



Healthy Food for All

access | availability | affordability

April 2007

Welcome to the Healthy Food for All Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the HFfA newsletter which is designed to let you know about the ongoing work of the initiative. As we want to ensure that this newsletter is relevant to you and your work I would welcome any suggestions you may have for future editions. More information on the objectives of Healthy Food for All is available on our website:

www.healthyfoodforall.com

Development of Good Practice Guides

Would you like your project to be profiled as an example of good practice in food provision? Healthy Food for All has commissioned the development of two guides which will act as a practical how-to resource for those wishing to establish, manage and deliver community and school food initiatives. Examples of community food initiatives include: food growing projects, community cafés, food co-ops, food banks and farmer's markets. Schools are a key setting to ensure that children have access to a healthy diet. Examples of school food initiatives include: breakfast clubs, school lunches and snacks, school milk schemes, after schools clubs and school gardens. Anyone interested in being included in this consultation process should contact Sinéad at skeenan@healthyfoodforall.com

Mid-West Networking Event

The second in a series of regional networking events was held in Limerick city on Thursday 19th April. The purpose of the events are to provide a forum for people from different backgrounds to get together to discuss issues regarding access to food, the causes, consequences and potential solutions to food poverty. These events also provide an opportunity to learn about innovative food projects and the impact they have for the local community.

The **Limerick Food Partnership** was officially launched by Minister Willie O'Dea at this event. All presentations and feedback from the workshops will be available on the website shortly. A full agenda for the event is available at <http://www.healthyfoodforall.com/content/view/15/23/>

UK Liaison Event

The UK Liaison Project aims to bring together the work being carried out to tackle the underlying causes of food poverty in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. It is funded by the Food Standards Agency UK and coordinated by the Food Access Network in England. The project has created a forum whereby food project workers can meet to

- Learn about each other's work
- Share good practice, ideas and information
- Explore potential joint activities, projects and research
- Increase the impact of the work of all the networks and projects, through increased capacity and strength in numbers.

Four representatives from Ireland attended an event in Newcastle which focused on food access and working with retailers and local business. For more information visit

<http://www.sustainweb.org/page.php?id=50>

Labour Party Publish Policy Document

The issue of food poverty is gaining increasing awareness at national policy level. Healthy Food for All welcomes the Labour Party's recent policy document on food poverty. The full document is available at <http://www.labour.ie/download/pdf/document.pdf>

New Research Studies Available on the Web

The issue of access to food is gaining more and more attention both at the academic level and at community level. An impact analysis study of the breakfast club in St. John's JNS and St. Paul's SNS in Rathmullen, Drogheda was recently launched. The study is an easy to read example of how a breakfast club can positively impact on pupils, the whole school community as well as the wider community.

NUI Galway discovered food poverty was an issue for 16% of Irish children as part of its research into the Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC)

http://www.nuigalway.ie/hbsc/documents/factsheet_13.pdf

Food Dudes Programme

The government has just announced additional EU funding for the Food Dudes Programme, a national promotional campaign to encourage schoolchildren to eat more fruit and vegetables.

<http://www.fooddudes.ie/main.html>