

**Southwark Council Health, Adult Social Care, Communities &
Citizenship Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

**Project: Exploring Access to Maternal Health and Early Years Services
for the Gypsy and Traveller Communities in Southwark**

Notes of Stakeholder Workshop – 24th October 2012

Contributions from Health Inequalities Engagement Wheel Activity

See attached photographs of completed Engagement Wheel exercises including locations of statements.

- How many travellers are there in Southwark? How do we count them and is there self-identification?
- Accessing statistics on the population including from the sites, from housing statistics and from 2011 census (Check with Dan Gilby)
- Understanding the ethnic breakdown of the communities
- Building trusting relationships with individual health workers
- What level of engagement is there with services – health, education and children’s centres?
- What are the immunisation issues – does the community want this service?
- Why is maternal health poor in these communities? Need to understand the underlying causes including possibilities such as not accessing care, poor housing, poor education or low incomes
- Taking an ethnology / medical anthropology approach – understanding cultural norms, assessing our own prejudices and norms about issues such as teenage mothers and family planning
- Extended families – issues such as overcrowding as families grow up and have difficulty finding sites
- Allocation policies for sites – what is being developed?
- Accommodation Needs Strategy
- Looking at good practice and research – what can we learn from this?
- Sex education – what are the outcomes?
- Planning applications issue – planning are reluctant to receive applications for additional sites because of a perception that there will be community resistance. This is something that needs to be tested. Community Engagement can play a role in relationship building. Southwark has small sites that allow better community integration and build on good practice as this is often preferred by Gypsy and Traveller communities
- Family Nurse Partnership – good outcomes following young mums and offering support and education. A programme that focuses on empowerment
- Create small sites – better practice, better neighborhood relations, networks into communities
- Good outcomes from mum and baby immunisation programmes

- Travellers in nursing homes – issues of deprivation, vulnerability and resilience
- Social support and extended networks for young mothers
- Density issues – sites have high density and the pitches as high density
- Knowledge gap – how many women in the local Gypsy and Traveller communities?
- Who makes referrals for Gypsy and Traveller women – understanding the pathways for referrals from GP, Health Visitors, and Midwives.
- Elder males may make the key decisions in the Gypsy and Traveller communities – it is important to appreciate this and build trust with services
- Could we have a meeting with Anne-Marie plus any mums and mums-to-be to ask them what they want? Could also involve midwives, health visitors and children centre workers
- Self-reliance an important value for the communities – wanting to look after themselves
- Understanding the nomadic traditions of Travellers and how many might be based on sites and how many may travel to and from Ireland
- Develop a dialogue with the community
- Mums may feel more comfortable in groups to access services – safer than going alone
- Domestic violence issues – link to Solace
- Cultural understandings of illness and disease
- Education issues – younger children accessing appropriate services and early intervention services at the early years baseline
- Inclusive services
- Understanding the education pathway – including from nursery to secondary school and academies
- Pregnancy – what is the take up of ante-natal classes?
- What data is there on infant mortality? Also understanding if babies have low birth weight
- What are the birth rates for the community
- Building on trust – professionals supporting the community to make new contacts including good signposting
- Registration issues with GPs
- Understanding the needs of the community including demographic structures
- Linking to a named contact person for each site – this may be easier for the settled population. Having a ‘go to person’ for each site
- Pitch provision
- Legal obligations
- Early engagement
- Engaging the Gypsy and Traveller communities in the scrutiny review itself
- Cultural issues around smoking and alcohol
- Lack of awareness in the wider community of the needs of Gypsies and Travellers – attitudes and local treatment of families

- Recruitment drive for more early years staff from the Gypsy and Traveller communities – making the application process accessible
- Employment issues
- Access to welfare provision and benefits
- How has immigration affected the casual work that may be part of the Gypsy and Traveller employment patterns?
- Socio-economic issues
- How have Gypsy and Traveller's been affected by transport issues and the rise in petrol prices?
- How accessible are bus routes for the sites and for the community?
- Need to understand how traveller families cope with illness and who helps them the most.
- Overcrowding issues - health needs of growing communities and accessibility of local services.
- Contact Sharon Dewar in Community Safety about her domestic violence project with travellers.
- Are Traveller women/clients accessing maternity services? What is the time trajectory for this – is it in good time or too late
- Health research indicates a higher mortality rate for the Gypsy and Traveller communities- 17.6% lost a child compared to 1% within the wider population.
- Is there any data from reports on child deaths in Southwark? Approach the child death overview panel to gain some insight. Key contact Rory Paterson
- Issues about permanent housing and the need for long-term planning
- Sites good but overcrowded
- Understanding the history of the sites and the communities' experiences is important
- Many local families have been on sites for decades and there are inter-generational experiences

Record of flipcharts from the Effective Scrutiny activity

Effective scrutiny of maternal health and early years services for the Gypsy and Traveller communities will...	Effective scrutiny of maternal health and early years services for the Gypsy and Traveller communities does not...	Ways to measure how the scrutiny review has made a difference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do no harm • Avoid preconceptions • Adds value • Shows impact and positive outcome • Giving a voice to Gypsy and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alienate by using impenetrable language • Import our views and values on the community • Forget Gypsies and Travellers are people and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building organisational knowledge • Immunisation rates • Action plans and indicators • Access to family services

<p>Traveller communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful and purposeful for community • Results in action plan and recommendations (followed up and executed) • Improving mainstream practices and long-term solutions • Improves on-going sites/pitches, management e.g. repairs, improvements and educational outcomes. • Improve access to all council and other services/employment • Break down barriers/increasing understanding • Appreciative Inquiry • Identity issues • Improve outcomes • Good engagement – access to the community (meeting of different agendas – finds a middle ground) • Being culturally sensitive – e.g. bereavement counselling • Identify 	<p>does not marginalise them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignore poor environment and basic services • Ignore the degree of statistical significance • Make promised it cannot keep • Raise expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP registration rates • Access to child care – registration, attendance, progress and development • Access to apprenticeships • Maternal and child health • Early access • Tailor services to meet families perceived needs • Obesity in children rates • Verbal interviews and questionnaires to access traveller client satisfaction
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<p>contradiction of goals e.g. immunisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Listening” meeting with Midwife/Health Visitor /Children Centre outreach workers • Identify priorities e.g. law versus choice issues • Asks how far national evidence is locally relevant in Southwark – looks at child mortality rate 17.6% • Is access to services similar or different between the local and national picture. • Identify common ground between local government and the Gypsy and Traveller communities 		
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Record of issues raised during the plenary discussions

- Explore the possibilities of taking tools from an appreciative Inquiry approach
- All participants felt that the next stage of preparing for the review should consider sensitive ways to engage the local Gypsy and Traveller communities and hear their voices and experiences. Expert advice from the community and from trusted professionals would help inform this engagement
- Identify which stakeholders were not able to attend the workshop and follow up with discussions about the issues raised to further inform the scrutiny review
- Gender will be a key dimension of the review and understanding the experience of women
- Questions were raised about the continuation of funding for Stag

- There was a general consensus in the workshop that the scrutiny review could play an important role in synthesising the range of data about the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Southwark and using this to identify key issues 'in the round' – including where the gaps are, what data is not currently being collected and where the data identifies counter-intuitive issues
- A key question is how far does local Southwark data and experience reflect the national pattern.
- Further work is needed to access public health data and a variety of statistical measures including maternal and infant mortality rates
- There was a proposal for the development of one named Health Visitor for each site – ideas were also raised for a one-stop health shop for each site to mirror the current provision of named housing officers for each site
- The review could usefully consider the issue of Gypsy and Traveller housing and site needs in the current consultant on the Southwark 30 year housing strategy
- Rates of domestic violence will need to be considered by the review
- There was discussion about schooling experiences for young people and the pattern of drop out from education at 13 or 14 years particularly for young men to begin work
- Ideas were proposed for immunisations being offered on the sites
- A general consensus was established in the workshop that more on site health provision would have the potential to be beneficial
- Questions were raised about access to GP and other health services for families that do not have a telephone landline

Collated feedback from the questionnaire

a) What were the most useful aspects of the workshop?

- Learning from those with experience of the traveller communities
- Group work
- Sharing perspectives and issues affecting Travellers
- Talking to each other
- Meeting and mixing with other professionals
- Discussion groups and collating of ideas/suggestions...
- Meeting colleagues working with the Gypsy and Traveller community
- Fruitful discussion from a range of disciplines
- Seeing people's commitment
- Understanding the service provision for Gypsy families.
- The different approved sites available in the Southwark borough
- Meeting people from different perspectives on the issues – sharing experiences and ideas

b) Any gaps in the topic of maternal health that the workshop did not address:

- Engagement/views of travellers (qualitative data)

- Qualitative data – actual numbers
- Personally I think there could have been a deeper consideration of 0-8 years issues
- Statistical evidence and data both nationally and locally would have been useful
- Gap in what the community itself thinks and feels – but plans are in place for that. This needs to be a starting point.
- Men
- We did address but numbers were not known – e.g. death rates etc

c) What should a scrutiny review do next to take forward the review?

- Engage with Travellers
- Formulate detailed objectives
- Keeping individuals included of the outcomes and impact of the workshops
- Perhaps a follow-up workshop
- More detailed information re: demographics; pitch conditions; numbers settled in houses; This data needs to be quantified and explicit for the review
- Provision of services on sites
- Ensuring that health visitors, midwives, educators are on sites
- Provision and making sites suitable for families
- Meet again, perhaps with further information but also with a plan to take forward

d) Any further comments:

- A useful exercise could be to ask ourselves about our prejudices/'middle-class – centric' outlook, for example, values associated with level of formal education, age of mothers, income, family size etc.
- Thanks
- Please ensure that the final reports and any documents for this workshop are sent to the participants
- Really enjoyed the workshop and engagement of the group
- A nice delivery

Attachments:

- 1. Photographs**
- 2. Facilitation Plan and Timetable**
- 3. Pre-workshop briefing sheet and summary of data and evidence provided to participants**

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5th November 2012**