

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #42

Date: Thursday, 7th October 2021

Venue: Microsoft Teams online

Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm

In Attendance

Name	Organisation
Joana Caldeira Fernandes da Silva (Chair)	safefood
Tracey Thompson	safefood
Sharon Gilmore	Food Standards Agency NI
Sarah O'Halloran	Department of Social Protection, ROI
Yvonne Fleming	Crosscare
Naomi Davidson	Food Standards Agency NI
Christine Dale	Dept. of Health NI
Meabh Austin	FareShare
Anne Parle	safefood
Ursula O'Dwyer	Department of Health, ROI
Naoimh Poucher	Consumer Council NI
Orna O'Brien	Irish Heart
Philippa McKeown	Consumer Council NI
Freda McGowan	Department of Social Protection, ROI
Kathryn Reilly	Irish Heart
Fionnuala Close	Food Standards Agency NI
Eimear Delahunty	Food Cloud
James Elliott	Department for Communities NI
Hannah Williamson	Northern Ireland Chest Heart and Stroke
Sinead Conroy	SECAD
Tracey Colgan	Health & Social Care NI

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Eoin Roche	Department of Children and Youth Affairs, ROI
Bertrand Maitre	The Economic and Social Research Institute
Pauline Leeson	Children in Northern Ireland
Saoirse Brady	Children's Right Ireland, ROI
Darren Moan	Department of Health NI

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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

There were no amendments to the minutes from the previous meeting and they were accepted by all. All actions were completed.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

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

Department of Health ROI - UO'D advised that the OPIOG Healthy Eating subgroup will provide regular updates on activities taking place relating to food poverty and feedback to the Department of Social Protection interdepartmental group on Food Poverty.

The Department will be launching a Healthy Communities programme on the 20th of October to provide increased health and wellbeing services in 19 community areas across Ireland. Funding will be provided to employ 19 food and nutrition workers to support implementation of the programme in communities, appointments will take place before the end of 2021.

Other areas of work include reformulation, a task force is being set up, and a road map and action plan will be published. Healthy Eating Guidelines for Older Adults (65+ years) are being created. Finally, the FSAI has been asked to provide Scientific Recommendations for Healthy Eating for Teenagers.

Department of Health NI – CD advised that the DOH has commenced work on a replacement strategic framework for AFFFA 2012-2022 and a vision has been agreed for the policy development and are now working toward themes. At a local level, the Regional Obesity Prevention Implementation Group are also looking for a refresh.

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

Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in ROI - SO'H informed members that a food poverty working group was established, overseen by a steering committee which is chaired by Minister Joe O'Brien. The main piece of work currently ongoing is to map what is taking place across government around food poverty.

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The Social Inclusion Monitor was published for 2018-19. The food poverty rate came down to 7% for 2018 but then took an upward turn in 2019 for 7.4%. There was a general increase in deprivation in 2019.

Department for Communities in NI – JE advised the proposal for the roll out of Social Supermarkets has been approved, the co-design process will be starting with the councils. Wraparound support to address causes of the food poverty must be part of the service. It is hoped that interventions will be in place in the new year.

A portion of COVID emergency funding has been provided to FareShare to enable them to purchase and distribute food and the intention with the remainder is to top up existing council funds.

A 500-million-pound household support fund was announced to help individuals with essential items such as fuel, food and clothing items and it is expected that the amount that the DOH will receive will be in the region of 14 million pounds however the executives are yet to decide where that will go to within the DoH.

UO'D mentioned that the Social Supermarkets was of interest to the DoH and will come back to JE to discuss it further.

6. AIFPN Webinar 2021

The recording from the webinar is available to view online and the link had been shared by **TT** with the AIFPN. There were 186 attendees which was the most well attended event to date with very good engagement between speakers and attendees.

Members were reminded they can suggest topics for future webinars/workshops.

7. Action Plans for 2021

AP reviewed all actions outstanding from between the last AIFPN meeting and this meeting. All updates were captured on the relevant action plans.

ACTION 1: TT to share the invitation to the CFI online event with all AIFPN members.

ACTION 2: AP to share updated versions of the Action Plans with AIFPN members.

8. Newsletter

As mentioned throughout the meeting – any inclusions for the next edition to the newsletter to be sent on to AP or TT by email.

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9. AOB

PMcK mentioned that the Consumer Council was about to publish research into the '**Early impacts of the EU exit and the end of the transition period for consumers**' which includes consumer's concerns and experiences relating to food supply and concerns around price increases.

JDS asked all AIFPN members to start thinking about actions for the 2022 AIFPN Action Plans which will be discussed at the next meeting in 2022.

ACTION 3: TT to share the podcast titled '**Nutrition: What is food poverty and the cost of a minimum food basket**' with Dr Bernadette Mac Mahon & Robert Thornton of the Vincentian Partnership with FPN members.

ACTION 4: PMcK to share Consumer Council EU Exit report when it becomes available.

ACTION 5: ALL Members to begin considering actions for the 2022 AIFPN Action Plans.

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

ACTION 6: TT to circulate Doodle poll with dates for next meeting to all members.