

Gypsies & Travellers

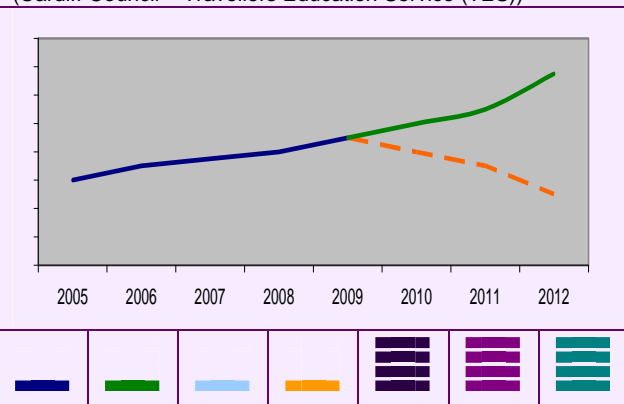
Cardiff has an established Gypsy and Traveller community. There are two permanent sites for Gypsy and Traveller families, one at Rover Way (21 pitches which accommodate 42 caravans) and the other at Shirenewton (55 pitches which accommodate 110 caravans). The biannual Gypsy and Traveller count in June 2010 identified no unauthorised encampments of Gypsies and Travellers in the city, but two encampments are awaiting retrospective planning permission. There is also one pitch on a private site, with a further 18 pitches on two private sites awaiting retrospective planning permission, with a likelihood of receiving planning consent before 2013. Current estimates of population growth to 2013 indicate the formation of 54.8 new households.

Site provision for Gypsies and Travellers has been assessed in line with the recommendations of the *Pat Niner Report* and the *Gypsy Site Guidelines* issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2008. Extensive site condition surveys have been completed at both sites. Plans have been drawn up for improvements to the facilities and infrastructure of the sites, including upgraded amenity blocks, traffic calming measures and improved community facilities and services. A successful bid was made to the Welsh Assembly Government to assist with the funding for provision of some of the improvements to the Shirenewton site. Cardiff Council had to withdraw its application for a Welsh Assembly Government Gypsy and Traveller Site Refurbishment Grant for the Rover Way site because it is unable to meet the criteria relating to the sustainability of the site. Alternative solutions are being sought to try to address the refurbishment need in the short term. Various options are being considered to address the longer term need for the site which includes exploring potential relocation.

A survey of the future housing needs of Cardiff's Gypsy and Traveller community was undertaken as part of the Local Housing Market Assessment in accordance with guidance issued by the Welsh Assembly Government. This included an assessment of the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in permanent fixed accommodation. The findings indicated a need for additional pitches over a ten year period. This estimated that there is a need for 194 residential site pitches over a ten year period producing a current (2010) annualised requirement of 24.1 pitches per year.

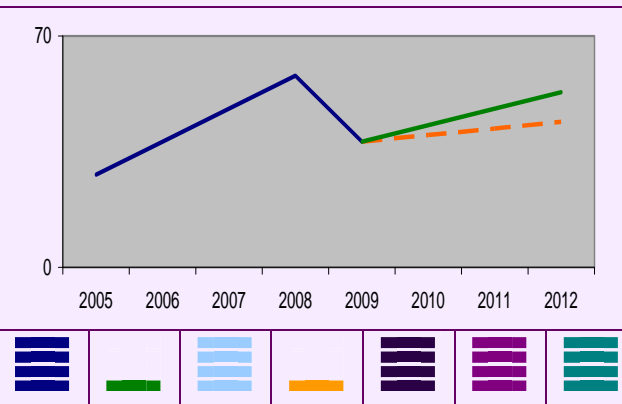
Headline Indicators and how are we doing?

Proportion of eligible Year 6 Students transferring to secondary education
(Cardiff Council – Travellers Education Service (TES))

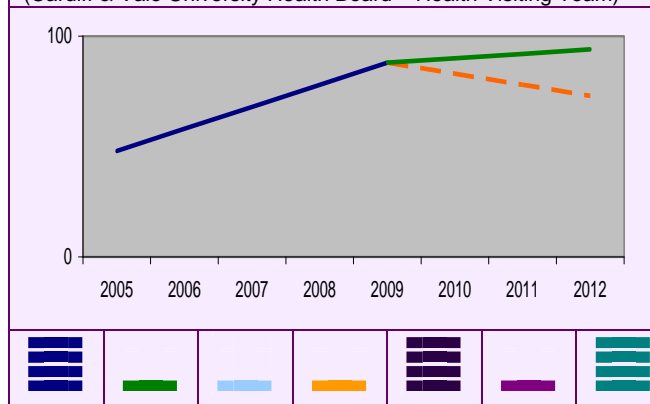


Number of requests for pitches

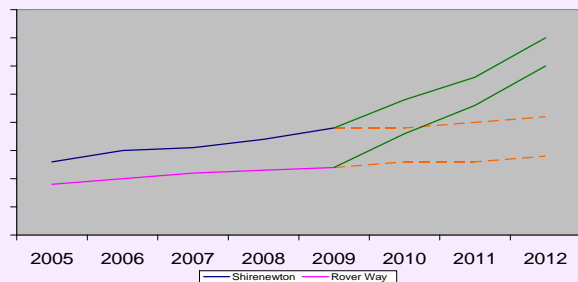
(Cardiff Council – Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal)



Proportion of children achieving satisfactory Schedule of Growing Skills SOGS by age 2-3
(Cardiff & Vale University Health Board – Health Visiting Team)

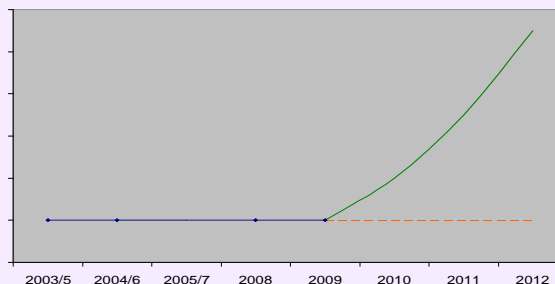


Percentage uptake of Immunisations
(Cardiff & Vale University Health Board – Health Visiting Team)



Number of successful prosecutions for reported G&T Hate Crimes

(South Wales Police – Minorities Support Unit)



Data Development:

- To develop a separate ethnic code for G&T data across partnership data sets
- To separate data for EU Roma
- To gather the number of eligible G&T pupils receiving support from Transitions Team
- To measure overcrowding
- To measure the number of G&T women who seek ante-natal care
- To measure the number of G&T reporting to A&E
- To look at outcomes of Safer Wales initiative regarding hate crime self-reporting

Key:

— — — The route we will take if we do nothing ——— The curve we want to turn

The bars under each graph represent how the indicator impacts on the seven Cardiff outcomes for the city as seen below:



Story behind the baselines

Life Expectancy and Mortality: National research shows that Gypsies and Travellers die earlier than the rest of the population. Their life expectancy is 12 years less for women, and 10 years less for men when compared with the general population. Individuals aged 50+ are considered elderly in this community. A recent study showed that only 30% of Gypsies & Travellers live beyond 60. The life expectancy of Gypsies & Traveller of local authority sites with access to health care is better than that of Travellers without accommodation, but still worse than the settled community.

Well Being and Morbidity: Gypsies and Travellers experience worse health, after controlling for socio-economic status and comparing to other marginalised groups. 38% have a long-term illness, 22% have arthritis, 22% have asthma, 34% experience chest pain, 25% have mobility problems, prevalence of diabetes is, smoking is highly prevalent, there are higher self-reported levels of anxiety and depression, poorer dental health, lower levels of exercise, significantly poorer diet, and high rates of chronic liver conditions related to alcohol abuse. The community is both superstitious and fatalistic about health issues and interventions. There are great taboos around issues concerning sexual and reproductive health, resulting in women have higher prevalence of cervical cancers due to their lack of engagement with cervical cytology screening programmes. There is an increasing problem of substance abuse among the community. There are comparatively high suicide rates among the communities and a strong stigma around mental health problems.

Transition to secondary education: Very few Gypsies and Travellers transfer to secondary education as the community does not value education beyond primary school age. Elected Home Education (EHE) enables the community to withdraw their children from mainstream education, which can have a negative impact on their education. Additional funding for transition workers in Travellers Education Service (TES) has been successful and generated an increase in transfers to secondary school. There are some future risks concerning the impact of a reduced grant allocation on the capacity of the TES.

Accommodation needs assessment: Since the repeal of the 1968 Caravan Sites Act in the Criminal Justice and Public Order in 1994, no extra pitches have been provided. There is now a waiting list which is largely due to family growth, resulting in a shortage of pitch accommodation. The Welsh Assembly Government guidelines propose expectations on the number, size and location of future pitches. The guidance also sets the current standard for pitches. A general lack of investment in site maintenance has led to not meeting these standards. Recent investment has improved the situation in Shirenewton. However, whilst the standards were met when Rover Way was build, there has been a lack of investment since.

Schedule of Growing Skills (SOGs – Flying Start) met in relation to chronological age: In the past Gypsy and Traveller children did not meet educational standards. Since improving access for health visitors to the sites and the introduction of the Schedule of Growing Skills (SOGs) system, Flying Start Health Visitors now regularly visit the sites and have seen improvements in SOGs scores.

Flu Immunisations: There are different uptake figures for different immunisations. Scare stories about the MMR vaccine have reduced uptake of this immunisation. The community holds deep superstitions about some medical interventions, and largely relied on word of mouth not factual medical information. Extra health input has resulted in improved uptake of immunisations.

Positive resolutions of reported hate crime: There is a historically negative relationship between the Gypsy & Traveller community and the Police. Large numbers of crimes against this community remain unreported. South Wales Police have introduced a specialist department (Ethnic Minority Support Unit) and officers (Gypsy Liaison Officer), which will hopefully improve links with the police, increase reporting of crimes against the community and an increase in positive resolutions.

Partners with a role to play

- Cardiff Council:
 - Sites Management
 - Housing Strategy Team
 - Playgroup Staff
 - Flying Start
 - Youth Services
 - Travellers Education Service (TES)
 - Educational Welfare Officers
 - Admissions & Transitions Team
- Senior Advisor on Elective Home Education
- Schools Equalities Service
- Corporate Equalities Team
- Research Unit
- Cardiff & Vale University Health Board:
 - Health Visiting Team
 - Midwives
 - School Nurses
 - GPs
- Criminal Justice Services:
 - Police Minority Support Unit
 - School Liaison Service
 - Crown Prosecution Service
- Neighbourhood Management
- South Wales Fire & Rescue
- Third Sector:
 - Cardiff Gypsy & Travellers Project
 - Eastern European Roma Drop In Service
 - Race Equality First
- Cardiff Health Alliance
- Children and Young Peoples Partnership
- Safer Capital
- Community / service users

What are we going to do?

- Improve access to health services
- Improve partnership / relationships between Gypsy and Travellers and health workers
- Give consideration to employ specialist Gypsy and Traveller health workers
- Train health service staff to address ignorance and prejudice
- Improve ethnic monitoring
- Increase registration by Gypsies and Travellers with GPs