



meeting **HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **11 July 2005**

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

FEDS Study Group – Future Directions

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with a copy of the Health Select Committee's Study Group booklet on Food, Exercise and Diet in Schools (FEDS) and to suggest future directions for the project.

Background

2. The Health Select Committee agreed in May 2004 to set up a study group to investigate the issues involved with diet and exercise in schools focusing on childhood obesity. The project became the Food, Exercise and Diet in Schools (FEDS) project.
3. Its scope was to:
 - map and produce a list of national or regional programmes currently undertaken in schools;
 - compile evidence of each programme's success or otherwise from a school's perspective;
 - compile a list of local initiatives run by schools, or groups of schools;
 - provide an overview of suggested further uses for the data.
4. At the very minimum the FEDS project was to provide the Committee, schools and educational personnel with a detailed overview of programmes across the county and help to facilitate the implementation of successful initiatives between and across schools. It was to highlight projects which complement each other and also enable any gaps to be identified :

Issues

5. The final report of the study group was presented to Cabinet in April 2005, and a booklet was produced in May 2005 which was circulated to

366 schools within Nottinghamshire, County Councillors, media organisations, the Prince of Wales Trust, other local authorities and the Centre for Public Scrutiny in London as a case study. The booklet is available online at <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/feds.pdf>

6. The officer steering group will be meeting shortly to plan the way ahead for 2005/2006. To facilitate a comprehensive scoping for the coming year, Members' contributions are sought in providing guidance on the key issues you would like to see the group focus on over the forthcoming 12 months.
7. At this stage it is proposed that the FEDS group will highlight the strengths and manage the weaknesses identified through the examination of the questionnaire data. It will also provide a corporate forum for agencies to link up to, to tackle barriers and share the latest thinking across this diverse sector.
8. A questionnaire will once again be sent to schools in January/February 2006 and another booklet will be produced in May 2006 which will compare and contrast the data sets of 2005 and 2006.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

the Committee discusses the FEDS booklet and its findings and provide guidance to the officer steering group in moving FEDS forward over the forthcoming 12 months.

Jim Napier

Chair of the Health Select Committee

Background papers:

Nil