

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak, MP, The Chancellor of the Exchequer
The Rt Hon Gavin Williamson, MP, Secretary of State for Education
The Rt Hon Matt Hancock, MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care



Put children's access to healthy food at the heart of the Comprehensive Spending Review

Dear Ministers,

We write to you ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review to ask you to invest in children's futures by improving their access to healthy food. The Covid-19 emergency has exposed the levels of food insecurity and health inequalities in the UK, with children and families disproportionately affected. It is also now clear that schools are a lifeline for many of our most disadvantaged families, providing children with access to healthy, nutritious food, whether in term time or during the holidays.

It is more important than ever that children are ensured the best start in life and have access to fresh, nutritious and culturally appropriate food. With this in mind we the undersigned back the following five policy calls for the Comprehensive Spending Review. Children are counting on you.

- 1) **Invest Soft Drinks Industry Levy income spend on children's health via a healthy food investment fund.** A new multi-year healthy food investment fund, building on the one-off Healthy Pupils Capital Fund 2018/19, will ensure that revenue from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy, projected to be about £340 million, is secured to specifically improve healthy eating environments in schools.
- 2) **Expand the School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme to all 4.7 million primary age children, sourcing high standard produce from British Farmers.** With more than 4 in 5 children still not eating 5-a-day, expanding the scheme will increase intake of healthy fruit and vegetables by 4-11 year olds, and support British farmers and suppliers with long-term procurement contracts.
- 3) **Increase the value of the Healthy Start Vouchers to £4.25 and extend to all pregnant women and families with under-4's on Universal Credit.** This will ensure vouchers reflect real food prices, and increase the number of women and children benefitting to 540,000.
- 4) **Expand free school meals to all children and young people whose families are on Universal Credit or equivalent benefits, regardless of immigration status.** Currently, the threshold of eligibility is far too low and excludes many children who risk going to school with no food provision. Expanding free school meal provision will help reduce the food insecurity gap and allow school children to focus on learning.
- 5) **Extend school holiday activity and food provision to all children in receipt of free school meals in England.** We believe local authorities are best placed to support provision on a national scale, achieved via a formula based on eligible pupil numbers, and a funding framework to ensure quality of nutrition and service delivery. We ask that you commit to implementing the above policies and work together across ministerial departments to deliver them.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned, (Full list of signatories continues on the following pages.)

Lead Organisation

Kath Dalmeny, Chief Executive, Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming

Barbara Crowther, Coordinator, Children's Food Campaign, Sustain

Sofia Parente, Coordinator, Veg Cities Campaign, Sustain

Vera Zakharov, Coordinator, Sugar Smart Campaign, Sustain

Directors of Public Health

Andrea Fallon, Director of Public Health, Rochdale Council

Christina Gray, Director of Public Health, Bristol City Council

David Regan, Director of Public Health, Manchester City Council

Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health, Blackpool Council

Dr Glenn Stewart, Assistant director of Public Health, Enfield Council

Dr Matt Tyrer, Acting Director of Public Health, Cheshire East Council

Eleanor Roaf, Director of Public Health, Trafford Council

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Greg Fell, Director of Public Health, Sheffield City Council

Helen Bower, Director of Public Health, Bolton Council

Ian Ashworth, Director of Public Health, Cheshire West and Chester Council

Jeanelle De Gruchy, Director of Public Health, Tameside Council

Jennifer Connolly, Director of Public Health, Stockport Council

Julie Billett, Chair of London Association of Directors of Public Health

Justin Varney, Director of Public Health, Birmingham City Council

Kate Ardern, Director of Public Health, Wigan Council

Katrina Stephens, Director of Public Health, Oldham Council

Lesley Jones, Director of Public Health, Bury Council

Margaret Jones, Director of Public Health, Sefton Council

Mark Adams, Director of Public Health, South Tees

Matthew Ashton, Director of Public Health, Liverpool City Council

Muna Abdul Aziz, Director of Public Health, Salford Council

Rachel Flowers, Director of Public Health, Croydon Council

Rachel Wigglesworth, Director of Public Health (interim), Cornwall Council and the Council of the Isles of Scilly

Ruth Harrell, Director of Public Health, Plymouth City Council

Steve Brown, Director of Public Health (Designate), Devon County Council

Stuart Lines, Director of Public Health, Enfield Council

Will Maimaris, Interim Director of Public Health, Haringey Council

Victoria Eaton FFPH, Director of Public Health, Leeds City Council

Leading Charities and Organisations

Dan Parker, Chief Executive, Living Loud

Debbie Wood, Executive Director or Membership, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Dr Giles Yeo, President, and Caroline Bovey BEM RD, Chair, British Dietetic Association

James Goolnik BDS MSc, Dentist and founder of charity Rewards Project, Sugar Smart Hospitals and Healthcare Ambassador

James Toop, CEO, BiteBack2030

Jane Wright, Senior Adviser, Natural England

Leigh Powell, National Officer, Education and Children's Services, UNISON

Louise Davies, Founder, Food Teachers Centre

Marjon Willers, Director, Health Education Trust

Matthew Philpott, Executive Director, Health Equalities Group (Food Active and Healthy Stadia)

Megan Waring, Head of Nutrition, Caterlink, Sugar Smart Primary Schools Ambassador

Naomi Duncan, Chief Executive, Chefs in Schools

Rob Percival, Head of Policy, Soil Association

Sally Bunday, Director, Hyperactive Children's Support Group

Sara Jayne Stanes OBE, Chief Executive, Royal Academy of Culinary Arts

Shola Oladipo, CEO, Food for Purpose, Sugar Smart Communities Ambassador

Sidonie Sakula-Barry, Children and Families Lead, World Cancer Research Fund

Simon House, Trustee, Mother and Child Foundation

Stephanie Slater, Founder/CEO, School Food Matters

Tom Andrews, Director, Sustainable Food Places

Victoria Williams, Director, Food Matters

Local Partners

Barnsley

Amy Calvert, Innovation Manager, Good Food Barnsley CIC

Belfast

Kerry Melville, Coordinator, Belfast Food Network

Birmingham

Councillor Poullette Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, Birmingham City Council

Brighton & Hove

Vic Borrill, Director, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Bristol

Mayor Marvin Rees

Cllr Asher Craig, Deputy Mayor

Kathy Derrick, Manager, Sustainable City Team, Bristol City Council

Mike Jackson, Chief Executive, Bristol City Council and Food Champion

Jane Stevenson, Chair, Bristol Food Network

Cllr Helen Godwin, Cabinet Member for Women, Families & Homes, Bristol City Council

Buckinghamshire

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Aine Douglas, Coordinator, Calderdale Food Network

Councillor Tim Swift, Chair, Calderdale Health & Wellbeing Board

Dr Steven Cleasby, General Practitioner, Incredible Edible Health Centre

Cambridgeshire

Imogen Gray, Senior Public Health Manager - Nutrition and Lifestyles, Cambridgeshire County Council & Peterborough City Council

Sam Dyer, Coordinator, Cambridge Food Poverty Alliance

Bev Sedley, Chair, Cambridge Sustainable Food Partnership Board

Gavin Shelton, Founder & CEO, COFARM Foundation

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Rev Andrew Yates, Chair, Cornwall Food Access Alliance

Matthew Thomson, Food for Change

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Hannah Murray-Leslie, Food Partnership Coordinator, Food Durham

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Lynn Wetenhall, Trustee, Good Food Exeter

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Alison Asamoah, School Meals Nutritionist, Enfield Council

Cllr Uddin, Cabinet member for Public Health, Enfield Council

Essex

Michael Beckett BA DipIoD, Chief Officer, Colchester Foodbank charity & Essex Food Poverty Alliance

Rt Revd Roger Morris, Area Bishop of Colchester

Hampshire

Sam Watts, Coordinator, Winchester Food Partnership

Kingston upon Hull

Hilary Hamer, Coordinator, Rooted in Hull

Knowsley

Lucy Antal, Coordinator, The Knowsley Kitchen (Food Poverty Alliance)

Racheal Jones, Chief Executive Officer, One Knowsley

Lambeth

Kemi Akinola, Chair, Lambeth Food Partnership

CLlr Edward Davie, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

CLlr Jim Dickson Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

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Rob Howard, Consultant in Public Health, Head of School: Health Education East Midlands – Public Health, Leicester City Council

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Dr Emma Boyland, Senior Lecturer in Appetite and Obesity, University of Liverpool

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Councillor Angeliki Stogia, Chair of Manchester Food Board

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Diana Sterck, Chief Executive, Sustainable Merton

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Andy Preston, Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough

Mark Fishpool, Chair, Middlesbrough Food Partnership

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Wandsworth

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