

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 2/10/15

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Progress update on the schools traded services company - Edsential

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The company is on track for a December launch with catering successfully launched as a single service from 2nd September

2. BACKGROUND

Edsential received a renewed mandate from the cabinets of both Wirral and CWaC in early September to launch on 1st December.

Catering was successfully launched at the beginning of term ahead of the other services as we had significant improvements to deliver. Wirral schools now benefit from:

- New menus voted for by pupils
- New food supplier & supply chain
- All fresh meat and produce
- Fresh baked bread every day
- Meals cooked from scratch
- 'What good looks like' photographic standards in place
- Parent engagement leaflets sent out
- Additional on-site support from CWaC development chef team
- Extending CWaC central support team to cover Wirral schools

The new kitchen management system will be rolled out to a further 80 schools in November, with all schools being live by Easter.

All services are now in detailed transition planning to ensure they are not interrupted on change over, as we move out of council systems and use our own.

The teams are also working on the improvements to the service offers we will be rolling out in 2016, these have been based on extensive conversations with heads across both counties. We will be addressing many of the challenges you have set us and in January we will be visiting you to discuss 2016 offers.

Ian McGrady
Managing Director
Edsential Ltd.