

## Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #44

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**Date:** Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Venue:** Microsoft Teams online

**Time:** 14:30hrs – 16:00hrs

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### **In Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Joana Caldeira Fernandes da Silva	<b>safefood</b>
Anne Parle	<b>safefood</b>
Fionnuala Close	Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland (FSA in NI)
Ursula O'Dwyer	Department of Health, ROI
Christine Dale	Department of Health, NI
Karen Gaynor	Health Service Executive (HSE)
Tracey Colgan	Public Health Agency (PHA)
Freda McGowan	Department of Social Protection ROI
James Elliot	Department for Communities, NI
Naoimh Poucher	Consumer Council NI
Sinead Conroy	SECAD
Jennifer Feighan	Irish Nutrition & Dietetic Institute (INDI)
Eimear Delahunty	Food Cloud
Meabh Austin	FareShare NI

### **Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Tracey Thompson	<b>safefood</b>
Aileen McGloin	<b>safefood</b>
Naomi Davidson	Food Standards Agency NI
Sharon Gilmore	Food Standards Agency NI
Darren Moan	Department of Health NI
Edel McNamara	HSE
Pauline Leeson	Children in Northern Ireland
Orla O'Hagan	Children in Northern Ireland
Sarah O'Halloran	Department of Social Protection ROI
Philippa McKeown	Consumer Council NI
Maeve Carey	Lisburn and Castlereagh Council, NI
Bertrand Maitre	Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)
Yvonne Fleming	Cross Care ROI

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### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

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

### 2. Minutes from last meeting

Actions of the last meeting were reviewed and follow up on outstanding actions was agreed as per below: -

**Action 1: AP to request update from ER on Action No. 2 of previous minutes**

### 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 4. Presentation by Anne Parle, safefood on AIFPN Restructuring

**AP** shared the Restructuring proposal presentation with the AIFPN members present at the meeting, the proposal was also shared prior to the meeting and AP then requested that any feedback relating to the proposal be sent on to herself by email by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**CD** proposed that minutes from each jurisdiction be shared with all members to ensure better collaboration, **JDS** agreed and confirmed minutes will continue to be shared with all members on an all-island basis. **FMcG** requested all member contact details be shared with the AIFPN to facilitate ease of communication. **JDS** advised of GDPR constraints and that members were welcome to continue to make contact via **TT** as the intermediary to ensure GDPR was adhered to.

**Action 2: AP** to share Restructure presentation and related documents with AIFPN members.

**Action 3: ALL AIFPN members** are invited to provide feedback on the Restructure proposal by 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Action 4: JDS** to confirm with TT on GDPR constraints around sharing of contact details of other members in an open email.

### 5. Updates from Department of Health NI & Department of Health ROI

#### Department of Health NI – CD

- Three Healthy Policies Workshops for the obesity have been held on the obesity strategy. Food poverty was among the topics discussed.
- Also brought up for consideration during the workshops was “weight stigma and communication” which **DM** suggested there may be a need for a workshop on this subject in the future.

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**KG** asked **CD** what types of issues had arisen at the workshops around weight stigma? **CD** advised that people with lived experience found it difficult to talk about weight and talk to health professionals about weight.

### Department of Health ROI - UO'D

- Work is ongoing to develop a Healthy Weight Campaign aimed at 25–34 year olds. The campaign will likely be social media based.
- Recruitment is ongoing for the community food and nutrition workers for the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme.
- Focus testing is about to commence on the Healthy Eating Guidelines for older people aged 65 years and over.
- As part of the Best Remap project the recommendations and guidelines will be reviewed to ensure they do not negatively affect disadvantaged groups.
- **FMcG** asked **UO'D** whether DoH will cover all expenses such as ingredients and room hire etc. for the Healthy Food Made Easy as part of the Healthy Communities programme. **KG** advised she would look into this and would link in with **FMcG** directly. **JDS** would request **TT** to contact both **FMcG** and **KG** to arrange sharing of contact details.
- Details of the 19 Sláintecare Healthy Communities is available on the web link below: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/slaintecare-healthy-communities/>

**Action 5:** **KG** to confirm who is responsible for costs of food in the Healthy Food Made Easy programme and room hire etc link in with **FMcG**.

**Action 6:** **TT** to arrange for shared contact details between **KG** & **FMcG**

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

### Department for Communities in NI – JE

- The social supermarket pilot has been extended for a further 6 months and the Department continue to work with all 11 councils on a co-design process to design a model that will work best in these areas.
- **FMcG** enquired as to how the social supermarket model operated and was it open to ordinary members of the public? **JE** advised that the 5 pilots operated on a 6 monthly membership which allowed the subscriber to access a set amount of food, this is on the condition that the member engages with the wrap-around supports to try to

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address the reasons why the member has found themselves in need of this support. Going forward this may change as all councils are taking a different approach.

### Department of Social Protection in ROI – FMcG

- The Food Poverty Working Group have been carrying out a mapping exercise to identify the range of work undertaken or funded by governments, local authorities, or any state body, to address food poverty, the data is currently being compiled for dissemination.
- The Food Poverty Working Group put out a request for tenders for research to examine the prevalence and drivers of food poverty. There were no responses received so the group will discuss this and look to drive it forward at the next meeting at the end of April.
- **FMcG** advised that there is no further update on the school meals from the last meeting.
- The FEAD programme officially closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. An evaluation is being conducted which will help to shape the new programme, this should be finalised in Q3 and a link will be shared with the group when completed.
- A research paper by the ESRI titled "[Poverty Target Reduction in Ireland and the Role of Social Transfers](#)" which is due for publication shortly.

### 7. Action Plans 2022

**AP** reviewed the actions that were due to be delivered at this stage and the updates were recorded on the respective action plans.

- **CD** informed the meeting the **GMcF** is part of a group that are currently looking at free school meals and uniform grants and a business plan was being drawn up to bring forward in relation to free school meals. **FMcG** suggested that **CD** contact her separately regarding the free school meals and back to school and **FMcG** will send on information.
- **MA** informed the meeting that FareShare are now the main food providers for a project that in Fermanagh & Omagh District Council called the Open Fridge Project with 18 different schools. FareShare has signed up to provide weekly deliveries of healthy snacks. This is a pilot programme and will be continued throughout 2022. **JDS** asked **MA** if the information could be sent on the **AP/TT** on an email for updating to the action plan.

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**AP** reminded members that if anything needs to be added to the action plans, to email herself or **TT** with the information.

**Action 7: MA** to send information to **TT/AP** regarding new pilot programme.

### 8. AOB

Nil.

### 9. Date of next meeting (to be confirmed)

**ACTION 8: TT** to circulate Doodle poll with dates for next meeting to all members (*this was subsequently amended due to the meeting now taking place after the AIFPN workshop in September*).