

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Whole School Approach to Food (Food for Life) Consultation

1. What is this consultation about?

Leicestershire County Council is seeking views on a proposal to end the current Whole School Approach to Food (Food for Life) service when the contract expires in November 2027 and to deliver healthy weight, food and nutrition support through a different model in the future. The consultation will help inform future support for schools, children and families which is responsive to schools needs.

2. What is the Whole School Approach to Food (Food for Life) programme?

Food for Life is an additional support programme that has been funded by Leicestershire County Council since 2013. It provides primary schools with training, resources, practical advice and accreditation to support healthy eating, food education and positive food cultures.

3. Why is the current service being reviewed?

The service is being reviewed to ensure support remains practical, relevant and aligned with the current needs of schools. School engagement with the programme has declined in recent years, and feedback from schools has identified competing priorities, workforce pressures and limited capacity as barriers to participation.

4. Is Leicestershire County Council stopping support for healthy eating and healthy weight?

No. The proposal is to stop the current Food for Life service, not to remove the resource to support for healthy eating, food and nutrition. The council remains committed to improving children's health and wellbeing and will continue to provide support through alternative programmes, initiatives, training and resources.

5. When would the current Food for Life service end?

The current service would end when the contract expires in November 2027.

6. Why is the council proposing a different approach?

Feedback from schools suggests a preference for flexible training, resources and support that can be accessed when needed rather than participation in a structured accreditation programme. The proposed approach would enable resources to be aligned more effectively with local needs and emerging priorities.

7. What support will continue to be available?

Current and future support arrangements are expected to include:

- Children's healthy weight and weight management support.
- Whole Systems Approach activity for healthy weight, food and nutrition.
- Healthy Start promotion.
- Training and resources for schools and professionals.

- Support to address the wider determinants of health and create healthier environments.
- New ideas and priorities identified during the consultation process.

8. Will schools still provide healthy eating activity?

Yes. Schools will continue to provide food education, healthy eating activities and school meals regardless of whether the Food for Life programme continues. The programme is an additional support offer rather than a statutory requirement.

9. Will existing Food for Life accredited schools lose their accreditation?

Any accredited schools will retain any accreditation already achieved. Further information about accreditation arrangements beyond the end of the contract would be considered as part of transition planning if the proposal is approved. Primary schools can also independently pay to access the Food for Life programme.

10. Who can take part in the consultation?

The consultation is open to:

- Primary school staff.
- Parents and carers of children attending Leicestershire primary schools.
- School governors.
- County councillors.
- Leicestershire residents aged 18 and over.
- Organisations and community groups.
- Other interested stakeholders.

11. Why is the council asking for views?

The council wants to understand current challenges, identify gaps in support and gather feedback on what schools and residents believe would be most helpful in the future. Responses will help shape future healthy weight, food and nutrition support across Leicestershire.

12. How will the consultation feedback be used?

Consultation responses will be analysed to understand priorities, concerns and opportunities. The findings will be used to inform decisions about future support arrangements and resource development

13. What will happen to personal information provided in the consultation?

Personal data will be handled in line with current data protection legislation. Information provided in the main survey may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, while personal information collected in the "About You" section will be held securely and not disclosed publicly.

14. When does the consultation close?

The consultation closes on **7 December**, and the results will be reported in early 2027 through Leicestershire County Council's [You said, we did](#) webpage.

15. Has a decision already been made?

No. This is a public consultation. Feedback from schools, parents, residents and stakeholders will be considered before any final decision is made regarding future service arrangements