Dignity in Practice
Learning Events

Dignity & Choice in a Good Food Nation:
Progressing the right to food in Scotland

Welcome
DIGNITY IN PRACTICE LEARNING EVENT SERIES
2021-2022
Dignity Peer Network

The MAXwell Centre
MAXimising a community's potential by Feeling Well, Being Well, and Doing Well.
Purpose of today’s Learning Event

Irina Martin
Project Officer, Nourish Scotland
Who is in the room?

Dignity in Practice - Nourish Scotland and the Poverty Truth Community

Go to www.menti.com

• Type in the code 40153752, or you can also use the chat to answer

• 1st Question – Sector

• 2nd Question – Local authority
Overview of the Learning Events Series

CHELSEA MARSHALL
SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER AT NOURISH SCOTLAND
Dignity and Choice

Through Financial Support

- Embedding Cash First Approaches
- Improving the Cash Offer

In a Good Food Nation

- Affording to Eat well in Scotland
- Promoting the Right to Food
Scottish Government – Draft National Plan Ending the Need for Food Banks

Prevention:
- Fair Work
- Social Security
- Cost of living

Response:
- Scottish Welfare Fund and other discretionary supports
- Money advice
- Cash-first referral leaflets
- Dignified food access
Using powers to progress rights

Families value its
- reliability
- certainty, and
- simplicity

"represents a major step in tackling child poverty and setting a path towards meeting the Scottish Government’s statutory targets."
– IPPR Scotland, The Trussell Trust and Save the Children (March 2022)

Scottish Child Payment
£40 per child under 6, paid every four weeks to eligible low-income families. Will double to £80 per child in April 2022

More could be achieved with
- a higher payment
- increasing take up
- additional premiums for families most at risk of poverty, and
- better targeting
Panel 1: Role of Universal Free School Meals
  - Breakout Room discussions

Break

Panel 2: Role of Extending Free Transport
  - Breakout Room discussions

Progressing the Right to Food in a Good Food Nation
Progressing the Right to Food in Scotland

Dignity in Practice Learning Event
Thurs 17 March 2022

foodinsecurityteam@gov.scot
The Challenge

1. Insufficient and insecure incomes drive household food insecurity, people compromise on food and other essentials

2. Scottish Government has limited power to challenge this, UK Government cut to Universal Credit likely to increase hardship

3. Referral to a food bank often the simplest and quickest route to supporting someone experiencing hardship

4. The rising cost of living – rising energy prices and the conflict in Ukraine are contributing to higher prices for food and other essentials.
Human Rights Approach

• We are committed to incorporating a right to food into Scots law. We will consult on the forthcoming Human Rights Bill later this year

• Scottish Welfare Fund, other discretionary support, cash-first referral leaflets, money advice, CAS shopping card pilot

• Flexible funding in 2020-21 and Winter 2021

• Consultation on draft national plan to end the need for food banks as a primary response
  • Closed 25 Jan 2022: Ending the need for food banks: a draft national plan - Scottish Government - Citizen Space (consult.gov.scot)
Mitigation

• Our £290 million cost of living support package will provide £150 to every household receiving a Council Tax Reduction – and £150 to all other households living in a property in council tax bands A to D. This includes an extra £10m to continue our Fuel Insecurity to help households at risk of self-disconnection, or self-rationing energy use.

• Scottish Child Payment is worth £40 every 4 weeks for eligible children under the age of 6 and extending it to u16s by the end of this year. This will be doubling to £20 per week in the coming weeks.

• Free School Meals and Breakfasts - all pupils in primaries 1-to-5 have been benefitting. We are committed to funding the expansion of free school meals to all pupils in primary and special schools
Ending the Need for Foodbanks Consultation

• Online from 20th October 2021 to 25th January 2022

• Received over 400 responses

• SG held a number of Direct Experience Workshops including attendees with Lived Experience

• Evaluations currently ongoing – findings will be published later in the year. This will further strengthen access to cash-first support – using the powers we have to make food banks the last port of call.

• This includes a right to adequate food, as an essential part of the overall right to an adequate standard of living.
Team Contacts

• The food insecurity team can be contacted by email:

  • foodinsecurityteam@gov.scot
  • Elli.Kontorravdis@gov.scot
  • Diane.Lambie@gov.scot
  • Justin.Little@gov.scot
  • Alexandra.Mcintosh@gov.scot
Panel Discussion: Role of Universal Free School Meals

MODERATED BY JAYNE JONES
COMMERCIAL MANAGER FOR ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL AND NATIONAL CHAIR ASSIST FM
WHAT CAN SCHOOLS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES DO TO ENCOURAGE MORE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO ENJOY AND TAKE UP THE SCHOOL MEAL OFFER?
Reflection

What are you taking away from this discussion?

Please share an example, action or idea in the chat or Menti.
BREAK
Overview
- Children and young people aged 5–21 who live in Scotland now eligible for free bus travel, no matter their nationality
- Nearly 1 million children and young people eligible
- National Entitlement Card or Young Scot National Entitlement Card
- Mobile app

Since extended...
- 1.6 million journeys made

Young Persons’ (Under 22s) Free Bus Travel Scheme
Extended to all children and young people aged 5-21 on 31 January 2022 (children under age 5 already travel free)
Panel Discussion: Role of Free Transport

MOTERATED BY JAYNE JONES
COMMERCIAL MANAGER FOR ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL AND NATIONAL CHAIR ASSIST FM
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF UNIVERSAL VS TARGETED APPROACHES?

HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THESE CALLS / CAMPAIGNS FOR EXTENDING FREE TRANSPORT?
Reflection

What are you taking away from this discussion?

Please share an example, action or idea in the chat or Menti.
Progressing the Right to Food in Scotland

PETE RICHIE
DIRECTOR AT NOURISH SCOTLAND
Good Food Nation Bill: Achieving the vision
Scottish Food Coalition
Diet-related illness
Heart Disease, Diabetes, Cancer

International impacts of food we import e.g. deforestation

Tonnes of food waste

Malnutrition

Reliance on Food banks

In-work Poverty

Biodiversity loss

Poor Educational Attainment

Poor Working Conditions

Climate Change

Poor animal welfare
Food Policy is fragmented - with different Government departments creating separate strategies according to diverse policy goals

- Industry ambition to double value of beef sector
- Health concerns over too much red meat consumption
- Environmental impact of methane emissions from cows, transportation of beef etc.
- Animal welfare concerns from intensive farming practices
Schools, Hospitals & public kitchens serve high quality food

Circular economy to reduce food waste

Thriving local food economy

Climate Change Mitigation

Nature-Friendly Food Production & Distribution

High animal welfare standards

Good working conditions

Healthy Diets

Sustainable Fishing Practices

Good Food Nation Bill
What’s in the Bill at the moment?

✓ Duty to produce Food Plans – National Government, Local Government + Health boards

What else do we want to see in the Bill?

• Clarity of purpose for Act, including progressing the right to food and aligning future food-related legislation (agriculture, natural environment, circular economy)
• Clear outcomes and indicators for national and local food plans
• Independent food commission, and stronger Parliamentary scrutiny of food plans
• Clearer duties for Government to implement the plan
• Participation – the Bill should provide opportunities for everyone to get involved in decisions around food and influence the rules that affect our shared food system, for example via a citizens’ assembly
Contact information

Email: stephanie@nourishscotland.org.uk
Website: www.foodcoalition.scot
Twitter: @GFNCampaign
Facebook: Scottish Food Coalition

Thank you!
Next steps

▶ Find out more: www.nourishscotland.org/dignity-in-practice-learning-events

▶ Get in touch: dignity@nourishscotland.org.uk