



REPORT TO GYPSY TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE – 13 FEBRUARY 2019

GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB-COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1.1 Monitor the action plan.

2 Background

- 2.1 Aberdeenshire Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023, identifies minority ethnic communities as one of nine priorities. For each of the priorities in the local housing strategy, there is an action plan and performance management framework. Within the minority ethnic communities' priority, there is a Gypsy/Traveller Officer Group, which monitors and delivers an action plan across partner agencies. While much of this work is shared with the Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee, it was agreed at the meeting on the 6th September 2017, to formalise this approach, by creating an action plan for members to review at each meeting.
- 2.2 Following the meeting of the committee on 5 September 2018, a workshop was held to review the action plan to consider potential performance measures and outcomes. Members are encouraged to comment on the proposed performance indicators that will help to measure the success of the action plan. These are set out in appendix 1.
- 2.3 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3. Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 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 a) addressing the accommodation needs which meets the needs, culture and lifestyle of Gypsy/Travellers and unauthorised encampments.

4. Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment was carried out as part of the development of the action plan and was previously reported to committee.
- 4.2 Any resource implications arising from these actions will be reported to the sub-committee accordingly.
- 4.3 The following risks apply:

- ECSSR004 – Support Inclusive, Vibrant and Healthy Communities. The Gypsy/Traveller Officer Group meets regularly to receive feedback from Gypsy/Travellers and to ensure access to services. Regular monitoring of the action plan will mitigate risk.

4.4 A Town Centre Impact Assessment is not required as this does not have a differential impact on the Town Centre First Principle.

Stephen Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services

Report by Ally Macleod, Housing Manager (Strategy)
17 January 2019

GYPSY/TRAVELLER SUB GROUP ACTION PLAN – 13th FEBRUARY 2019

No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	Status
Outcome: The needs of Gypsy Travellers are met by more informed and joined-up planning of service delivery from Aberdeenshire Council and partner agencies					
1	All services in Aberdeenshire Council take into account the needs of Gypsy/Travellers when developing policies and procedures.	All services	Ongoing	Policy Statement has been agreed by the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee. There has been some feedback on the Code of Conduct which is part of the Management of Unauthorised Encampments policy and procedures. A standard Code of Conduct for all Local Authorities is currently being consulted upon and drafted by the Site Managers group. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer is leading on this.	
2	Information sharing protocol is agreed between partners to enable joint working	Solicitor, Legal and Governance	December 2018	Final Information Sharing Protocol under review by partner agencies.	
Outcome Gypsy/Travellers normally resident in Aberdeenshire and Gypsy/Travellers visiting the area have accommodation that meet their needs, culture and lifestyle					
3	Increase Gypsy/Traveller site provision in Aberdeenshire. The Local Development Plan should identify suitable sites for the Gypsy/Traveller community. It should also consider whether policies are required for small privately-owned sites for Gypsy/Travellers	Affordable Housing Officer	Ongoing	Site Provision Strategy agreed by Aberdeenshire Council in 2015 is under review. Aikie Brae site completed and opened in May 2018. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer sought the views of the Gypsy/Traveller community, with regard to giving consideration to designing the opening periods for Gypsy/Traveller sites around the school year periods.	

				On 17 January 2019, Aberdeenshire Council noted the submission of two planning applications related to the site at North Esk. Item on the Local Development Plan on the agenda.			
4	Provide assistance to Gypsy/Travellers wishing to build private sites, giving consideration as to how Gypsy/Traveller communities can realise aspirations around private site development, including working in partnership with agencies such as Planning Aid Scotland	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	Support continues to be provided to Gypsy/Travellers wishing to build their own sites and investigation will be made into partnership working where possible. There is positive partnership working with Education and support can and is put in place as need is identified.			
5	Monitor the numbers, size and location of unauthorised encampments	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer continues to monitor encampments and provide regular updates to members. The Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer will continue to circulate succinct weekly updates on encampments as and when required.			
6	Working with Gypsy/Traveller communities to explore options for improving the management of encampments and the potential for developing more informal stopping places ('Negotiated Stopping')	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison/Strategic Housing Officer	Ongoing	COSLA and the Site Managers Network hosted events in mid-November 2018 on Negotiated Stopping. A Briefing Note was circulated to members in December 2018. Officers await the outcome of a pilot in East Ayrshire and will report back to this committee.			
7	Assist Gypsy/Travellers with their housing needs	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer/Housing	Ongoing	Officers continue to provide support for Gypsy/Travellers wishing to access housing. During 2018, three families received			

		Options and Homelessness Housing Manager		assistance with applications for permanent housing.	
8	Take into account new Scottish Government permanent site standards for future provision at Greenbanks, Banff.	Housing Manager	Ongoing	Banff and Buchan Area Committee added the upgrade project on to the housing service workplan on 6 th November 2018. Upgrades to take place during 2019 to work around summer season.	
9	A review of the approach of including the provision of Gypsy/Traveller sites as part of wider housing/accommodation developments (e.g. within Local Development Plans).	Housing Manager	June 2019	There is an item on the Local Development Plan on the agenda.	
Outcome: Education needs of Gypsy/Travellers are met					
10	Further develop learning provision for children and young people from the Travelling Culture within Aberdeenshire based on a mixed model of delivery.	Education Support Officer	Ongoing	Learning packs have been developed and are available for distribution. Guidance and advice to support school colleagues has been developed. An easy to read leaflet has been produced giving detail of support available to families. Support for families is provided by the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer, Education Support Officer and Additional Support for Learning teachers. Various early years sessions organised for February and March.	

11	Further develop partnership working to support families, children and young people from the Travelling Culture within Aberdeenshire.	Education Support Officer	Ongoing	<p>Improving educational outcomes for children and young people from travelling cultures: guidance is now on the Scottish Government website. https://www.gov.scot/publications/improving-educational-outcomes-children-young-people-travelling-cultures/</p> <p>Collaborative working and partnership working has been at the forefront of developing learning provision.</p> <p>Early Years, Education and Community Learning Development have worked together to deliver support.</p> <p>The Education Support Officer continues to attend appropriate national and local events e.g. Traveller Education Network which is held at the University of Edinburgh.</p> <p>Officers and teaching staff, working with children and young people from a Gypsy/Traveller background, provide support and advice to schools.</p> <p>Working collaboratively, Education continues to investigate ways to support families to engage in learning, which can include school attendance. This includes supporting families who may be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settled • Semi – sedentary 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly mobile • Out of school • Living within Aberdeenshire including on Aberdeenshire sites/private sites/unauthorised sites. 	
<p>Outcome: Support, care and health needs of Gypsy/Travellers are better met</p>					
12	<p>Use health engagement/outreach to ensure those temporarily resident in Aberdeenshire have access to preventative health information and services.</p>	<p>Health</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Since the report was considered at the Gypsy/Traveller Sub Committee of the 20th June 2018, it has been shared and discussed with the Health and Social Care Partnership Managers. Primary Care services have been identified as an area of focus in the first instance and there is discussion around involvement with the Scottish Public Health Network, in a piece of engagement work with Primary Care and Gypsy/Travellers which is likely to involve a number of Health and Social Care Partnerships. It is hoped that this will prove to be a useful way of starting to progress some of the other issues identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental Care • Continuity of care • Expectations • Mental Health 	
<p>Outcome: Better and more constructive relationships are developed between Gypsy/Travellers and settled communities</p>					
13	<p>Combat prejudice against the Gypsy/Traveller community, including, by</p>	<p>Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Gypsy/Traveller Cultural Awareness training session for the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison</p>	

	providing information about culture, history and needs, whenever opportunity arises			Officer has taken place. Officers continue to explore ways including a cultural awareness pack to promote the good work being undertaken in this area, to promote a positive message and to continue to raise awareness. The Gypsy/Traveller Interagency Group provides a forum for discussion.	
14	The Scottish Government's Race Equality Action Plan (and associated Framework) should be used as a means to drive forward action at a local level, as well to continue and enhance joint working at a regional level	Strategic Housing Officer/Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	Be aware of and take account of the information contained within the Scottish Government, A Fairer Scotland for All; Race Equality Action Plan 2017-2021. Further report on taking forward Race Equality Action Plan and associated framework was reported to Gypsy/Traveller Sub-Committee on 21 st November 2018.	✓
15	Work will take place with National Records of Scotland as they engage with Gypsy/Travellers and devise their plans for Scotland's Census 2021	Strategic Housing Officer/Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	2021	Officers will continue to work with National Records of Scotland and Scottish Government, as these plans emerge.	✓
16	There will be financial support for organisations working to improve outcomes in areas such as employment, health and education for the Gypsy/Traveller and Roma communities.	Strategic Housing Officer/Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	Officers will continue to monitor opportunities for support.	✓
17	All Agencies should work together to counter prejudiced media coverage, provide joint responses to	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	Officers are working together, to monitor and respond where appropriate. Work closely with Corporate Communications,	✓

	press inquiries about Gypsies/Travellers encampments and coordinate legal action where necessary.			with representative from Corporate Communications sitting on the Gypsy/Traveller Officer Group. Cross agency media coverage and joint responses to press enquiries	
18	Raise awareness of the Aberdeenshire Council's Prejudice and Discrimination reporting process and encourage Gypsy/Travellers to report incidences of Hate Crime.	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	Training took place on Third Party Reporting for the Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer and Strategic Housing Officer. Aberdeenshire Council is now included as a Third Party Reporting Centre at Gordon House and Aikey Brae. Updated <u>Prejudice Incident Reporting</u> information is on the Aberdeenshire Council website.	
19	Encourage Gypsy/Travellers to adhere to the Code of Conduct on Unauthorised Encampments	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	Adherence to the Code of Conduct is high and is continually monitored. Feedback suggests Gypsy/Travellers feel safe in Aberdeenshire.	
20	Support the Aberdeenshire Children & Young People's Charter for Gypsy/Traveller Communities	Strategic Housing Officer/Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	The Charter was agreed at Aberdeenshire Council on the 27 th September 2018. The year of Young People has been supported by Officers.	

Completed Actions

Outcome: The needs of Gypsy Travellers are met by more informed and joined-up planning of service delivery from Aberdeenshire Council and partner agencies					
No	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress Update	
1	Reflect the site and support needs of Gypsy Travellers in the Housing Need and Demand Assessment	Housing Manager	September 2017	Complete.	
2	Carry out research across the North East to identify the accommodation and support needs of Gypsy/Travellers	GREC	November 2017	Completed and actions included in the Gypsy/Traveller Action Plan.	
18	Support 'Year of Young People' 2018, with a particular interest in June 18 as this is Gypsy/Traveller History Month.	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer	Ongoing	Support provided by CLD Officers for 'Year of Young People' in relation to young Gypsy/Travellers. Recent guidance issued to support young people from travelling communities and funding to be made available for projects to look at best practice. A report was presented to Education and Children's Services Committee and Communities Committee to raise awareness of work being undertaken with the Gypsy/Traveller community.	