

Gypsy and Traveller Strategy 2009-2011



A Partnership Document for Suffolk



Primary Care Trust Primary Care Trust



Gypsy and Traveller Strategy for **Suffolk:** **A Partnership Document**

September 2009- 2011

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1. Executive Summary

Gypsies and Travellers have been part of the UK community since the 16th Century. Throughout history Gypsy and Travelling communities in the UK have been marginalised and expected to live on the periphery of society, without access to mainstream services and always with a shortage of places to stay.

A number of changes in government legislation have necessitated a revision to policies concerning Gypsy and Travellers. This included changes to the Race Relations Act 1976 which not only requires public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment but also to promote good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds. The Housing Act 2004, includes changes which introduced the statutory duty to undertake Accommodation Needs Assessments, as well as changes to the definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers'. Regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTAAAs) were completed by all districts in the Eastern Region, as part of a single-issue review for the Regional Spatial Strategy. These highlighted a number of gaps in current accommodation and service provision, The Secretary of State through the Regional Spatial Strategy has proposed 156 further pitches are required in Suffolk by 2011 to meet the required accommodation need. This has already begun to be addressed by partner agencies in Suffolk

The 2007- 2009 Gypsy and Traveller Strategy embarked on a cohesive approach to issues that affected Gypsies and Travellers in Suffolk, and set out how key issues and priorities would be addressed during the 2 year period. The strategy ensured a coordinated approach for all public authorities and delivered on the key areas that were highlighted in the action plan.

The 2009-2011 Gypsy and Traveller Strategy will continue to support Gypsies and Travellers by providing a framework for:

- Improving community cohesion by promoting good relations between Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community
- Increasing awareness and understanding of Gypsy and Traveller needs, culture and lifestyle
- Managing unauthorised encampments in Suffolk and helping to ensure that accommodation needs and other welfare issues are addressed
- Further generating knowledge and understanding of hate crime and encourage Gypsy and Traveller communities to report it.
- Working to reduce and eliminate harassment and discrimination towards the Gypsy and Traveller community
- Improving fire safety and personal welfare for Gypsies and Travellers in Suffolk
- Improving access to learning for pre-school, young people and adults on Gypsy and Traveller sites
- Improving health and health education amongst Gypsies and Travellers

The strategy shows how agencies and authorities can work cohesively in order to address the key issues pertaining to Gypsy and Travellers. It has been influenced by, and complements, the two local sub-regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (the Suffolk Cross-Boundary and Cambridgeshire Sub-Region studies, the latter of which included the St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath districts of Suffolk) as well as the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the Suffolk Traveller's Health Needs Assessment 2009. It has also been guided by the Commission for Racial Equality's document, 'Common Ground', and supports national, regional and local legislation and policy.

The Suffolk Protocol for Managing Unauthorised Encampments continues to reflect the aims of this document. It aims to provide guidelines for partner agencies in terms of both welfare and enforcement issues arising from unauthorised encampments (which are usually carried out by Gypsies or Travellers). It is described in more detail in point 6.3. This document is due for revision and will incorporate more relevance to the Human Rights Act.

The Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group action plan (see section 7) identifies priority areas of need for Gypsies and Travellers in Suffolk, which partners from district and borough councils are committed to achieving over the next two years. The action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Gypsy and Traveller County-Wide Steering Group. The priority areas will remain divided into the same five themes as in the previous action plan. These are: **accommodation; promoting community cohesion; community safety; children and young people; and health & wellbeing.**

Accommodation

Partner agencies are committed to meeting the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities by consulting with Gypsies and Travellers themselves, as well as other stakeholders. The Protocol for Managing Unauthorised Encampments will continue to ensure that the rights of both the settled and travelling communities are met.

In line with the RSS (as described above), the aim is to ensure that pitch allocations are made available, and that transit sites are identified, during 2009-2011, with a 3% increase for each district from 2011 onwards.

A floating support service is being provided with the aims of the service;

- To enable Gypsies and Travellers to achieve positive outcomes in respect of their accommodation and wider support needs
- To support all Gypsy and Traveller communities, taking into account and contributing to, the positive resolution of pressures and tensions around their accommodation needs
- Contribute to the development and maintenance of cohesive and inclusive communities

Promoting Community Cohesion

The strategy aims to carry on improving relations between Gypsies, Travellers and the settled community, by increasing shared knowledge and awareness and by providing mechanisms to ensure both groups have their rights protected. In order to promote good relations between statutory bodies and the Gypsy and Traveller communities, it is our duty to identify and eliminate potentially discriminative practices within the county, district and borough councils.

An accessible medium is required to inform Gypsies, Travellers and the settled community about events and issues happening in Suffolk pertaining to the Travelling community

The action plan reflects this.

Community Safety

Gypsies and Travellers, like all members of the community, have the right to live their lives in safety. Improving personal safety and well being on Gypsy and Traveller sites is a priority. The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is committed to raising the awareness of fire hazards on all the Gypsy and Traveller sites in Suffolk.

Suffolk County Council Community Safety Unit has developed safety messages regarding drug and alcohol issues in accessible formats, and is looking to consult with the community to understand their perception of need, awareness and access to services.

Gypsies and Travellers will be given the opportunity to attend on site workshops to improve personal safety and wellbeing.

Work will be undertaken to further generate knowledge and understanding of hate crime reporting centres.

Children and Young People

The strategy aims to build on the work of the Traveller Education Support Service and other children and young people's services to improve access to learning for children and young people from a Gypsy Traveller background. This includes linking early year's settings to key Gypsy and Traveller sites and promoting parental engagement with schools to encourage greater learning amongst Gypsy and Traveller children

Health and Well-being

The ultimate aim of NHS Suffolk is to improve the health of all people in Suffolk. This includes Gypsies and Travellers, who may not be accessing health services such as vaccination and immunisation, screening, chronic disease treatment and health promotion and preventative health initiatives. Over the next two years we are looking to establish a specialist outreach health worker to build trust and links as well as sign post and advocate health initiatives with known Gypsies and Travellers in Suffolk, what ever their accommodation choice.

2. Context

2.1 The National Context

There are a number of relevant acts and pieces of legislation that apply to Gypsies and Travellers that aim to ensure that their needs are taken into consideration in service provision. These are listed in more detail in section 5. For example, the Race Relations Act of 1976 makes it an offence to discriminate against somebody because of their race, colour, culture, nationality, citizenship, and ethnic or national background. Furthermore, the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 also places a general duty on public authorities to promote good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds.

Recent changes in government legislation include changes to the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, section 318 which once brought into force, provides the rights and obligations contained in the mobile homes act 1983, and will be applied to local authority sites. This act already applies to privately run sites, such as the Romany Way site in Kessingland site.

2.2 The Local Context

In 2008 there were approximately 530-630 Gypsies and Travellers on sites in Suffolk¹. This figure does not include those living in settled accommodation. In the 2007-2008 there were 517 recorded children and young people identified as being from a Gypsy or Traveller background living in or passing through Suffolk.

Gypsies and Travellers in Suffolk live in a cross-section of accommodation. There are those who are settled in permanent housing or authorised and unauthorised encampments and developments. There are also transient family groups who enter the county and reside temporarily. Since there are no authorised temporary stopping places or transit sites in Suffolk at present, these are always unauthorised sites. When such settlements happen, the Suffolk Protocol for the Management of Unauthorised Encampments is exercised.

There are several publicly and privately managed sites in Suffolk. On these sites the residents are tenants, and pay for their pitch, council tax, electricity and water. Across the county there are also a number of authorised private sites.

¹ Based on the average of 2.9 people per pitch (supplied by the Salford Housing and Urban Studies Unit). Due to the transitory nature of some parts of this community, demographic figures will change throughout the year, and from year to year.

3. Who Are Gypsies and Travellers?

3.1 Definition of Gypsies and Travellers

Gypsies and Travellers, including those of Irish heritage, are recognised ethnic groups under the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000, and, as such, are identified as having shared beliefs, language and culture. Case law established Gypsies as a recognised ethnic group in 1988 and Irish Travellers in England and Wales in 2000.

In January 2007, the Department of Communities and Local Government issued a new definition of Gypsies and Travellers for local authorities to take into account when carrying out their accommodation assessments, in accordance with duties imposed by section 225 of the Housing Act 2004.

Gypsies and Travellers are now defined as:

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 dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and all other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism and/or caravan dwelling.

For the purposes of Planning Circular 01/06, the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister issued their definition of Gypsies and Travellers as:

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 dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of Travelling Show people or circus people travelling together as such.

This is because different legislation applies to show-people, who rarely camp illegally, and who are not an ethnic group.

3.2 Gypsy and Traveller Community Information

a) Ethnically Recognised Groups

The following are groups who are currently recognised as a distinct ethnic group in UK law.

English Gypsies/ Romanichals

The word 'Gypsy' is believed to have come from the word 'Egyptian', because people thought this is where Gypsies had originally come from. This was probably because of their dark complexion, colourful clothing and the fact that many of the groups arrived into Europe from the Middle East. However, it is more likely that Gypsies came from India, since the Romany language used by Roma Gypsies throughout Europe has linguistic links to Sanskrit, which is

the root of many Indian languages. Within the English Gypsy community there is a very strong sense of culture, tradition and religion, along with strong family ties.

Travellers of Irish Heritage

Irish Travellers are a minority native Irish group set apart from the settled community by their nomadic lifestyle, culture and language. In the past they were known as 'Tinkers' because a large number of them were tinsmiths. Irish Travellers have their own language, known as Gammon or Shelta that is thought to date back possibly as far as the 13th century. It is thought that events in Irish history like the potato famine forced families to again take to a nomadic way of life.

European Roma

Many European Roma Gypsies share a similar history, culture and identity to those from Britain.

b) Groups Currently Not Recognised Ethnically

The following are groups who are currently not recognised as a distinct ethnic group in UK law. Some are arguably ethnic groups, and may receive legal recognition as such in due course. Others are groups who are categorised by occupation or life-style choice, without having a common ethnic background. In either case, they may share similar needs (particularly with regards to accommodation need) to those ethnically recognised groups.

Scottish Gypsies/ Travellers

Scottish Travellers are a traditionally nomadic minority community in Scotland who have a great deal in common with Irish Travellers and English Gypsies. They too have a distinct identity and a way of life, preserving age-old cultural beliefs, including their own language, called Cant. They are renowned for their skill at storytelling and singing ballads.

Welsh Gypsies

Gypsies have been nomadic in Wales for many years, as shown by court records and Welsh literature. Welsh Gypsies were first recorded in 1579. It is thought many Welsh Gypsies came from Spain via France and landed in Cornwall, subsequently making their way to Wales.

Showpeople

Fairs have been held for hundreds of years, and traditionally bring together the elements of trade and festival. In the middle ages Royal Charters gave the fairs legal status, enabling them to develop their economic importance. People who work on fairs today are called showpeople. Much of the work is seasonal, and many showpeople own grounds to pull onto during the winter months. All owners of the fairs must belong to the Showmen's Guild. The

rules of the Guild cover safety, environmental health and facilities for showpeople.

Circus

Circus people also have seasoned patterns of travelling and tend to spend winter months on their own ground. Circuses travel all round Europe, and often have many nationalities in their troupe.

New Travellers

'New Travellers' started to take to the road approximately 30 years ago. Most New Travellers are from the settled community, although some children may have been born New Travellers. There are different reasons why people choose this lifestyle, including: feeling alienated from the modern, materialistic society; leaving care or being homeless and/ or unemployed; or for environmental reasons.

Bargee Travellers

Bargee Travellers traditionally lived and worked on barges on the canal systems throughout the UK. This is the smallest of the Travelling communities in the UK. There is also a small population of families that live on sea-going coastal boats that travel between the small harbours and ports of the south coast during the summer months.

4. The Population of Gypsies and Travellers

4.1 *The National Population*

There is no comprehensive source of information about the number of Gypsies and Travellers in England. However, it is estimated that there are between 200,000 and 300,000 Gypsy and Travellers living in the UK.

Before 2001, censuses did not include Gypsies and Travellers as a separate ethnic group. The Gypsy caravan count is the only recognised source of information about Gypsies and Travellers that gives any idea of the numbers and distribution of the Travelling communities. The count is based on two returns: the countywide count of caravans, and the provision of local authority Gypsy sites. The counts are held biannually, in January and July, and so only give a guide to the number of caravans in a particular area at a certain time. The count is done twice in order to give an idea of winter and summer trends in the locality. No reliable figures exist for the number of Gypsies and Travellers who live in conventional housing. The latest DCLG figures from the January 2009 count would suggest that there are over 17865 Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England. Of these 79% (14185) are on authorised sites. Of these, 6785 are on local authority sites and 7400 are on private sites. 13% (2154) were on unauthorised developments (where Gypsies and Travellers own the land but do not have planning permission) and 7% (1315) were on unauthorised encampments (where the land is not owned by the Travellers, and has not been designated as an authorised site). These figures appear fairly consistent with the January 2006 count.

4.2 *The Local Population*

It is difficult to estimate the exact numbers of Gypsies and Travellers in Suffolk, as many are now settled in housing and the Ipswich site has an average turnover of ??? pitches a year, continually altering any count that may have been done. Since June 2008 to June 2009, there have been 39 recorded unauthorised encampments.

In terms of estimated caravan pitches on authorised sites (taken from the January 2009 Caravan count), there were 204 recorded authorised pitches. (1 pitch equates to space for 1.7 caravans).

According to a research report recently completed for Suffolk by the Salford Housing and Urban Studies Unit, there is an average of 2.9 people per pitch, which means there were approximately 592 Gypsies and Travellers on authorised sites in Suffolk. This does not include those living in settled accommodation or those on unauthorised sites.

5. Relevant National Legislation and Guidance

This strategy, which has been developed for Gypsies and Travellers in Suffolk, is supported by legislation and policy at national, regional and local level. The following is a list of some of the relevant policies and laws:

- **The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994** withdrew the duty on local authorities to provide caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers. This led to an increased number of unsuccessful retrospective planning applications from Gypsies and Travellers. A reassessment of this issue has led to further guidance and, whilst not reinstating the duty, there is now a requirement that local authorities include an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers when reviewing housing needs, as described below.
- **Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTAAs)** are a specific requirement under Section 225 of the Housing Act 2004. GTAAs have recently been completed for two Suffolk areas. One was commissioned by five of Suffolk's district/ borough councils: Babergh, Ipswich, Mid Suffolk, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney. Salford Housing and Urban Studies Unit completed this in early 2007. The other two district councils, St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath, are in another housing sub-region, and so worked with Cambridgeshire in delivering a separate sub-region report based on the findings in their area. Although Suffolk County Council does not have a specific housing function or statutory duty to undertake accommodation needs assessments, its Social Inclusion and Diversity team has been involved in offering advice, guidance and support to other local authorities on this issue.
- **The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)** for the East of England has been produced by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA). Since the preparation of the draft RSS, the DCLG Circular 01/2006 (qv) stated that the RSS revision must highlight the number of pitches required in each planning authority, but not their location. In March 2009 The Secretary of State through the Regional Spatial Strategy proposed 156 further pitches are required in Suffolk by 2011 to meet the required accommodation need., which has already begun to be addressed by partner agencies in Suffolk.
- **The Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant** – up to £27 million has been made available in the eastern region from 2007-2010 to improve existing Traveller sites, or build new ones. The three-year grant aims to address the current shortfall in provision and tackle the issues around unauthorised encampments. Applications for funding are subject to independent assessment of value for money and sustainability. The impact of the GTAAs in the region will result in many authorities applying for the grant to ensure they meet the demands recognised in their area. In Suffolk a number of local authorities have bid for and been successful in bidding for the grant.

- **The Department of Communities and Local Government Circular 01/06**, which produced guidance for local authorities on planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites. This replaced circular 1/94, as evidence showed a continued failure in providing adequate sites for Gypsies and Travellers in many areas of England. In paragraph 12, it is shown that Circular 1/06 is intended to:
 1. Create and support sustainable, respectful and inclusive communities, where Gypsies and Travellers have fair access to suitable accommodation, education, health and welfare provision;
 2. Reduce the number of unauthorised encampments and developments;
 3. Recognise, protect and facilitate the traditional travelling way of life of Gypsies and Travellers, whilst respecting the interests of the settled community.

Paragraph 21 of the Planning Policy, Statement 3, states that:

Local Planning Authorities should plan for a mix of housing on the basis of the different types of households that are likely to require housing over the plan period. This will include having particular regard to:

1. *Current and future demographic trends and profiles;*
2. *The accommodation requirements of specific groups, in particular families with children, older and disabled people;*
3. *The diverse range of requirements across the area, **including the need to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers.***

- **The Human Rights Act** incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights into English law. The relevant articles, protocols and clauses of the act with regards to Gypsies and Travellers are as follows:

Article 6 – Everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law.

Article 8 – Everyone has the right to respect for private and family life, his home and correspondence.

Article 11 – Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others.

Article 14 – The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground, such as sex, race, colour, language or religion.

When considering evicting Gypsies and Travellers from unauthorised sites, the act requires authorities to regard whether the action is necessary and proportionate in the circumstances.

- **The Race Relations Act** makes it unlawful for employers and service providers to discriminate against any groups on the grounds of race, colour, culture, nationality, citizenship, and ethnic or national background. Furthermore, the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 also places a general duty on public authorities to promote good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds. Currently, Roma Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as ethnic groups, against whom discrimination is unlawful.

6. Existing Provision and Services for Gypsies and Travellers

6.1 Specialist Service Providers

The settled community can often take mainstream service provision for granted, whereas the Gypsy and Traveller community can often have difficulties in accessing services, like healthcare and education. However, there are service providers that can offer specialist services to the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Suffolk. These service providers aim to work in partnership at all times, often through the medium of the Gypsy Traveller Support Group for Suffolk.

Adult and Community Services (ACS), Suffolk County Council

Adult Community Services have a duty to promote well-being amongst all of the population, including Gypsies and Travellers. The service commissions and provides a range of services relevant for Gypsies and Travellers. These include: welfare rights advice, disability services, social care, and access to libraries across Suffolk.

Children and Young People's Services (CYP), Suffolk County Council

CYP has a specialist Traveller Education Support Service, which works to ensure equality in education for Gypsy and Traveller children and young people. For a variety of reasons it is not always possible for Gypsy and Traveller children to attend mainstream education, or to attend for a sustained period of time. This service aims to improve Gypsy and Traveller attainment by encouraging school attendance.

CYP is also responsible for ensuring the safeguarding of children from all communities, under the Children's Act.

District and Borough Councils

District and borough councils have a dual role of enforcement and welfare. Where unauthorised encampments occur on district or borough-owned land, the relevant local council will be responsible for making the ultimate decision about whether the encampment will be tolerated or evicted, as well as to ensure the welfare needs of the Gypsies and Travellers are met. They will also be responsible for any clearance of land that is necessary after the encampment moves on. District and borough councils also provide services to Gypsies and Travellers, as to the wider community, for example, housing and planning advice and leisure services.

Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE)

ISCRE has two main aims:

- 1) To work towards the elimination of racial discrimination; and
- 2) To promote equality of opportunity, and good relations, between persons of different racial groups in the county.

ISCRE would seek to: support Gypsies and Travellers in accessing services; support Gypsies and Travellers when they are suffering from racial discrimination; promote positive images of Gypsies and Travellers to the media and the wider community; and provide advice to employers and public authorities on their duties under the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000.

Social Inclusion and Diversity, Suffolk County Council

The Social Inclusion and Diversity team at Suffolk County Council aim to ensure that all groups are valued and included in planning policy and service provision in Suffolk, regardless of factors like race, age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion or class.

The team includes a Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer whose remit is to support and uphold the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community, and to provide guidance to other organisations on how they can meet their statutory duties.

The Hate Crime Partnership is a part of this team. It aims to ensure that sufferers of hate crime are aware of the support that is available and that they can access it. It ensures that all incidents of hate crime are properly and sensitively investigated.

Suffolk Constabulary

Suffolk Constabulary aims to support all communities, especially individuals who have been victims of crime. It has a specialist Diversity Unit to support different communities, and ensure that the constabulary's policies reflect their needs. It works to protect and support victims of racial harassment.

The police in Suffolk work closely with local authorities, and support the approach of involving partnership discussion, and dialogue with Gypsy and Traveller groups, to achieve a negotiated solution to unauthorised encampments, where possible.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue

Fire prevention and fire safety is vitally important for Gypsies and Travellers. On Traveller sites, open campfires and gas canisters often exist within close proximity of living accommodation. The Fire and Rescue Service will be providing fire safety advice, as well as other practical support concerning safety on encampments, to Gypsies and Travellers across Suffolk over the coming months. This will further support the work undertaken to date in providing smoke detectors and home fire safety checks. The risk to Gypsies and Travellers was highlighted in a tragic incident where lives were lost in a fire a few years ago. Provision of fire safety DVDs have been provided by the Fire and Rescue Service and follow up work to ensure smoke detectors are provided and continue to remain effective.

'Hard to Reach' groups are being targeted through our Integrated Risk Management Plan.

Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource (SIFRE)

SIFRE aims to advance public knowledge and understanding of the teachings, beliefs, traditions and practices of the different religions and philosophies of communities in Britain and in particular, communities in Suffolk and East Anglia. It can help people to make links to their faith communities, which are something that can be particularly difficult for transient groups, like Gypsies and Travellers. Traditional Gypsies are often Christian. The Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group aims to work with SIFRE to strengthen their knowledge of faith issues relating to the Gypsy Traveller community.

NHS Suffolk

The ultimate aim of the NHS Suffolk is to improve the health of all people in Suffolk. This is a 'universal offer' all people have the right to access health services. This of course includes Gypsies and Travellers, who may not be accessing health services such as vaccination and immunisation, screening, chronic disease treatment and health promotion and preventative health initiatives. Suffolk and Waveney & Great Yarmouth PCTs representatives work with all district and borough councils, as well as Suffolk County Councils Traveller Liaison Officer, to identify the health needs of Gypsies and Travellers.

Supporting People

Gypsies and Travellers may need help to get services, to fill in benefit forms and to manage their money. Those who choose to move into housing often need support. Supporting People is working with local authorities in Suffolk to develop a regional strategy for Gypsies and Travellers and in respect of housing support services.

Supporting People funds two sites in Suffolk where Gypsies and Travellers can access housing related support services. However, there are several other sites, authorised and unauthorised, where people do not have access to housing related support services, and so Supporting People is aiming to work with local authorities to decide the best way of supporting Gypsies and Travellers on these sites.

One Voice

A voice of women, children and young people from the Gypsy and Traveller communities in East Anglia working to reduce violence to and from our communities.

One Voice promote the good health and advance the education of Gypsies and Traveller women, children and young people and through them, the men, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress caused by or associated with violence.

One Voice promote equality of opportunity and good relations between Gypsies, Traveller women, children and young people and through them the men and the settled communities. One Voice promotes sustainable integration between all communities and recognition of all views and values.

6.2 Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group

The aim of the Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group is to proactively seek ways to address the recommendations made by national legislation and guidance (e.g., that provided by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Commission for Racial Equality's 'Common Ground' report). The group works in partnership to provide a corporate approach to improving community cohesion around Gypsy and Traveller issues in Suffolk by representing the interests of both the travelling and non-travelling communities. All of the organisations listed above have representatives on the steering group. The group regularly reviews its membership. The involvement of Gypsies and Travellers on the steering group is vital to understand their needs.

6.3 Protocol for Managing Unauthorised Encampments

The county, districts and boroughs along with other statutory agencies continue to implement the protocol for unauthorised encampments. The protocol is due for revision and will be updated during 2009, encompassing further guidance from the Human Rights Act.

While there must be a wide-ranging and strategic approach to service and site provision for Gypsy and Traveller groups, the protocol is solely concerned with the management of unauthorised encampments.

The aims of the protocol are to:

1. Address the need for an effective, multi-agency approach to the management of unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments, whilst ensuring that the rights of Gypsies and Travellers are met.
2. To clarify and agree working arrangements around unauthorised encampments amongst the county, district and borough councils, the police and health sector.

The protocol has proved to benefit both the settled and travelling communities, in providing clear guidelines that enabling the settled community to use land for its intended purposes, ensuring that the needs of the travelling community are met, and that they have proper access to services. Additionally, as pitch provision is identified and developed, there will be an increase in the provision of legal sites, which will reduce community tensions over unauthorised sites.

A protocol steering group will revise the document, with membership including Suffolk Constabulary, the district, borough and county councils of Suffolk, NHS Suffolk, Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality

7. Strategic Priorities and Actions for 2009-11

7.1 Identifying Need: Our Priorities for 2009-11

The Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group action plan identifies priority areas of need for Gypsies and Travellers in Suffolk. The future actions were identified through the Suffolk conference, 'Travelling Forward on the Path of Success' held in November 2008, attended by Gypsies, Travellers and statutory and non-statutory partners. The action plan continues to incorporate the findings and recommendations from national research, such as the 'Common Ground' report produced by the Commission for Racial Equality, and also more local research arising from two local Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments.

More recently research was carried out to ascertain Travellers' Health Needs in Suffolk. This assessment was documented, guidance given and incorporated into the action plan.

The priority areas continue to be divided into five themes in the action plan. These are:

- **accommodation;**
- **promoting community cohesion;**
- **community safety;**
- **children and young people;**
- **health & wellbeing.**

The action plan aims to cover all aspects of priority need, and the aspirations of Gypsies and Travellers living in Suffolk. It consists of over 25 actions, which partner agencies have agreed to work towards during 2009-11

7.2 Delivery and Monitoring of Strategy

The action plan will be delivered by a wide range of partners, and covers a wide range of targets. For instance, there are aims to: establish a specialist health worker in an outreach programme, establish floating support workers to address accommodation issues, to improve parent's knowledge and understanding of the education system and to continue to reach the required targets for site provision by 2011. The targets are specific and measurable, and will be subject to monitoring by the county-wide Gypsy Traveller Steering Group. Since the action plan covers a 2-year period, it will be subject to review as an ongoing basis.

7.3 Mitigating against risks

The action plan will be reviewed regularly in order to mitigate against any risks of not achieving the targets within the plan. This will be undertaken in consultation with lead agencies.

7.4. Action Plan

Gypsy and Traveller Countywide Action Plan 2009-2011: **Developing and delivering on priority areas for Gypsies and Travellers in Suffolk**

THEME 1: ACCOMMODATION						
	Aim	Action	Time scale	Lead Agency	Performance measure	Relationship to other strategies
1	Identification of potential site areas	Joint visits to possible locations in policy areas and agree shortlist	Summer 2010	All districts and Boroughs	Sites identified to reach RSS pitch targets by 2011	Regional Spatial Strategy
		Share joint communications strategy (see Theme 2 Action 3.1)	December 2009	All district, borough, county and police communications officers	A generic communications plan developed to advise the settled community of Gypsy and Traveller requirements	Suffolk Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers District level housing strategies
		Establish cross border district links to identify areas of land suitable for shared ventures	December 2009	All districts and Boroughs		
		Engage with the Gypsy and Traveller community to identify extended families that have land or wish to live on a small site and under what terms, ie own/part ownership/rent	ongoing	All districts and Boroughs, supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer All the above supported by the main Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group And involvement from the Gypsy and Traveller community	Identified families to work with to ascertain need and location of potential sites	Suffolk Local Area Authority

				Support/buy in to One Voice offering consultation as well as mediation/awareness raising services.		
2	Utilise Communities and Local Government funding to all Local Authority and Registered Social Landlord sites	<p>Press the Homes and Communities Agency for further bid round autumn/winter 2009/10</p> <p>Look for an extension to the July 2011 cut off point</p> <p>Bid for sites grant as soon as sites are identified</p>	<p>Autumn/winter 09/10</p> <p>Autumn/winter 09/10</p>	<p>The Eastern region Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officers Group</p> <p>Supported by the main Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group and the Accommodation subgroup</p> <p>District specific</p>	<p>Further bid round date identified and extension given to the cut off point</p> <p>Successful bids to reach RSS target for pitches</p>	<p>Department of Communities and Local Government – Gypsy site refurbishment grant</p> <p>Suffolk Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers</p>
3	Provision of floating support services, including Gypsy and Traveller representation	<p>To identify a service provider to manage the accommodation floating support service</p> <p>To encourage the Gypsy and Traveller community to apply for the posts of Support Worker</p> <p>To provide robust advice and signposting to the Gypsy and Traveller community to enable them to access</p>	October 2009	<p>Supporting People and Social Inclusion and Diversity</p> <p>Supported by the main Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group</p>	A county wide floating support service, addressing the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers whether housed, sited or road side.	<p>Suffolk Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers</p> <p>SHUSU's GTAA recommendation for related service issues</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Sub-Region GTAA to provide Gypsies and Travellers with better advice on</p>

		accommodation related services.				local services
4	Enable Support and training for adults in the Gypsy and Traveller Community to become qualified site managers	<p>Identify training opportunities for site management</p> <p>Identify funding for the training opportunities</p> <p>Identify adults from the Gypsy and Traveller community who would wish to undertake the training.</p> <p>Utilise the trained people to run new and emerging identified sites.;</p>	<p>December 2009</p> <p>July 2010</p> <p>September 2010</p> <p>September 2011</p>	<p>Social Inclusion and Diversity</p> <p>supported by the main Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group</p> <p>And involvement from the Gypsy and Traveller community</p> <p>Supported by one voice through their in house training events</p>	The uptake of training courses by the Gypsy and Traveller community and site management undertaken by those qualified persons.	<p>Suffolk Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers</p> <p>Recommendation from the Nov 2008 Suffolk Conference for Gypsies, Travellers and practitioners.</p>
5	Identify and develop transit provision within Suffolk	<p>Engage with the Gypsy and Traveller community to identify areas that would be suitable for transit provision</p> <p>Utilise the data provided with regards to trends re unauthorised encampments in Suffolk.</p> <p>Establish cross border district links to identify areas of land suitable for shared ventures</p>	March 2010	<p>All districts and Boroughs, supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer</p> <p>All the above supported by the main Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group And involvement from the Gypsy and Traveller community</p> <p>Supported by One Voice in a consultation</p>	Sites identified and beginning to be developed by 2011	<p>Regional Spatial Strategy</p> <p>Suffolk Strategy for Gypsies and Travellers</p> <p>District level housing strategies</p> <p>Suffolk Local Area Authority</p> <p>Suffolk Gypsy and</p>

		Joint visits to possible locations in policy areas and agree shortlist	September 2010	capacity		Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment
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THEME 2: PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION 2009-2011

	Aim	Action	Time scale	Lead Agency	Performance measure	Relationship to other strategies
6	Continue to Improve relations between Gypsies, Travellers and the settled community	Encourage service providers to attend on site surgeries to talk about the service they provide and how to access it	2009-2011	All partners, supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group	Increased knowledge by Gypsies and Travellers as to what services are available, how and where.	Race Relations Amendment Act duty to promote race equality and good race relations
		Develop and provide localised welcome packs for new Gypsies and Travellers in the area.	June 2010	The Community cohesion and safety subgroup members, supported by Gypsies and Travellers and the main steering group	Welcome packs widely available and utilised by target timescale.	Cambridgeshire Sub-Region GTAA recommendation to promote understanding of Gypsy and Traveller culture and to improve training for public authority staff
		Develop the welcome pack into downloadable format (PDF) and add to intranets for access.	2009-2011		Welcome packs adopted by all districts and added to the CLG best practice web site	SHUSU's GTAA recommendation for improved communication, dialogue and engagement between the settled community and Gypsies and Travellers
		Include the named officers identified for each site and the culture specific aid memoire				
		Begin to develop and implement activities of interest to both the Gypsy/Traveller community and	Spring 2010	The Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Team, supported by	Welcome packs easily accessible by all partners via	

		<p>the settled community and encourage cross community participation</p> <p>Continue to support the Sandy Park project in providing an on site community cabin for residents and partners to utilise, to increase cohesion between the two communities</p>		<p>Forest Heath District Council and the main steering group</p>	<p>their intranet</p> <p>Successful programmes of activities developed and participation from both communities</p> <p>The Community cabin installed and ready to use by both the residents and the wider community</p>	
7	<p>Continue to Promote race equality and good race relations between the police and the Gypsy and Traveller Community</p>	<p>Build links with sites by having designated officers from the Safer Neighbourhood team Key Officer</p> <p>Develop an aid memoire with regards to Gypsy and Traveller culture and customs. To be posted on intranets for downloading.</p> <p>Continue to undertake police culture and awareness training for new recruits and other staff members, involving members of the Gypsy and Traveller community.</p>	<p>June 2010</p> <p>December 2009</p> <p>2009 - 2011</p>	<p>Suffolk Constabulary, supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group</p> <p>Suffolk Constabulary, supported by Gypsies and Travellers and the Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group</p> <p>Social Inclusion and Diversity, supported by Gypsies and Travellers</p>	<p>Designated Officers known well to identified sites and good relations established.</p> <p>An aid memoire developed and available on police district/borough and council intranets</p> <p>Regular training undertaken by new police recruits and staff, improving relations between the Gypsy and Traveller</p>	<p>CRE 'Common Ground' report recommendations for police forces</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Sub Region GTAA recommendation to improve training for public authority staff</p>

				Support from One Voice	Community and Suffolk Constabulary. Reduction of reported discriminatory practices and continued promotion of race equality and good race relations.	
8	To work with parish, town, borough and district clerks and members to inform them of the need for specific sites for Gypsies and Travellers	<p>All district, borough, county and police communications officers, to develop a generic communications plan re the current requirements for Gypsy and Traveller sites.</p> <p>To offer and deliver information sessions to parish, town, borough and district clerks and members to keep them informed of current pitch requirements.</p> <p>To offer and deliver Gypsy and Traveller culture awareness training to parish, town, borough and district clerks and members</p>	<p>December 2009</p> <p>2009 – 2011</p> <p>2009 – 2011</p>	<p>All district, borough, county and police communications officers, supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group</p> <p>Social Inclusion and Diversity, supported by the Accommodation Subgroup</p> <p>Social Inclusion and Diversity, supported by Gypsies and Travellers</p> <p>Support from One Voice as in Theme 1</p>	<p>A generic communications plan developed to advise the settled community of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation requirements.</p> <p>The uptake of information sessions from parish, town, borough and district clerks and members.</p> <p>The uptake of Gypsy and Traveller culture awareness training from parish, town,</p>	<p>Cambridgeshire Sub-Region GTAA recommendation to promote understanding of Gypsy and Traveller culture and to improve training for public authority staff</p> <p>SHUSU's GTAA recommendation for improved communication, dialogue and engagement between the settled community and Gypsies and Travellers</p>

					borough and district clerks and members.	
9	Continue to increase the awareness of key stakeholders and political parties of their responsibility to promote community cohesion and good relations between Gypsies and Travellers and the settled community	<p>Plan a countywide seminar specifically for town, parish, district and county members to heighten the awareness of Gypsy and Traveller issues in Suffolk</p> <p>Utilise the 'Lives we lead, leaders we need' campaign to raise awareness of Gypsy and Traveller issues in Suffolk</p> <p>Undertake organised visits to sites in Suffolk to combat stereotypes and raise awareness</p>	<p>November 2009 and November 2010</p> <p>September 2009</p> <p>2009-2011</p>	<p>The Community cohesion and safety subgroup members, supported by Gypsies and Travellers and the main steering group</p> <p>Social Inclusion and Diversity, supported by Gypsies and Travellers</p> <p>The Community cohesion and safety subgroup members, supported by Gypsies and Travellers and the main steering group</p>	<p>Events evaluated</p> <p>Increased awareness and action of key stakeholders and political parties of their responsibility to promote community cohesion and good relations</p> <p>Uptake of visits and event evaluated</p>	<p>CRE 'Common Ground' report recommendations within leadership, strategy and practice for local authorities sections</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Sub-Region GTAA recommendation to improve training for public authority colleagues</p> <p>Race Relations Act duty to promote race equality and good race relations</p> <p>SHUSU's GTAA recommendation on strategies, policies and systems</p>

10	Develop a county wide medium that all districts, boroughs and county and Gypsies and Travellers can access	Develop a website that offers information to Gypsies, Travellers and the settled community about events and issues happening in Suffolk.	June 2010	The Community cohesion and safety subgroup members, supported by Gypsies and Travellers and the main steering group, and All district, borough, county and police communications officers Contributions from One Voice	A website set up with notice board to inform Gypsies and Travellers of events and opportunities in Suffolk as well as information for the settled community with regards to Gypsy and Traveller issues	CRE 'Common Ground' report promoting good race relations and integrated communities SHUSU's GTAA recommendation for improved communication, dialogue and engagement
11	To recognise the faith within the Gypsy and Traveller community and support this	Plan and develop a Gypsy and Traveller Christian convention and encourage participation and involvement in the planning	summer 2010 or 2011	The Church of England supported by Suffolk Interfaith resource supported by the Gypsy and Traveller community Supported by the main Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group	A well attended and successful event. Recorded evaluations	SHUSU's GTAA recommendation for improved communication, dialogue and engagement between the settled community and Gypsies and Travellers

THEME 3: DRAFT PROMOTING COMMUNITY SAFETY 2009-2011						
	Aim	Action	Time scale	Lead Agency	Performance measure	Relationship to other strategies
12	Give Gypsies and Travellers the opportunity to attend on site workshops, to improve personal safety and/or well being.	<p>To encourage partners to offer taster sessions on Gypsy and Traveller sites</p> <p>To advertise on site notice boards, services that could be delivered on site to residents in the form of 1-2 hour sessions, such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle proficiency • Stress management • Personal safety • Domestic violence • Fire safety 	2009 - 2011	All partners supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group	<p>The uptake of taster sessions from the Gypsy and Traveller community and numbers of attendees.</p> <p>Each workshop evaluated for future reference</p>	<p>Race Relations Act duty to promote race equality and good race relations</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Sub-Region GTAA recommendation better advice on local services available to them</p> <p>Integrated Risk Management Policy</p>
13	Further generate knowledge and understanding of hate crime reporting centres	<p>By Building confidence on sites by having designated officers from the Key Link Safer Neighbourhood Teams</p> <p>To distribute information around reporting hate crime in easily accessible formats.</p>	<p>June 2010</p> <p>September 2009</p>	<p>Suffolk Constabulary</p> <p>Suffolk Hate Crime Partnership</p> <p>Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group</p>	<p>Increased trust and confidence (measured June 2010)</p> <p>Increase in the number of reported hate crime incidences</p>	<p>CRE 'Common Ground' report recommendation under housing</p>

14	Continue to improve fire safety knowledge and understanding on all of the Gypsy and Traveller sites in Suffolk	<p>Provide and deliver fire safety messages to children through the use of the Fire Experience Unit.</p> <p>Visit each Gypsy and Traveller site in Suffolk annually to promote fire safety to adults by undertaking fire safety checks and fitting smoke alarms where necessary.</p> <p>To investigate the possibility of a Fire Community Safety Practitioner working with the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer visiting unauthorised sites as per the protocol to encourage fire safety awareness and general wellbeing.</p>	<p>2009-2011</p> <p>2009 - 2011</p>	<p>Suffolk Fire and Rescue</p> <p>Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group</p>	<p>All main sites have received at least one visit from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service with the Fire experience unit by 2011</p> <p>Improved awareness amongst Gypsies and Travellers</p> <p>All sites visited and checks made</p>	<p>Race Relations Act duty to promote race equality and good race relations</p> <p>Cambridgeshire Sub-Region GTAA recommendation better advice on local services available to them</p> <p>Integrated Risk Management Policy</p>
15	To engage with the young people on sites and promote out of school activities to reduce boredom and possible anti social behaviour.	Encourage Gypsy and Traveller young people to participate in the Community Safety Partnership diversionary activity days in their area.	2009-2011	<p>Suffolk Constabulary through the Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group</p> <p>Supported by One Voice(with funding)</p>	Engagement with young Gypsy and Traveller people and uptake of places offered on the activity days.	Race Relations Act duty to promote race equality and good race relations
16	Continue to Promote race equality and good race relations between the Fire	Undertake culture and awareness training for staff and new recruits, involving members of the Gypsy and Traveller community.	June 2010	Social Inclusion and Diversity, supported by Gypsies and Travellers	Regular training undertaken by new Fire and Rescue/ambulance recruits and staff,	Race Relations Act duty to promote race equality and good race relations

	and Rescue/Ambulance Services and the Gypsy and Traveller Community				improving relations between the Gypsy Traveller Community and Suffolk Fire and Rescue and Ambulance service	
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THEME 4 – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

	Aim	Action	Time scale	Lead agency	Performance Measure	Relationship to other strategies
17	To encourage all primary school age children in Suffolk to complete and record at least an hours worth of physical activity a day. To tackle the rising obesity 'epidemic' amongst children.	THE SUFFOLK CHALLENGE. Launch of an incentive scheme directed at all primary school aged children in Suffolk. Launch event for maximum media exposure followed by distribution of 'invitation leaflets' by various means.	Launch in May 2009. Sign ups to the scheme by August 2009.	Healthy Ambitions Suffolk. Funded by SCC and NHS Suffolk.	Amount of sign ups. Feedback from children/parents/schools. % of primary school aged children who are obese.	Related to strategies linked to NI 56 – Obesity in primary age school children.

18	To link early years settings to key Gypsy and Traveller sites	<p>To encourage engagement between Gypsies and Travellers of pre school age children and early years settings in the area.</p> <p>The Traveller Achievement Team to promote engagement Enable the Gypsy and Traveller community to Access early years settings</p>	September 2009- August 2010	<p>The Traveller Achievement Team, SCC</p> <p>Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group</p> <p>Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Community and One Voice</p>	Increased uptake of places at early year's settings.	<p>Raising attainment and narrowing the gap for groups vulnerable to underachievement in the primary phase.</p> <p>Inclusive school improvement service, plan 4</p>
19	Promote parental engagement with schools	<p>Undertake a questionnaire of schools and Gypsies/ Travellers to ascertain what the needs are.</p> <p>Identify activities that schools can implement to encourage engagement by parents.</p> <p>To clarify the learning process to Gypsy and Traveller parents so they encourage learning for their children</p>	2011	<p>The Traveller Achievement Team, SCC</p> <p>Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group</p> <p>Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Community</p>	<p>Good feedback from both schools and the Gypsy/Traveller community</p> <p>Activities identified and implemented by schools and taken up by the Gypsy/Traveller community</p> <p>Raised educational attainment by Gypsy and Traveller children</p>	<p>Raising attainment and narrowing the gap for groups vulnerable to underachievement in the primary phase.</p> <p>Inclusive school improvement service, plan 4</p>
20	To recognise the correlation between bullying	To work with schools and families to identify racist/hate incidents within schools	2011	The Traveller Achievement	Gypsy and Traveller children feel confident in	Recommendation from the Nov 2008 Suffolk Conference

	and mental health issues.	<p>Develop a mechanism for young people to report and discuss difficult issues at school.</p> <p>To monitor, record and assess the impact of bullying on young people's mental health and behaviour</p>		<p>Team, SCC</p> <p>Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group, the Gypsy and Traveller Community and Suffolk Mental Health Partnership</p>	<p>reporting bullying particularly when of a racist nature</p> <p>A support mechanism is in place for young people who have experienced bullying.</p>	for Gypsies, Travellers and practitioners.
21	To recognise the impact of Gypsy and Traveller children's emotional wellbeing regarding cultural difference between the home and school environment	<p>To identify Gypsy and Traveller children in schools in Suffolk</p> <p>To work with participating families to identify the impact through research and questionnaires</p>	April 2010	<p>One Voice 4 Travellers</p> <p>Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group,</p>	School children identified and research undertaken	<p>Raising attainment and narrowing the gap for groups vulnerable to underachievement in the primary phase.</p> <p>Race Relations Act duty to promote race equality and good race relations</p>
22	To identify and implement strategies that aid integration into the school environment	<p>Using different mechanisms such as stem story telling to encourage sharing of experiences.</p> <p>To work with schools and families to enable Gypsy and Traveller children to have a positive experience within school.</p>	December 2010	<p>One Voice 4 Travellers</p> <p>Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group,</p>	Mechanisms in place to aid positive outcomes for Gypsy and Traveller children in school.	<p>Raising attainment and narrowing the gap for groups vulnerable to underachievement in the primary phase.</p> <p>Race Relations Act duty to promote race equality and good race relations</p>

THEME 5 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

	Aim	Action	Time scale	Lead Agency	Performance measure	Relationship to other strategies
23	To reduce alcohol and drug misuse amongst the community.	Consultation to understand community's perception of need, awareness and access to services. (Adults & YP) Develop action plan for health education, promotion of services etc in line with outcomes of consultation.	End Dec 2009 Jan – March 2010	Drug and Alcohol Advice Team Children and Young People Service Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group	Outcome of consultation To be decided	Adult and Young People Substance misuse treatment plans.
24	To encourage all primary school age children in Suffolk to complete and record at least an hours worth of physical activity a day. To tackle the rising obesity 'epidemic' amongst children.	THE SUFFOLK CHALLENGE. Launch of an incentive scheme directed at all primary school aged children in Suffolk. Launch event for maximum media exposure followed by distribution of 'invitation leaflets' by various means.	Launch in May 2009. Sign ups to the scheme by August 2009.	Healthy Ambitions Suffolk. Funded by NHS Suffolk. Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group	Amount of sign ups. Feedback from children/parents/schools. % of primary school aged children who are obese.	Related to strategies linked to NI 56 – obesity in primary age school children.

25	To establish specialist health worker/health workers in an outreach programme to build trust and links with Gypsies and Travellers in sites, houses and unauthorised encampments	To obtain funding for a Health Visitor to become an outreach Health Worker and begin to build trust and links with Gypsies and Travellers in sites, houses and unauthorised encampments	December 2009	NHS Suffolk Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group	The appointment of a Health Visitor to become an outreach Health Worker	Suffolk Travellers' Health Needs Assessment 2009
26	To establish specialist health worker/health workers in community engagement and advocacy services to empower communities and enable individual access to services	To obtain funding for a Health Worker to sign post and advocate health initiatives and access to services	December 2009	NHS Suffolk Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group	The appointment of a Health Worker to signposting and advocating health initiatives and access to services	Suffolk Travellers' Health Needs Assessment 2009

27	Consult with the Gypsy and Traveller community about a smoke free lifestyle	Use social marketing to help develop smoke free initiatives. Define a baseline of smoking numbers and smoking areas.	October 2009	NHS Suffolk Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group	Increased access to stop smoking services. Fewer Gypsies and Travellers smoking around children.	Healthy Ambitions (HAS) LAA smoking targets.
28	To work with local partners to raise cultural awareness and reduce prejudice in frontline staff	To offer and deliver Gypsy and Traveller culture awareness training to frontline staff	2009-2011	Social Inclusion and Diversity, supported by Gypsies and Travellers Supported by NHS Suffolk and SMHP	The uptake of Gypsy and Traveller culture awareness training from frontline staff	Suffolk Travellers' Health Needs Assessment 2009
29	To ensure information for Travellers is in an appropriate and accessible format	Develop information in aural, visual and easy read formats. Engage in surgeries on sites to publicise what services are available	July 2010	NHS Suffolk Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group	Information easily accessible to all Gypsies and Travellers across Suffolk	Suffolk Travellers' Health Needs Assessment 2009
30	To support improved communication and networks with the Gypsy and Traveller community and Adult	To share appropriately formatted material with the Gypsy and Traveller community to raise their awareness of adult safeguarding and enable them to access the service.	2009-2011	Social Inclusion and Diversity, Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group	Increased awareness and communication between Adult Safeguarding and the Gypsy and Traveller community	Adult Safeguarding strategy

	Safeguarding					
31	To enable Gypsy and Traveller women to access further education	To work closely with and encourage adult education service providers to outreach work on sites.	2009-2011	Adult and community services supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group	Increased number of Gypsy and Traveller women accessing adult education	Recommendation from the Equality impact assessment
32	Achieve positive outcomes for the disabled Gypsy and Traveller community	Initiate on site drop in surgeries for the community to learn more about what is available Encourage Service providers to attend all known Gypsy and Traveller communities in Suffolk to enable the community to become more aware of rights and help available	2009-2011	Social Inclusion and Diversity, Supported by the Gypsy and Traveller Steering group	Increased awareness for the Gypsy and Traveller community regarding accessing services for the disabled.	Recommendation from the Equality impact assessment

8. Useful Contacts

Contact Information

Organisation	Phone number
Babergh District Council Main Reception	01473 822801
Equality and Human Rights Commission	England 0845 604 6610 Scotland 0845 604 5510 Wales 0845 604 8810
Forest Heath District Council Main Reception	01638 719000
Ipswich Borough Council Main Reception	01473 432000
Gypsy Council (Essex) Main Reception	01708 868986
Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition (London) Main Reception	0208 5332002
Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) Main Reception	01473 408111
Mid Suffolk District Council Main Reception	01449 720711
St Edmundsbury Borough Council Main Reception	01284 763233
Suffolk Coastal District Council Main Reception	01394 383789
Suffolk Constabulary Main Reception	01473 613500
Suffolk County Council	01473 583000
Traveller Education Support Service (direct line)	01473 583530
Suffolk Hate Crime Service	01473 668966
Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer (direct Line)	01473 265194
Suffolk Primary Care Trust (Main reception)	01473 770000
Waveney & Great Yarmouth Primary Care Trust	01502 719500
Waveney District Council	01502 523413