



Manchester Food & Well-being Network (FWN)



Minutes Friday November 7th 2008 Meeting held at 93 Church Lane, at Harpurhey

The FWN is a subgroup of the Health and Well-being Network.

These minutes and relevant documents are available on line at:
http://creativelocalsolutions.co.uk/roblog/Food_and_Wellbeing_Network

Present

- Rob Squires - Chair
- Jackie Kilbane – Health and Well-being Network
- Rowena Pyott, HELF Partnership
- Beth Creedon, Herbie
- Jess Pastiener, Mcr Community Information Network (MCIN)
- Fiona Roy, Mcr Mental Health & Social Care Trust
- Damian Diamond, Mcr Mental Health & Social Care Trust
- Adam .., Federation of Community Development Learning
- Belay Kaysay, Mcr Refugee Support Network (MRSN)
- Liz Edwards, Groundwork
- Melanie Ngangen, Ensemble

Apologies

Gavin Clarke (YPSF), Debra Pearson (Zest), Sarah Alldred (Making Local Food Work), Nancy Brown (Target Well-being), Tim McMahon (Sustainable Neighbourhoods Pool).

The Food & Well-being Network

Jackie Kilbane talked through a diagram, explaining how the FWN is a subgroup of the Health & Well-being Network, and how these relate to Food Futures and the Adult's Well-being and Health Board.

Talk / presentation: Fiona Roy, Centre Manager: 93 Church Lane + Damian Diamond

93 Church Lane has funding from Target: Well-being to develop their Well-being Centre. This project arose out of links with North Mcr Health Service, and their ongoing Heartbeats Exercise project. The Centre runs a training kitchen involving mental health service-users. It is part of the wider HELF (Healthy Eating Local Food) project, also part funded by Target: Well-being. They also have a community allotment plot at the Cyprus Street site just up the road. Damian Diamond is a recovery development officer based at the Centre, who has been working on the allotment project.

Talk / presentation: Adam, Federation of Community Development Learning + Belay Kaysay, Mcr Refugee Support Network (MRSN)

Adam has been working with Belay and other members of MRSN, to deliver 2 x 2 day courses, focussing on food, health, well-being, community food projects and community activism. A number of projects have arisen out of this, including: a food directory, cooking skills courses, a community café, a food co-op and a community allotment. They are looking for land in the Moss Side area, on which to start growing their own food. They are seeking advice and support in order to get funding develop these projects on.

Action: RS to arrange a meeting to link MRSN with Food Futures.

Food Futures Big Lottery Local Food Fund

RS reported on work by Creative Local Solutions to identify how Food Futures can use the LFF to support the Community and Voluntary Sector. FF have decided to raise funds to develop a network of training allotments, with compost toilets, and transportable training facilities. It is hoped that the project will include an element of training refugees and asylum seekers as community trainers. The project builds upon the work of the Allotment Infrastructure collaboration within the Food Futures funded Commissioning Programme.

Action: RS is to circulate report when available.

Food Futures Open Strategy

FF have extended their trial of the Open Strategy system, because they have not had enough time to give it a fair trial. Colin Cox from FF is adamant that it is a trial, and they will not continue using the software purely on the basis that it has had a lot of money invested in it. Impressions from the FF team are that the system is very time consuming. It costs £24K / annum. Mcr MBC have identified funding to employ another member of staff within FF.

Action: RS is to email Food Futures on behalf of the Health and Well-being Network, with the following recommendations:

- *that FF do not proceed with Open Strategy after the trial;*
- *that the money saved (£24k / annum) is used differently, to pay for staff time, and to fund activities designed to enable face to face strategic planning and implementation.*

Food Futures representatives

Edward Kane from People First is currently a representative of the community and voluntary sector, on the board of Manchester Food Futures. He would like to resign from this position in the near future, and instead act as a representative of vulnerable people's issues, where he feels he would be more influential. Also RS is resigning from the FF Board and Steering Group because he is starting a new job. There are two positions for VCS reps on the FF board therefore. Rowena Pyott expressed interest in becoming a board member.

Action: Jackie Kilbane is to advertise for expressions of interest for new board members.

Developing new ways to share information within the FWN: Proposal from Jess Pasteiner

RS has been investigating four options for web side development, in order to support members of the FWN. None of these options have been very attractive.

However, Jess Pasteiner from MCIN offered an alternative proposal. MCIN will support FWN members to develop a shared blog/website where people can post text, audio or video. Everyone would have their own username and profile page, but everybody's posts would appear on the same site. It would be really interactive - people could take part in forums, comment on other people's content etc. MCIN could add extra modules to the site according to what groups wanted - an events page, for example. And they would all be personalised in terms of design. People could post tips on growing / cooking, info about events, have forums going, make films showing how to do things. The idea would be to get people talking to each other - promote social cohesion, which is one of the things that FWN is trying to achieve. It would only be feasible if FWN could ensure at least 4 people (preferably 6) who would be happy to moderate it and provide content. The project could be included in the Esmee Fairburn bid, for about £3500, which would include around 8 days Community Reporters training for the site moderators, in blogging, podcasting and filming, so that they would be confident both in creating content, and in teaching others. As Community Reporters they would have access to all MCIN's equipment for free, plus obviously further training, both with MCIN and the BBC if they wished. They would also then be in the position to train other site users, and register them as Community Reporters as well. The price would also include 3 days work on a personalised site for the FWN, according to our specifications, and days training the moderators how to use the site, and also issues to do with editorial policies etc, as the site would become part of the People's Voice Media network.

Decision: It was agreed by the group to accept this proposal.

Action: RS to further consult with Jess, and to include this in the Esmee Fairbairn bid.

Esmee Fairbairn Food Fund

RS consulted on the draft proposal for the EF Food Fund. This is to be activities based and will include:

- web development (as in above agenda item);

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- training and skills-sharing activities in order to better connect and enhance the leadership potential of participants;
- highlighting and showcasing existing projects doing food and well-being work in the city
- healthy and sustainable eating activities;
- a seminar(s) bringing together FWN members, researchers and policy makers.

Action: RS to develop activity schedule and indicative budget, for Stage 1 application, and circulate for feedback.

Jackie Kilbane is able to do some work on a Stage 2 application should the initial application be successful, but is seeking assistance from other FWN members in order to develop the second stage. Liz Edwards (Groundwork) may be able to help.

AOB

Jackie Kilbane invited people to a social on Friday November 14th at the Great Northern.