

The School Food Plan Funding and Governance: the journey so far....

Phase 1: Writing the School Food Plan

Henry Dimbleby and John Vincent, co-founders of Leon Restaurants, were asked in the summer of 2012 by the then Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, to conduct a review of school food. During the review year, Henry and John gave their considerable personal time for free (and have continued to do so since the publication of the Plan in July 2013). To help them develop the Plan, they set up an [Expert Panel](#) who continued to support the implementation of the Plan below.

Phase 2: Implementing the School Food Plan

A School Food Plan office was set up in August 2013, and Myles Bremner was appointed as its Director, supported by a coordinator and communications support. Myles and his team were employed through the Leon Foundation, a registered charity (with Henry and John as Trustees).

The School Food Plan programme office was funded through charitable funding from the Sainsbury Family Trusts and the Rothschild Foundation, as well as through specific Department for Education contracts and other limited funding from Public Health England and Defra for educational activities. Brakes plc donated £31K (via the Leon Foundation) to help pay for a secondment to work on the Small Schools Taskforce. The Caterlink Charitable Foundation donated £150k over two years to fund the costs associated with setting up and running the School Food Plan's What Works Well resource and website – funding case studies, films and other important resources for schools.

Over the period July 2013 to March 2016, total government funding from the Department for Education, Defra and Public Health England to the School Food Plan office was less than £500,000. Donations from the Rothschild Foundation and the Sainsbury Charitable Trusts, charitable foundations and other Trusts totaled £520,000.

From August 2015 to March 2016, the DfE contract to run the School Food Plan office passed from the Leon Foundation direct to Myles Bremner. Myles was contracted to continue working with and supporting all those organisations who have committed to delivering the Plan's 17 actions and to plan for an appropriate handover from the implementation phase.

A School Food Plan [2014 Annual report](#) and an interactive [2015 Annual Update](#), are available on the School Food Plan's website.

Phase 3: Taking forward the vision of The School Food Plan

In April 2016, a School Food Plan Alliance was established (replacing the previous [Expert Panel](#)) to bring together leading organisations with a current involvement in school food. Independent of any government funding, the SFP Alliance will be the ongoing champions for the School Food Plan's vision and its 17 actions. Read more about the School Food Plan Alliance [here](#).