

Scrutiny review on maternal health and early years services for the Gypsy and Traveller communities in Southwark

Notes of mini stakeholder meeting on 17th December 2012

Present:

Cllr Mark Williams

Jin Lim

Rahala Manna

Kevin Dykes

Julie Timbrell

Summary

1. Report on follow up work from Stakeholder day

Southwark Irish Traveller Group (STAG) have compiled a paper summary of issues of concern; some of which relate directly and indirectly to the maternal health and early years services.

There will be a consultation event on 18th December with Traveller women.

The child death overview panel has been contacted and reported that there were a very small number of gypsy and traveller families affected but too small a number to draw any statistical conclusions. Transience and early access to anti natal care was an issue identified.

Domestic Violence emerged as an issue of concern at the stakeholder day and during later discussions with STAG. Community Safety and SOLACE will be contacted and follow up work done on this by Rahala and Julie. Issues include the referral process to a refuge used by Traveller women, supporting STAG, and working with perpetrators.

2. Additional work needed

OSC / framework

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) 'called in' the new site agreements being developed because of concerns over inadequate consultation and because of the restrictions on travelling. This is now being reviewed and the Council will be working with STAG and others on this. Cllr Mark William recommended that an overarching framework for Gypsies and Travellers be adopted, and this had support at OSC.

Health

Follow up work with Health Visitors is recommended – the ones who attended the stakeholder event made a good contribution. Access to GPs was an area of concern, and it would be good to know if this is an area of concern with Travellers. The

Clinical Commissioning Group should be contacted. Training in cultural sensitivities was discussed as a recommendation.

Early Years

Neil Gordon – Orr has identified, from Southwark's 2102 Early Years Foundation Stage data, that of 3389 children, only three children were categorised as 'Travellers of Irish origin', two at Pilgrims Way school (near Ilderton Road site) and one at Ann Bernadt Nursery School and Children's Centre in Peckham. Two children were defined as 'Gypsy/Roma', both Polish speaking - one at Kintore Way Children's Centre in Bermondsey and the other at Pilgrims Way. There was a discussion about increasing the number accessing the universal early years offer at three years, and how to support eligible families from these communities in accessing the free two-year-old places, which come on stream in September 2013 and will initially be targeted at families eligible for a range of worklessness benefits. There was discussion about prioritise at a time of reducing resources. There is a parliamentary report that indentifies the impact of accessing Early Year provision and the potential savings in later year, which would link with the Return on Investment.

3. Return on Investment – measurement and outcomes

Paul explained that this process identifies three key concepts: input, outputs, and outcomes.

The inputs measure the amount of hours invested by members, officers and the voluntary sector and then multiplies these by an average salary to get a cash value. The outputs are the process, networks, relationships, plans and frameworks. The outcomes are the impacts on early years or maternal health of Gypsies and Travellers. Outcomes could be measured over the shorter term and initially cost more (accessing more Early Years or anti-natal services) but save money in the longer term.

4. Scrutiny review date Westminster venue (Westminster City Hall) 25th January - 11 am to 3 pm

Paul reported that this event is being organised by the Centre for Public Scrutiny. This review is part of a series of scrutiny reviews being supported that focus on marginalised groups. Other groups are homeless and sex workers. Common themes are attitudes to excluded groups. There will be a publication identifying good practice drawing on all the reviews. Southwark's review will contribute, and we will need to prepare a presentation. A government minister from CLG is expected to attend. There are themed groups: engaging communities; process of model and return on investment.

It was agreed to meet on Friday to review the workshop-taking place on Tuesday.