GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Our reference: MGLA170823-4441

15 September 2023

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 17 August 2023. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act (Fol) 2000.

You requested:

Regarding the Mayors Free school meal policy, in one of the documents published recently you say "The GLA will survey boroughs to ascertain the level of capital/infrastructure pressures."

I would like to see a copy of the letters and surveys sent to the boroughs along with any responses and/or additional correspondence.

Our response to your request is as follows:

Please find attached the information the GLA holds within the scope of your request.

Please note that some names of members of staff are exempt from disclosure under s.40 (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act. This information could potentially identify specific employees and as such constitutes as personal data which is defined by Article 4(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to mean any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. It is considered that disclosure of this information would contravene the first data protection principle under Article 5(1) of GDPR which states that Personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA170823-4441.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Officer

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at: https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information

From:@Hillingdon.Sent:23 June 2023 09:59To:	Gov.UK>
Hi	
Apologies for sending another query. Please do let r Just wanted to confirm which Officers in the LA will b and project management system.	me know if I should be emailing another colleague. be sent the details to log onto the GLAs internal grant
Kind regards	
School Places Planning and Policy Manager School Place Planning Children's Services London Borough of Hillingdon 4E/07, Civic Centre Uxbridge, UB8 1UW the LEAP website. https://leap.hillingdon.gov.uk/	
From: @london. Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 10:46 AM To: @Hillingdon.Gov.UK> Cc: @ @ @ @Hillingdon.gov.uk> Subject: RE: UFSM Queries	gov.uk>

Dear

Please see the responses to your questions below.

□. Does the scheme encourage offering both hot and cold meals (packed lunches) to promote high take up by pupils.

In line with the national school food standards schools can offer cold lunches rather than hot dishes.

□. Has there been any change to the funding being provided to include <u>only</u> the cost of meals and staffing. Schools who provide meals in house are concerned about the additional cost of equipment/purchasing additional crockery and cutlery.

Our grant conditions state that the grant must be spent on the provision of a school lunch. The funding allocations takes the total number of KS2 pupils minus those which are eligible for the Government offer of Free School Meals (FSM). We have then applied an assumed uptake of 90 per cent with a meal cost of £2.65. For boroughs who can evidence a higher uptake this will be paid in April 24. Boroughs will then be responsible for passing the funding on to their schools. We can confirm that we have listened to schools and boroughs and that no clawback will be applied to the grant agreement. With the removal of the clawback boroughs will not need to report on meals taken, so if take up is lower than 90% (which we expect it will be initially, looking at existing schemes) then there may be some additional funds available for schools to use at their discretion.

I hope this information is useful. If you had any additional questions or needed a clarification on the above I have cc'd in my colleague who is our Senior Manger of Policy and Strategy in the UFSM team. is available after 12 today if you would like a quick call ahead of your meeting this afternoon to clarify anything further.

Many thanks,



Universal Free School Meals | Health, Children and Young Londoners GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY Union Street, London SE1 0LL

am@london.gov.uk

From:	@Hillingdon.Gov.UK>
Sent: 15 June 2023 09:55	-
То:	<pre>@london.gov.uk></pre>
Subject: UFSM Queries	

Dear

As per our conversation this morning, would you be able to assist with the following queries:

- □. Does the scheme encourage offering both hot and cold meals (packed lunches) to promote high take up by pupils.
- In Has there been any change to the funding being provided to include <u>only</u> the cost of meals and staffing. Schools who provide meals in house are concerned about the additional cost of equipment/purchasing additional crockery and cutlery.

We are hoping to address queries and concerns submitted by schools via our survey in the information sessions that we have scheduled, however I am anticipating that the above will be asked in our termly meeting with all Hillingdon Heads this afternoon.

I would be grateful for any updates on the above if possible.

Kind regards

School Place Planning	
Children's Services	

From: Sent: To: Subject:



Hey, not sure if you'd spotted this one too but I think it might be in scope as to a Councillor in Barnet?

From:	@london.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 June 2023 16:00	
To: @clarem	ontprimary.org>
Cc: Cllr.A.Clarke@Barnet.gov.uk; L	IFSMTeam <ufsmteam@london.gov.uk>;</ufsmteam@london.gov.uk>
@london.gov.uk>	@london.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: FW: Cookers	

Hi

I'm afraid at the moment we do not have funding for schools to buy equipment.

However, we know that you are not alone in facing these challenges and we are exploring possible funding routes for schools. In particular we're speaking to Chefs In Schools about possible grant opportunities, and I will pass on any information when we have it.

We are hoping to hold a webinar on this issue towards the end of June – details will be on our website.

I would recommend speaking to your borough too as they may have had similar requests from other schools.

Best wishes,

From:	@claremontprimary.o	rg>	
Sent: 06 June 2023 08:0	1		
То:	@lon	ndon.gov.uk>	
Cc: Cllr.A.Clarke@Barne		MTeam@london.gov.uk>;	
ondo	n.gov.uk>;	london.gov.uk>	
Subject: Re: FW: Cooker	S		

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Hi

Thanks for the reply. Although you offer some useful advice I take from the response that there isn't a funding stream to help schools with the cost of equipment?

It would be great if you could clarify this for me as I have already spoken to my caterers who are unwilling to pay for a cooker, most schools catering contracts stipulate the kitchen is the school's responsibility. I have also spoken to other schools about how they plan to make it work. There are different plans in place. Cold food is certainly not an option when many of our children rely so heavily on their school lunch.

We really need a new steam oven at Claremont so if you have any other suggestions please let me know.

Many thanks

On Thu, 1 Jun 2023 at 15:51, @london.gov.uk> wrote: and Councillor Clarke, Dear Thank you very much for getting in touch with the GLA, your email was passed on to me in the Universal Free School Meals team. We understand that capacity and equipment varies considerably across schools in London and the challenges that this scheme poses. The funding is to cover meals for children and not calculated to include capital expenditure. Meals could be served cold, reducing the need to install ovens - would this help with the need for a new oven at Claremont School? Boroughs who already offer universal FSM are very willing to share examples of ways in which they manage the flow of extra children and minimum kitchen requirements. If this is something you'd be interested in, please let me know. We are also running a series of webinars for schools to provide information and share best practice. A webinar on scaling up delivery and infrastructure challenges took place on 24th May and we can share slides/ the recording and also put schools in touch with the speakers. These were Newham, who already offer universal FSM, a school in this borough and a catering provider. The next webinar will be on pupil premium on 8th June. Our online hub for schools has been launched on our website. The hub provides an overview of the scheme and will be updated with resources for schools. These include templates, communication packs for communicating with families, FAQ sheets for staff and families, copy for websites, social media assets, and best practice around free school meal registrations and pupil premium. We have spoken to several caterers, and we are aware that they are working with schools to support the roll-out of the scheme. For some caterers this has included upgrading kitchen equipment for their schools. We also recommend schools speak to their borough, and we'd be happy to share borough contacts with schools if they are not sure who to speak to.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further. Best wishes, From: Clarke, Cllr Anne <<u>Cllr.A.Clarke@Barnet.gov.uk</u>> Sent: 30 May 2023 15:00 @claremontprimary.org>; Health <Health@london.gov.uk</pre>; F inance To: childshillprimary.org> <finance@claremontprimary.org>; Subject: RE: Cookers Hi There is definitely some funding but let me find out the details. Cllr Anne Clarke Cricklewood Ward, London Borough of Barnet Cabinet Member for Community Wealth Building twitter @anne_clarke Instagram annebclarke WORKING TOGETHER TO BECOME A NET ZERO **CARBON COUNCIL BY 2030** AND BOROUGH BY 2042. BARNET BARNET ZERO FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY AT: engage.barnet.gov.uk/net-zero From: @claremontprimary.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 2:03 PM

To: <u>freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk</u>; Clarke, Cllr Anne <<u>Cllr.A.Clarke@Barnet.gov.uk</u>>; F inance <<u>finance@claremontprimary.org</u>>; <u>lprimary.org</u>> Subject: Cookers

** Warning External Email **

Hi

This is an excellent initiative but has come with drawbacks.

I am head of two schools in Cricklewood, Childs Hill and Claremont Primary Federation, NW2

At Childs Hill we think our kitchen can just about cope but will have to batch cook, i.e. two rounds of cooking, in order to produce the number of meals required. This has lengthened lunchtime and added to staff costs.

At Claremont we have fewer children so would ideally like to still cook one batch of food. This is currently not possible as it will require us to replace a faulty steam oven which we currently don't need to use. The increase in meals to be cooked means we need to replace this cooker.

So ,my question is are schools able to access any additional funding to assist with the introduction of this scheme?

I can imagine the answer is no to the Childs Hill situation where the logistics of the school day and the volume of meals to be cooked and served has affected staffing costs. I understand it would be hard to see any sense in the Mayor's office supporting school's with staffing costs at lunchtimes, this would be an enormous can of worms easily open to manipulation.

However the need for Claremont school to find a new steam oven is a direct consequence of this scheme. This is a one off piece of kitchen equipment. Have you thought about this at all? We are talking about a £10,000 cost (new) to the school and to put this into context, after a huge cut in staffing over the last 12 months, we have set a surplus budget for next year by just £14,000. I didn't freeze all staff recruitment only to go back into deficit for a cooker, when what I really need is staff! Especially when the cooker is needed as an unintended consequence of a well intentioned but <u>ultimately external</u> (and therefore unplanned on my part) policy.

We can't be the only primary school who need a new or bigger cooker or fridge or freezer this summer because of the UFSM for KS2. Can I ask if this has been considered and if the Mayor's office is prepared to help?

Many thanks - I look forward to hearing from you.

Executive Headteacher

CHC Federation NW2

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Children and Young People

1st Floor, Laurence House 1 Catford Road London SE6 4RU

0208 314 8527

@lewisham.gov.uk

Our Ref: GB538 Date: 17 May 2023

Tunde Olayinke Executive Director, Community and Skills Greater London Authority c/o <u>freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk</u>

Dear Tunde

Re: Update on Universal Free School Meals Letter – 28 April 2023

Thank you for your recent communication regarding the conditions surrounding the recently announced Mayor of London's once off funding for Key Stage 2 Universal Free School Meals for academic year 2023/24.

Whilst we are grateful for some funding being made available, and please find this letter as confirmation of Lewisham taking up this offer, it is important to note that it does create a number of issues in terms of delivery, not least financial for both the council and our schools.

Firstly, it should be noted that the funding per meal of £2.65 is 35p below the amount that Lewisham schools receive for FSM via the funding formula. It is therefore less than the actual cost per meal for our schools. This puts a significant revenue pressure on our schools of up to £600k for the academic year 2023/24, monies that may have to be diverted from teaching and learning.

Secondly, to enable an increase in meals delivered there will be a significant impact on the equipment required within school kitchens, as well as in some cases extending lunch periods and knock-on costs such as midday meal supervisors and energy costs. If we look at just the major equipment such as ovens, fridges etc then we anticipate an in-year capital cost of circa £620k which hasn't been accounted for when the council set its budget and as such will require other capital projects to be shelved to enable implementation of this scheme. It should be noted that when UIFSM was introduced it came with £3m of capital funding to enable necessary equipment and works to be undertaken.

Thirdly, there is huge concern about the impact that this funding will have on FSM applications. As we have mentioned above, FSM is funded at a higher rate than you propose, so for any parents that don't apply there will be a gap on meal delivery costs, additionally, circa £3k per FSM child comes through other funding stream, which could be lost as a result of this single year scheme being implemented, at a time when school budgets are already stretched to their limit.

Finally, we are very concerned that this is a single-year intervention, not just as a result of all the implications above, but also in terms of raising expectations with parents, and the added confusion that will be caused for future years, the reputation of the Mayor of London, GLA













and Boroughs needs to be seriously considered. There are also knock-on effects should this only be for a year in terms of redundancy implications for extra kitchen staff, increased meal costs due to caterers seeing a scaling back etc.

We are aware that we are not the only Borough that is concerned by the issues outlines above, and we would welcome a further discussion with the GLA on the £1.2m shortfall and additional financial support that could be made available, as well as an intent signalled by the GLA regarding on-going support for the scheme.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely



Executive Director for Children and Young People

Yours sincerely

Executive Director for Children & Young People











From: UFSMTeam Sent: 21 May 2023 21:27 @bexley.gov.uk Cc: UFSMTeam <UFSMTeam@london.gov.uk> Subject: FW: Universal Free School Meals Programme (BEXLEY)

Morning

With huge apologies I went in to check if we replied to your e-mail and the e-mail below had not been sent to you.

Please find information below.

Apologies once again for the delayed reply and thank you for raising this at PAG.

Best wishes,

Dear

Thanks for your email and your engagement with our policy development process thus far, it is greatly appreciated. I am happy to provide some clarification on this.

The £130m emergency funding will go directly to funding school meals at £2.65 per meal, significantly higher than the Government rate of £2.41. This price point is based on the steer gained from our discussions with council officers. Engagement to understand the needs of local authorities and schools in delivering this policy is ongoing. Information has been gathered via a survey with boroughs asking them to outline what, if any, capacity and infrastructure challenges they may face and discussions around this have taken place at task and finish groups and the Partnership Advisory Group.

We understand that school capacity varies considerably across London and within boroughs. We want to ensure sufficient support and guidance is provided to schools and boroughs prior to the rollout of the scheme from September 2023. As mentioned, we are currently engaging with schools and boroughs to understand what support would be most useful in this regard. We will be facilitating shared learning from schools which have developed mechanisms for addressing a range of challenges through a series of webinars in May and June 2023. One of these sessions will be focused on capacity management and attendees will hear how schools and boroughs which already offer universal free school meals have overcome barriers to increasing capacity through practical interventions. We will also be sharing practical resources with schools and boroughs on our website, including templates and best practice guidance.

I hope this response has been helpful. Please be in touch if you have any more questions.

Thanks

From: <u>@bexley.gov.uk</u>> Sent: 02 May 2023 21:16 To: Health <<u>Health@london.gov.uk</u>> Subject: FW: Universal Free School Meals Programme (BEXLEY)

Hi

Many thanks for this which I will look through however, one question that I immediately have is whether you have any further details on the mechanism that will address the following statement contained in these attachments:

Allocation does not include any provision for capital expenditure that may be necessary for LEAs or Academy Trusts to provide. An assessment of the potential need for such capital investment will be made in each LEA / Academy Trust and the extent to which alternative remedial steps other than such investment can be taken to ensure the Mayor's commitment can be implemented.

Regards

Deputy Director Education, Achievement & Inclusion Children's Services London Borough of Bexley

From: UFSMTeam <<u>UFSMTeam@london.gov.uk</u>> Sent: 02 May 2023 16:25 To: @bexley.gov.uk> Subject: Universal Free School Meals Programme (BEXLEY)

Dear

As highlighted at our recent Partnership Advisory Group meeting on 21 April, we sent out two letters on Friday 28 April: one from the Mayor of London to your Leader and one from Tunde Olayinka, our Executive Director – Communities and Skills to your CEO.

Both letters are attached for information, as well as the Grant Conditions and Principles.

If you have any further questions or comments please email <u>freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk</u> and someone from the team will be in touch.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Best wishes,

Head of Health and Wellbeing / Programme Director for FSM GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London, E16 1ZE

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From: UFSMTeam <<u>UFSMTeam@london.gov.uk</u>> Sent: 28 April 2023 17:45 To: j@@bexley.gov.uk Cc: @@bexley.gov.uk; @@bexley.gov.uk Cubiact: Universal Free School Meels Programme (BEXLEY)

Subject: Universal Free School Meals Programme (BEXLEY)

Dear

Please find attached a letter from Tunde Olayinka, the Executive Director for Communities and Skills at the GLA.

This letter provides the latest update on the Universal Free School Meals programme, as well as the indicative grant allocation for your borough.

There are also two attachments to this email:

- a letter from the Mayor of London to your borough leader for information; and
- the Grant Conditions and Principles for the Universal Free School Meals programme.

If anyone has any further questions or comments please email <u>freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk</u> and someone from the team will be in touch.

Best wishes,



Head of Health and Wellbeing / Programme Director for FSM GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London, E16 1ZE



From: @london.gov.uk> Sent: 17 May 2023 15:29 To: UFSMTeam <UFSMTeam@london.gov.uk> Subject: FW: UFSM Harrow

Sorry forgot to cc you in Pls can you add to the borough intel tracker

From: Sent: 17 May 2023 15:29 To:

Subject: RE: UFSM Harrow

Higher yes that's correct where significant challenges to infrastructure are present which means that offering hot meals is not feasible cold food is agreeable with the Mayors policy.

I hope that's helpful

Many thanks

Head of Health and Wellbeing / Programme Director for FSM GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London, E16 1ZE

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From:	@harrow.gov.uk>	
Sent: 17 May 2023 15:22		
То:		
Subject: UFSM Harrow		
Dear		

I just wanted to confirm that we can tell our schools that cold lunches are acceptable under the grant conditions?

This would be in broad agreement with DFE guidelines

Although there is no requirement that lunches must be hot meals, hot lunches should be provided wherever possible to ensure that all pupils are able to eat at least one hot meal every day.

School food in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

This was not quite so explicit in LGA guidance, but I think you did say this when we met.

Can you confirm that I can tell headteachers this, as some cannot achieve hot meals to this extent without a capital investment?

Kind regards



People Services | Education ServicesHarrow CouncilEducation DepartmentPO Box 1358HarrowHA3 3QN

From:	UFSMTear	m	
Sent:	<u>30 August</u>	30 August 2023 16:38	
То:			
Subject:	Fw:	- Request for information	

From:@london.gov.uk>Sent:15 May 2023 15:47To:UFSMTeam < UFSMTeam@london.gov.uk>Subject:FW:For information

To confirm I have booked a call on 19th 1-2 pm



- 17/05/23 from 4:00 5:00pm;
- 19/05/23 between 11:00 and 2:00pm.

Please note the best time for and and is 19/05/23 from 1:00 – 2:00pm.

Please do let me know if any of these times work and I will pop you over an invite.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,





From:	@london.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, 15 Ma To:	Barnet.gov.uk>
Cc: <pre>Cc: </pre>	<u>@london.gov.uk</u> >; <u>Barnet.gov.uk</u> >; - Request for information
	** Warning External Email **
Hi colleagues	

Please accept our apologies for the delay.

We would welcome a call to discuss this in more detail with you. Please can you let me know your availability for today or tomorrow

We will do our best to work around your availability.

Many thanks

Head of Health and Wellbeing / Programme Director for FSM GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London, E16 1ZE

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Subject: Request for information

Dear

Thank you for the information detailing the indicative grant allocation for Barnet, in response to the Universal Free School Meals Programme.

We have looked at the funding the council would require to deliver the programme and have found there to be a significant gap between the indicative grant funding and the council's calculations. I have shared the methodology we have applied to our calculations below:

January Census

Maintained Pupils in Years 3,4,5 and 6 who are not currently recorded as entitled to FSM in the January Census = 10,651

Academy Pupils in Years 3,4,5 and 6 who are not currently recorded as entitled to FSM in the January Census = 3,416

14,067 x £2.65 = £37,277.55 per day

190 school days attended x 37,277.55 = £7,082,734.50

Indicative grant allocation for your borough (Barnet)

Based on our price per meal calculation, your indicative grant allocation will be £6,115,091.00.

Please can you share the methodology for your calculations that arrived at the £6,115,09.00 figure.

Additionally, I am concerned about the cost to our Jewish schools of the Mayor's FSM offer. Currently the cost of hot Kosher school meal is £5.50 per meal. Schools pay the difference between the DfE funding allocation and the cost of the meal for FSM children. In September our Jewish schools will be expected to fund this difference for all primary aged children. One of our 2FE Jewish Primary Schools has calculated that the cost to the school from September will be £26,500 per academic year. In light of this information, I would be grateful if you would also share the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIO) for this programme with me.

Finally we also have concerns about capital funding for equipment. We have audited our schools and there are significant challenges in delivery of the programme without capital investment.

Kind regards,

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From: UFSMTeam < UFSMTeam@london.gov.u	k>
Sent: 27 April 2023 09:48	
To:	lewisham.gov.uk>; Health <health@london.gov.uk>; UFSMTeam</health@london.gov.uk>
<ufsmteam@london.gov.uk></ufsmteam@london.gov.uk>	
Cc: lewisham.gov.u	ık>
Subject: RE: Mayor of London's Universal Free	School Meals Programme - Partnership Advisory Group



Hope you are well.

The grant conditions specify that the funding must be spent on provision of school lunch.

Allocation does not include any provision for capital expenditure that may be necessary for LEAs or Academy Trusts to provide. An assessment of the potential need for such capital investment will be made in each LEA / Academy Trust and the extent to which alternative remedial steps other than such investment can be taken to ensure the Mayor's commitment can be implemented.

We want to ensure sufficient support and guidance is provided to schools and boroughs prior to rollout. We are currently engaging with schools and boroughs to understand what support would be most useful. We will be facilitating shared learning from schools who have developed mechanisms for addressing a range of challenges through a series of webinars in May and June. One of these sessions will be focused on capacity management and attendees will hear how schools and boroughs have overcome barriers to increasing capacity through practical interventions.

We've updated our records to include as the lead borough contact.

Any further questions, please let us know.

Best wishes,



Senior Governance Officer Universal Free School Meals Programme

GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE

london.gov.uk

london.gov.uk

From: I and I and

Children and Young People's Directorate Lewisham Council

(ext.

Direct line: 020 8314

From: UFSMTeam <UFSMTeam@london.gov.uk> Sent: 25 April 2023 17:01 To: UFSMTeam <UFSMTeam@london.gov.uk>

Subject: Mayor of London's Universal Free School Meals Programme - Partnership Advisory Group

Dear all,

Please find attached the PowerPoint slides that were used during our first Partnership Advisory Group meeting on Friday 21 April.

If anyone has any further questions or comments please email <u>freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk</u> and someone from the team will be in touch.

Many thanks,

Head of Health and Wellbeing / Programme Director for FSM GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London, E16 1ZE

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From: Sent: 25 April 2023 14:29 To: Health <<u>Health@london.gov.uk</u>> Subject: MoL UFSM - partnership advisory group Dear Partnership Advisory Group members,

Thank you for attending our first Partnership Advisory Group meeting on Friday 21 April. We really appreciated all questions, comments and feedback.

Please find attached the PowerPoint slides that were used during the meeting.

As mentioned during the meeting on Friday, we are currently undertaking engagement with schools across London. Please contact us if you would like any further details about this or would like to suggest some key contacts for this work.

If anyone has any further questions or comments please email <u>freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk</u> and someone from the team will be in touch.

Once again, thank you for your continuing collaboration and I look forward to seeing you at the next Group meeting, if not before. If you were unable to attend and wish to discuss any of the content in the slides please do let us know.

Many thanks

Head of Health and Wellbeing / Programme Director for FSM GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London, E16 1ZE