

## REPORT FOR SCHOOLS FORUM

1.	<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>26th June 2020</b>
2.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Free School Meals Applications</b>
3.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Finance and Customer Services</b>

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the Schools Forum as to the significant increase in Free School Meal applications since lockdown imposed.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That Schools Forum members note the information contained within this report.

### 3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 To ensure that Schools Forum members are kept informed of the increase in applications within Rotherham.

### 4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CONTEXT

#### 4.1 Context

As at January 2020 school census there were 8,557 Rotherham children recorded as eligible for free school meals. During the period 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 the local authority received 863 web applications in comparison to 169 received during the same period last year.

Following receipt of the 863 web applications the local authority issued 730 (85%) award notices and 133 (15%) non eligible notices.

Based on current data there are now 9287 children entitled to free school meals.

Once a child's eligibility is confirmed they remain eligible for free school meals regardless of whether the parent has a change of circumstance which means they no longer meet the eligibility criteria (this is a transitional protection introduced by the government whilst Universal Credit is rolled out).

The increased number of registered free school meal children will lead to an increase in Rotherham's 2021/2022 School's Block DSG and Pupil Premium allocations.

### 7. Names and contact details

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