

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Action for our children's future

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Brad Pearce

LACA National Chair



LACA
the school food people

**IF NOT NOW,
WHEN?**
Action for our children's future

Friday 07 July 2023

IF NOT NOW,

WHEN?

Action for our children's future

LACA

the school food people

Round Table

- Operators, suppliers, industry influencers and activists
- To establish common ground and a collective voice on the growing pressures around the provision of the school food service
- The collective goal is that every child in the UK is served a hot and healthy meal every day of the year
- Those that provide the service and those that lobby for improvements in the service need to be promoting the same objectives
- A deep understanding of what is possible within current budgets and the cost crisis and what needs to be done to achieve the outcomes all desire.



the school food people

Who we are

- Over 1,000 Members across England and Wales with strong links to ASSIST in Scotland and Education Authority School Meals in Northern Ireland
- 300 LA's, county councils, district councils and London Boroughs
- 250 Associate members supplying in excess of £400m of food, drink, equipment and other services
- Our Members represent 27,000 schools
- Serving 3 million meals each day of the academic year
- Representing 80% of the catering service in schools
- LACA members employ in excess of 100,000 staff on the frontline



the school food people

What we do

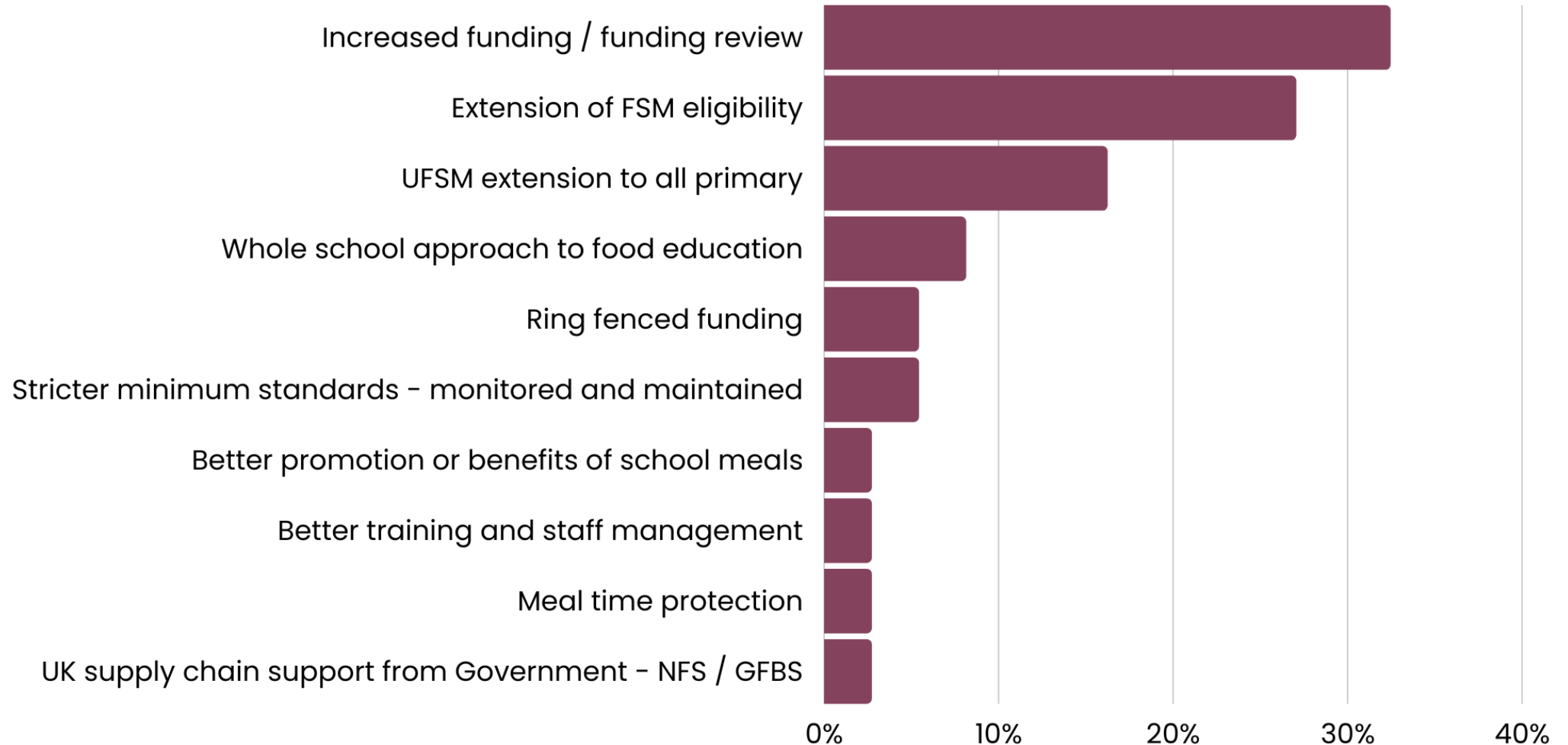
- Support Members and Associate Members in navigating the school food landscape
- First-hand links to DfE to question, lobby and call for support for schools and the school food industry
- Political campaigning with key ministers and shadow ministers
- LACA – the school food people – the voice of the school food industry

Why this is important

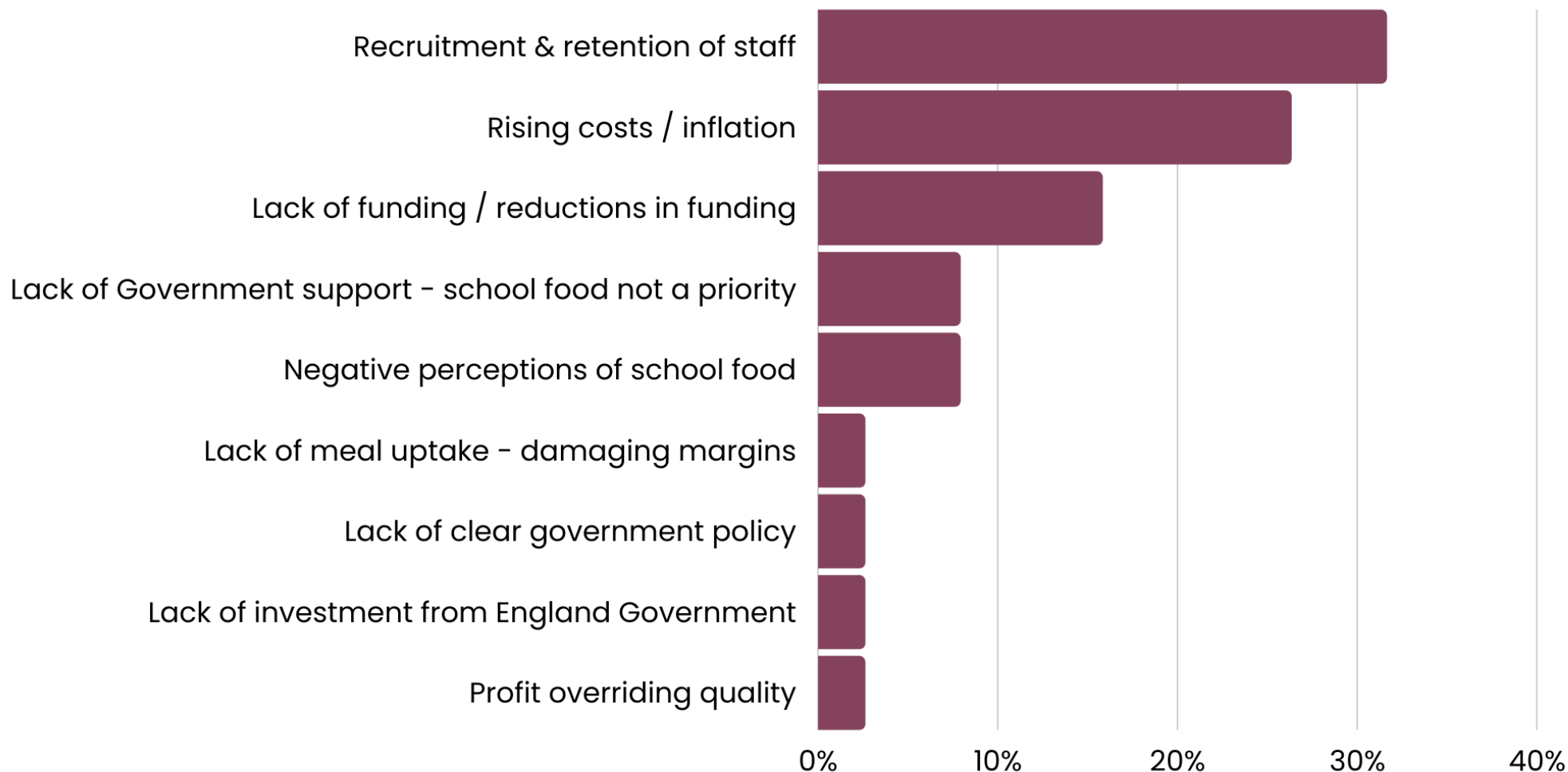
- We represent the frontline service
- Our members are at the coal-face – staffing, procuring food, ingredients and equipment, preparing and serving pupils
- Because our members are in schools every day, they feel the impacts of all the decisions and challenges first and first-hand



Wish list for the benefits of the school food sector



Barriers & challenges for the industry



What did we agree?

To protect the health and well-being of our children and young people, the Government needs to: -

1. Reform school meal funding to secure simple, identifiable and accountable streams that reach the school kitchen and are used to feed the child and young person.
2. Increase funding for UIFSM and Benefit-based FSM to address current inflationary and labour cost pressures **and** commit to ongoing annual increases adjusted for inflation
3. Extend eligibility to Benefit-based FSM to all children and young people whose families and carers are in receipt of universal credit, recognising that
 - schools will require support to upgrade kitchen infrastructure for ambient, cold and frozen storage, preparation, production and resource
4. Make school meals a priority by committing to comprehensively reforming the school food system, which supports schools and caterers to adopt a whole school approach to school food including delivering the very best possible school meals to all children & young people

What are we saying?

Our ultimate mission is that all children and young people receive a free, freshly prepared, great tasting hot school meal made from seasonal and sustainable produce and products, which creates both consistency across all communities and community wealth.

IF NOT NOW,

WHEN?

Action for our children's future

LACA

Signed supporters



LACA Partner Support



The Mission is available on the LACA website at: -
[FINAL Mission 13 03 2023-1.pdf \(laca.co.uk\)](#)

Funding from September 2023

Benefit-based FSM

- Increased by **just 2.1%** to £480 / annum from September 2023
- Primary, secondary & special
- $£480 \div 190 \text{ school days} =$
£2.53 per meal

UIFSM

- Increased by **just 4.9%** from September 2023
- 12 pence per meal
- Reception, Year 1 & Year 2
- **£2.53 per meal**



the school food people

UK Funding allocations

SCOTLAND

UNIVERSAL
PRIMARY FREE
SCHOOL MEAL

£3.30

WALES

UNIVERSAL
PRIMARY FREE
SCHOOL MEAL

£2.90

NORTHERN

IRELAND

PRIMARY FREE
SCHOOL MEAL

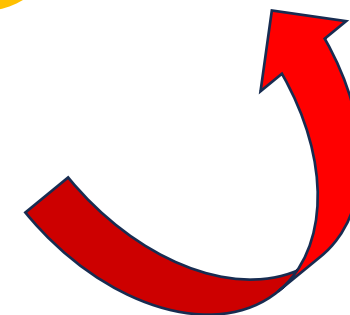
£2.60

ENGLAND

UIFSM

£2.53

THE SUMS DON'T ADD UP!



Join us on our next
campaign – this
Autumn

Continue to: -

#MakeADifference
#EveryChildEveryTime
#IfNotNowWhen?



**IF NOT NOW,
WHEN?**

Action for our children's future

LACA

the school food people

**IF NOT NOW,
WHEN?**

Action for our children's future