

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #43

Date: Tuesday, 8th February 2022

Venue: Microsoft Teams online

Time: 14:30hrs – 16:00hrs

In Attendance

Name	Organisation
Sharon Gilmore (Chair)	Food Standards Agency NI
Naomi Davidson	Food Standards Agency NI
Fionnuala Close	Food Standards Agency NI
Aoibheann Dunne	Food Standards Agency NI
Jasmin Frazer	Food Standards Agency NI
James Elliott	Department for Communities NI
Joana Caldeira Fernandes da Silva	safefood
Anne Parle	safefood
Tracey Thompson	safefood
Bertrand Maitre	The Economic and Social Research Institute
Catherine Hardy	Food Standards Agency NI
Christine Dale	Department of Health NI
Clare Nulty	Irish Heart
Clare O'Neill	FareShare NI
Emily Boyd	Food Standards Agency NI
Eoin Roche	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Zoe Fletcher	British Dietetic Association
Freda McGowan	Department of Social Protection, ROI
Hannah Williamson	Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke
Jonny Currie	The Trussell Trust, NI
Sarah O'Brien	Health Service Executive ROI
Karen Gaynor	Health Service Executive, ROI
Maeve Carey	Lisburn and Castlereagh Council, NI
Philippa McKeown	Consumer Council NI
Orna O'Brien	Irish Heart
Saoirse Brady	Children's Rights Alliance, ROI
Sarah O'Halloran	Department of Social Protection, ROI
Sinead Conroy	SECAD
Yvonne Fleming	Crosscare

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Tracey Colgan	Health & Social Care NI

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #43

Darren Moan	Department of Health NI
Meabh Austin	FareShare
Ursula O'Dwyer	Department of Health, ROI

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

SG welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were acknowledged. New members were introduced and welcomed.

2. Minutes from last meeting

All necessary corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting were noted and were accepted by all. All actions were carried out and completed.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation by FSA NI on Kantar data findings for "Take home food and drink purchasing for lower income households" - AD

AD presented findings from the latest FSA NI report on "NI Take-home food and drink purchasing in 2016, 2019 & 2020" for lower income households. **BM** asked what period was the data collected over? **AD** advised that it was collected weekly during 2016, 2019 & 2020 and confirmed that the methodology was the same throughout. **PMcK** asked if there was an increase in purchasing of healthier foods on promotion. **Aoibheann** advised that overall foods purchased on promotion has been decreasing. **EB** added the data on healthier foods on promotion compared to high fat sugar salt foods on promotion is not available for 2019 and 2020. **SB** enquired if there is legislation or policies to combat the promotion of alcohol products or high fat, salt and sugar foods? **FC** confirmed that in NI there are different policies being reviewed such as the restrictions on promotions of products high in fat, sugar and salt and out of home calorie labelling. **CD** advised of an upcoming consultation on minimum unit pricing in 2022 and a strategy on alcohol.

ACTION 1: **CD** provided link to NI Alcohol Strategy for circulation to AIFPN members (*this was subsequently provided in the Microsoft Teams chat box*).

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/substance-use-strategy-2021-31>

5. Updates from Department of Health NI & Department of Health ROI Department of Health NI – CD

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #43

The Fitter Future for All progress report for 2019 – 2020 is being drafted and will be published soon. Policy development work for a replacement strategic framework for A Fitter Future for All has commenced. Membership on the board includes people with lived experience, Academics, Government Departments, Health and the Voluntary and Community Sector. Workshops will be held on healthy policies, healthy places, healthy people, collaboration and the whole system approach. The Institute of Public Health is currently identifying and assessing the current evidence in relation to obesity prevention and the whole system approach.

Department of Health ROI - UO'D was not in attendance. **JDS** highlighted the Guidance for food parcels and the Standards for Early Learning and Care Services are being finalised. Guidelines for the older adult population aged 65 and over are in progress.

SO'B highlighted the Healthy Communities programme being rolled out in 19 areas of deprivation. The department is in the process of finalising the recruitment of a national co-ordinator for the programme. Local development officers will drive the work at a local level. Healthy Community Co-ordinators in each of the 9 community health organisations will work to co-ordinate and deliver the health pillar across the respective 19 areas. Community Food and Nutrition workers will be hired in each of the areas and they will have a role to build a programme of activity to address food poverty as well nutrition education and knowledge within those communities. Evaluation of the programme to understand the impact of the programme is currently being considered.

The Healthy Ireland Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2025 was published and there are a broad number of actions including work to explore addressing food poverty.

Updates from Department of Social Protection in ROI & Department for Communities in NI

Department of Social Protection in ROI - SO'H

The Food Poverty Working Group will meet again in mid-February. A request for tender for a research piece will be put out. The Survey on Income and Living Conditions was published in December 2020, data on food poverty from this will be reviewed. The 2021 Survey on Income and Living Conditions data is due to be published in April 2022. Another area being monitored closely is the current cost of living and its impact.

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #43

Department for Communities in NI – JE was unable to offer a verbal update due to technical difficulties however a written update is available on the AIFPN Member’s update document provided to all members ahead of the meeting.

6. Review and conclusion of action plans from 2021

AP reviewed any outstanding items.

ACTION 2: ER to provide an update on expected completion of the DCYA action “Commencing a pilot of a meal programme in Early Learning and Care Settings” (which **ER** mentioned had changed to “A Survey of Existing Provision of Hot Meals in ELCs”) for the next AIFPN meeting.

ACTION 3: AP to close off relevant actions as noted or move outstanding actions to the 2022 Action Plan. AP to follow up with organisations in regard to 2021 outstanding actions and once all updates have been made to the 2021 Action Plans, a copy will be circulated to members.

7. Action Plans 2022

AP requested that if there are any additional actions that still need to be added to the 2022 action plans to please send them on to be added. AP pointed out that there were a number of items mentioned during the updates that were not captured as actions in the 2022 action plans. AP advised that once all new additions have been added the revised 2022 Action Plans will be circulated.

ACTION 4: AP to circulate 2022 Action Plans once any additions have been sent on.

8. AIFPN subgroups

FSA NI & **safefood** are reviewing the structure of the network and subgroups were being considered in the two jurisdictions. The subgroups would meet separately but would reconnect through the all-island network meeting. The objective is to make the meetings more focused on the action plans and allow for discussion and collaboration and then to feedback into the wider all-island network. The annual workshop will continue. Terms of Reference will be drawn up for this new structure. Once drafted, the terms of reference will be shared with the members of the network and there will be opportunity to provide responses to the proposal.

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #43

ACTION 5: TT to share the Terms of Reference draft proposal when available and will invite comments from members of the AIFPN.

9. AOB

JDS advised the meeting that **SECAD** will again be managing the Community Food Initiatives programme on behalf of **safefood** for the term of 2022 – 2024. It is planned that the programme will be launched in March and the date for this launch will be circulated shortly. **safefood** and FSA NI are exploring if it will be possible to update “the cost of a healthy food basket” in both NI & ROI for 2022.

ACTION 6: **JDS** circulate CFI launch date to AIFPN members as soon as available.

PMcK informed the meeting that the Consumer Council will be holding NI consumer week. As soon as the programme of events is available it will be shared with the AIFPN members. The expected date for this programme will be between the 7th - 10th March.

ACTION 7: **PMcK** circulate date for “Consumer Week” to AIFPN members as soon as the date is confirmed.

10. Date of next meeting (to be confirmed by doodle poll)

ACTION 8: **TT** to circulate Doodle poll with dates for next meeting to all members.