

Under the leadership of:



In partnership with:



Coordinated by:



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Children’s Future Food Inquiry Meeting Notes

**Stakeholder Meeting, Cardiff, Wales
Thursday 14th May 2018, 1.30pm – 3.30pm**

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 Cardiff, hosted by Sean O’Neill, Children in Wales, and Katie Palmer from Food Cardiff.

Attendees

First name	Second name	Organisation
Alex	Wood	Bristol City Council
Christina	Powdrill	WLGA
Emma	Curtis	Children’s Commissioner
Emma	Hill	Sport Cardiff
Emma	Holmes	Cardiff and Vale UHB
Fiona	Argent	Jamie Oliver Food Ambassador & independent consultant
Hayley	Richards	Oxford Cymru
Judith	Gregory	Cardiff Council
Kathleen	Kerridge	Food Poverty Campaigner & Writer
Katie	Palmer	Food Cardiff
Kelly	Hubble	The Waterloo Foundation
Lisa	Williams	Cardiff and Vale UHB
Martin	Matthews	Food Poverty Campaigner & Writer
Pandora	Haydon	Food Foundation
Ruth	McDonald	Action in Caerau and Ely
Sarah	Germain	FareShare Cymru

Sarah	Thomas	National Federation of Women's Institutes – Wales
Sean	O'Neill	Children in Wales
Jo	Ralling	Food Foundation

WELCOME

Sean O'Neill, Children in Wales

Briefing on the plans for the Inquiry

Jo Ralling, 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.

[PowerPoint Slides](#)

Opportunities to link the Inquiry process into policy process

Roundtable discussion

- Important to remember that most welfare policy is devolved - Wales has very few welfare levers and that's unlikely to change
- Social Services and Well-Being Act
- Public Service Boards (PSBs) (of which there are 22). Better chance of engagement and action from PSBs than total government
- Prosperity for All – national government programme
- Consider Brexit's impact on Wales – partly for agricultural reasons, and partly because Wales receives such a significant injection of anti-poverty funding from the EU
- Children First government programme – brings together the full range of children's issues in one area
- School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) to roll out this and next year
- NHS Confederation's Obesity Alliance Cymru
- Food Poverty Alliance – North and South Wales
- Free school meals and breakfasts
- Welsh government preparing for a consultation on plans to reduce food waste by 50% - could be useful for the Inquiry to examine the mechanisms used to redistribute wasted food
- Free school meal eligibility consultation finishes on 14th September 2018
- Awareness in Wales of Scotland's Healthy Start voucher reforms – possible moves to learn from/imitate these

- Cardiff is currently rolling out Universal Credit, but there will be areas of Wales that it hasn't reached yet which might lead to a disparity in figures. In areas in which Universal Credit has been rolled out, Trussell Trust saw a 30% increase in the use of food banks
- Welfare Reforms will be rolled out over the next three/four years
- The new curriculum is currently being written – a sixth of the curriculum will be around health and wellbeing. This is unlikely to inform the Inquiry, but the Inquiry might have the power to influence the curriculum. It will be out for consultation April 2019 and fully applied in 2022
- Children's Commissioner currently examining 'poverty in the round', i.e. using metrics like 'cost of the school day', which would include every expense from school uniform to school meals etc, and which will help identify areas where support could be delivered. Commissioner's office may well be happy to share some of the findings.

Sources of evidence:

- Public Service Boards undertook a wellbeing assessment in order to assemble their wellbeing plans. Some boards have published these by now – available online
- Public Health Wales Act – health impact assessments. Big pieces of work commissioned by government will have to undergo a health impact assessment. Both the Food & Drink and Obesity strategies will undergo these assessments.

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.

The Inquiry will circulate a table of recommendations so that stakeholders can populate the list with names and contact details for those who might be able to help.

- Identify the relevant lead on each PBS – should be listed on their websites or on the Future Generations websites
- Access children outside of education via WLGA
- Department for Education and Skills – youth groups
- Children First – core operational areas are Cwm Taf, Gwynedd, Newport, Caerphilly, Camarthenshire (Sally Hunt to provide info). Children First also works in Cardiff – consult Ruth McDonald
- SHEP local steering groups – lots of representatives from public health, and could provide access to through the seven health boards in Wales, the 22 local authorities and 19 PSBs
- Family First programmes
- Safeguarding children boards Public Health Wales
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Local youth councils
- Sean O'Neill could connect the Inquiry with local authority participation schemes
- Children's Commissioner has children's rights schemes – they are obliged to treat collaboration on external projects sensitively, but would be able to retweet etc
- Cardiff is currently setting up panels for Unicef's city project
- Play providers (private and public)

- Talk Childcare – childcare offer in Wales is currently being discussed, and the government is consulting a large group of parents
- Food and Drink Industry Board Wales – Katie Palmer is a member
- For access to marginalised groups, contact the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership
- Disability Wales
- Oasis Centre in Cardiff – asylum seeker refuge
- Llamau – homelessness charity
- Flying Start – prisons
- Youth Justice Board for children in prison
- Housing Associations
- Sport Wales
- Play Wales – extensive network of play organisations
- Disability Sports Wales
- YMCAs
- Fostering network for access to looked after children
- Creative Rural Communities
- Rural communities also reachable via North Wales Poverty Alliance
- APPG on Children and Care Leavers – Steve McCabe
- Women Connect – work with women in BME communities
- Public Health Dieticians network in Wales – train frontline health, social care and third sector organisations to deliver accredited courses and support development of food initiatives
- Sustainable Food Cities Network
- Food Power Network
- Bevan Foundation
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Oxfam Cymru
- LACA
- Women’s Institute – members linked with other community groups, young people’s groups and networks
- Mothers groups – Facebook also very good for engaging mothers
- Girl Guides (have renewed priorities recently and focus more on life skills), Brownies, Scouts, cubs
- Potentially useful stands at the Royal Welsh Show in July
- Teaching
- County Voluntary Councils
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action
- Faith groups
- Bristol Inter Faith Group
- Head teachers in Barry – primary schools
- Cardiff Youth Council – 18-25 years
- Youth Parliament in Bristol – 14-18 years
- Bristol Rugby Club – network out into the community
- Cardiff City Football Club foundation
- Learning Partnership Boards – coordinate with schools in a local area and other groups who deal with families
- Pupil voice groups within schools

- Six Children First pioneer areas – supported by Save the Children
- The Sprout – online magazine for kids
- Wales Millennium Centre
- Young carers; Young Carers Network
- Young offenders
- Meic – helpline service for children and young people up to 25
- Teaching assistants in schools
- Young Wales
- Voices from Care
- Barnardo's
- Tros Gynnal Plant
- Wales Young Farmers Club
- Pony clubs
- Children in Wales – funded to work with schools, third sector organisations and youth councils across Wales. Organises meeting with the CEOs of large children's charities e.g. Barnardo's
- Amnesty – asylum seekers and refugees outreach work
- Wales Refugee Council
- Street Games – physical activities
- Welsh Women's Aid
- Salvation Army
- Duke of Edinburgh.

Early ideas for Inquiry launch

Roundtable discussions:

- If the Inquiry wants political presence at the launch, it will need to be at the Senedd, Cardiff Bay or in Huw Irranca-Davies' constituency (Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care)
- Should be done on a Wednesday around 11.00 if at the Senedd – careful not to clash with plenary sessions or recess
- Consult the children on how they'd like to launch the report.

Kay Polley TCCWales – unable to attend the meeting but sends the following:

TCCWales is an alliance of over 30 groups in North East Wales (Wrexham, Flintshire, and Denbighshire) which supports people to run effective campaigns on a wide range of issues as raised by members of the alliance. Recently, TCC group members working in a local school raised a new issue, as they found that some free school meals pupils were coming into secondary school without having had breakfast, were spending some of their allowance to buy breakfast in school, and then not having enough left for a meal at lunchtime. TCC has been researching the issue to find out if this is a widespread problem, and have so far surveyed 489 pupils and 106 school staff members, mainly in the Wrexham area. The evidence so far shows that this is indeed a widespread issue, and they are currently working to gain more data on about this. This is potentially affecting pupils across all of Wales, so one idea is to pilot free school meals pupils in a small area having an extra allowance so

that they could buy breakfast. This would allow for measuring the impact, and which would put TCC in a position to lobby for it to be brought in across all of Wales.

Additional discussions

- Timeframe – Inquiry unlikely to get much attention or commitment from schools in the first four weeks of the new school year. They will need as much notice as possible in order to secure access to computers for children etc. Good idea to drip-feed the project to schools as far in advance as possible
- Could the children be set responses to Inquiry questions/the portal as a summer holiday project? Emma Holmes could help facilitate this via SHEP
- How will the Inquiry use social media? Consult the Fixers panel on which platforms would work best
- ‘Vocal Eyes’ – social media platform used by lots of schools in Cardiff. Ruth McDonald to advise.
- Careful use of language for the portal. ‘Can you afford to feed your children?’ is less likely to get accurate responses than ‘can you afford / do you feel able to have other kids home for tea?’. Questions should also be simple for participants who are short of time – ideally multiple choice
- Ambitious nutrition recommendations should go further than five a day to include Omega 3, for example
- Welsh language will be a significant challenge – crucial that the Inquiry budgets for time and costs to cover these requirements
- The portal will also need to cater to those who require easy reading/learning materials and language considerations
- Children are very unlikely to go to an academic website to submit to the portal
- Portal needs to be designed so that users can return to their submission if they don’t finish inputting in one session
- Important that the portal also collects videos and stills
- The Inquiry will need to share a simple, easy-to-translate one pager with stakeholders to disseminate across the networks, and then resources for them to find more info.

