

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #27

Date: Tuesday 7th February 2017

Venue: Teleconference via. FSA NI, **safefood** Dublin & **safefood** Cork

Time: 1400hrs – 1535hrs

In Attendance

Ian McClure (IMC)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DoH)
Bertrand Maitre (BM)	Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)
Jennifer Feighan (JF)	CEO at Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute (INDI)
Clíodhna Foley-Nolan (CFN) (Chair)	Director of Human Health & Nutrition, safefood
Marian (Faughnan) O'Reilly (MO'R)	Chief Specialist in Nutrition safefood
Tracey Thompson (TT)	Executive Assistant, safefood
Caroline Mooney (CM)	Consumer Council NI (CCNI)
Claire Wright (CW)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DoH)
James Elliot (JaE)	Department for Communities NI (DfC)
Julie McKinstry-Harvey (JMCKH)	Standards & Dietary Health Team, Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Sharon Gilmore (SG)	Standards & Dietary Health Team, Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Anne-Marie Chambers (AMC)	Standards & Dietary Health Team, Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Margaret O'Neill (MO'N)	Health Service Executive (HSE)
Tracey Colgan (TC)	Public Health Agency (PHA)
Judith Evans (JE)	Causeway Coast and Glens Council
Ursula O'Dwyer (UO'D)	Department of Health, ROI
Georgina Buffini (GB)	Irish Heart Foundation, ROI

Apologies

Sharon Polson	Department for Communities NI (DfC)
Elizabeth Mitchell	Director of Development & Capacity Building IPH, BFN
Deirdre Bodkin	Dept. of Social Protection ROI
Colette Rogers	Public Health Agency (PHA)
Gary McFarlane	Director Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Northern Ireland
Claire Holmes	
Meabh Austin	Council for the Homeless NI
Sharron Russell	Department for Communities NI (DfC)
Naomi Davidson	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI

1. Welcome and apologies

CFN opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Apologies were noted. New members were introduced and welcomed.

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2. Minutes from the last meeting (13th Sept).

CFN asked if there were any changes needed to the previous minutes. If anyone had any changes they need to contact Tracey before the end of the week.

3. Matters arising

safefood (MO'R)

- a) **CFI programme: safefood** is in the process of completing the end of year review and will circulate to group when available.
- b) **Food Basket Research:** Discussions to take place with FSA NI & CCNI regarding the frequency of this research going forward. Input from FPN is welcomed.

4. Updates from member organisations

- a) **FSA NI (SG)** – FSA is working on a Food Product Improvement System in line with Public Health England and whilst not directly associated with Food Poverty, it involves looking at mainstream products being purchased within NI - it is at planning stage. Calorie Wise: FSA have been involved in industry engagement through district councils with small and medium catering businesses by attending various events and undertaking workshops to promote the tool to food businesses to assist them to manage allergens and identify the calories for their menus. Based on industry feedback FSA is developing a government approved award scheme to promote the display of calories on menus. JC is the FSA lead for Dept. of Education's review of nutritional standards for school catering.
- b) **Public Health Agency (TC)** –A key project is the FareShare project (a food redistribution programme) which is currently under review. The monies being generated through this programme are being used to fund initiatives such as community food kitchens etc. In addition work is being carried out on physical activities agenda which includes community allotments and green gyms. There are a lot of food poverty projects that the PHA is involved in that are being carried out with local communities and councils.
- c) **Causeway Coast and Glens Council (JE)** – Approximately 33 EHOs are receiving refresher training to support their work in the implementation of MenuCal. **Action 1:** JE requested MO'N share the link to the *Tallaght Health and Wellbeing Week* with members. JE advised they were hoping to link in with FareShare to establish if there was an opportunity support their operation.
- d) **Dept. of Health NI (IMcC)** - there was little movement due to the pre-election period and the Obesity Prevention Framework (A Fitter Future for All) progress report for the June 2015-June 2016 has been delayed. Work on the food security questions continues and will be included in the field for the next Health Survey for NI (HSNI). There is currently 3 years of food security data available through HSNI. Results from the 2016/17 survey are anticipated for release in Oct/Nov 2017.
- e) **Dept. for Communities (JE)** - Following the publication of the Evason Welfare Reform Mitigation Report it was noted that there was a recommendation to carry out a feasibility study in relation to the introduction of Social Supermarkets. The tender was awarded and the scope for the pilot is due to be finalised. Included in the terms of reference will be healthy eating.

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- f) **Consumer Council NI (CM)** - there were no concrete projects in progress at the time of the meeting due to CCNI being out for consultation on its 2017/18 work plan. However, pre-consultation has shown a drive for practical information and tools for consumers to help develop skills and empower themselves. CCNI expressed a wish to be involved in discussions around the next steps of the Healthy Food Basket. **Action 2:** MO'R agreed to circulate links to the practical tools and messaging for review by all agencies concerned.
- g) **Dept. of Health ROI (UO'D)** – to support the Obesity Policy & Action Plan a fund of €5m is being made available specifically targeting community actions in reduce food poverty in low income families. The launch of the revised food pyramid took place with 26 key supporting resources in December 2016. DOH is planning to look at a weight loss resource and guidelines for 1-5 year olds next. In relation to calories on menus, the bills are being prepared at the moment with a view to this become legislation. Other work being undertaken is Food Product Improvement which is an EU wide initiative which looks at foods with added sugars and focuses on sugar sweetened drinks, breakfast cereals and dairy products in particular yoghurt. The DOH is also working on the development of a code of practice for the marketing, retail promotion and sponsorship of high fat and sugar foods and looking at restricting these – this is currently being finalised. It was noted that this is the first code in the world that will look at sponsorship of this kind.
- h) **HSE (MO'N)** - there is now a programme called Healthy Eating and Active Living headed up by Sarah O'Brien which will ensure that all the deliverables in the area of obesity, healthy eating & physical activities are met, right across all the areas of work. Other programmes are community cooking programmes such as "Cook It" & "Healthy Food Made Easy" and also the "Smart Start" pre-school programme targeting disadvantaged areas. Focus Ireland are conducting a research piece of work which looks at the food and nutrition in emergency accommodation. Members of the FPN were invited to identify other agencies to whom membership of the FPN could be extended.
- i) **Irish Heart Foundation (GB)** - IHF was working on the development of three CFI projects in the Republic called Community Heart Projects with a focus on both food poverty and cardiovascular health in low income communities.
- j) **ESRI (BM)** - the CSO had recently published the most up to date figures on poverty, deprivation and social exclusion which showed the measure of deprivation had dropped by 4-5%. Other findings were that figures for two of the three of the food items used for the measure of food poverty have fallen between 2014 & 2015. Further analysis was needed and the report would be made available as soon as this had been completed.
- k) **Safefood (MO'R)** – the report for the first year of the CFI programme will be published shortly. The previous 3 year CFI programme report is due to be published also. The 3 year childhood obesity campaign ended in 2016 and **safefood** is aiming to launch a new initiative September 17. Feedback received around the action plans for 2017 has been around ways to promote the work being done by the Food Poverty Network. A newsletter

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is something for consideration and a draft proposal will be tabled with all interested parties.

5. Network Action Plan 2-16/2017

- a) **Northern Ireland Food Poverty Network Action Plan** - TC suggested MO'R contacting Catherine Bloomfield in the PHA to discuss dissemination of available resources such as **safefood** "Cook It" videos etc. JE suggested updating the survey questions as it was important to measure food security and food poverty. JE suggested contacting Sinead Furey. CFN proposed that the survey be equivalent or comparable to the data collected in ROI. Department of Social Protection should also be involved in this review. CFN suggested, JE, Sinead Fury & BM discuss this further. BM asked if Sinead could send on a document for the survey to review beforehand. MO'R informed the members that she would be bringing the NI FPN Action Plan to the Regional Obesity Prevention Implementation Group (ROPIG) to share it with them.
- b) **Rep. of Ireland Food Poverty Network Action Plan** - **Action 3**: MO'N to provide information around contacts for new members for the Food Poverty Network. **Action 4**: MO'R to contact Jim Walsh/Deirdre regarding representation at the FPN meetings. Social indicator.

6. Proposed Topic for 2017 Workshop

MO'R suggested the following for workshop topics: Benefits of social supermarkets, peer lead programmes, and engagement of local authorities. It was also agreed that it would be greatly beneficial if there scope for a workshop in both ROI and NI.

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 25th April (location TBC)

Chair: Sharon Gilmore