manages the Cook It initiative
- Will be 17 Cook It schools in Co. Durham.

Kay Mills, Groundwork West Durham

- Senior Project Officer for Chester le Street district and also Darlington.
- Has lots of experience of allotment and regeneration initiatives in past and present job
- Not much involvement with schools at present

Mike Tones, Durham C&YPS

- Is an Advisor/Inspector for ESD for DCC
- Historically the Inspector for Environmental and Rural Studies
- Is also a farmer and lover of food.

Rich Hurst, EWE Centre

- Coordinates the activity of the EWE Centre, which includes the sustainability education projects based at the EWE Centre

- Developing a better practice school grounds on site to use in teacher training to highlight opportunity for grounds development and outdoor learning back in their own schools.

Gerardine O Connor, Durham Dales PCT

- Supporting schools on Breakfast clubs (600 pupils)
- Two food coops
- Engaging parents on issues of healthy food and lifestyles
- Member of Dales Emotional Wellbeing Group
- Strong links to ECM

Nicky Hughes

- Trainee working with Gerardine, will be taking on aspects of Gerardine's work

National Picture

- DfES Growing Schools Initiative. This was the foundation for the SSF, there's a strong view that it will be contracted out of the DfES shortly.
- DfES Sustainable Schools Framework (consultation launched May 06). A collaboration between DfES and Sustainable Development Commission and other Government Departments. This provides a framework for schools to join up the seemingly disparate activities in schools that are directly focussed on sustainability issues.
- Education Outside the Classroom Manifesto (to be launched Sept 06)
- School Food Trust, new nutritional guidelines for schools to be active from Sept 06

Food Standards for Schools - Alison Young

- Launched on 19th May
- Covers all food in school not just school meals
- Is expected to start in September 06
- Nutrient Based standards to start Sept 08 (Primaries), Sept 09 (Secondaries)
- Bans schools from selling crisps, chocolate, fizzy drinks
- Oily fish to be served minimum of every 3 weeks
- No more than two deep fried items per week
- It's a large shift in practice particularly for Secondary Schools
- School Food Trust produced 35 recommendations which included cooking skills/growing clubs etc
- Includes Breakfast Clubs
- Packed lunches NOT included, lots of work needed to support schools to inform parents about what is a healthy packed lunch, guidance is being developed with North Durham Dietetics
- Target for 100% take up of Free School Meals
- DCC recommends policy of not allowing secondary pupils to go off site for lunch.
- £220M across the country.
- In Co. Durham DCC has a countywide sum (through Standards fund)
- Other fund devolved to schools approx £1200 per year (not ring fenced)
- Some LA's have retained the devolved funding
- AY believes pupils need to take an active part in the food they are eating.

Issues for Schools

- KM - harvest season is mainly July-Aug when most schools aren't open, so they need to know what they can grow successfully.
- Teachers often don't have the expertise, but it doesn't need to be teachers who deliver

- Extended Services - schools hold the money, some staff get paid, others deliver services voluntarily (eg. Caretakers, WI) Can be issues as it requires devolved leadership
- The funding is linked to pupil numbers/deprivation.
- To get parents involved in schools it may be easier around gardening/growing/cooking issues

Crook Cluster

- EWE Centre has been keen to develop a project with that cluster. All schools signed up
- Haven't been able to make happen due to funding
- Required policy decisions by local organisations to agree a commitment to support local schools
- MT believes schools need a Human resource to put the structures in place to make it work and then be able to self running.

School Survey

- AY is will be sending survey's to schools to find out what they are currently doing on Food issues/breakfast clubs/growing clubs etc
- Rose Envy at DCC has some of this data linked to extended services but not all, some delivered by voluntary sector etc
- AY believes that there has been a shift in focus of after school clubs into this area.

Continyou

- Deliver breakfast club training
- Is there a need for training on growing clubs? Has been poor take up in the past but perhaps with new initiatives there may be more interest
- SHARE - Family Learning (lots of Durham schools are SHARE Schools)
- There is a Health aspect to it
- Good links in Durham: Margaret Richards - Family Learning
Rose Envy - Extended Services Provider
Anne Timothy -Study Support

Demonstrate It Working

- Shape ideas
- In Dales (have a breakfast club network)
- If schools haven't try to do these types of projects they won't necessarily know what training they need

Cook It

- JH handed out details about the Project
- Aimed at KS3 but can include Yr 6's from primaries
- 12 LA's to be engaged, not all fully engaged yet. Want 100 schools across the NE.
- Hope to involve Tesco's, perhaps linked to food labelling. ASDA have recently agreed to be be involved perhaps linked to prizes
- Based on initial pilots in Stockton and North Tyneside
- In Durham, have set up a core group to oversee Cook It. AY will distribute the list of successful schools to everyone (17 schools)
- There are Food forums set up, lead by pupils. Perhaps growing food could be an issue they investigate.

The Way Forward

- Countryside Foundation for Education are keen to support a potential initiative in the NE
- The Federation of Community Farms are also keen to be involved.
- MT stated EWE Centre could put in £5K into developing a project
- Focus on two projects, one in East (Easington), one in West Durham (Dales)

- Possible contacts: Julie Wilson at Easington School; Harry Blackwood Wellfield School
- EWE Centre to write a general framework which could be used to develop a proposal
- MT & RH to work with GOC to investigate possibility of including in a Big Lottery Bid, needs to be in by 11th August.

Links to some Websites

Sustainable Schools Framework

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

Growing Schools

www.teachernet.gov.uk/growingschools

Documents

Double Dividend (Good Nutrition and Sustainable Consumption)

<http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=289>

Sausage, Mash and Sustainability

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/gfreport05.pdf>