

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Traveller Action Group

Progress Report 2017/2018

The Traveller Action Group (TAG) continues to meet every three months to share information on support services for Travellers, make sure these services are suitable to meet Traveller needs and to ensure Travellers are aware of their existence and how to access them.

The Traveller Action Group is chaired by the Director of Promoting Wellbeing, Southern Health and Social Care Trust and there is representation from:-

- Other Southern Health and Social Care Trust staff
- Local Traveller Support Groups
- Early Years Toybox
- Housing Executive
- Intercultural Education Service (IES)
- Public Health Agency
- Local Council

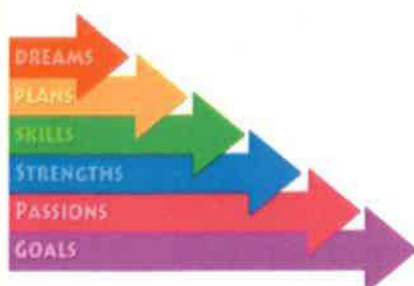
"An excellent platform for sharing information and increasing access to, and knowledge of, health and social care, education, housing and other essential services"

The Traveller Action Group was established in 2010. Travellers attended these meetings for a number of years. However more recently, while there has been no direct Traveller involvement, Traveller Support workers feedback to Travellers on the progress being made by the group and bring issues from the Travellers they work with to the meetings for discussion.

What work was the Traveller Action Group involved in during 2017/2018?

We implemented our action plan under **8 key areas**:-

- Improved Inter-sectoral working under Community Planning
- Early years support and Educational attainment
- Employment and Skills
- Reducing stigma
- Traveller friendly HSC services
- Targeted Health & Wellbeing Programmes
- Monitoring Evaluation and Research
- Collaboration and joint working



TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

We implemented our action plan.....

1. Improved Inter-sectoral working under Community Planning

Local Councils are now represented on the Traveller Action Group and all member organisations have been involved in the development of the new Community Plans which can be downloaded from the relevant Council website.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council (ABC) is the second largest council in Northern Ireland. The Council took responsibility for the services of three former Councils – Armagh City and District Council, Banbridge District Council and Craigavon Borough Council. ABC Council has a population of 200,000+. There are seven District Electoral Areas and 41 Wards.



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council**

Further information is available @ [http:// www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/](http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/)

A Traveller Interagency Forum has been established and meets every quarter, feeding into other appropriate Interagency groups and Forums.

Further information is available from Tracey.Johnston@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMD), is made up of the former Newry & Mourne and Down District Council areas. It also includes the Ballyward electoral area which previously sat within the Banbridge District Council authority.

With a population of around 171,500 and a coastline of 100miles, it is the third largest council area in Northern Ireland spanning from Crossmaglen in South Armagh to Saintfield in South Down. There are seven District Electoral Areas: Crotleive, Downpatrick, Newry, Rowallane, The Mournes, Slieve Croob and Slieve Guilion.

@ [http://www.newrymournedown.org/your new council online](http://www.newrymournedown.org/your_new_council_online)

NMD Council has established a Traveller Forum which meets monthly. A Traveller Needs Assessment has been completed and will be made available on the Council website

Further information is available from justyna.mccabe@nmandd.org

Straddling two counties and stretching from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south, the **Mid Ulster District Council** covers an area of 660 square miles with a population of more than 140,000. The Council took responsibility for the



**Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council**

services of three former Councils – Cookstown District Council, Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and Magherafelt District Council – as well as a range of new services. Forty councillors are elected in seven District electoral areas.

Further information is available @ <http://www.midulstercouncil.org/Council>

TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

1. Improved Inter-sectoral working under Community Planning

Housing and Accommodation



The accommodation needs of Travellers in Northern Ireland remains a priority for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). NIHE continues to:-

- ♦ **work with all stakeholders towards the provision of suitable Traveller accommodation**
- ♦ **identify options for accommodation and site provision, and**
- ♦ **ensure standards of provision meet the needs of Travellers**

Recent research indicates a preference for a more permanent accommodation in a fixed location. Discussions continue with a wide range of inter-agency partnerships in an attempt to identify potential options to address this preference. Across its existing sites, NIHE continue to explore:-

- ♦ **development options; and**
- ♦ **the most appropriate way to deliver these aspirations**

In 2016/17 The Human Rights Commission carried out an investigation into delivery of statutory responsibility for the Traveller community across a range of agencies including NIHE to assess compliance with Section 75 of the NI Equality Legislation. The 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind; Travellers' Accommodation in Northern Ireland' report was released on Tuesday 6th March 2018.

At an interdivisional meeting the respective roles and responsibilities aligned to the NIHE statutory duty for Traveller accommodation were discussed and the priority action emanating from this meeting was to ensure sites are compliant with planning and site licensing regulations.

A consultant was appointed to conduct a condition survey to determine works needed and produce a costed delivery plan. This report will help inform a programme of works to bring all sites up to scratch allowing NIHE to meet council requirements for issue of site licenses. In the interim Asset Management carried out health and safety checks on all sites to identify any potential health and safety issues and produce a list of works required to address risks identified. These works have now been completed along with other additional works noted subsequent to the initial inspections.

NIHE are engaging with NIFRS to arrange site visits to all NIHE managed Traveller sites to agree safety protocols to enable issue of site licenses as required under the 1963 Caravan Act.

At a local level NIHE Asset Management team are devising a scheme to progress the refurbishment of Legahory Close, Craigavon leading to a planning application for a 6 pitch serviced site within the footprint of the current site.

Land identification is ongoing in Newry to identify suitable land to provide a transit/serviced site.

For further information about this please contact connor.smith@nihe.gov.uk

TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

2. Early Years Support and Educational Attainment

Early Years Support



Deirdre McKillen, Specialist Health Visitor for Travellers, retired from the Trust at the end of April 2018 after almost 39 years of dedicated service to nursing.

We all wish Deirdre a long healthy and happy retirement.



The Trust's **Child Development Intervention Coordinator** continues to liaise with the Traveller Support Groups so that parents can get information about all the family support programmes and know where to go to for help and advice.

Martina McCooey can be contacted by:-

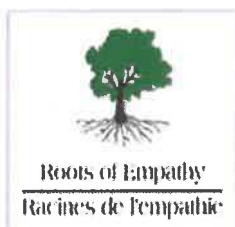
Telephone: 028 3756 4462 Mobile: 07795450278

Email: Martina.mccooey@southerntrust.hscni.net



Roots of Empathy (ROE)

The PWB Division within the Trust coordinates the Roots of Empathy (ROE) programme in primary schools across the Southern area in partnership with local schools and the Education Authority, Southern Region.



During the 27 week classroom based ROE programme a specially trained instructor guides the children to observe, share and celebrate the development of "their" special baby. The programme promotes social and emotional understanding and pupils learn that everyone is different and how the phenomena of brain connections is directly related to feeling secure and loved. Pupils have a unique opportunity to observe the relationship between the baby and parent,

whilst becoming more attuned to their own feelings and the feelings of others. This process supports the development of empathy as they reflect on these feelings.

Maureen McSorley, ROE Key Point Person consulted with Traveller Support Groups and the following schools enjoyed the 27 week programme.

St Catherines, Armagh	Primate Dixon, Coalisland	St Peters, Cloughreagh

total of 11 Traveller children benefited from the programme

For further information, please contact:

Maureen McSorley ROE - Key Point Person Telephone: 028 3756 4489

Email: Maureen.mcsorley@southerntrust.hscni.net

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TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

2. Early Years Support and Educational Attainment

Early Years Support continued



Early Years



For further information on Toybox in Southern Trust area

please contact: Shirley Gillespie shirleyg@early-years.org Mobile: 07968 874414

Educational Attainment



Intercultural Education Service (IES)



***"To give our children and young people the best start in life
and to provide a high quality education for every child"***

The Intercultural Education Service (IES) is a new regional service formed in April 2017 as a result of merging together two previous support services: Inclusion & Diversity Service (IDS) and Traveller Education Support Service (TESS).

The new IES is funded through Education Authority and aims to support Newcomer, Traveller and Roma pupils, their parents and schools by working directly with them. It also works in partnership with other interested agencies and associated groups to improve education for Traveller children.

IES have recently appointed a Digital Content Officer, to set up information systems to aid data collection, design and maintain website allowing pupils, parents, schools Education Authority partners and Traveller Support Groups access to resources, advice and information to support learning and teaching.

The new OBA post will establish systems for recording, monitoring and evaluating outcomes based on the yearly delivery plan.

For further information please contact:

Paula.SmythHutchinson@eani.org.uk

Mobile: 0782 514 1576

Telephone: 028 3831 7053

TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

3. Employment and Skills

Craigavon Traveller Support Committee.....

An Tearmann

Armagh Traveller Support Group

TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

3. Employment and Skills continued

First Southern Trust Traveller Led Cross Border Women's Programme



The Cross Border Women's group ran for 7 weeks and feedback from Nell McDonagh, facilitator and the women who attended was all very positive and is an initiative they would like to see continued. This was a Traveller led initiative and provided the women with a space to come together to recognise, develop their ability and potential and encourage them to talk about common problems which all of the Traveller women in the group experienced. Topics discussed in the group touched on topics previously discussed in their individual groups i.e. Traveller Culture and Ethnicity, History of Travellers, Traveller women's role within the family, Health and Wellbeing, importance of education, drugs and alcohol and domestic violence. The programme content was guided by the women, enabling the women to take ownership, speak open and honestly and feel that their voices were being heard.

Traveller women participating came from:

- Navan, County Meath
- Dundalk, Co Louth
- Craigavon, Co Armagh
- Newry, Co Down



and delivered in partnership with:

- * Meath Travellers Workshop
- * Craigavon Traveller Support Committee, and
- * Southern Health & Social Care Trust



The first guest speaker spoke to the group about health issues that affect Travellers, including the high rate of suicide, health care and the importance of taking care of their health and wellbeing.

The second guest speaker spoke about Traveller history, culture and language, the history of Travellers and Traveller timeline. The session was very popular as the women were enthralled to learn more about Traveller history and their connection in the history of Ireland.

I really enjoyed meeting the other women and sharing our life stories many which were very similar.

It was a wonderful opportunity and experience to come together as Traveller women to talk about our everyday lives and that of our family.

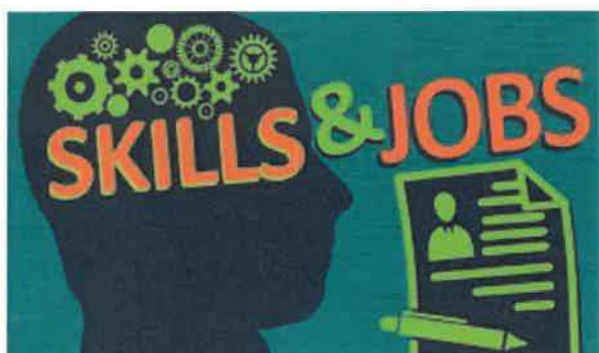
TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

3. Employment and Skills continued

Community Health Trainer Programme

Christina McDonagh from Dungannon completed the Health Trainer qualification in June 2018 and receives ongoing support and mentoring from the Health Training Coordinator. Christina will be undertaking additional 'wraparound' training and will participate in the delivery of the CoH-Sync Project Health & Wellbeing Questionnaire.

Christina has previously spoken at the Trust Bereavement Forum. Feedback from this was very positive and attendees expressed their thanks to Christina for the valuable input and opportunity to hear the Traveller voice and gain an understanding of Traveller culture in relation to bereavement and visiting family at hospital.



The Department of Employment and Learning continue to receive the minutes of our meetings and will attend meetings on request.

Although they do not provide specific programmes for Travellers, information on all their programmes is available at:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/> or/and <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/>

Please note:- the functions and services previously delivered by the 'Department of Employment and Learning' have been transferred to the 'Department for Communities' and 'Department for the Economy.'



4. Reducing Stigma

Traveller Living History Exhibitions



Two very successful Traveller Living History Exhibitions showcased in Craigavon and Newry provided by Meath Traveller Workshop. The exhibitions included a fully restored Barrel Top Wagon, traditional tent, working tin smith, story telling Traveller and a camp fire.

There was great attendance in Newry from both community and local schools

30+ Travellers and over 150 from local community attended the event in Craigavon.



TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

4. Reducing Stigma

Traveller Cultural Awareness

The Traveller Cultural Awareness Workshop (TCAW) 'Understanding and Respecting Difference' has been designed to increase awareness of the issues faced by Travellers on a day-to-day basis. There are 3 styles of workshop; 20 minute session suitable for team meetings; 1hr 30 mins offering more in-depth programme and 2 hr to include equality and human rights issues. The latter two programmes are designed to be engaging and interactive, where the facilitators encourage discussion and aim to challenge commonly held stereotypes, discriminatory beliefs and prejudicial attitudes.



During 2017/18 5 Cultural Awareness training sessions were delivered to: Health Visiting Teams, Family Intervention Teams and School Nurses.

For further information, or to book a workshop, please contact: your local Traveller Support Group (contact details on page 15) or geraldine.donnely@southerntrust.hscni.net

Discovering Diversity E learning

To ensure cultural awareness and understanding, improved access to Trust services and reduced experience of discrimination by Travellers accessing services the Trust continues to provide Diversity E learning modules for Trust staff. From April 16 to March 17, **86 staff** undertook the **Discovering Diversity E-learning programme**. Of these staff **56 staff** completed all six modules and **57 completed** the **cultural diversity module**.

The original Discovering Diversity programme was designed to ensure that HSC staff are equipped to deal with difference in a positive way. The first 4 modules take the learner through a journey that explores how to approach difference and conflict in an effective and fair way. The 5th module focuses on disability issues and the 6th module on cultural diversity.

Note: please use the same access each time you log in to this programme.

The programme can be accessed as follows:-

Within the Trust: <http://diversity.hscni.net>

Outside the Trust: <http://www.diversity.hscni.net>

Registration & Completion

To access the programme click on link above, which will take you to the login page. If it is your first visit you will need to follow a simple registration process, which will only take a few minutes - click on orange button 'Click here to register.' Then input a few details and create a password. You will be issued with a username which you will use, along with your password, to login.



TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

5. Traveller Friendly HSC Services

Enhanced Care of Travellers



The Directorate of Integrated Care (DoIC) in the South Office of the Health and Social Care Board currently provides a service called 'Enhanced Care of Travellers' (LES).

Enhanced services (ES) require an enhanced level of provision above what is required under core General Medical Services (GMS) contracts and in regard to Travellers, this is to accommodate the health and social care needs of nomadic Travellers.

During 2015/16 the DoIC carried out a review of the South LES - Enhanced Care of Travellers. Questionnaires were distributed to all GP practices to gauge the extent of the Traveller Community currently residing within the catchment area in terms of overall need for GMS services.

On an annual basis, GP Practices signed up to the South LES are asked to complete a return providing the following information:-

- ♦ Number of Travellers registered at 31st March
- ♦ Additional mechanisms the practice has in place to enable Travellers to access services
- ♦ Other HSC services used by Travellers
- ♦ Any Feedback Travellers may have provided to the Practice

In 2017/18 practices in the Southern area have 192 patients from the Traveller community registered.

GP Practices provide a very flexible services to this patient group. They offer on the day appointments to unregistered Travellers, these patients often require acute medication or have an acute medical problem. They also provide vaccinations to unregistered Traveller children. Immunisations uptake rates are continuously improving.

GP Practices try to encourage a fit and healthy lifestyle and would refer to the Fit & Well Programme or smoking cessation for help.

Health Visitors often liaise with the practices if they have any concerns.

For further information, please contact:-

Jeanette Donnelly, Assistance Business Support Manager, Directorate of Integrated Care - Southern Office
Telephone 028 9563 3204 **Email:** jeanette.donnelly@hscni.net



TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

6. Targeted programmes

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention



AWARE 'Feel Good Project' training programmes funded by PHA



Traveller Support Workers and the Health Training Coordinator continue to work with AWARE in facilitating participation at Traveller specific mental health education programmes. In addition to the Mood Matters and Living Life to the Full programme, which use Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) concepts—the most evidenced based talking therapy for people affected by low mood, anxiety or depression.

In addition, Traveller Support Workers and Health Training Coordinator worked closely with AWARE to develop and pilot tailored training, exploring ways for Travellers to build the Five Steps to Wellbeing into their lives. Evidence suggests that the Five Ways (CONNECT, GIVE, LEARN, KEEP ACTIVE, TAKE NOTICE) can help us to feel happier, more positive and able to get the most from life.

Craigavon Traveller Support Committee (CTSC)

- ◆ The inaugural Feel Good programme was delivered to Craigavon Women's Group with 7 women participating. Feedback was encouraging, with the group enjoying the interactive and informal format. Eamon, Volunteer Now, supported the GIVE theme, bringing mobile volunteering activities to the session.
- ◆ Mood Matters for Adults was delivered to the women on International Women's Day as a way to celebrate and promote self-care.
- ◆ The Young Women's Group also enjoyed delivery of the Feel Good Programme. 10 young women engaged in the programme.



Armagh Traveller Support Group (ATSG)

The Feel Good Programme was delivered to Armagh Women's group, average attendance was 5 per week. The women enjoyed the physical activity sessions at LA Fitness Gym and ended their programme with Afternoon Tea in Armagh City Hotel.

Ongoing work is taking place with Keady Traveller women and AWARE have committed to return and facilitate the Feel Good programme.

An Tearmann

The Feel Good Programme was delivered to Coalisland Young Women's group focusing on the GIVE and LEARN themes, particularly, as the young women learned how to knit baby hats for the neonatal unit.



TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

6. Targeted programmes continued

Home Accident Prevention

Throughout the year a range of information and resources have been provided to the Traveller Support groups and others who work with Travellers including:-

For further information please contact: Lisa McAliskey, Project Coordinator

Telephone: 028 3756 3952 (Direct line)

Email: lisa.mcaliskey@southerntrust.hscni.net

TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Research

The Trust continues to roll out its **new Community Information System** and encourage staff to record ethnicity.



8. Collaboration and Joint Working



The Public Health Agency (PHA) and Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) convened a Regional Traveller Health and Wellbeing Forum in October 2010. The Forum which included Health and Social Care Trusts, Education Authority, Health and Social Care Board, Traveller Support Groups, voluntary sector organisations and the PHA, is

committed to progress action based on the findings and recommendations of the All Ireland Traveller Health Study (AITHS), particularly those relating to health and wellbeing. This is achieved through the development of a yearly action plan with the Forum meeting four times a year to report on progress and agree new priorities. Most recently the Forum has been progressing an Outcome Based Accountability approach to planning.



In addition to the Forum, the PHA commission services from the Southern, Western and Belfast Trusts to deliver a range of programmes to address the needs of Travellers.

Services include:

- community development, family support, health programmes, training and education,
- signposting to services such as smoking cessation, cancer screening, drug and alcohol services,
- support to engage in local services e.g. Healthy Living Centres
- cultural awareness training, and
- support to engage in conflict resolution within families and communities

A particular emphasis has also been given to emotional health and wellbeing and PHA commission Aware to deliver a regional Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing programmes with Travellers

The Forum also works with other agencies and seeks to influence a more coordinated approach to meeting need alongside informing mainstream services so that access is improved.

If you would like to find out more about the Traveller Health and Wellbeing Forum

Contact: Lucille Lennon Lucille.lennon@hscni.net **Telephone:** 028 9536 3542

TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

Future Plans

The Traveller Action Group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

A new action plan is currently being developed for 2018/19 in line with the regional Traveller Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.



The Traveller Action Group Action Plan will focus on the following areas:

- 1) **Collaboration and Joint Working**
- 2) **Early Years Support and Educational Attainment**
- 3) **Employment & Skills**
- 4) **Traveller Friendly Services & Reducing Stigma**
- 5) **Targeted Programmes**
- 6) **Monitoring, Evaluation and Research**

We will continue to seek to:



- ♦ **Expand membership**
- ♦ **Promote awareness about Traveller culture**
- ♦ **Provide up-dates to ensure Traveller Support Workers and Travellers are aware of Trust and other services, referral pathways and the range of programmes to improve the health and social well-being of Travellers**
- ♦ **Develop mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the uptake of services by Travellers**
- ♦ **Involve Travellers in planning, evaluation and development of improved services**
- ♦ **Support Traveller development**
- ♦ **Embed and further develop the Health Champion and Health Trainer programme**
- ♦ **Promote the creation of employment and volunteer opportunities for Travellers within the Trust and partner organisations**

We are currently participating in the **Regional Traveller Health and Wellbeing Forum workshops on Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) and Turning the Curve** to establish a baseline review work undertaken to date to support Travellers and agree new priorities based on workshops. Further workshops are being organised to examine data developments/gaps and discuss next steps in action plan process.

TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

Traveller Support Contact details



An Tearmann Traveller Support Group

Community Support Centre
64 Main Street
Coalisland
Co. Tyrone
BT71 4NB

*Offices open to individual Traveller
enquiries for both drop-in and appointments
from Monday to Friday 9.00 -5.00pm.*



Telephone: 028 8774 1961

Community Worker: Una Loughran

Armagh Traveller Support Group

Ward 1, St Luke's Hospital
71 Loughgall Road
Armagh
BT61 7NQ

*Offices are open Monday to Thursday.
Appointments are available
Monday - Thursday from 10.00 -1pm*



Telephone: 028 3756 4560

Project Manager: Fidelma McCoy
Admin Support: Jacqueline Reynolds

Craigavon Traveller Support Committee

Moylinn House
21 Legahory Centre
Craigavon
Co. Armagh
BT65 5BE

*Offices are open
Monday to Thursday 9:15 to 5.00pm
Fridays 9:15 - 2.00pm*




Telephone: 028 3834 2809

Project Manager: Lisa Hogg
Project Administrator: Roisin Brady

Stella McLoughlin

Traveller Family Support Worker for Newry and Mourne
Promoting Wellbeing Team
John Mitchel Place
Newry
BT34 2BU

 Southern Health
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Quality Care - for you, with you

Telephone: 028 3083 4272

Email: stella.mcloughlin@southerntrust.hscni.net

TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP

**Southern Health
and Social Care Trust**

Quality Care - for you, with you

**If you are interested in becoming part of the
Trust's Traveller Action Group, please speak to
your local Traveller Support Worker or contact:**

CAROLYN AGNEW
**Head of User Involvement and
Community Development**

**028 3756 4469
079 2087 5649**

Email: Carolyn.agnew@southerntrust.hscni.net

**Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Promoting Wellbeing Team
Ward 1, St Luke's Hospital
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