

## Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #36

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**Date:** Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Venue:** VC rooms in *safefood* Cork & Dublin offices and Food Standards Agency NI, Belfast

**Time:** 11:00am – 12:30pm

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### In Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Joana Caldeira Fernandes da Silva <b>(Chair)</b>	<b>Safefood</b>
Marian O'Reilly	<b>Safefood</b>
Tracey Thompson	<b>Safefood</b>
Sharon Gilmore	Food Standards Agency - NI
Fionnuala Close	Food Standards Agency - NI
Jennifer McGonagle	Food Standards Agency - NI
Christine Dale (for Darren Moan)	Dept. of Health, NI
Margaret O'Neill	Health Services Executive ROI
James Elliot	Dept. of Communities NI
Sinead Conroy	SECAD
Maeve Carey	Causeway Coast & Glens NI
Nicola Murphy	Irish Heart
Anne-Marie Brooks	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
Zoe Fletcher	British Dietetics Association
Jennifer Feighan	INDI
Tracey Colgan	Health & Social Care NI
Ashlee McVeigh	Consumer Council NI
Bertrand Maitre	Economic and Social Research Institute

### Apologies

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Catherine Conlon	<b>Safefood</b>
Ursula O'Dwyer	Dept. of Health, ROI
Eimear Delahunty	Food Cloud Ireland
Clare O'Neill	FareShare NI
Darren Moan	Dept. of Health, NI
Bernadette MacMahon	The Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice
Fidelma Carter	Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke
Sarah Perry	Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke

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### 1. Welcome, apologies & introductions of new members

JDS welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were recorded.

### 2. Minutes from last meeting

All actions were completed and the minutes were approved with amendments.

### 3. Matters arising

JDS informed the meeting that the minutes from the previous meeting will be uploaded to the safefood website in due course.

**ACTION 1: TT to ensure minutes from previous meeting are uploaded to website.**

### 4. Updates from Dept. of Health NI & Dept. of Health ROI

**DOH NI update** (provided by CD)

Nutritional Standards Workshop took place in the week prior to FPN meeting and was very well attended. The next step is for **safefood** (Andrew Castles) to circulate a template to everyone that attended to complete. A follow up workshop will take place in a few months time to establish how things are progressing.

**DOH ROI update** (UOD unable to attend – an update from DOH ROI will be circulated as soon as one is made available.)

**ACTION 2: JDS to request an update from UOD on DOH ROI activities.**

JDS asked MO'R to provide an update in regard to the Vincentian Partnership of Social Justice and the work they are carrying out around the reviewing and rebasing the basket contents for the cost of a healthy food basket research. MO'R advised that the basket will not just be based on food but on items that are considered to be the "minimum essential standard of living" items. This review would have implications for the ROI piece of work moving forward. MO'R advised that as **safefood** conducts a review of the cost of a minimum healthy food basket every two years, it is expected that this piece of work will not reflect the findings until the next review for the minimum healthy food basket. The biggest outcome from the Vincentian Partnership review was that the contents of the basket have remained practically the same in both urban and rural areas since the last review conducted in 2012.

When looking at the cost of a healthy food basket The Vincentian Partnership would have used one consumer price index value which is the average across food and beverages and this is then compared to the sub-indices for various types of food and what was found was that

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using the average one underestimates the cost of the food basket when compared to using the more accurate sub-index. As part of the research that they have done for **safefood** the Vincentian Partnership have used sub-indices when they have compared different types of food categories.

In NI in 2014 **safefood** carried out work with two household types to develop two types of food basket contents. In 2016 a further two household types were added with their contents for the food baskets, food menus and pricing and since then have continued to do updates. **safefood** is currently reviewing the content of the four food basket types because they were developed using the healthy eating guidance at the time, the "Eatwell Plate" which has now been updated and replaced with the "Eatwell Guide". The contents of the food baskets are being reviewed in relation to the changes to the healthy eating guidelines to determine if there are implications and if further focus group research is required. MO'R will ask the Vincentian Partnership if it is possible to share the review and rebase work presentation that they shared with **safefood** with FPN members, as it puts everything into context.

**ACTION 3: MO'R to confirm with Vincenisan Partnership if it is possible to share their Review & Rebase work presentation with all FPN members.**

### 5. Network Action Plan 2020

#### NI Action Plan 2020

JDS asked JMcG of FSA NI to go through the NI Action plan. JMcG asked if there were any changes needed to the plan that had been circulated – the following changes were requested:-

- Brexit subgroup be deferred and reviewed again in 6 months time.
- Add action for all to share relevant papers on the impact of BREXIT on food poverty/food insecurity.
- Add action for FSA to share results of food insecurity questions asked as part of the FSA's Food and You survey when available.
- Add action to share action plan with ROPIG.
- Add JE to update when a decision has been made regarding ongoing support in relation to Social Supermarket Pilot Programme.
- District Councils to continue to map food poverty activity across all council areas, identifying good practice and where gaps exist.

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**ACTION 4: TT to amend NI action plan with changes recorded above.**

ROI Action Plan 2019

**ACTION 5: TT & JDS to amend ROI action plan including moving actions for ROI included in the NI plan to the ROI plan.**

### 6. Food Poverty Newsletter

JDS confirmed that there were now over 200 subscribers to the newsletter. An evaluation will be circulated to all subscribers for more feedback in relation to content. The next newsletter will be published in May. JDS also asked if anyone had anything relevant to Food Poverty that could be shared with the subscribers to please send it on.

### 7. 2020 Workshop – 29<sup>th</sup> September, NICVA Centre, Belfast

JMcG updated that the planning for the workshop was underway and the theme for the workshop is "Communication & Food Poverty" and there are already two confirmed speakers for the workshop – Dr Martin Kelleher (London) and Megan Blake (Sheffield). Further updates will be provided when the other speakers have been confirmed. JDS advised she had also just received confirmation from Kitty Holland (journalist Irish Times) that she will also speak at the workshop. JDS asked that if anyone had anything further they'd like to see highlighted at the workshop to please contact JDS or JMcG. JDS also advised that the coffee break time would be extended to allow for more time for networking as was previously requested. It is hoped that a "save the date" with the agenda will be circulated by the end April.

### 8. AOB

There was no other business to discuss.

### 9. Date of next meeting

**ACTION 6: TT to circulate dates for the next meeting via Doodle.**