

## APPENDIX C - Revised DPA APPENDIX (Copy for RBK website)

Additional Terms agreed (e.g. data linkage activities) can be noted here.

### ACTIVITY 1: Project Summary

Free School Meals is a funding program to provide a school meal for disadvantaged children aged 5 to 16. Free School Meals provide a crucial lifeline to many low income households and improves student performance.

Pupil Premium is funding to improve the educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England. This equates to £353 p/a for 3 and 4 year olds in an educational setting, £1,480 p/a for primary age children, and £1,050 p/a for secondary age children.

A school cannot claim this additional funding unless the child has been awarded a benefits-related Free School Meal (FSM). Since the change in Free School Meal legislation in September 2014, which saw the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals (meaning parents of children ages 5 to 7 no longer have to apply for a Free School Meal) the number of pupils receiving Pupil Premium has dropped significantly. This means that some of our most deprived children no longer receive the same level of support they would have otherwise received through direct applications.

The award for Pupil Premium lasts for at least 6 academic years from the date of the FSM award - which means that this is having an impact on the funding available to raise pupil attainment far beyond the 5-7 age range.

The data required for a FSM eligibility check is:

- Benefit Claimant's surname
- Claimant's DOB
- Claimant's National Insurance number
- Claimant's Address

A letter is then sent explaining the benefits of a school meal and explaining the additional benefit of the associated Pupil Premium for the school. The letter also explains that eligibility checking for funding applies even if a child is not yet attending school because the additional Pupil Premium funding support can start at age 2 if parents/guardians choose to send their child to an early years setting, and may follow them through their educational journey.

As part of the funded campaign by the GLA, Policy in Practice will take the required datasets, do the data matching, find cases entitled to the benefits mentioned above and issue written communication to those households. The letters will be issued on behalf of Policy in Practice by CFH docmail, which is approved on relevant government frameworks, to send the letters. If relevant invitation text messages will be issued on behalf of Policy in Practice by TelSolutions, which is approved on relevant government frameworks, to send SMS messages to eligible households.

Claimants are advised that they can exercise their right to object to the use of their personal data to verify the award of Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium.

Such an approach is necessary, as the parents of children already in receipt of a Universal Infant/Primary Free School Meal are unlikely to sign up to receive something that they already get

visible benefit from.

Section 110 of the Education Act 2005 provides for the legal means to undergo this data analysis. DWP can share social security data with the Department for Education (DfE) and LAs in England and Wales, for the purpose of determining eligibility for free school meals.

Recent research from The Food Foundation shows that levels of food insecurity among households with children have more than doubled since January 22, reaching 25.8% in September 2022. Good nutrition in childhood is essential for this critical period of rapid growth and development. It lies at the heart of health and wellbeing for children and young people. Without it, health outcomes worsen as do children's life chances, as well as pressure on the NHS. Enabling families to access free meals at schools is a vital part of their health and development

Additional local authority datasets to be used (including project start and end dates, if applicable):

- School census data for the Autumn census, including identifiers for initial data matching to pull households for campaign

Third party datasets to be used:

N/a

Identifying information to be used for linkage:

Benefits datasets (Universal Credit, Council Tax Reduction, and housing benefits data) will be linked with the School Census using the parent's name, last name, address, postcode, and date of birth.