

Free school meals/pupil premium

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Background

- FSM entitlement for most people claiming Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support (HB/CTS) means asking two additional questions
 - Do you wish to claim for a free school meal?
 - Which school does your child attend?
 - (The questions can be tweaked to reflect school dinners for children up to Year Two))
- Many unitary councils have taken applications in this way for a number of years

Recent example of success

‘Funding boost for Calderdale schools as more pupils claim free school meals’

- *Schools in Calderdale are benefitting from £685,000 of extra funding after the council secured a higher take-up of free school meals. (Halifax Courier 19 March 2015)*

Potential benefits to Coventry schools

- Housing benefit IT system – estimate that 14,697 ‘potential qualifiers’
- The system can deal with applicants who have no HB/CTS entitlement
- Small sample of claims compared HB and existing data
 - 30 households compared
 - 50 children
 - 14 children on HB system but no FSM

On line access for schools

Advantages include significant time and cost savings for you and improved service to your schools:

- Schools can log in and access the schools detail report any time they need to
- Fewer phone enquiries for your staff to answer
- No need for printing and posting of reports
- Schools can export the report in all standard formats to allow third party integration
- User-friendly view and print options.

Phasing and timescales

- Installing IT software (a module for the HB/CTS system)
 - To allow new claims to be made from HB/CTS customers
- Converting the data from the existing Capita One system to HB/CTS system
 - Some outstanding issues
- A take-up campaign to give entitlement to those currently on HB/CTS but not on old system
- To be completed in time for 2016 census

QUESTIONS