

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA

Thursday, 11 February 2010, at 10.00 am
in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone

Ask for: **Geoff Mills/Andy Ballard**
Telephone: **(01622) 694297/694297**

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Substitutes
2. Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting.
3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 2)
4. Update: Access and Achievement for Gypsy Roma & Traveller Children & Young People (Pages 3 - 10)
5. Rents for KCC-run sites 2010/11 (Pages 11 - 14)
6. Proposed Kent and Medway Gypsy and Traveller Forum (Pages 15 - 18)
7. Contract for Management of Maidstone Borough Council's Council Sites (Pages 19 - 20)

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

Wednesday, 3 February 2010

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.



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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of a meeting of the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 26 November 2009.

PRESENT: Mr J D Kirby (Chairman), Mr M J Angell, Mr A H T Bowles, Mr A D Crowther and Mr S J G Koowaree

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr W Forrester (Head of Gypsy & Traveller Unit), Mr G Franklin (Travellers Engagement & Operations Manager) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**1. Minutes of Meeting of 22 July 2009**

(Item. 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2009 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. New Gypsy And Traveller Site Projects

(Item. 4)

(1) The Head of Gypsy and Traveller Unit reported that the Minister for Communities and Local Government had not yet made a decision on the provision of grant aid for the proposed replacement Coldharbour Traveller Caravan site. The new site had, however been granted planning permission in the light of no objections being made.

(2) In respect of the provision of sites in the Swale area, The Head of Gypsy and Traveller Unit reported that the management arrangements had not yet been determined as they were the subject of ongoing discussions between KCC, Swale BC and Amicus. The eventual bid for grant aid was expected to be submitted by the end of June 2010.

(3) RESOLVED to:-

- (a) note the report; and
- (b) endorse the actions taken to secure the necessary additional site provision in order to meet the requirements likely to be specified in the South East Plan from 2010, following completion of the current Partial Review on the subject.

3. Security Of Tenure

(Item. 5)

(1) The Board agreed that the Head of Gypsy and Traveller Unit should produce a position paper for the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services on the arguments for a model pitch agreement. This should be followed speedily by a meeting involving the Cabinet Member, Lead Member, Chairman and Head of Gypsy and Traveller Unit.

(2) RESOLVED to:-

- (a) recommend to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services that the Department for Community and Local Government be asked to support a national recommended model pitch agreement for publicly-run traveller sites;
- (b) request the Head of Gypsy and Traveller Unit to produce a position paper for the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services in support of (a) above and to strongly recommend that this should be followed speedily by a meeting involving the Cabinet Member, Lead Member, Chairman and Head of Gypsy and Traveller Unit.
- (c) support the measures being taken to prepare for the changes to security of tenure in Kent, likely to be from April 2010;
- (d) support the fullest communication with existing residents of KCC sites over the changes that will affect them; and
- (e) agree that the measures to review rents need to be tied in with the changes to security of tenure and the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (with certain amendments applying to new pitch agreements).

4. Other matters

(1) The Board agreed that there was a case to review whether it should have a broader remit than reporting to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services.

(2) The Board requested a report on the educational achievements of Gypsy and Traveller children at a future meeting.

(3) The Board agreed that a representative from the Countywide Chief Housing Officers Group should be invited to send a representative to future meeting whenever housing matters were under discussion.

By: Managing Director (Children, Families and Education)

To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 11th February 2010

Subject: Update: Access and Achievement for Gypsy Roma and Traveller Children and Young People

Classification: Unrestricted – for information

Summary: This report updates members on progress in achievement of Gypsy Roma and Traveller children and young people and the actions planned to narrow the gap in outcomes in 2010-11.

National Context

1. Background

1.1. Ofsted¹ and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)² have drawn attention to the ongoing issues of access to education and the gap in educational attainment for Gypsy Roma and Traveller children and the urgent need for Local Authorities to take action to address these two issues. Previous reports to the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Boards³ have provided a narrative of the action take by Children, Families and Education and the progress made in Kent, particularly in relation to reducing the numbers of children missing education, improving primary/secondary transfer, developing inclusive teaching and learning practice in schools and narrowing the gap in outcomes between all Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and all Kent children.

1.2 In 2009 the DCSF published further guidance for Local Authorities and Schools (National Strategies: Moving Forward together: Raising Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement). Kent LA schools were able to inform the development of this guidance through their participation in the pilot of the Gypsy Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme during the period 2007-9. The guidance recommends a set of actions for schools including for example:

- Evidencing the inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children in the schools' Ofsted Self Evaluation Form.
- Evaluating the impact of school practice and policy in raising the achievement of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.
- Use performance data to identify, monitor and address underperformance
- Provide targeted support to ensure access to school, effective induction and reduce the barriers of mobility.

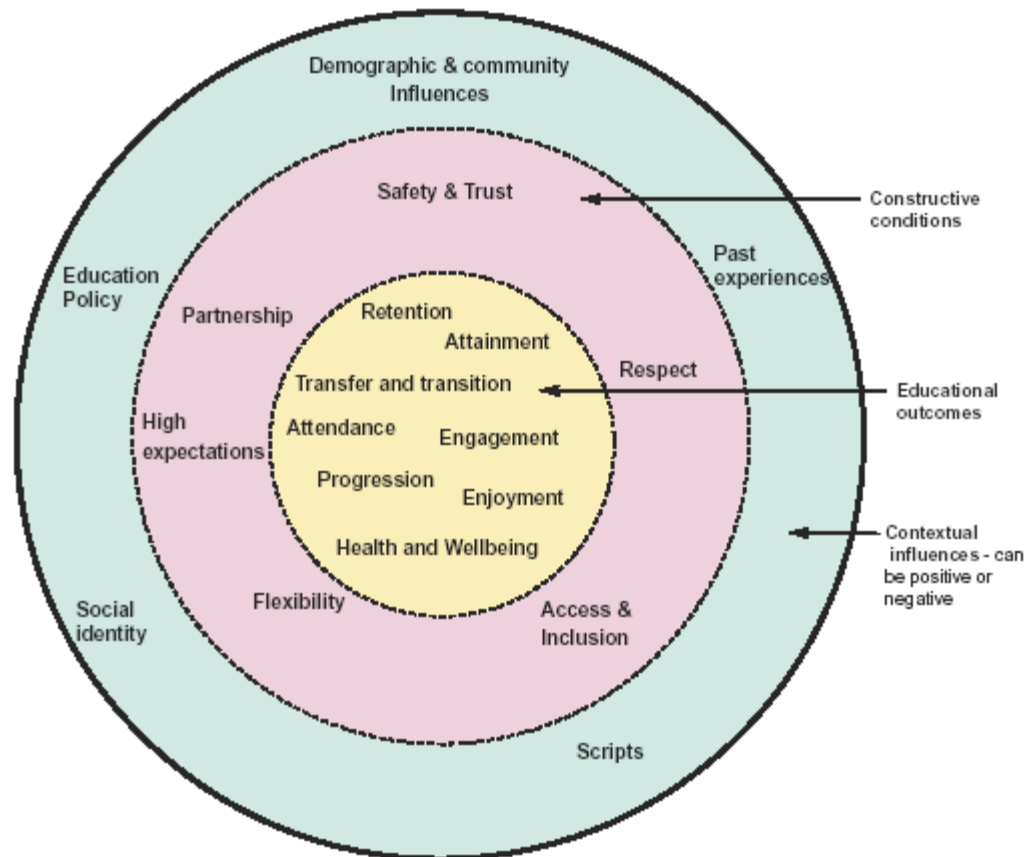
¹ Ofsted (2003), Provision and support for Traveller pupils, Ofsted (1996), Raising the attainment of minority ethnic pupils

² DCSF (2008) The Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children and Young People DFES (2003) Aiming High: Raising the Achievement of Gypsy Traveller Pupils

³ September 2008: Update National Strategies Gypsy Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme July 2009: Update Gypsy Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme

- Providing Continuous Professional Development for all staff that is inclusive of strategies to address underperformance of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children

1.3 Recent research in this area has focused on identifying practice that is having a positive impact on improving educational outcomes. Most recently published is the National Foundation for Educational Research study Improving Educational Outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Pupils - What works? (2009). This study looked at good practice nationally in 20 schools focusing on issues faced by children in Key Stages 2,3 and 4. Study identified **Educational Outcomes** (influenced by the school) **Constructive Conditions** (impact positively on educational outcomes) and **Contextual Influences** (may lie outside the school's influence)



The study identified good practice as per the above analytical model and stressed the importance of **Constructive Conditions**. It reflected interviews with school staff, authority staff, pupils and parents. The study aimed to help schools and practitioners look beyond specific interventions and strategies to consider how attitudinal influences impact on pupils' success. The interim report is available: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR170.pdf>

1.4 Recommendations from national guidance and recent research will be embedded within Continuous Professional Development for schools and the practice in the Learning Group.

2. Kent LA: What does the data tell us?

2.1 Schools' Census

The number of Gypsy Roma and Traveller children recorded on the Schools' Census has steadily increased indicating better reporting but also reflecting the arrival of families from Eastern Europe. However, information sharing between agencies indicates underreporting of ethnic background by families.

Table 1 Schools Census September 2009

Phase	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
All pupils	107352	101799	2894	212045
Gypsy Roma	716	451	11	1178
Traveller of Irish Heritage	73	12	1	86
White Eastern European	1088	621	16	1725

Table 2 Number of Kent schools with Gypsy Roma and Traveller children on roll

Phase	Number of primary schools with children on roll	Number of secondary schools with children on roll	Number of special schools with children on roll
Gypsy Roma	145	54	7
Traveller of Irish Heritage	22	9	1
White Eastern European	226	92	7

The majority of schools have less than 10 children of Gypsy Roma and Traveller background on roll, although in some urban areas there are a number of primary schools with up to 30 children and they are predominantly in Thanet and Gravesham.

2.2 Key Stage 2 Outcomes for children

Monitoring of progress and outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 indicates the attainment gap to be addressed, although progress data suggests that for Gypsy Roma children and children of White Eastern European background in English the majority are making the 2 levels of progress but from a low baseline of attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 and at the end of the Foundation Stage. This confirms the priority action to improve access to early years provision.

At Primary Level

Indicator <i>National indicators</i>	Actual performance 2008/09 Key Stage 2 Outcomes 2008	Actual performance 2009/10 Key Stage 2 Outcomes 2009
NI 93 Key Stage 1 – 2: proportion progressing by 2 National Curriculum Levels in English		
All Pupils	79.5	81.3
Gypsy Roma	60.0	64.3
Traveller of Irish Heritage	0.0	33.3
White Eastern European	79.3	93.9
NI 94 Key Stage 1 – 2: proportion progressing by 2 National Curriculum Levels in Mathematics		
All Pupils	74.2	78.3
Gypsy Roma	52.0	49.2
Traveller of Irish Heritage	0.0	75.0
White Eastern European	62.1	90.2
NI 73 Key Stage 2: % of pupils achieving Level 4+ in both English and Mathematics		
All Pupils	68.3	68.2
Gypsy Roma	28.9	20.7
Traveller of Irish Heritage	0.0	0.0
White Eastern European	31.1	40.2

2.3 Key Stage 4 Outcomes for young people

Monitoring of progress and outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 indicates the attainment gap to be addressed, a focus has been on improving and sustaining attendance until the end of Key Stage 4 and this is reflected in the percentage of young people achieving 5 A*-G.

Indicator <i>National indicators</i>	Actual performance 2007/08 Key Stage 4 Outcomes 2007	Actual performance 2008/09 Key Stage 4 Outcomes 2008	Actual performance 2009/10 Key Stage 4 Outcomes 2009
NI 75 Key Stage 4: % achieving 5 or more A*- C including English and Maths			
All Pupils	48.2	52.2	52
Gypsy Roma	0.0	8.6	3.7
Traveller of Irish Heritage	0.0	0.0	0.0
White Eastern European	36.4	44.7	34.2
Key Stage 4: % Achieving 5 or more A* - G			
All Pupils	92.4	92.9	93
Gypsy Roma	44.1	60.0	53.7
Traveller of Irish Heritage	100	0	0.0
White Eastern European	81.8	85.4	90.8

2.4 Attendance

More reliable ethnicity data available through the Schools' Census has enabled the first stage of monitoring of absence by ethnic group. For the Autumn Term 2008 Gypsy Roma children had 16.2% absence and Traveller of Irish Heritages had 20.4% absence compared with 6.1% for all Kent pupils. For persistent absence the gap was much wider (24.6% for Gypsy Roma children and 27.6% for Travellers of Irish Heritage compared to 4.4% for all Kent pupils). This is indicative of patterns of travelling for the purposes of work (which is an authorised absence), however, the Attendance and Behaviour Service and the Learning Group are working together to communicate the benefits of attendance to families and also to engage schools in strategies to promote good attendance and challenge poor attendance.

2.5 Health and Well-being

The Kent Children's Trust conducted an annual survey of children and young people in November 2009 relating to their experience of living and learning in Kent. The survey results (including an analysis of responses from Gypsy and Traveller children, as well as outcomes from focus groups) will be presented to the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board in July 2010.

3. Summary of actions already in progress or planned by the LA during 2010

3.1 Year 3: Sustaining the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme September 2009 to July 2010

Funding for the pilot through the National Strategies Pilot Gypsy Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme ceased in 2009. The DCSF has offered ongoing support to LAs and schools to embed and disseminate good practice established through the previous two years of the project. Strategies will include

- Cross team Learning Group working to continue support to the 5 pilot schools to ensure the embedding of good practice.
- Disseminating effective practice through networks facilitated by the Local Children's Service Partnerships and the Local Learning Networks.
- Focus on joint Learning Group working with target primary schools (at risk of not achieving their floor targets for attainment at the end of Key Stage 2) attended by underachieving minority ethnic pupils.
- Joint work with Attendance and Behaviour Service to improve attendance of Gypsy Roma and Traveller pupils.
- Ongoing support to Management Information training to improve data collection in schools
- Support to schools and communities in identifying, recognising and celebrating the gifts and talents of ethnic minority pupils.

3.2 Work to improve the accuracy of ethnic data declaration in the 2010 Schools Census

Management Information provided training to school administrators to support the process of accurate ethnic declaration. Follow up work in January 2010 will focus on target schools where there are significant number of children whose ethnicity is recorded as 'refused', 'not known' or 'white other'.

3.3 Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant – focused work on the needs of Gypsy Roma and Traveller children and young people

In East Kent Local Children's Service Partnerships focused on supporting access to education and the attainment of Gypsy Roma children and young people newly arrived in the country and examples of project work are:

- Support to Gypsy Roma families in understanding and engaging in the process of transition from primary to secondary education. This was a collaboration between the Specialist Teacher, Extended Schools Manager, and other agencies (Dover LCSP).
- A network was set up by the Specialist teacher inviting schools and other professionals from across the county to discuss and share effective practice in meeting the needs of Gypsy Roma families in education. An initial meeting was held and it is hoped to rotate the meetings around the county. (Thanet 1 and 2 LCSPs).
- The Specialist Teacher has worked with the community to produce a 'Big book' based on Gypsy culture which is being used in local schools to raise awareness of Gypsy culture and to challenge prejudice and false stereotypes. (Swale Urban LCSPs).

This work will continue in the forthcoming year.

4. Work through Children's Centres to promote access to early years provision

Ashford 1 - Ray Allen Centre

This Children's Centre serves the Stanhope Estate and surrounding housing where there are housed English Gypsy Travellers. The centre has run a Diversity Day and a Teddy Bears' Picnic including a stall with Gypsy Traveller cultural information and resources. Workers from the Children's Centre were able to observe and approach families who came to the stall to make introductions and talk about the offer at the centre. One off events are attended by the local population of Gypsy Travellers but this is yet not followed by regular attendance at the centre. The centre also serves the Chilmington Traveller Site. A specialist Family Liaison Officer has made joint visits with the Outreach Worker who has spoken to families about services offered. The Outreach Worker intends to maintain these visits as there has been no take up of services at the centre. In the summer 2010 the centre are planning an event involving the Gypsy Traveller community including bringing a vardo to the centre. It is hoped that this will provide a very visible positive commitment and provide an opportunity to liaise and consult with the local communities.

The Village Children's Centre, Folkestone

This Children's Centre serves an area which has a number of new arrivals to the UK including Czech Roma. The Outreach Worker is aware that there are Roma families who could attend the Centre. She is part of a multi-agency group focused on improving access to services through joint agency working. Joint visits with a specialist Family Liaison Officers are planned for families. The Village Centre has been linked to another Children's Centre where Roma families are already accessing services to try and identify their particular strategies/specific services which have engaged Roma families.

Gravesham Children's Centres (Little Pebbles and Riverside)

Inclusion of Roma families has been ensured through a range of strategies including:

- Awareness training for all staff and ongoing advice to team.
- Joint working to identify children missing education and support children into schools.
- Providing information and advice with partners such as Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Distribution of posters and flyers to encourage Roma participation in services.
- School transition information with interpreter.
- Collaboration with health to support families in accessing provision to prepare for school eg dentist, opticians, audiology.
- Promoting adult literacy participation.
- Support for individual newly arrived families in accessing Centre's facilities and encourage Early Years participation.
- Professionals' participation in an established multi-agency group and sub-group to review provision for new arrivals.

5. Work with schools to implement the equality duties

5.1 The Learning Group has provided support, challenge, advice and guidance to schools in meeting the requirements of the new Ofsted School Inspection Framework. As part of the inspection of Leadership and Management of the school there is a limiting judgement on the extent to which the school promotes equality of opportunity and eliminates discrimination. An 'inadequate' rating on this judgement will impact upon the overall inspection outcome for the school.

5.2 In order to support schools in evidencing their inclusive and effective equality practice guidance has been provided on the review and on-going development of Equality Schemes and Action Plans.

5.3 Schools will also be challenged and supported by School Improvement Partners to set challenging targets for all their pupils.

6. Work through the 14-19 Local Planning Forums

6.1 The focus will be greater personalisation of learning to increase the number of Gypsy Roma and Traveller children completing Key Stage 4 and achieving accredited learning.

7. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- (a) Note the action already taken to address the attainment gap between Gypsy Roma and Traveller children and all Kent children.
- (b) Receive a further report on the outcomes from Key Stage 2 and 4 assessments in 2010 at a future meeting of the Board
- (c) Receive a further report at a future meeting relating to wellbeing of Gypsy Roma and Traveller children including the outcomes of the Children and Young Peoples' Survey 2009.

Officer details:

Martin Baker, Strategic Director for Schools, Colleges and Settings

Jenny Robson, Head of Service, Minority Communities Achievement Service (Ext. 4509)

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services
 To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 11 February 2010
 Subject: **RENTS ON PUBLIC SITES MANAGED BY KCC**
 Classification: Unrestricted.

Summary: Proposed increases of rents from 1 April 2010

Background

1. (1) In February 2009, and in keeping with increases in other charges in the Kent Adult Social Services Directorate, the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board agreed to an increase of 5% in site rents with effect from 1 April 2009.

(2) The Rents currently charged on sites managed by the Gypsy & Traveller Unit are:

Aylesham Caravan Site Snowdown, Dover CT15 4LS	£51.50 per week
Barnfield Park Caravan Site New Ash Green, Sevenoaks TN15 7LY	£42.00 per week
Coldharbour Caravan Site Old London Road, Aylesford ME20 7NZ	£40.00 per week
Greenbridge Park Vauxhall Road, Canterbury CT1 1YZ	£51.00 per week
Heartenoak Caravan Site Heartenoak Road, Hawkhurst TN18 5EU	£48.50 per week
Polhill Caravan Site Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2TQ	£36.50 per week
Three Lakes Park Castle Road, Sittingbourne ME10 3NL	£48.00 per week
Windmill Lane Caravan Site Windmill Lane, West Malling ME19 6PJ	£49.50 per week

Government Policy: Mobile Homes Act 1983

2. (1) When the Mobile Homes Act 1983 changes take effect, probably in April 2010, the raising of rents in future will be regulated by the terms of the Act. There is a presumption that any increase or decrease would be no greater than any changes in the Retail Price Increase, unless the legitimate extra costs of the site operator justify a greater increase.

Level of Increase from 1 April 2010

3. (1) Many residents on the sites are claimants, and therefore the rents are paid by Housing Benefit. Increases in other charges in the Kent Adult Social Services Directorate are generally around 2.5% for 10/11 and therefore it is recommended that the current site rents are all increased by that margin.

(2) Two sites, Barnfield Park and Polhill, both in Sevenoaks district, provide occupiers with good locations; above average size plots and a relatively high standard of amenities. Barnfield Park was built in 1999. The site rents were £50 for a single pitch and £55 for a double pitch up till 2001. The Rent Officer assessed those rents as being "reasonable market rents", but Housing Benefit judged them "exceptionally high". So the rent was reduced to £40. Something similar happened with Polhill, which was built in 1996. The amenity blocks on the Polhill site were replaced in 2004/05. Housing Benefit regulations precluded rents being increased on all sites between 2001 and 2009. It is therefore recommended that the rents for Barnfield Park and Polhill be increased to bring them more into line with rents being charged on the other KCC managed sites.

(3) Subject to funding approval the existing Coldharbour Caravan Site will be replaced in 2010/11. The new site, also in Aylesford, will provide occupiers with new accommodation and amenities and therefore it is recommended that the rent on the new site should be £50 per week.

(4) These increases will enable the costs of managing and maintaining the sites to be more adequately covered by the income received.

(5) The above increases will produce the following new rents from 1 April 2010:

Aylesham Caravan Site Snowdown, Dover CT15 4LS	Existing New	£51.50 per week £52.79
Barnfield Park Caravan Site New Ash Green, Sevenoaks TN15 7LY	Existing New	£42.00 per week £45.00
Coldharbour Caravan Site Old London Road, Aylesford ME20 7NZ	Existing New	£40.00 per week £41.00
Greenbridge Park Vauxhall Road, Canterbury CT1 1YZ	Existing New	£51.00 per week £52.28
Heartenoak Caravan Site Heartenoak Road, Hawkhurst TN18 5EU	Existing New	£48.50 per week £49.71

Polhill Caravan Site Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2TQ	Existing New	£36.50 per week £42.00
Three Lakes Park Castle Road, Sittingbourne ME10 3NL	Existing New	£48.00 per week £49.20
Windmill Lane Caravan Site Windmill Lane, West Malling ME19 6PJ	Existing New	£49.50 per week £50.74

Recommendation

4. (1) Members of the Advisory Board are asked to endorse the recommendation that these new rents are introduced from 1 April 2010, and that licensees are advised of the increases with the required 28 days notice in advance of that date, and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services be advised accordingly so that he can take their views into account when he takes his decision on this matter.

Gary Franklin
Traveller Engagement and Operations Manager
Gypsy and Traveller Unit

01622 221896

Background papers: None

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By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services
To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 11 February 2010
Subject: **PROPOSED GYPSY AND TRAVELLER FORUM**
Classification: Unrestricted.

Summary: A proposal to establish a Gypsy and Traveller Forum for Kent, run by members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities

Background

1. (1) One of the recommendations of the Select Committee on Gypsy and Traveller sites in 2006 was the establishment of a joint group of stakeholders, which included a number of members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities, and which met between 2006 and 2008.

(2) From about 2004 until 2008, there was a much smaller group of officers (from the Gypsy and Traveller Unit and the Minority Communities Achievement Service) who met with three Gypsy and Traveller organisations who operated in Kent, or took up cases for Kent Travellers. That was initially a group discussing unauthorised encampment issues, but as the number and scale of such encampments reduced considerably, the meetings moved on to discuss other issues.

(3) In 2007, the County Council hosted two large stakeholders meetings to discuss the South East Plan Partial Review (on Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople accommodation), which were an excellent opportunity for a whole range of organisations and individuals (about 80 people at the first one, including about 40 people from Gypsy and Traveller communities) to get together and discuss site needs and how they should be met.

(4) In East Sussex, Councils have had a Forum running since about 2004, and, while until recently it was hosted by a Councillor from the hosting authority (meetings move round East Sussex), it is now being co-chaired by a Councillor and someone from the Gypsy community.

(5) In Fenland, in Cambridgeshire, the Council supported, a few years ago, the setting up of a Forum which is run by members of the Gypsy and Traveller Community, and which runs well.

What would suit Kent?

2. (1) Kent is far bigger in land area than East Sussex, and East Sussex is bigger than Fenland. So a Kent-wide, or Kent and Medway-wide Forum might be too big to be successful, and would also involve some people travelling long distances to attend meetings, which should be discouraged.

(2) However, one or two of the organisations previously involved are keen to see a Forum established, and hopefully developed like the Fenland one, or like the East Sussex one, depending on those discussions.

(3) The Forum could discuss a range of issues, including the introduction of the Mobile Homes Act and what it means to people on public sites, the Partial Review of the South East Plan, and planning allocations in individual districts, as well as wider strategic issues like employment access, health and social care access and relationships with the range of agencies involved in the subject. Most importantly, what is discussed by the Forum would be a matter for the Forum, and they would decide who is invited to their meetings, as has happened in Fenland and East Sussex for a number of years.

Financial Implications

3. (1) The costs of supporting the establishment of the Forum will be relatively small, and can be absorbed by the Gypsy and Traveller Unit budget.

(2) If the Board is content with the proposal, then KCC would set up the initial small meeting with interested people from the communities, and, if it is agreed to go ahead, also arrange a wider meeting to which Gypsies and Travellers from across Kent would be invited.

(3) If the Forum is established, then it would seek funding from external sources to run itself in the future.

Staffing

4. (1) There would be no staff specifically employed to run the Forum, but KCC and other authorities can assist with informing people about meetings, and getting invitations out to people on public sites, while working out the best way of contacting those on private sites, or in housing.

Conclusions

5. (1) It does appear timely to launch this initiative, with an open mind about how it could develop.

(2) It might well be that more than one Forum is necessary for Kent, to cover the areas involved.

(3) Once established, it could be a very useful consultative body for local authorities and other partners.

Recommendations

6. (1) Members of the Advisory Board are asked to:
 - (a) Endorse the recommendation to support this initiative and advise the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services accordingly;
 - (b) Receive a further report at the Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board on 13 July 2010.

Bill Forrester
Head of Gypsy Unit
(01622) 221846

Background Papers: None

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By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services
To: Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Board – 11 February 2010
Subject: **MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR MAIDSTONE BOROUGH PUBLIC SITES**
Classification: Unrestricted.

Summary: A report about the transfer of the management of Maidstone Borough Council's caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers to the KCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit

Background

1. (1) Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) owns and operates two caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers, Stilebridge Lane, Marden with 18 pitches and Water Lane, Ulcombe, with 14 pitches, both of them established in the 1960's, and refurbished (and in the Marden case expanded by six pitches) since then.

(2) As part of an overall review of its budget, MBC's officers approached the Gypsy and Traveller Unit in KCC about the possibility of taking on the contract for management of these two sites.

(3) The proposed transfer date would be 1 April 2010, or a date very close to that.

Financial Implications

2. (1) The detailed contract is specifically for the provision of management services, and the amount which MBC will pay KCC will cover the full costs of staffing and make a contribution to senior management costs.

(2) The ownership of the sites will remain with MBC, as will the risks involved in being the freehold owner.

Duration and Termination

3. (1) It is proposed that the Agreement shall continue for a period of three years and either party may terminate the Agreement at any time by giving to the other not less than three months written notice.

Staffing

4. (1) KCC is currently recruiting new site managers and, providing the transfer of management is agreed, there will be adequate staff to manage the two Maidstone sites.

Conclusions

5. (1) This is an excellent example of partnership between the two authorities. KCC can provide these management services at less cost than the current agency contract that MBC has. These are sites that were previously managed by the KCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit (until 2004), and fit well, both in type and geography, with its other services. There is more flexibility of staffing and other resources possible within a larger team managing ten sites overall. The links with other partner agencies that the KCC Gypsy and Traveller Unit already has can assist with the management of these sites.

Recommendations

6. (1) Members of the Advisory Board are asked to endorse the recommendation to support this transfer, likely to take effect from early April 2010, and advise the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services accordingly, so that he can take this into account when taking a decision on this matter.

Bill Forrester
Head of Gypsy Unit
(01622) 221846

Background Papers: None