

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #39

Date: Wednesday, 21st October 2020

Venue: Microsoft Teams online

Time: 14:30pm – 16:00pm

In Attendance

| Name | Organisation |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Sharon Gilmore (Chair) (SG) | FSA NI |
| Fionnuala Close (FC) | FSA NI |
| Naomi Davidson (ND) | FSA NI |
| Catherine Conlon (CC) | Safefood |
| Joana Caldeira Fernandes da Silva (JDS) | Safefood |
| Marian O'Reilly (MO'R) | Safefood |
| Christine Dale (CD) | Dept. of Health NI |
| Dolores Palmer (DP) | Dept. of Health NI |
| James Elliott (JE) | Dept. for Communities NI |
| Sharon Polson (SP) | Dept. for Communities NI |
| Bertrand Maitre (BM) | ESRI |
| Eimear Delahunty (ED) | Food Cloud |
| Phillippa McKeown (PMcK) | Consumer Council NI |
| Meabh Austin (MA) | FareShare Northern Ireland |
| Louise Reynolds (LR) | INDI |
| Maeve Carey (MC) | Lisburn and Castlereagh Council, NI |
| Sarah Noone (SN) | Irish Heart, ROI |

Apologies

| Name | Organisation |
|--------------------------|---|
| Tracey Thompson | <i>Safefood</i> |
| Anne-Marie Brooks (DCYA) | Department of Children and Youth Affairs, ROI |
| Kerry Melville | Belfast Food Network NI |
| Gary McFarlane | CIEH |
| Tracey Colgan | Health & Social Care NI |
| Phillippa McKeown, | Consumer Council NI |
| Darren Moan | Dept. of Health NI |
| Zoe Fletcher | British Dietetics Association |

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1. Welcome & apologies

SG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes from last meeting

Action 1 from the previous meeting was for FC to follow up with Dierdre Corrigan regarding the release of the Food Poverty questions for the indicator in the Health Survey for NI. FC advised that attempts to make contact continue but have been unsuccessful possibly due to redeployment during COVID-19. All other actions were completed.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. 2020 Webinar - feedback and discussion

More than 200 people registered to attend the webinar with 147 joining on the day. Some ideas and topics for future workshops that were highlighted in the evaluation forms included "building capacity to improve outcomes for those in receipt of food parcels" and "strategies to move people away from poverty/food poverty", "practical ways to combat food poverty" and "holiday hunger". People were asked to provide feedback around technical issues and whilst some did highlight that it wasn't working at a certain point (either image or sound) most linked that back to the weather and noted that it was nothing that was significant. In relation to preferred time for hosting these types of events, 9-11 was the preferred slot time. Most of the attendees were health care professionals, or a government agency as well as academia. JDS noted however that there was only a small number of respondents so more time would be allowed for further feedback forms to be submitted and a final report will be compiled and shared with the members. SG advised that it was felt that the feedback so far was very positive but that more feedback was welcomed. MO'R advised that the numbers reached as a result of this event was much greater than represented in the feedback and the recording will be put up on the website for those who were unable to attend to access at their convenience. It was felt by other members that the fact that accessibility of the event being an online event was far greater via webinar than before. SG suggested that once the link was available the link could be shared with specific target audiences. Discussion amongst members ensued and feedback included the break-out rooms and polls as well as using cameras and microphones to ask question in person would be a good option. JDS suggested that once things could return to normal a physical event, short webinars on specific topic or reports could be considered.

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5. Potential Topics for 2021 Workshop/Webinar

JDS mentioned that the following topics were ones that had come out of the feedback from the workshop:-

- Building capacity to improve outcomes for those in receipt of food parcels
- How to move people away from poverty/food poverty
- Practical ways to combat food poverty
- Holiday hunger

JDS advised that Holiday Hunger was already part of another event where there were two topics covered, however it would be possible to explore doing another workshop on Holiday Hunger alone however everyone's suggestions were welcome and it was not the intention to come away with a topic for the workshop at today's meeting. FC advised that she believed the "Food and You 2" data in relation to food insecurity, will be released in January. This data will cover part of the lockdown period which will indicate if levels of household food insecurity have risen. It is possible that by the time of the next workshop, there could be two sets of data available which could go a long way to informing the current picture. SN advised that food poverty happens in the context of a wider structural poverty and to only address food poverty would only be touching the tip of the iceberg and that it was important that the wider structural poverty issues were also addressed. SN advised that if there is to be any impact, it is important to look at ways of connecting these conversations. MO'N also advised that the DOH had done a review on social supports which included Meals on Wheels and this could be an area to consider, specifically as Meals on Wheels was more than just about food provision, it was about the social connectiveness piece and will part of the DOHs work for the next while and as a result there will be a lot of research in this area that could be drawn upon for a workshop. MO'N also informed that the DOH was looking at the new healthy eating guidelines for older people as well as the nutritional standards and some of this will have progressed by the new year. CC suggested that another topic for a workshop could be on the review of the economic implications of COVID-19 and the impact this has had on Food Poverty – how to transition out of COVID-19 and the cost to food poverty.

6. Newsletter

JDS advised the next Food Poverty newsletter was due out in December and the feature piece will be around the event and the presentations and recording will be included. JDS also highlighted to the FPN members that, should they see any research or reports that could potentially be relevant or of interest to send them on to herself or ND for inclusion. FC advised that Hannah Lambie-Mumford's Phase II research report is due out in the Autumn and could be publicised in the newsletter.

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7. AOB

There was no other business raised.

8. Date of next meeting

3rd February 2021