

**MAYOR OF LONDON**

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# **Universal Free School Meals provision to London's Primary school children**

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# Programme details





# WHAT IS THE MAYOR'S INTERVENTION?

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- The Mayor announced an historic **£135m emergency, one-off funding** plan to help families with the spiralling **cost of living** by ensuring that **every primary schoolchild** in London will receive **free school meals** in the **2023/24 academic year**. Rollout took place from September 2023.
- This funding will help up to **287,000 primary school children** in the capital receive free school meals and could save families upwards of **£440** across the year.
- This emergency funding is for **one year only** and we will **continue to call on Government** to step forward and provide the funding to make this permanent.



# FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

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The number of pupils eligible for the GLA UFSM scheme is taken as the total number of KS2 pupils minus those pupils eligible for the government FSM offer.

It has been assumed that there will be a 90% take-up rate, as evidence indicates take-up of meals is rarely above this rate.

We are funding the price per meal at £2.65 as a single standardised offer across all boroughs, which is above the Government's recently increased rate of £2.53.

The funding allocation is the number of eligible pupils, multiplied by 90%, multiplied by £2.65.

Each borough will have the opportunity to secure additional funding for their schools if they are able to evidence that uptake of the scheme has been higher than 90 per cent.

Boroughs who currently fund UFSM have been allocated funding in the same way - the Mayor has asked that they use the offset funds to support families in financial hardship.

Based on feedback from schools and boroughs, no clawback will be applied to the grant funding.

# CONTINGENCY FUND

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- The additional £5 m of funding is to act as a contingency for any extraordinary costs associated with the delivery of free school meals in the next academic year.
- This will include helping to provide further funding for kosher meals and exceptional costs for children with SEND.
- Boroughs receive £2.65 per meal. For kosher meals in Jewish state schools, this will be £3.50, a top up of 85p, due to additional costs associated with delivering this provision.

# PUPIL PREMIUM

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To maintain or increase pupil premium funding, the GLA is encouraging consideration of best practice in promoting registration.

How a borough or school chooses to promote registration is for agreement locally.

Depending on the processes in place in the borough, this is likely be done either centrally by the borough, or by the borough working with individual schools.

We are working with boroughs who are doing auto-enrolment to learn from their experience.

We are monitoring pupil premium funding throughout the academic year.

As part of our engagement with schools and boroughs, we will ask them about their approach and take up of pupil premium.

As part of our engagement with families, we have done research on the barriers to registering.

We are running best practice via webinars and guidance

We have sample messaging for comms to families for websites, newsletters, emails etc.

We are preparing a translated form will be available by half-term.

We are supporting schools to expand on their process at KS1 for UIFSM.

We have a pan London messaging to families via the GLA.

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# Monitoring and evaluation



# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF M&E PROGRAMME

The Mayor's 1-year intervention is a response to the cost-of-living crisis. This is a primary focus for our evaluation.

Evaluation findings will inform delivery, comms, lobbying and future policy decisions.

- To understand the **experience of pupils with protected characteristics**.
- To determine the extent to which the guiding principles were adhered to during implementation.
- To understand the **levels of school meal uptake**, where feasible.
- To support boroughs to **evidence higher than 90% uptake** of meals in schools, to claim additional funding.
- To inform ongoing **communications with boroughs, schools and parents**.
- To collaborate with and **complement wider partner-led evaluation** approaches.



# PARTNERS

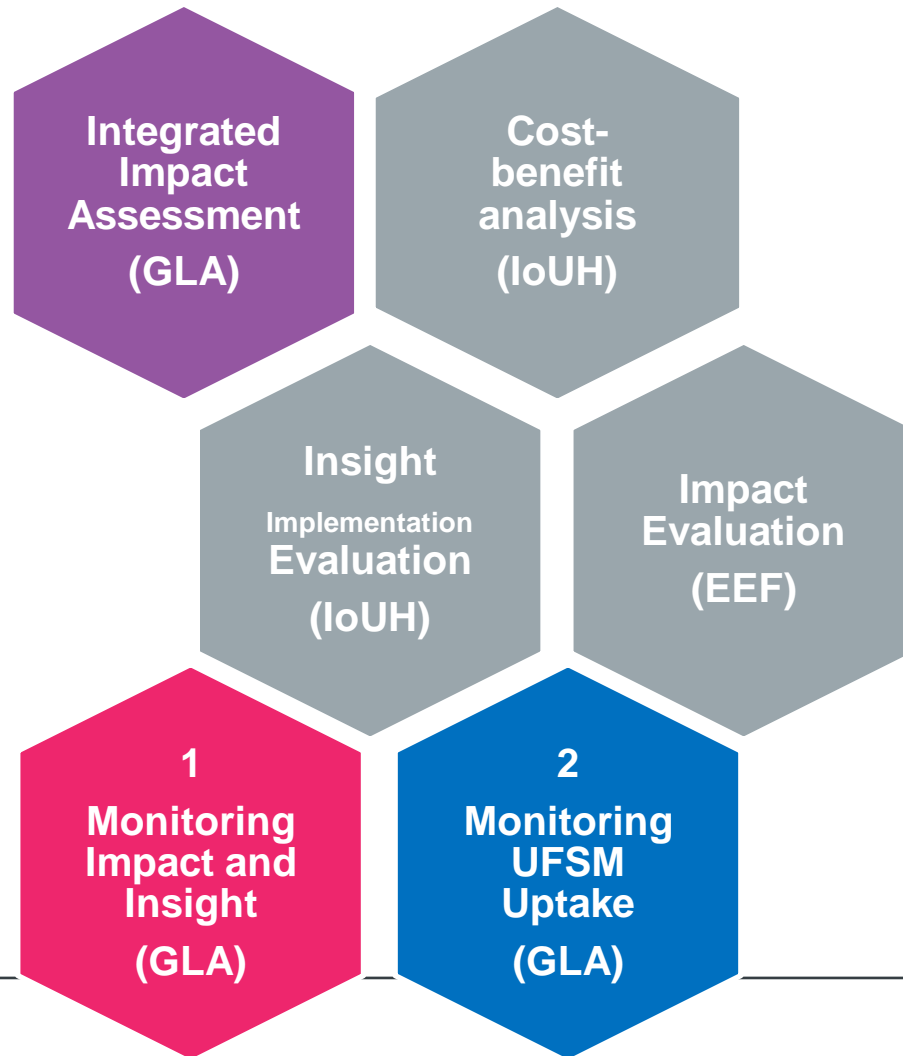
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# STRATEGY

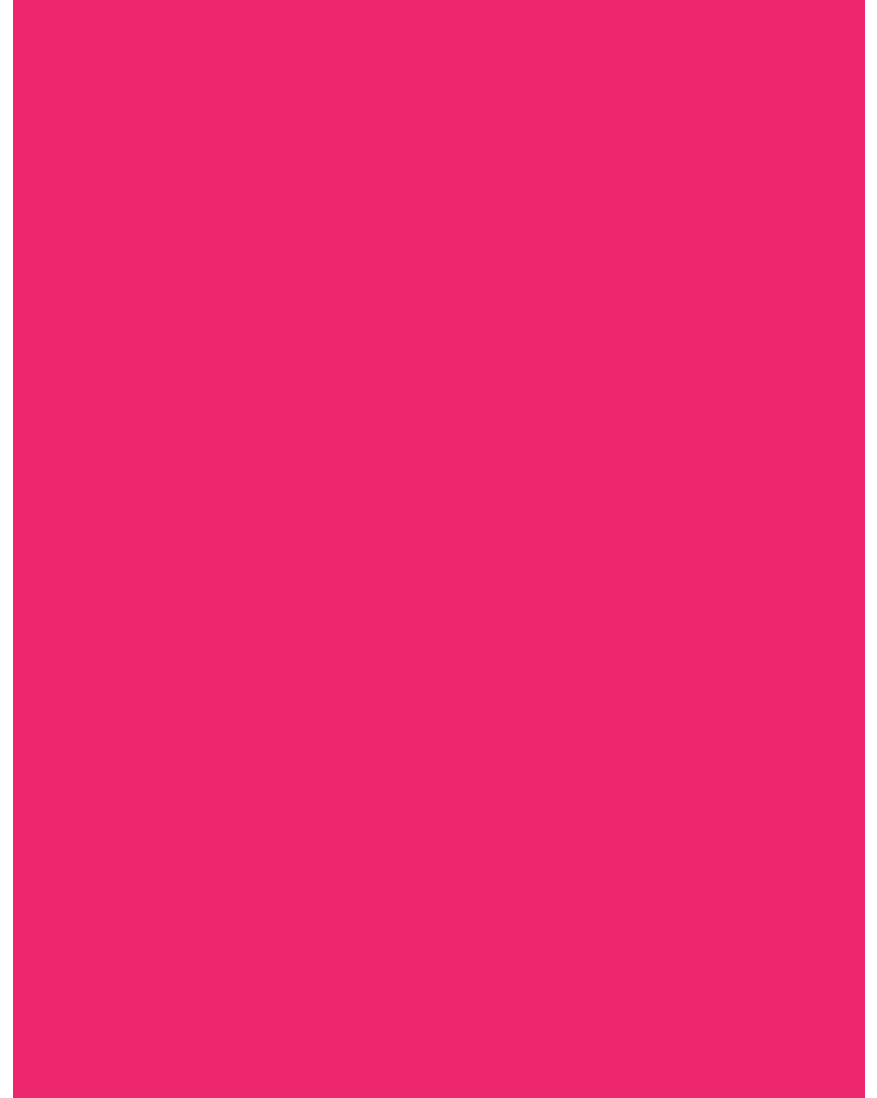
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The Monitoring and Evaluation strategy is made up of the following components:



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# Support and engagement



# ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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Mayor and Deputy Mayor school visits



Working through existing local authority professional networks



Working with local authorities who have delivered UFSM to learn from their expertise



Insights work with boroughs – surveys, interviews, roundtables



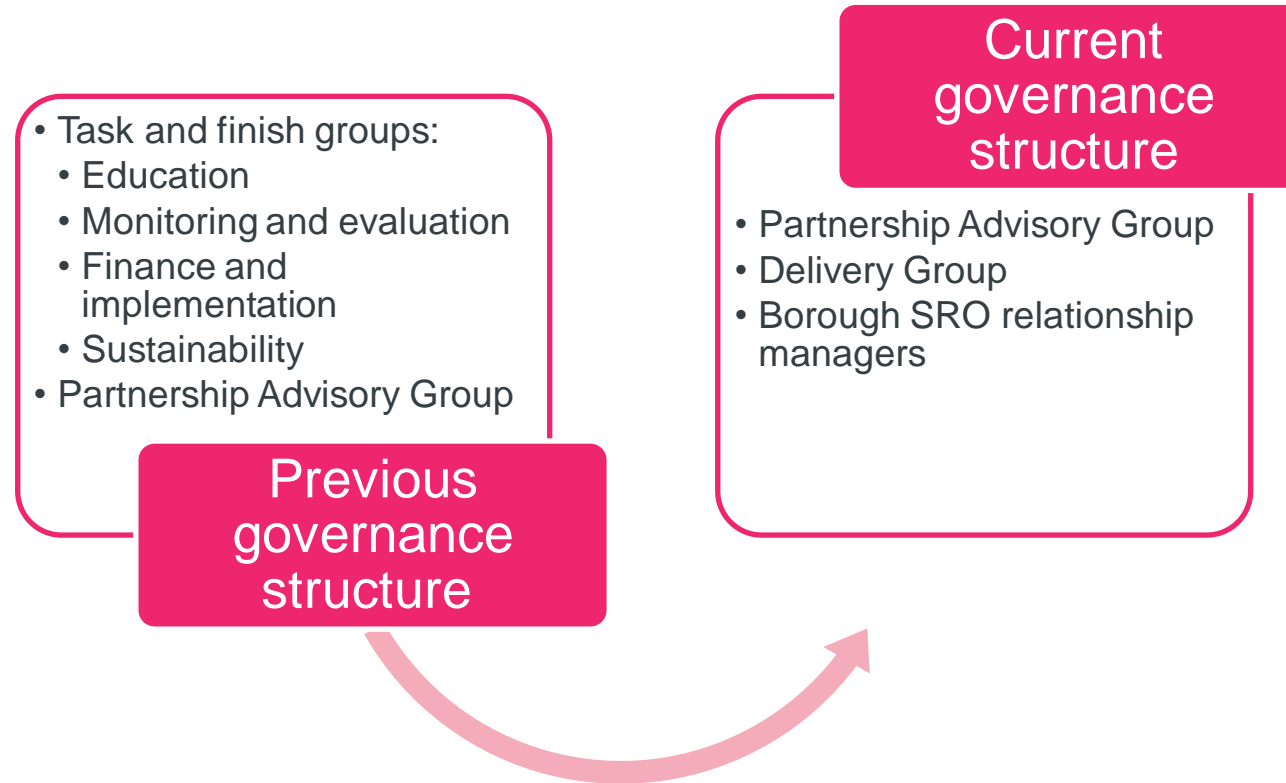
Writing to borough Chief Executives and SROs on a regular basis



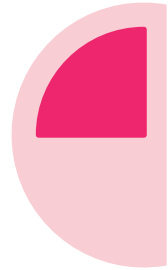
Governance structure representation

# GOVERNANCE

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# SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS AND BOROUGHES



## To date

Webinars

Guidance on Pupil Premium

Templates – Newsletters, emails, website, social media etc

Digital and physical posters and leaflets

Social assets, videos

PPT slides, parents session outline, FAQ

Letter from the Mayor to families; letters from the Deputy Mayor to Headteachers

Best practice



## Future plans

Translated assets

New webinar series

Research on pupil premium

Termly letter from Mayor to families; continued written updates from Deputy Mayor

Artwork competition

Lobbying efforts

Continued insights gathering

Case studies showcasing impact and best practice

Support around cultural celebrations



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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- If you have any queries after the meeting, please do send them to [freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@london.gov.uk) and we will get back to you.

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