

Support for Gypsy and Traveller Communities

Our Gypsy and Traveller project exists to promote awareness of the issues that affect the Gypsy Traveller Communities. The project aims to promote equality and inclusion for Gypsy and Traveller communities in our region by providing the following:

- **Cultural Awareness Training** – Delivering training and workshops for public sector professionals to deepen understanding of Gypsy and Traveller cultures, traditions, and lived experiences.
- **Advocacy and Mediation** – Acting as an independent voice, supporting individuals in engagement with local authorities and helping navigate legal, planning, welfare, and housing matters, while encouraging constructive dialogue.
- **Community Support** – Providing guidance on housing, education, healthcare, and legal rights to ensure fair access to essential services and reduce barriers caused by discrimination.
- **Policy Consultation** – Advising local councils and police on policies impacting Gypsy and Traveller communities to promote fair, lawful, and culturally informed approaches.
- **Challenging Discrimination** – Actively addressing stigma, discrimination, and social exclusion by promoting understanding and building stronger relationships between communities and service providers

Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities are widely considered to be among the most socially excluded communities in the UK. They have a much lower life expectancy than the general population, with Traveller men and women living 10-12 years less than the wider population.

Travellers have higher rates of infant mortality, maternal death and stillbirths than the general population. They experience racist sentiment in the media and elsewhere, which would be socially unacceptable if directed at any other minority community.

The traveller community face some of the poorest health outcomes in the country. Life expectancy, access to healthcare, mental health, and discrimination are key areas of concern. These disparities are rooted in systemic inequalities, cultural exclusion, and barriers to accessing appropriate services.



One of the most frequently cited healthcare problems facing Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people is in accessing primary and secondary health services, problems with registering and accessing GP services, immunisation services, maternity care and mental health provision. The reasons for this have been variously attributed to discrimination, difficulties navigating the NHS, and a reluctance by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people to seek medical attention until their condition has become very serious.

Health Inequalities

- Life expectancy 10 - 25 years lower
- Low immunisation, high infant, child and maternal mortality
- high anxiety & depression, just as bad if housed
- Lowest educational outcomes
- Low adult literacy (under 40%)
- Highest prejudice 35% (Stonewall, 2003)
- Higher rates of suicide reported

Please contact our Traveller Research Worker Roisin Mason on 0121 604 6111 or email roisin@birish.org.uk for further information.