



ACERT

Annual Report

2007-2008

ACERT works for:

- equal access to education for Gypsies and Travellers
- safe and secure accommodation for Gypsies and Traveller families
- equal access to health and other community services for Gypsies and Travellers
- good community relations and so endeavours to end discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers on racial and other grounds
- equal opportunities for Gypsies and Travellers

Membership is open to all over 18 who support ACERT's aims.

The Annual General Meeting takes place each autumn.

The Annual Report is free to members.

The constitution is available on request.



Membership year is from September 1st to August 31st.

Membership fees:

£15.00 individual - waged

£5.00 individual - unwaged

ACERT mailing address: ACERT, Moot House, The Stow
Harlow, Essex, CM20 3AG

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 27 September 2008

The Community Rooms, 50 Millman Street, London WC1

Agenda

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 9:30 | Coffee and Registration |
| 10:00 | Welcome and Apologies |
| 10:05 | Officers Reports
Adoption of Accounts
Election of Officers 2008-2009
Election of Committee 2008-2009 |
| 11:00 | National Strategies & Traveller Education |
| 11:30 | Education on the Hoof and discussion. |
| 12:00 | Patricia Knight and discussion |
| 12:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30 | Pat Niner re Accommodation Needs Analysis |
| 14:00 | Health at Gate (Leeds) and discussion |
| 15:00 | Anthea Wormington re NATT and discussion |
| 15:30 | Refreshments and depart |

The following people signed the attendance register:

Members

Thomas Acton
Pat Barr
David Cannon
Jan Casey
Helen Creedon
Bill Forrester
John Hardisty
Ginny Harrison-White
Anna Iles
Heather Kopp
Jackie Nesbitt
Jennie Spencer
Cecily Taylor
Hazel Terry
Kim Tomsett
Paul Winter
Margaret Wood
Anthea Wormington

Visitors

Cesar Da Luz, East Sussex CC
Emily Kopp
Ben Yaguer

Speakers

Jan Casey
Allison Abdelah
Breda Doran
Pat Niner
Helen Jones
Bridie Jones

Apologies were received from:

Members

Jose Batchelor	Eve Bearne	Helen Blow
Felicity Bonel	Evelyn Bott	Pamela Cowan
Jenny Boyd-Cropley	Stephan Cartwright	Lynne Chilton Potter
Jean Clark	Tim Everson	Peter Fifield
Margarithe Haffner	Margaret Hutchinson	Chris Johnson, TAT
Mary Lee	London GTU	Carol Mellors
Angie Millsom	Kate Mullard	Sue Mutter
Verity Nelson	Carol Tonks	Linda Walker
Hazel Whitaker		

AGM Next Year - Saturday 26 September 2009

ACERT Chair's Report

Annual General Meeting – 22nd September 2007

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their support over the previous year. As time becomes more pressured, I am aware that the contributions made by everyone are invaluable and have enabled us to move forward on numerous issues. These are outlined as follows:

- ACERT was able to set up a second meeting with Lord Adonis. The issues discussed in previous meetings were revisited. The actions from this meeting included the appointment of a third National Strategies Regional Adviser, a further letter to Local Authorities expressing concerns for the provision for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT) and a general commitment from Lord Adonis to support conferences and the aims of ACERT.

ACERT and the National Association of Teachers of Travellers and other Professionals) (NATT) have worked together this year. The outcome has been a joint conference where Lord Avebury spoke and issues were tackled more cohesively with support from Lord Adonis and combined messages from NATT and ACERT.

- ACERT and NATT have also had joint meetings with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). These have ensured that issues are raised and are put forward with a joint voice. There have been four meetings with the DCSF where work has been beneficial to all sides. The meetings have covered the following issues:
 - Promoting community cohesion and ensuring the understanding of GRT importance in that agenda.
 - Ascription - improving the quantity and quality of it.
 - A route to providing training to the TDA, ways in which ACERT and NATT can work together to ensure appropriate 'raising awareness' training to colleges and future professionals.
 - Discussion on the best way forward to build a connection with the Equality Commission.
 - Traveller Education Services' (TESS's) erosion of funding and their vulnerability in changing structural position in the LAs.
 - Non-replies to Michael Starke's letter Arthur Ivatts and Graham Pepper then followed this up with visits to the LA.
 - The progress of the NFER research was fed back which showed a poor response from secondary schools, a fair response from primary. Attainment showed little noticeable difference in the last two years.
 - Issues of non-ascription.
 - The National Strategies roll out is underway for authorities to join the programme with existing authorities remaining for an additional year.
 - The ways forward with target setting for GRT pupils in LAs.

These joint meetings have proved invaluable for supporting the DCSF to keep the profile of GRT high on the agenda and will continue next year.

ACERT commented fully on the targeting proposals and the Chair responded to the consultation paper positively. The new proposals ensure the LAs focus on underperforming groups including GRT and Travellers of Irish Heritage. Due to problems with ascription the proposal is that LAs will have to set targets for pupils in the GRT wherever there are more than three pupils in the relevant age cohort. This will hopefully draw a closure on the “insignificant number” debate.

The Chair of ACERT also responded on behalf of the Executive Committee to the “Consultation on Statutory Guidance for LAs to identify children not receiving a suitable education”. The issues specific to GRT were highlighted, my thanks to the members of the Executive Committee who contributed.

A bid for ‘On the Hoof’ Appleby Horse Fair was submitted by the Chair and agreed by the DCSF. I would like to thank Allison Abdelah for taking the lead on this project and making it such a successful event and ensuring its continuation for a further year. This was particularly beneficial because it enabled ACERT to build on the first GRT History Month. I would like to extend my thanks to Margaret Wood, Head of the TES at Cambridgeshire for her support. An evaluation of the ‘On the Hoof’ project was submitted to the DCSF and is included in the Annual Report.

It is hoped that the willingness and sheer hard work of the people involved with Appleby will continue next year and more people will be willing to take on ownership.

Further work on the website is planned this year and a working party will be set up.

It is with great regret we lose some longstanding members of the Committee. Without the support of these people ACERT would not have achieved so much. A special thank you to Helen Blow, whose continued support as Treasurer has been invaluable and thanks also to Kim Tomsett, who has announced her retirement.

I would like to voice a deep regret at losing so much experience and depth of knowledge from the ACERT Executive Committee, and a personal thank you for all the time, commitment and hard work that made ACERT, as an organisation, happen.

Pat Barr

(Chair of ACERT)

ACERT Annual General Meeting

Saturday 27 September 2008

Treasurer's Report

As always, I would like to thank Hilary Fothergill for preparing the accounts for the year ending March 2008. The accounts have been independently examined and thanks also for that. Again, as always, I would also like to thank both Hilary and Hazel Terry for the dedicated work they put in behind the scenes that makes the role of the Treasurer so straightforward and trouble free.

Our gross income for the year has been £6,900.67. A grant from the DCSF supported the Appleby 'On the Hoof' Project. Apart from that, the income came mostly from subscriptions and donations. Subscriptions and donations are enhanced by Gift Aid, so it continues to be important for tax-paying subscribers and donors to complete Gift Aid forms. Thanks are due to Pat Barr and her team for the Appleby Project.

Expenses for this year were £5207.20 leaving a surplus of £1,693.47. We started the year with a balance of £16,637 and ended with a balance of £18,330.

Although membership continues to fall, yet again our assets have increased over the year. The opportunity continues to exist for members to apply for small grants to support specific projects.

It would be helpful if ACERT produced a document that outlines the criteria by which members can apply for small grants. I would like to make a recommendation that a small group of 2-4 members volunteer to draft terms and conditions for approval by the Executive Committee. This can then be circulated to all members.

On a more personal level, it is with regret that I tender my resignation as Treasurer and give deep heartfelt personal thanks to Hazel and Hilary for all their work and support.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE EDUCATION OF
ROMANY AND OTHER TRAVELLERS
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008**

	2008	2007
Sales of publications		
Subscriptions	865.00	785.00
Donations	485.00	310.00
Conference		
HOOF Project	5,000.00	4,122.89
Sundry Income	224.09	262.87
Bank Interest Received	326.58	292.78
Arts Council Grant		4,900.00
	6,900.67	10,673.54
Less Expenses		
Salaries and wages		
Recruitment		
HOOF Project	4,418.19	2,459.00
Repairs and renewals		
Conferences ECU		
Travelling	40.60	76.70
Printing/post/stat	355.01	354.67
Advertising		
AGM & Hall hire	183.40	68.00
Accountancy Fees	180.00	230.00
Rent/rates/insurance		306.97
Office equipment		
Telephone/fax		
Sundry expenses/resources	30.00	5.00
Depreciation		
Provision for loan to petty cash		
Lottery refund		
Legal costs		
Second Site Project		5,241.04
	5,207.20	8,741.38
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,693.47	1,932.16

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE EDUCATION OF
ROMANY AND OTHER TRAVELLERS
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all Tangible Fixed Assets at annual rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment: 25% reducing balance.

2. TANGIBLE ASSETS

COST OR VALUATION	O/Equip 2008	2007
At beginning of year	0	0
Additions	0	0
At 31 March 2008		
 <u>DEPRECIATION</u>		
At beginning of year	0	0
Charge for year	0	0
At 31 March 2008	0	0
Net book value at 31 March 2008	0	0
Net book value at beginning of year	0	0

3. DEBTORS

Amounts falling within one year:	2008	2007
Lottery Grant		
Donation		

4. BANK BALANCES/CASH IN HAND

	2008	2007
Bank of Scotland	1377	1362
Alliance & Leicester	9891	8525
Scottish Widows	7062	6750
Petty Cash		
Lottery Petty Cash		
	18330	16637

5. LIABILITIES

Creditor accruals	0	0
Provision (loan to petty cash)	0	0
	0	0

ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE EDUCATION OF
ROMANY AND OTHER TRAVELLERS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2008

	NOTES	2008	2007
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	2		0
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	3		0
Cash at bank etc	4	<u>18330</u>	<u>16637</u>
		18330	16637
CREDITORS			
Amount falling within or Loan Provision	5		0
NET CURRENT ASSETS/ LIABILITIES		18330	16637
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
TOTAL NET ASSETS			
REPRESENTED BY:			
Reserve B/Fwd		16637	14704
Plus surplus/(deficit)		1693	1933
		18330	16637

Date: 27 September 2008

Approved
Chair

[Signature]

Date: 27 September 2008

Approved
Treasurer

[Signature]

National Strategies & Traveller Education – Pat Barr

Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement Programme (GRTAP)

The GRTAP Context - ESCGA

- Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement Programme (GRTAP) part of Ethnicity, Social Class and Gender Achievement (ESCGA) Plan. ESCGA aims:
- ‘to maximise progress and close the attainment gaps for underachieving black and minority ethnic and white British pupils by providing support and challenge to local authorities and, through them, to schools.’
- GRTAP contributes by aiming:
- ‘to improve the quality of provision and rates of attendance, reduce exclusions and thus also raise attainment, for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils.’*

*National Strategies Annual Plan 2008/09 Ethnicity, Social Class and Gender Achievement Programme Plan 1.4.08

The GRTAP objectives

- To develop LA & school capacity and sustainability to raise the achievement of GRT pupils
- To meet educational needs of GRT communities/children through personalised learning
- To support schools’ inclusive, race equality practice inc. strategic management of mobility
- To improve knowledge of GRT communities and thus raise expectations & strengthen teaching
- To tailor, develop & share resources that work so that success can be replicated

The GRTAP outcomes

GRTAP realises its aims & objectives by achieving the following outcomes:

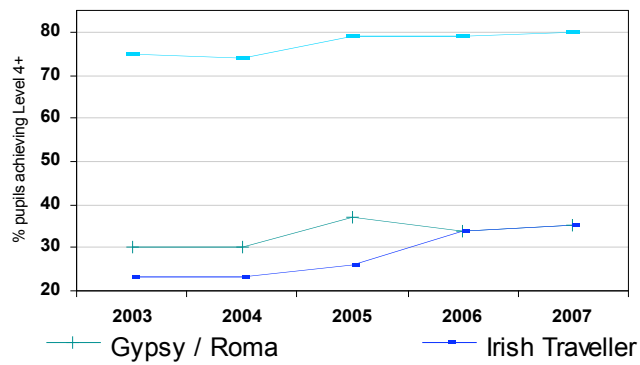
- Two percentage points increase in attendance for GRT pupils in targeted schools
- Increased attainment of KS2/3 GRT pupils in English, mathematics and science
- Reduction in exclusions of GRT pupils
- 10% increase in numbers of GRT pupils recorded on the Annual Schools Census

Why these aims and objectives?

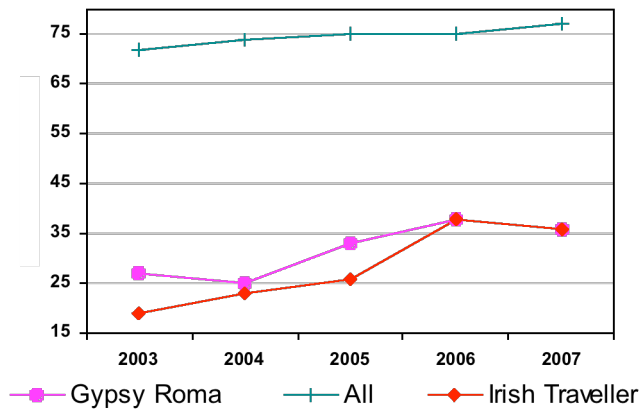
GRT pupils –population size - January 2007 school census

Primary	2005 (%)	2006 (%)	2007 (%)
Gypsy/Roma	4780 (0.1)	5150 (0.2)	5370 (0.2)
Irish Traveller	3000 (0.1)	3000 (0.1)	2840 (0.1)
Secondary			
Gypsy/Roma	2020 (0.1)	2300 (0.1)	2610 (0.1)
Irish Traveller	1030 (0.05)	1060 (0.05)	1040 (0.05)

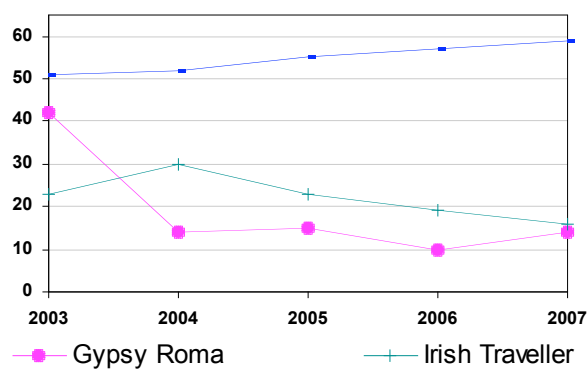
KS 2 English L4+ 2003 – 2007



KS 2 Mathematics L4+ 2003 – 2007



GCSE 5A*-C 2003 - 2007



Achieving outcomes, the GRTAP focus

Phase 1 focus, the first two years:

- Data used to identify those underperforming
- Develop Quality First Teaching & Learning with literacy interventions
- Improved parental partnerships

Phase 2 focus, the above plus:

- Early Years Foundation Stage
- Ensure successful transfers & transitions
- The above then contribute to improved behaviour & attendance

*National Strategies Annual Plan 2008/09 Ethnicity, Social Class and Gender Achievement Programme Plan 1.4.08

Achieving outcomes, the GRTAP priorities for schools

- Use data to identify underperforming pupils and inform teaching & learning
- develop Quality First teaching & learning with a focus on literacy
- improve effective parent/carer partnerships
- ensure successful transfer and transition to and from all Key Stages
- the above then contributing to improving behaviour and attendance

The GRTAP partners

Phase 1 participating schools & LAs

Blackburn with Darwen, Cambs., Devon, Durham, Herefordshire, Hounslow, Kent, Lancs., Newham, Norfolk, Notts., Surrey

Phase 2 participating schools & LAs

Bromley, E. Sussex, Essex, Gloucs., Leeds, Northumberland, Oxfordshire, Rotherham, Walsall, Waltham Forest

Support for you

- Funding
- Local strategic support & networks
- Regional Adviser support & visits
- Programme networks
- Resources, materials & guidance
 - commit to GRTAP as a priority
 - identify a senior to lead work
 - identify & commit staff to attend network meetings
 - carry out self evaluation audit involving LA, school, pupils and parents
 - draw up GRTAP action plan aligned to school development planning cycle
 - identifying, baseline, target and monitor individual GRT pupils; raising achievement through personalised learning programmes
 - monitor, review, evaluate & report back on progress
 - share what works well

Reporting expectations

- Baseline current achievement, attendance, exclusions
- Action Plan aims
- Report termly to your LA on progress against your aims
- Visits from your LA/Regional Adviser to evaluate progress against your aims

Materials

DVD & booklet 'Raising the achievement of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils'

www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/primary/publications/inclusion/raising_grt_achievement/

- 'The Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children & Young People'

www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

Planned materials:

- Early Years Foundation Stage GRT children: guidance for practitioners
- Raising the attainment of GRT pupils: a management guide
- Raising the attainment of GRT pupils: a guided resource book & CD

'The vast majority of Traveller pupils linger on the periphery of the education system. The situation has persisted for far too long...'

Traveller pupils (Ofsted 2003)

Provision and Support for

GRTAP aims to change that situation

Education on the Hoof 2008..... and the future?

Allison Abdelah

Education on the Hoof has always provided valuable training for professionals who work with Gypsies and Travellers. In 2008 it was co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Service Team for Traveller Education.

A change of emphasis...This year it was decided that in order to impact upon a wider, more diverse audience the talks should be opened up to all visitors to the Fair, Gypsies and Travellers, the local community and a wide spectrum of professionals.

Representatives attended from Connexions, health services, the police department, fire department, local councillors and residents, local authority Officers, historical societies

Other work...

Research project

Story telling for children

Early Years play sessions run by other agencies

Work in local primary and secondary schools

The objective of these workshops was to break down prejudices and misunderstandings that might exist between Travellers and the **local**/settled community.

Recommendations for future developments *The role of the education project could be further developed:*

- by bringing together education, culture, learning and the arts all under one banner. Work could be undertaken in conjunction with the Leisure and Culture team at Eden District Council and/or other arts providers. A real opportunity exists at Appleby Fair to run a Gypsy Arts & Culture Festival, or at least to instigate some pilot projects to explore how this could be gradually developed in future years. Talks, exhibitions of photographs or other work by Gypsy artists, music events, the Romany Theatre Company, films etc could all be staged.
- a more professional setting for work and alternative venues - could include an official banner incorporating ACERT logo
- Building capacity.
- by increasing the involvement of Gypsy Traveller colleagues and community members.
- by adopting specific DCSF priorities, for example secondary transfer and retention and focusing on these priorities at the planning and preparation stage of the project.

Feedback from Cumbria Multi Agency Planning meeting –

Monday 22nd September - Addressing the recommendations

- A coordinated approach to Appleby Fair
- Education on the Hoof 2009

What do ACERT want to achieve from the project in 2009?

- How would ACERT like Cumbria to contribute

What is Cumbria's role?

- Who will coordinate the project this year?
- Suggestions/ideas

- Focus on work in Secondary schools and providing awareness training to professionals and visitors – flexible in location and approach

- Market place of services - multi-agency approach

Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month – Patricia Knight (Presented by Thomas Acton)

Origins

In February 2008, a meeting of Gypsies, Travellers and Traveller Education Staff was convened at the Department of Children Schools and Families to create a national version of a local Gypsy and Traveller month which had been held in the London Borough of Brent every June since 2004. With a £60,000 grant from the DCSF and just 3 months to organise a national Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month, the community worked in partnership with Traveller Education service staff to start the first determined national attempt to educate the British population about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History and Culture.

Structure

From an initial meeting in Whitehall in February 2008, a national steering group was founded as a body, which would help to organise and implement GRTHM 2008. At its initial meeting, representatives from Traveller Education Services from across England attended along with representatives from the English Romany community, Slovak, Albanian and Romanian Roma community, Showman's community and Irish Traveller community. All enthusiastically welcomed the initiative, despite its very tight timetable.

The following key GRT organisations were represented on the GRTHM National Strategy group as follows

- * Irish Traveller Movement
- * Showmans Guild
- * National Federation of Romany and Traveller Groups
- * Roma Support Group
- * Justice for Travellers
- * Romany Traveller Family History Society.
- * Gypsy Media Company

Thomas Acton - Gypsy Council member and Professor of Romany Studies was also on the group.

The national co-ordinator came into post in March. The potential of the initiative to engage a broad range of sectors became apparent as the co-ordinator received e mails and calls from arts, sports, faith, media, education, and individuals and groups from the GRT community - at least 3000 during the course of the job.

Regions

Given that the funding had come from a central government department with responsibility for Children, Schools and Families in England, it was also decided that each of the 8 local government regions should have a coordinator that was either from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community or worked in partnership with it. The position was voluntary and came with a budget of £2,000 to help cover the costs of organising 1 regional networking meeting at which the community would be consulted about the month and involved in it.

Events

Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month in 2008 consisted of a wide array of national and local events, competitions, initiatives and projects. The following local, regional and national reports, give a flavour of its scope.

The major events were promoted through the Listings in the GRTHM magazine. Over 75 community events are listed ranging from exhibitions in Libraries, Museums and other public spaces through to concerts featuring GRT musicians, artists and performers.

Not included in the listings were numerous events in schools and communities frequently organised in partnership between GRT communities and TES departments across the country. To date over 70 evaluation forms have been returned primarily by TES departments - but also by members of the GRT community- describing projects undertaken in schools and communities. Although only a fraction of the activity undertaken nationally - these returns alone show the direct involvement of over 7000 children and a greater number of adults across the country during the month.

National poster competition

In November 2007 as part of the strategy to develop awareness of the first National GRTHM in June 2008, Leeds GRTAS suggested having a national Poster Competition. The DCSF supported this initiative and Leeds GRTAS led by Peter Saunders volunteered to organise it.

Five artists from the different GRT communities were commissioned to create a work to celebrate GRTHM, which would then be produced as posters to encourage children, young people, individuals and organisations to take part and prepare for GRTHM. The four artists chosen were those who had exhibited at the Second Site Exhibition and Fairground Artist Lloyd Holland.

There was a prestigious Launch at the House of Lords on the 19th February, hosted by Lord Avebury, arranged by Arthur Ivatts and Sheila Longstaff (DCSF) with all the artworks displayed.

Competition leaflets were produced and the competition promoted through the web site Education, Heritage, and Library and GRT community networks.

There were tens of thousands of entries from around the country and the five artists judged the competition in Leeds on Tuesday 13th May and the winners were announced.

Many local authorities organised their own local competitions to have their own winners, which Leeds also did.

Website

Internet access within the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community is low compared to that of the settled community, but it is growing fast and is estimated to be about 60% of the community. But the Internet is increasingly the prime means of communication in today's society, so a powerful web presence was always needed for GRTHM 2008

In April there were 13953 page views, in May there were 22309, in June there were 37826. A "page view" is the number of successfully loaded pages from the site. In April there were 6060 unique visitors, in May there were 8793, in June there were 14436. A "unique visitor" is the number people or groups of people that visited the site. It's impossible to say where all these people were whilst looking at the website, but we know that they came from across the world, including Canada, Ukraine, Slovak Republic, Italy, Czech Republic, Hungary, Turkey, Argentina, Poland, Taiwan, Romania and Peru.

Magazines

During the run up to GRTHM much discussion focused on how best to market the month to the community in such a short space of time. Just £10,000 was available to inform a community of 300,000 people in two months. As with many other elements of month, the enthusiastic participation of many different advocates for the community meant that a lot was achieved.

An insert in the April edition of Travellers Times got the ball rolling. It covered the basics of what the month was about and how people could get involved. 25,000 copies were produced and distributed largely within the Travellers Times, but also independently.

The next task was to produce a listings magazine, which would nationally publicise many of the public events being organised across Britain. It also needed to carry editorial content, which would motivate people to attend the events.

15,000 copies of the magazine were distributed by local Traveller Education Services, Gypsy support groups, GRTHM event venues and organisers. The remaining magazines were distributed directly at Appleby Fair, the biggest Gypsy Horse Fair in Europe on June 6th and 7th and the Epsom Derby on the same weekend. Many thousands more copies of the magazine were also downloaded from the website at www.grthm.co.uk

A second edition of Gypsy, Roma Traveller History Month magazine will be produced in September and distributed as a supplement with the autumn edition of Travellers Times in October.

Media

Despite many attempts to try and engage journalists within national newspapers and broadcasters, there was very little coverage within the national press, apart from a couple of mentions in the Guardian and Times Educational Supplement and some specialist press dealing with consumption and trust towards local and regional media is often far greater than for the national media. So the media campaign for the month was as grassroots as its organisation.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that GRTHM 2008 was enormously successful, given its very limited budget and resources. In many ways it has become a much welcomed positive initiative by many in the Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities whose very lives are often surrounded by local hostility, political hostility and media hostility. As such it has become a breath of fresh air in the often stagnant debate as to where Gypsies, Roma and Travellers should live.

The evidence for this can be found in press cuttings, correspondence and by having experienced the month itself. But perhaps the most powerful evidence was to be found in the thousands of Gypsies, Roma, Travellers and settled people who attended events or organised them. It was undoubtedly a good example of local and central government discharging their legal duty to promote good race relations and social cohesion as defined by the Race Relations Act.

But, in reality, the effect it had in publicly educating children and the wider population was not as great as it needs to be to combat the rising tide of racial hatred experienced by Gypsies, Roma and Travellers across Europe and Britain. The successes must be built upon and expanded in order to change the lives of all. In the course of GRTHM 2008, fractures appeared that could threaten the event's success if not carefully considered

Recommendation

One of the month's potential strengths and weaknesses is that its organisation has involved many participants from many backgrounds. Not only have people come at the project from the very different worldviews of the public, private and voluntary sector, they've also come from a variety of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

So any future governance of the month needs to be able accommodate all of these worldviews. The recommendation below focuses not so much on when the month should be held, but who should organise it and how they should do it. The following model outlines all of these areas. It builds upon the model used in 2008.

There has been much debate about how the Month should be organised in the future - should it continue to be led by a National Steering Group - hosted by the DCSF, should it be led by a new partnership of GRT organisations, should it be more devolved to regional or even county level?

The reality is that this is not an either/or situation. The Month needs DCSF funding and support if it is to survive in 2009. At the same time it needs the fullest involvement of GRT organisations from the outset. So it will always be a partnership - and the question is how best to establish a structure within which that partnership will flourish.

Education and young people.

But where the PR campaign failed nationally, it was very successful regionally and locally.

The model proposed assumes that the DCSF will work with GRT organizations to develop a detailed specification for the delivery of GRTHM next year - and that the whole project will then be put out to Competitive Tender - giving all GRT organisations the chance to apply - alone or in partnership to run the Month. This way the Month will be established on a sound business footing, and the process of selection will be transparent and rigorous, and all interested parties will have the opportunity to apply.

Part of the process will be to approach other key funders such as the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Department for Communities and Local Government. This year local groups also accessed funding from a variety of sources including the Heritage Lottery and Arts Council. But at this late stage we cannot assume other funding will be forthcoming. The platform for this year's successful GRTHM was DCSF funding and this should be continued.

DCSF should recognise that GRTHM 2008 was a very successful educational initiative - and that TES's and schools, libraries and museums are now embedding GRTHM in their planning for future work.

PAT NINER - GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION ASSESSMENTS

My own involvement

- I find it hard to remember life before GTAAs
- Have led 4 sub-regional GTAAs and had a minor role in 6 more
- Led team producing guidance on benchmarking GTAAs and using the findings
- Advised 4 Regional Assemblies on GTAA estimates and figures
- As a consequence read most of the GTAAs produced so far
- Ran workshops for contractors and users

Background to GTAAs

- The Housing Act 2004 requires local authorities to carry out assessments of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs
- Any needs identified must be built into housing strategies and Local Development Frameworks
- Regional planning bodies use evidence from GTAAs in making pitch allocations to local authorities in RSS Reviews (+ a strategic view)

Implications

- GTAAs are not an end in themselves although it often feels like it!
- They are a central part of the Government's policy for providing more Gypsy and Traveller sites and better services within a community cohesion agenda
- GTAAs must therefore link into policy formulation at regional and local level
- Ultimately will be judged by how effective they are in this – the test of how useful they are; not much indication as yet

GTAAs to date

- More than 50 GTAAs carried out, covering most of England; soon will be complete
- The great majority are on a sub-regional basis involving local authority partnerships
- The great majority have been carried out externally rather than in-house, by 'academic' or 'commercial' consultants
- They have involved the Gypsy and Traveller communities to differing extents and in different ways
- Following the CLG Guidance, a fairly common approach has been used:
 - analysis of secondary information
 - some stakeholder interviews/focus groups
 - face-to-face structured interviews with Gypsies and Travellers
 - (sometimes) focus groups or depth interviews providing more qualitative data
- Surveys normally focus on accommodation issues, but also touch on education, employment, health, discrimination
- Analysis is usually quantitative and the main finding is an estimate of pitches required in the next 5 or 10 years
- The 'model' used in most pitch requirement estimates broadly follows the example in the Guidance

Assessment of requirements

- Normally takes into account need from:
 - current over-crowding and sharing households
 - unauthorised developments
 - unauthorised encampments
 - movement between sites and houses
 - temporary planning permissions
 - new family formation
- May take account of supply from:
 - sites already programmed & vacancies arising over the plan period

- Requirement is estimate of need less estimate of supply
- GTAA normally estimates on a 'need where it arises' basis

GTAA's to date

- Some areas found to be particularly problematic, for example:
 - dealing with nomadism and transient needs
 - dealing with cross-boundary movement and migration
 - a range of issues around Gypsies and Travellers in housing
 - distinguishing 'need' from 'demand' or 'aspirations'
 - where do people want to live?

Travelling Showpeople

- GTAA's should also include needs of Travelling Showpeople
- Not all GTAA's do so
- Often quite difficult to assess their needs – is it for a plot or a family yard or a depot?

Benchmarking

- Teams led by CURS has been involved in benchmarking GTAA's for E, SE, SW and WM Regional Assemblies
- Developed checklist of questions to check soundness of approach taken in GTAA
- Quality varies - a few unsound because of omissions etc
- Similar overall approach to modelling requirements, however, GTAA's are almost infinitely varied in detail – not totally consistent

South West EIP Panel comments on GTAA's

- GTAA estimates not accepted or credible in eyes of Gypsy and Traveller communities
- SW GTAA's were flawed, but not as flawed as claimed by some Gypsy and Traveller groups; under-counting likely
- Benchmarking found to be useful and the amendments proposed on basis of benchmarking apparently accepted
- Some detailed local evidence produced by Gypsies and Travellers at the Examination in Public (EIP) also accepted

Recommendations from Panel

- Scope for improvement in future GTAA's
- Desirable to have greater consistency
- Greater openness in process + independence from local authorities
- Greater efforts to really engage Gypsy and Traveller communities
- More comprehensive – questions sample approach given diversity of communities
- Care in choosing interviewers

Other issues raised

- Important to include transit as well as residential needs to permit nomadic lifestyle
- Where do people want to live?
- How many housed Gypsies and Travellers want site pitches?
- Diverse communities have different needs

Challenges for the future

- Making sure findings of the current round of GTAA's are used in housing and planning strategies – **PROVIDE SITES and other areas?**
- Laying groundwork for future, better GTAA's by greater involvement of the communities and stakeholders
- Better advice and guidance
- Learning from everyone's experiences and perspectives

Presentation to ACERT September 27th 2008

Helen Jones ~ Leeds GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Exchange)

1. Evidence of link between educational achievement and health status

- ❖ Figures from US (Lleras-Muney 2002) suggest that one additional year of schooling reduces the probability of dying in the next ten years by 3.6%
- ❖ Figures from Sweden suggest an additional year of schooling increases the probability of a healthy BMI (Body Mass Index) from 60% to 72% (Spasojevic 2003)
- ❖ If all women in the UK attained level 3 qualifications the probability of depression would fall from 26% to 22% (Chevalier and Feinstein 2006)

Further points according to Feinstein:

- ❖ Education can undermine as well as promote health. There is a need to acknowledge the difference between receiving education and learning.
- ❖ The beneficial effects of education depend on the match between provision and the interests and needs of the learner.
- ❖ Learners receptivity to learning depends on their contexts and prior experiences.
- ❖ Health, well-being and behaviour strongly influence learning.

2. Information/misinformation

"The 1987 national study of Travellers' health status in Ireland reported a high death rate for all causes and lower life expectancy for Irish Travellers: women 11.9 years and men 9.9 years lower than the non-Traveller population." –the health status of Gypsies and Travellers in England, Parry et al 2004

"Gypsies and Irish Travellers have the poorest life chances of any ethnic group today: life expectancy for men and women is ten years lower than the national average" -Common Ground, Commission for Racial Equality, 2006

"The life expectancy of Gypsies and Travellers can be 10 years less than the national average" –Government response to The Road Ahead Task group report, 2008

* Barry J, Herity B, Solan J. The Travellers' health status study, vital statistics of travelling people, 1987. Dublin: Health Research Board, 1987

And yet Leeds Baseline Census of Gypsies and Travellers 2005, verified by Leeds University and included in 'A Practical Guide to

ethnic monitoring in the NHS and Social Care, DH 2007' found an average life expectancy among Gypsies and Irish Travellers in Leeds of 50 years of age compared to the local and national average of 78 years.

In June of 2007 a study by the Catholic Church in Ireland found that "infants are 10 times more likely to die before reaching the age of two, a third of Travellers die before the age of 25 and 80% of Travellers die before the age of 65.

- ❖ Why do organisations continue to recycle the lower life expectancy figures when more up to date information is available? Is there an element of denial of the scale of the problem?
- ❖ Is there any reason to believe that life expectancy figures for Gypsies and Travellers may be getting worse?
- ❖ Clearly there is a need for larger scale research. Who should do this research?

"The children of Gypsy and Traveller families have specific [health] needs related to mobility and their way of life". – Opening sentence of the Leeds JSNA draft.

How true is this as a bald statement? What is the effect of bald statements like this being included in strategic documents like JSNA's?

3. Current initiatives

Pacesetters

- ❖ National programme to address health inequalities.
- ❖ 6 SHA's are pacesetters pilot areas with further areas due to join in for wave two. Current areas:
 - ❖ NHS East Midlands
 - NHS London
 - NHS South East Coast
 - NHS South West
 - NHS West Midlands
 - NHS Yorkshire and The Humber

Within each SHA up to four individual trusts will work on a range of local and core issues. Each participating trust will take on three *local* issues, all with a patient-focus. Working with the Delivery Framework, EHRG will assist trusts to identify patient issues where health gains are likely to be significant. The actual "local" elements to be tackled will be determined based on a Baseline Audit that EHRG has prepared, together with local evidence and local consultation. In a SHA area, the three participating Trusts, should between them, cover all six equality strands.

The "core" elements, suggested by DH, will cover both workforce and patient care issues, and comprise:

- promoting dignity and respect, including tackling bullying, in the workplace
- developing flexible working options, particularly for staff from communities that experience inequalities
- improving and using "equality" data collections for both patients/service users and the workforce
- improving the health status of Gypsies and Travellers.
- G/T health recognised and included as a core theme- why? The findings of the Sheffield research, Leeds Baseline Census and lobbying by Gypsy and Traveller representative groups. DH acknowledges need to address ignorance and hostility towards
- Gypsies and Travellers from NH staff. DH uses the catchphrase 'nowt about us without us' and highlights the need for work to be based in an equal partnership of healthcare staff and Gypsies and Travellers themselves.

The **Leicester City PCT** has begun training members of travelling communities to become Health Ambassadors. To date, 30 people have received training. The role involves members of the community providing cultural awareness training for healthcare staff. As the project develops, the intention is to train the Health Ambassadors to deliver basic health promotion within their own communities. The initiative will be formally launched in late June, to coincide with Gypsy Traveller History Month. The new Health Ambassadors will receive badges and certificates in recognition of their role at the launch.

To further address the health needs of the travelling community, a smaller piece of work is planned to explore the use of enhanced payments to GPs to encourage better registration within the city.

Wrexham Local Health Board have provided a Gypsy and Traveller health project worker based around a converted camper van which is used as a 'health bus'. Key findings of a recent evaluation of the project were:

- Service culturally acceptable to Gypsies and Travellers
- High Coronary Heart Disease risk behaviours and high mental health problems
- High levels of domestic abuse (although no apparent control group comparison)
- Project lead to increase in access to healthcare and improved quality of healthcare
- Key elements of success of project were identified as having a dedicated health worker; provision of the health bus; partnership working; secure funding.

Derby Gypsy Liaison Group

Mental Health status research complete and due for publication.

- "I know when it's raining"
- 1 year project funded by Lancaster University
- 150 Questionnaires across Gypsies and Irish Travellers in East Midlands
- 4 volunteers gained accreditation in mental health research skills
- Mental health described in terms "your brain is like a flower, it needs watering"
- Recommendations of the report tie in with the recommendations of "Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care" DH 2005

Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange

- Group initiated from findings of a report commissioned by an interagency group run by South Leeds Health for All
- Independent, representative group which has grown over 5 years from one part time member of staff to a strategically significant organisation delivering a wide range of projects ie inclusion, health, connexions, advocacy etc.
- Clear structure which demonstrates how Gypsy and Irish Traveller members retain power and control over decision making and benefit.
- Facilitated the Leeds Baseline Census of Gypsies and Travellers (REC 2005) which enabled 6 community members to act as interviewers and to lead the project.
- Findings of Census taken on board by Dept of Health and Leeds Directors of Public Health
- Service level agreement negotiated between GATE and Leeds PCT to provide a strategic health advocacy project at GATE for three years.
- GATE invited to become involved with national Pacesetters programme by Dept of Health and then to facilitate a national community members Quality Assurance group to take an overview of the Pacesetters work to address Gypsy and Traveller health inequalities
- Highly successful operational and strategic partnership working with PCT and some departments within Leeds City Council.
- Recognition of the role that GATE can play in supporting organisations to address National Indicator targets.
- Project work including domestic violence, community health educators training scheme, events a local Gypsy/Traveller events (Lee Horse Fair), mental health self help CD.

Leeds GATE Gypsy and Traveller Exchange

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National Association of Teachers of Travellers

Anthea Wormington

At the NATT AGM on May 17th 2008, after much discussion, the Association was renamed NATT+ (National Association of Teachers of Travellers and other Professionals).

The Association in trying to reach out to those, other than teachers, involved in the education of GRT was thus committed to renaming the association to reflect this. The new name was selected through a voting process from ideas sent in by the membership. (Since the renaming of the Association there has been a notable increase in membership.)

NATT+ consists of:

- a very active Policy and Strategy group which has replied to consultations as they arise
- a Professional Development Group that organises INSET (In-service Training) for our 3 national meetings and conferences
- an Educational Partnership Group which has regular meetings with the Circus and Fairground Community
- an IT group which is at the moment heavily involved in up-dating the NATT+ web-site and was instrumental in setting up the very successful E Lamp project

The academic year 2007/8 was an eventful year for NATT+.

The NATT Resources Project, which was run with DCSF backing, helped raise the profile of GRT groups in schools and educational settings across the country. The resources arrived in 679 educational settings (in 73 local authorities) in early September 2007. It was our expectation that schools would actively promote the use of the resources across the curriculum and then complete a short evaluation during the next academic year.

We were also heavily involved in promoting the first ever GRTHM in June. (The present plan is for this to take place again next June with a vote by the GRT communities as to whether it will then continue to be in June.)

NATT+ linked up with ACERT throughout the last year in regular meetings with DCSF (and attended a meeting with Andrew Adonis in November 2007.)

Issues discussed with the DCSF included:

- the future of funding for Traveller Education Services
- the mainstreaming agenda
- the responses to the letter from Lord Adonis sent to each L.A. last November
- Working with the Equalities Commission
- Target setting for GRT pupils by LA's
- A route into the TDA re training on GRT issues

As these issues were crucial to us all involved in Traveller Education it made sense for us to join forces with ACERT and address them together. These meetings with the DCSF are continuing on a regular basis.

There was a joint NATT/ACERT conference held on March 11th in West Ham, London which was very well attended and received positive evaluations. Much of the work done at the conference will serve the Association in our ongoing work and future meetings with the DCSF.

Leading on from the conference NATT+ sent out an audit to TES's to complete so that we can obtain an overall picture of the structure of TES's throughout the country, and a picture of any erosion of resources which is taking place. This information will also serve as launch pad towards the planning for the residential conference we intend to hold in March 2009 and our ongoing work with the DCSF.

NATT+ is looking forward to a continuation of our joint work with ACERT in 2008/9.

Anthea Wormington (President NATT+)

ACERT

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Registered Charity No. 800267

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Dear Members

We are conscious that the need to begin the organisation for Appleby Fair approaches us. The June GRT month now makes the timing difficult for some TES services and I appreciate there is commitment in your own LAs to work on similar events. However, we in ACERT together with DCSF have long supported Appleby Fair with the knowledge it remains the event that lies at the heart of Gypsy culture. We would like to see this valuable training and cultural experience continue. Allison from Cambridgeshire, who ran it last year with good outcomes, has offered to run the event in 2009 with the hope of support from a mentor to follow on the commitment the following year. We have a willing volunteer to support Jenny Spencer who is on the ACERT Executive Committee but we are hoping for the support of a TES who has structure and admin support and would be willing to support the event in full the proceeding year 2010. Any ideas or support you can give would be welcome. Please contact me on my email address

Kind Regards

Pat Barr (ACERT)

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