

Feedback from consultation undertaken during December-January 2013.

A consultation exercise took place between 10 December and 17 January 2013 in relation to the proposed themes and objectives within the strategy. 15 professionals and elected members with an interest in the community responded to the online consultation. The results are outlined below:

- More than 9 out of 10 fully or partly agree with the six themes identified.
- The themes of health and wellbeing and Education, followed by accommodation are deemed to be the priority areas for attention through the Strategy and action plan.
- More than 9 out of 10 agreed with the objectives within the themes.
- 67% of respondents agreed that the themes linked very well or fairly well to national and local priorities. The remainder did not know.
- 67% of respondents indicated they are keen to meet to monitor delivery of the strategy, with 8 out of ten preferring to monitor this on a six monthly basis.

52 responses were received from members of the Gypsy Roma and Traveller community and the wider public. Surveys were carried out on all three of the cities sites. We visited the private caravan site in Fulford and visited known families in houses and on the roadside.

- 26 % of respondents claimed to live outside one of the cities three sites suggesting a significant number of families in houses and on the roadside.
- 9 out of 10 respondents fully or partly agree with the themes identified. The two themes that respondents think we should address first are increasing the number of pitches and improving the standards at the sites, more than 8 out of 10, followed by support in gaining employment and helping with finances (1 out of

4 respondents). These priorities are not consistent with those identified through the professionals and Councillors survey.

- 35% of respondents are interested in being involved in monitoring the strategy either through a small monitoring group or through regular updates provided by support workers or a combination of the two approaches.
- More than 8 out of 10 members of the community felt they were treated with respect when they last had contact with the Council. 2% responded that they had not.

A follow up event took place with members of the Gypsy Roma and Traveller community who were interested in sharing their views in more details on the themes and objectives identified within the Strategy and action plan. This was facilitated by and held at the York Travellers Trust (YTT) Project. 13 members of the community contributed to the discussions and the results are highlighted below:

- It was suggested that equalities could have been a stand alone theme, as an alternative we need to ensure it is embedded throughout the whole strategy
- Education- The YTT confirmed they invest £800 annually in providing training in schools which should be reflected in the Strategy and are in urgent need of funding to supporting their activities overall.
- More focussed required on adult education as well as for children and young people
- Whilst recognition was made of the good work carried out by traveller education within CYC, discrimination still exists within schools.
- Health and wellbeing - General feeling that it has been a considerable loss that PMS (Primary Medical Services) no longer exists. The majority of members of the community are registered with GPs and remainder attend the hospital as required.

- Advice on healthy eating, nursery care and sexual health are key areas with gaps in provision since PMS disbanded?
- Accommodation - Suggestion made that larger pitches could be developed in future to enable extended families to occupy one pitch which would reduce demand for additional pitches
- There is land to build additional pitches at Clifton Travellers site?
- Policing - Generally poor relations between the police and community however some individuals have built stronger links with community. Community want to be left alone and for police not to visit sites routinely.
- Employment and Financial Inclusion - Consistent approach required from DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) who are still sending customers from a travelling background to the Travellers Trust to complete CV's when there is evidence that they do this themselves for people who are not from Travelling background