

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #28

Date: Tuesday 25th April 2017

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

Time: 1330hrs – 1500hrs

In Attendance

Sharon Gilmore (Chair) (SG)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Cliodhna Foley-Nolan (CFN)	safefood
Marian O'Reilly (MO'R)	safefood
Joanna da Silva (JdS)	safefood
Katherine Reilly (KR)	Irish Heart, ROI
Georgina Buffini (GB)	Irish Heart, ROI
Michael McDonagh (MMcD)	CrossCare Ireland
Ronan Harney (RH)	Department for Social Protection, ROI
Beth Getty	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Naomi Davidson (ND)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Ian McClure (IMC)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DoH)
Claire Wright (CW)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DoH)
Sarah Perry (SPe)	Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke
Caroline Mooney (CM)	Consumer Council NI (CCNI)
Maria McCrystal (MMcC)	Causeway Coast and Glens Council
Tracey Thompson (TT)	safefood
Sharon Polson (SPo)	Department for Communities NI (DfC)
Tracey Colgan (TC)	Health & Social Care NI
Ursula	DoH ROI

Apologies

Bertrand Maitre (BM)	The Economic and Social Research Institute
Gary McFarlane (GMcF)	The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Northern Ireland
Claire Holmes (CH)	British Dietetic Association - NI
Meabh Austin (MA)	Council for the Homeless NI
Julie McKinstry-Harvey (JMH)	Food Standards Agency
Margaret O'Neill (MO'N)	Health Services Executive

1. Welcome and apologies

SG opening the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Apologies were noted. New members were introduced and welcomed.

2. Minutes from the last meeting (7th Feb).

SG thanked all and in particular CW for feedback on previous minutes. Reviewed actions from previous meeting. It was unclear whether the link to the *Tallaght Health and Wellbeing Week (as per Action 1 of minutes of previous meeting)* had been shared with FPN members – MO'N to confirm at next meeting.

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3. Matters arising from previous meeting

Ian referenced action #5 of minutes from previous meeting and asked if Sinead Fury was to be contacted in reference to becoming a member of the network. **Action 1:** SG would follow up with Sinead and discuss the possibility of a review of the food poverty indicators. CFN asked consideration be given to justification for any changes to the agreed food/fuel poverty indicators.

SG referenced the Draft Version of the Food Poverty Briefing Paper and requested that this be signed off and "draft" removed. **Action 2:** MO'R to add input on Food Poverty Indicators to briefing paper & JdS to then circulate to all network members for review and sign off.

4. Updates from member organisations

5. **Department of Health (CW)** – "Better future for all" progress report was published online containing Food Poverty Outcome. There is now work being done on the June 16 – June 17 report which is expected to be published around end October 17. There was a meeting of department officials on 10th February and that group links in "Making life better" with the "draft PFG" and looks at health and equality.

Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke (SP) – Health & Homeless service, over the last number of years, have delivered a large number very successful "cook it" programmes. On the basis of this there have been a large number of requests from service users for various things that they could feed into themselves through the recipe books. Out of that three recipe books were developed allowing for one-off cooking events which linked into hand and cooking hygiene. The three resources developed were a Mediterranean recipes, Store Cupboard Cookery and Cook Healthy Stuff. Work is progressing to have these resources made available online.

Consumer Council (CM) – There is a lot of work being done on a large outreach programme in 2017 with all 11 councils covering 18 NI constituents. One of the bigger programmes being the "Tea and Teach" sessions. This is a drop in session providing information on all the different work streams that the Consumer Council is involved with. The Consumer Council will also be carrying out a lot more work with community and voluntary organisations. One of the major pieces of work though is to train the advisors. The aim is to teach the advisors who will in turn teach their service users about the various streams of work the consumer council is involved in including food poverty and the presentations will include sign posting to other specialist organisations. This programme will be focusing on mainly health visitors, occupational health, parent and organisations, assisted living, carers etc. There are plans to do leaflets focusing on matters such as unit pricing, food related activities that can be included as part of the outreach programmes and social media work (Facebook and Twitter). A meeting took place the week prior to this meeting around the Healthy Food Basket with discussion on the best way to take this forward and media activities around a focus on the "summer hunger" were suggested for the summer months followed on by a focus on with a pre-winter campaign with a focus on a different family profile with a message around the "heat or eat" scenarios. This programme would involve the three organisations involved in the Food Basket research. **Action 3:** CM to arrange a meeting between the three agencies.

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District Councils -Causeway Coast and Glens Council (MMcC) – The 11 District Councils are planning on launching the “Calorie Wise” programme in partnership with FSA (NI) across small to medium sized businesses over the coming months. MMcC noted the Health and Well Being Sub Group were considering engaging with Fare share to help raise and target food poverty but due to restructuring this hadn’t happened at the time of the meeting.

Department for Communities NI (SPo) – Toward the end of February 2017 the final report based on the feasibility study for the introduction of Social Supermarkets was received. The recommendations within that report showed that there was interest and potential to look the Social Supermarkets in NI as a potential pathway as potential food banks or a wraparound for other support services. Access criteria and sustainability was a recommendation. There will be further market testing in 2017/18 of the Social Supermarkets, moving to a number of pilot initiatives to further test the concept and take the concept forward with some of the key stakeholders.

Irish Heart (GB & KR) – Based on the three projects being developed, there will be community health days which will be used a launch platforms to generate further interest and raise awareness. A campaign has been launched to highlight how companies are using their branding to target children through digital marketing and social media. Irish Heart currently has an ongoing petition with 30,000 signatures in support of their campaign and ultimately the goal of this to call for further regulation of digital marketing. Irish Heart are also currently looking at how school education can be used to further educate in children’s health. Community Food Initiatives programmes are also being considered for further development.

Department of Health ROI & HSE (UO’D) – The mechanism for the launch of the community action fund of €5m through Healthy Ireland is still under developed. The HSE held a meeting around school food and nutrition standards which was attended by a number of organisations. The objective of the meeting was to update the nutritional guidelines for school foods in primary schools. The HSE is putting together a scoping paper for this. HSE will also be working on media cover in line with the Food Basket Research with the objective of bringing information to the public that eating nutritional food isn’t necessarily expensive. HSE are also involved in funding research of food and nutrition in emergency accommodation.

CrossCare Ireland (MMcD) – Work currently being undertaken by CrossCare which covers 3 main categories namely, “young people”, “homeless” & “community/food services”. There are currently 6 community food banks across the east coast of Ireland with a request for an additional 14. There are also community cafes in areas where there is social poverty. These cafes are based on a social enterprise model. One of the largest food banks based in Lagan road services over 95 different services across Ireland. CrossCare is also trying to develop new work with DEIS schools and focusing on “holiday hunger” and working with local community groups and schools to mobilise the food banks to provide food in those areas. CrossCare are also working with FOCUS to provide care packages for the homeless families being accommodated in hotels.

Department for Social Protection (RH) – Since August ‘16 DSP spent ±€200K on the central procurement of food and had begun to successfully test pilot the distribution of food

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to 10 national partners to 17K people accessed. In November '16 the programme was opened up nationally and by the end Dec '16 there were 94 national organisations collecting food from 3 depots around Ireland. The 2016 report of the programme shows that ±€2M was spent on the procurement of food which was distributed to 54,600 people accessed of which there were 24K children in receipt of food assistance. 2017 will see a spend of €3.5M on food. The next steps for the programme are to look at the non-food and basis material assistance. The third pillar of the fund will look at the wrap around services such as social enterprise supermarkets.

safefood (MO'R) – **safefood** is currently funding community food initiative which is being run by SECAD who are currently in their second year of the programme. The evaluation of the last programme will be published shortly and will be shared with the FPN as soon as it is available. The evaluation of the Childhood Obesity Programme is in its final stages and a planning day is due to take place in May with the HSE and Public Health Agency to determine how best to integrate the outcomes from the campaign in the **safefood** services in a more strategic way. The new Folic Acid campaign will be launched in the next few months. With regard to the outcomes from the Food Basket NI Research, **safefood** will be linking with the FSA (NI) and Consumer Council NI to mirror the approach of an online campaign planned for NI and make it specific to the ROI.

FSA (NI) (SG) – The Food Product Improvement programme is being progressed, this work encourage small and mediums sized businesses to provide healthier choices to make the healthy choice the easy choice. This is being encouraged through reformulation of products, providing smaller portions or shifting their product portfolios. This programme of work complements the Public Health England Childhood Obesity Sugar Reduction plan that is being undertaken with UK multinational organisations. Programme is being progressed in partnership with knowledge providers and InvestNI. A board paper was presented and approved by the FSA UK Board and they have given their endorsement for this programme of work.

The Economic and Social Research Institute (BM) – MO'R provided an update for the ESRI on behalf of BM in his absence. Based on the SILC 2015 report published a few months ago, the food poverty rate fell from 13.1% in 2014 to 11.5% in 2015, mirroring the general improvement of the economy over the recent period.

6. Network Action Plan 2-16/2017

- a) **Northern Ireland Food Poverty Network Action Plan** – SPo advised that the Social Supermarket briefing paper for the model was being prepared but no timelines were available at this time.
CFI Programme NI - **Action 4:** MO'R to publish short summary of Community Food Initiative Programme on completion of review of previous programme.
- b) **Rep. of Ireland Food Poverty Network Action Plan** –
CFI programme ROI - **safefood** will to support CFI programmes through 101 square meals. BM of ESRI had provided updated figures by email on food poverty rates (as recorded above) and RH would provide the latest results on behalf of the Department for Social Protection.
Action 5: RH to forward the 2015 Food Poverty results to TT to circulate to FPN members.

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7. 2017 Workshop

SG confirmed that the 2017 workshop would be a joint NI & ROI effort. The 2017 workshop is due to be held on the 27th September in Dublin in a venue to be confirmed.

8. Food Poverty Newsletter

safefood JdS to head up FPN Newsletter Editorial Group. JdS requested other FPN members join the editorial group. **Action 6:** TT send email to all FPN members for volunteers to join the Editorial Group.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting is to be held on the 27th September, time and venue to be confirmed.