

Under the leadership of:



In partnership with:



Coordinated by:



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Children's Future Food Inquiry Meeting Notes

**Stakeholder Meeting, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Wednesday 9 May 2018, 10.00am – 12.00pm**

Introduction

The Parliamentary Inquiry into Children's Future Food has the support of a cross party group of 14 parliamentarians, two All Party Parliamentary Groups and the Children's Commissioners in all four UK nations. This support reflects the growing concern across the UK of the impacts of poverty on the diets, health, development and wellbeing of children. Until now children's own experiences and perspectives have been largely absent from policy thinking and political discourse about food and poverty. The Inquiry will address this critical gap.

The Inquiry will build a national consensus on what needs to be done to prevent children's food insecurity and to ensure their food is both nourishing and sets them up for a healthy and productive future.

This meeting of Inquiry stakeholders took place in Belfast, hosted by Children in Northern Ireland.

Attendees

First name	Second name	Organisation
Alex	Tennent	NI Children's Commissioners Office
Alison	Beattie	Armagh Banbridge Craigavon
Andrena	Murray	Department of Education
Anna	Taylor	Food Foundation
Eilis	McDaniel	Department of Health
Ellen	Finlay	Children in Northern Ireland
Fiona	Close	Food Standards Agency
Gavin	Halliday	Department for Communities
Helen	Dunn	Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership
Jo	Ralling	Food Foundation
Laura	Taylor	Public Health Agency
Pauline	Leeson	Children in Northern Ireland
Pauline	Brown	St Vincent de Paul
Sandra	McNamee	Women's Aid Federation NI
Sinead	Furey	Ulster University
Stephanie	Thompson	Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

WELCOME

Pauline Leeson, Children in Northern Ireland

Briefing on the plans for the Inquiry

Anna Taylor, The Food Foundation

- Looking at this issue as a rights issue is important and the reports of children being afraid of school holidays is very concerning
- Food is fundamental to health, wellbeing and development, and unless we get policy right on children's food we are failing our children
- We are putting children at the heart of this Inquiry and ensuring it is solution led
- The Inquiry can help to link people together, help local networks to form and help stimulate the scaling up of good ideas and evidence-based approaches
- Essential that the newsletters on the Inquiry are a collaborative effort including blogs, news and events around the country
- The Inquiry outcomes will be heavily influenced by the young people who are involved and so we don't yet know what policy concerns might be highlighted.

Opportunities to link the Inquiry process into policy process

Roundtable discussions

- Community planning process led by councils
- New family and parenting support strategy – Department of Health. Draft should be ready for end of 2018
- Nutritional standards for primary and secondary school meals are currently being reviewed and brought into line with the new sugar targets and Eatwell Guide
- Fitter Future for All strategy – coordinated to tackle food poverty
- Regional Obesity Implementation Group
- Safe Food Network
- Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation – policy document from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
- NI Executive Strategy to tackle poverty, social exclusion and patterns of deprivation based on objective need – work has started but has not progressed March 2017 when the Executive ceased to function. It is anticipated that the work will be picked up on the return of an Executive
- Tackling Educational Disadvantage – transformation programme in early stages
- Child Poverty Strategy – Department for Communities. Reviewed every three years – currently at the beginning of the review process
- Oral Health Strategy – preventative approach, works on breastfeeding
- Community planning. FSA's minimal nutritional standards have been drafted for hospitals but will hopefully extend to leisure centres and councils etc.

Opportunities to feed into the Inquiry: mobilisation of networks

Request for ideas regarding how to reach parties who might not otherwise hear about the Inquiry with a view to building the broadest possible stakeholder database. Examples from the Scotland stakeholder meeting include migrant groups, military families, young carers, travelling families and children affected by disabilities.

- Healthy Living Centre Alliance – Tony Doherty. Works closely Public Health Agency (PHA) mostly in Belfast. Hubs that deliver on a range of health and wellbeing policies and set nutrition targets. Considerable reach in deprived areas, run locally, tackle health inequality
- Belfast Food Network
- C2KNI – online forum that reaches all schools (run by Education Authority)
- Big Lottery Fund
- Causeway Food Forum – localised food network
- Sure Start – only in the most deprived areas. Targeted at 0-4 years. Una Loherhan
- Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). Action plans for north and south
- Social Supermarket pilots – five across Northern Ireland. (Department for Communities)
- Community Outreach Officers – Make the Call Wraparound Service (Department for Communities)
- Church – 182 groups across the regions. Work on social justice issues and aim to alleviate poverty
- Christians Against Poverty
- Salvation Army
- Belfast Central Mission (Methodists)
- Barnardo’s
- Save the Children
- Food bank leads
- Belfast Partnership Boards - each have health development boards and work on obesity and nutrition
- Greater Shankill – Young People Zone
- Belfast Healthy Cities – Part of the WHO, engages with schools on food issues – Joan Devlin
- MLAs and MPs – do lots of work on the ground
- Youth forums set up by councils – Liam Hannaway
- Network for Youth
- Children’s Commissioner
- Mumsnet
- Parenting NI
- Parent Kind – parent/teachers association
- YMCA – NI executive
- Libraries NI – outreach to communities
- Youth Action NI – drama
- Further education colleges – coordinating body: Colleges NI
- Health and Social Care comms team.

Early ideas for Inquiry launch

Roundtable discussions:

- Community venues would work well
- Riddle Hall in Belfast
- Poster campaigns around venue
- The Gardwood Community Hub.

Close

