

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #30

Date: Wednesday, 24th January 2018

Venue: Teleconference via FSA (NI), **safefood** Cork & Dublin offices

Time: 11:30am – 13:00pm

In Attendance

Clíodhna Foley-Nolan – Chair (CFN)	safefood
Marian O'Reilly (MO'R)	safefood
Joana da Silva (JdS)	safefood
Tracey Thompson (TT)	safefood
Sinead Conroy	SECAD
Jennifer Feighan (JF)	INDI
Sarah Noone (SN)	Irish Heart
Margaret O'Neill	HSE
St. Bernadette (St.B)	Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice
Michael McDonagh (MMcD)	CrossCare Ireland
Bertrand Maitre (BM)	ESRI (ROI)
Ursula O'Dwyer (UO'D)	DOH ROI
Claire Holmes (CH)	British Dietetic Association (BDA)- NI
Sharon Gilmore (Chair) (SG)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
James Elliot (JE)	Dept. of Communities (NI)
Ian McClure (IMcC)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DOH) NI
Claire Wright (CW)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DOH) NI
Tracey Colgan (TC)	Public health Agency (PHA)
Sinead Furey (SF)	Ulster University
Fionnuala Close (FC)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI

Apologies

Dervla Kearney	Consumer Council NI
Meabh Austin	Fare Share NI
Sharon Polson	Department for Communities NI
Maria McCrystal	Causeway Coastal & Glens (NI)
Sarah Perry	Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke
Ellen Finlay	Children in Northern Ireland
Ronan Harney	Department of Social Protection ROI
Kerry Melville	Belfast Food Network
Joanne Casey	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI

1. Welcome and apologies

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

2. Minutes from the last meeting (27th Sept 17)

There were no amendments needed to the minutes from the previous meeting. Actions noted in the minutes were revisited and the following updates were provided but not closed off:

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #30

Action 2 of previous minutes:

SG advised Kantar NI Data is in final draft and will be circulated when finalised.

Action 3 previous minutes:

JdS will share with network members following the meeting.

Action 6 previous minutes:

UO'D to follow up with invitation to the Dep. Of Children & Youth Affairs following her meeting on the 8th February.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4. Updates from Department of Health NI & Department of Health ROI

CW & IMcC gave brief overview of DOH (NI) updates as per document circulated and informed the meeting that the key actions for the DOH (NI) during the next 12 month period would be linking in with the money from the sugar levy. CFN asked if there were any particular measures from the DOH (NI) that would focus specifically on disadvantage or poverty. IMcC advised that no decisions had been made as yet in relation to which proposals will be taken forward. In terms of food poverty work, there may be something there [from the sugar levy] that could be put forward a proposal at the next meeting however there was no guarantee that money received from the levy would be allocated to it.

MO'N offered a brief update on behalf of the HSE under the Healthy Ireland fund. The department have provided funding to LCDC (Local Community Development Committee) for a range of different initiatives one of which is nutrition. Of 31 LCDCs, 19 have indicated an interest in nutrition programmes specifically around community cooking programmes which will be tackling those most in need and in the area of poverty. HI have also been developing resources in "malnutrition management" – research indicated that about 20% of people prescribed nutrition supplements within the community have identified they don't have sufficient money for food.

UO'D gave a brief update on the DOH which was an overview of the written updated provided. UO'D advised that the old Obesity Policy special action group has been replaced by a policy implementation group and two subgroups have also been set up as a result, those being the Reformulation subgroup who met the Friday previous to the FPN meeting and the Healthy Eating subgroup who were due to meet in the coming week. UO'D reverted back to the DSP with regard to the Holiday Hunger and enquired about additional funding for this area and this will be added to the agenda to be discussed at their next meeting.

5. Nutrition and Food Poverty among refugees in Ireland

MO'R informed the meeting about that **safefood** had been approached to enquire if there was any network or support system across the island of Ireland that could provide assistance. The issues raised was that refugees are arriving into Ireland and are being provided with accommodation and homes within the communities rather than in "direct provision" and as a result food and nutrition has been raised as a concern for these families who would be unfamiliar to ways access them. MO'R asked the FPN member if they were aware of any pockets or expertise or groups that had pooled resources that could offer assistance here.

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #30

CFN also mentioned to the FPN about homeless teenagers in accommodation where they don't have access to cooking facilities neither do they have the skills to cook. Focus Ireland and another homeless charity group had commissioned NUI Galway to conduct research and the findings were that there was a definite need in this area.

TC informed the meeting that the situation with the refugees was something that they were aware of but as far as they were aware, there was no network or support group for this. Regarding the teenagers there was a possibility that quite a bit of work with youth reach and nutrition had arisen as well as life skills. TC advised she could look into this. MO'N advised the meeting that the DOH and HI are involved with Dublin City Council around a pilot for transitioning refugees from direct provision to independent living and will be attending a meeting in the week coming and would be happy to share any feedback from the FPN at this meeting.

6. Network Action Plan18

JdS advised the meeting that FSA NI & **safefood** had met to discuss how the FPN could enhance the expertise within the FPN as well as how best to improve the way information was shared. It was agreed during this meeting that the possibility of going ahead with a scoping exercise for this purpose (as was conducted in 2016). JdS asked all FPN members to put forward 2-3 activities that are relevant to the FPN arena and suggest where they best fit i.e., community programmes, research or policy etc.

It was suggested that it may be useful to have research shared in one central location so that there could be sign posting to one location. JdS informed the meeting that a project is currently underway to offer a portal for this purpose and advised there was some background work that needed to be carried out to ensure signposting was correct however the FPN would be kept updated on the progress. MO'R advised there was also scope to expand the repository to include other information as necessary. JdS also advised the meeting that the frequency of the FPN newsletter may increase and highlighted that it was a good opportunity to share research and resource information through the newsletter. JdS advised the meeting that any information to be included in support of this could be forwarded to her.

Action 1: All FPN members to forward to JdS 2-3 activities that are relevant to the FPN.

7. Themes for the 2018 Workshops

- a) Homeless and Refugees - MO'R suggested that Homeless and Refugees could be considered as one element for the Food Poverty Conference.
- b) Social prescribing/social inclusion which would include social supermarkets was also suggested as a topic but to also include solutioning for the topic. Cooking skills & perception that healthy food is expensive.
- c) Food Poverty & older people
- d) Healthy Eating – other models in England

8. Any other business

Social prescribing – JF informed the meeting that on the 8th March 2018 and is open to anyone and there is no registration fee. It is an all-Ireland Conference on Social Prescribing to be held in St James's Hospital in Dublin. It is a non-medical model of health inclusion.

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #30

9. Next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 25th April 2018 @ 11:30am via video conference in **safefood** Cork & Dublin & FSA NI.

10. Food Poverty Indicator in ROI & NI

CFN offered background to the Food Poverty Indicators for the ROI & NI. CFN advised that a fair bit of work had been done to assess what credentials had been used across the globe and it was then determined that the survey was based on the perception that someone had a reported food poverty based on a 4 question annual EU Survey (SILK).

BM of ESRI (ROI) provided a background to ROI Food Poverty measures which was based on a three question survey conducted a few years ago – these questions were:-

- a) Could a household afford a roast every week,
- b) Could a household ability to have a meal with chicken/fish or meat in it
- c) Did a household member leave the house without a substantive meal

Food poverty was then determined if the household experienced on of the three questions. In response to these three questions, two of these three questions are already considered basic deprivation. The measure of deprivation peaked during the recession period at around 10% and now food poverty and the rate of deprivation is decreasing and these three questions are still considered a reliable and robust measure of Food Poverty and Deprivation.

SF informed the meeting that the University of Ulster was looking to do a comparison with data from the EU SILK, the UN FAO 10 point measure (excluding children) & USDA 18 point measure (inclusive of children in the household). They were interested at looking at headline quantifiable indicator like the 10% spend on fuel. Unfortunately due to academic influences it was felt that the analysis the measures and answers were different there wasn't good reliability between the answers making the calculations difficult so the programme wasn't progressed. Reviews are now underway to determine what would be acceptable quantifiables with the objective of coming up with more accurate figures.

British Dietetic Association – Update provided by Claire Holmes

BDA LIVE

At the BDA Live conference in London in March, there was a strong focus on sustainable food with presentations and breakout sessions on relevant topics including:

- The changing way people are making consumption choices
- Sustainable diets amidst a food Brexit: feasible or fantasy?
- Technology as an enable for making better food choices
- Sustainable diets for your dietetic practice – getting started
- Helping people to understand front of pack nutrition information

The conference was attended by dietitians from all over the UK.

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #30

Let's Get Cooking

Discussions on making Let's Get Cooking have been going on between the BDA, PHA, Dept of Health and local Trusts. It is hoped that funding from sugar tax revenue may be accessed to allow the programme to be delivered in Northern Ireland as in the other devolved administrations.

Breast Feeding

The BDA issued a new policy statement on breast feeding in February 2018. BDA policy statements can be found on the BDA website at <https://www.bda.uk.com/improvinghealth/healthprofessionals/policystatements>

safefood – provided by Joana Caldeira Fernandes da Silva

The 2nd phase of the START campaign was launched in April. START campaign is encouraging parents to "make a start" at making one daily win on healthy eating for their children. The main focus for this phase is to "beat the trend and encourage a higher spend on fruit and veg rather than treats for our kids." The messages around the need to reduce treats and increasing fruit and vegetables were supported by Kantar data, both in NI and ROI. More information can be found online at www.makeastart.ie or www.makeastart.org

All-island Networks

All-island Obesity Action Forum

The next workshop entitled 'Nudge, nudge - making the healthier choice the easier choice' will take place on the 12th of June 2018 in Belfast. Registration is now open for the event. More information and a form for registration can be found:

<http://www.safefood.eu/Professional/Events/All-island-Obesity-Action-Forum-Nudge-nudge.aspx>

All-island Food Poverty Network

The network met in January, the minutes from the meeting are available [online](#).

The second issue of the All-island Food Poverty Newsletter will be issued in May. Please sign up to receive the bi-annual newsletter [here](#). You can submit items for inclusion in AIFPN newsletter by emailing foodpoverty@safefood.eu or jcaldeira@safefood.eu.

A date was agreed for the 2018 workshop, this year the workshop will be held in Belfast on the 18th of September. The closed meeting will be held on the same day.

The All-island Food Poverty Network was represented at the **Multi-disciplinary research conference on food and poverty in the UK: taking stock, moving forward** by **safefood** and **FSA NI**. Findings from the research project "What is the cost of a socially acceptable and healthy food basket in Northern Ireland in 2014 and 2016" were presented at the event.

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #30

Publications

Iodine status on the island of Ireland

The aim of the safefood research, undertaken by Queen's University Belfast, was to compare current iodine status on the island with existing international data. The research also looked at identifying the dietary sources and other contributors to iodine status in young girls.
<http://www.safefood.eu/Publications/Research-reports/Iodine-status-on-the-island-of-Ireland.aspx>

Minimum nutritional standards for healthcare facilities

safefood are supporting the Health Service Executive in adapting the Northern Ireland 'Minimum nutritional standards for catering in health and social care' for use in hospitals in the Republic of Ireland. They are due to be published in September 2018.

New Code of Practice on non-broadcast advertising of High Fat Sugar Salt Foods

safefood supported and welcomes the [new Code of Practice on non-broadcast advertising of High Fat Sugar Salt Foods \(HFSS\)](#) such as snack foods and confectionary. This Code represents an important step in addressing our children's obesogenic environment in addition to the current Broadcasting Authority (BAI) regulations on restriction of broadcast advertising of HFSS foods to children.