

High Level Steering Group 15 May: Item 1.

Action note of the HLSG meeting held 7 February

ACTION NOTE

Fifth meeting: Tuesday 7 February

**BOARDROOM, RICHMOND HOUSE,
79 WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2NS**

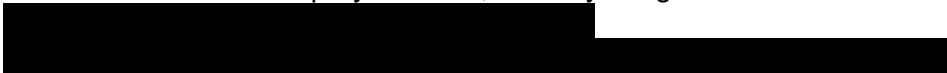
Chaired by Dr Susan Jebb, Head of Nutrition and Health Research, MRC
With attendance by the Secretary of State for Health

Attendees

Sue Davies – Which?
Lindsey Davies – Faculty of Public Health
Fiona Dawson – Mars UK
John Dyson – British Hospitality Association
Phil Hooper - Sodexo
Melanie Leech – Food and Drink Federation
Sarah Lyness – Cancer Research UK
Andrea Martinez-Inchausti – British Retail Consortium
Karen Tonks - Tesco

Officials

Liz Woodeson – Director of Health and Wellbeing
Clair Baynton – Deputy Director, Nutrition Science and Delivery
Richard Cienfiala – Deputy Director, Obesity Programme



ACTIONS ARISING

Welcome and introductions

1. The Chair welcomed attendees to the fifth meeting of the High Level Steering Group, and noted apologies received from Ian MacDonald. Liz Woodeson was due to join the meeting at approx. 1430, and the Secretary of State due to arrive at 1500. Papers had been circulated.

Item 1: Actions from the meeting held 29 November, and matters arising

2. The Chair reviewed actions from the previous meeting. All actions had been discharged, with one modification (A7) – the BHA would be jointly hosting a meeting for the hospitality sector on the afternoon of 21 February. No specific comments had been received on pledges in support of collective pledges (A8), but consideration of this issue would inform discussion of the future work programme under agenda item 5.

3. The Chair was pleased to report that since the previous meeting Subway had signed-up to out of home calorie labelling and rolled-out implementation across its 1400+ outlets.

Item 2: Salt pledge for caterers

4. Clair Baynton spoke to the circulated paper setting out a division into 3 pledges. A meeting scheduled for 9 February would help to frame an appropriate monitoring template. The Chair was keen to have the pledges finalised in time for the planned engagement event on 21 February.
5. Members welcomed progress and reiterated support for the approach being taken, provided this was aimed ultimately at achievement of the common target and was not seen as an 'easy option'. It was felt that more specificity was needed, together with sight of the proposed monitoring. Clarity was also sought on the position of suppliers to the catering industry viz a viz pledges on salt.

A1. John Dyson & Clair Baynton to circulate revised draft pledges, and corresponding monitoring template by end w/c 13 February.

A2. DH and BHA to ensure suppliers to the catering sector are encouraged to attend the engagement event on 21 February.

Item 3: Trans fats, way forward post 2011

6. The Chair briefly outlined the circulated paper, noting that this was primarily a process issue with the aim of continuing progress and, additionally, recording the non-use of artificial trans fats per se.
7. Members supported the approach and revised pledge subject to revision of 1B to ensure that work was already underway at the time the pledge was signed.

A3. To highlight changes to the wording of the artificial trans fats pledge at the engagement event on 21 February, and in the next available Responsibility Deal e-bulletin.

Item 4: Calorie reduction

8. The Chair introduced this item, and thanked members for their input to the revised pledge 'package' previously circulated. One suggestion for amendment had been forwarded for discussion, on which members agreed to reflect. Members agreed to sign off the pledge package subject to resolution of this final point.
9. There was general agreement to proposed next steps, starting with the circulation of a finalised version of the pledge package to all interested parties with the aim of identifying businesses prepared to be early exemplars who could powerfully illustrate the potential of the pledge and point the way for others. It was agreed that the event on 21 February provided an opportunity to discuss with potential partners issues around shaping programmes of action likely to be seen by observers as credible responses.

A4. DH to co-ordinate resolution of outstanding issue on calorie reduction and circulate the pledge package as soon as this was ready.

A5. DH to circulate plans for 21 February engagement event.

A6. Wider contribution of RD initiatives toward the national ambitions on obesity to be picked up in next Network Chairs meeting.

Item 5: Food Network forward work programme

10. The Chair introduced this item and the circulated paper, which raised issues about (i) priorities and (ii) working arrangements.

11. A key issue, beyond finalising pledges already in development, was striking a good balance between initiating new areas of work on important public health issues (such as promotions, and saturated fat) and broadening engagement/ deepening impact in existing priority areas. A range of views were expressed on where best to strike this balance, together with the need to connect with the wider picture in terms of behaviour change and other public health interventions, and to evaluate progress.

12. The meeting also discussed plans for implementation of the European Food Information Regulation, and the possible role of HLSG.

A7. Secretariat to set out a further draft and next steps on forward work programme.

A8. RD Plenary Group to discuss overarching issues of engaging current non-participants, and delivery on pledges made.

Any Other Business

13. Melanie Leech requested that evaluation be an agenda item at the next meeting.

A9. To include evaluation as an agenda item at May meeting.

14. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 15 May, 1400-1600, Richmond House.**

**Food Network Secretariat
13 February 2011**