

End of Life and Health care for Gypsies and Travellers



Nothing about us without us

Sherrie Smith, Project manager

GATE IS HERTFORDSHIRE'S ONLY GYPSY & TRAVELLER COMMUNITY ORGANISATION.

- GATE was established in July 2010 by Josie O'Driscoll and Herts county council Gypsy section and others.
- Gate provides an advocacy service and empowers the community in many ways
- Gate provides training, education, liaison & outreach support
- Gate ensures the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community have a voice in Herts, across the UK and Europe.
- GATE set up Report Racism GRT in 2016 the only dedicated hate crime reporting service for GRT.



WWW.REPORTRACISMGRT.COM

Dedicated Hate crime reporting for Gypsies, Roma & Travellers

0800 81 01 800

Free phone hate crime reporting



**Recognise
Report
Resolve**



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS



- make up the largest minority in Europe
- Up to 1.5% of the Uk population
- There are 3 main types Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

HEALTH FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

There is an excess of miscarriages, stillbirths and neonatal deaths.

Higher rates of maternal death and shortly after pregnancy.

Women will die 12 years younger, Men 10

22% of GRT have asthma against 5%

34% reported chest pain against 22%

Travellers 3 x more likely have chronic cough, bronchitis even after smoking is taken into consideration.

3 x more likely die of suicide

3 x more likely to be anxious

2 x more likely to be depressed

HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR GRT

- The report by Parry et al (2004) entitled The health status of Gypsies and Travellers in England, shows that both men and women often experience chronic ill health, frequently suffering from more than one condition: that carers experience a high level of stress and that secrecy about depression keeps it hidden and increases the burden on both the individual and the family as they try to manage.
- Many Gypsies and Travellers face high levels of bereavement, which is also a precipitating factor of depression. Poor psychological health is often in the context of multiple difficulties, such as discrimination, racism, and harassment as well as frequent evictions and the instability caused by this.
- Alcohol consumption is often a coping strategy and drug use among Traveller young people is widely reported and feared by the elders.
- Complex procedures and reluctance for registering with antenatal, prenatal, GP and community health are, meals on wheels etc.

TASK AND FINISH GROUP

HERTS CCG AND GATEHERTS

- **The overall objective of the Forum is to work towards building community capacity, support for self-management, and helping people take control.**
- * To improve staff awareness of the specific health inequalities and health needs of Gypsies and Travellers
- * To understand the specific barriers for Gypsies and Travellers in accessing and using health services appropriately
- * To learn from examples of good practice and identify specific actions to take that will improve access to health care for Gypsies and Travellers

EXAMPLES OF THE WORK TO DATE INCLUDE:

- Interactive presentation on 23rd June led by specialist palliative care clinical quality lead for North Herts setting out the provision of practical support for carers and family at end of life.
- – GATE raised awareness of the challenges and needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community i.e. refusal to use Hospice care, management of pain relief in their own homes
- Placed 15 year old Romany Gypsy girl in to work placement at Potters bar hospital for half term.
- Created easy password entrance for GRT job applications
- Created partnerships with Domestic abuse , sexual health, learning difficulties and Help the aged organisations.

GATE HERTS JOSIE O'DRISCOLL ON THE PROJECT:

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- "Gypsies and Travellers have some of the poorest health outcomes and therefore are a key priority. We welcome the effective commissioning of health services to our communities, we aim to improve health outcomes for Gypsy Roma Travellers through the work GATE Herts Task & Finish group are doing.
- Together we will develop and promote opportunities for Gypsy and Traveller community members to identify and meet their own health needs.
- We support Gypsy and Traveller community members to overcome literacy and other barriers in order to access and effectively utilise primary and secondary health services. These include GP's, community healthcare, mental health services, drug and alcohol, domestic abuse, hospital trusts, and carer support, and end of life care.
- We are particularly grateful to the HCT for establishing the trainee work experience programme with our youth Team at GATE. It's a unique initiative and as far as we are aware the first of its kind in the UK. We will continue to work together with HCT ensure equal access into mainstream community based, CCG and hospital trust healthcare"
- This could and should be a template for implementing better health care across the UK not just Hertfordshire. We need to be sharing good practise models and engaging nationally.

GTR CULTURAL AWARENESS

Cultural requirements are very rarely taken in to consideration

How can people be expected to understand up to 1% of the population with only negative media and stereotypes to educate them.

Nothing about Gypsies and Travellers is taught on the curriculum, very little in service training.

Over 90% of Gypsies and Travellers in UK live in bricks and mortar accommodation.



THE UNSPOKEN WORD

- Diabetes
- Mitochondria
- Heart disease
- Diabetes

- Substance misuse
- Autism
- Mental health
- Dementia

Palliative and end of life care

My experience of end of life care as a family member

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Mokkady Cleanliness and family rituals

Washing and laying out of the bereaved.

SERVICES ISSUES

- Evasiveness
- Shouting or loudness
- Lack of communication
- Lack of trust
- Fear of services

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Think, there may not be anyone with good literacy skills, posters leaflets wont help. This DOES NOT mean they are stupid.

Provide the family with 1 mobile phone number.

Provide a room for the family.

A designated member of staff to communicate with the family

Be honest and keep them informed.

Try and locate a member of the family as a direct point of contact to talk to and to multiply the information to the wider family.

Like any grieving /bereaved family be sympathetic, kind and understanding that grief and loss often transpires as anger.

WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU.

- Cultural awareness training
- Gypsy Roma Traveller History month resources and support
- Roma Holocaust information
- Resources to display about Gypsies and Traveller racism
- Report racism GRT hate crime merchandise and posters
- Advocacy and professional mediation
- Racism workshops aimed at helping to prevent issues between service users, families, patients, staff and visitors.
- Sharing your successful methods and practices with other services and orgs.
- Training aimed at strengthening relationships



ORGAN DONATION

Quey
Saunders

Saved 5 Lives,
2 of them children



Questions & Answers



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