

ESCC Management Group meeting briefing notes

Schools who buy into the school meals contract with Harrison Catering via the Ealing Schools Catering Consortium. It is intended to provide all consortium members with the headlines and key items discussed and agreed at the most recent ESCC Management Group meeting which took place on 18 January 2018.

Consortium's accounts

The Consortium's accounts were reviewed and it was confirmed that the consortium was continuing to operate at a comfortable level and was projecting to retain a surplus at the end of the year accounting for existing reserves and the rebate payment to members.

DBS check

Regarding Safeguarding arrangements, it was confirmed that the majority of safeguarding signage commissioned by the ESCC had been installed in kitchens directing kitchen staff to the designated safeguarding leads. Harrison are currently refreshing checks for all staff who currently hold a CRB check to ensure that all staff are DBS checked. This refresh is due to complete by the summer.

Consultation results

Following consultation of all consortium members, the ESCC Management Group has agreed formally to extend the Harrison Contract for two further years until August 2020.

The majority of consortium members have now provided formal commitment to remain in the consortium during the extension period. Formal approval from Ealing's Cabinet is being sought at the next meeting on 13 February 2018.

Following feedback received from schools, Harrison have prepared a revised Allergy policy and this will be circulated to schools for final comment before being adopted.

Harrison's new office

Harrison's management team for the Ealing contract have been served notice on their leased office accommodation and following a search for alternative space arrangements have been made for Harrison's management team to occupy some vacant space at Beaconsfield Primary School, Southall UB1, which is intended to serve as the team's base during the 2 year contract extension period.

This is a good outcome in that Harrison will be based at a consortium school which will generate a saving for the contract. The Harrison team will begin to move across to the new office from the February half term and will complete the move at the beginning of April. There is not expected to be any adverse impact on the meals service.