

# FOOD FOR LIFE SCOTLAND

## 2018-19

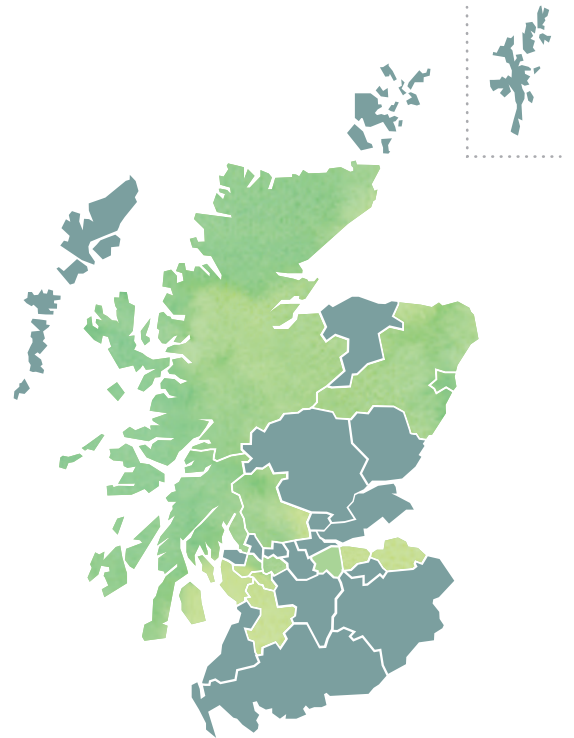
# 12 LOCAL AUTHORITY AWARD HOLDERS

**Food for Life Scotland is a flagship programme of Soil Association Scotland, funded by The Scottish Government, that supports local authorities to serve freshly prepared, locally sourced, sustainable school meals in their schools and early years settings. We certify achievement through the Food for Life Served Here award at three levels: Bronze; Silver; and Gold.**

In 2018, West Lothian Council became the latest local authority to achieve the Food for Life Served Here award for school meals. There are now 12 local authority award holders across Scotland serving up 18 million Food for Life school meals a year, putting good food on plates everywhere from busy urban centres to the rural Highlands, islands, and everything in between. We are working with 75% of Scottish local authorities at different stages of their Food for Life journey.

*"School lunches are the main source of food during the daytime for pupils, so it's important to get it right. Our previous menu was fully compliant with required nutritional standards, but the Food for Life programme has helped us go above and beyond that with a focus on locally sourced, in season ingredients, which are unprocessed and freshly prepared."*

**Matthew Baxter, West Lothian Council, Interim Facilities and Support Services Manager**



**ABERDEEN CITY  
ABERDEENSHIRE  
ARGYLL AND BUTE  
EAST AYRSKIRE  
EAST LOTHIAN  
EAST RENFREWSKIRE**

**CITY OF EDINBURGH  
HIGHLAND  
NORTH AYRSKIRE  
RENFREWSKIRE  
STIRLING  
WEST LOTHIAN**



65 NURSERIES



833 PRIMARIES



50 SECONDARIES & ASN



7 CARE HOMES



*Click to watch video:  
The West Lothian Story*

*West Lothian Council celebrate their Bronze award*

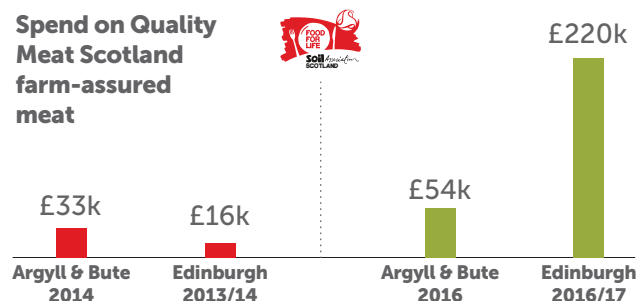




# PUTTING MORE SCOTTISH FOOD ON THE TABLE

Good food isn't just about waistlines and food miles – it also helps to support thriving local economies. Research has shown that every £1 invested by local authorities in Food for Life brings a social return on investment of £4.41. We support local authorities to make their supply chains shorter, more transparent, and more beneficial to their local economies. Working with our partners, we've taken on projects of all sizes, from delivering a huge boost in spend on Scottish meat for City of Edinburgh Council to helping pioneer local vegetable supply on the Isle of Arran with North Ayrshire Council.

## Spend on Quality Meat Scotland farm-assured meat



Under the Food for Life programme, Edinburgh and Argyll & Bute increased the proportion of spend on Scottish farm-assured meat within budget.



Floortje Brandsteder, Locavore CIC, organic weekly vegetable box supplier to East Renfrewshire schools

## 5 LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN SUPPLY CHAIN PROJECTS FACILITATED BY FOOD FOR LIFE SCOTLAND



Click to watch video: Putting More Scottish Food on the Table.

*For our part, we are enjoying working with a local business which is also a social enterprise, employing local people, run on fair principles and growing delicious organic food. We're pleased with how it's working so far.*

**Nicky Joiner, Catering Coordinator, East Renfrewshire Council**



# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF GOLD

Gargieston Primary School, East Ayrshire: pupils enjoy their Food for Life Served Here Gold meals at lunch.



East Ayrshire Council are the UK's longest-standing holders of the Food for Life Served Here Gold award, achieving the award in 2008. As hosts of the 2018 COSLA Convention, the council showcased their achievement by serving delegates a conference meal with a difference – a three-course Gold-standard school meal in the recently opened William McIlvanney School Campus in Kilmarnock. Local suppliers were invited to share their experiences of providing healthy, sustainable & local produce for the council over the past decade. The event demonstrated that with the support of Food for Life, good food can be the norm, not the exception, in Scotland's schools.



Fiona Lees, Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council, tweets about the Gold school dinner served at the COSLA convention.



**1.1 MILLION GOLD SCHOOL MEALS SERVED EACH YEAR**



Click to watch video: 10 Years of Gold

**MAKING HEALTHY EATING EASIER**



**CHAMPIONING LOCAL PRODUCERS**



**SOURCING ETHICAL & ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FOOD**



Doreen Sharp, Nether Robertland Primary School, East Ayrshire, wins the 2018 FFLSH Schools Champion award (UK-wide).

# SUPPORT & TRAINING FROM FARM TO FORK

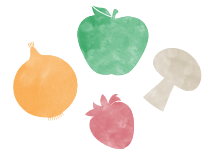
In the current climate, it may feel harder than ever for local authorities to maintain a high-quality school meals service. But Food for Life Served Here certified local authorities are consistently striving to put good food on plates daily for over 100,000 pupils across the country. That's why Food for Life Scotland provides support over the full spectrum of skills from farm to fork. From procurement and menu planning, to specialist evaluation and communications support, the team is working with local authorities to help drive change at scale.

## SPECIALIST TRAINING SESSIONS

130 catering staff attended our specialist training workshops:



*Understanding the  
Food for Life Served  
Here Standards*



*Seasonality & Food  
for Life Scotland*



*The Journey to Bronze: Inverclyde Council catering staff prepare dishes at our Seasonality & Food for Life Scotland workshop.*

## COMMUNICATING OUR PARTNERS' SUCCESS

We showcased the success of our award holders through social media, blogs, press releases, films, events, and more. Our proactive, multi-channel communications strategy aims to shine a light on the hard work of local authorities who are putting good food on the public plate, week in, week out.

## DATA ANALYSIS SUPPORT

We provided data analysis to support 9 councils with (or working towards) an award. This included calculating the proportion of Scottish spend, facilitating supply chain development, and other bespoke procurement and catering analyses to support local authorities.



*Click to watch video:  
In the Kitchen with  
Food for Life Scotland*





# REACHING THE ONE HUNDRED MILLION MILESTONE

Over 100 million Food for Life Served Here meals have been served by Scottish local authorities since the beginning of the scheme in 2008. Mairi Gougeon MSP, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, joined pupils at Corstorphine Primary School for their Christmas lunch on 12th December 2018 to serve the landmark 100 millionth meal.



*Click to watch video:  
A Recipe for a Good  
Food Nation*



*Eggs are  
free range*



*At least 75% of dishes  
freshly prepared*



*Meat that can be traced  
back to the farm*



*No unwanted  
additives*



*We want more children to enjoy healthy food in their school meals that is grown, sourced and produced in Scotland. The Food for Life Served Here programme is helping us to achieve that.*

*The programme helps us to deliver on our shared ambition with the food and drink sector, to find new market opportunities, helping to sustain and grow their businesses, whilst bolstering the local economy and improving our children's health.*

**Mairi Gougeon MSP, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment**



## CONTACT US

**Soil Association Scotland  
Osborne House  
1 Osborne Terrace  
Edinburgh, EH12 5HG**

Tel: 0131 370 8150  
Email: [contact@soilassociation.org](mailto:contact@soilassociation.org)  
Website: [www.soilassociation.org](http://www.soilassociation.org)  
Twitter: @SoilAssocScot

