

Under the leadership of:



In partnership with:



Coordinated by:



Lindsay Graham
Dr Rys Farthing
Dr Jo Pike



Children's Future Food Inquiry

Committee Room 11, House of Commons
12 March 2018, 2-4pm

Chair: Sharon Hodgson MP

Apologies: Frank Field MP, Layla Moran MP, Matthew Reed, Mike Penrose, Nicola Blackman-Wood MP

Attendees – Alex Ward, Alison Garnham, Anna Taylor, Bruce Adamson, Dr Courtney Scott, Jess Faulkner, Dr Jo Pike, Kerry McCarthy MP, Lindsay Graham, Lord Watts, Pauline Leeson, Dr Rys Farthing, Professor. Russell Viner, Ilona Pinter, Dr Miriam Brazzelli, Maggie Morgan, Vicki Stewart (observing)

PowerPoint presentations seen at the meeting will be circulated alongside these meeting notes

Introduction and opening comments

- Bruce Adamson made introductory comments and explained why the Inquiry should be based on a human rights approach with a strong participatory element. The Inquiry should make clear the overriding duties of the State to support children specifically.
- The impact of 'Breadline Kids' Documentary was discussed and the issue of families who are in the middle of the immigration process (see here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3GDxEYl6Qg>). The specific case of the boy who was not able to receive free school meals in spite of his family being entirely dependent on charity. The Children's Society estimate that 144,000 children in England and Wales are undocumented. They estimate a further 50,000 people over the period 2012-2016 have no recourse to public funds, of which half are estimated to be children.
- The impact of school holidays was also briefly discussed and the specific action now being taken by North Lanarkshire Council to ensure children have access to a meal 365 days a year. This is creating a lot of interest in Scotland and other Councils are looking to follow their lead.

Anna Taylor: proposed elements and timeline

- Funding – Funding received from the Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland, The Welsh Local Government Association. The Tudor Trust has also committed funds.
- There was a request for all funding to be clearly listed on the website for a transparent approach and it was confirmed that we will not be accepting funding from industry
- It was confirmed that we are also collating resources and in-kind support to make the process happen.

- Any other suggestions for funding are gratefully received as the Inquiry is still not fully funded.

Dr Miriam Brazzelli: literature review

- The review has been commissioned by The National Institute for Health Research and being delivered by Dr Brazzelli at the University of Aberdeen
- Dr Brazzelli has set up an advisory group to help interpret the data/literature
- There was a discussion as to whether all the findings should be released at the end of the Inquiry or whether interim findings could be released during the course of the year to develop the media narrative and keep people engaged.

It was agreed that gaining interest along the way is a good idea, helping people to understand what is happening in the inquiry and that it was important to keep traction

- It was suggested that resources developed along the way could be helpful to policy makers before the end of the inquiry
- It was suggested that information could be released at pivotal points in the media and wider political environment – choosing our time and be more reactive as opportunities arise
- It was noted that no Minister has food poverty under their remit specifically
- The need to talk about poverty and the causes of food insecurity was underscored by Alison Garnham
- There was a brief discussion about whether the Inquiry would be recommending universal approaches or targeted approaches at those most in need. While it was agreed that the political context for recommendations would be an important consideration, both approaches were within scope. It was suggested to research examples of other interventions internationally, e.g. Brazil (community restaurants), Scandinavia (the extended comprehensive school system), US.
- Prof Viner emphasised that obesity should be a strong part of the Inquiry – acknowledging the strong socio-economic gradient. The Inquiry needs to help people to understand the connections between low income, food insecurity and risk of obesity.
- Access to healthy food in deprived areas and food education were raised as points of focus and it was confirmed that both are within the policy review scope

Maggie Morgan: Fixers

- 13 workshops with children and young people will be held between now and June. The first being held in Glasgow and Edinburgh this month
- Fixers plan to constantly assess their approach and are open to changing the approach for maximum engagement
- They will be talking in person to young people about their school lives, home lives, healthy eating, unhealthy eating, accessing services, and their experience of food through the media (including social media)
- There will be a listening event held in Westminster once the work is complete. The timing is still to be agreed
- These reports and events could become the engagement points mentioned earlier

Dr Jo Pike: online portal

- Dr Pike noted that the more people we can get to submit onto the online data, the more reliable the dataset will be. Everyone will be invited to support the process of making people aware of the Inquiry and the invitation to submit evidence.
- There was a suggestion that we add a question into the initial information asking whether the family are in receipt of benefits.
- It was requested that we look at families with children with disabilities specifically (Pauline Leeson had a suggestion as to who we should speak to)
- The portal will go live end of May and be live until mid-September.

General

- Funding – request for suggestions – particularly for IPSOS Mori Poll
- Hosting of meetings and resources in kind would be really helpful
- It was suggested that the England evidence hearing was held at the House of Lords
- January was advised to be better than December for Evidence Hearings so will get venue and dates in the diary
- There is a free Assembly building in Northern Ireland
- Glasgow's Child Poverty Action Group has a meeting room
- Wales – Children's Society has a possible room
- Other possible meeting spaces: Bristol (Kerry McCarthy) and North East (Sharon Hodgson) and Scotland Lindsay Graham

Next committee meeting 16th July 2-4pm