

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #38

Date: Thursday, 10th September 2020

Venue: Microsoft Teams online

Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm

In Attendance

Name	Organisation
Catherine Conlon (Chair) CC	Safefood
Tracey Thompson TT	Safefood
Joana Caldeira Fernandes da Silva JDS	Safefood
Marian O'Reilly MO'R	Safefood
Sharon Gilmore SG	FSA NI
Fionnuala Close FC	FSA NI
Naomi Davidson ND	FSA NI
Zoe Fletcher ZF	British Dietetics Association
Philippa McKeown PMcK	Consumer Council NI
Christine Dale CD	Dept. of Health NI
Darren Moan	Dept. of Health NI
Yvonne Fleming YF	Cross Care ROI
Ursula O'Dwyer UO'D	Dept. of Health, ROI
Meabh Austin MA	FareShare Northern Ireland
Sinead Conroy	SECAD
Eimear Delahunty	Food Cloud Ireland, ROI
Tracey Colgan TC	Health & Social Care NI
James Elliot JE	Dept. for Communities NI
Kerry Melville KM	Belfast Food Network NI
Maeve Carey	Lisburn and Castlereagh Council, NI
Louise Reynolds LR	INDI

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Bertrand Maitre	Economic and Social Research Institute
Margaret O'Neill	DOH
Sharon Polson	Dept. for Communities NI
Susan McGowan	Department of Social Protection ROI

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #38

1. Welcome & apologies

CC welcomed all to the online meeting of the AIFPN meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes from last meeting

CC reviewed the actions from the previous meeting held on 26th May 2020 and confirmed. Action 5 from 26th May meeting to remain on minutes to be reviewed at the next meeting – i.e., FC to follow up with Dierdre Coregan in regard to the release of the Food Poverty questions for the indicator in the Health Survey of NI. FC advised that an email had been send but no reply had been received as yet.

ACTION 1: FC revisit Action 5 from 26th May meeting as outlined above.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

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

DOH ROI update (provided by UO'D)

UO'D advised that the main update from the DOH was that the 1-4yr old Healthy Eating Guidelines/Children's Food Pyramid will be launched on the 29th September and is is hoped that (schedule permitting) Minister of Health & Wellbeing will be available for this. UO'D advised that she will send TT the resources pack for the 1-4yr old Food Pyramid to circulate to all members once finalised.

UO'D advised that once the master resource is available these will be used for the Early Learning and Care centres nutritional standards which it is hoped will be available by the end of December 2020.

UO'D advised the meeting that Kate O'Flaherty will be leaving Healthy Ireland as she will now be heading up the Screening Service in the Dept. Of Health with effect from 28th September and the recruitment process has begun for Kate's replacement.

UO'D also informed the meeting that the EU joint action group "Best ReMap" (Best Practices in Reformulation, Marketing and Food Procurement) will be going ahead on 1st October and a meeting will be taking place later in the day (10th Sept) with the work package leaders and Ireland is co-leading with Portugal on the work package called "Marketing with Healthy Foods to Children" and is a 3 year programme.

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #38

ACTION 2: UO'D to send TT the resources pack for the 1-4yr old Food Pyramid to circulate to all members.

DOH NI update (provided by DM)

DM advised that following the Prime Minister's announcement on the "tackling obesity policy" in the UK which includes an action to ban television and online advertising of high fat high salt & sugar foods and if that goes ahead will go out on a nationwide basis. At the same time, consultation is underway with the 4 nations in relation to front of pack calorie labelling for alcohol. A big focus will now also be the possibility of poverty issues arising from COVID-19 and the potential of the vulnerable having to shield again – this will be done in conjunction with colleagues from the Dept. for Communities and the Public Health Agency.

5. Review of action plans

The action plans for NI & ROI were reviewed and where relevant, members provided progress updates relating to their actions.

ACTION 3: JDS to follow up with UO'D with regard to the publication of the results of the Nutrition Standards for Hot School Meals Pilot as per ROI action plan. JDS to also follow up with AMB or HO'B of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (ROI) in respect of their action relating to the commencement of a pilot of a meal programme in Early Learning and Care Settings (commencing in September 2020).

6. UKRI Funded research on Food Vulnerability during COVID-19

Following the Phase I report circulated by TT on behalf of FC to all members on the 10th August titled "Mapping responses to risk of rising food insecurity during the COVID-19 crisis across the UK" being conducted by Hannah Lambie-Mumford, Rachel Loopstra, Katy Gordon and is funded by UKRI (UK Research Innovation), FC provided a brief overview of the very important research which has four main aims; i) to complete a comprehensive mapping of food access systems during COVID-19 which has already taking place and had highlighted areas of vulnerability within the system and also identified links to other support systems. ii) Develop and apply methods for monitoring and evaluating these food access systems for vulnerable groups during COVID-19 and during the easing of lockdown. iii) Develop exit strategies for managing the transition out of these systems where systems won't be provided after crisis is over & iv) to establish best practise protocols for resilience planning for the future. FC advised that the second phase of this piece of research is currently underway and the results are due out in the autumn. Hannah Lambie-Mumford will also be a speaker

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #38

during the upcoming webinar in October so she will provide an overview of the findings from the research at that. There is a section specifically dedicated to NI however the comparisons between NI, Scotland England and Wales are useful to see how different countries are doing things. FC advised that one of the actions in the Action Plan was to set up a sub-group to look at threats to food security which was initially ahead of BREXIT however that has been replaced by COVID-19 and so believed there was an opportunity to look at this report and identify risks to food security and vulnerability going forward. As there were recommendations made in this report it would be a good opportunity for the network to get a group together of a few of the government departments and considersome of these recommendations. Some of the recommendations may already be actioned through existing planssuch as those for the social supermarket scheme, however it would be important to look at ways to take the recommendations forward. FC asked that, if it was in order with the network, she would consider what departments would be important in the sub-group to help take the reccomendations forward and get in touch with the relevant departments around the time of the webinar.

ACTION 4: FC to consider what departments should be represented on the subgroup to look at the research reccomendations.

7. 2020 Food Poverty webinar

JDS advised that the webinar will take place on the 20th October and a "save the date" will be sent out shortly. The webinar title is "Food Poverty Learnings from responses to COVID-19" This Webinar will share the challenges and learnings from the responses to tackle food poverty/insecurity during the Covid-19 pandemic in different jurisdictions. Hannah Lambie-Mumford from the University of Sheffield will outline the preliminary findings from their Food Vulnerability during COVID-19 report, which provides an overview of responses across the UK to households experiencing food insecurity during the pandemic. Sharon Polson will share the Department for Communities' response in Northern Ireland, including updates on their work with Fare Share, the COVID-19 Community Support Fund, and Social Supermarket programme. Eimear Delahunty will share FoodCloud's experience in providing food to different vulnerable groups during the pandemic in the Republic of Ireland.

DM asked if the webinar will be recorded so that it may be shared with colleagues. JDS confirmed it would be and asked TT to also share a podcast which **safefood** had recently recorded with Megan Blake and Kitty Holland.

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #38

ACTION 5: TT to share Food Poverty podcast with AIFPN members.

8. Date of next meeting

ACTION 6: TT to circulate dates for the next two meetings - one before the end of 2020 and for the first meeting of 2021.

DRAFT