

INCREASING CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO A HOT HEALTHY MEAL

The FixOurFood Free School Meal Auto-Enrolment project

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A. Introduction

- 25% children eligible for free school meals (FSM) in Yorkshire
- 11% of eligible do not apply
- Children miss out on a hot healthy dinner
- Families miss out on financial benefit
- Schools miss out on Pupil Premium Funding

B. Aims

- Support the set-up of auto-enrolment processes for FSM across Yorkshire & beyond and evaluate its implementation and impact
- First cohort of councils to universally deliver auto-enrolment
- Inform national advocacy and policy on FSM registration

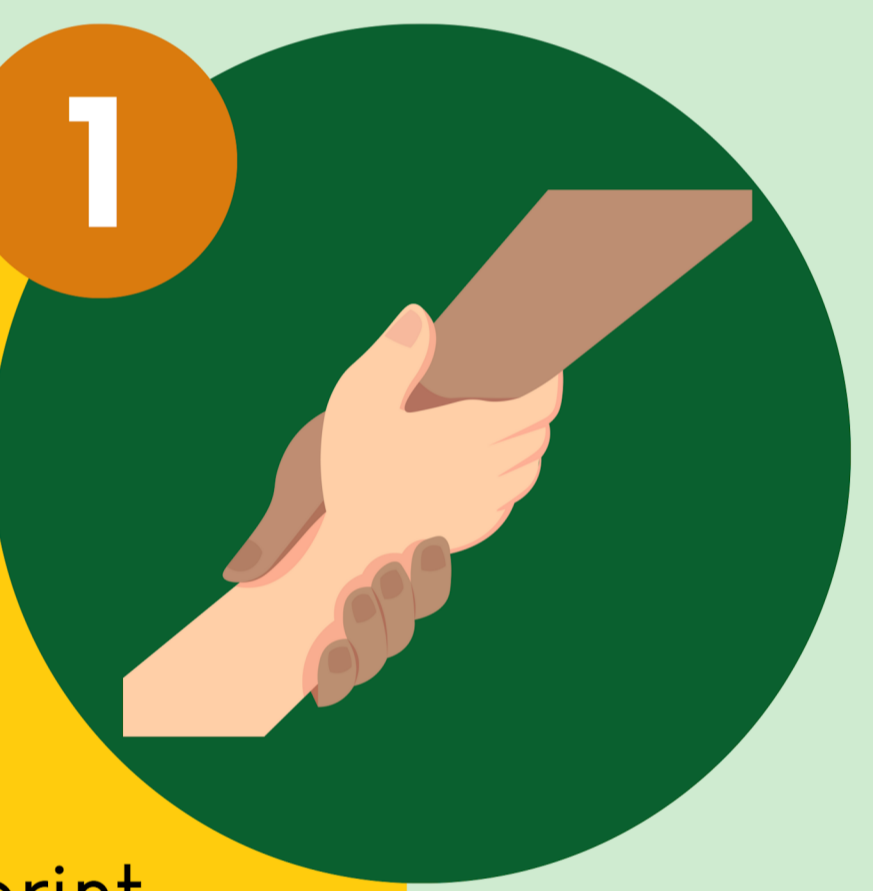
C. Recruitment

- Engagement with local authorities (LA), schools (senior leadership, caterers) and parents
- LA completion of expressions of interest by October 2023
- LA Data sharing and collaboration agreements

D. Methods & Dissemination

1 Implementation Support

- Produce resources, deliver webinars and workshops, and offer support based on learnings from LAs implementing FSM Auto-E.
- The Toolkit: provides councils with a blueprint process of how to deliver FSM auto-enrolment
- Includes case-studies & templates (DPIA, business case, opt-out letters)



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Implementation evaluation

- Help understand how auto-enrolment is rolled out across regions
- Documentary analysis: meeting minutes, DPIAs, business cases, correspondence
- Local authority interviews (n<20): DPH, governance representatives, implementers, data controllers

3 Impact evaluation

- Collect data on: (1) FSM eligibility, (2) school meal uptake, (3) delivery costs, (4) opt-out rates, (5) pupil premium return
- School (n<20) and parent (n<20) interviews: understand the intended & unintended consequences, and unanticipated benefits of FSM auto-enrolment, & reasons for non-registration



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Advocacy and Dissemination

- Build a picture that we can use in our advocacy work
- Gather information on what has been done, to support LAs further down the line
- Support advocacy work to convince government to take up auto-e nationally