

REPORT TO GYPSY TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE – 30 JUNE 2021

SUPPORT TO THE GYPSY/TRAVELLER COMMUNITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the support provided by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer to the Gypsy/Traveller Community during the pandemic

2 Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 **Note and acknowledge the support provided by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer to the Gypsy/Traveller Community during the pandemic.**

2 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 Due to the pandemic the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer understood that the services delivered by Aberdeenshire Council would have to change.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer was proactive in identifying the priorities which were:
- continuity of targeted support to those who need support financially and practically
 - helping to ensure that those who were priority were not further disadvantaged during the lockdown period by loss of income
 - mental health was not negatively impacted by the loss of the personal support from the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer by contacting everyone on a basis weekly to check if there were any issues or concerns
- 4.2 In terms of support, specific to Covid -19, The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer:
- contacted every family of which she was aware on a weekly basis in the settled community and on private sites throughout Aberdeenshire as per [COVID-19 Response Planning Supporting Gypsy/Traveller Communities](#)
 - arranged deliveries from Food Banks in Ellon and Peterhead for families as and when required, mainly on a weekly basis.
 - ensured Gypsy/Travellers had contact details for local community resilience groups in Ellon, Peterhead, Mintlaw and New Pitsligo, and also how to contact Grampian Assistance Hub
 - contacted other agencies for assistance, e.g. AberNecessities for two families in Ellon
 - continued to assist families with benefit information and help with Universal Credit, Best Start Food grants and passing on information on

funds for self-employed, the majority of Gypsy/Travellers being self-employed

- contacted families with regard to accessing learning packs,
- made everyone aware so that they could get in contact should they wish to talk about anything to try and alleviate any possible mental health issues

4.3 Support, advice and assistance was provided to occupants on unauthorised encampments in line with Scottish Government's [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Framework to support Gypsy/Traveller communities](#)

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

5.1 This report contributes to all of the Council priorities and particularly resilient communities, health and wellbeing, education and infrastructure.

5.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			x
Staffing			x
Equalities	x		
Fairer Scotland Duty	x		
Town Centre First		x	
Sustainability			x
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	x		

5.5 Any resource implications arising from these actions will be reported to the sub-committee accordingly.

6 Scheme of Governance

6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and no comments have been made.

6.2 This committee is able to consider this item because it relates to a function of the committee to develop and approve Council policies and practices in respect of addressing the needs, culture and lifestyle of Gypsy/Travellers.

Alan Wood, Director of Infrastructure Services

Report by Ally Macleod, Housing Manager (Strategy)
14 June 2021