

Responsibility Deal Food Network
Action Note of the sixth meeting of the High Level Steering Group
15 May 2012

Boardroom, Richmond House, 79, Whitehall, London SW1A 2NS

Chaired by Dr Susan Jebb, Head of Nutrition and Health Research, MRC

Attended by Secretary of State for Health

Attendees

Sue Davies – Which?

John Dyson – British Hospitality Association

Phil Hooper – Sodexo

Melanie Leech – Food and Drink Federation

Sarah Lyness – Cancer Research UK

Karen Tonks – Tesco

Helen Walters – Faculty of Public Health (on behalf of Lindsey Davies)

Fiona Dawson – Mars UK

Andrea Martinez – Inchausti - British Retail Consortium

Officials

Liz Woodeson – Director, Health and Wellbeing

Richard Cienicala – Deputy Director, Obesity and Food Policy Branch



Actions Arising

Welcome and introductions

1. The Chair welcomed Secretary of State and participants. Apologies had been received from Ian MacDonald.

Item 1: Actions from the meeting 7 February and matters arising

2. The Chair reviewed actions from the previous meeting. All actions had been cleared and ongoing issues would be picked up in Matters Arising. On evaluation, the Chair confirmed that the scoping report was complete, and the programme for the projects for the next stage of the evaluation would be announced shortly. Members said it would be helpful to receive a written update on evaluation suitable for sharing with interested parties.
3. Under matters arising, the Chair confirmed that the artificial trans fats pledge had been updated to reflect Members' comments and DH would update the Responsibility Deal website to reflect changes to the pledge over the summer, once business responses to the annual monitoring exercise had been reviewed. Discussion of the Salt Catering pledge was deferred until after Item 5.

A1: Secretariat to speak to DH Research and Development Directorate about an update on progress on evaluation.

A2. DH to update website over summer to reflect changes to pledge.

Item 2: Fruit and vegetables pledge

4. Richard Cienfiala introduced the paper. Some Members asked that wording in the pledge be changed in line with that in the Calorie Reduction pledge to 'encourage and support' (rather than 'encourage and enable'), and for the wording to clarify that action on composite foods is included within the scope of the pledge. The next step would be for the full pledge package to be issued to the whole Food Network with a covering letter from the Chair seeking proposals, with a provisional timetable for announcing initial signatories in September. Links to the Health at Work aspects of the Responsibility Deal should be made to amplify the potential contribution of employers. The inclusion of feedback on consumer behaviour should be encouraged in the monitoring form. A workshop bringing together potential signatories and a number of academics with behaviour change expertise should be organised, with members invited to suggest who should attend (Item 4).

A3: DH to amend wording in pledge package, check links to Health at Work, and begin organisation of the workshop.

A4: Members to suggest names of appropriate individuals from suitable companies for the behaviour change workshop.

Item 3: Forward work programme and future structures

5. The Chair introduced the paper building on the discussion at the last meeting, covering both the sequencing of the work programme and future ways of working. Secretary of State emphasised that the programme needed to link with the Change for Life initiative, and that opportunities should be sought to promote the Responsibility Deal internationally.
6. Key points made in discussion were:
 - work on saturated fat was welcomed as this was an area in which industry had already formed plans or begun to make progress
 - the work on front of pack labelling – insofar as it involved the HLSG - would relate to the delivery phase after decisions on a way forward
 - work on promotions went wider than the Responsibility Deal and needed some preliminary work to scope out the possible areas of activity for the Food Network
 - members welcomed the proposal to set up working groups in a number of areas, and to hold regular (ideally twice yearly) broader engagement events with wider Network.

7. After a substantial discussion on salt reduction, it was agreed that a working group would be set up to consider the way forward in more detail and that the Secretariat would produce a further paper for the October meeting of the group.
8. The work programme was agreed subject to some refinement in the light of the discussion and would be circulated to the Food Network. There was a debate over the timing of future initiatives; this would need further discussion at a future meeting.

A5. DH to propose working group to discuss way forward on salt reduction, followed by a further paper for consideration by the HLSG.

A6. DH to circulate work programme to the Food Network.

Item 4: Using the behaviour change network

9. See Item 2

Item 5: Calorie reduction – building engagement and developing good practice

10. [REDACTED] outlined the paper, analysing the current sign-up to the pledge from each sector. The initial signatories to the pledge comprised a good start but wider engagement was needed. Members agreed that whilst it was important to look at the largest unsigned companies based on an analysis of their calorie contribution to the market, this also needed to take in non-food companies and venues – including for example newsagents and cinemas. The Chair invited further comments on the paper and strategy to be sent to the Secretariat.

Matters arising (continued)

11. The Chair summarised the discussions with caterers about the new salt pledges. The group reiterated their desire to see more progress made in this sector and, given the urgency of this work, agreed that the Chair should review and finalise the wording of the pledges and issue to the catering sector to seek sign-up.

Item 6: AOB

12. The Chair confirmed that the papers and Action Note would be put on the Responsibility Deal website and members informed.
13. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3 July, 14.00hrs-16.00hrs. Further meetings Tuesday 2 October, Tuesday 11 December, and Tuesday 12 March (all 14.00-16.00hrs).