

## Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #34

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Date: Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Venue: VC rooms in **safefood** Cork & Dublin offices and Food Standards Agency NI, Belfast

Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

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### **In Attendance**

<b>Sharon Gilmore (SG) (Chair)</b>	<b>Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI</b>
Clíodhna Foley-Nolan (CFN)	<b>Safefood</b>
Joana da Silva (JdS)	<b>Safefood</b>
Tracey Thompson (TT)	<b>safefood</b>
Dee Brennan (DB)	<b>safefood</b>
Maeve Holly (MH)	Consumer Council NI
Gary McFarlane (GMcF)	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Fionnuala Close (FC)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Hannah Coyne	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Ian McClure (IMcC)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DOH) NI
Sinead Conroy (SC)	SECAD
Edel McNamara	HSE
Olivia McEvoy	Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice
Nicola Murphy	Irish Heart Foundation
Anne Marie Brooks (AMB)	Department of Children and Youth Affairs

### **Apologies**

Marian O'Reilly (MO'R)	<b>safefood</b>
St. Bernadette (St.B)	Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice
Liz Kerrins (LK)	Children's Rights Alliance
Alexis Bloomfield (AB)	Causeway Coast & Glens
Fidelma Carter (FC)	Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke
Sarah Perry (SP)	Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke
Meabh Austin (MA)	Fare Share NI
Susan McGowan (SMcG)	Department of Social Protection ROI
<b>No Response</b>	
Claire Holmes (CH)	British Dietetic Association (BDA)- NI
Claire Wright (CW)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DOH) NI
Ursula O'Dwyer (UO'D)	DOH ROI
Jennifer Feighan (JF)	INDI
Eimear Delahunty (ED)	Food Cloud ROI
Clare O'Neill (CO'N)	Fare Share NI
Janis Morrissey (JM)	Irish Heart
Ellen Finlay (EF)	Children in Northern Ireland
James Elliot (JE)	Dept. of Communities (NI)
Margaret O'Neill (MO'N)	HSE (ROI)
Kerry Melville (KM)	Belfast Food Network
Sharon Polson (SPo)	Department for Communities NI
Tracey Colgan (TC)	HSC NI

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### 1. Welcome and apologies

SG welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

### 2. Minutes from last meeting

SG asked all present if there were any changes needed to the minutes from the previous meeting and all confirmed that there were none.

### 3. Matters arising

Actions from the previous meeting were all reviewed and noted as complete where relevant. JDS advised she would follow up with UOD in regard to action no. 3.

**ACTION 1:** JDS to confirm if action assigned to UOD from minutes of previous meeting had been completed.

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

IMcC provided the update for DOH NI. IMcC advised that the DOH NI was currently revising the last 3 years outcomes from the obesity prevention framework. He added that a new outcome had been developed around the food insecurity questions which can be added to the NI Action Plan. The work around the Food Poverty Indicator sub group is ongoing and there are not at least 2-3 surveys that can collect food insecurity data that will give a greater picture of the situation. IMcC stated he believed Bertrand had access to ONS data and possibly could get in touch with him off-line to discuss this further. CFN asked if the FPN had been provided with the updated/new outcome measure. IMcC advised that he could provide a verbal update which was as follows:- "Through the All Island Food Poverty Network, determine an appropriate indicator of Food Poverty in Northern Ireland by 2020/2021 and consider further strategic insights into food poverty through the learnings from all organisations involved to ensure the development of an action plan to include advocacy and communications evidence and resources".

UO'D provided the updates for DOH ROI. UO'D advised that the works being carried out that is specific to Food Poverty is were under the "First 5" policy which is being done in conjunction with Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The DOH is leading on this and is setting up a working group under the auspice of Better Outcomes Brighter Future childrens health strategy and Healthy Ireland. The co-chairs for this working group will be Tom Costello representing BOBF and Ciódhna Foley-Nolan of **safefood**. The first informal meeting of a

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few key stakeholders to discuss setting up the group and the workplan for 2019 for the group. AMB also added that as part of this working group they would be finalising the implementation for the strategy for publication in May and would be engaging with all the government departments including the DOH in relation to the mile stones that will be reached over the next 3 years . UO'D added that at the meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, they are also expecting to be given an update from the FSAI in relation to the scientific recommendations and subsequently hope to work with the FSAI to develop a short rational that will be part of the overall resources. Joanna O'Hallorhan from the HSE will give a presentation on the HSE's own resources. It is hoped that at that meeting a small writing group could be established to which will help to further develop the resources by the end of the year.

### 5. Network Action Plan 2019

#### ROI Action Plan

SG asked for ED of FoodCloud to provide the FPN with a written update on the first two actions on the ROI action plan.

Irish Heart Foundation Networking events for the three projects - NM advised that the next networking event was on Monday and will take place in Monaghan and will provide update at next meeting. Written updates on the other areas will be provided at the next meeting.

The updates from **safefood** in relation to their projects have been covered in the NI Action Plan below.

Healthy Eating Guidelines 1-5 year olds – UO'D provided update earlier (ref item no. 4 above).

JDS asked if anyone had any additional actions to add to the FPN ROI & NI action plans to get in touch with the details.

**ACTION 2:** ED to send in written update on ROI Action Plan items relating to FoodCloud.

#### NI Action Plan

JE of Department of Communities advised that the year one evaluation of the pilot of the social supermarkets has been completed and at the final stage and as soon as the high level version has been completed it will be shared with the FPN group which is hoped will be within

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a month. The supply of 20+ tonnes of surplus food to the pilot “social supermarkets” is on target with the first year of the programme seeing nearly 7 tonnes being supplied over a 9 month period.

The redistribution of surplus fresh and ambient food to schools across NI continues as well as confirmed by SG on behalf of MA of FareShare.

GMcF noted that the action regarding the conference/workshop 2019 appeared on the action plan twice and it was agreed it would be amalgamated and the NI Action Plan would be updated.

The proposal to set up a subgroup to keep abreast of the Brexit developments and impact on food poverty in NI & ROI was revisited and as the situation is still unknown it was agreed it was difficult to progress. GMcF advised he would circulate the papers and data that he had to TT for distribution to the FPN which may help to form the context of the subgroup. MH advised that the Consumer Council NI is currently doing research on the consumer concerns of the implications of Brexit and when it was ready she would circulate it to the group. SG suggested that once these papers had been reviewed, consideration could be given to the subgroup and there may be a clearer indication of where Brexit is going.

**ACTION 2:** GMcF to forward on Brexit data/papers to TT for onward circulation to FPN group. MH also to share research paper from Consumer Council NI on completion.

Publish evaluation of CFI programme – JDS advised that when the programme was launched on the 21<sup>st</sup> March there was an overview of the evaluation published of the previous programme and the link was circulated to all on the written updates as circulated prior to the meeting today, for more details reference .

Establish CFI Programme 2019-2021 – JDS advised that this has happened as of the 21<sup>st</sup> March with 14 projects, 9 in ROI and 5 in NI and a list with the updates were circulated.

Publish 2018 cost of minimum acceptable healthy food basket – JDS advised that it is hoped that this would be done in early May 19.

Publish 2018 cost of a minimally acceptable healthy food basket for 6 households – JDS advised that this was a joint project and it was hoped that it would be May 19 when these

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would be published. The impacts that will be published in the reports will be for both NI and ROI.

Feasibility of updating cost of a minimally acceptable healthy food basket to monitor the impact of Brexit – CFN advised that this piece of work was all dependant upon Brexit and no decision will be made until then.

Practical tips for parents though START campaign – this will take place around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May and will coincide with Balmoral Show in NI and the focus is on Treat Foods.

### **6. Update from Food Poverty Indicator Subgroup**

FC informed the FPN that the subgroup will now now be measured and arrangements will be made with to ensure

### **7. Food Poverty Newsletter**

JDS advised the meeting that there were not 157 subscribers as at the date of this meeting. Last news letter published in November 2018 and the next news letter will be published in May. JSD asked for any contributions to be sent to either herself or other network members in the FSA.

### **8. Themes for the 2019 Workshop**

All-Island FPN workshop - JDS advised that the All Island FPN workshop would be held in Dublin on the 24<sup>th</sup> September and the Strategy workshop would take up the morning session followed by the Academic workshop in the afternoon.

### **9. AOB**

### **10. Date of next meeting**