

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #41

Date: Thursday, 29th April 2021

Venue: Microsoft Teams online

Time: 14:00am – 15:30pm

In Attendance

Name	Organisation
Anne Parle	safefood
Catherine Conlon	safefood
Eoin Roche	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Fionnuala Close	Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland (FSA NI)
James Elliott	Department of Communities NI
Joana C F da Silva	safefood
Maeve Carey	Lisburn and Castlereagh Council, NI
Margaret O'Neill	HSE
Meabh Austin	FareShare NI
Naomi Davidson	FSA NI
Philippa McKeown	Consumer Council NI
Saoirse Brady	Children's Right Alliance ROI
Sarah O'Halloran	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Sinead Conroy	SECAD
Sharon Gilmore	FSA NI
Tracey Thompson	Safefood
Ursula O'Dwyer	Department of Health, ROI
Yvonne Fleming	CrossCare

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Caroline Kilkenny	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Louise Reynolds	Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute
Janis Morrissey	Irish Heart
Tracey Colgan	Health & Social Care NI
Darren Moan	Department of Health NI
Freda McGowan	Department of Social Protection ROI
Zoe Fletcher	British Dietetic Association
Bertrand Maitre	the Economic Social Research Institute
Christine Dale	Department of Health NI

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

SG welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were acknowledged.

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2 Minutes from last meeting

There were no amendments to the minutes from the previous meeting. SG reviewed the actions, and all were complete with the exception of Action no. 1. SG requested a written update from UO'D to bring everyone up to date with the Department of Health, ROI's activities.

ACTION 1: UO'D to submit written update for DoH (ROI)

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

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

Department of Health NI - Updates for the Department of Health NI were provided in writing and have been captured in the Members Update Document as circulated ahead of the meeting.

Department of Health ROI - UO'D advised that Healthy Ireland is now under Sláintecare. A food poverty subgroup will be set up to implement an action from the Obesity Policy and Action Plan to support disadvantaged communities. UO'D advised that she had had discussions with **safefood**, the HSE, the Children's Rights Alliance, the Department of Social Protection and the Department of Children and will be pulling together a small working group who will develop a scoping paper and terms of reference. The new Healthy Communities Programme which is targeting areas of disadvantage in 18 different local authority areas around the country will launch later on in the year. In addition to this, the DOH is funding 6 new lactation consultants posts and will be looking at developing further posts to support implementation of the National Breastfeeding Action Plan. The DOH is setting up a new subgroup under OPIOG that will look implementing the Obesity Model of Care within the HSE and other strategies around obesity prevention and treatment.

ACTION 2: Follow up with TT with regard to written updates from DOH for the Member Updates document.

5 Updates from Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in ROI & Department for Communities in NI

JE from Department for Communities advised that they are still awaiting confirmation to continue with the roll out of the Social Supermarkets in 2021. At the end of March, the DoH NI provided an additional £1.5million to Councils to support community food providers to

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move to more sustainable approaches and away from the emergency response. An event was held with all 11 councils and their voluntary community representatives to discuss collaborative working to tackle food poverty. CC asked if the social supermarkets pilot was likely to be rolled out in full or if it would be restricted as an impact of the pandemic. JE advised that the Department is waiting on the budget confirmation for 2021 but it is anticipated the budget will be allocated for 2021 only, so to the Department may not be in a position to establish the full programme under these circumstances. The intention is to go out to the 11 councils and agree how best to use the money within their areas in the coming year.

SO'H from Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in ROI informed the meeting that the main two events over the first quarter were a meeting of the Road Map Steering Group, a working group, comprising of Government Departments will be established to progress the commitment on Food Poverty in the Roadmap for Social Inclusion. The second event was the Social Inclusion Forum was held on the 12th - 16th April. The event focused on aspects of the roadmap one of which was The Core Essentials chapter which addresses Food Poverty.

SB of Children's Rights Alliance

SB informed the meeting that the 2021 Children's Rights Alliance Report Card is published when there is a new programme for government and provides the opportunity to measure the Governments progress on its commitments to children and young people. Detail was provided on the research methodology used. It was noted that context was given to the current COVID pandemic and how that impacted some aspects of the Government work, e.g. the provision of funded school meals. SO'H informed the meeting that a report on the Hot School Meals Pilot was published and is available on the DSP site on gov.ie.

ACTION 3: JCFdS shared the link during the meeting.

6 Food Poverty Indicator Subgroup (FC)

FC advised that the subgroup submitted a letter to NISRA requesting the inclusion of the Food Poverty EU SILC questions on to the NI Health Survey. This request has been successful. FC also mentioned the publication of the Food and You 2 survey wave 1 and alerted members to the fact that the data was not comparable to the previous survey called Food and You due to different sample sizes and different methodologies used. FC advised that a NI specific

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report on food security data taken from the Food and You 2 Survey would also be available in a few weeks' time.

ACTION 4: FC to circulate a copy of the NI specific Food Security report when available.

7 Action Plans for 2020 & 2021

AP reviewed the outstanding actions from the ROI & NI 2020 Actions Plans and the relevant agencies responded with the updates. AP will note the updates to the 2020 action plans and any actions that need to be carried over to 2021 will be added.

AP moved to review the NI 2021 Action Plan and updates were provided. AP discussed the plans and asked for any topics for the webinar/conference in September. The topic would be around health inequalities and should anyone have any other suggestions, to forward them to her.

ACTION 5: AP to follow up with UO'D in regard to the wording for the updates for the 2021 Action Plan as discussed during the meeting. AP to also follow up with the Irish Heart Foundation for an update on an outstanding 2020 action.

ACTION 6: AP to capture a mapping exercise of all Charity Organisations undertaking food distribution in ROI as a similar exercise is being carried out in NI with the councils.

ACTION 7: ALL – for anyone with additional updates for the member update document, to forward to TT by the 5th May.

8 Newsletter

As covered by the Action Plan.

9 AOB

Ideas for Research (Catherine Conlon)

CC advised that *safefood* have annual funding for research and if anyone has topics they'd like *safefood* to consider please send to these to TT by email.

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.