

## Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #32

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Date: Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
 Venue: NICVA Centre, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast  
 Time: 11:30am – 13:00pm

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### **In Attendance**

Clíodhna Foley-Nolan (CFN) <b>Chair</b>	<b>safefood</b>
Marian O'Reilly (MO'R)	<b>safefood</b>
Joana da Silva (JdS)	<b>safefood</b>
Ray Dolan	<b>Safefood</b>
Claire Holmes (CH)	British Dietetic Association (BDA)- NI
Sinead Conroy (SC)	SECAD
Sarah Perry (SP)	NI Chest Heart and Stroke Fundraising
Alexis Bloomfield (AB)	Causeway Coast & Glens
Sharon Gilmore (SG)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Ian McClure (IMcC)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DOH) NI
Fionnuala Close (FC)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Emily Chan (EC)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI

### **Apologies**

Tracey Thompson (TT)	<b>safefood</b>
Tracey Colgan	
Fidelma Carter	NI Chest Heart and Stroke Fundraising
Claire Wright	Health Development Policy Branch, (DOH) NI
Janis Morrissey	Irish Heart
Gary McFarlane	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Ursula O'Dwyer (UO'D)	DOH ROI
Bertrand Maitre (BM)	ESRI (ROI)

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

New members were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies were noted accordingly.

### **2. 2018 Workshop - feedback and discussion**

CFN asked the group for their thoughts on the workshop? MOR advised she thought it was interesting in terms of the Social Supermarkets that the NI were a lot further ahead in regard to gathering evidence. A discussion took place on the difference between the NI & ROI models for Food Banks - the NI model is more institutionalised compared to ROI which is relying on charity and heavily dependent on fundraising to set up these organisations. CFN stated she believed NGOs such as Crosscare did also have access to government grants. JDS advised she believed that there was also access to funding through schemes from Europe as well as fundraising. In NI FareShare were the distributors for food for food banks and MOR queried the nutritional quality of food provided. SG advised that according to FareShare's evaluation, the NI model appeared different to the Great Britain model in so far as FareShare NI had a bigger storage facility and the organisations relying on this service would be aware of what fruit and veg was coming to them so which enabled them to plan better and healthier

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options. CFN mentioned that there was a facility called Food Cloud in the ROI which appeared to be based on the FareShare model. CFN stated that it was clear that we don't have a full picture of the situation and that Michael's point during his presentation was that homework needs to be done and the right decision makers need to be in place. JDS advised that the CrossCare report was in the process of being finalised and would be available shortly.

JDS confirmed to the meeting that the 5 presentations from the Workshop would be shared with the network members following the meeting today.

CFN asked the network for ideas for the next workshop. SG said that there were a number of challenges from the themes today and there were a couple of key areas with the potential for joint research or possibly something that could be done as a Network. CFN suggested a follow up teleconference call. IMcC advised that the University of Ulster were doing something around mapping of fuel poverty and that there was the potential to map food poverty using the same methodology. IMcC suggested inviting Sinead Fury back onto the network.

**ACTION 1:** JDS to circulate 5 presentations to Network members.

**ACTION 2:** **safefood** and FSA NI to arrange teleconference call to discuss next steps.

### 3. Minutes from last meeting

A request to have a "typo" corrected on item 4. Updates from the Department of Health NI & Department of Health ROI "...progress report on 2016-17 not available on line." Which should read "now".

The issue of BREXIT being added to the agenda for future meetings was discussed and it was agreed that related papers would be collated and circulated and BREXIT would be added to future agendas for discussion.

**Action 2:** TT to make correction to minutes of previous meeting

**Action 3:** **safefood** and **FSA** will compile BREXIT papers for circulation

### 4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

### 5. Updates from Dept. of Health NI & Dept. of Health ROI

Updates from UOD of DOH ROI were received just prior to the meeting and would be reviewed. IMcC informed the meeting that the DoH met to review the 50 Fitter Future for All outcomes, one of which was the Food Poverty Outcome which will be shared with all the key stakeholders. The food poverty indicator subgroup had also met twice. In relation to the sugar tax there was a government meeting in August and there is no appropriate mechanism to ring fence the monies from the sugar tax, it meant the money would go into all the departments base lines for the current year and it was hoped that in the future there would be other ways of using the money in more innovative ways but because it was a new process it may take a bit of time to set up.

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CFN read the updates on behalf of UO'D (DoH).

- The DoH (ROI) are recommending a cross departmental support for the extension of HSE nutrition and cooking programmes for social disadvantaged groups.
- The DOH are exploring a novel pilot initiative aimed at the same target group which is in the early stages. CFN explained it was based on a social inequalities workshop that focused on an EU example in Amsterdam where there was an effort at multiple levels to decrease childhood obesity. CFN was happy to circulate.
- Item 3 - One action receiving funding from the Healthy Ireland funding is Cork Food Policy Food Strategy initiative which includes a nutrition food poverty focus for 2017/2018 which is through the Cork City and County local authorities and includes things such as resources mapping of the food environment, community food gardens, some supermarkets, takeaways and fast food outlets, food banks and free meal sites.
- Item 4 - the warmth and wellbeing scheme another multi agency approach to support vulnerable people living with chronic respiratory conditions.
- Item 5 - DOH was continuing to develop the 1-5 year old healthy eating guidelines. a draft is due in early 2019 draft. The Food Reformulation work that is being done.
- Item 6 - Working on scoping out the Nutrition Policy Document with the Institute of Public Health which will include a focus on the disadvantaged groups in that nutrition policy.

**Action 4:** CFN to share the pilot project in Amsterdam

### 6. Updates on Network Action Plan 2018

(a) Northern Ireland member's Action Plan 18

Actions that were due since the previous meeting were reviewed and marked as completed where relevant. Item 15 - Secondary Analysis of Food and You - Food Poverty and Healthy Eating (an action from the FSA) was completed and is available on the website. It was noted that the Holiday Hunger Project in NI had not been available to attend any meetings to provide an update. FC advised she would enquire about an update for the next meeting. JDS informed the meeting that the action to publish the Newsletter twice a year was on target with the first newsletter having been published in May 2018 and the second one will be published at the end of September beginning of October. IMcC enquired about the distribution of the newsletter and JDS advised that at that time it was being circulated to 147 subscribers however it was being promoted at all relevant events. CFN asked the members to offer ideas to increase circulation. JDS also asked if anyone came across any articles that would be relevant to the content of the newsletter to please forward them to the team.

(b) ROI member's Action Plan 18

JDS advised that there were a number of items due since the last meeting. Irish Heart were not available to attend the meeting to offer an update but JDS informed the meeting that she believed the School Research on Food was postponed to January 2019.

(c) Working groups

CFN enquired about the two subgroups, one being the Food poverty indicator group and the community subgroup. JDS advised that three calls had been made for the Community Subgroup and was still awaiting responses. FC offered an update on the Food Poverty

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Indicators Group and advised that a second meeting had taken place and it was established that the current health survey data are the same as ROI but analysed differently so there is a bit of work needed before progressing. NISRA will enquire about obtaining the index from the ROI. Once this has been obtained there is a body of work that needs to be carried out to reanalyse existing data in an attempt to align NI and ROI results which is hoped will be the results with the use of the index. If this proves successful, it is hoped that data as far back as 2015 can be realised to see how this changes the results. FC spoke to the Food Foundation to establish what they are doing. A bill is going through Westminster and it will ask parliament to put in place a robust method of collecting data regarding food poverty with proposed methods included in the proposal. CFN enquired if it was necessary for NISRA to do the analysis of the data if there was a concern around resources? FC advised the data belonged to NISRA however Ulster University were going a secondary analysis of the existing data which was due out in January 2019. JDS stated that the last set of data was published in summer and it related to 2016 and was now sitting at 9%. JDS advised the meeting she would share the Social Inclusion report.

**ACTION 5:** JDS to share the Social Inclusion report with the FPN.

### 7. Food Poverty Newsletter

JDS asked the members of the network to get in touch with the editorial group if there is any feedback, content or ideas they wish to share or to have published in the newsletter, it would be welcomed. JDS also asked if the newsletter could be shared with colleagues to help with its' promotion.

### 8. AOB

#### a. Children's Future Food Inquiry

FC informed the meeting that the "Children's Future Food Inquiry" is being lead by the Food Foundation. She became aware of the initiative in June 18 when she was invited to attend a meeting at Children NI's offices and it was explained that the purpose of this inquiry was that they wanted to hear directly from people who worked with young children & young people to gather evidence of children's experiences with food and how it affects their lives. The initial inquiry will focus initially on children who are disadvantaged and will cover England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland and is being fed into a cross party/parliamentary group. They are looking for submissions to an evidence portal which went live on the 16<sup>th</sup> July that provide experiences, evidence or real life case studies which they would like to share with inquiry. The submissions can come from children, teachers, health care professionals, parents, older siblings, carers or anyone at all who has known or observed children who don't have access to nutritious diets. There is no indication of when the evidence portal closes but it is currently live. . CFN informed that in the ROI there had been two governmental committees who had looked at childhood obesity (Dept. Education and Dept. of Children) with a big focus on the disadvantaged. **safefood** was asked for written and oral submissions, one of which is still ongoing. CFN asked if this could be sent on to her and she would share it with the partners from these two departments.

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**ACTION 6:** FC to send on details of the Children's Future Food Inquiry to CFN

### 9. Date of next meeting

A doodle poll with dates will be circulated to the network members and a date will be confirmed by diary notice.