

ANNEX A

The York Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy

2013- 2018

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York Gypsy Roma and Traveller Action Plan

2013-2018

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Forward

During Spring 2012 City of York Council commenced work in leading a city wide strategy, in partnership with agencies and the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community. The purpose being to further explore the significant and complex issues relating to Gypsy Roma and Travellers communities across the City, and the steps required to improve the opportunities and outcomes for one of the cities biggest minority ethnic groups.

Evidence, including the Equality and Human Rights Commission report 2009, suggests that today Gypsies and Travellers are the most marginalised and disadvantaged of all minority groups nationally, suffering the greatest inequalities across a range of indicators. These include access to suitable accommodation, policing, justice and probation, health, education, employment and financial

services. This is supported by information gathered during the 2011 Census from the York community.

The profile and plight of Gypsy Roma and Travellers (GRT) communities has increased gradually over recent years with a number of reports and research being published and Government action being undertaken. A progress report, published in April 2012, from the Ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, set up in November 2010 has produced 28 commitments from across government to ensure mainstream services work more effectively with Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities in future.

These commitments are reflected in our action plan to deliver against this Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy.

Over recent years marked progress has been made across York towards addressing the needs of this community and seeking to improve outcomes and opportunities for them. This strategy aims to build on this progress through adopting a partnership approach.

Successes include the launch of a 'Travellers Choice Programme' to ensure ongoing investment in improving the Councils sites; a 'Tethered Horse Protocol', outlining the Councils approach to managing horses in the City; two citywide partnership events to develop this strategy as well as detailed consultation and capacity building with the community; a successful bid to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to extend the Osbaldwick site to incorporate an addition six pitches, amenity space and grazing land.

York Travellers Trust recently announced they have been successful in achieving lottery funding to expand their role in supporting the GRT community. This will enable them to maximise and promote education, training and employment opportunities, and financial inclusion, improve health outcomes through exploring opportunities to fund a health worker and address issues with the wider community, the GRT and some key agencies around equalities and community cohesion. During March 2013 a North Yorkshire and York event was held for the GRT community, supported by key agencies, and focussing on the aspects they have told us are most important including accommodation standards and planning, financial inclusion, benefits advice and employment, education and training. This was also an opportunity for them to showcase their culture and traditions, including crafts and story telling.

York Travellers Trust are leading a further community event for summer 2013 as part of the priority to promote community cohesion and address inequalities issues city wide.

During the period of this strategy we anticipate marked improvements across all six themes identified, including; an increase in the availability of land for travellers to develop sites and the condition of the cities three sites; increasing levels of literacy among adults able to support their children at school, thus enabling higher levels of attainment amongst the children; a health needs assessment will provide the evidence needed in order that healthcare resources are targeted most effectively; there will be an increased awareness of the culture and traditions of the community through training and communications to front line service providers, elected members and other key stakeholders;

improvements in the uptake of benefits and increased numbers accessing adult education, employment and training.

Partnerships must be strengthened across statutory, voluntary and community sectors and stronger relationships established with communities themselves.

We are determined that through this Strategy the numbers and extent to which members of the community feel able to get involved in shaping services and monitoring the actions in this strategy will improve year on year.

We know that the picture of inequality and disadvantage for members of the Gypsy Roma and Traveller population in our community is stark and this is a time for action. A significant opportunity exists for agencies in York to work together in

partnership to improve the life chances, opportunities and outcomes for a small but significant group within the cultural heritage of this historic city.

A word from Stephen Pittam Trustee, on behalf of York Travellers Trust:

To transform the position of York's Gypsy, Traveller and Roma community, progress is required both on how the Council services are delivered to the community and on how the voice of the community can be strengthened and heard more clearly by all the statutory agencies in the City. The capacity to participate needs to be built within the community and Travellers themselves must be empowered to engage with the process of change. Otherwise the danger is that initiatives that are started with great optimism and hope are likely to fail.

This is a challenging task as there is suspicion within the Traveller community of authority, built on many years' experience of both exclusion and self-exclusion. Engaging with the Council's partners, particularly in the voluntary sector, will be an

important way of moving forward in relation to empowerment.

The York Traveller Trust, is strongly positioned to deliver such capacity-building because of its extended history of working with the York Travellers community, it has almost 15 years' experience of building links with the Traveller community in York. It sees its role as first and foremost supporting York's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community and working from where the community is. Its role extends to advocacy on behalf of the Traveller community when appropriate, and to building harmonious relations between Travellers and the settled community. The trust already works closely with education, health and police professionals and is keen to develop a stronger partnership role across the City.

1. Introduction

Gypsies and Travellers are one of the largest distinct ethnic groups in York and their traditions and history can be traced across hundreds of years. Yet, significant evidence points to the fact that they are the most marginalised and disadvantaged of all minority groups, across a range of indicators. The delivery of the strategy and the action plan is a key priority for the city and its success is dependant on a partnership approach.

The ministerial working group reported in April 2012 that 'Gypsies and Travellers are arguably the most socially excluded group in society'

Romany Gypsies and Irish Traveller's are recognised ethnic groups and are covered by the Race Relations Act 1976. Despite this members of community cite routine discrimination across all aspects of their lives.

Evidence from the Equality and Human Rights

Commission in their report 'Simple Solutions for Living Together' (2009), suggests that nationally:

- life expectancy for Gypsy and Traveller men and women is 10 years lower than the national average.
- Gypsy and Traveller mothers are 20 times more likely than the rest of the population to have experienced the death of a child.
- In 2003, less than a quarter of Gypsy and Traveller children obtained five GCSEs and A*-C grades, compared to a national average of over half".

This is the first multi agency Gypsy and Traveller strategy for the City of York, and marks a significant

opportunity for collaboration to improve community cohesion and engagement and improve the lifelong outcomes and opportunities of this distinct community

The vision for the Strategy is:

“Working together to improve equalities and lifelong outcomes and opportunities for York’s Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community”

There are a number of strategic documents, policies and bodies, locally and nationally, working to address issues facing this minority ethnic group. The timing of this Strategy is in parallel with this shift in progress thus enabling a co-ordinated and holistic approach.

Key examples of these include:

- Council Plan 2011-2015- sets out a long term vision for the city and a new set of immediate priorities, including Build Strong Communities.

Fairness Commission – Established in 2010, the Fairness Commission Chair Ruth Redfern has announced ‘Our focus now is on how partners in the city can work together to tackle unfairness in the six key areas that emerged from your initial feedback: Health, Incomes and Work, Education, Housing, Diversity and Community Life’.. Gypsies and Travellers are identified as a distinct ‘Community of Interest’ within the scope of this work.

- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2012 – informs the Health and Wellbeing strategy by providing evidence about the health issues and needs of York residents. It highlights studies evidencing some of the health inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers but also the lack of detailed local and national

knowledge about the health of these communities.

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy, *Improving Health and Wellbeing in York 2013-16*
- York Equality Scheme: A Fairer York – outlines the Council's vision for an equal, inclusive, and welcoming council and city, as well as how we will ensure that everyone enjoys the excellent quality of life our city offers.
- The One City Plan 2011-15 – developed by York's local strategic partnership, a group of organisations working to improve the quality of life of local people.
- The Local Plan -identifies potential sites for the development of the GRT community

2. The York Context

There are approximately 350 Gypsy and Traveller families in York, living on traveller sites, houses and on the roadside (Gypsy and Traveller Area Assessment 2009). Data from the 2011 Census reports a figure of 269- White: Gypsy or Irish Travellers, although it is widely recognised that members of the community are very reluctant to self identify due to perceptions that they will be discriminated against.

In preparing this strategy it is clear that there is limited empirical evidence regarding the current landscape relating to Gypsies and Travellers and a picture of their needs and aspirations. The needs of the community are complex and stark and in a climate of austerity we can only begin to address the significant challenges faced by working closely in partnership across all agencies. Clearly with limited

information at a local level it is difficult to set hard targets at this stage of the strategy's development. Therefore some of ambitions have to remain aspirational until the evidence has been collected and analysed.

The action plan attached to this document is the mechanism by which improvements will be made across the six themes identified. The priority actions identified, in many cases, relate to key plans and strategies that partners have already committed resources to. This Strategy seeks to add impetus to these and further support a co-ordinated approach across the City.

The draft priorities have been identified in consultation with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community, wider community and professionals, across a range of statutory and voluntary organisations using a range of methods,

including two Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy Events; Surveys were published on the Council's website for all stakeholders and promoted through the local media; visits to the Cities three Local Authority managed Gypsy and Travellers sites and the private site, to roadside travellers and those self identified living in houses, to complete surveys and a follow up focus group facilitated by the York Travellers Trust with an interested group from the Gypsy and Traveller Community.

3. Promoting Equalities and Challenging Discrimination and Prejudice

The Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality has argued:

“Discrimination against gypsies and travellers appears to be the last “respectable form of racism.”

The Gypsy, Roma and Travellers (GRT) Community frequently argue they are reluctant to engage with mainstream services, including health, education, employment services and housing due to perceived and actual discrimination, bullying and inequality of opportunity. Members of the community report high levels of discrimination in all aspects of their lives, including being ‘tarred with the same brush’ as those who have committed crimes or been perpetrators of anti social behaviour.

Whilst statistics relating to crime rates across the community are limited, there is no evidence to suggest there are higher levels of criminal activity taking place within GRT communities than any other. Yet there is a clear belief held by some members of the wider community that there is an association between GRT and high levels of crime.

Despite agencies across the City are working tirelessly to ensure equalities are embedded throughout services, there remains ongoing challenges in engaging this community more widely by building confidence and Trust. These issues must be addressed through this strategy through promoting community cohesion and through training, briefings and partnership work between statutory and voluntary sectors, including the York travellers trust, and communities themselves.

Themes

Six key themes have been identified through the development of this strategy:

- 1. Improve educational outcomes of Gypsy Roma and Traveller children and young people**

National context:

In 2011, 25% of GRT pupils achieved national expectations in English and Mathematics at the end of primary education compared with 74% of all pupils

At secondary school 125 GRT achieved five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics compared with 58.2% of all pupils

Local context:

In York, virtually all Traveller children attend primary school, and transfer to secondary school. However, a growing number of families are opting for home education in Key Stage 3. The reasons behind this are complex: traditional Traveller expectations of young people, a curriculum that is seen as irrelevant and experiences of bullying all play their part. The Traveller and Ethnic Minority Support Service (TEMSS) is currently undertaking some research to

investigate the reasons behind home education more thoroughly.

At the same time there has been an increase in the number of Traveller young people engaging with post 16 education, where they can access more vocational courses such as building and hairdressing. (DfE Statistical First Release SFR/37/2010).

There has been an increase in the number of adults, particularly women, accessing adult literacy classes. ,partly due to a desire to help support their children's education and also the need to have better 'employability' skills as more traditional Traveller employment opportunities are diminishing.

There is evidence that experiences of racism at school can be a barrier. As a result of a piece of Joseph Rowntree funded research undertaken by

York Travellers Trust 2008 regarding need, more cultural awareness work is taking place in schools.

A number of schools have taken advantage of opportunities to raise awareness of Traveller culture e.g. through participation in Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month. The involvement of more schools is an area for development.

Alternative curriculum opportunities are a costly alternative to mainstream education which is a barrier for schools. However, the costs of not providing an appropriate education are also high for the community potentially resulting in lower levels of educational attainment, skills and employability.

Priorities:

Increase number of young people that stay on for KS3

Address bullying in schools – links to cultural awareness events/festivals already underway/planned.

Continue to increase numbers that take up vocational training

Continue to increase number that access adult literacy/numeracy

Increase cultural awareness of GRT within schools /myth busting to reduce bullying.

2. Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Gypsies and Travellers

National context

There is a lack of reliable research evidence on the health status of the GRT population, however they are known to have worse health outcomes than the

general population. A 2004 study¹ found that Gypsies and Travellers were significantly more likely to have a long-term illness, health problem or disability than a comparator group from the general population. 41.9% of the GRT group in the study reported a limiting long-term illness compared with 18.2% in the general population (2001 census).

Studies have also shown that life expectancy is also reduced. A study in Ireland reported a higher death rate for all causes with a life expectancy 11.9 years lower than the non-traveller population for women and 9.9 years lower for men². Although this can't be assumed to translate directly to the UK (or York) traveller population, it is a useful indicator of health

¹ Parry et al (2004) Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers in England. Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health 61:3. www.shef.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.43714!/file/GT-final-report-for-web.pdf

² Barry J. et al (1987) The Travellers Health Status Study: vital statistics of travelling people. The Health Research Board: Dublin. <http://www.lenus.ie/hse/bitstream/10147/45446/1/7846.pdf>

inequality. A more recent census of the Leeds Gypsy and Traveller population³ showed only 2.33% of the Gypsy and traveller population were aged 60 or over, compared to 19.95% of the Leeds general population. This report suggests a life expectancy of around 50 years. In York the life expectancy for the general population is 79.8 years for men and 83.0 years for women⁴.

Three times more likely to have a chronic cough or bronchitis. 22% have asthma and 34% chest pains compared to 5% and 22% of general population

Many different factors will influence the health and wellbeing of York's Gypsies and Travellers including,

³ Baker, M (2004) Gypsies and Travellers: Leeds Baseline Census 2004-2005. Leeds Racial Equality Council. www.grtleeds.co.uk/information/downloads/BaselineCensus.pdf

⁴ York Health Profile 2012. Department of Health. www.healthprofiles.info

but by no means limited to culture and attitudes, historical discrimination, distrust of authority, lifestyle, accommodation, access to services and literacy levels. This strategy is attempting to pull together many of these different but interrelated strands. The action plan commits us to undertaking a more detailed Health Needs Assessment which should help us to prioritise areas for action to improve the health of Gypsies and Travellers. Alongside this, we are asking partner organisations on the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider the needs of Gypsies and Travellers as they commission or provide services as part of their commitment to tackling health inequalities.

Priorities

Need to evidence health and wellbeing needs
Reduce incidence of long term illness, health problem or disability (limiting long term illness)

Increase GP registrations and dentist t registrations

Promote awareness of services (measured through annual survey)

Encourage the community to use mainstream services. Where appropriate provide localised drop in services on specific initiatives 9 e.g. MMR vaccinations)

3. Improve Accommodation Supply and Standard

Supply and demand

Through consultation on this strategy a key priority emphasised by the G RT community has been a growing need for additional sites and pitches, as well as a improving standards on existing sites.

A major report published by the Commission for Racial Equality in 2006 'Common Ground', has demonstrated how a lack of authorised sites exacerbates the stark inequalities suffered by members of the GRT community, highlighted in the introduction, including lower life expectancy, increased child mortality and lower rates of educational achievement.

Considerable challenges exist in increasing provision for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community, where there are often tensions between the lifestyles of settled and travelling communities, as a result of the Localism Bill, which grants greater powers to local communities in planning terms.

It is critical that we work in partnership with our local communities both settled and travelling, on an ongoing basis in the management of existing sites, enforcement action taken in relation to unauthorised

sites and other related matters, to build trust, confidence and improve community relations. In turn this should provide a better environment in which to discuss the merits of improving the facilities and increasing numbers of pitches for travellers to create more sustainable and self sufficient communities.

'We are one community - the Travellers and our settled neighbours. We've all got something in common: we want our children to be healthy and educated.'

- Gloria Buckley MBE, Romany Gypsy and manager of three authorised sites.

It is widely accepted that the community often face considerable obstacles in obtaining planning permission largely as a result of local opposition, however many planning permission refusals are overturned on appeal.

Over recent years Government planning policy has shifted in favour of provision for private sites rather than those publically owned, most commonly by Local Authorities. Despite this shift in policy funding has been made available through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to develop new sites and pitches on existing sites. City of York Council has been keen to take advantage of this opportunity and has recently been successful in a bid to redevelop an existing site to incorporate much needed grazing land, amenity space and additional pitches to meet identified need across the city.

However incentives have been seen, including; government funding through the HCA and New Homes Bonus, offering support for Councillors in the planning appeals process. The 'Mobile Homes Act' applied to traveller's sites, puts greater emphasis on

higher standards to be adopted by both owners and the community themselves.

During 2009 the Gypsy and Traveller Area Assessment (GTAA 2009) reported a shortfall in pitch numbers in the City of York of 36 up to 2015. It is recognised across the city that there is a high demand for pitches and there is a waiting list of approximately 18 households at any time. In addition sites are often overcrowded, as a result of extended families living together on a single pitch sometimes spanning three generations, multiple caravans and vehicles for personal and business uses and higher than average numbers of animals, mostly dogs and cats.

At least two of the York sites, Osbaldwick and James Street, are compact in size and offer limited space to accommodate the traditions and lifestyles of the Travellers, including space for horses, room to park

and turn larger vehicles and space for the travellers to work and live in one area, which could seek to support the agenda around improving employment rates, skills and economic exclusion.

Standards

Evidence suggests that the quality of the sites, and individual pitches, across the City is a mixed picture, however ongoing investment has been made over the years to keep the sites up to relatively modern day standards, as identified in the stock condition surveys commissioned during March 2012. At least one of the sites is isolated from community facilities at the end of an industrial estate, however issues can be improved through redeveloping this site to improve its facilities and enable increased support and management presence. Plans are in place to implement this.

A 'Traveller's Choice' programme has been developed, in line with the 'Tenant's Choice Policy' for tenants living in houses to secure investment and plan ongoing improvement works on the sites in future years. This is based on current evidence of condition and will keep pace of any guidance and best practice nationally on standards expected on the sites.

During 2011 a satisfaction survey carried out across the Cities Travellers sites found high levels of satisfaction, with 95% of the Travellers stating a preference for the Council as ongoing managers.

The amenity blocks on the sites are not classified as habitable dwellings and as such do not attract the same grant funding as would be available to traditional housing. The challenge is to keep the amenity blocks to a standard that reflects their use offering kitchen facilities and space for dining and

bathroom facilities, including toilets. The only source of heating provided are electric wall heaters (there is no mains gas on the sites), there is some loft insulation in roof cavities and the blocks are currently all being installed with double glazed windows to improve the thermal efficiency and enable the travellers to keep their energy bills lower.

Evidence suggests that a lack of authorised sites leads to an increase in unauthorised sites, which can be seen to have an increasingly negative impact on the travellers and local settled community affected. York usually has only one or two unauthorised sites at any one time due to effective and efficient enforcement action being taken by the Council.

Priorities:

Increase the provision of new sites

Ensure the Local Plan identifies sufficient future land supply

Reduce the number of failed planning applications

Ensure provisions of Mobile Homes act are fully implemented

Undertake a review of the standard and amenities on all existing sites to ensure the very highest standards

Fully implement Travellers Choice Programme by July 2013 and evaluate programme by July 2014 to inform the design of future services.

Maintain high customer satisfactions with council site provision

Continue process of site improvements and fully deliver recommendations falling out of the site standards review.

Minimise the incidence of unauthorised encampments

Provide a coordinated service response to unauthorised encampments where they do occur to minimise impact on the settled community and achieve service efficiencies.

4. Improving Community Safety

There are a number of issues that have been identified nationally and locally in relation to policing and the criminal justice system and the GRT community, including hate crime, domestic abuse, racial discrimination, unauthorised encampments, tethered horses and criminal law.

Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are racial groups within the meaning of Equalities legislation,

including the definition of hate crime – that is, any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's race or perceived race. At this time hate crime cannot be disaggregated to show that against members of the Gypsy Roma and Traveller population, however it is believed much of this crime goes unreported. Actions are being taken by the home office to improve levels of reporting and recording of hate crime in future, including the sharing of best practice.

There is considerable evidence that there is a culture of mistrust and often poor relations between the police and the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities nationally and across the city. Whilst efforts are being made by the police to improve these relations by ensuring a routine presence on the sites and at events, there is considerable work required.

Feedback from the community indicates they do not want routine and ongoing relations with the police and cite routine examples of being treated differently as a result of their ethnicity. There are therefore significant challenges in improving this position. Alongside other key partners in this strategy it is anticipated that frontline policing staff will receive additional training and briefings regarding the culture and traditions of these communities and myth busting.

It is believed there is a higher than average incidence of domestic abuse, experienced by women, within this community which goes largely unreported. This can be seen to be as a result of fear of being excluded from the community, which can be very close knit, and loss of cultural status as well as lack of trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

There is a significant issue across the city with regards to tethered horses, principally owned by members of the Gypsy Roma and Traveller community. There is currently no land available on or adjacent to official sites to accommodate horses, however a policy and protocol are being developed in partnership across the city to ensure a co-ordinated and effective response to this issue.

It is recognised that Gypsy and Irish Traveller's serving prison sentences experience discrimination while in custody, and suffer a lack of support on release. The support services that do exist are also recognised to be better suited to static communities. It is also acknowledged it is difficult to record this information since it is common for GRT not to divulge their ethnic status, However, there is work underway in individual prisons and within the National Offender

Management Services to implement a range of measures to address these issues.

Priorities:

Reduce incidence of hate crime against GRT community (if not measured then seek local measurement. i.e. disaggregate reporting of hate crime into GRT groups.

Increase the reporting of hate crime incidents by raising awareness of reporting mechanisms and building trust relationships with law enforcement agencies.

Building local relations between agencies and the GRT community

Reduce the incidence of domestic violence / increase reporting levels.

Reduce the incidence of tethered horses on highways

Identify options for providing grazing land as part of new or re-modelled site provision

Reduce the incidence of verbal/physical abuse of GRT whilst in prison

Increase the support available to GRT on leaving prison

5. Employment and Financial Inclusion

Nationally there is limited data available on the employment status of members of the Gypsy Roma and Traveller Community, however it is recognised that there is a cultural stigma attached to claiming benefits and limited access is made to job centre plus and employment programmes. Evidence further suggests that poor literacy levels, a lack of

qualifications, a belief that services are not tailored to meet their needs and fear of discrimination are all barriers to accessing support in obtaining employment and therefore improving their economic status.

As a result of some internally commissioned research the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will seek to address a lack of clarity in equality and diversity training materials and internal guidance. Furthermore, the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain will now represent Gypsies and Travellers on the Ethnic Minority Advisory Group, an independent body supported and consulted by the DWP.

Locally the York Travellers Trust offer considerable levels of support, in particular to women from the community, in writing CVs, completing job applications, writing references and support with job

hunting and in building confidence and self esteem. Anecdotal evidence suggests that numbers seeking paid employment are rising, especially amongst the younger generation.

Financial Inclusion

Arguably the issue likely to have the most impact on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community in York, as well as nationally, is the impact of welfare reforms from April 2013. Evidence suggests that the majority of households on the sites claim benefits and work is underway, across a range of agencies, to understand the impact and offer support and advice to these households.

Significant barriers are faced by Gypsies and Travellers in accessing financial services, including bank accounts as a result of, in many cases, a lack of a stable or fixed address. The Government and

City of York Council promotes credit unions in an attempt to give those who might not otherwise be able to access a bank account a means by which to save, borrow and manage their finances. However there is work underway, promoted by the Government, with the banking and insurance industries to seek to improve the situation for Gypsies and Travellers, however this is not expected to provide solutions to financial exclusion. In the meantime the money advice service website contains information on what identification is needed to open a range of bank accounts.

Priorities:

Reduce rates of unemployment

Increase take up of entitled benefits

Improve access and take up of training opportunities

Ensure the impacts of welfare reforms are fully understood by those affected and required changes/adjustments planned for in advance to minimise housing crisis i.e. visit every affected household and set out a plan for each

Ensure GRT are not disadvantaged by the digital divide.

Promote Financial Inclusion through priorities in Financial Inclusion action plan

This section of the strategy reflects key pieces of work which could meaningfully be undertaken on a partnership basis to improve access to services for members of the GRT Community, performance levels, value for money and outcomes and opportunities.

Priorities

Review the future management of the sites

Create strategic monitoring group that will drive forward the action plan

Throughout the life of the strategy need to monitor the progress and success.

Consultation with the Community and key Stakeholders

The results of the consultations with members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community can be seen in Annex 2 and have been incorporated into the action plan and embedded into the Strategy. As highlighted in recommendations below we are determined that work will be undertaken to empower and engage the community to have a strong voice in developing and delivering this Strategy from 2013-

2018, leading to them feeling more confident and trusting in partners to actively listen to their views and shape services and activities accordingly.

Summary and key next Steps

Whilst there is limited baseline information regarding the community, there are clear actions planned to build on this picture in order to clarify the steps required by all parties, building on our strengths and success so far we will strive to improve outcomes and opportunities and equip the Gypsy Roma and Traveller community to achieve their hopes and aspirations.

That key partners, at all levels throughout related organisations and bodies, formally sign up to this key Strategy for the City and work in meaningful

partnership to improve equalities, outcomes and opportunities for this significant minority ethnic group.

Ensure the contents of the strategy are clearly communicated to and understood by members of the GRT and wider community.

To ensure that the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community in York is empowered, engaged and involved to support the ongoing development and delivery of the Strategy and action plan throughout the period 2013-2018.

The Strategy and action plan is administered and overseen within the housing department of City of York Council. Key leads for each of the six themes will ensure that the priorities identified are delivered and progress reported on a half yearly basis. Key leads and the administering department will meet on

at least an annual basis to ensure progress against the agreed priorities. This will also be an opportunity to review and refresh the priorities to ensure they remain relevant.

An annual progress report will be provided to all interested parties to ensure ongoing engagement and regular feedback will be provided in written and verbal formats to the community to ensure accountability.

List of key partners in delivering this strategy:

- City of York Council
- Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group
- North Yorkshire Police
- North Yorkshire Probation Service
- National Farming Union
- York Travellers Trust

- York CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau)
- IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Services)
- Gypsy Roma and Traveller community
- Wider community

Further Information and Reading:

- Progress Report from the Ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers April 2012.
- Equality and Human Rights Commission report 2009: Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- Equalities Act 2010.
- CYC Travellers sites stock condition surveys (2012)- Available from The Supported Housing Manager, CYC.

-Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Sites (Circular 1/06) ODPM 2006

-Local authorities and Gypsies and Travellers: a guide to responsibilities and powers, CLG 2007

-Progress Report on Gypsy and Traveller Policy CLG 2009

-Guide to Effective Use of Enforcement Powers Part 1 Unauthorised Encampments, ODPM 2006

-Guide to Effective Use of Enforcement Powers Part 2 Unauthorised Developments, CLG 2007

-Gypsy and Traveller site grant - Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) 2010

-Gypsies and Travellers – Simple Solutions for Living Together
EHRC 2009

-Inequalities Experienced by Gypsy and Traveller Communities Research Report 12, EHRC 2009
-Assessing Local Authorities' Progress in meeting the Accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller Communities in England Research Report 13, EHRC 2009

-Guidance on Unauthorised Encampments (Police)
ACPO 2008

-The Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers in England DoH 2004

-Primary Care Service Framework: Gypsy and Traveller Communities NHS 2009

-The Health of Gypsies and Travellers in the UK
Race Equality Foundation, Nov 2008

Annex 1: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy- Action Plan

