

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Ireland Meeting #1

Date: Thursday, 2nd March 2023

Venue: MS Teams (Online)

Time: 11:00hrs – 12:30hrs

In Attendance

Name	Organisation
Aileen McGloin (Chair)	safefood
Tracey Thompson	safefood
Paula Harris	Crosscare
Naomi Feely	Children's Rights Alliance
Louise Reynolds	Institute of Nutrition and Dietetics
Emily Boyd	Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland
Robert Thornton	Vincentian MESL Research Centre at the SVP
Anne Parle	safefood
Fionnuala Close	Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland
Paul Norris	Department of Social Protection
Sarah O'Brien	Health Service Executive
Laura McGauley	Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland
Sinead Conroy	SECAD
Catherine Curran	Department of Health
Fiona Ward	Department of Health
Bertrand Maitre	The Economic and Social Research Institute
Eimear Delahunty	Food Cloud

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Orna O'Brien	Irish Heart
Kathryn Reilly	Irish Heart

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

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

2. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were accepted by all. All actions from the last meeting were reviewed and follow up on the below outstanding actions was agreed: -

ACTION 1: AP to contact Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth regarding a new representative for the network.

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3. Matters arising

AP informed the meeting that an action from the meeting held on the 8th February 2022 remained outstanding as a representative from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth has not been appointed.

4. Updates from Dept. of Health

CC provided an overview of the Departments work since the previous meeting:

An independent evaluation of the Obesity Action Plan was carried out, the evaluation is available on the Departments website.

The Healthy Ireland Survey was published in December 2022. 60% of the adult population are living with overweight or obesity. Rates of overweight and obesity do not appear to have increased since 2019 (a slight drop was noted).

Healthy eating guidelines for adults aged over 65 are to be published in Q2.

The healthy weight digital media campaign targeted specifically at the 25 – 35 year-old age ran between September and November 2022 and will be re-run shortly.

ACTION 2: CC to send on link to OPAP evaluation reports and the Healthy Ireland survey 2022 for onward circulation to AIFPN members.

5. Updates from Dept. of Social Protection in ROI

PH provided an overview of the Departments work:

The Departments Food Poverty working group published a report mapping the work across government to address food poverty. The group commissioned a research project identifying the drivers of food poverty looking at two case study areas, one urban and one rural will be published in Q2. Finally, a case worker-based model will be piloted where funding is provided to case workers working within food banks to address the underlying reasons why people are experiencing food poverty. This work will go to tender in the coming weeks.

The Hot School Meals programme was further extended to 283 new DEIS primary schools and it is the intention to roll out the Hot School Meals to all remaining DEIS primary and special schools this year. The FEAD (Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived) programme commenced in February 2022.

NF queried when the evaluation of the hot school meals programme would be published. **PH** advised that it was due to be published imminently and would follow up with the relevant colleague to clarify the date and send details to **TT** for onward forwarding.

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ACTION 3: PH to follow up on date for publication of the Hot School Meals evaluation report and send details to TT to share with the group when available.

ACTION 4: PH to forward the link to TT of the High-Level Mapping Exercise once published in early Q2.

6. Action Plans 2023

AP thanked those that had sent on their contributions and proceeded to the review the 2022 Action Plan. **AP** highlighted the outstanding items with the relevant partners and where possible these were closed out and anything outstanding was to be transferred over to the 2023 Action Plan. **AP** also asked that if there were any other actions to be added to the Action Plan, to send these on to be added to the Action Plan to fully reflect the work being done.

ACTION 5: ALL members are asked to submit any additional actions for the 2023 Action Plan.

7. AIFPN Terms of reference

AP provided an overview of the Terms of Reference that had been created to reflect the new structure of the Network. **AP** advised that the Terms of Reference would be shared again after the meeting and for any feedback to be given within two weeks of it being circulated.

ACTION 6: TT to circulate the Terms of Reference after the meeting and members are asked to revert with feedback within two weeks.

8. Presentation on Sláintecare Healthy Communities – update from Sarah O’Brien

SO’B presented a brief overview on the work of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities and provided examples of the work carried out by the new Community Food and Nutrition workers to date.

9. AOB

AP informed the meeting that there was a date in the diaries for the all-island event due to take place on the 26th September in Dublin which will then be followed by the all-island meeting of this group. The topic for the event has not yet been decided so any suggestions would be welcome.

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10. Date of next meeting

AMcG informed the meeting that dates to be tabled are 25th May and 1st June and these will be circulated by doodle to all members to vote. This will be an in-person meeting.

ACTION 7: TT to circulate dates for the next meeting via doodle.