

Appendix D: Diet Change Actors to Consider When Identifying Evidence User Targets

The literature on food systems identifies a range of activities and stakeholders, with no agreed or universal list ([footnote 1](#)). More specifically to diet shift, literature defining food environments (where diet choices take place), details a range of relevant settings and influential actors, again with no agreed list. Herforth and Ahmed’s (2015) framework on nutrition and physical activity decisions defines the environmental settings as consisting of: homes; schools; workplaces; recreational facilities; food service and retail establishments and other community settings; and sectors of influence being: government; public health and healthcare systems; agriculture; marketing and media; community design and safety; foundations and funders; and industry (food, beverage, physical activity and entertainment). Other frameworks are more granular, listing settings including: food banks; markets (farmers; street); meal kit deliverers; cafeterias; vending machines and concession stands; checkout stands at non-food retailers; and specifying actors including store managers, owners, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, and sales representatives ([footnote 2](#)).

Based on this literature, and drawing on the authors’ own knowledge of food systems, Table 1 presents a list of food actor groups relevant to diet shift. Following the scope of this project specified by its commissioners, Table 1 does not include:

- the home as a sub-domain of the food environment, as evidence use by the public/citizens is outside of the scope of the ‘Optimising evidence for diet shift’ project.
- activities and actors in the food system prior to retail/catering (including agriculture, trade, distribution, processing and manufacturing)

Table 4: Diet Change Actors to consider when identifying evidence user targets

| Diet Change Actor Group | Sub-group | Actors |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Policymakers (Public Policy) | National | <p>Policymakers (Elected Officials; Civil Servants) working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health/Safety/Standards • Environment • Trade • Agriculture • Education • Industry • Welfare |

| Diet Change Actor Group | Sub-group | Actors |
|--|---|--|
| Policymakers (Public Policy) | Local (Local Government Departments, Service Commissioners, Local Food Partnerships formally linked into local government) | Policymakers (Elected Officials; Civil Servants) working on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health • Environment • Planning • Business/Economic • Education • Welfare |
| Professional Practitioners (Public Sector) | Health Professionals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPs • Nutritionists/Dieticians • Early years including, health visitors • Professional Bodies • British Medical Association • British Dietetics Association (One Blue Dot) • Institute of Health Visiting • Royal Society Public Health |
| Professional Practitioners (Public Sector) | Public Sector Food Procurement (schools, hospitals, prisons, public sector owned recreational facilities, government estate), Professionals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement managers • Catering staff Professional bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food for Life (for example, may conduct audits) |
| Professional Practitioners (Public Sector) | Education on diet - Practitioners (early years care including Nurseries Children's Centres) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Nursery staff Professional Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OFSTED • Nursery equivalent |

| Diet Change Actor Group | Sub-group | Actors |
|---|--|---|
| Professional Practitioners (Public Sector) | Third Sector (Food Charities Community Groups, Local Food Partnership) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charity/community project/Local Food Partnership managers • Charity/community delivery staff (including volunteers) • Food banks • Community provision/cooking schemes |
| Commercial Practitioners (Private Sector Food Businesses) | - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retailers (Including chain stores; independent stores; online retail; markets (incl. street markets and farmers markets); short supply chain initiatives incl. box schemes; community supported agriculture schemes); vending and concessions; checkouts at non-food retailers) • Caterers (incl. contract caterers; restaurants; cafes; meal delivery companies) • Restaurants • Marketing and Media companies (incl. media organisations; advertising companies; sponsors (incl. of media; sports activities)). <p>Food Industry Bodies (Selected Examples)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Retail Consortium • Association of Convenience Stores • Food & Drink Federation • UK Hospitality • Sustainable Restaurant Association • Nationwide Caterers Association • Lists of other bodies; Health and Safety Executive ; Food and Beverage Training company |

Read more:

[Shifting toward healthy and sustainable diets: How to optimise evidence use for policy and practice technical report](#)

1. See for example: Hasnain, S., Ingram, J. and Zurek, M. 2020. [Mapping the UK Food System – a report for the UKRI Transforming UK Food Systems Programme](#). Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford; Committee on a Framework for Assessing the Health, Environmental, and Social Effects of the Food System, et al. (2015) [A Framework for Assessing the Effects of the Food System](#). National Academies Press (US) June 17; Parsons, K. and Barling, D. (2021) [Food Systems Transformation - What's in the Policy Toolbox?. A Report for the UKRI Transforming UK Food Systems Programme](#); Parsons, K., (2020) [Who Makes Food Policy in England? A Map of Government Actors and Activities.](#); Parsons K, Barling D, Lang T. (2018) [UK Policymaking Institutions and their Implications for Integrated Food Policy](#). *Advances in Food Security and Sustainability*. Nov 12, 3(211), p.233.
2. Winkler, M.R., Zenk, S.N., Baquero, B., Steeves, E.A., Fleischhacker, S.E., Gittelsohn, J., Leone, L.A. and Racine, E.F., (2020). A model depicting the retail food environment and customer interactions: Components, outcomes, and future directions. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 17(20), p.7591