

# Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

## Cambridgeshire Travellers 2010

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### KEY

In this section the following applies to bullet points:

- ❖ Local evidence
- National evidence

### 1.1 Introduction

- The Cambridgeshire Community Wellbeing Partnership decided that Travellers should be a priority area to include in Phase 4 of the JSNA in line with the Cambridgeshire Area Assessment.
- The Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Travellers JSNA aims to identify the current and future health, care and wellbeing needs of the Traveller population in Cambridgeshire and has been overseen by the Cambridgeshire Travellers Strategic Co-ordination Group.
- It should be noted that this JSNA is being written at a time of significant change with a new Coalition Government and economic recession which may have implications for future policy regarding Gypsies and Travellers.
- The difficulties in accurately identifying the Gypsy and Traveller population should also be acknowledged as this largely depends on self classification and there may be particular issues around the fear of being identified as a Gypsy or Traveller and negative consequences associated with this.
- The definition of Gypsies and Travellers varies and there are different definitions for housing, planning and education purposes. The Gypsies and Travellers living in the UK are made up of many different communities including Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Scottish Travellers, Welsh Travellers, New Travellers, Travelling Showpeople, Bargees and Circus People. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as ethnic groups, but the other groups are not. In this JSNA the term 'Gypsies and Travellers' will be used to refer to these groups collectively.

### 1.2 What do we know?

#### 1.2.1 Facts, Figures and Trends

##### Demographics

The numbers of Gypsies and Travellers in the population is difficult to ascertain. There may be significant underreporting as organisations often do not include Gypsies and Travellers in their ethnic monitoring, the subjective definition of Gypsies and Travellers and reluctance to declare ethnicity for fear of discrimination. The National Census will include Gypsies and Travellers for the first time in 2011 and the Gypsy and Traveller community should be encouraged to complete this.

- ❖ Gypsies and Travellers make up almost 1% of the population in Cambridgeshire representing the largest ethnic minority in the county. In Cambridgeshire it is estimated that approximately 70% are Romany Gypsies, 20% are Irish Travellers and 10% are others including Scottish and Welsh Travellers and an increasing number of Eastern European Gypsies. There appears to be a demographic variation between North and South Cambridgeshire with a higher number of Irish Travellers in South Cambridgeshire.
- ❖ A Traveller Needs Assessment carried out in the Cambridge Sub-region in 2005 estimated the Gypsy and Traveller population in Cambridgeshire to be 5702.

Cambridgeshire County Council is currently updating the figures and new estimates will be available in October 2010.

### **Accommodation**

The Gypsy and Traveller community has different accommodation needs to the settled community, however as with the settled community the type of need varies. Although travelling is recognised as part of their cultural heritage, not all Gypsies and Travellers actually travel.

- ❖ Many of the County's Gypsy Traveller population choose to live in housing. Whilst others live on authorised sites which may be socially or privately rented/owned or they may live on unauthorised sites when authorised sites are not available. The 2005 Traveller Needs Assessment estimated that 58% of households live in caravans and 42% live in settled housing.
- ❖ In the January 2010 Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans in England the total caravan count in Cambridgeshire was 1278. Of these, 92% (1,180) were on authorised sites (with planning permission) and 8% (98) were on unauthorised sites (without planning permission).

The recent revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which set the existing targets for additional pitches in each local authority has implications for assessment of need and future planning of site provision. The Cambridgeshire City and District Councils will have to review the assumptions made at the regional level in relation to the need for additional residential and transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and ensure that this information is incorporated within their Development Plans.

- Data sources on the number of Gypsies and Travellers in 'bricks and mortar' housing are very limited. However, those living in settled housing may face particular problems with maintaining their tenancy, lack of support, racism and isolation. Gypsies and Travellers are at risk of homelessness.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

- There is a wealth of local and national evidence which reports the poor health status of Gypsies and Travellers. A lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality rate, poorer health outcomes and poorer access to preventative care is found in the Gypsy and Traveller population compared to the general population and there is evidence that mental health problems are more widespread.
- There are issues around access to health services and lack of cultural awareness among healthcare staff impacts on this. There are particular issues around encouraging men to access health services.
- Literacy problems may cause difficulties with reading communications such as hospital appointments/results and public health information.

### **Education**

- Since 2003 Gypsy/Roma and Travellers of Irish heritage have been identified as two distinct ethnicity groups in national school census data. However, this data is incomplete as many parents and children are reluctant to identify themselves for fear of bullying and prejudice which is endemic in their everyday lives.
- ❖ In January 2009 there were 414 self-ascribed Gypsy/Roma and 88 self-ascribed Irish Traveller pupils in Cambridgeshire, comprising respectively 0.5% and 0.1% of the total school population compared with 0.2% nationally for both groups. However, a more accurate figure is likely to be higher than that with Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Services (CREDS) data showing

844 Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils during the period September 2008 to July 2009.

- ❖ In Cambridgeshire, data for 2009 across all phases (Foundation Stage, KS1, KS2 and KS4) shows performance of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils as consistently trailing, with little evidence of narrowing the gap with the county average.
- ❖ Figures for Cambridgeshire in 2008/09 show that 81% of **all known** Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people accessed education in county schools at some point during the year.
- ❖ There is a significant number of secondary school aged Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people in Cambridgeshire, not accessing secondary school provision. Attendance figures are in line with those nationally for these groups but well below the national average for all pupils.

### **Employment**

- ❖ There is little research or consultation relating to Gypsies and Travellers and skills and employment. What research does exist suggests that there is a strong preference for self employment among communities and there is a broad skill base that goes unrecognised. A reduction in some employment opportunities traditionally filled by Gypsies and Travellers has been highlighted and there is evidence of high levels of unemployment among those living on local authority sites.

### **Safety**

- There are a number of safety issues pertinent to the Gypsy and Traveller community. This includes ensuring site safety and safe places for children to play as many sites are located near main roads, railway tracks or under pylons. Domestic violence and hate crime have also been reported as issues faced by the Gypsy and Traveller community although there is a lack of data on this.

### **Racism and Discrimination**

- Hate crime is also reportedly an issue faced by some of the Gypsy and Traveller community; although there is a lack of evidence to clarify the severity or frequency of this. There is a dedicated contact-line for reporting hate crime that is deliberately distanced from the police service. The use of this service by Gypsies and Travellers and the outcomes of any resulting investigations are not readily obtainable. There are many negative and entrenched views held by the public about Gypsies and Travellers. It is believed members of the community may face racism and discrimination. Nationally, a lack of confidence in the role that the police and public services play in protecting the community from discrimination has been expressed.

### **Access to services**

- ❖ Locally, there is experience that the Gypsy and Traveller community lack confidence and knowledge about how to access services such as health and social care and there is a tendency not to ask for external agency support.

#### **1.2.2 Local views**

- ❖ Over the last five years there has been extensive consultation with the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Cambridgeshire and in order to avoid consultation fatigue, this JSNA makes use of the views already expressed rather than

seeking these again. The main source of local views already expressed are the Cambridge Sub- Region Travellers Needs Assessment (CSTNA)<sup>1</sup> carried out in 2005, the 2006 East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment<sup>2</sup> and 'Children's Voices'<sup>3</sup> a report examining the views and experiences of young Gypsies and Travellers carried out in 2006.

- ❖ **Accommodation:** The CSTNA confirmed a pressing need for more sites of all kinds and that the preference was for small, self-owned long-stay sites for family groups, preferably on the edge of a village, near established Gypsy and Traveller communities. The East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Needs Assessment found that the majority of Gypsies and Travellers on private and council sites were content with their location. Views were expressed about not being located immediately adjacent to existing housing to avoid potential problems between the two cultures. 'Children's Voices' found that threat of repeated eviction was experienced by some children on unauthorised sites and contributed to children's insecurity and vulnerability
- ❖ **Health and Wellbeing:** The main problems expressed in the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Needs Assessment were difficulties obtaining permanent registration, a lack of awareness of Travellers on health issues and the health system, a lack of information in an appropriate format and a lack of awareness among health professionals on Traveller cultural.
- ❖ **Education and Employment:** The CSTNA found a preference for self-employment amongst Gypsies and Travellers. A decline in traditional farm work and increased competition has made it increasingly difficult to make a living from traditional occupations, contributing to severe economic disadvantage and social exclusion.
- ❖ The CSTNA found some Gypsies and Travellers were motivated to ensure their children attend school to equip them for the future. However, a lack of interest in formal education was also expressed due to factors such as alienation at school, accommodation problems, negative experiences, concerns over the educational curriculum and cultural practices.
- ❖ The 2006 Children's Voices report identified that Gypsy and Traveller children valued opportunities for learning, but some children felt strongly that school wasn't always the best environment in which to learn. Concerns were expressed around racism and lack of representation within the school curriculum and learning resources.
- ❖ **Safety:** Children expressed concerns about their environment such as location, lack of safe play spaces/facilities and distance/isolation from local communities. Many Gypsy and Traveller children live without the levels of safety and security which most UK children take for granted.

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<sup>1</sup> Cambridge Sub Regional Traveller Needs Assessment. Robert Home and Margaret Greenfields, May 2006.

<sup>2</sup> East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Traveller Health Needs Assessment. Suzanne Wood, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Children's Voices: Changing Futures. The views and experiences of young Gypsies and Travellers. Camille Warrington, Ormiston Children and Families Trust, 2006.

- ❖ **Racism and discrimination:** Racism has been identified as the single biggest problem Gypsy and Traveller children face. Misunderstanding about the nature of their identity and reluctance to reveal ethnicity for fear of bullying are particular concerns. Children expressed a constant expectation of racism and many had been exposed to racially motivated threats or attacks.
- ❖ The CSTNA found negative attitudes towards the police and reluctance to report incidents to the police. Negative attitudes towards the media were also expressed.

### 1.2.3 Evidence and best practice

- ❖ A number of areas of good practice have been highlighted across Cambridgeshire, in particular the work of the Traveller's Health Team, CREDS and Ormiston Children and Families Trust (see below). Work at both County Council and District Council level should also be mentioned, for instance Fenland District Council (FDC) has been cited as an example of good practice both nationally and locally. FDC works with the Travelling community to enable them to lead safe, healthy and supported lives. A Traveller welcome pack is provided to all new arrivals and every child receives a support plan. Traveller forum meetings have been established and work has been carried out around reporting of hate crime. FDC have achieved high levels of satisfaction from the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- The evaluation of the National Pacesetters Programme<sup>4</sup>, which involves delivering equality and diversity improvements and innovations, has identified some short term gains which included making links and engaging with community members, improving cultural awareness among healthcare staff, increasing awareness of health needs and health services among Gypsies, Roma and Travellers and raising the profile of their health needs. It is noted that many of these gains have been made in the process of involvement.

### 1.2.4 Current Activity and Services

- ❖ **Travellers Health Team (THT):** The THT was established in January 2009 and became fully operational in April 2009. The team was established to address the issues relating to difficulty in accessing services, poor adult literacy and lack of knowledge and understanding of the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. The team consists of a Lead Nurse, two Community Development Workers, an Advocacy Worker and an Administrator.
- ❖ Over the last year the THT has engaged with Gypsy and Traveller families to provide support for stopping smoking, healthy eating and physical play and has worked to improve understanding about treatment and improve access by facilitating attendance at health appointments. Work has also been undertaken in raising awareness among Health Professionals about the Traveller culture and providing information in appropriate formats. Partnership working with Children's Centres has encouraged families to access other services provided and recruitment and training of peer Health trainers is underway.

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<sup>4</sup> Pacesetters Programme Gypsy, Roma and Traveller core strand Evaluation Report for the Department of Health. Van Cleemput P, Bissell P, Harris J, April 2010



- ❖ **Ormiston Travellers Initiative:** The Cambridgeshire Travellers Initiative provided by the Ormiston Children and Families Trust provides a range of services to improve outcomes for children, young people and families from Travelling communities. The THT Advocacy Worker is employed by Ormiston Children and Families Trust and provides practical support to help improve accommodation, living conditions and income, encourages lifestyle changes and supports access to courses and training. The most frequent activity undertaken by the Travellers Initiative is advocacy and the most common reasons for referral are accommodation and financial issues.
- ❖ **Local Authority Services:**
  - Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers have the responsibility for supporting and assisting Gypsies and Travellers and representing their views to the local councils. The presence of these workers and their teams improves the local authorities' ability to deliver effective services to these groups.
  - The County Council's Supporting People programme helps by funding support in Fenland and Huntingdon and is looking to expand support to all districts.
  - Cambridgeshire Race, Equality and Diversity Service (CREDS). The main of CREDS Team for Traveller Education is to address inequalities of achievement and access to education by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children in Cambridgeshire. Since 2006, CREDS Team for Traveller Education has successfully involved several Cambridgeshire schools in the National Strategies Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Achievement Programme.
- ❖ **Policing:** Cambridgeshire Constabulary developed a revised Force Gypsy and Traveller Engagement Action Plan in December 2009 to improve the standard of policing services offered to Gypsy and Traveller communities in Cambridgeshire. This was developed following consultation with partner agencies and community members. The overarching goal of the plan is to ensure that the policing of Gypsy and Traveller communities is 'mainstreamed' and to achieve a state whereby an engagement plan is no longer required.
- ❖ **Resources and Leadership:** Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller policy is led by the Travellers Strategic Co-ordination Group whose membership includes key lead officers from the public agencies responsible for Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridgeshire. Sub groups have been established to lead on particular areas and include the Travellers Health Sub Group and Site Provision Group.

### 1.3 What is this telling us?

#### 1.3.1 What are the key inequalities?

The Gypsy and Traveller population face a number of inequalities. These can be summarised as follows:

##### **Accommodation**

- ❖ Lack of secure accommodation is the biggest issue facing Gypsy and Traveller communities in the East of England and many are homeless. Eviction and enforced mobility are key factors preventing access to education, healthcare, training and work opportunities.
- Selecting the right location for a site is a key element in supporting good community relations and maximising its success. Well-run, authorised sites can be effectively integrated into local communities.

- ❖ It appears that the quality of public site provision is variable within the county (raised at Strategic Traveller Co-ordination Group). This may also apply to privately owned sites.
- ❖ The production of a model SLA for site management may improve consistency and reduce inequalities between different sites.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

- Gypsies and Travellers have significantly poorer health status and more self-reported symptoms of ill-health than the rest of the population with reported health problems being between two and five times more prevalent.
- ❖ Poor mental health is a particular concern and has been flagged by the THT as an issue.
- ❖ There are issues with lack of understanding and therefore not complying with treatment and access to healthcare services.
- ❖ Male Gypsies and Travellers are reluctant to discuss personal issues with the women in their family network and will not access health services until the problem is severe.
- Early intervention and prevention measures such as screening and immunisation have low uptake among the Gypsy and Traveller population.
- ❖ Lifestyle risk factors such as rates of smoking and obesity are higher in the Gypsy and Traveller community than the rest of the general population.

### **Education and Employment**

- ❖ Gypsy and Traveller children remain highly disadvantaged in terms of access to education and achievement.
- There are many inhibitors to achievement for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils. Practical inhibitors to attending school regularly include some that are a consequence of lifestyle and, to a certain extent, out of the communities' control.
- The lack of confirmed statistical data on the numbers of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils in schools continues to make it difficult to assess issues of access.
- The decision not to register with a school is often actively taken by parents. These children and young people are being excluded from the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge that will equip them to be able to participate fully and equally in society.

### **Racism and discrimination**

- Inequalities can arise from both active and unintentional discrimination and include services being unwelcoming, inappropriately communicated, employment offers being withdrawn and people being harassed in or dismissed from employment

### **Criminal justice and policing**

- Nationally it is reported that within the criminal justice system there is a process of accelerated criminalisation at a young age, leading rapidly to custody.
- ❖ Locally, accurate figures of numbers of Gypsies and Travellers in the prison and youth offending populations are difficult to obtain due to the current method of

ethnic monitoring. Therefore, assessing inequalities in comparison to the general population becomes difficult.

### **Economic exclusion**

- There is evidence of economic exclusion in the Gypsy and Traveller population and locally concern has been raised locally about access to affordable utilities. Other issues include problems with securing finance due to having no fixed abode or varied employment. In common with other vulnerable groups, lack of literacy and numeracy may impact on household budgeting skills and awareness of rights and benefits.

### **Communications and access to services**

- ❖ Poor levels of literacy make it difficult to access services and information and there is a lack of information for Gypsies and Travellers in appropriate formats.
- Gypsy and Traveller culture and identity receive little or no recognition and are frequently excluded in policy initiatives.
- There is a lack of access to culturally appropriate support services for people in the most vulnerable situations.

The Gypsy and Traveller community may face multiple inequalities which result in poorer outcomes and in turn broaden the inequalities gap further.

### **1.3.2 What are the key gaps in knowledge/services?**

**Data sources:** One of the consistent issues highlighted throughout the JSNA has been the lack of ethnic monitoring processes that include Gypsy and Traveller classifications, within organisations. This makes it problematic to accurately identify the Gypsy and Traveller population and their needs. Organisations should be encouraged to add Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller as a minimum as separate categories in their ethnic monitoring systems.

**Communications and access to services:** There is a lack of information for the Gypsy and Traveller community in appropriate formats such as audio or DVD. Most existing communications are written and this presents problems for members of the community with poor levels of literacy and they may have to rely on other members of the community with better literacy levels or professionals.

Access to services presents a particular problem for the community and there is a lack of understanding and awareness of the services available. Again this may be due to poor literacy levels or cultural barriers. Male health and mental health have been flagged as issues where further support is needed for the Gypsy and Traveller community.

**Resources and leadership:** There is strong leadership on Gypsy and Traveller policy across Cambridgeshire, but there appears to be differences between districts and there is a lack of an overall strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridgeshire. There is also some evidence of inconsistent site management across the County.

**Community engagement:** Although it was decided not to consult with Gypsies and Travellers for the purpose of this JSNA due to the existing evidence available, the importance of engaging with the Gypsy and Traveller community should be acknowledged and mechanisms put in place for continued community engagement by all local services in the future.

The THT are hoping to use the '*Working Together for Change: using person-centred information for commissioning*<sup>5</sup>' approach to review the experiences of Gypsies and Travellers and determine their priorities for change. This approach places service users at the heart of the commissioning process by using person-centred information to inform commissioning of local services.

### 1.3.3 Is what we are doing working?

- ❖ **Travellers Health Team:** The THT have reported successes as increasing trust has been placed in the team by the Gypsy and Traveller community and there seems to be increased confidence in the team for issues relating to advocacy, adult learning and general health. Delivering drop in clinics at sites has proved successful. Having a dedicated multi-agency team with differing expertise is working extremely well. Working closely with Children's Centres is opening up pathways for Gypsy and Traveller families to receive additional services as well as fostering better relations with local families. Additional funding has been obtained for specific purposes such as vocational courses, family healthy eating sessions, swimming lessons for children, literacy courses and Health Trainer courses. Partnerships have also been developed with other Professionals to enable the delivery of more acceptable and accessible services.
- ❖ **Accommodation:** Progress has been made by the Cambridgeshire Districts in making provision for additional Gypsy and Traveller sites. However the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy may impact on this.

## 1.4 Recommendations

1. Develop a county wide Gypsy and Traveller strategy to improve outcomes and life chances for Gypsy and Traveller communities and promote and enable community cohesion in Cambridgeshire.
2. There is a need for better data collection and ethnic monitoring. Local authorities, the NHS and other public bodies should review their ethnic monitoring systems to include Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller as separate categories and use the resulting data for better planning and commissioning. Work should be undertaken to encourage Gypsies and Travellers to complete the 2011 census.
3. A number of health issues have been identified and there should be a focus on:
  - Early intervention/prevention and promotion of immunisations and screening.
  - Mental health specialist support services.
  - Male health specialist support services.
  - More support around complex health needs.
  - Investigation into infant and maternal mortality and prevalence of disabilities in the Gypsy and Traveller population; further work is needed to help understand this.
  - Raising awareness of the Gypsy and Traveller community with professionals.
  - Training health champions from the Gypsy and Traveller community.
4. Public health and other service information and communications need to be provided in an accessible format to the Gypsy and Traveller population and the content appropriate.
5. Accommodation:
  - The implications of the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy should be considered and the need for additional Gypsy and Traveller accommodation addressed.

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<sup>5</sup> Working together for change: using person-centred information for commissioning. Department of Health, June 2009

- Promote consistent site management practices across the County.
6. Continue emphasis on promoting good practice in education of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils in schools and other educational settings.
  7. Encourage sharing of good practice across different organisations.
  8. Promote continuing community engagement with the Gypsy and Traveller population.
  9. Develop strategies to promote integration between the settled and Traveller communities to reduce mistrust, fear and discrimination.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is the means by which Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and local authorities describe the future health, care and wellbeing needs of the local populations, the strategic direction of service delivery and the commissioning requirements to meet those needs.

The JSNA:

- Provides analysis of data to show the health and wellbeing status of local communities.
- Defines where inequalities exist.
- Uses local community views and evidence of effectiveness of interventions to review existing services and shape the future investment.
- Provides data to assist with the setting of local priorities.
- Helps build the evidence base to influence the commissioning of services
- Makes recommendations to improve outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers.

The Cambridgeshire Community Wellbeing Partnership decided that Travellers should be a priority area to include in Phase 4 of the JSNA in line with the Cambridgeshire Area Assessment which identified the issues and poor outcomes for Travellers. The JSNA covers the wider determinants of health, such as housing, transport, education, employment, crime etc because of their importance in people's health and wellbeing. It is undertaken jointly by NHS Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire County Council, District Councils, service providers, Third sector and other partners and the Exec Summary will feed into the Overarching JSNA for Cambridgeshire, covering the other clients groups (children, older people, etc).

This JSNA has been overseen by the Cambridgeshire Travellers Strategic Co-ordination Group (see section 4.2). The JSNA brief was initially discussed at this group and key areas for inclusion in the JSNA were identified. The group also advised that there has been extensive consultation with the Gypsy and Traveller population over the last five years and to avoid consultation fatigue the JSNA should use local views already expressed rather than seeking these views again. This JSNA has not therefore consulted with the Gypsy and Traveller population and has used evidence from existing consultations.

Throughout the JSNA, the following bullet points have been used to distinguish the difference between local and national data and information:

- ❖ Cambridgeshire data/information.
- National data/information.

### 2.1 Context

It should be noted that this JSNA is being written at a time of massive change with a new Coalition Government and economic recession which may have implications for future policy regarding Gypsies and Travellers.

The difficulties in accurately identifying the Gypsy and Traveller population should also be acknowledged as this largely depends on self classification and there may be particular issues around the fear of being identified as a Traveller and possible negative consequences associated with this.

In order to describe the Gypsy and Traveller population of Cambridgeshire, it is necessary to define what is meant by Gypsy and Traveller. The definition varies depending on what it is being used for with different definitions for housing, planning, education and other purposes.

For housing purposes, in 2007<sup>6</sup>, the definition of “Gypsies and Travellers” was updated and the following definition was agreed for the purpose of the Housing Act 2004:

- persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan;
- all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:
  - such persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependant’s educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently;
  - members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such).

It should be noted that there are separate definitions for ‘Gypsies and Travellers’ and ‘Travelling Showpeople’ for planning purposes, although the Secretary of State intends to withdraw and replace these circulars.

The Gypsies and Travellers living in the UK are made up of many different communities including Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers, Scottish Travellers, Welsh Travellers, New Travellers, travelling showmen, bargees and circus people. There are cultural differences between these groups and their needs may also be different. In this JSNA the term ‘Gypsies and Travellers’ will be used to refer to these groups collectively.

Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as ethnic groups via case law under the Race Relations Act 1976, but the other groups of Gypsies and Travellers are not. The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, which was introduced in response to the identification of “institutional racism” in the Stephen Lawrence Report, gives public bodies a statutory duty to promote race equality.

Gypsies and Travellers are long established in Britain. Their histories and traditions stretch back many hundreds of years. Records show that Cambridgeshire has been home to Gypsies and Travellers for nearly 500 years, a reference to Gypsies in Cambridgeshire can be found as early as 1515.<sup>7</sup> The county’s farmers provided seasonal employment such as fruit picking and Cambridge City and the county towns offered opportunities for hawking and selling goods and services door to door. Many Gypsies and Travellers living in Cambridgeshire today will have historic links with the county.

Travelling showpeople and circus people also live in the county for all or part of the year, following a circuit of fairs which go back hundreds of years, including Cambridge Midsummer Fair which dates back to 1211 and is one of the biggest fairs in England.

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<sup>6</sup> Definition of the term ‘gypsies and travellers’ for the purposes of the Housing Act 2004. Department for Communities and Local Government, January 2007. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/152705.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/online/breakingthebarriers/barriers8.htm>

### 3. WHAT DO WE KNOW?

#### 3.1 Demographics

##### 3.1.1 Facts and Figures

The numbers of Gypsies and Travellers in the population is difficult to ascertain for a variety of reasons. Previously the national census did not include Gypsies or Travellers. The 2011 census will allow, for the first time, people to select Gypsy or Irish Traveller as their ethnic group. Work will need to be undertaken to encourage the Gypsy and Traveller community to complete the census to ensure that high quality information is obtained about the community.

Organisations often do not include Gypsies and Travellers in their ethnic monitoring. If they are included there are issues around the subjective definition of Gypsies and Travellers and reluctance to declare their identity for fear of discrimination, which may lead to significant underreporting. Estimating the number of Gypsies and Travellers can therefore be problematic.

- Estimates of the Gypsy and Traveller population vary widely in Britain. In 2005, the former Commission for Racial Equality noted estimates of between 180,000 to 350,000 of whom the majority live in conventional 'bricks and mortar' housing.<sup>8</sup> Although Gypsy and Traveller communities are poorly captured in most national datasets, they are thought to represent 0.6% of the total UK population. Estimates suggest that the largest group in England, possibly half of all the community, is Romany Gypsies (63,000), followed by Irish Travellers (19,000). 13% of local authorities suggested they are the largest single ethnic minority group in their area.<sup>9</sup>
- ❖ Gypsies and Travellers make up almost 1% of the population in Cambridgeshire and represent the largest ethnic minority in the county. In Cambridgeshire it is estimated that approximately 70% are Romany Gypsies, 20% are Irish Travellers and 10% are others including Scottish and Welsh Travellers and an increasing number of Eastern European Gypsies. There appears to be a difference in demographics across the county with a higher number of Irish Travellers in South Cambridgeshire and Eastern European Roma in Fenland.
- ❖ With regards to travelling showpeople, a number of showmen have permanent winter quarters in yards. In East Cambridgeshire there are 13 authorised travelling showpeople sites, one planning application for an additional site has been refused and is currently subject to an appeal. Fenland has one unauthorised Travelling Show people site as at January 2007 and South Cambridgeshire has two authorised travelling showpeople sites (of 21 plots).
- ❖ Of the total number of statutory aged Traveller children enrolled in Cambridgeshire schools during the 2008/09 academic year, 81.5% were Romany Gypsies, 11% Irish Travellers, 4% Showmen and 3.5% Eastern European Roma. (CREDS 2008/09 Cambridgeshire Traveller Education Data)
- ❖ The Cambridge Sub-region Traveller Needs Assessment (CSTNA) carried out in 2005<sup>10</sup> estimated the Gypsy and Traveller population in Cambridgeshire to be 5702, shown in the table below. The 2005 CSTNA was the largest survey of Travellers in the Country interviewing 313 Gypsies and Travellers. However

<sup>8</sup> The Road Ahead. Department for Communities and Local Government, December 2007.

<sup>9</sup> Inclusion Health Evidence pack. Department of Health and Cabinet Office social exclusion task force, March 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Cambridge Sub Region Traveller Needs Assessment. Robert Home and Margaret Greenfields, May 2006.



the figures regarding households in housing should be treated with caution as the figures are based on information from 40 Gypsies/Travellers living in housing. Cambridgeshire County Council are currently updating the figures and new estimates will be available in October 2010.

**Table 1: Estimated Gypsy/Traveller population in CSTNA study area districts, ranked and rounded**

Comment [S1]:

Comment [S2]:

District	Caravans	Households in caravans	Households in housing	Total households 2005	Population 2005
Fenland	485	285	309	594	2851
South Cambs	425	250	28	278	1334
East Cambs	180	106	115	221	1061
Huntingdonshire	60	35	5	40	192
Cambridge (City)	30	18	37	55	264
Total	1180	694	494	1188	5702

Source: Cambridge Sub-region Traveller Needs Assessment, May 2006

- ❖ The 2005 CSTNA found that the age distribution of the Gypsy and Traveller population broadly corresponded with findings from other research: there is a higher proportion of children and lower proportion of older people in the Gypsy and Travellers population compared to the general population.

## 3.2 Accommodation

### 3.2.1 Facts, figures and trends

Taking appropriate steps to resolve both perceived and actual inequalities in our society is a vital way to foster and sustain cohesion within the communities in which we live. In terms of Gypsies and Travellers, the increased provision of legal sites has historically been seen as the most effective way of reducing tensions concerning Gypsy and Travellers with the settled community and improving the life chances of individuals from Gypsy and Traveller backgrounds. Since the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, purchasing private land for site development has also been the emphasis.

The Gypsy and Traveller community has different accommodation needs than the settled community and the type of need varies. Gypsies and Travellers recognise travelling as part of their cultural heritage, however, not all Gypsies and Travellers actually travel. This can often be interpreted as an indication that those members of the Gypsy community are not 'real Gypsies'. This view, however, reflects a lack of knowledge and understanding of the ethnicity and culture of Gypsies and Travellers.

Many of the County's Gypsy and Traveller population choose to live in housing, whilst others choose to live on authorised sites, The sites may be socially rented by the local authority or a registered social landlord, privately rented or owned. However some Gypsies and Travellers may live on unauthorised sites when authorised sites are not available, which may lead to tension with other members of the public living nearby.

- ❖ The 2005 CSTNA estimated that 58% of households live in caravans and 42% live in settled housing.

A 'Caravan Count' is conducted by local authorities twice a year and is compiled on two separate days in the year. This provides information on the number and location of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites across England. Whilst it may be a true reflection of the position on the "day" this "snapshot" may not reflect the actual position at other times of the year.

- ❖ The most recent published Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans in England took place in January 2010.<sup>11</sup> The total caravan count in Cambridgeshire was 1,278. Of these, 92% (1,180) were on authorised sites (with planning permission) and 8% (98) were on unauthorised sites (without planning permission). This is illustrated by district in the tables below.

**Table 2: Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans 28 January 2010: Authorised sites (with planning permission)**

Area	No. of caravans socially rented	Private Caravans			Total Authorised sites
		Temporary planning permission	Permanent planning permission	All private caravans	
Cambridge	0	0	46	46	<b>46*</b>
East Cambs	74	0	74	74	<b>148</b>
Fenland	189	7	211	218	<b>407</b>
Huntingdonshire	35	24	1	25	<b>60</b>
South Cambs	65	119	335	454	<b>519</b>
<b>Cambs Total</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>1,180</b>

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government, May 2010

\* There are no designated Travellers sites/pitches in Cambridge. The figure refers to pitches on private caravan sites occupied by Travellers.

**Table 3: Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans 28 January 2010: Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)**

Area	No. of Caravans on Sites on Gypsies own land		No. of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Gypsies		Total Unauthorised sites
	Tolerated	Not tolerated	Tolerated	Not tolerated	
Cambridge	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
East Cambs	0	0	6	3	<b>9</b>
Fenland	8	52	0	0	<b>60</b>
Huntingdonshire	9	0	0	0	<b>9</b>
South Cambs	0	20	0	0	<b>20</b>
<b>Cambs Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>98</b>

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government, May 2010

- ❖ The only Registered Social Landlord managed site in Cambridgeshire is in Huntingdonshire. This is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council and run on their behalf by Luminus Housing Association.

<sup>11</sup> Count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010 Last five counts. Communities and Local Government, May 2010.

## Accommodation need

In recent years, there have been a number of national policy changes regarding site provision for Gypsies and Travellers. In 2004, a requirement was made for local housing authorities to carry out Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessments (GTAAAs). Results of the GTAAAs were fed into the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which set the targets for additional pitches (both residential and transit) in each local authority. Local authorities were required to meet these targets by identifying land for site provision through a Development Plan. District Councils are required to prepare Annual Monitoring Reports which set out the progress in relation to Development Plan preparation and the number of Gypsy and Traveller pitches (both public and private) which are required to meet identified need. Progress in relation to the delivery of pitches within Cambridgeshire is set out in the table below.

- A 2009 report by Salford University<sup>12</sup> assessing local authorities progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in England, estimated that there are 8,263 pitches for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation across England. There are significant regional differences in pitch requirements: the East of England and South West have the largest requirement, the North East and London have the smallest.
- ❖ The 2005 CSTNA identified the accommodation need for Gypsies and Travellers. The level of accommodation need identified in the CSTNA for Cambridgeshire in 2005-2010 and progress made is shown in the table below. The assumptions made in the 2005 CSTNA will have to be revisited as part of the current review. For example recent changes in population numbers will have to be taken into account when identifying the need for additional pitches. It should be noted that the number of roadside encampments has declined following the publication of the CSTNA. The figures given below for accommodation need differ from those which appeared in the Single Issue Review of the East of England Plan which was published in July 2009.

**Table 4: District Gypsy/Traveller accommodation need and progress**

District	Fenland	South Cambs	East Cambs	Hunts	Cambridge City
Current Supply (council and private authorised pitches)*	165-200	210-220	90-120	20	0
Extra Pitch Need 2005 – 2010*	160-205	110-130	25-45	12-25	15^
Progress in the delivery of additional pitches 2005 – 2009+	3 (+ 9 transit pitches through the submission of a planning application)	17 (+1 Emergency Stopping Place through County Council planning application)	5 (a further 20 pitches have been given planning permission since April 2010)	1	0

\*Source: Cambridge Sub Region Travellers Needs Assessment, May 2006

+Source: Cambridgeshire District and City Council Annual Monitoring Reports

<sup>12</sup> Assessing local housing authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and traveller communities in England. Brown, P, University of Salford, Winter 2009.

^ Given the small numbers, data limitations and council site proposal for an emergency stopping, it was considered inappropriate to calculate a site demand for 2005-2010, except for the emergency stopping place proposal.

**In July 2010, the Government abolished Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs), including the East of England Plan, which has implications for future planning of site provision. Guidance issued with the revocation states that:**

“Local councils are best placed to assess the needs of Travellers. The abolition of Regional Strategies means that local authorities will be responsible for determining the right level of site provision, reflecting local need and historic demand, and for bringing forward land in Development Plans. They should continue to do this in line with current policy. *Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* (GTAAs) have been undertaken by all local authorities and if local authorities decide to review the levels of provision these assessments will form a good starting point. However, local authorities are not bound by them.”<sup>13</sup>

More recently the Government has announced that the existing Planning circular relating to Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites will also be revoked and replaced with “light touch” guidance.<sup>14</sup>

- ❖ Following the Government's revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategies the Cambridgeshire Districts will have to review the assumptions made in relation to the need for additional residential and transit pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and ensure that this information is captured within their Development Plans. To inform this process the existing Cambridge Sub Region Travellers (Accommodation) Needs Assessment is to be reviewed in 2010. This will be approved by the Cambridge Sub Region Housing Board taking into account the views of the Chief Planning Officers and will be used to inform future revisions of the JSNA.
- ❖ There are systems in place in each district to consider applications for pitches on publicly owned sites. Some districts have waiting lists but these may not be a true reflection of need as many Travellers apply to many districts in various counties to keep all options open.

#### **Accommodation trends**

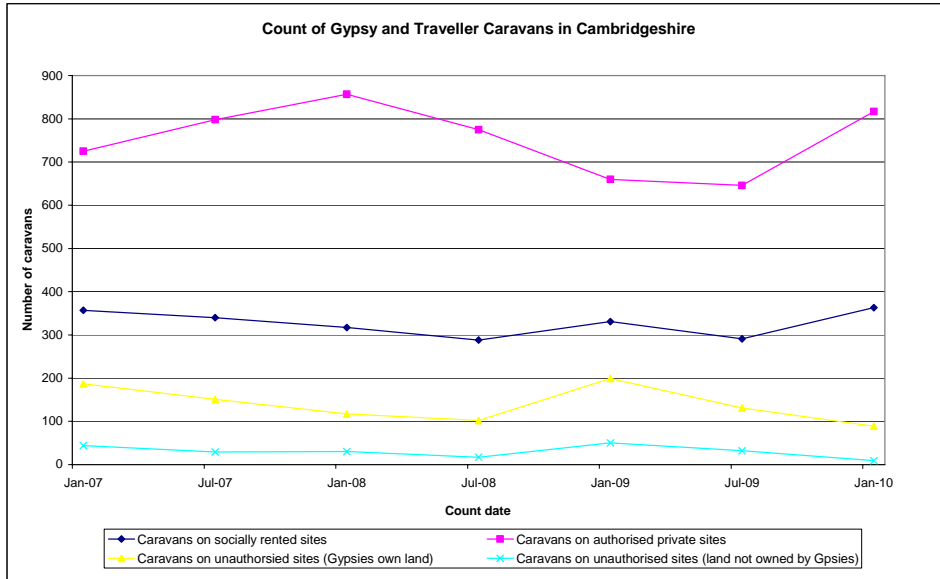
- ❖ According to the 2005 CSTNA the total caravan numbers in the study area have nearly doubled in 25 years (from about 800 to 1600), with an increase of two-thirds in the six year period 1998-2004; this reflects both natural population increase and significant in-migration. The districts with the greatest increase in caravan numbers were South Cambridgeshire and Fenland (each doubling since 1997).
- ❖ Authorised accommodation is on both council and private sites. In 1983 the study area had only four council sites, but by 2005 the number had risen to 15. The number of private authorised caravans, overwhelmingly on owner-occupied sites, has grown, both nationally (from 14% to 25% of counted caravans in 25 years), and within the study area (from about 100 in 1980 to about 600).
- ❖ Unauthorised caravan numbers have fluctuated, declining in the 1990s but rising sharply since the year 2000.

<sup>13</sup> Chief Planning Officer Letter: Revocation of Regional Strategies. Communities and Local Government, July 2010.

<sup>14</sup> Planning, building and the environment: Travellers. Communities and Local Government website.  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/travellers/>

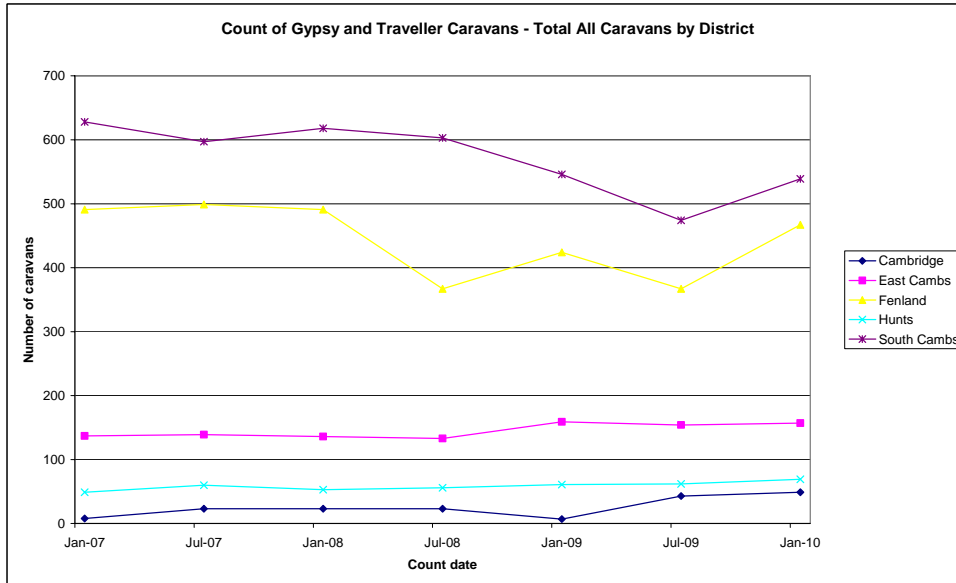
- ❖ The most recent figures published by the department of communities and local government shows that the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in Cambridgeshire has increased by 7% between January 2009 and 2010 and in England this has increased by 3% over the same period. The graphs below show trends in caravan counts for Cambridgeshire and total caravan counts by district.

**Figure 1: Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans in Cambridgeshire**



Source: Communities and Local Government, May 2010

**Figure 2: Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans – Total all Caravans by District**



Source: Communities and Local Government, May 2010

## Travellers and Housing

Data sources on the number of Gypsies and Travellers living in 'bricks and mortar' housing are very limited.

- In 2007, Shelter, the housing and homelessness charity, produced a good practice briefing on Gypsies and Travellers<sup>15</sup>. The briefing identified a number of issues faced by these communities relating to housing
  - When Gypsies and Travellers moved into housing from sites, they often struggled to maintain their tenancies. Without appropriate support and help, the tenancy might break down, and the family or individual might become homeless.
  - Settled Gypsies and Travellers often became invisible to the authorities due to inconsistent and inadequate monitoring and so their needs often went unsupported which, as a result, might lead to exclusion from specialist services available to communities living on sites.
  - Gypsies and Travellers might give up a mobile lifestyle due to limited availability of stopping places and sites or due to increased support needs for example relating to health and education.
  - Lack of appropriate support might lead to increased problems in maintaining a tenancy. Gypsies and Travellers might be inexperienced in dealing with practical tenancy issues such as paying bills and rent and making benefits applications and low levels of literacy may also contribute to this.
  - Racism towards Gypsies and Travellers was regarded as acceptable by some members of society, which contributed to discrimination and distrust of support services. Housing Gypsy or Traveller households in unsuitable properties or an unsuitable area could intensify neighbourhood tensions.
  - Customary reliance on family support structures could leave Gypsies and Travellers severely isolated when housed away from sites.
- ❖ The 2010 Cambridgeshire JSNA on Homelessness and those at risk of homelessness identified Travellers as a group who may be vulnerable to homelessness.
- ❖ Ormiston Children and Families Trust's Travellers Initiative has supported several families who went into housing and then went back into caravans. There is also some evidence of children of housed families going back into caravans on marriage.

### 3.2.2 Local views on Accommodation

- ❖ The 2005 CSTNA which interviewed 313 Gypsies/Travellers confirmed that there is a pressing need for more sites of all kinds (public and private, long-stay and transit). In addition, Gypsies/Travellers would prefer small, self-owned long-stay sites for family groups, preferably on the edge of a village, and near established Gypsy/Traveller communities.<sup>10,8</sup>
- ❖ A Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessment was carried out in East Cambridgeshire in 2006<sup>16</sup> and confirmed that the majority of Travellers in private sites and on council sites were content with their location, felt it was right for them, were close to doctors and shops, and felt they were close to their relatives. This result shows a high level of overall satisfaction with present location. The preferred accommodation for Travellers on Council run sites was a mobile home or caravan.

<sup>15</sup> Good practice: briefing Gypsies and travellers. Shelter, February 2007.

<sup>16</sup> Sub District Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessment: East Cambridgeshire District Council April 2006.

- ❖ Of those interviewed in social housing, two thirds said they were living there by choice, mainly because it was the right accommodation, close to shops schools and other facilities. Those on unauthorised sites expressed a preference for caravan accommodation on a private site.
- ❖ Overall the Travellers do not want to be located immediately adjacent to existing housing to avoid potential problems between different cultures. Sites should therefore be located near to, but not directly adjacent to, existing settlements.

In 2006, Ormiston Children and Families Trust carried out participatory research into the lives, views and experiences of young Gypsies and Travellers in the UK. The study involved 148 children, aged from five to 13 years, from English Romany Gypsy, Irish Traveller and Showmen's communities. The report 'Children's voices: changing futures'<sup>17</sup> revealed children's views on a number of key areas.

- With regards to accommodation, threat of repeated eviction was experienced by some children on unauthorised sites and contributed to children's insecurity and vulnerability. Those experiencing evictions expressed a feeling of repeated rejection from schooling and access to services.

### 3.3 Health and Wellbeing

#### 3.3.1 Facts, figures and trends

- ❖ In 2006, a Travellers Health Needs Assessment was carried out in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland<sup>18</sup>. The Assessment demonstrated the high health needs in the Travelling community and highlighted that many Travellers experience a much lower life expectancy, higher infant mortality rate, lower health outcomes and poorer access to preventative care compared to the general population. This was supported by the findings of Cambridge Sub-region Travellers Needs Assessment, which adds that culturally sensitive outreach work is necessary to engage Gypsies/Travellers in health care access.
- ❖ Applying traditional methods to promote health and access health care in Travelling communities has not been effective. The Travelling community has differing priorities, for example ensuring safe and secure accommodation would be more pressing than seeking health care or quitting smoking.
- The association between housing and both physical and mental health has long been recognised. 'Housing and public health', a review of reviews of interventions for improving health identifies a number of aspects of poor housing that can adversely affect health including overcrowding and housing tenure.<sup>19</sup>
- Overcrowding is a factor that can adversely affect health (including mental health). Furthermore, poor housing conditions often coexist with other forms of deprivation (unemployment, poor education, ill health, social isolation etc), making it difficult to isolate, modify and assess the overall health.
- There also appears to be a significant link between housing deprivation in early life and ill health in adulthood, with poor housing in childhood associated

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<sup>17</sup> Children's Voices: Changing Futures. The views and experiences of young Gypsies and Travellers. Camille Warrington, Ormiston Children and Families Trust, 2006.

<sup>18</sup> East Cambridgeshire & Fenland Traveller Health Needs Assessment. Suzanne Wood, 2006.

<sup>19</sup> Housing and public health: a review of reviews of interventions for improving health. National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE). Evidence briefing. December 2005.

with higher rates of hospital admissions and both morbidity and mortality increased in adult life.<sup>20</sup>

Evidence on the health needs of Gypsies and Travellers comes from the documents listed below:

- The Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers in England, 2004.<sup>21</sup>
- ❖ East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Traveller Health Needs Assessment, 2004.
- Inclusion Health Evidence Pack, March 2010.
- Facing the Future? Vivitas East Midland Racial Equality Consortium, February 2007.<sup>22</sup>
- ❖ East of England Gypsy and Traveller Life Style Survey, August 2009.<sup>23</sup>
- Overview of Nature and Extent of Illicit Drug use Amongst the Traveller Community, 2006.<sup>24</sup>
- ❖ Improving Mental Health Services for Travellers in Cambridgeshire, 2005.<sup>25</sup>
- Participatory Health Needs Assessment of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers in Luton, January 2009<sup>26</sup>

### Mortality

- Maternal, perinatal, neonatal and infant mortality rates are high in many Travellers.<sup>9,18,21,22</sup>
- Many Gypsies and Travellers die earlier than the rest of the population.<sup>27</sup>
- Life expectancy: Gypsy and Traveller women live 12 years less than women in the general population and men live 10 years less.<sup>8,9,28</sup>
- Nationally 17% of Gypsy and Traveller mothers have experienced the death of a child compared to less than 1% of the wider population.

### Morbidity

- Self reported chest pain, angina, respiratory problems including asthma, diabetes and arthritis were more prevalent in the Traveller group.<sup>9,18,21,22</sup>
- More than 40% reported long term illness compared to 18% of the settled community.<sup>21</sup>
- The health status of Gypsies and Travellers, as assessed with standardised measures (EQ5D, HADS anxiety and depression), is worse than that of their age-sex matched comparators.<sup>21</sup>

### Life style and risk factors

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<sup>20</sup> Home sweet home? The impact of poor housing on health. Marsh, A., Gordon, D., Pantazis, C. and Heslop, P. Bristol: Policy Press, 1999.

<sup>21</sup> The Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers in England. University of Sheffield 2004 available at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/content/1/c6/02/55/71/GT%20report%20summary.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Facing the Future? Vivitas East Midland Racial Equality Consortium Vivitas East Midland Racial Equality Consortium February 2007

<sup>23</sup> Life style survey-Gypsies and Travellers. Ipsos MORI and NHS East of England August 2009

<sup>24</sup> An overview of the nature and extent of illicit drug use amongst the Traveller community: an exploratory study 2006 available at <http://www.nacd.ie/publications/NACDTravellerReportFinal.pdf> (8N)

<sup>25</sup> Improving mental health services for Travellers in Cambridgeshire. Treise C, Shepherd G, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership Trust 2005

<sup>26</sup> Participatory Health Needs Assessment of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers in Luton. NHS Luton January 2009

<sup>27</sup> Cemlyn S, Greenfields M et al., Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review. University of Bristol Winter 2009

<sup>28</sup> Progress Report on Gypsy and Traveller Policy. Department for Communities and Local Government July 2009



The 2009 lifestyle survey of Gypsies and Travellers in the East of England found that:

- ❖ Smoking prevalence among Gypsies and Travellers is 47% (compared to 18% in the overall population) and 75% of heavy drinkers also smoke. Highest prevalence was seen in the 55-64 year age group and 53% started smoking before the age of 16. 61% expressed their willingness to give up smoking. None of them had ever tried NHS stop smoking services.
- High Smoking prevalence is also supported by other literature.<sup>18,21,22</sup>
- ❖ Just over a half (55%) of Gypsies and Travellers drink alcohol. Nine in ten (88%) could be considered sensible drinkers.
- ❖ A third (33%) of the population ate at least five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day compared to half (50%) of the non Traveller population.
- ❖ Based on Body Mass Index (BMI), just under a third (31%) are of a normal weight, with one in three (35%) overweight and a further three in ten (31%) obese. In the general population in the Eastern region, one in seven is obese (14%).
- ❖ Over two thirds of Gypsies and Travellers (69%) are active to at least a moderate degree. Four fifths (80%) of the overall regional population are at least moderately active.
- ❖ Anecdotal evidence suggests an increasing trend in young women using tanning parlours as well as the use of unlicensed slimming pills.

An exploratory study on illicit drug use among Travellers found:

- Illicit and licit substances most widely used by Travellers are also the same substances that are used by the general population eg cannabis, sedatives, tranquillisers and antidepressants. Many more males than females use these substances. A wide age range of Travellers was perceived to be using illicit drugs.
- Education, health, employment, accommodation, previous and current drug use, involvement with criminal justice system, family, social networks and environment were identified as important risk factors for illicit drug use by the respondents

### **Mental Health**

- Mental health problems are frequently mentioned as being high in Traveller population in most available surveys and in research studies.<sup>9,18,22</sup>
- Gypsies and Travellers are nearly three times more likely to suffer from anxiety than average and just over twice as likely to be depressed. Women are twice as likely to experience mental health problems as men.<sup>9</sup>
- ❖ Ormiston Children and Families Trust obtained Department of Health funding to carry out a project on Emotional Wellbeing in the Travelling community. The aim of the project was to empower female Travellers who are identified as experiencing emotional wellbeing difficulties residing in or passing through Cambridgeshire and improve their emotional wellbeing. This project took place between 2005 and 2008. An Emotional Wellbeing Advocacy Worker (EWAW) was recruited for the project and the key findings/outcomes were:
  - Over the project period, 341 people made use of the projects activities and services.

- Issues included homelessness, child protection proceedings, eviction, benefits, setting up home, debt, racism, support to access services including help with mental health appointments.
- There were potentially many more clients that could have been supported within the County than the EWAW had capacity to support.
- Development of a culturally appropriate needs assessment tool
- Need for information to be provided for members of the Traveller community on pathways and choices in an accessible format
- Need to improve ethnic monitoring procedures

### Screening and immunisations

- ❖ ➤ Preventative measures such as immunisation, contraception and cervical screening had poor uptake amongst Travellers.<sup>18,22</sup>

### Health services/access to care

- ❖ In the 2006 East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Traveller health needs assessment GP registration rates were low in Travellers. However, the 2009 East of England lifestyle survey found, out of the 189 Gypsies and Travellers interviewed, 93% were currently registered with a GP, 84% had visited a GP within last two years and 43% had visited the hospital.
- ❖ ➤ Lack of trust, expectations of poor understanding of Travellers' needs, or frank discrimination from health workers featured strongly as barriers to accessing services.<sup>25,26</sup> Reputations of different doctors and their practices, and also of different hospitals, were well-circulated within Traveller communities. Wherever possible, these services were either frequented or avoided accordingly.
- ❖ ➤ With regards to mental health services:<sup>25,26</sup>
  - The 'invisibility' of mental health problems and lack of knowledge and understanding about mental health problems constituted clear barriers to care.
  - Women had low expectations of the ability of formal mental health services to meet their needs effectively and cultural and lay beliefs on specific health conditions such as mental health restrict the service access.
- Difficulty with encouraging men to access health services such as GP's.<sup>26</sup>
- ❖ Compared to other Gypsies and Travellers, Romany Gypsies, men and those who work are less likely to have visited their GP.<sup>23</sup>
- The role of the specialist health visitor featured positively and prominently, particularly their role as an advocate, and was a significant factor in access to and experience of health services.<sup>21</sup>
- Self-reliance when suffering from ill health often result in delayed access to health services in this group.<sup>21</sup>
- ❖ Health inequalities are observed in terms of access, registration, morbidity and mortality. Inequalities also exist between authorised and unauthorised accommodation sites.<sup>10,18</sup>
- Access to initial or continuing healthcare can be very limited for Gypsies and Travellers, sometimes hampered by a lack of medical records in particular, Gypsies and Travellers report considerable problems in registering with GPs and/or receiving appropriate care from GP practices.<sup>12</sup>

## Perception of health

- ❖ In the East of England Gypsy and Traveller lifestyle survey (n=189), approximately half of the population surveyed said that they are either in very good or good health. 47% experiencing long term disabilities.
- The extreme fear of cancer among Gypsy and Traveller groups is a factor that contributes to delayed presentation, and where there is also a fatalistic belief that 'nothing can be achieved by attending for screening or potential early diagnosis' this can result in more serious outcomes that then reinforce the belief that terminal illness is an inevitable outcome.<sup>21</sup>

## Older People

- ❖ The CSTNA identified that a few elderly Gypsies and Travellers are extremely isolated as they do not have relatives on the same site and were dependent on other site residents for their needs.
- An Age Concern report exploring the issues for older Gypsies and Travellers identified the potential severe social exclusion and vulnerability that older Gypsies and Travellers may face including barriers in accessing health and social care services.<sup>29</sup>

## Communications

- Poor levels of literacy in the Gypsy and Traveller population can make it difficult to navigate the health system and may also present problems with inappropriate usage of prescription drugs. People with poor literacy skills may also feel embarrassed about having to seek help with reading.
- The lack of a postal address may mean that appointment letters are never received leading to missing appointments and treatment.<sup>27</sup>
- ❖ This may also present problems with reading communications such as hospital appointments/results or public health information. This is illustrated in the case study below from a non health worker in Cambridgeshire.

### Case Study

A member of the Travelling population had been visiting the doctors and hospital for a few weeks for investigative tests and recently had a biopsy. The Traveller asked me to read a letter to them that had come from the hospital. The letter stated that they had been trying to contact them by phone, but, unable to contact them wanted to let them know their results. It then went on to read that their biopsy showed signs of cancer and further treatment and tests were necessary.

Obviously, this was a shock for both of us. Firstly, not expecting the contents of the letter to be conveying this news, I was unprepared and couldn't therefore prepare the recipient. Secondly, unable to read the letter themselves, they may have had to ask someone who they did not want to know about their medical issues to read the letter. I feel that this identifies a need for medical staff to know where there is a literacy issue and to have provision to use a surgery nurse/GP or Travellers Health Team to visit where this sort of information needs to be passed on.

<sup>29</sup> Exploring the issues for Older Gypsies and travellers. Age Concern, February 2009.

### 3.3.2 Local views on health and wellbeing

- ❖ In the 2006 East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Traveller Needs Assessment focus group discussions with Travellers sought their views on health services available to them. The main problems identified were:
  - Difficulties in registering with a GP.
  - A lack of awareness of health issues and the health system among Travellers
  - A lack of awareness among health professionals of Traveller culture.
  - A lack of information in an appropriate format.

The Travellers Health Team have also identified a number of issues from their work with the local Gypsy and Traveller population (see section 4.1.1)

## 3.4 Education & Employment

### 3.4.1 Facts, figures and trends

#### Education

Since 2003 Gypsy/Roma and Travellers of Irish heritage have been identified as two distinct ethnicity groups in national school census data. However, we know that this data is incomplete as many parents and children are reluctant to identify themselves for fear of bullying and prejudice which they experience in their everyday lives.

The two groups are defined as follows:

- **Gypsy/Roma** – This category includes pupils who identify themselves as Gypsies and/or Romanies, and/or Travellers, and/or Traditional Travellers, and/or Romanichals, and/or Romanichal Gypsies and/or Welsh Gypsies/Kaale, and/or Scottish Travellers/Gypsies, and/or Roma. It includes all children of a Gypsy/Roma ethnic background, irrespective of whether they are nomadic, semi nomadic or living in static accommodation.
- **Traveller of Irish Heritage** – A range of terminology is also used in relation to Travellers with an Irish heritage. These are either ascribed and or self-ascribed and include: Minceir, Travellers, Travelling People, and Travellers of Irish heritage. Travellers of Irish heritage speak their own language known as Gammon, sometimes referred to as 'Cant' and which is a language with many Romani loan-words, but not thought to be a dialect of Romani itself.

The School Census does not include categories for Fairground (Showman's) children; the children travelling with circuses; or the children of New Travellers or those dwelling on the waterways. (The Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children & Young People – DCSF 2008)

- ❖ In January 2009 there were 414 self-ascribed Gypsy/Roma and 88 self-ascribed Irish Traveller pupils in Cambridgeshire, comprising respectively 0.5% and 0.1% of the total school population compared with 0.2% nationally for both groups.
- ❖ Bearing in mind previous low self-ascription rates for ethnicity, it is important to point out that a more accurate figure for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils enrolled in Cambridgeshire schools is higher than that stated above. During the period September 2008 to July 2009, the total number of Gypsy, Roma,

Traveller pupils known to the Local Authority was 844 (including those who self-ascribed). This figure breaks down as: 689 Romany Gypsy, 91 Irish Traveller, 34 Showmen and 30 Eastern European Roma. (CREDS 2008/09 Cambridgeshire Traveller Education Data)

### Educational Attainment

- ❖ Ethnic monitoring information is providing evidence of under-performance in the end of Key Stage National Curriculum Tests by Gypsy/Traveller pupils<sup>30</sup>.
- Nationally, the gap in achievement between Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children's GCSE results and the national average is over 41% and not improving. At all stages of education those children display marked underachievement compared with other ethnic groups including ethnic minorities groups. A significant proportion of young people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community drop out of school; their numbers not in education, employment, or training (NEET) are also high.
- ❖ In Cambridgeshire (as the tables below show), data for 2009 across all phases (Foundation Stage, KS1, KS2 and KS4) shows performance of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils as consistently trailing, with little evidence of narrowing the gap with the county average.

**Table 5: Foundation Stage Profile 2009 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), Gypsy, Roma & Travellers Performance variations across the county: average scores and percentage with 78+ points & 6+ in PSE & CLL and their difference from the county mean**

	Cohort	Average scores	Diff from county	% 78+ & 6+ in PSE	Diff from county
County average: all pupils	6254	86.0	0.0	49.4	0.0
Boys	3236	83.3	-2.7	40.0	-9.5
Girls	3018	88.9	2.9	59.6	10.2
Language other than English	504	81.1	-4.9	40.9	-8.6
Eastern European language	104	75.7	-10.3	33.7	-15.8
Black Caribbean	10	77.9	-8.1	30.0	-19.4
Black African	37	84.8	-1.2	48.6	-0.8
Mixed Black Caribbean and White	45	84.0	-2.0	33.3	-16.1
Mixed Black African and White	25	86.3	0.3	60.0	10.6
Indian	79	85.4	-0.6	51.9	2.5
Pakistani	31	78.5	-7.5	38.7	-10.7
Bangladeshi	41	77.3	-8.7	31.7	-17.7
Chinese	29	86.9	0.9	41.4	-8.1
Gypsy/Roma	39	73.3	-12.7	17.9	-31.5
Irish Traveller	7	60.7	-25.3	0.0	-49.4

Source: Data Profile of Children and Young People in Cambridgeshire. NHS Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire County Council, November 2009

- ❖ In general Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children have the lowest scores. It should be noted though that numbers are very small in these groups and patterns may therefore be statistically unreliable.

<sup>30</sup> Data Profile of Children and Young People in Cambridgeshire. NHS Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire County Council, November 2009.

**Table 6: KS1 2009 BME, Gypsy, Roma & Travellers**  
**The percentage point difference between all pupils and those from key Black and minority ethnic groups attaining L2+ in Reading**

	Ave cohort	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
All Cambs pupils	6130	87.8	87.0	85.2	84.6	86.2	87.7
Bangladeshi	41	76.3	76.6	80.5	79.2	75.7	86.1
<i>Difference</i>		<b>-11.4</b>	<b>-11.2</b>	<b>-6.5</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>-8.9</b>	<b>-0.0</b>
Black African	16	68.4	81.3	100.0	85.7	83.3	85.7
<i>Difference</i>		<b>-19.3</b>	<b>-6.5</b>	13.0	0.5	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Mixed Black African/White	23	95.2	77.3	88.9	85.0	93.1	92.3
<i>Difference</i>		7.5	<b>-10.5</b>	1.9	<b>-0.2</b>	8.5	6.1
Black Caribbean	11	97.5	85.0	77.8	80.0	70.0	83.3
<i>Difference</i>		9.8	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-9.2</b>	<b>-5.2</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>-2.8</b>
Mixed Black Caribbean/White	35	100.0	91.4	89.5	82.8	75.7	85.1
<i>Difference</i>		12.3	3.6	2.5	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-8.9</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Chinese	25	92.0	96.7	88.0	80.0	85.2	95.8
<i>Difference</i>		4.3	8.9	1.0	<b>-5.2</b>	0.6	9.7
Gypsy/Roma	30	42.9	51.7	46.15	39.4	14.8	44.2
<i>Difference</i>		<b>-44.8</b>	<b>-36.1</b>	<b>-40.9</b>	<b>-45.8</b>	<b>-69.8</b>	<b>-42.0</b>
Irish Traveller	9	28.6	30.00	25.00	50.0	33.3	22.2
<i>Difference</i>		<b>-59.1</b>	<b>-57.8</b>	<b>-62.0</b>	<b>-35.2</b>	<b>-51.3</b>	<b>-63.9</b>
Indian	49	90.9	95.8	83.7	89.6	89.6	93.2
<i>Difference</i>		3.2	8.0	<b>-3.3</b>	4.4	5.0	7.0
Pakistani	24	66.7	73.3	80.0	88.9	81.5	96.0
<i>Difference</i>		<b>-21.0</b>	<b>-14.5</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	3.7	<b>-3.1</b>	9.8

Source: Data Profile of Children and Young People in Cambridgeshire. NHS Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire County Council, November 2009

**Table 7: KS2 2009 BME, Gypsy, Roma and Travellers summary**  
**Performance variations across the county: percentage achieving L4+ in English Maths & Science and their difference from the county**

	Cohort	English		Maths		Science	
		L4+	Diff from county average	L4+	Diff from county average	L4+	Diff from county average
County average: all pupils	6366	80.1		78.4		88.0	
Boys	3276	75.5	-4.6	79.0	0.5	87.4	-0.6
Girls	3090	84.9	4.9	77.9	-0.6	88.7	0.6
Language other than English	381	70.9	-9.2	71.9	-6.5	77.0	-11.0
Eastern European home language	84	50.6	-29.5	66.3	-12.2	63.9	-24.2
Black Caribbean	23	73.9	-6.1	78.3	-0.2	82.6	-5.4
Black African	32	71.9	-8.2	65.6	-12.8	87.5	-0.5
Mixed Black Caribbean and White	38	81.1	1.0	78.4	-0.1	83.8	-4.3
Mixed Black African and White	27	81.5	1.4	77.8	-0.7	88.9	0.8
Indian	52	98.0	17.9	88.0	9.6	98.0	10.0
Pakistani	28	53.6	-26.5	53.6	-24.9	67.9	-20.2
Bangladeshi	48	75.0	-5.1	60.4	-18.0	68.8	-19.3
Chinese	33	97.0	16.9	97.0	18.5	100.0	12.0
Gypsy/Roma	36	40.6	-39.4	43.8	-34.7	53.1	-34.9
Irish Traveller	9	0.0	-80.1	0.0	-78.4	0.0	-88.0

Source: Data Profile of Children and Young People in Cambridgeshire. NHS Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire County Council, November 2009

**Table 8: KS4 Variations in performance at 5+ A\*-C including English & maths 2008 & 2009**

	2008		2009		Change 2008-9
	Cohort	%5+ A*-C inc En & Ma	Cohort	%5+ A*-C inc En & Ma	
County average: all pupils	6044	53.2	5880	55.7	2.5
Black Caribbean	16	25.0	14	42.9	17.9
Black African	19	21.1	17	47.1	26.0
Mixed Black Caribbean and white	23	43.5	28	46.4	3.0
Mixed Black African and White	14	50.0	13	53.9	3.9
Indian	38	65.8	36	71.4	5.6
Pakistani	19	36.8	21	42.9	6.0
Bangladeshi	38	39.5	35	54.3	14.8
Chinese	37	56.8	29	75.9	19.1
Gypsy/Roma/Irish Traveller	13	15.4	13	0.0	-15.4

Source: KS4 dataset supplied by ISSIS, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Source: KS4 dataset supplied by ISSIS, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Table 9: KS4 Performance variations within Cambridgeshire: % with A\*-C in English and in Maths**

GCSE 2009	Cohort	A*-C in English (as % total cohort)	Diff from county average	A*-C in Maths (as % total cohort)	Diff from county average
County average: all pupils	5880	66.4	0.0	65.1	0.0
Black Caribbean	14	64.3	-2.1	42.9	-22.2
Black African	17	56.3	-10.2	50.0	-15.1
Mixed Black Caribbean and white	28	60.7	-5.7	46.4	-18.7
Mixed Black African and White	13	53.9	-12.6	53.9	-11.3
Indian	36	77.1	10.7	71.4	6.3
Pakistani	21	52.4	-14.0	42.9	-22.2
Bangladeshi	35	60.0	-6.4	54.3	-10.8
Chinese	29	75.9	9.5	75.9	10.8
Gypsy/Roma/Irish Traveller	13	7.7	-58.7	0.0	-65.1

Source: KS4 dataset supplied by ISSIS, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009

- ❖ In 2009 there are 11 Gypsy/Roma pupils and only two pupils identified as of Irish Traveller heritage in the KS4 cohort. Their performance is consistently below that of any other ethnic group. Also, there may be other Gypsy/Travellers who choose to classify themselves as 'White British' or 'Any other White Background' and thus remain invisible in this analysis.

#### Educational Attendance

- Nationally, there is a marked decline between access and attendance at primary level (2820 Travellers of Irish heritage and 6340 Gypsy/Romany registered January 2009) and secondary level (1040/3070 registered January 2009). It is estimated that 12,000 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children may not be registered at secondary school.<sup>9</sup>
- ❖ Bearing in mind, however, the low levels of self-ascription of ethnicity, figures for Cambridgeshire in 2008/09 show that 81% of **all known** Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people (including both ascribed and non-ascribed as ethnic groups) accessed education in county schools at some point during the year. (CREDS 2008/09 Cambridgeshire Education Data)

**Table 10: 2008/09 Number of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils accessing education and as a percentage of all known Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people**

Age	Reception		KS1		KS2		KS3		KS4		TOTAL (Recept. - KS4)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
East Cambs	6	60	26	100	44	96	31	86	28	97	135	92
Fenland	18	94	42	88	82	89	66	78	32	82	240	85
Huntingdon	9	100	33	100	47	98	24	92	10	100	123	98
South Cambs	46	74	89	83	152	94	43	59	16	20	346	72
<b>TOTAL</b>	79	79	190	89	325	94	164	75	86	55	844	81

Source: CREDS 2008/09 Cambridgeshire Education Data



- ❖ 71% of those pupils known to be in Year 6 in July 2008 transferred to secondary schools in county. (CREDS 2008/09 Cambridgeshire Education Data)
- ❖ However, there remain a significant number of secondary school aged Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people in Cambridgeshire not accessing secondary school provision.
- ❖ Attendance figures for the same cohort in 2008/09 are in line with those nationally for these groups and well below the national average for all pupils. Nationally, the overall absence rate for all pupils was 6.27%. Absence rates were highest for Travellers of Irish Heritage (24.44% overall absence) and Gypsy/Roma (19.05% overall absence) ethnic groups.

**Table 11: Total actual number of sessions\* attended and percentage of available sessions attended by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils in Cambridgeshire – 2008/09**

LEA/Age	Reception		KS1		KS2		KS3		KS4		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
East Cambs	1718	80	8147	81	14243	85	8975	82	8030	83	41113	83
Fenland	5037	79	14404	87	27528	87	20754	83	10661	84	78384	85
Huntingdon	2919	87	11103	87	17227	92	6722	77	2642	71	40613	86
South Cambs	13338	81	25095	78	44150	80	10520	74	3978	78	97081	79
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23012</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>58749</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>103148</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>46971</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>25311</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>257191</b>	<b>82</b>

\* A session relates to half a day

Source: CREDS 2008/09 Cambridgeshire Education Data

### Employment

- ❖ The East of England survey carried out by Ormiston Children and Families Trust in 2005 highlighted that very little research or consultation relating to Gypsies and Travellers and skills and employment exists. What existing research does suggest is that there is a strong preference for self employment among communities and there is a broad skill base that goes unrecognised.
- ❖ This survey also found a reduction in some employment opportunities traditionally filled by Gypsies and Travellers, such as those within agriculture. There is evidence of high levels of unemployment among those living on local authority sites.
- ❖ The survey highlighted that there should be explorations of opportunities to develop social enterprise, recycling initiatives and support for small businesses with Gypsy and Traveller groups and that the current provision of targeted training opportunities for Gypsies and Travellers are limited. There is a need for further provision of adult education, particularly in relation to basic skills, which should include outreach services.
- ❖ 50% of Learning and Skills Councils within the East of England replied to the survey. Of these none were able to identify any relevant work they were involved in relating to Gypsies and Travellers. In relation to actual service provision the survey was unable to identify any employment or training schemes specifically targeting Gypsies or Travellers within the region. A number of examples were found nationally, but appeared to be fairly exceptional.
- ❖ Investing in Communities (IiC) is a 10 year East of England Development Agency funding stream which has long term aims of tackling deprivation and enabling people to have opportunities to achieve their full potential. The THT

CREDS CDW has enabled several Gypsy and Traveller men to access funding, obtained from liC by Ormiston Children and Families Trust, for vocational courses in plastering, plumbing and bricklaying, leading to a recognised qualification. A report developing the evidence base for the Cambridgeshire Investing in Communities Programme<sup>31</sup> identified a number of issues relating to Travellers including a need to raise skill levels to improve employability. Funding was identified for a 'Learn and Earn Project' for Travellers which is being provide by Ormiston Children and Families Trust.

### 3.4.2 Local views on Education and Employment

- ❖ The 2005 CSTNA survey revealed that most Gypsies and Traveller prefer self-employment and also found evidence that types of work had changed in recent years, with a decline in traditional farm work and increased competition from cheaper immigrant labour. There is an increasing difficulty in making a living from traditional occupations, contributing to severe economic disadvantage and social exclusion. Difficulties in travelling and moving frequently make it harder to get work
- ❖ Furthermore, family networks and informal reciprocal arrangements are important for encouraging and sustaining economic activity, and seasonal social security benefits are important income sources, especially for those on council sites. Difficulties were found among younger Gypsies and Travellers with the theory part of the driving test due to low literacy levels.
- ❖ The CSTNA found some Gypsies and Travellers were motivated to ensure their children attend school to equip them for the future, however a lack of interest in formal education was also expressed due to factors such as alienation at school, accommodation problems, negative experiences, concerns over the educational curriculum such as sex education and cultural practices such as condoning absence from school for cultural and social reasons.
- ❖ The 2006 Children's Voices report identified that Gypsy and Traveller children valued opportunities for learning both within and outside of the school system, yet some children felt strongly that school wasn't always the best environment in which to learn. School was a place where children reported most regularly encountering racism. Children were frustrated by the lack of representation of Gypsies and Travellers within the school curriculum and learning resources.

## 3.5 Safety

### 3.5.1 Facts, figures and trends

The Gypsy and Traveller community may face particular issues around safety in terms of safety on sites, hate crime and domestic violence.

#### Children's Safety

There is generally a lack of safe outdoor play opportunities on Travellers' sites as many are located near main roads, railway tracks or under pylons. Play is essential to the development of children and also impacts on their physical health, fitness and mental health. 'Time to Play' guidance to support Cambridgeshire's Play Policy<sup>32</sup> recognises the difficulties that Gypsy and Traveller children may have in accessing

<sup>31</sup> Developing the evidence base for the Cambridgeshire Investing in Communities Programme. Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion and Roger Tym and Partners. September 2006.

<sup>32</sup> Time to Play. Guidance to support Cambridgeshire's Play Policy. Cambridgeshire County Council.

good quality play opportunities because of limited space or the remote position of Traveller sites from local public play facilities. Families also may not always feel comfortable accessing public facilities due to the fear of racism. Safe places to play and access to positive activities is a priority in Cambridgeshire's Children and Young People's Plans 2009-2012 (The Big Plan 2).

### **Site Safety**

It is essential to ensure that the location of Travellers' sites provide a safe environment for the residents. Sites should not be situated near refuse sites, industrial processes or other hazardous places, as this will obviously have a detrimental effect on the general health and wellbeing of the residents and pose particular safety risks for young children. All prospective site locations should be considered carefully before any decision is taken to proceed, to ensure that the health and safety of prospective residents are not at risk.

- ❖ Locally, concerns have been expressed about road safety where sites are located near busy roads. It has not been possible to obtain any information about levels of accidents on or near to Travellers' sites.

### **Hate crime**

- ❖ There is a need to increase trust and confidence within the Gypsy and Traveller communities to report incidences of hate crime to which they are victims.
- ❖ Local Community Safety Partnerships are developing sustainable solutions to address the problems of both crime and victimisation and better record all instances of these crimes. There is a telephone-reporting system for hate crime, separate from the police service. Local Community Safety Partnerships regularly review the incidence of problems. The service also provides advice, guidance and support to individuals and agencies.

### **Domestic violence**

- There is a lack of reliable statistics indicating the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers who are victims of domestic violence. It is thought that victims are predominantly female, as in the settled community. It is reported that a 2003 review of local authority homelessness strategies noted that three local authorities referred to high levels of domestic violence, based on information provided at homelessness application interviews, but no further information or statistics were provided. Scottish evidence on accommodation refers to domestic violence and inter-family feuding as responsible for pitch vacancies on public sites. While these sources attest to the presence of domestic violence, none of them provide conclusive evidence about its extent.<sup>27</sup>
- ❖ The problem of domestic violence is not confined to some Gypsies and Travellers, it is a problem experienced by some residents from a wide-range of backgrounds and circumstances. While there is limited evidence about domestic violence among Gypsies and Travellers there is a support service within Cambridgeshire for domestic violence victims from all parts of the community. The incidence of domestic violence is also assessed annually as part of the County-wide Community Safety Strategic Assessment. The last assessment was in autumn 2009 and it reported: there was an improvement target in Cambridgeshire to control the rate of repeat violent incidents occurring within 12 months of the case being referred to a MARAC (Multi-agency group). The county currently remains on target with a repeat rate of 27% for rolling year ending December 09. The total number of MARAC cases

for 2009 was 330. Less than 10% of cases have been referred by partner agencies other than the police and the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service. There has been rise in demand for this service, which is in line with national research. In Cambridgeshire there were 1,212 violent crimes with a domestic violence marker recorded between September 2008 and August 2009. This represents an increase of 27% on the previous year (956 crimes); it is not possible to identify how many, if any, were Gypsies or Travellers. A number of vulnerable groups, such as those from New European states, have been highlighted in relation to domestic violence. There is the likelihood of under-reporting such offences. However, the environmental factors such as, alcohol consumption, living in multiple occupancy housing, low paid manual jobs and significant levels of unemployment, are known to increase vulnerability to domestic abuse.

- Some Gypsies and Travellers have suggested that domestic violence may first commence when a family moves into a house and arguments start as they experience isolation, discrimination, financial hardship and depression. Anecdotal evidence suggests that alcohol and drug abuse features in many incidents of domestic violence, with drug use becoming more prevalent amongst younger generations of Travellers and Gypsies. Although women are far more likely to experience significant harm through violence than are men, it may be that mutual violence occurs in self-defence.<sup>27</sup>
- While there is no evidence to suggest that domestic violence is any more prevalent in Gypsy and Traveller communities than in any other ethnic group, some anecdotal evidence suggests that cultural barriers to leaving a violent partner are particularly strong within Gypsy and Traveller families. Some reports also indicate that there are strong taboos against interfering between spouses when violence occurs.
- ❖ One Voice 4 Travellers give a voice to women, children and young people from the Gypsy and Traveller communities in East Anglia. They are working to reduce domestic violence in the Gypsy Traveller community and have several specialised projects working across the East of England.

### 3.5.2 Local views

- ❖ The Children's Voices report highlighted that many Gypsy and Traveller children do not enjoy the levels of safety and security which most UK children take for granted. Children expressed a variety of concerns about their environment, such as their location, lack of safe play spaces and facilities and their distance and isolation from local communities. Despite this, children also reported feeling safe on their sites and valued the opportunity they provided to live with extended family.
- ❖ The report also highlighted the reluctance of some Traveller and Gypsy parents to leave the sites and the reluctance of local parents to allow their children to visit the sites to play with Gypsy and Traveller children. This is highlighted by the following quote from a seven year old boy: "My friends in school always play with me but when we're down here (on site), no one comes to play with me."

### 3.6 Racism and Discrimination

#### 3.6.1 Facts, figures and trends

- National studies<sup>8,22</sup> have identified the entrenched and negative views held by some members of the public about Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers. The fact that there have been signs outside public houses stating “Travellers not allowed” and Newspaper headlines calling Gypsies and Travellers “Stinker Tinker” is hard evidence of the discrimination faced by the travelling community. The Gypsy and Traveller groups interviewed gave examples of experiences of their own, that they regarded as discriminatory, painfully abusive and racist. They have little confidence that police and public services play any significant role in protecting them from discrimination and there is evidence that the general population do not recognise that Gypsies and Travellers may be the victims of crime and antisocial behaviour.
- ❖ Data from the Cambridgeshire RaID Database gives numbers of reported racist incidents in schools by victim and perpetrator. It should be noted however, that in general there is huge under-reporting of incidents, including by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils due to a lack of confidence in the system.

**Table 12: Number of Reported Racist Incidents in School (by Victims and Perpetrators)**

Ethnic Group	2007/08	2007/08	2008/09*	2008/09*
	Victims	Perpetrators	Victims	Perpetrators
White British	95	457	57	376
Irish	1	1	0	0
Traveller – Irish Heritage	2	0	2	2
Roma/Roma Gypsy	10	2	8	3
Any other White Background	57	17	45	7
White/Black Caribbean	34	1	20	4
White/Asian	22	5	12	2
Any Other Mixed Background	34	4	30	7
Indian	37	3	22	0
Pakistani	19	6	22	4
Bangladeshi	18	4	14	2
Any Other Asian Background	27	2	22	4
Black Caribbean	19	3	29	0
White/Black African	22	2	19	1
Black African	33	2	31	1
Any Other Black Background	20	1	32	1
Chinese	9	0	6	1
Any Other Ethnic Group	23	3	21	7
Refused	5	4	5	2
Information Not Obtained	10	8	13	4
No Victim	28	0	22	4

\* NB the 2008/09 information does not yet include data from April – July 2009  
Source: Cambridgeshire RaID Database

### 3.6.2 Local views

- ❖ The Children's Voices report identified issues around identity and racism. It reported that Gypsy and Traveller children encounter high levels of misunderstanding about the nature of their identity. In particular it involves a lack of recognition that being a Gypsy or Traveller is an ethnic identity. The extensive presence of negative or stereotypical representations of Gypsies and Travellers is also keenly felt by children and many recognise how this directly affects them and increases incidents of racism and discrimination. Despite children's pride in their identity as Gypsies and Travellers many described situations in which they would choose not to reveal their ethnicity for fear that it might lead to bullying or impact upon their relationships with others.
- ❖ Racism was identified as the single biggest problem they faced. Children as young as five displayed an awareness of racism and many children revealed expecting to encounter it, at some level, on a daily basis. One result of the prevalence of racism was that many children described a constant expectation or anticipation of discrimination. Many different forms of racism were reported, of which name-calling was the most common. A significant number of children had also been exposed to racially motivated threats or attacks, with those living on the roadside most vulnerable to such incidents. The most common sources of reported racism were other children and the media, although many also reported receiving it from adults, including those in positions of authority. This is illustrated by the following quote from a 14 year old girl "A boy said he burned Travellers' trailers up. He said if your sister was here I'd burn her up too."
- ❖ Children employed a range of different strategies for dealing with racism which included avoidance, retaliation, hiding their identity, dismissal or reporting. Children also recognise that racism and associated fear affects their overall wellbeing and confidence.
- ❖ The Cambridgeshire Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2010 (the Big Plan 2) identifies tackling bullying and discrimination as one of its priorities and identified Gypsies and Travellers as a group who are at greater risk of bullying.

## 3.7 Key inequalities

### 3.7.1 Accommodation

- ❖ A 2005 report on Gypsy and Traveller Communities in the East of England by Ormiston Children and Families Trust<sup>33</sup> identified that a lack of secure accommodation represented the biggest issue facing Gypsy and Traveller communities in the East of England with a large number of the community homeless at the time. Eviction and enforced mobility were identified as one of the key factors preventing access to education, health care, training and work opportunities for Gypsies and Travellers.

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<sup>33</sup> Gypsy and Traveller Communities: accommodation, education, health, skills and employment – An East of England perspective. Ormiston Children and Families Trust, Cambridge, 2005.

- Nationally, it has been recognised that a lack of authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers perpetuates many of the inequalities experienced by the community. Community tensions often arise when sites are developed without planning permission. Experience shows that well-run, authorised sites can be effectively integrated into local communities.<sup>34</sup>

Selecting the right location for a site is a key element in supporting good community relations and maximising its success. As with any other form of housing, poorly located sites, with no easy access to major roads or public transport services, will have a detrimental effect on the ability of residents to:

- Seek or retain employment
- Attend school, further education or training
- Obtain access to health services and shopping facilities.

Easy access to local services, and to social contact with other residents in the community, should help deal with the myths and stereotypes which can cause community tension and instead encourage a greater sense of community with shared interests.

- ❖ It appears that the quality of public site provision is variable across the County (an issue raised at the Strategic Traveller Co-ordination Group). This may also apply to privately owned sites.
- In 2009, the Government produced a Good practice guide for Gypsy and Traveller Site Management.<sup>35</sup> This emphasises the importance of a consistent approach to managing accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and the need for good site management. Local authorities should have adequate monitoring arrangements in place to ensure effective site management practices.

### 3.7.2 Health and wellbeing

- The 2004 University of Sheffield report on the Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers in England highlighted that Gypsy Travellers have significantly poorer health status and significantly more self-reported symptoms of ill-health than other UK-resident, English speaking ethnic minorities and economically disadvantaged white UK residents. In addition, for Gypsy Travellers, living in a house is associated with long term illness, poorer health state and anxiety. Those who rarely travel have the poorest health.
- The scale of health inequality between the study population and the UK general population is large, with reported health problems between twice and five times more prevalent. The aspects of Gypsy Traveller health that showed the most marked inequality in the 2004 report were self-reported anxiety, respiratory problems including asthma and bronchitis, and chest pain.
- According to the Sheffield report, it cannot be assumed that the health needs of Gypsies and Travellers are met by the existing health policy in relation to other ethnic minorities and socially disadvantaged groups.
- ❖ Poor mental health in the Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridgeshire is becoming apparent as the communities become more confident to self-refer to the Travellers Health Team. The Manager for Cambridgeshire Race, Equality and Diversity Service (CREDS) Team for Traveller Education also confirmed

<sup>34</sup> Gypsies and Travellers: Simple solutions for living together. Equality and Human Rights Commission, March 2009.

<sup>35</sup> Gypsy and Traveller Site Management Good Practice Guide. Communities and Local Government, July 2009.

that the team have been flagging mental health problems as unaddressed in these communities for several years.

- ❖ One of the causes of stress and anxiety, reported by the Ormiston Children's and Families Trust Advocacy worker, is the threat of eviction. Support given can reduce the stress generated in relation to these issues.
- ❖ Significant issues of some Gypsies Travellers and Showmen not understanding and therefore not complying with prescribed treatment have arisen. Support to access specialist Consultant appointments through accompaniment to the consultation by the Lead Nurse has resulted in compliance with treatment and better health outcomes as a result.
- ❖ Men from the Gypsy and Traveller community do not discuss personal issues with the women in their family network and will not access health services until the problem is severe. They do not relate to female Health Professionals so the Traveller Health Team is at a disadvantage in that the Lead Nurse is a female and in her experience most of her contact has been with women about their own health issues.
- ❖ It is widely reported that women's health issues are never discussed in front of men, even if it is their husband. Breastfeeding is frowned upon by the male Gypsy Traveller community as women expose their breasts in order to feed their babies, therefore very few of them breastfeed.

### 3.7.3 Education and Employment

There are many obstacles to achievement for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils. Practical obstacles to attending school regularly include some that are a consequence of lifestyle and, to a certain extent, out of the communities' control. For example:

- Many Gypsies, Travellers of Irish Heritage and New Travellers lack a legal place to live and are subject to involuntary movement.
- Many Gypsies and Travellers live on isolated sites with limited transport.
- Many Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families move regularly from house to house.
- Many Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families have low incomes and this makes for example, purchasing uniforms difficult.
- There is also a higher incidence of poor health within some of these community groups which is exacerbated by inability to access regular medical treatment through a GP.

In addition to the practical obstacles there are many cultural ones. For example:

- A mobile lifestyle for some Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.
- Many Gypsy, Roma and Travellers do not view formal education beyond primary as relevant to their culture or lifestyle.
- Many Gypsies, Roma and Traveller communities fear that formal education will erode the community's moral code and values, erode their identity and even threaten kinship structure.
- The need for many young people to be part of the economic unit of the family, developing community skills and trades.
- A limited parental knowledge of the education system, rights and boundaries



In addition there are many systemic reasons for underachievement for these children and young people. These include:

- Racism in the majority community. Many families have suffered and continue to suffer racism in school environments and so, the risk of continued schooling far exceeds the perceived benefits, both to the individuals and to the community as a whole.
- Lack of knowledge and confidence of race equality issues, by some local authorities and schools, in relation to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.
- Weak alignment across services in some authorities leading to limited impact.
- Lack of specific strategies to address mobility, as part of the inclusion agenda, in some local authorities and schools.
- Dependency for service delivery on Traveller Education Services (TES) by some local authorities.
- Some schools not accepting full responsibility for raising the achievement of these pupils.
- No national distance learning programme for mobile pupils.
- Inaccurate and ineffective use of data to inform interventions.
- Contradictions between inclusion and race equality policies and the way in which authorities deal with roadside encampments (Ofsted 2003).

(National Strategies Guidance to LAs and Schools July 2008)

National statistics revealed Gypsy/Roma and Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils perform considerably below the national average at all Key Stages. But very small numbers of pupils were recorded in these two categories.<sup>36</sup> Also, 16% of Irish Traveller children, and 14% of Gypsy children achieved A\*-C grades at GCSE, compared to 59% of children overall.

The National Strategies Guidance for Local Authorities and Schools (July 2008) stated that: Local Authorities' Traveller Education Services work to ensure that the children of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are increasingly well received in education and that their needs are responded to in the same way as for all other pupils. However, the lack of 'full acceptance' of these groups has contributed to the reluctance of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to self-ascribe. As stated by Ofsted in *Provision and Support for Traveller pupils (2003)*<sup>37</sup>

*Traveller pupils are still the group most at risk in the education system. They are the one minority ethnic group which is too often 'out of sight and out of mind.'*

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<sup>36</sup> National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2005/06 (Provisional): SFR46/2006, National Statistics available at URL: [http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000708/SFR04\\_2007v1.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000708/SFR04_2007v1.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> Provision and Support for Traveller pupils. Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), 2003.

The National Primary Strategy paper *Aiming High: partnership between schools and Traveller Education Support Services (2005)*<sup>38</sup> states:

*It is important that mobility and uncertainty of lifestyle do not deny children their entitlement to a full education. Each school they attend should offer them the same opportunities as it does other children...*

The lack of confirmed statistical data on the numbers of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils in schools continues to make it difficult to assess issues of access. There are clear indications that access of children to school has improved, but as stated by Ofsted in *Provision and Support for Traveller pupils (2003)*

*The 1996 Ofsted report estimated that up to 10,000 Traveller pupils, most of them of secondary school age were not registered at school. The data from this survey indicate that this figure has probably increased to around 12000. Overall participation rates, based on a population of between 70,000 and 80,000 Traveller children of school age, are unacceptably low, at around 84% at Key Stage 2 and 47% at Key Stage 4'*

This decision not to register with a school is often actively taken by parents, who feel that the secondary curriculum, in particular, is irrelevant; community skills and trades are learnt fast at this stage and informal community-based education is both demanding and highly purposeful. In addition, many Gypsy, Roma and Traveller parents fear that continued schooling may damage their community's moral belief systems, erode their identity and even threaten kinship structures. However, irrespective of motive, these children and young people are being excluded from the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge that will equip them to be able to participate fully and equally in society.

#### **3.7.4 Racism and Discrimination**

A review on inequalities revealed services being not welcoming or refused; of employment offers being withdrawn; and of people being harassed in or dismissed from employment. While Gypsies and Travellers have experienced such hostility for centuries, what is remarkable – and shameful – is that this continues in the present day, despite a wealth of legislation to promote equality and human rights and protect against discrimination.<sup>10,27</sup>

#### **3.7.5 Criminal Justice and Policing**

- Nationally it is reported that within the criminal justice system there is a process of accelerated criminalisation at a young age, leading rapidly to custody. This includes: disproportionate levels of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders against Gypsies and Travellers; high use of remand in custody; prejudice against Gypsies and Travellers within pre-sentence reports, the police service and the judiciary; and perpetuation of discrimination and cultural dislocation within the prison system, leading to acute distress and frequently suicide.
- ❖ The 2006 CSTNA reported that attitudes towards the police were generally negative and that they were reluctant to report incidents to the police as it was assumed that they would not be interested.

<sup>38</sup> Aiming High: Partnerships between schools and Traveller Education Support Services in raising the achievement of Gypsy Traveller pupils. Department for Education, May 2005.

- ❖ Accurate figures of numbers of Gypsies and Travellers in the prison and youth offending populations are very difficult to obtain due to a lack of ethnic monitoring.
- ❖ It has been estimated that Travellers comprise up to 10% of the population of some prisons and there is some evidence of Travellers receiving custodial sentences where house dwelling offenders would not. It is not possible to be tagged if you do not have a land line for example. It has been noted in Norwich Prison that around 50% of the children accessing Ormiston's Children's Visits Service were from Travellers families.

Gypsy Travellers can be victims of crime as well as being criminals. They are no different to any other group of people in our society. There are a number of prisons in Cambridgeshire and work goes on to educate both inmates and warders about the Gypsy Traveller communities' traditions and cultures.

- ❖ An example of this work is Fenland District Council's work with Whitemoor prison. This work has enabled warders to better understand the issues and concerns of the Gypsy Traveller community within the prison and has brought forward better and continuing dialogue between all.
- ❖ The 'One Project' is starting in HMP Peterborough in August 2010 which is a project to support males in prison aged 21 years and over from Cambridgeshire and returning to Cambridgeshire serving sentences of less than 12 months. Support will be provided to these prisoners throughout their stay in prison and post release. This is being financed through the Social Impact Bond model led by Social Finance and St Giles Trust have been contracted to do the support work. Using this model, the net cost saving to society needs to be proved before the Government will pay for the project. This service is not specific to Gypsies and Travellers but may include members of the Gypsy and Traveller community in Cambridgeshire.

### 3.7.6 Economic Inclusion

- Economic inclusion is where families have a sound financial base and are able to access the full range of opportunities that society has to offer such as decent employment opportunities, access to business support and development and training initiatives and ability to secure credit. These are often opportunities that are difficult for Travellers to secure.<sup>39</sup>
- The Irish Traveller Movement Paper, Economic Inclusion for Travellers, also highlights the following issues relating to economic inclusion:
  - Travellers may experience difficulties with access to affordable utilities as some Travellers are paying higher rates for electricity and other utilities than occupants of bricks and mortar housing. This issue has also been highlighted locally.
  - Travellers may find it difficult to secure finance for property or business development due to employment in a varied range of occupations or having no fixed abode.
  - Travellers may fall into debt as a result of illiteracy and lack of numeracy which may impact on household budgeting skills.
  - Travellers may not be aware of their rights or benefits again due to lack of literacy or awareness.

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<sup>39</sup> Economic Inclusion for Travellers. The Irish Traveller Movement – Draft Paper August 2007.

### 3.7.7 Communication and Access to Services

As stated previously poor levels of literacy in the Gypsy and Traveller population may make it difficult to access services and information and complete forms to receive benefits, etc. Communications should be available and provided in an appropriate format for the Gypsy and Traveller population and consideration should be given to communicating with this group by health care and other local services.

- Policy initiatives and political systems that are designed to promote inclusion and equality frequently exclude Gypsies and Travellers. Furthermore Gypsies' and Travellers' culture and identity receive little or no recognition, with consequent and considerable damage to their self-esteem.
- Nationally, it has been reported that there is a lack of access to culturally appropriate support services for people in the most vulnerable situations, such as women experiencing domestic violence.<sup>27</sup>
- ❖ The experience of the Traveller Health Team in Cambridgeshire is that the Gypsy, Traveller and Showmen communities lack confidence and knowledge about how to access services, in particular, in relation to complex health issues and social care, including respite, as these communities look after their own families and don't generally ask for external agency support.
- ❖ Services such as Occupational Therapy, Continence services, Dental Access, Specialist Hospital appointments have all been facilitated by the Traveller Health Team since their inception early in 2009, because their clients either did not know how to access services, lacked confidence to do so or couldn't physically get there. Hospital transport sometimes will not collect Travellers from their homes if they live on a site.
- There is a widespread communication difficulty between health workers and Gypsy Travellers, with defensive expectation of racism and prejudice. Barriers to health care access include reluctance of GPs to register Travellers or visit Travellers sites, practical problems of access whilst travelling, mismatch of expectations between Travellers and health staff, and attitudinal barriers.<sup>21</sup>
- ❖ ➤ There is a deficiency of skills and training among health care professionals in dealing with Traveller groups.<sup>10,18,9</sup>
- There appears to be a lack of appropriate drug education delivered to Travellers, in locations where they feel comfortable, and not dependent on the recipients being able to read. There is also a lack of awareness of the existence and nature of drug services, lack of formal education, stigma and embarrassment, lack of cultural competence by services and racism, discrimination and stereotyping.<sup>24</sup>

## 4. WHAT ARE WE DOING?

### 4.1 Services for Travellers

#### 4.1.1 Travellers Health Team

- ❖ In order to address the issues relating to difficulty of access to services, poor adult literacy, lack of knowledge and understanding of the importance of early diagnosis and treatment, particularly in relation to cancer, the Gypsy and Traveller Health Sub Group agreed that a community development approach was more appropriate for the Travelling community, providing outreach workers who could work alongside Travellers building up their trust and confidence and providing support to access a range of mainstream services including health care.
- ❖ This led to the inception in January 2009 of the Gypsy Traveller Health Team, funded by the SHA, comprising a Lead Nurse employed by NHS Cambridgeshire, a Project Development Worker employed by Cambridgeshire Race, Equality and Diversity Service (CREDS) Team for Traveller Education and an Advocacy Worker and Administrator employed by Ormiston Children and Young People's Trust.
- ❖ The critical success factors for this project are:
  - Engagement with Traveller families on the roadside, sites and housing in districts across Cambridgeshire and working closely with PCT and partners front line staff.
  - Increased trust and confidence in services by Gypsies and Travellers resulting in increased awareness and take up of services.
  - Development of health information resources for Travellers in an appropriate format eg health and wellbeing/site safety/accident prevention CDs/DVDs.
  - Increased capacity of partner organisations with a health role (statutory and voluntary) to engage with and deliver effective services for Travellers.
  - Participation in cultural awareness, equality and diversity training by frontline staff.
  - Increased inclusion of Gypsies and Travellers in ethnic monitoring systems and processes.
  - Increased involvement of Gypsies and Travellers in shaping services through participation in policy and service development opportunities.
  - Over two years the health and wellbeing of Gypsies and Travellers will have improved through greater awareness and use of services; materials will be available in appropriate formats; staff attitudes will have changed; registration and ethnic monitoring will be easier and more complete.
- ❖ Gypsy and Traveller families were used to seeing the CREDS Project Development Worker on site and she has introduced them to the Lead Nurse. Families link the team together and contact the Lead Nurse when they have a problem. The Ormiston Children and Families Advocacy Worker already had a well-established reputation across Cambridgeshire for helping Gypsy and Traveller families with problems such as accommodation, including threatened eviction, benefits claims, grant applications for white goods. The added value is that they can be referred to the Lead Nurse for health issues without the necessity for a complex referral process.

The Travellers Health Team has undertaken work around the following areas:

❖ **Smoking**

The Traveller Health Lead Nurse has worked in partnership with local Primary Care staff to set up nurse-led clinics at a Gypsy Traveller site in Cambridge. Residents have been able to attend on-site Healthy Heart and CAMQUIT stop smoking events resulting in some positive preventative work.

❖ **Diet**

Successful Healthy Eating sessions for Gypsy and Traveller families were piloted in a Fenland Children's Centre during the 2009 summer holidays. In the evaluation all parents attending felt more confident in the kitchen with preparing healthy food for their families, with increased knowledge of food content ie salt, fibre, fat and budgeting for healthy food.

❖ **Exercise**

The Traveller Health Team have worked with Fenland District Council staff to organise family physical play sessions led by the Play Ranger during the summer holidays 2009, and free swimming lessons for Gypsy Traveller families in the summer holidays of 2010. As well as having a lot of fun, several children attending had learnt to swim by the end of the course.

❖ **Improving Understanding**

Most families seeking help from the Team are already registered with a GP but have not understood their health problem and therefore haven't complied with treatment. This has also been the case with some Hospital Consultant appointments relating to problems with attendance, understanding what is said and therefore compliance with treatment. A key worker from the Health Team who can facilitate this process has proved invaluable, both to the Gypsy Traveller client and to the Consultant being able to improve the treatment regimen and subsequently the health of that individual.

❖ **Dental services**

Another key area of help requested by Gypsy Traveller families has been access to dental treatment for acute dental problems such as abscesses and this has also been facilitated by the Health team by providing help with registration forms and contacting the Dental Access clinic to arrange appointments. Help of this nature is spread by word of mouth within the Gypsy and Travelling Communities resulting in phone calls from other individuals keen to access dental treatment.

❖ **Awareness raising**

Some progress has been made towards increasing the awareness among Health Professionals in Traveller cultural awareness but on an individual basis with staff groups such as District Nurses, Occupational Therapists and Practice Nurses. Plans have been formulated to develop a training package at three different levels, from a briefing session to a half day training, but so far have been met by a lack of interest from Primary Care Practices when advertised in their GP Bulletin newsletter.

### ❖ **Immunisations**

There is still a resistance to Traveller children receiving their childhood immunisations, in particular MMR. According to the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Travellers Health Needs Assessment carried out in 2006 the majority of Travellers interviewed thought immunisation was a problem, some thought single dose vaccines would be available, some thought the older generation influenced decisions and others thought the adverse media coverage had had a negative influence. Measles cases have occurred in the Gypsy Traveller communities very recently. There have also been enquiries to Practice Nurses by Gypsy Traveller families for Primary Vaccinations which contain no pertussis (whooping cough). These vaccines are no longer available as all primary courses and the pre-school booster also contains pertussis.

### ❖ **Appropriate communications**

The most popular medium for providing specific information to the Gypsy and Traveller community appears to be by CD/DVD. Information has been provided in that format in relation to smoking cessation and H1N1 flu vaccinations. MMR information is available in that format but currently out of stock at Department of Health (DH). The latter is very important as there have been several cases of measles recently amongst Gypsy Traveller children in Cambridgeshire sites. Their parents are still wary of giving their children MMR or pertussis, due to historical cultural attitudes handed down from one generation to another, and more recently adverse publicity about the MMR. A Practice Nurse from South Cambridgeshire reports success in vaccinating Gypsy and Traveller school age children with both doses of their MMR vaccine.

### ❖ **Children's Centres**

The Health Team has had some success in integrating Gypsy and Traveller families into their local Children's Centres in Fenland and South Cambridgeshire through partnership working. Local Obesity Groups funded Healthy Eating sessions specifically for Gypsy and Traveller families which were held at the Children's Centres during the summer holidays in 2009. This resulted both in an increase in Gypsy and Traveller families knowledge, skills and awareness of preparing and cooking healthy meals, and enabled those families to gain the confidence to go on to access other services provided at the Children's Centre, including pre-school placements for Gypsy Traveller children. The aim is that the children will progress from the pre-school setting into the Primary School with their peers from the non-Travelling community. The intention is that this early contact between the children will increase understanding of each others cultures and thus reduce bullying and school drop out of Travellers and eventually increase their educational attainment.

### ❖ **Health Trainers**

The Traveller Health Team have recruited a Community Development worker, seconded from the Public Health team, to recruit and train peer Health Trainers in Cambridge City and South locations. So far two Travellers have completed their Level 2 training and one will progress to Level 3 training, together with some others who will begin at Level 3. It is anticipated that the Health Trainers will be able to influence the health messages given to their peers at a local level, ensuring they are delivered in the correct format and an acceptable manner.

#### 4.1.2 Ormiston Children and Families Trust's Travellers Initiative

- ❖ Ormiston Children and Families Trust's Travellers Initiative Cambridgeshire was formed in 2001 as a result of "Cambridgeshire Travellers Review Research Reports Nos. 1-6", carried out by Dr Leanne Weber for the County Council between January 1998 - February 1999.
- ❖ Ormiston Children and Families Trust had a track record of working with Travellers in other counties and District and County Councils funded them to run an 18 month pilot project to build relationships with Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridgeshire and to identify what services they needed. This led to Advocacy and Children's Participation Services being established in 2003 with funding obtained from Comic Relief, Big Lottery, Community Legal Services, Cambridgeshire County Council and other local funders.
- ❖ The Travellers Initiative Cambridgeshire continues to provide a range of services to improve outcomes for children, young people and families from Travelling Communities including:
  - Providing opportunities for young Gypsies and Travellers mainly aged five to 13 years to participate in activities and the development of services and to access mainstream services.
  - An advocacy service which focuses on tackling the general socio-economic and environmental factors which are part of the main determinants of health. The service provides practical support to Gypsies and Traveller families to help them improve their accommodation, living conditions and income. It also encourages lifestyle changes such as smoking cessation and healthy cooking. The service supports Travellers to access courses such as first aid and baby massage at local Children's Centres and was recognised by Government as an example of good practice [www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageld=17918903](http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageld=17918903).
  - The advocacy service also offers activities and training to build Travellers confidence and improve their skills, supports them to identify the barriers they need to overcome in order to move towards employment and provides practical support to eliminate the barriers. For example finding out about public transport, apprenticeships, job hunting, CV writing, provision of information about self-employment, and support to obtain relevant licenses needed to carry out work.
  - The service also helps Gypsies & Travellers become active community members by volunteering and getting involved in consultations and events which are relevant to them.
  - It also works with other organisations to improve the way they deliver services to Gypsies & Travellers in Cambridgeshire, by raising awareness of the issues, helping develop policy/ practice and by offering social work student placements.
- ❖ During April to June 2010, there were a total of 120 referrals to Ormiston Children and Families Trust. Of these 67% (80) related to children and 33% (40) related to adults. The table below shows the reason for referral, broken down by adult and child. This shows that the most common reason for referral was accommodation (28%) followed by financial (23%). The majority of referrals were self-referrals accounting for 95% (38) of adult referrals and 94% (75) of child referrals. The remaining referrals were from a relative, district council or Traveller Education.



**Table 13: Reason for referral to Ormiston Travellers Initiative, April – June 2010**

Referral Reason	Number of Adults	Number of Children	Total Referrals
Accommodation	12	32	44
Benefits	8	1	9
Charity	11	4	15
Education	10	6	16
Employment	3	0	3
Family – support	0	3	3
Financial	12	24	36
Health	5	9	14
Legal	7	5	12
Miscellaneous	2	0	2
Skills development	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>155</b>

Source: Ormiston Travellers Initiative, June 2010

- ❖ A summary of the type of support given by Ormiston during this period is shown in the table below. This shows that the most frequent activity undertaken is advocacy.

**Table 14: Ormiston Activity Summary, April – June 2010**

Activity	Number	%
Advocacy	77	79%
Advocacy: self development skills	2	2%
Assessment of need: home	5	5%
Claiming benefits	7	7%
Home setting up support	1	1%
Independent living skills	1	1%
Information giving: face to face	1	1%
Information giving: telephone	1	1%
Mediation	1	1%
Money management skills	1	1%
Support: family	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	

Source: Ormiston Travellers Initiative, June 2010.

- ❖ Ormiston Travellers Initiative provided an Information Service between 2004 and 2007 which promoted NHS Direct. This led to increased awareness and use of the service by Travellers, which many found useful. However a postcode is needed to access the service.
- ❖ In 2008 Ormiston Travellers Initiative Cambridgeshire worked in partnership with Cambridgeshire PCT and local Gypsy and Travelling Communities to produce an information guide for health professionals on the health of Gypsies and Travellers called “**An insight into the Health of Gypsies and Travellers.**” The guide is aimed at primary care, secondary care, hospital and community staff as well as other allied health professionals. It has been developed to help them understand how and why members of Gypsy and Travelling communities may behave in certain ways regarding their health and health care. It also sets out recommendations for health professionals to consider when working with individuals from Gypsy and Traveller communities. The Guide was widely disseminated throughout the PCT and can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.ormiston.org/opus575.html>

- ❖ The Ormiston Children and Families Trust Advocacy worker has successfully bid for Investing in Communities (IiC) funding and has worked with the CREDS Community Development worker to fund vocational courses for Gypsy and Travellers at local Regional Colleges. These include plastering, welding and plumbing courses leading to a recognised qualification which is necessary for accessing work. Showmen have also been offered funding to do a Food Hygiene qualification in order to run their food stalls at their fairgrounds.

#### 4.1.3 Local Authority Services

- An important positive attribute implemented that is working well is the availability of Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers who have the responsibility for supporting and assisting Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers and representing their views throughout the councils. The presence of these workers and their teams has made a huge impact on local authorities' ability to deliver effective services to these groups.
- ❖ See Fenland District Council example of good practice (section 5.2.1)
- ❖ The County Council's Supporting People programme helps by funding support in Fenland and Huntingdonshire and is looking to expand support to all districts.
- Many members of the Gypsy and Traveller community are striving to address their problems and stand up for their rights. For instance, a number of examples exist of initiatives to: provide children with a better education; enable them to take part in enjoyable and constructive leisure activities; maintain their cultural heritage and identity; ensure accessible and appropriate health and social care services; develop training provision and employment opportunities; and support political and community engagement among Gypsy and Traveller communities. Gypsy and Traveller organisations themselves are responsible for instigating and undertaking many such initiatives, sometimes in partnership with statutory agencies or voluntary bodies.

#### Cambridgeshire Race, Equality and Diversity Service (CREDS)

- ❖ The aim of CREDS Team for Traveller Education is to address inequalities of achievement and access to education by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children in Cambridgeshire.
- ❖ Since 2006, CREDS Team for Traveller Education has successfully involved several Cambridgeshire schools in the National Strategies Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Achievement Programme. The aims of the programme are:
  - To improve long term outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils, including the narrowing of achievement gaps, through building capacity and sustainability at Local Authority and school level.
  - To ensure that the needs and educational aspirations of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and their children are realised and expanded through effective personalised learning.
  - To support the development of inclusive schools, including the promotion of race equality and the strategic management of mobility.
  - To improve the knowledge and understanding of the cultural and educational issues relating to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and equip teachers with strategies to raise expectations and strengthen teaching.

- To tailor existing mainstream resources and guidance produced by the National Strategy and the DCSF to address Local Authority and school priorities relating to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils' attainment
- ❖ Initial findings on the impact of the pilot were very positive. For example in the pilot schools the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 and above in English and Maths at Key Stage 2 jumped from 18% in 2006 to 37% in 2008.
- ❖ Initial government funding for this programme ceased at the end of 2008/09, but CREDS are intending to continue to roll out this very important programme as far as possible, given current financial constraints on both the Local Authority and schools.
- ❖ CREDS Team for Traveller Education is also currently running a Transition and Retention Project in Cambridgeshire to facilitate and encourage school focus upon secondary transition and retention for all Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children in secondary education. There is also a strand looking at transition from pre-school to the primary phase.
- ❖ CREDS Team for Traveller Education has produced an audio CD for young people and schools to both inform young people that racially motivated bullying of young Gypsies and Travellers within Cambridgeshire's schools is a serious issue that must be resolved and to raise awareness within the wider community that such bullying is painful, destructive and wrong and that it is having a major impact on the education and quality of life of young Gypsies and Travellers. The CD also acts to raise professionals' and other school staff's awareness in order to resolve any bullying issues and to prevent them from occurring in the future.
- ❖ During 2009, the Traveller Health Team CREDS Project Development Worker Lead Nurse and Fenland District Council Play Ranger put together a six week programme during the school holidays which focussed on play or sport which took place at the Murrow Children's Centre. Sixteen children attended with their parents and as a result they accessed free swimming lessons and followed the programme around the whole of the Fenland area. In order to reach more families in these communities, it would be beneficial to take these activities on to Travellers sites.

#### 4.1.4 Policing

- ❖ Cambridgeshire Constabulary developed a revised Force Gypsy and Traveller Engagement Action Plan in December 2009 to improve the standard of policing services offered to Gypsy and Traveller communities in Cambridgeshire. This was developed following consultation with partner agencies and community members. The overarching goal of the plan is to ensure that the policing of Gypsy and Traveller communities is 'mainstreamed' and to achieve a state whereby an engagement plan is no longer required. The action plan is monitored by the Cambridgeshire Constabulary Diversity Steering Group and includes the following desired end states:
  - All officers and staff have a basic understanding of issues affecting Gypsy and Traveller communities and those with specific responsibility for Gypsy and Traveller communities to have an elevated understanding of the specific issues relating to their role.
  - Training to be quality assured by members of local Gypsy and Traveller communities.
  - Uniformed inspectors to follow force policy on management of unauthorised encampments.

- Private and local authority run authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites treated as integral part of Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and regularly patrolled by NPT as part of business as usual and hold regular drop in sessions at local Gypsy and Traveller sites.
- Gypsies and Travellers to expect equivalent policing response to other communities when victims or alleged perpetrators.
- Working in partnership with other statutory and non-statutory service providers to deliver effective public services to the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- Force systems for data recording to include information on the demographics of the individual.

#### 4.1.5 Other Services

A **Community Development Worker** has been employed by Friends, Families and Travellers, a voluntary organisation which seeks to end racism and discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers.

The **NHS Health Checks** programme is currently being implemented in Cambridgeshire. In Cambridge City one GP practice has initiated organising site visits to offer health checks to the Gypsy and Traveller community in the future and the Travellers Health Team will also offer the checks.

## 4.2 Resources and Leadership

- ❖ In Cambridgeshire, Gypsy and Traveller policy is led by the Travellers Strategic Co-ordination Group (TSCG). The membership of this group includes key lead officers from the public agencies responsible for Gypsies and Travellers including Cambridgeshire County Council, the five district councils (East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City), NHS Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Supporting People and Ormiston Children and Families Trust. The purpose of the group is:
  - To improve outcomes and life choices for Gypsies and Travellers and promote community cohesion in Cambridgeshire.
  - To achieve this they will support and advise Public Service Board (PSB) and Cambridgeshire Together by working in partnership to develop, evaluate and ensure the delivery of a Traveller Action Plan for Cambridgeshire across the key public agencies responsible for working with the Traveller community.
  - The group will be accountable to Cambridgeshire Together.
  - To liaise with other agencies upon broader issues to ensure that strategies, policies and plans can improve the life chances of Cambridgeshire's Gypsy and Traveller Communities.
- ❖ Sub groups have been established to lead on particular areas and report to the TSCG. These include the Travellers Health Sub Group led by NHS Cambridgeshire and the Site Provision Group.

### Is what we are doing working?

#### 4.3.1 Travellers Health Team

- ❖ There seems to be increasing trust placed in the Traveller Health team since their inception as a full team in April 2009. Gypsy and Traveller families had

already received an Advocacy service from the Ormiston Children and Families Trust so enhancing that service with a dedicated and experienced Lead Nurse and a dedicated Community Development Worker from CREDS who already had links through past project work has so far been very successful.

- ❖ Having a dedicated Health Team comprising partners with differing expertise is working extremely well but requires strengthening with more resources, both in terms of additional expertise for mental health, new staff focusing on male Gypsy and Traveller needs and supporting the work of the Lead Nurse who is only reaching the tip of the iceberg. One visit to a site recently generated twenty enquiries ranging from benefits enquiries, a pregnant lady who had had no ante-natal care, urinalysis resulting in a referral to the GP for a possible urinary infection, an enquiry from a lady expecting twins and processing of a Healthy Start application.
- ❖ Working closely with Children's Centres is opening up pathways for Gypsy and Traveller families to receive all their services and giving them the confidence to cross the threshold in the first place. They are then able to enjoy activities alongside non-Traveller families, thus breaking down some of the mis-conceptions on both sides.
- ❖ Having a key worker for Gypsy and Traveller families with complex health and social issues has proved to be extremely helpful in unpicking some of the reasons why previous attempts by doctors to deliver treatment to a Gypsy or Traveller patient has been unsuccessful through non-compliance or failure to attend for follow-up.
- ❖ Delivering drop-in clinics at a Gypsy Traveller site has proved successful because of word-of-mouth communication once trust has been established. One visit can generate a lot more contacts than expected through this mechanism. Involving local GP practice staff in delivering services on-site has proved useful as the nurses know the patients and can action interventions such as overdue blood tests and repeat prescription requests.
- ❖ Gypsies and Travellers are starting to have increasing confidence in the Traveller Health Team for their issues relating to advocacy, adult learning and general health but the team lack the specialist knowledge required for assessing mental health and delivering an intervention or referring for appropriate specialist help. Male Gypsy and Travellers would also be more likely to engage with the Health Team if a male nurse was attached to the team.
- ❖ Working as a team has enabled additional funding to be sought and obtained for specific purposes such as vocational courses, family healthy eating sessions, swimming lessons for children, literacy courses and Health Trainer courses. The reason that works well is that the CREDS worker asks the communities what they would like, funding is found either from Investing in Communities (IiC) managed by the Ormiston Children and Families Advocacy worker, Children's Centre budgets (Cambridgeshire County Council ) or Health (NHS Cambridgeshire).
- ❖ Gypsy and Traveller families are registering with GP practices but raising the awareness of cultural differences is still an outstanding piece of work for the Traveller Health Team to progress. Work is still outstanding regarding recording monitoring ethnicity and awareness training for Health staff at all levels.
- ❖ Partnerships have been developed with other professionals to enable the delivery of more acceptable and accessible services to Gypsy and Traveller families. Some of those partnerships have been with Health colleagues such

as GPs, Consultants, Community Nurses and other staff such as Occupational Therapists, and others with Children's Centres, other CREDS workers and District Council Traveller Liaison Officers.

#### 4.3.2 Accommodation

- ❖ A programme of site provision is currently underway with each of the Cambridgeshire Districts at varying stages in relation to the preparation of relevant Development Plan Documents as follows:
  - East Cambridgeshire District Council identified potential Gypsy and Traveller sites as part of their Site Specific Allocations document options (consultation closed on the 19th August 2010).
  - Fenland District Council identified an area of search in the Wisbech area for additional Gypsy and Traveller sites as part of their Core Strategy and Development Policies Preferred Options 2 (consultation in 2007).
  - Huntingdonshire District Council identified potential Gypsy and Traveller sites as part of their Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (consultation closed 30 July 2010).
  - South Cambridgeshire District Council identified potential Gypsy and Traveller sites as part of their Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document options (subject to public consultation last year [2009]).
- ❖ As part of this process they have been considering the suitability of land for residential and transit sites including land which is in public ownership including that which belongs to Councils (both District and County).

## 5. WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING?

### 5.1 What are the gaps in knowledge/services?

#### 5.1.1 Data sources

One of the consistent issues highlighted throughout the JSNA has been the lack of ethnic monitoring by organisations, which makes it problematic to accurately identify the Gypsy and Traveller population and their needs. Organisations should be encouraged to add Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller, as a minimum, as separate categories in their ethnic monitoring systems.

#### 5.1.2 Communications and access to services

Although there is some evidence of good practice across the County, there is a lack of information for the Gypsy and Traveller community in appropriate formats such as audio or DVD. Most existing communications are written which presents problems for members of the community with poor levels of literacy as they may have to rely on other members of the community with better literacy levels or professionals.

Access to services presents a particular problem for the community and there is a lack of understanding and awareness of the services available. Again this may be due to poor literacy levels or cultural barriers.

Male health and mental health have been flagged as issues where further support is needed for the Gypsy and Traveller community.

#### 5.1.3 Resources and leadership

There is strong leadership on Gypsy and Traveller policy across Cambridgeshire, but there appears to be differences between districts and lack of an overall strategy for Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridgeshire. There is no joint strategic approach to Gypsies and Travellers needs across the local authorities to pull together all the agencies and resources, including travelling communities, to both improve outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers and promote community cohesion. There is also a need for consistent practices in site management across the County. The production of a model SLA for site management may improve consistency and reduce inequalities between different sites.

#### 5.1.4 Community engagement

Although it was decided not to consult with Gypsies and Travellers for the purpose of this JSNA due to the existing evidence available, the importance of engaging with the Gypsy and Traveller community should be acknowledged and mechanisms put in place for continued community engagement by all local services in the future.

The Travellers Health Team are hoping to use the '*Working Together for Change: using person-centred information for commissioning*'<sup>40</sup> approach to review the experiences of Gypsies and travellers and determine their priorities for change. This approach places service users at the heart of the commissioning process by using person-centred information to inform commissioning of local services.

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<sup>40</sup> Working together for change: using person-centred information for commissioning. Department of Health, June 2009. [http://www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation\\_advice/WTFCC\\_Final.pdf](http://www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk/library/Resources/Personalisation/Personalisation_advice/WTFCC_Final.pdf)

## 5.2 Areas of good practice

A number of areas of good practice have been highlighted across Cambridgeshire, in particular the work of the Traveller's Health Team, CREDS and Ormiston Children and Families Trust, mentioned previously.

Work at both County Council and District Council level should also be mentioned. A particular example from Fenland District Council is included below.

### 5.2.1 Local good practice – Fenland

- ❖ The objectives Fenland District Council (FDC) has for its work with the Traveller Community is to educate, engage and consult with Gypsies and Travellers to enable them to lead safe, healthy and supported lives. These objectives have been developed after extensive community consultation. This proactive strategy is an example of the relationship that has been built up between FDC and the Traveller community, which is one of trust and two way communications. This approach has been assisted by funding from Cambridgeshire County Council's Supporting People programme enabling Fenland to put their philosophy into practice.
- ❖ The Gypsy and Traveller community are actively involved in shaping the service they receive and have a better quality of life through intervention and support from the Council.
- ❖ FDC are consciously trying to build capacity within the Fenland Traveller community to diversify their skills range through offering opportunities to train for new skills such as social research and computer literacy courses. This will empower members of this diverse community to apply for mainstream jobs and train others within their community.
- ❖ As well as building skills, Fenland is committed to supporting every individual that comes to live on one of their Traveller sites. Each new arrival receives a Traveller welcome pack which is available in pictorial and audio format and sets out all the support services available in the district and how they can access them. This includes council services but also help lines, travel information, locations of places of worship and other useful telephone numbers. This is supplemented by each new person receiving an individual supporting people plan, which looks at all of their needs that FDC need to support in order for individuals to lead an independent lifestyle. Every child also receives a support plan for dependent children, which covers health and educational support issues.
- ❖ Within these documents the council and the individual enter into an agreement of mutual support and understanding. This document describes what type of behaviour is acceptable in order for the relationship to be maintained such as not being anti social and respecting the environment. The agreement is reviewed every six months in order to ascertain if individual needs are being met.
- ❖ FDC have also empowered the Traveller community to hold their own Traveller Forum meetings, which are fully funded by FDC. These forums are run for Travellers by Travellers. FDC provides training to those who organise the meetings such as how to chair a meeting. These forums provide an ideal opportunity to engage with the Traveller community and discuss any issues they may have before they become larger problems.
- ❖ All of these projects are complemented by training for council staff, elected members, members of the local strategic partnership, people from other local authorities and residents from within the community. This training helps a



person to become more aware of the cultural background and needs of Gypsies and Travellers, which helps to promote good relations between the settled and Traveller community.

- ❖ Fenland DC has also carried out a substantial piece of work with the Traveller Community on the issue of reporting hate crime. There is vast under reporting of hate crime by the Traveller community. Therefore, in partnership with Cambridgeshire police, FDC have worked within the Traveller community to improve their confidence in the police. This has included the production of a CD called 'Stop Bullying Me,' which sets out that bullying is unacceptable and is a crime, and encourages Travellers to report incidents of hate crime both in school and the wider community.
- ❖ Every individual Gypsy Traveller that comes to one of the five local authority Traveller sites has benefited from the service Fenland District Council provides. This includes a Travellers Sites Welcome Pack, Individual Supporting People Plan and access to education so FDC can ensure that they are providing a service that allows every single Gypsy Traveller to live a healthy, safe and happy life.
- ❖ However, it is not just Gypsy Travellers that come to Fenland that are benefiting. FDC has been singled out by the Equality & Human Rights Commission as a model of best practice for their work with Gypsy Travellers, therefore they have been approached by many other local authorities, including large unitary authorities such as Bristol City Council and Bradford MBC for help and advice on how to provide a better service to their own Travelling Communities. FDC are always more than willing to share their knowledge and expertise and have help numerous authorities address issues that has provided the Traveller community in other areas with a better quality of life. This has included running regional training courses and a regional conference to showcase best practice. FDC also attend national conferences for national housing associations and other local authorities as well as the Chartered Institute of Housing and Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.
- ❖ 100% of residents were satisfied with the service they received from Fenland District Council in their recent Traveller site satisfaction survey. This survey is carried out annually and has consistently achieved very high satisfaction results. FDC have also received hundreds of positive comments from the Traveller community through feedback forms. However, many comments from this section of society are often verbal because traditionally, the Traveller community have had difficulties accessing education. FDC are changing this situation by empowering the Traveller community to access many different types of learning experiences from IT courses, to university accredited courses and schooling.

### **5.2.2 Pacesetters Programme**

- The Pacesetters Programme was launched in March 2008 and is a partnership between local communities who experience health inequalities, the NHS and the Department of Health. The programme involves working with SHAs and Trusts to deliver equality and diversity improvements and innovations resulting in patient, service user, staff and community involvement in the design and delivery of services. Furthermore the programme aims to reduce health inequalities for patients and service users and develop working environments that are fair and free of discrimination. Due to the serious health inequalities between Gypsy and Traveller groups and others in the UK, improving the health status of Gypsies and Travellers was made a core change that every Trust participating in the Pacesetter Programme had to address. The areas of work focused on:

- Raising awareness.
  - GP registration and better access to NHS.
  - Better sharing of personal health information.
- An evaluation of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller core strand of the Pacesetters Programme was published in April 2010.<sup>41</sup> This described six case studies which represented a range of service improvement themes which included;
- Training community members as 'Health Ambassadors' to raise awareness of the culture and health needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities, break down barriers and encourage trust and dialogue with healthcare staff.
  - Staff awareness training programmes.
  - Design of a hand held health record to support access to healthcare and facilitate continuity of care.
  - Production of a directory of resources to increase awareness of local services, support access to health care and serve as a health promotion tool.
  - Health event to raise awareness of health services amongst community members.
  - Production of a theatre drama to address the key issues of mental health in relation to the Roma community.
- The projects are ongoing but the evaluation identified some short term gains which included making links and engaging with community members, improving cultural awareness among health care staff, increasing awareness of health needs and health services among Gypsies, Roma and Travellers and raising the profile of their health needs. It is noted that many of these gains have been made in the process of involvement.

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<sup>41</sup> Pacesetters Programme Gypsy, Roma and Traveller core strand Evaluation Report for the Department of Health. Van Cleemput P, Bissell P, Harris J, April 2010.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a County wide Gypsy and Traveller strategy to improve outcomes and life chances for Gypsy and Traveller communities and promote and enable community cohesion in Cambridgeshire.
2. Data collection and ethnic monitoring:
  - There is a need for better data collection and ethnic monitoring. Local authorities, the NHS and other public bodies should review their ethnic monitoring systems to include Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller as separate categories.
  - The resulting data should be used for better planning and commissioning.
  - Work should be undertaken to encourage Gypsies and Travellers to complete the 2011 census.
3. A number of health issues have been identified and there should be a focus on:
  - Early intervention/prevention and promotion of immunisations and screening.
  - Mental health specialist support services.
  - Male health specialist support services.
  - More support around complex health needs.
  - Investigation into infant and maternal mortality and prevalence of disabilities in the Gypsy and Traveller population; further work is needed to help understand this.
  - Raising awareness of Gypsy and Traveller culture with professionals.
  - Training health champions from the Gypsy and Traveller community.
4. Service information and communications need to be provided in an accessible format to the Gypsy and Traveller population and the content appropriate.
5. Accommodation:
  - The implications of the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy should be considered and the need for additional Gypsy and Traveller accommodation addressed.
  - Promote consistent site management practices across the County.
6. Continue emphasis on promoting good practice for the education of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children, young people and their families in schools and other educational settings.
7. Encourage sharing of good practice across different organisations.
8. Promote continuing community engagement with the Gypsy and Traveller population.
9. Develop strategies to promote integration between the settled and Traveller communities to reduce mistrust, fear and discrimination.

## 7. APPENDICES

### 7.1 Summary of recommendations from literature

A number of recommendations have been made in the existing literature, however some are more relevant than others and some are no longer applicable or are out of date. Please refer to the relevant sections of the JSNA. The recommendations have been separated into Cambridgeshire specific and national recommendations.

#### 7.1.1 Accommodation

##### Cambridgeshire Specific

- ❖ A programme of site provision should be initiated and investigate suitable land in council ownership to contribute, either for transit sites or for sale as private sites.<sup>10,16</sup>
- ❖ Monitor and review planning policy and planning decisions on private Gypsy sites, with a view to increasing the supply of private authorised accommodation.
- ❖ Systems should be put in place to monitor the number of gypsy and traveller households in permanent housing, especially social housing so that their needs can be identified.
- ❖ The Gypsy and Traveller Sub-District Needs Assessment should be reviewed every five years.

##### Cambridgeshire and National

- ❖ ➤ To improve training for public authority staff on Gypsy/Traveller needs and cultural factors and to promote understanding of Gypsy culture through libraries, museums and material for schools. All local authorities should take the responsibility for putting Romany Gypsies and Irish travellers at forefront of their routine mainstream work, on both strategic and operational levels.<sup>22,16</sup>

##### National

- Local authorities and land owners, their enforcement agents, and the police should give clear notice of an intention to carry out an eviction, to provide an opportunity for those living on an unauthorised site to leave voluntarily; and should provide information on alternative, appropriate places to go.<sup>8</sup>

#### 7.1.2 Health

##### Cambridgeshire and National

- ❖ ➤ Commissioning dedicated or specialist health workers, including their community development and liaison role, would be welcomed by Gypsy & Travellers.<sup>18,21</sup>
- ❖ ➤ Improving the cultural competence of health service staff is a priority, to combat racist and discriminatory attitudes based on ignorance or fear, which feed into defensive hostility and promotes communication difficulties. Any developments in cultural safety training should be evaluated.<sup>18,21</sup>
- ❖ ➤ To ensure information for Travellers is in an appropriate format.

- ❖ ➤ Better coverage of Gypsy Travellers in NHS ethnic monitoring would address their 'invisibility' in public health terms.<sup>18,21</sup>
- ❖ ➤ Health authorities and trusts need to develop a less bureaucratic, less intrusive and speedier process for registering Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller families with local GPs and dentists.<sup>18,21,22</sup>

### National

- Methods are needed to improve access to and cultural safety of health services for Gypsy Travellers.<sup>21,26</sup>
- Working in partnership with Gypsy Traveller communities in the delivery of health care would be both possible and effective.<sup>21,26</sup>
- As many of the determinants of health status are outside the remit of the Department of Health, inter-Departmental co-ordination with regard to Gypsy Traveller health seems advisable. A Task Force on a co-ordinated strategy to Gypsy Traveller health would command wide support.
- Increase awareness amongst Travellers of drugs, drug-related issues, and drug services.<sup>24</sup>

### 7.1.3 Mental health

#### Cambridgeshire

- ❖ **The provision of information** - Most women did not know where to get information about local mental health services and were likely to give up easily if initial attempts were unsuccessful. Attempts to provide information would need to take into account the low levels of literacy among Traveller communities.<sup>25</sup>
- ❖ **The establishment of a specialist mental health worker** - This idea was well received and all participants thought it would be a useful service for themselves or others (particularly those who had lost close family members). The qualities they hoped to see in a specialist mental health worker were: female (in order to be able to speak to women); trustworthy; open-minded and non-judgemental; discrete (confidential); and able to see things from a Traveller's point of view.
- ❖ **The importance of working with existing staff (eg Ormiston Children and families Trust's 'outreach workers')** - Without this it would be very difficult for a specialist mental health worker to obtain the confidence and trust of the local communities.<sup>25</sup>

#### National

- A more balanced range of effective therapies such as peer support services, psychotherapeutic and counselling treatments as well as pharmacological interventions which are culturally appropriate and effective.<sup>42</sup>
- A more active role for Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) communities and BME service users in the training of professionals, in the development of mental health policy and the planning and provision of services.<sup>42</sup>
- A workforce and organisation capable of delivering appropriate and responsive mental health services to BME communities.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care. Department of Health. January 2005.

- Develop in collaboration a community resource pack in a variety of formats, not just on written format, on health information. This should include information for support to those who are suffering upset emotionally.<sup>43</sup>
- In conjunction with agencies with specialist knowledge develop a training pack for health agencies and professionals to inform about cultural aspects of life of Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers and other Traveller groups.<sup>43</sup>

#### 7.1.4 Education

##### National<sup>44</sup>

- The need for greater flexibility of, and recognition of GRT culture within, the curriculum.
- The need for increased and more appropriate formal training opportunities for both new and practising teachers, which are quality assured.
- The encouragement of greater involvement of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller parents in supporting their children's learning, which could have benefits in terms of breaking down cultural barriers and reinforcing the benefits of education, both for their children and for them.
- Increased co-ordination between those working in children's services (particularly in relation to issues affecting Gypsies, Roma and Travellers) and those responsible for broader policies, such as health and housing. Currently, there appears to be a gap between policy and effective service provision.
- Greater recognition and focus at a national level of the scale of the social, cultural and economic issues still affecting GRT communities in the UK.

#### 7.1.5 Policies and strategies

##### National

- There should be greater leadership at national level.
- There should be clearer guidance on how local authorities should or can respond to applications and move forward pro-actively in advance of formal policies being in place.<sup>12</sup>
- Both local authorities and central Government need to monitor temporary planning permissions.
- Communities and Local Government should coordinate work with Gypsy and Traveller community groups, the financial industry and other relevant government departments to consider the development of financial products to support Gypsies and Travellers to develop their own sites.<sup>8</sup>
- Local authorities should improve their monitoring of progress towards improving site provision for Gypsies and Travellers.
- More effective implementation of existing educational policies and legislation to ensure that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children continue in education at least until the age of 16.

<sup>43</sup> "I know when it's raining." Derbyshire Race Equality Liaison Group. May 2008.

<sup>44</sup> Improving the outcome for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils A review. Wilkin A, Derrington C, Foster B 2009 <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR077.pdf>

- Sustained promotion and support for work to ensure that school policies specifically reference Gypsy Roma and Traveller pupils and are underpinned by a whole-school commitment to their development and application.
- Training programmes also need to be incorporated into wider policy objectives and designed with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller input to ensure their cultural appropriateness.<sup>44</sup>
- The need to involve representatives of GRT communities in any national and local policy developments.<sup>44</sup>
- Carry out equality proofing of drugs policy and of drug service planning and delivery.
- Develop a shared Health Action Plan with relevant partners.

#### 7.1.6 Other

##### National

- National and local media should ensure that reporting of Gypsy and Traveller related stories is undertaken in a responsible manner.<sup>9</sup>
- Police forces and Criminal Justice agencies should see Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers as a legitimate part of a main stream society, and work in a way that wins their trust and confidence.
- Further research is recommended in discrimination in employment; the experiences of different groups within the criminal justice system; the impact of evictions, especially on children; research into the prevalence and underpinning factors related to suicide and self-harm, issues around 'coming out' as non-heterosexual; substance misuse and domestic violence and the services available to Gypsies and Travellers in these areas.
- Conduct further quantitative analysis of illness and disease to ascertain differences between settled community and the Travelling community.