

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #31

Date: Thursday, 26th April 2018

Venue: Teleconference between **safefood** Cork & Dublin offices and Food Standards Agency NI, Belfast

Time: 11:30am – 13:00pm

In Attendance

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| Marian O'Reilly (MO'R) | safefood |
| Joana da Silva (JdS) | safefood |
| Tracey Thompson (TT) | safefood |
| Sinead Conroy (SC) | SECAD |
| Jennifer Feighan (JF) | INDI |
| Sarah Noone (SN) | Irish Heart |
| Margaret O'Neill (MO'N) | HSE |
| St. Bernadette (St.B) | Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice |
| Bertrand Maitre (BM) | ESRI (ROI) |
| Ursula O'Dwyer (UO'D) | DOH ROI |
| Meabh Austin | Fare Share NI |
| Sharon Gilmore (Chair) (SG) | Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI |
| Ian McClure (IMcC) | 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 |
| Alexis Bloomfield (AB) | Causeway Coast & Glens |
| Anne ?? | Food Standards Agency (FSA) NI |
| Sarah Perry (SP) | NI Chest Heart and Stroke Fundraising |
| Meadhbh McDaid (MMD) | NI Chest Heart and Stroke Fundraising |
| Sharon Polson (SPo) | Department for Communities NI |
| Claire Holmes (CH) | British Dietetic Association (BDA)- NI |
| Kerry Melville (KM) | Belfast Food Network |

Apologies

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| Clíodhna Foley-Nolan | safefood |
| Margaret O'Neill | HSE (ROI) |
| Jennifer Feighan | INDI |
| Gary McFarlane | Chartered Institute of Environmental Health |
| Fidelma Carter | NI Chest Heart and Stroke Fundraising |
| Maria McCrystal | Causeway Coast & Glens |
| Michael McDonagh | CrossCare Ireland |
| Ellen Finlay | Children in Northern Ireland |
| Ronan Harney | Department of Social Welfare (ROI) |
| Kathryn Rilley | Irish Heart |
| Janis Morrissey | Irish Heart |
| James Elliot (JE) | Dept. of Communities (NI) |

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1. Welcome and apologies

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

2. Minutes from the last meeting (24th Jan 18)

There were no amendments needed to the minutes from the previous meeting. Actions noted in the minutes were revisited – only one action remained open and SG agreed to follow up on the outstanding item.

Action 1: SG to follow up with UO'D ref. Action 6 from FPN meeting held on 27th Sept 17: *UO'D to follow up with invitation to the Dep. Of Children & Youth Affairs following her meeting on the 8th February.*

All other actions were completed.

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

DOH NI – IMcC Fitter future for all 10 year strategy, recent progress report on 2016-17 now available on line. Next annual progress report for 2017-18 will be published in due course. The DOH is now looking at revising the 2019–22 framework including that around food poverty. It was anticipated that there could be a workshop held over the summer months with key stakeholders to look at best practice and revise/refresh the outcomes and put new best practices in place for implementation from June 19. IMcC informed the meeting that the Barnett formula was being applied to the sugar tax which would determine the distribution of funds across various departments in NI, it is estimated there will be a “pot” of approximately £14m.

DOH ROI – UO'D was not available to provide an update for the DOH ROI. JDS advised she would follow up with UO'D and request an update and that there was work being carried out through Healthy Ireland in disadvantaged areas.

Belfast Food Network – KM requested the update from the network be included in the FPN member update report and circulated to all members as it had not been included in the updates circulated prior to the meeting.

Action 2: TT to add Belfast Food Network update and circulate to all members.

5. Food Poverty subgroups (Food Poverty Indicator and Community Initiatives)

Food poverty indicator subgroup will hold an initial scoping meet before the end of June 18 where evidence and information around the food poverty indicator will be reviewed with the aim of outlining objectives to allow the subgroup to move forward. FC of FSA to circulate dates for this meeting.

Community Initiative subgroup will be chaired by **safefood** (JdS). JdS will send an email requesting volunteers and it is hoped that the first meeting will be held toward the end of June 18 which will also focus on scoping and planning around community initiatives. SG thanked the small number of volunteers who had already agreed to form part of the subgroup but more support from other member organisations would be appreciated.

Action 3: FC to circulate dates for FP Indicator subgroup meeting.

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Action 4: JdS to circulate email for more CI subgroup volunteers.

6. Network Action Plan18

NI Action Plan

SG thanked all the members for their contributions toward the comprehensive 2018 Action Plan which JdS had compiled and circulated prior to the meeting. SG noted that there was a lot of very good food poverty community initiative programmes already taking place around the NI by the various organisations.

SG informed the meeting that the secondary analysis of Wave 4 of the Food and You Survey had been conducted on food poverty and healthy eating in the NI and it was hoped it would be published in May. Once published, the links can be send to TT for circulating.

JdS advised the draft newsletter has been approved by the editorial team and is now with the designers and will be circulated to member organisations by mid-May. JdS asked all to share the newsletter and suggest colleagues within the member organisations sign up to the newsletter.

SG asked the meeting for comments around the action plan. TC asked for the regional activities for the Public Health Agency that she submitted could be moved to "Community Interventions" as it would be better reflected in this area. KM enquired about a paper which had been submitted on behalf of Belfast Food Network outlining some of the schemes they were working on which hadn't been reflected. JdS asked KM to resubmit them and they will be added to the action plan.

KM enquired how often would the action plan be reviewed and how would change and progress be measured? SG advised that this was to be provided in the written updates for each meeting.

IMcC commented on holiday hunger project and stated that it was getting quite a bit of momentum and there will be a number of holiday hunger programme pilots that will be funded in England and Wales. CINI is the representative for the forum in the NI and they are working closely with colleagues in UK to map holiday hunger provision and support research. KM & SG spoke about other holiday hunger initiatives being carried out that aren't reflected anywhere. MO'R suggested that the community initiative sub-group pull this information into summary document might be a good starting point ant then network could then decide where it is best placed. TC suggested KM send information on the additional work being carried out by the Belfast Food Network and TC would pass the information on to Caroline Bloomfield, the leads on the holiday hunger programmes in the PHA.

Action 5: SG to forward link to TT on food poverty and healthy eating survey for circulating.

Action 6: JdS to update NI Action Plan for the Public Health Agency to reflect their regional activities under the heading of "Community intervention" rather than "Research" by request from TC.

Action 7: KM to resent Belfast Food Network updates JdS to add to the NI Action Plan.

Action 8: KM to send info on additional holiday hunger activities to TC.

ROI Action Plan

SG reviewed the initiatives listed in the ROI action plan and commented on the good work being carried out in the ROI. There were no additional comments made in regard to the ROI action plan.

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SG thanked everyone for their contributions to the two action plans and noted that it was good to see the contribution and bigger picture taking place across the island. SG informed the meeting that JdS, MO'R, FC & herself had attended a conference in London recently and it was apparent the amount of work being carried out across islands. JdS added that the network was well represented including the presentation on the cost of a healthy food basket in NI. MO'R commented that the emphasis at the conference was around the community response and research on food banks and social supermarkets was there as well but a lot of the research around food insecurity was still in its early days but evidence in the research showed the need to move away from food banks toward social supermarkets as a response. SG thanked MO'R for presenting on the Cost of a Healthy Food Basket. SG also noted that SF was in attendance at the conference on behalf of Ulster University who were presenting on the NI picture.

7. 2018 Workshops

SG informed the meeting that the workshop was in its 4th year and would be returning to Belfast. The date for the next workshop is the 18th September in the NICVA Centre with registrations commencing at 9:30am and a start time of 10:15am. A 15 minutes presentation on the current picture in NI will start the workshop followed up by a presentation by the Department for Communities (NI) on the Social Supermarket pilot with early findings. This will be followed up by a presentation from CrossCare Ireland who will present on their learnings from the pilot in the NI and their move from food banks to Social Supermarkets model. The second part of the morning will focus on homelessness and food poverty report and this is a report which was done in ROI 2017 which looked into the nutritional challenges of families living in emergency accommodation with no cooking facilities which will link in well with the Dr Claire Pettigrew who looked at involving homeless people and their experiences to shape future programmes that tackle nutritional issues and homelessness. This will be followed by lunch and then the FPN closed meeting at 13:30hrs.

SG asked the meeting for comments in regard to the proposed programme for the workshop. TC asked JdS for a synopsis of the report on Nutrition and Emergency Accommodation as it would be good to present to the regional health and homelessness chaired by Mary Black so that it could be flagged.

There were no further comments in regard to the workshop so SG suggested to go forward with the proposed programme and circulate a "save the date" communication to interested organisations.

Action 9: JdS to send summary of Nutrition and Emergency Accommodation report to TC.

8. Any other business

CH expressed her surprise that there had been no discussions on the impact of Brexit and the effects this will have on food provision. CH advised that at all the meetings she had attended where Brexit had been touched on, everything seemed to point to the non-availability of foods in the NI which will have an effect on people already experiencing food poverty. CH pointed out that as this is less than a year away and there was no certainty on the impacts Brexit will have. SG suggested any information or links on Brexit and food poverty to be sent on to TT to circulate to the FPN.

SG suggested that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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Action 10: All FPN members with any links to any Brexit and Food Poverty related issues to be sent to TT to circulate to the FPN members.

9. Next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 18th September @ 1:30pm following the FPN Workshop at the NICVA Centre.