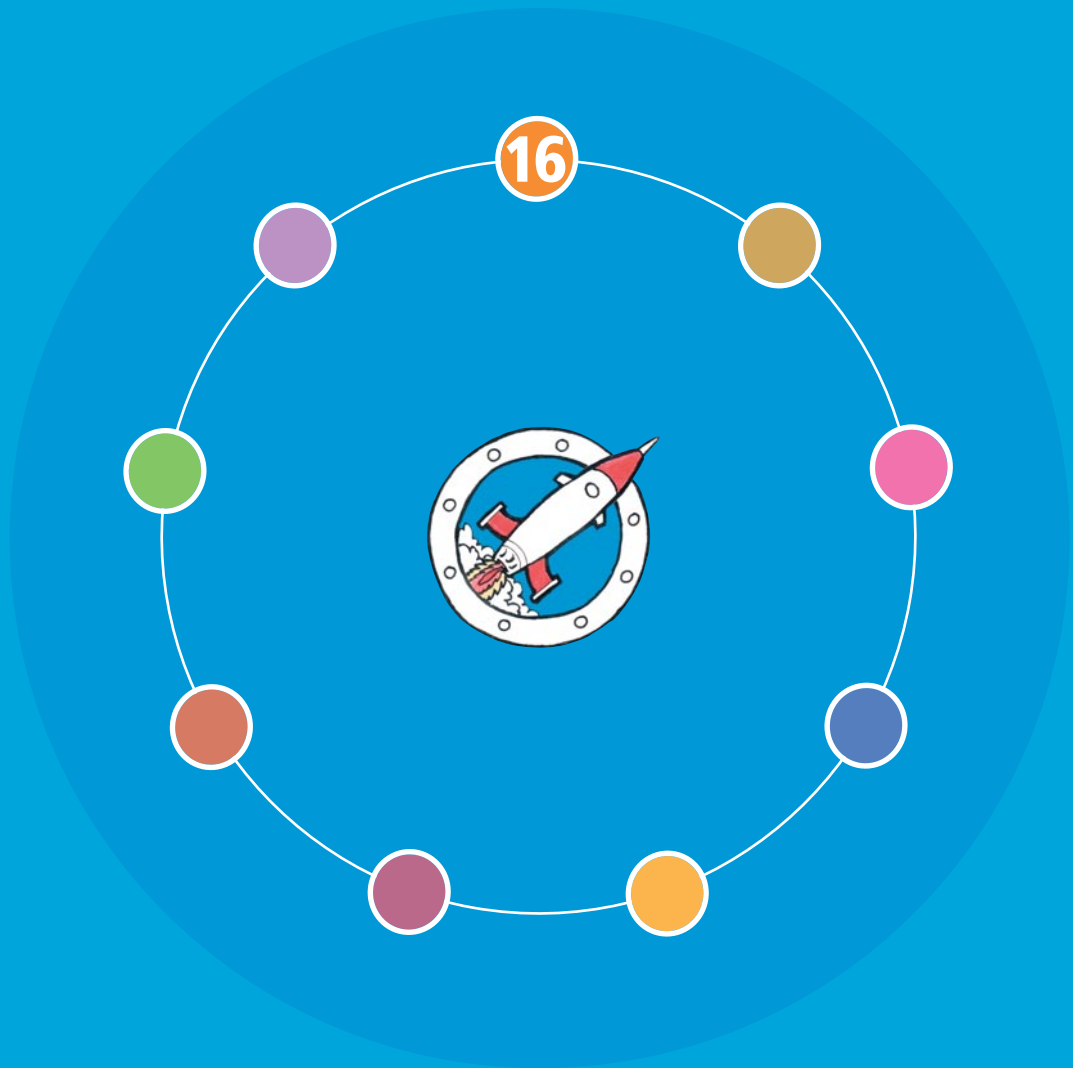


**GUIDES TO INCREASING PARTICIPATION
OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

16

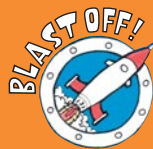
**WORKING WITH GYPSY AND TRAVELLER
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**





Written by Rebecca Horder and John Davies
Save the Children 2012

Design by Photographics, 01792 550583
Illustration: Les Evans, 01792 427226



CONTENTS

1. Who is this guide for?	1
2. What do we mean by Participation?	1
3. Working with Gypsies and Travellers	4
4. Wales Policy Context	7
5. The importance of effective consultation	9
6. What are the benefits of working with Gypsy and Traveller young people?	11
7. What are the challenges to promoting participation with Gypsy and Traveller young people?	12
8. Issues to consider	13
9. Opportunities and activities	15
10. Useful Resources	17



? 1. Who is this guide for?

This guide is for practitioners who work with, or in, services that have an impact on Gypsy and Traveller children and young people (e.g. those working in the Community, Health Workers, Social Workers, Planning Officers, Housing Officers, Education Practitioners, and Police etc). This guide will not give you the complete answer, but will help you think about how the principle of participation as described in Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) should inform your work with children and young people.

The objectives of the guide are to:

- give practitioners information about working with Gypsy and Traveller children and young people in a participative context
- provide information about how practice might be developed
- to increase understanding of the Welsh Policy context
- provide examples of good practice and signpost resources and sources of help and information.
- to increase understanding of the importance of participation of Gypsy and Traveller children and young people in decision-making and policy-making.

? 2. What do we mean by Participation?

Children and young people's right to participate in all matters affecting them is enshrined in Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). When given the opportunity to participate, young people are also given the opportunity to make change - both personally in their lives but also in their communities and globally.

Gypsies and Travellers are amongst the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups in society. As a result, young people from these communities are rarely given an equal chance to participate and have their voices heard. This right applies to all children and young people but discrimination, lack of awareness from service providers, and non-inclusive services and structures can all combine to make Gypsies and Travellers less likely to be able to participate effectively.

Back in 2005, the Government held a competition asking young people to sum up participation in one sentence and this is what they came up with:

"Participation means it is my right to have the opportunity to be involved in making decisions, planning and reviewing an action that might affect me. Having a Voice, Having a Choice" Welsh Government 2005.



In Wales, the children and young people's participation agenda has developed in a distinct and unique way. These developments are set within the framework of the Welsh Government's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child now formally adopted as the basis of all its work for children and young people. (*Rights to Action, WAG, 2004*).

The Welsh Government has supported the development of children and young people's participation:

- Establishing the office of the Children's Commissioner as an independent champion for children and young people
- Establishing a Children and Young People's Assembly - Funky Dragon
- Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010
- Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011
- Welsh Government funding of the Travelling Ahead Project
- Working with Local Authorities to set up Children and Young People's Partnerships
- Providing short term, dedicated funding to Local Authorities to develop participation strategies, including Youth Forums, with regard to young people aged 11 – 25
- Made it compulsory that all primary, secondary and special education schools in Wales establish a School Council
- The Welsh Government started a task group to look at a structure that involves children and young people in decision-making across Wales
- The task group resulted in setting up a Participation Consortium and Participation Unit for Wales to ensure the full participation of all children and young people in decisions that affect their lives.

The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 will have a major impact on the Welsh Government's treatment of children and young people as it requires Ministers to pay 'due regard' to the UNCRC when making decisions that affect them. The Children and Young People's Participation Consortium and the Participation Unit work to increase the participation of children and young people (0-25 years) in decision-making in Wales. Together they have developed National Standards for Children and Young People's Participation which have been endorsed both by the Welsh Government and by Funky Dragon, the Children and Young People's National Assembly for Wales. The Poster can be downloaded from the Participation Workers website (see Useful Resources section).



National Children and Young People's Participation Standards for Wales

Having a Voice - Having a Choice

Do we meet your standards?*

*'We' means anyone asking children and young people to participate. 'You' have a right to expect these standards.

"Participation means that it is my right to be involved in making decisions, planning and reviewing any action that might affect me. Having a voice, having a choice"



INFORMATION



This means:

- Information that is easy to understand for everyone
- Adults working with you who know what is going on and are up front and clear.

We will:

- Ensure everyone has enough information to get properly involved
- Let you know what difference you being involved will make
- Inform you about who is going to listen and make changes.

IT'S YOUR CHOICE

This means:

- You choose if you want to get involved or not
- You choose to work on things that are important to you
- You choose what you do and how you do it.

We will:

- Give you enough information and time to decide if this is something you want to do.



NO DISCRIMINATION



This means:

- Children and young people are all different but you all have the same right to have a say about the things that matter to you.
- We want everyone to feel welcome and be able to get involved if they want to be.

We will:

- challenge any discrimination
- get in touch with children and young people in lots of different situations
- get you involved in things you want to do.

RESPECT

This means:

- Everyone has a chance to have a say, your opinions are important and we will respect them.

We will:

- listen to your ideas, views and experiences
- take you seriously and treat you fairly
- work with you to do something about the things you tell us are important
- work with you to help change things for the better.



YOU GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT



This means:

- We want you to enjoy and benefit from taking part
- We know that you have other things to do in your lives as well!
- Making sure that participating is a positive not a negative experience.

We will:

- work in safe, fun, and enjoyable ways
- make the most of what you know
- do positive things that build your confidence
- meet in friendly places that are easy for all young people to use
- value and respect what you have to offer.

FEEDBACK

This means:

- It's really important that you know what difference you have made and how your ideas have been used.

We will:

- keep you up to date with what is happening
- give feedback as soon as possible and in ways that are easy to understand for everyone.



IMPROVING HOW WE WORK



This means:

- We want to learn and get better at the way we work with you.

We will:

- look at the way we work with you and how to improve it

- ask you what has gone well and what needs to change
- make sure your views make a difference to the way we make plans and decisions.



These are the agreed children and young people's participation standards for Wales



3. Working with Gypsies and Travellers

History and Culture

Before working with young people from these communities, it is worth recognising that there are lots of different types of Gypsies and Travellers. These include:

- Gypsies (English, Welsh or Scottish)
- Irish Travellers
- European Roma
- Fairground families or showmen
- Bargees and other watercraft dwelling people

All of these groups have traditionally had a nomadic lifestyle. This means they move from place to place often for work or social reasons. Many people treat all Gypsies and Travellers as if they are from one large community but each group has their own traditions, language and ethnicity. Traditionally Gypsies and Travellers usually did the kind of work that meant they could travel such as farm work; horse dealing; or being traveling storytellers and musicians. Many Gypsies and Travellers still do this kind of work. Scrap metal work, tree work, building and hairdressing are also popular jobs for Gypsies and Travellers.

Gypsies and Travellers now do all kinds of other work, as well, working for the government as civil servants, working for schools, plumbing and many other professions. There are also famous Gypsy or Traveller footballers, boxers, musicians, singers and dancers. It is likely that Gypsies and Travellers work in most professions but many still feel it is necessary to hide their ethnicity for fear that they may be discriminated against.

"Gypsy and Traveller young people are the same as any other young people. We just live differently." Young people in Pembrokeshire.

Different groups of Gypsies and Travellers have different traditions but the things that tend to be important for all Gypsy and Traveller communities are:

- The family and community
- Looking after children and the elderly or ill
- Cleanliness
- Religion
- Travelling



Gypsies and Travellers usually live in independent and self-sufficient ways, where they look after themselves. Men and women often have different roles, with women looking after the home and men going out to work, often self-employed.

All Gypsies and Travellers in Wales tend to speak English but some speak other languages as well. For example, Gypsies may speak a kind of Welsh Romanes or Romani. Irish Travellers may speak Gammon or Cant, which comes from the old language Shelta.

Though Gypsy and Traveller families often live together as neighbours they have different ancestors. Gypsies migrated across Asia and Europe from Northern India over the last millennium, whilst Irish Travellers are indigenous to Ireland but have always been nomadic people and not part of the wider Irish public.

Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised minority ethnic groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. This means that these groups are protected against racial discrimination and that statutory authorities must work pro-actively to give members of these groups equal opportunities. Being recognised as a minority group also means the words "Gypsy" and "Traveller" should always have capitals at the start, just like when you write "Jewish" or "English". The 'Mandla Criteria' defines the characteristics that a group must possess to qualify as an ethnic minority. These include a long shared history, a sense of distinctiveness and cultural traditions of its own relating to family and social customs. Crucially for Gypsies and Travellers, the Mandla Criteria does not state that these groups must actively travel. It is a common mistake that Gypsies and Travellers who are settled in housing are not part of an ethnic minority with legal protection.

Myths and Facts

Gypsies and Travellers have long been marginalised in our society with few people willing or able to support their voice. Large sections of the public have never knowingly spoken to Gypsies or Travellers, let alone spent enough time with them to properly understand their issues. As a result it has been easy for the media and politicians to spread myths about the Gypsy and Traveller communities. Below are some of the more common myths:

- **"Gypsies don't pay tax!"**
 - Those living on authorised sites pay a 'plot charge' and utility rates, whilst those in housing pay Council Tax. All those in employment pay Income Tax and most pay VAT and Vehicle Excise Duty too.
- **"Gypsies just live off benefits"**
 - The travelling lifestyle prevents many claiming benefits as a fixed address is needed. Those living on unauthorised sites or more nomadic families therefore struggle to receive their entitlement.



- **“Gypsies don’t go to school”**
 - A significant number of Gypsies and Travellers drop out during secondary school. This may be due to racist bullying, or the experiences their parents have of being bullied. Sometimes retaliation to racism leads to Gypsies and Travellers being excluded from education. It may also be because parents want to safeguard Gypsy or Traveller culture rather than have their children exposed to drug abuse or sexual promiscuity.
- **“Gypsies never obey planning laws”**
 - Up to two thirds of Gypsies and Travellers live in housing. For the remaining third there simply aren’t enough plots on authorised sites. Official advice is to buy land and obtain planning permission but when Gypsies and Travellers have done this 90% of planning applications have been denied, compared with 20% of non-Traveller applications. Those near proposed sites regularly block planning permission, leaving up to 25% of the Gypsy and Traveller population legally homeless.

Media and Politician comments

These and other myths are often popularised by the media and statements by politicians. Ensuring that public services are inclusive of different cultures, especially those that are nomadic, is always going to present challenges to policymakers. Devoting targeted resources to these groups will also evoke debate as large sections of the public have differing views about how to engage with specific communities. However, problems arise when the debate is characterised by fear and prejudice as is often the case where the Gypsy and Traveller communities are concerned. Negative stories about Gypsies and Travellers are very common, including media campaigns like *The Sun’s* ‘Stamp on the Camps’ series. Headlines such as, *‘Winning the war against Travellers’* are clearly deemed appropriate by newspapers and suggest that Gypsies and Travellers are legitimate target for racial abuse.

Some Politicians’ comments and actions have added to myths and ignorance about Gypsies and Travellers. Their involvement has ranged from claiming Hitler had the ‘right idea’ about how to deal with Gypsies – referring to the extermination of up to one million Gypsies during World War II – to attending the burning of a wooden caravan and Traveller family in effigy. Most often, their contribution is to misrepresent the concept of equal opportunities, adamantly claiming that Gypsies and Travellers must be treated in exactly the same way as the rest of society rather than to accept that legislation states that these communities can be treated differently to ensure equal opportunities.



4. Wales Policy Context for Gypsy and Traveller children and young people

There are many government policies which affect children and young people living in Wales. A number of these policy responsibilities specifically impact on Gypsy and Traveller families, children and young people in Wales. The Welsh Government recognizes that Gypsies and Travellers face many difficulties in accessing services, support, and their rights, and they are working to improve this both for adults and for children and young people:

"Gypsies and Travellers have long been one of the most disenfranchised and marginalised groups in society. The Welsh Government is committed to redressing the inequalities faced by Gypsies and Travellers by improving equality of opportunity for all."

- Excerpt from the Welsh Government's *'Travelling to a Better Future'* Gypsy and Traveller Framework for Action.

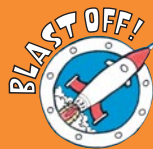
To achieve this, the Welsh Government has developed a 'Framework for Action' to ensure that the needs of Gypsies and Travellers are planned for in a fairer and more systematic way.



Case Study: Welsh Government Gypsy and Traveller draft strategy consultation

As part of the development of the Welsh Government's Framework for Action, young people were consulted on the draft strategy by Save the Children and Ear2theGround. Regional events were conducted with young people in North and South Wales, as well as questionnaires across Wales. Over 100 young people were asked about education, health, equality, accommodation and other issues. The young people's thoughts were captured in the Generations for the Future report, which was then submitted to the Welsh Government. The recommendations made by young people were given feedback by the government and many were adopted in the final 'Travelling to a Better Future' Framework for Action – including the name. More importantly, the Welsh Government agreed with young people on many of the solutions to issues involving accommodation, healthcare and education.

The 'Travelling to a Better Future' Framework for Action, and both the official and young people's 'Generations for the Future' reports, can be found in the resource library of the Travelling Ahead website (www.travellingahead.org.uk/toolkit/resources)



The Gypsy and Traveller team within the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Division of the Welsh Government have overarching responsibility for policy development in relation to Gypsies and Travellers in Wales. However, many departments within the Welsh Government also develop policy which impact on the lives of Gypsies and Travellers. The Gypsy and Traveller team work with officials across the Welsh Government, including Housing, Health, Education, Community Cohesion and Planning to ensure a fair and consistent approach to issues affecting Gypsies and Travellers.

In addition to the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Government's Gypsy and Traveller Framework for Action, there are other key pieces of legislation and policies that affect young people from these communities. This includes the Housing Act 2004, which states that the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers must be considered. The case of *Clarke v. Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions* the High Court ruled that if a Gypsy or Traveller had an aversion to conventional housing such an offer would be unsuitable, 'just as would be the offer of a rat-infested barn'. The European Court of Human Rights has also found that the UK must facilitate the Gypsy and Traveller way of life. The Welsh Government also produced 'Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping' and encouraged local authorities to develop their own policies. The guidance expresses the need to consider welfare needs and potential site toleration. Therefore, when considering unauthorised encampments local authorities have a duty to fully consider the impact of their actions on the welfare of those living on the site and to consider the appropriateness of alternative accommodation.

It's also important to remember that all the usual legislation, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), applies to the young people from these communities. A common complaint from young Gypsies and Travellers is that they are always considered to need their own exclusive service rather than a more accessible mainstream service. There are genuine concerns that services exclusively aimed at Gypsies and Travellers can reinforce the isolation of these communities rather than making services properly inclusive. By using the advice in this guide it can help your service to be more inclusive to young people from these communities and others.



5. The importance of effective consultation

Local authorities have a legislative duty to consult with Gypsies and Travellers under the Housing Act 2004, as part of their assessment of their accommodation needs, and also under the Race Equality Surveys. Regular consultation has many benefits in terms of creating policies that are inclusive and developing services that meet the needs of all the travelling communities. It is also very important to give feedback after any consultation exercise and keep the community updated. Failure to do so, may lead to cynicism and a feeling that consultation does not promote change. Workers should also be careful to avoid raising unrealistic expectations about the outcomes to be gained from consultations. It is also good practice for organisations and agencies to use a participation protocol form prior to requesting consultation with or the participation of children and young people. The protocol form gets organisations to stop and think about the quality of the participation process before they go about involving children and young people.

Participation Protocol Form

Participation of Children and Young People

As with many local strategic documents there is often a requirement to involve children and young people in the planning and evaluation of service development. In order to fit within the adopted Participation Standards and to safe guard children and young people from unethical consultation and participation processes there is a need to detail your intentions and requirements.

This proforma establishes a protocol in which children and young people's participation is conducted using fair methods ensuring their involvement is acknowledged, valued and utilised.

Therefore, please provide responses to the following questions.

All responses will be shared with children and young people that you are targeting and will be used as a tool to aid their decision to participate.

Please return this form to:

Name of organisation:

Full contact details:

.....
.....



Title of your project:

Type of activity:

How long do you envisage this piece of work lasting for/or date of event?

Please provide clear aims and objectives on the purpose of children and young people's participation and what you hope to achieve by them being involved.

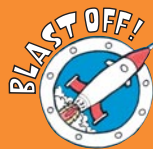
What participatory methods are you intending to use? Will the style, method and content engage young people? e.g. Discussion group, survey, workshop, activity based etc.

Please provide a clear framework on how ideas and information from the children and young people will be used in policy and service development.

Please provide details on how you intend to feedback to children and young people on the ideas that they have contributed to:

Name:

Signed: Date:



Case Study: Cardiff Young Researchers Group

When consulting on the Welsh Government's draft Gypsy and Traveller strategy, young people were involved to work as peer researchers. Save the Children and Ear2theGround contacted the local Traveller Education Service to offer the opportunity to young people who had previously worked with the organisation. Their involvement was an attempt to ground the research in a young Gypsy or Traveller perspective rather than a Welsh Government perspective.

The young researchers identified themes for discussion, which formed the basis of the 'Generations for the Future' report. The peer researchers participated fully in the consultation, conducting their own interviews. Ear2theGround wrote the formal consultation report, whilst the young researchers developed their own young person friendly report. Both reports were eventually submitted in person to the Minister for Social Justice and the Welsh Government produced a reply to the recommendations – many of which were taken forward into the 'Travelling to a Better Future' Framework for Action.

6. What are the benefits of working with Gypsy and Traveller young people?

- It allows children and young people to become more engaged with the services they receive
- encourages children and young people to play a part in planning
- promotes engagement and compliance by involving and consulting with children and young people with regard to the decisions and outcomes that will affect them
- helps children and young people to achieve their potential, gain confidence and self-esteem
- provide children and young people with the opportunity to give feedback about the services they have received, what they perceive to be a good quality service and discussion of any difficulties experienced.

(See Blast Off Guide 2: Making the Case for more information)



7. What are the challenges to promoting participation with Gypsy and Traveller young people?

The underlying principles of participation don't alter when working with Gypsy and Traveller children and young people. After all, these are children and young people like any other group. What *is* different is the *way of working*.

1. The first step is to identify the characteristics of the group that needs to be involved.
2. The next step is to develop a plan, which needs to address any specific difficulties of access etc.
3. The final step is to address specific barriers to involvement of this group of children and young people.

It's important to be realistic about the time and resources that will be necessary to help these young people to effectively participate. Many of the young people will have the attitude that their involvement has not helped in the past or that anyone will really be listening. It may take time and engagement to convince young people that your service is serious about their inclusion.



Case Study: Wrexham Fairshare Gypsy & Traveller Project

Wrexham's Gypsy and Irish Traveller Multi-agency Forum recognised that there was a need for an outreach officer to work directly with those in the communities it represents. The project sought to offer face-to-face advice and support, develop community structures and groups, and increase the range of support services available to the communities.

The project achieved these aims by first recognising that it would succeed or fail on the strength of the relationships it formed with Gypsies and Travellers. The officer spent a large amount of time visiting Gypsy and Traveller families and offering support. Eventually, the project gained acceptance from these communities and became an important link between service providers and Gypsy and Traveller families. This model helped to increase participation of Gypsies and Travellers at the Multi-agency forum, in consultation responses, at organised events, and in services in general.



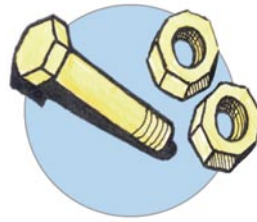
8. Issues to consider

It is always difficult to give general tips about how to work with all young people from particular communities but here are some examples of issues you may face working with Gypsies and Travellers:

- **Fatalism:** Many young people feel there is no point getting involved.
- **Morality:** There is a perceived lack of morality regarding sex and drugs in the settled population. Therefore, some parents may be unhappy with mixed activities.
- **Overnight stays:** Few young people will spend nights away from their families before marriage.
- **Gender roles:** There is a gender divide with girls more likely to stay at home looking after the trailer and small children.
- **Literacy:** There is a significant amount of illiteracy within the communities.
- **Accommodation:** Young people accessing your service may be living under the threat of eviction, in housing but separated from their support network, or struggling with being constantly moved on. This can severely impact on their ability to access services.
- **Cultural sensitivities:** Many services do not consider the cultural issues surrounding Gypsies and Travellers e.g. female patients will not see male doctors, breastfeeding and other subjects cannot be discussed in front of men, cleanliness rituals of Mokadi and Mahrime.
- **Perceptions:** Another barrier to participation can be the perceptions young people have of non-Travellers. Some Gypsies and Travellers will have negative attitudes due to alienation and discrimination of themselves or their family.



Nuts & Bolts: Safe access and informed consent

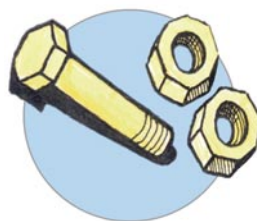


When working with any children and young people it is important to fully consider the key issues of safe access and informed consent. Arranging safe access to work with Gypsy and Traveller young people is likely to take more time than arranging access to other groups of children and young people. It may involve approaches to the local Traveller Education Service or established Youth Forums.

The workers may be sceptical or suspicious of external people's motives and feel protective of the children and young people they work with. This could be for a variety of reasons e.g. they have had a bad consultation experience in the past, it has taken a long time to build up trust with the young people etc. It is important to be clear about the aims of the project, what is planned and what information will be provided to those who are involved and for their parents and/or carers.

Informed consent should be obtained from all participants. As a minimum, if working with those under 16 years, even working through a school, parents should be informed about what is taking place and asked for their consent. Obtaining children and young people's consent in writing is good practice. Not all young people will be in a school setting but if you are planning to work with young people in school then you may want to suggest working outside of school hours or in a lunch break.

Nuts & Bolts: Building Trust



To carry out effective participation work with any group there needs to be a level of trust. For those children and young people who are more difficult to engage in the process this can take some time. One of the most effective ways is to work closely with those adults who already have a good relationship with the children and young people. Some useful things to bear in mind:

- Manage the expectations of the young people with whom you're working. Attitudes can be difficult to change through small interventions and changes to policy can take time.
- Establish agreed collaborative 'rules of working' so both parties know what is expected of one another.



- Ensure that single sex groups have at least one worker of the same sex working with them.
- Be aware of the language that some Gypsies and Travellers use i.e. *gorger/gadje* means anyone who is not a Gypsy or Traveller.
- Working in any community facilities on site will increase your chances of having young people attend and participate.

9. Opportunities and activities

Whilst participation is primarily about ensuring that children and young people are able to engage in decision making processes, other activities can be used to ensure they are able to take part more widely in decisions that affect their lives. These might include:

1. *Young People taking on an advisory role*

Young people can work in an advisory capacity, for example, by being asked to design leaflets and to comment on its content to ensure that it is understandable from their perspective. Seeking young people's advice is also something that could be incorporated into design processes when any new information is produced. It is particularly important to involve young Gypsies and Travellers in planning your services as if they do not feel ownership of the project or recognise its relevance, they will not use it.



Case Study:

The Travelling Ahead project tries to include young people in the planning and delivery of services as much as possible. As such, the content and design of the 'Your Rights' booklet and Travelling Ahead website were decided in collaboration with young people through consultation. The Travelling Ahead project recognised that it was important to get young people's views and show that they were being listened to if the project was ever going to achieve their participation.

Young Gypsies and Travellers are also part of the project's steering group and provide important direction about how the project should develop in future. Their views are given equal voice to the professionals on the group.



2. Representation on youth forums

Involvement and representation at youth forums provide the opportunity for young people to become involved in activities in an advisory capacity. Children and young people's partnerships should have arrangements in place locally for children and young people to elect representatives to the three Funky Dragon Grand Council seats for each area (statutory sector, voluntary sector and schools councils). These include the arrangements for special interest groups that include young Gypsies and Travellers. Other ways that young people can be asked to contribute in an advisory capacity apart from youth forums are through:

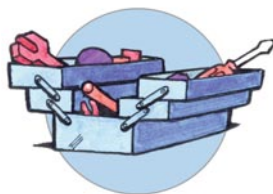
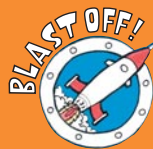
- a children and young peoples' group that operates as a parallel structure to an adult led decision making body
- offering committee places for children and young people on an adult led assembly
- advisory groups, where children and young people direct and inform on a particular piece of work.



Case Study:

The Torfaen Gypsy and Traveller youth forum discusses the rights of young people from those communities at West Monmouth School in Torfaen. Through participating in the forum the young people have confronted the issue of further education by inviting the local college and explaining their fears, have met the local Mayor and Councillors on a number of occasions, and participated in the launch of the Travelling Ahead website.

Some of the young people involved became so interested in participation that they have since been elected to the school council and been interviewed on national radio. The forum meets on a regular basis, has decided its own collaborative rules, and elects its own chair and members. The basis of the forum is an understanding of children's rights and participative working.



10. USEFUL RESOURCES

Travelling Ahead Website (www.travellingahead.org.uk)

This website is part of Save the Children's Travelling Ahead project, which was set up to support young Gypsies and Travellers in Wales to have a voice and participate in decisions that affect them. Professionals may use the website toolkit to search the Resource library for reports, lesson plans or useful films. The Contact Directory also includes the contact information for the professionals working with young Gypsies and Travellers in their area. All the relevant policies and legislation affecting young people from these communities is also available. For those hoping to learn more about Gypsy and Traveller history and culture, or setting up their own youth forum, there are sections on these topics too. The website also has a space for young people to discuss important issues, learn more about their rights and upload media content.

The National Association of Teachers of Travellers (www.natt.org.uk)

The Association was established in 1980 to support and encourage the work of teachers of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children. This website has useful teaching resources and conference information.

Travellers Times (www.travellerstimes.org.uk)

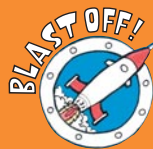
Travellers Times online brings you the latest news, pictures, video, opinion and resources from within the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Blast off! Good practice guides to increasing participation of children and young people

The Participation Unit on behalf of the Children and Young People's Participation Consortium for Wales has developed the *Blast Off* series of guides. They are a set of good practice guides based on the experiences of participation workers in Wales. The topics range from introducing participation to a more focused view of different aspects of it. They can be obtained from <http://participationworkerswales.org.uk/resources.aspx>

Participation, Spice it Up! Practical tools for engaging children and young people in planning and consultations

This manual by Carol Shepherd, Phil Treseder and Dynamix Ltd provides more than 40 tried and tested activities and games to get children and young people involved in decision-making processes. It can be downloaded at www.savethechildren.org.uk



Breathing Fire into Participation

This guide by Trudy Aspinwall and Cath Larkins was produced for the Children and Young People's Assembly for Wales (Funky Dragon). It is intended to help develop the effective participation of children and young people in decision making in Wales.

See www.funkydragon.org.uk

Training for professionals

Travelling Ahead

The Travelling Ahead project delivers free training to key professionals and decision-makers across Wales. The aim of these training sessions is to promote cultural understanding and build capacity across local authorities to become more inclusive of young Gypsies and Travellers. These training sessions can be run in-house or with a variety of partners but delegates often include frontline staff, strategic managers and Councillors or other key decision-makers.

Contact travellingahead@savethechildren.org.uk for more information.

Dynamix

Dynamix provides a range of training for professionals on different aspects of working with young people in a participatory way. They deliver 'off-the-shelf' training as well as designing training to fit particular needs. See www.dynamix.ltd.uk for more information.

Participation Cymru

Participation Cymru is a partnership of public and third sector organisations that is hosted by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and supported by an advisory panel that provides advice and guidance on strategic development. It provides advice, training, support information and policy direction on participatory approaches to citizen engagement. See www.participationcymru.org.uk

