

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION
BY DEPUTY R. J. WARD OF ST. HELIER
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2021
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2021**

Question

Will the Minister provide an update on the progress of the free school meals pilot scheme, including any plans for the longer-term future of the project and advise whether or not it will be expanded to other primary schools?

Answer

COVID-19 related school closures and restrictions halted this work and prevented planned expansion. This resulted in a decision to extend the primary school meals pilot scheme until July 2022, in order to provide the Government with a full set of data as per the original plan.

Early in 2022 the pilot scheme will extend to another (still to be decided) primary school. Work is in progress to plan the fit out of servery areas in another six schools in readiness for a phased, contracted service rollout that is scheduled to commence in September 2022. A procurement strategy is being developed with the CYPES commissioning and SPPP teams to commence the process of finding a preferred supplier in time for the start of the September 2022 term.

The longer-term future of the project is to implement a fully serviced school food provision across the remaining Primary schools which are budgeted for in the Government plan. However, because of the size of the project, the food service model and conversations with the local market a phased roll out is the preferred option. Timescales for a fully integrated service across all CYPES primary schools will be developed once the contract is awarded.

CYPES continues to work in partnership with Public Health to ensure that the project is aligned with the strategy to Reduce Preventable Diseases in Jersey and the Whole School Food Programme.