

Minutes of Food Poverty Network Ireland Meeting #1

Date: Thursday, 25th May 2023
Venue: *safefood* Boardroom, Dublin Office
Time: 11:00hrs – 12:30hrs

In Attendance

Name	Organisation
Aileen McGloin (Chair)	safefood
Anne Parle	safefood
Bertrand Maitre	The Economic and Social Research Institute
Hannah Boylan	Vincentian MESL Research Centre at the SVP
Paula Harris	Crosscare
Fiona Ward	Department of Health
Marian McBride	Health Service Executive
Louise Reynolds	Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute
Catherine Curran	Department of Health

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Sharon Gilmore	Food Standards Agency NI
Fionnuala Close	Food Standards Agency NI
Emily Boyd	Food Standards Agency NI
Laura McGauley	Food Standards Agency NI
Tracey Thompson	safefood
Orna O'Brien	Irish Heart
Katherine Ryan	Irish Heart
Eimear Delahunty	Food Cloud Ireland
Paul Norris	Department of Social Protection
Freda McGowan	Department of Social Protection
Kathryn O'Riordan	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

AMcG welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were acknowledged.

2. Minutes from last meeting

BM stated that the incorrect organisation was against his name in the minutes of the previous meeting. **AMcG** apologised and it was noted for change. All actions from the last meeting

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were reviewed and completed. **AMcG** noted that **TT** would recirculate the links previously circulated on one email to all members.

ACTION 1: **TT** to amend the name of the organisation against Bertrand's name previous meeting.

ACTION 2: **TT** to recirculate links to the reports mentioned in the minutes from the previous meeting.

3. Matters arising

A representative from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth is currently being identified. An update was provided by Kathryn O'Riordan on behalf of the Department and are as follows: -

The [Nutrition Standards for Early Learning and Care Services](#) have been published. This is the first time the sector has had standards. They will be implemented in the coming year.

A Hot Meals pilot is underway at present with sessional and part time services. The pilot will report in July.

The Department is awaiting the report from the National Dairy Council's Milk Pilot with Early Learning and Care services.

4. Updates from Dept. of Health provided by Fiona Ward

The Department attended a meeting for EU member states Early Care Co-ordinators. The meeting included updates on the Social Inclusion and Child Poverty Programme under the Department of the Taoiseach, the Social Inclusion Roadmap and DCEDIY are developing a new framework on social inclusion and poverty is included in this (due in 2023).

There was discussion around the quality of food and meals provided through food provision services, it was noted healthier meals are something not accepted, or individuals return food items as they are unsure how to cook with them. Some reported low levels of literacy impacted the ability to engage with recipes.

AMcG to explore research into how to enhance acceptability of healthier meal provision.

AMcG suggested that a QR code could be included alongside the recipes in the 101 Square Meals that would link to a cooking video.

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ACTION 3: AMcG to follow up on exploring consumer acceptability of healthy meals with researchers.

ACTION 4: AP to investigate linking recipe videos to the 101 Square Meals recipe book.

5. Updates from Dept. of Social Protection in Ireland

AMcG reported on behalf of the Dept. of Social Protection from the report provided by Paul Norris. The Food Poverty Working Group met on 26th April and focused on the progression of the roadmap. There was a research project that went to tender for two case study areas (Dublin 24 & Ballinasloe) and Amárach Research were the successful tender applicants. The research project is to analyse the prevalence, drivers, and actions to address food poverty in these two areas. The final report is due in June. The Food Poverty Pilot Programme to support people experiencing food poverty in four regions (Dublin, Cork Galway & Limerick) went out to tender in March and closes on 11th of May. Once the tender has been awarded it is expected the pilot programme will launch in June 2023. [The School Meals Evaluation](#) has been published on the 30th of March and is available online. The Social Inclusions Forum will take place on the 1st of June. **AMcG** stated that when the reports have been published, they will be shared with this group.

ACTION 5: TT to share the reports when available with the FPN Ireland members.

6. Action Plans 2023

AP reviewed the actions that were due to be completed and updates were provided by the respective members present at the meeting.

7. Presentation on the Cost of a healthy food basket by Hannah Boylan, MESL Researcher, Vincentian MESL Research Centre, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

HB presented the findings on the Cost of a healthy food basket report.

8. AOB

The hot meals pilot programme in early learning and childcare settings – LR informed the meeting that feedback from the service providers involved in the pilot programme was extremely positive however, there was questions around how this would be rolled at the end of the pilot programme including logistics and resourcing. As well as the concerns, it was also apparent that there was a need further upskilling. **LR** suggested that the best way for this to would be via a webinar or online support. The report from the pilot scheme will be released by Pobal in June. **AMcG** advised that one area that has been

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identified was the lack of a “healthy lunchbox guidance” for early learning and childcare settings and **JdS** of **safefood** and **MMcB** are developing this and will go hand in hand with the primary school “healthy lunchbox leaflet” and it is hoped that it will be available for September 2023.

9. Date of next meeting

AMcG informed the meeting that date of the next meeting would be the **26th of September** in Dublin following the AIFPN workshop from 1:30pm – 3:00pm, a venue will be confirmed in due course.