

Report of Cabinet Members for Health, Housing & Adult Social Services, Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion, Crime and Stronger Communities and Education, Children and Young People

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community in York

Summary

1. This report highlights the inequalities faced by the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community in York. It describes the partner and community engagement which has taken place to bring forward a focus on six priority areas which will help to improve outcomes for this community. The report seeks approval of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 18.

Background

2. Gypsies and Travellers are one of the largest distinct ethnic groups in York and their traditions and history can be traced across hundreds of years in the City. There are approximately 350 families in York, living on traveller sites, in housing and in caravans on the roadside.

National and local evidence does suggest that this community does experience a range of inequalities, is marginalised and disadvantaged. Information from those responding in the 2011 Census in York has been used to develop a profile of this Community. Only 75.5% of travellers think they are in good health compared to 83.9% in the York population. A more detailed profile is available as a background paper to this report.

The vision for the City set out in the work and report produced by the York Fairness Commission, and embedded in the York Equality Scheme – A Fairer York- outlines an equal, inclusive and welcoming city, where all residents have an opportunity to enjoy life without inequality.

With this in mind a piece of work was commenced with communities and partners in summer 2012 to support tackling some of the challenges faced by these families in York, with a view to improving outcomes and opportunity.

Development of Priorities in York and Consultation

3. During May 2012 partners, representing statutory, voluntary and community sectors convened to launch the development of this piece of work. The partners involved included:-

- City of York Council
- North Yorkshire Police
- Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)
- York Traveller's Trust
- IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Service)
- North Yorkshire Fire Service
- North Yorkshire and York Foundation Trust
- Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group
- National Farming Union
- The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community
- The wider community

The York Traveller Trust is a particularly important partner having almost 15 years experience of building links with this community in York. They have been included in bringing forward this piece of work

Officers met with colleagues from all stakeholder organisations and agreed the themes and the actions behind them. A draft strategy and plan was developed.

In December 2012 a follow up event was held with partners to launch the final phase of formal consultation on the draft strategy and action plan. This event was designed for professionals working with Gypsies and Travellers and other tailored forms of consultation are outlined below. The feedback received from these consultations has been used to further develop the Strategy and action plan and identify the priorities:

During December 2012 we also consulted again with Gypsies and Travellers on the three York sites; Osbaldwick, Clifton and James Street explaining the purpose and nature of the Strategy and using a series of questions to record their responses. We furthermore

visited roadside Travellers known to us and Gypsies and Travellers living in houses, who have self identified.

In January of this year we held a further focus group with Gypsies and Travellers from across the city, in order that issues arising within the strategy and action plan and through the initial surveys could be explored in greater detail.

An online survey was launched on 10 December 2012 in order to capture the views of all key stakeholders who have not been able to feed their views into the planned events, as well as members of the wider community and members of the community outside of York. This has also been sent to specific audiences including the Gypsy council and those who have contacted the council regarding planning for sites in the past.

Options

4. Option 1- To approve this Strategy and action plan across the City.
5. Option 2- To amend the Strategy and action plan across the City.

Analysis

6. Option 1 - From this activity it is clear that there are inequalities experienced in this community in York. There are gaps in data but there are six themes emerging which have being used as the basis for the strategy and action plan found at annex 1. These themes support improvements around outcomes as follows:-
 - Improving outcomes in education
 - Improving Health and Wellbeing
 - Improving accommodation supply and standards
 - Improving Community Safety
 - Employment and financial inclusion
 - Community Engagement and Partnerships

The delivery plan attached sets out some of the actions necessary to take this work forward. A major thread of this is to seek improved engagement with this community. Equally it is clear that

there is limited empirical evidence regarding the current landscape relating to Gypsies and Travellers and a picture of their needs and aspirations. A priority in the first year of the strategy is to fill this gap to give clearer direction on where to focus resources

A partnership group will be established as a sub group of the Fairness and Equalities Board and will be chaired by the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods. This group will monitor delivery and progress and will ensure that there are improvements in outcomes.

Council Plan

7. This Strategy links in with the following themes in the Council Plan:
 - Build Strong Communities; financial inclusion and public health
 - Protect vulnerable people; supporting families, health and wellbeing Board and Fairness Commission
 - Create Jobs and Grow the Economy; Helping residents into training and employment

Implications

8. **Financial:** None identified at this time by any partners.
9. **Human Resources (HR):** None.
10. **Equalities:-**A Community Impact Assessment has been completed. This plan will improve outcomes for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet agree the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 2018 as attached at Annex 1 of the report.

Reason: To improve outcomes for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community.

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	Report Approved	√	Date 24 May 2013
Specialist Implications Officer(s) <i>List information for all</i>			
Wards Affected: <i>List wards or tick box to indicate all</i>			All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For further information please contact the author of the report			

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Background Papers:

1. Census 2011 York Gypsy and Irish Traveller Profile (available online).

2. Feedback from consultation undertaken during December and January 2013 (available online).

Annexes

Annex A: Gypsy and Traveller Strategy and Action Plan 2013-18.