

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #33

Date: Wednesday, 6th February 2019

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

Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

In Attendance

Clíodhna Foley-Nolan (CFN) Chair	safefood
Marian O'Reilly (MO'R)	safefood
Tracey Thompson (TT)	safefood
Dee Brennan (DB)	safefood
Claire Holmes (CH)	British Dietetic Association (BDA)- NI
Claire Wright (CW)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DOH) NI
Ursula O'Dwyer (UO'D)	DOH ROI
Sarah Perry (SP)	NI Chest Heart and Stroke Fundraising
Susan McGowan (SMcG)	Department of Social Protection ROI
Jennifer Feighan (JF)	INDI
Ian McClure (IMcC)	Health Development Policy Branch, (DOH) NI
Fionnuala Close (FC)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Hannah Coyne	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Eimear Delahunty (ED)	Food Cloud ROI
Meabh Austin (MA)	Fare Share NI
Clare O'Neill (CO'N)	Fare Share NI
Nicola Murphy	Irish Heart Foundation
Liz Kerrins (LK)	Children's Rights Alliance

Apologies

Gary McFarlane (GMcF)	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Sharon Gilmore (SG)	Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI
Joana da Silva (JdS)	Safefood
St. Bernadette (St.B)	Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice
Ellen Finlay (EF)	Children in Northern Ireland
Alexis Bloomfield (AB)	Causeway Coast & Glens
Janis Morrissey (JM)	Irish Heart
Maeve Holly (MH)	Consumer Council
James Elliot (JE)	Dept. of Communities (NI)
Bertrand Maitre (BM)	ESRI (ROI)
Sinead Conroy (SC)	SECAD
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
Anne Marie Brooks (AMB)	Department of Children and Youth Affairs

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1. Welcome and apologies

New members Liz Kerrins from Children's Rights Alliance and Dee Brennan from Food Cloud were welcomed to the meeting. Apologies were noted accordingly.

2. Minutes from last meeting

CFN advised that Action 3 won't be addressed. Due to the uncertainty surrounding Brexit it was not possible to compile BREXIT papers to circulate to FPN members.

MA advised that point 2 of the minutes of the previous meeting don't accurately reflect FareShare's activities. CFN requested MA send clarification to TT for inclusion in the minutes. IMcC enquired whether Action 4 from previous minutes had been completed. CFN advised it had not and would be addressed immediately after the meeting.

ACTION 1: MA to send description of FareShare's activities to TT for circulation to all FPN members - Complete

Update from MA – FareShare

"FareShare was established by the Council for the Homeless Northern Ireland in 2010 to tackle food waste and food poverty at a local level. It redistributes 'in-date' surplus food to over 100 charities in Northern Ireland before it is transformed into nutritious meals for low-income families, socially isolated senior citizens, homeless people and children and young people who are at most risk of food poverty. The food donated to FareShare from industry is surplus for simple reasons such as over-production, labelling errors or short shelf-life and includes a large proportion of fresh produce such as fruits, vegetables, meats, beans, pulses, fish and eggs as well as longer life items including breads, potatoes, pasta and rice. The food redistributed is currently creating 800,000+ meals per year at luncheon clubs, drop-in centres, homeless hostels and breakfast and after-schools clubs for vulnerable groups who have otherwise limited nutritional options available to them. FareShare's food redistribution warehouse is located in Mallusk on the outskirts of Belfast and is operated by a dedicated team of 35 volunteers."

ACTION 2: CFN to circulate pilot project in Amsterdam to all FPN members.

3. Matters arising

There were no other matters arising.

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

IMcC provided the update for DOH NI. The final 3 years of obesity prevention strategy and implementation plan will be rolled out in June 2019. The Food Indicator subgroup have met on a number of occasions. The Health Survey will not continue to measure 'Households experiencing Food Poverty' on an annual basis but the Family Resource Survey will include the Canadian list of Food Insecurity questions.

UO'D provided the update for DOH ROI. Obesity policy oversight implementation group with two sub groups – healthy eating and reformulation. Healthy Ireland survey information for 2017 has been released and is available on the DOH website. Healthy eating guidelines for 1-5 year olds has been delayed as FSAI have been asked to provide scientific guidelines for this age group, this will be a 2019 action and it is hoped this information will be available by the end of March 2019. Leading on from the guidelines there will be nutritional standards

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developed for pre-schools and early learning centres in 2020. As well as the nutritional standards there is also the "hot school food scheme" launched earlier in the week. The first school to receive food from this scheme was a DEIS school in Dublin. It is hoped there will be about 36-40 schools in the main pilot which is being launched in early September. DOH has been looking at innovation initiatives in the areas of Communities which came about as a result of the HEPP (Health Equality Pilot Programme) which will be funded through the Healthy Ireland fund. The other sub-group of the Obesity policy is the Reformulation sub-group - this initiative will be using the Public Health England targets and one meeting has already been held with food industry and another is due in coming months to establish targets. In line with one of the key initiatives set out by the current Taoiseach was the setting up of a Healthy Ireland Office which is the main piece of work in terms of moving ahead with the HI agenda - this is currently underway. Through Healthy Ireland, the DOH will lead on Food Poverty and will be looking at cross sectoral engagement as 11 key government departments are involved and will be working closely with the Dept. of Children and Youth Affairs in relation to setting up a mechanism to deliver these issues. SMcG offered further info on the "school meals scheme" and advised that they were seeking expressions of interest from September and it is hoped that up to approximately 7,000 children will benefit from the scheme. UOD stated that she had been provided with summary information and would confirm if it was in order to share it with the group and if so would send it on to TT for circulation. UOD also mentioned that the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health brought out a report on childhood obesity and this report is available on the internet.

ACTION 3: UOD to confirm if possible to circulate summary info and send to TT if so.

5. Review of progress in 2018 Action Plans

CFN confirmed that due to late submissions not all updates had been captured in the 2018 action plan. MOR asked all members who hadn't had a chance to provide updates on progress to please review the action plan and send on any updates after the meeting. For NI members - the Regional Obesity Implementation Group were to meet the next week and MOR will be drafting an update for this meeting circulated to NI members before sending it on to the Public Health Agency so if there was anyone wanting to feed into this to contact MOR.

6. Network Action Plan 2019

ROI Action Plan

CFN invited the members to provide feedback or comment on the Action Plans for 2019. Nicola of IHF commented on the Community initiative project which IHF was focusing on. These projects supported men in the Traveller community. Nicola advised that the future of these projects remain unknown but for the time being IHF will continue to support these groups. ED of Food Cloud offered information around their two main actions in 2019 which were FEAD Programme & the Food Banking Models ED advised that measuring nutritional impact was difficult and felt it was an area Food Cloud would like to get clarity on. Jennifer Feighan of INDI offered her assistance in relation to support in this area and CFN advised FPN would facilitate by putting the two organisations in contact. MOR advised **safefood** was in the process of wrapping up the last CFI programme and evaluation report will be published shortly. The next programme (2019-2021) across the IoI will be based on broadly the same model with particular emphasis on skills within the family rather than the "growing" model, this is currently out to tender and the launch of this will take place toward the end of March

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and dates will be circulated. Cost of a healthy food basket report based on the 2018 data done in conjunction with VPSJ is in final stages and the report will be published and details of this will be circulated. This study may be conducted again in 2019 to monitor impact of Brexit. CFN noted that FSA NI have offered to chair a subgroup on Brexit developments - it is hoped this will commence in April.

NI Action Plan

MA of FareShare gave detail of the pilot programme to supply surplus food to 5 'social supermarkets which is funded by the Department for Communities, has been extended until September 2019. It is unclear what will happen when this ends but it is hoped that the programme will continue. The first evaluation is being completed and so far feedback has been very positive and as soon as the report is available MA will forward to TT for circulation.

ACTION 4: MA to send TT evaluation report for circulation to FPN members.

7. Updates from Members

As provided in the document circulated.

8. Food Poverty Newsletter

MOR advised that it was hoped that there would be 2 possibly 3 newsletters published in 2019.

9. Themes for the 2019 Workshop

Suggestions offered for the Workshop for 2019 - IMcC Food Poverty which focused on "mapping", based on research at UU". JF suggested "Social Prescribing". CFN proposed "Social Prescribing" could be the umbrella theme and "mapping" would form part of the topics covered under Social Prescribing. Brexit was suggested as another theme in the form of "Brexit - where are we now?" ie., post-Brexit impact. LK suggested a topic that looked at childrens experiences on food poverty and FC suggested looking at the outcomes of the recent Children's Future Food Public Inquiry. CFN informed the meeting that these suggestions would be looked at and theme would be proposed at the next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting

TT will circulate doodle for dates in April/May for preferred dates of next meeting.