

For immediate release

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Sodexo signs up for Public Health Responsibility Deal

Sodexo, a leading provider of food services, is pleased to announce that it has signed up to the Department of Health's Public Health Responsibility Deal, launched today, Tuesday 15 March 2011.

The Responsibility Deal is a new mechanism to take forward some aspects of work to improve public health outcomes, and covers food, physical activity, alcohol, and health in the workplace. It compliments the development of the Government's policy on improving public health.

Food is at the core of what Sodexo is all about. It provides more than one million meals every day in the UK and Ireland for school children, soldiers, hospital patients, employees, older people or visitors attending events.

Sodexo plays a key role in creating an environment that supports and encourages people from all corners to make informed, balanced choices that will enable them to live healthier lives and was an early adopter of calorie labelling with the Food Standards Agency's pilot in 2009/10. Sodexo also is working with its suppliers to reduce levels of salt, sugar, fat, saturated fat and eliminating trans fats in products and recipes.

Whilst Sodexo has been a committed member from the outset of the Food Network, Sodexo can announce today that it has extended its commitment by signing up to a range of additional pledges such as Physical Activity and Health At Work.

Contributing to the social, economic and environmental development of communities and improving quality of daily life is part of Sodexo's wider ambitious sustainability strategy to 2020, the Better Tomorrow Plan, which sets out three pillars and 14 commitments for the whole of Sodexo Group across 80 countries and around 34,000 sites. One of the three priorities of Sodexo's Better Tomorrow Plan is nutrition, health and wellness.

Sodexo led the way in the industry by launching Healthwise in 1985 - its nutrition, wellbeing and lifestyle philosophy. It made the decision that customers' wellbeing should be at the centre of its business and committed to raising awareness of nutrition and the benefits of a healthy, balanced diet.

In summer 2009, Sodexo launched Nutrition Champions across the business who are specially trained to assist in cascading nutrition and Healthwise messages and promotions.

Aidan Connolly, Chief Executive of Sodexo UK & Ireland, said: “For over 25 years, Sodexo has been at the forefront of promoting health, good nutrition and wellbeing to its customers in the UK and around the world. Our pledge today to the Department of Health’s Public Health Responsibility Deal takes this commitment to the next stage and reflects the holistic nature of our focus on improving outcomes around quality of daily life. We see our commitment to physical activity and health at work to be just as important to this as our commitment to improved nutrition, and we will be making further announcements on how we will be delivering on this in the coming months.”

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