

## Minutes of Food Poverty Network Meeting #45

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**Date:** Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Venue:** W5, Belfast

**Time:** 14:30hrs – 16:00hrs

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### **In Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Sharon Gilmore (Chair)</b>	Food Standards Agency – Northern Ireland (NI)
Fionnuala Close	Food Standards Agency – NI
Emily Boyd	Food Standards Agency – NI
Aileen McGloin	<b>safefood</b>
Kerry Melville	Nourish NI
James Elliott	Department for Communities NI
Christine Dale	Department of Health NI
Bertrand Maitre	Economic and Social Research Institute
Maeve Austin	FareShare Northern Ireland
Alexis Gamble	Causeway Coast and Glens, NI
Ernest Purvis	Children in Northern Ireland
Philippa McKeown-Brown	Consumer Council, NI
Naoimh Poucher	Consumer Council, NI
Anne Parle	<b>Safefood</b>

### **Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Tracey Thompson	<b>safefood</b>
Gary McFarlane	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Freda McGowan	Department of Social Protection
Maeve Carey	Lisburn and Castlereagh Council, NI
Clare O'Neill	FareShare NI
Eimear Delahunty	FoodCloud
Joy Walsh	CrossCare
Kathryn Reilly	Irish Heart
Karen Gaynor	Health Service Executive (HSE)
Janice Verschoyle	Department of Social Protection
Jonny Currie	The Trussell Trust
Darren Moan	Department of Health, NI
Marian McBride	HSE
Sinead Conroy	SECAD

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### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

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

### 2. Minutes from last meeting

All actions from the last meeting were reviewed and follow up on the below outstanding actions was agreed: -

**ACTION 1: AP** still awaiting information form Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in regard to a replacement representative before a resolution for Action No. 2 (8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 meeting) can be sought.

### 3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 1. Feedback from AIFPN event

**SG** thanked all the speakers presenting at the morning event "Cost of living crisis" and expressed gratitude to those able to attend the first in-person event held since pre-Covid-19 and invited. **SG** invited feedback on the event.

**BM** expressed that it may have been a little ambitious to fit everything into the time allotted as presentations ran over their time.

**SG** noted the time provided by both Ministers to attend the event and present and agreed that if there are officials present in the future, further time should be allowed to accommodate them.

**AMcG** mentioned the significance of having two ministers to one half day event.

**PMcKB** suggested having the people who are working on the ground present to hear from their perspective what works well and new things emerging.

**JE** informed the meeting that the Minister (NI) was spending a lot of time on the "ground" and was keen to know that there were plans in place for distribution of food should emergency money become available.

**SG** noted from the messaging at the event, that the younger responders and over 75s were more likely to feel food insecurity. FSA NI have published research on "Generation Z" that explored the causes (see link). [Food and Generation Z | Food Standards Agency](#)

**SG** noted that the work of the Department of Health NI with the 11 local councils which very encouraging. **JE** stated that it is hoped that they will get a more "grass roots/holistic" approach to working with the councils.

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**CD** advised that the Public Health Agency are working with the councils in regard to obesity and a whole systems approach. Further details of which are available in the Member's Updates.

**AMcG** mentioned the number of vulnerable people who were not availing of support services but would be eligible to access such services. **AMcG** asked **JE** how the Department have been addressing stigma in the social supermarkets pilot. **JE** stated that the social supermarkets all look like shops and people can have a shopping experience and choose their own items.

**MA** advised there will be 7 active sustainable food partnerships embedded in councils by the end of 2022 and will play a role in addressing food poverty.

**FC** suggested including dignity in the context of emergency food supplies as an area to explore for future events.

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

#### Department of Health NI – CD

**CD** provided a detailed written update prior to the meeting.

DoH have started policy development work on a replacement Obesity strategic framework in February 2021. Several workshops have taken place to support this, two further workshops will take place on the topics of the whole system approach and weight stigma. The draft strategy will be going out to consultation later in the year.

#### Department of Health ROI - (presented by AP on behalf of UO'D)

**UO'D** sends her apologies and has sent a detailed update which will be circulated with the minutes from this meeting when they are sent on to members.

The Slaintecare Healthy Communities programme is continuing to operate across the 19 community areas.

The inter-departmental food poverty working group is continuing to meet and Greg Straton will replace **UO'D** on this group until her replacement is recruited.

Healthy Ireland launched a Healthy Weight social media campaign aimed at 25-34-year-olds. The reformulation task force work on the reformulation work package is being led by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

An interdepartmental working group has been established to progress the EU farm to fork strategy.

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

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### Department for Communities in NI – JE

**JE** advised that as stated earlier, as all the councils are at different stages of implementing social supermarkets, it is hoped that they will all have started by the end of the year. The full update is available in the member update document.

### Department of Social Protection in ROI – SO'H

**SG** advised that Caroline Kilkenny was unable to attend however a written update was provided in the member update document.

## 6. Action Plans 2022

**AP** reviewed the two respective action plans and noted the updates. The revised updated action plans will be circulated to all members once completed.

**ACTION 2: AP** to circulate updated action plans

**ACTION 3: KM** to send **PMcK-B** a copy of the research report carried out by Emma Campbell of Queens University mapping the food deserts.

## 7. AIFPN subgroups

**SG** informed the meeting that the consultation period around the new structure had been finalised.

**AP** advised that the regional subgroups would meet twice a year and then everyone would meet once as an All-island basis. There would still be communication on an all-island basis. This will be on a trial basis.

**SG** advised that dates for the future sub-group meetings will be sent out along with proposed agenda.

## 8. AOB

**AP** read a message to everyone on behalf of **UOD**, **UOD** is retiring and will not be attending any further meeting. **UOD** gave thanks to the Network for their help and support over the years and to **safefood** and FSA for hosting the network.

**MA** informed the meeting that FoodCloud are working on a food sourcing strategy for the whole of Ireland and FareShare are going to be linking in on this through their food supply advisory board. FareShare will also be working on the co-design and roll out of the social supermarkets.

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**PMcKB** highlighted the publishing of the Northern Island Household Expenditure Tracker. The Consumer Council also launched the regional consumer price index for Northern Ireland.

**ACTION 4: PMcKB** to follow up with **TT** re Northern Island Household Expenditure Tracker.

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

**ACTION 8: TT** to circulate Doodle poll with dates for next meeting to all members