

## Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #29

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Date: Wednesday, September 27th 2017

Venue: Fatima Centre, 3 Reuben Plaza, Rialto, Dublin 8

Time: 1:15pm – 2:45pm

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### **In Attendance**

Sharon Gilmore (Chair) (SG)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Joanne Casey (JC)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Marian O'Reilly (MO'R)	<b>safefood</b>
Joana da Silva (JdS)	<b>safefood</b>
Michael McDonagh (MMcD)	CrossCare Ireland
Ian McClure (IMC)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DoH)
Claire Wright (CW)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DoH)
Ursula O'Dwyer (UO'D)	DoH ROI
Claire Holmes (CH)	British Dietetic Association - NI
Lindsay Graham (LG)	Freelance child food poverty advisor
Sarah Noone (SN)	Dietitian, Irish Heart

### **Apologies**

Gary McFarlane	Chartered Inst. Of Environmental Health (NI)
Dervla Kearney	Consumer Council NI
Caroline Mooney	Consumer Council NI
St. Bernadette	Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice
Sharon Polson	Department for Communities NI
Bertrand Maitre	ESRI (ROI)
Sarah Perry	Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke
Tracey Colgan	Public Health Agency NI

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

SG opening the meeting and welcomed all attendees and apologies were noted. SG highlighted the proposed new structure of the FPN meetings, suggesting written updates not be discussed at the meeting unless members request to do so. The network would maintain the verbal updates from the 2 Departments of Health. A video conference before Christmas was also offered to members if they felt the need for any other topics to be discussed in more detail.

### **2. 2017 Workshop - feedback and discussion**

It was agreed that the workshop held on the 27<sup>th</sup> September in the Fatima Centre was very informative. CH enquired about access to the "Trends in Food Pricing" presentation given by Sinead O'Brien of Kantar, JdS advised she would circulate it to all members in the coming weeks.

SG informed the group that FSA (NI) will shortly be in receipt of a report from Kantar with NI data and will be happy to share it with the FPN members. Based on the ROI report there may be similar data for NI which could allow comparisons be conducted on an all-Ireland

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basis. It was noted from the data that there is a stark and noticeable increase in the volume of sugar and sugar related products purchased.

JC mentioned that two things came to mind as a result of the conference; firstly "mapping holiday hunger" projects - as there are currently a number of different pockets of work ongoing around this, could there be a piece of work to be done in this area? Secondly; what else could be done to dispel the notion that "healthy eating is not expensive"? LG advised that a copy of the questions used in the mapping was available and offered to share the list with the FPN members. A social media campaign was then also conducted which was based on a very simple tick box survey.

**Action 1:** JdS to circulate "Trends in Food Pricing" presentation by Sinead O'Brien to all members and the conference attendees

**Action 2:** SG to forward Kantar NI Data report to TT for circulation to FPN members

### 3. Minutes from the last meeting (25<sup>th</sup> April)

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

### 4. Matters arising from previous meeting

MO'R informed the meeting that the CFI Evaluation Programme 2012 - 2015 which was also circulated to all FPN members, is now available to view on the **safefood** website.

FPN Briefing paper - JdS informed the meeting that the original plan was to have an annual Briefing paper to capture the activities of the partners. SG suggested September 2016 be the date used as the sign off date of the original Briefing Paper.

**Action 3:** JdS - remove "Draft" from the document and to share with all members.

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

#### Department of Health NI – IMC

In addition to the written updates provided and circulated prior to the meeting, IMC discussed the structure of the Sugar Levy in NI and how this may be ring-fenced, some will be invested in Diabetes prevention and care. UO'D mentioned that it wouldn't be possible for ROI to re-channel funds from the Sugar Tax into Health.

#### Department of Health ROI – UO'D

A new policy and implementation group will be meeting in Oct 17. From this it is hoped that there will be two new groups set up, one being a nutrition group that will further develop the "Food for Life and Healthy Eating Guidelines" for the 1-5 year old population. It is hoped that this piece of work will be completed by the end of 2018. The other group will be working on food reformulation.

The HSE has appointed a dietitian to develop a "Hospital Food Nutrition Policy", some of the policy will be developed from the standards developed for catering in healthcare facilities in Northern Ireland.

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### 6. Network Action Plans 2017

Northern Ireland plan was reviewed and all actions are completed/on track. Members will be invited to contribute to new plans to be developed for 2018.

#### Action 4:

- a) Northern Ireland Food Poverty Network Action Plan – Reviewed 2017 plan. Plan for 2018 to be developed prior to next meeting
- b) Rep. of Ireland Food Poverty Network Action Plan – Plan for 2018 to be developed prior to next meeting

### 7. Food Poverty Newsletter

The content was approved by the editorial group (**safefood**, FSA NI, CC and DoH NI) who are now awaiting final design proposals and these will be shared with the team. The spotlight piece will focus on the conference and the 4 presentations with the first edition to be circulated by the end of Oct 17.

### 8. Any other business

FSA proposed that membership be extend to “Children in NI” and it was agreed by all. UO'D suggested inviting the Department of Children & Youth Affairs and agreed to provide a relevant contact.

**Action 5:** FSI to invite Children NI

**Action 6:** UO'D to look for contact from Dep. Of Children & Youth Affairs

### 9. Next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Belfast, Cork and Dublin