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The situation of Roma
2012

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Executive summary

In line with usual practice in the UK context, the present report uses the term 'Roma' to refer to those communities of Roma heritage who have arrived in the UK over the past two decades from Central and Eastern Europe, Southern Europe and the Balkans (Roma migrants). The term 'Gypsies and Travellers' is used herein to refer to indigenous communities of Romani Gypsies (or the Romanichals) and Travellers, including Irish Travellers.

The present report on Roma in the UK demonstrates that indigenous Gypsies and Travellers (both settled and travelling) and migrant Roma experience inequality, discrimination, racism and lack of access or exclusion across a number of domains: in education, employment, healthcare and housing. They face a complex confluence of barriers, creating an environment of (almost) complete social and economical exclusion from the majority society. This, in turn, has an adverse impact on their overall economic situation and their effective participation at all levels of social, cultural, economic and political life.

Some positive developments emerged over the past two decades in the field of education thanks to the work of Traveller Education Support Service and Ethnic Minority Achievement Service teams. Nonetheless, with its Spending Review, in 2010 a number of budget cuts and austerity measures were introduced which have seen these educational services restructured or disbanded. This has been accompanied by policy changes relating to Localism: local governments are now fully in charge of providing sites to indigenous travelling Gypsies and Travellers and there is no longer a central oversight regarding this decision; in turn, localism has impacted adversely on the housing patterns of travelling Gypsies and Travellers and their access to other vital services.

Despite this recent reduction in service provision, the number of migrant Roma who have been arriving from new EU member states, which acceded to the EU in 2004 (A8 nationals) and 2007 (A2 nationals), has been increasing steadily. Some local authorities have been collecting ethnically disaggregated data on Roma effectively, particularly in the domain of education, by means of the so-called Pupil Level Annual School Census; however, it is certainly not the case at the national level. Although it is not known how many migrant Roma live in the UK, the best qualified estimate is 500,000; however, the real figure may be twice as many.

Although the Department for Communities and Local Government has been referring to an official figure of 150,000 and 200,000, which is believed to represent all indigenous Gypsies, Travellers and recently settled Roma living in the UK, the Commission for Racial Equality (2006) estimated that there are between 90,000 and 120,000 Gypsies and Irish Travellers living in caravans in England, and 2,000 in Wales. Up to three times as many live in conventional housing. There is no generally accepted figure for the number of Gypsies and Travellers in Scotland. The Scottish Executive carries out a Twice Yearly Count of Gypsy/Traveller caravans on local authority sites, private sites and roadside camps, which suggests a Scottish population of around 3,000, but this figure excludes those indigenous Gypsies, Travellers and recently settled Roma who are housed. Nonetheless, the community itself estimates that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 people who would identify themselves as Scottish Gypsy/Travellers.

Historically for the first time ever, data on Gypsies, Travellers and Roma from the 2011 Census will be released by the Office for National Statistics. This is planned to take place between November 2012 and February 2013 as part of the second release.

In **education**, Gypsies, Travellers and Roma represent the lowest achieving group of all at every Key Stage of education. In 2011, just 25% of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils achieved national expectations in English and mathematics at the end of their primary education, compared with 74% of all pupils. At the end of secondary education, just 12% of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils achieved five or more good GCSEs, including English and mathematics, compared with 58% of all pupils. In

spite of a number of positive signs – i.e. migrant Roma making a good progress at primary and secondary schools in the UK and going on to college and university; Gypsy and Travellers women increasingly enrolling into vocational training – it remains questionable where the overall school attainment by these groups (and hence their life chances) can be improved in light of the removal of educational services and programmes such as National Strategies. Reduced educational achievement affects opportunities for active participation in employment, political activity and community engagement, all of which are seen as key in developing cohesive communities.

In **employment**, particularly at the recruitment stage, Gypsies and Travellers face exclusion and discrimination, frequently after they provide their site address. Despite a reported increase of self-employment and employment among young Gypsy and Travellers women, the lack of projects targeting Gypsy and Travellers employment makes it very difficult to break down some of the barriers they face on a day-to-day basis. As for migrant Roma, most of the reports presented herein demonstrate that migrant Roma, both male and female, work in menial jobs, even though evidence suggests that Roma women engage in the work process less as they still tend to be confined to the household. Regarding their experience of discrimination, the situation of migrant Roma seems to be different: evidence indicates that they are not immediately labelled Roma by prospective employers. On the contrary, it appears that migrant Roma do not experience discrimination based on their Roma ethnicity. However, as migrants, they face a complex system of legal barriers governing their right to reside in the UK as EU citizens, in spite of the fact that the employment restrictions, which were previously imposed on A8 nationals, were lifted in May 2011. Nonetheless, A2 migrants, including Roma, are still subject to employment restrictions and are practically barred from entering the formal economy. This, in turn, has encouraged their participation in semi-legal and illegal income-earning activities. In spite of lack of data on unemployment, anecdotal data indicates that the level of unemployment ranges between 48% (among migrant Roma) and 71.6% (among Gypsies and Travellers).

In **healthcare**, both Gypsies and Travellers and migrant Roma are disadvantaged by virtue of the multiple barriers they face in education (hence low literary levels), employment and housing. Life expectancy is over 10% less than the general population and the health of Gypsies and Travellers starts to deteriorate markedly when individuals are over 50. High infant mortality rates, high maternal mortality rates, low child immunisation levels, mental health issues, substance misuse issues and diabetes are also highlighted as areas of concern. Consequently, it has been reported that among members of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, some health issues are unmet and undiagnosed while the overall state of health is not good; in some cases, this seems to be deteriorating due to the budget cuts and the disappearance of a number of health services and projects which previously worked with Roma. At the same time, various health agencies have been reporting that Gypsies, Travellers and Roma are not visible in their statistics and culturally sensitised healthcare services are lacking. Often, due to lack of knowledge about Roma communities coming from the most economically deprived areas of Eastern Europe where the Roma had no access to healthcare and education, healthcare and social service workers may misunderstand the level and quality of the parents' care and safeguarding of their children, and resort to measures such as putting Roma children into temporary care.

In **housing**, travelling Gypsies and Travellers experience a lack of site provision, and, by extension, frequent evictions from unauthorised, spatially segregated sites; the 2011 saw the largest eviction in the UK of Gypsies and Travellers living at Dale Farm near Basildon. Moreover, settled Gypsies and Travellers are often housed on 'rough' estates where they frequently face prejudice, racism and hostility from their mainstream neighbours. Migrant Roma experience economic hardship; the poorest ones sometimes manage to secure council housing but the vast majority of migrant Roma live in privately rented accommodation. Many of them have been settling in areas traditionally inhabited by Asian communities; this in turn has led to the emergence of much community tension between these diverse communities. Depending on their immigration and employment status, some migrant Roma are entitled to housing benefit and council tax benefit. Difficulties experienced by both Gypsy,

Travellers and migrant Roma communities in the field of housing have a knock-on effect on their ability to effectively access services such as healthcare, education and/or employment.

In terms of the overall **economic situation** of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma in the UK, all groups frequently experience economic hardship and their material and financial situation is dire. It is clear that under the current financial climate and as members of the most marginalised and discriminated against ethnic minority group in Europe, the Roma remain predominantly poor. Some migrant Roma arrive in the UK heavily indebted and are subject to practices by usurers which are akin to exploitation and debt bondage. Such economically disadvantaged Roma communities may be vulnerable to trafficking, too, although this has only been reported to a limited extent among migrant Roma communities. However, in spite of budget cuts, there has been a small increase in the number of Roma community liaison workers and teaching assistants employed by local councils and schools as local authorities realise the economic, social and cultural benefits of working with members of these growing communities.

Active citizenship, effective participation in democratic processes and rights awareness are conditioned by an ability to participate in all of the five aforementioned areas. In the case of the Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, despite a recent growth in the number of active civil society organisations representing Gypsies and Travellers and migrant Roma, promoting and advocating for Roma-related causes, and encouraging them to participate in democratic processes, including in the 2011 Census, exclusion from these processes still prevails. Currently, evidence suggests that there are no mayors, councillors, MPs, MEPs, ministers or politicians who have publicly ascribed as Gypsies, Travellers or Roma. The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission notes that the low levels of political participation and voting among Gypsies and Travellers are caused by the pervasive racism, hostility and rejection this group experience from mainstream society which undermines any confidence they might have in engaging in voting or membership of political parties. The same report refers to the fact that members of the Gypsy and Traveller are frequently not aware of and/or familiar with institutions and mechanisms governing reporting discrimination and hate crimes (such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission or the Equality Act), or suing those who have discriminated against them. An increased awareness of and participation in all of these democratic processes will be hopefully facilitated by the recent launch of the Council of Europe's Roma mediation programme ROMED in the UK.

1 Roma population

In line with usual practice in the UK context, the present report uses the term Roma to refer to those communities of Roma heritage who have arrived in the UK over the past two decades from Central and Eastern Europe, Southern Europe and the Balkans. The term Gypsies and Travellers is used herein to refer to indigenous communities of Romani Gypsies (or the Romanichals) and Travellers, including Irish Travellers.

In the UK, the *communities of indigenous traditionally nomadic people* are diverse. Romani Gypsies (otherwise Romanies or Romanichals) have been in Britain since the early 16th Century, after migrating from continental Europe. Among the Gypsies entering the south of Britain in the early period were two main groups, the Romanichal in England and the Kale, who are the Welsh Gypsies. Both groups remain present in England and Wales, as do Irish and other Travellers (see below).

In Scotland, Gypsy Travellers are those groups of Travellers who refer to themselves variously as Travellers, Scottish Travellers, Gypsy Travellers or Gypsy Traveller people. This term refers to all travelling communities who regard 'travelling' as an important aspect of their ethnic/cultural identity, including occupational Travellers, Showpeople and New Age Travellers. Gypsy Travellers are the only of these groups to be protected by equalities legislation. Travellers were first recorded as living in Scotland in 1505; "they have a long shared history with references to the presence of Gypsy Travellers in Scotland dating back to the 12th century."¹

Irish Travellers are a distinct ethnic group that has come from Ireland. They are an indigenous nomadic ethnic minority group found in both Ireland and the UK. They share some of the same cultural values as Romani Gypsies, such as a preference for self-employment and living and travelling in caravans or "trailers", but there are also big differences.

Travellers² in the UK can be divided into two groups: ethnic Travellers, such as Romani Gypsies and Irish Travellers, and non-ethnic travellers who live on the road for purely economic reasons. Ethnic Travellers are people who are born into traditionally nomadic cultures. Many Gypsies and Travellers are born into a travelling culture; originally they were nomadic, regularly travelling to earn a living, as some still do. Others travel part of the time, while some settle on sites or in houses but are still Travellers and retain their cultural beliefs.

The *first Roma from the new EU accession countries*, particularly from the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, came to the UK in the 1990s seeking asylum. Since the enlargement of the EU in 2004 and 2007, many more have exercised their EU right to free movement to migrate to the UK to find work, equal opportunities and a good education for their children, and to escape racism and discrimination. The Roma have established significant communities throughout the UK, particularly in the north of England (Manchester, Sheffield, Bolton, Rotherham, Bradford, Liverpool, Leigh, Wigan, Newcastle), the Midlands (Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Gloucester, Peterborough), Kent/Medway/Essex (Gravesend, Chatham, Maidstone, Folkestone, Southend-on-Sea, Loughton) in the south East, and north and east London (London Boroughs of Enfield, Walthamstow, Waltham Forest, Edmonton, Haringey, Wood Green, Newham, Barking, Dagenham, Redbridge). There are also sizeable communities of Roma in Scotland (Glasgow), Wales (Cardiff) and Northern Ireland (Belfast).

¹Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland (2010), *Gypsy Travellers in Scotland: A resource for the media*, available at:

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/gypsy_travellers_in_scotland_-_a_resource_for_the_media_.pdf

²Jake Bowers (2012), *Gypsies and Travellers: Their lifestyle, history and culture*, available at: http://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/downloads/lifestyle_history_and_culture_24052010111520.pdf (last accessed 6 June 2012).

In the last census, Gypsies, Roma and Travellers were able to tick the Gypsy/Traveller box historically for the first time; however, the results of the 2011 census have not been published yet and are due to be released in September 2012.³

As to the *size of the population* of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT) in the UK, the discrepancy between official and semi-/unofficial data is considerable. The Department for Communities and Local Government has been referring to an official figure of 150,000 and 200,000,⁴ which is believed to represent all Gypsies, Roma and Travellers living in the UK. Paradoxically, the Commission for Racial Equality (2006) estimated that there are between 270,000 and 360,000 Gypsies and Travellers in England living in houses, and around three times those numbers maintaining a nomadic lifestyle.⁵ Although exact numbers of Irish Travellers in Britain are unknown, according to a report by Show Racism the Red Card, estimates vary from 15,000 – 30,000. Lack of accurate ethnic monitoring systems and a fear of exposing identity have been suggested as possible reasons for this inconsistency.⁶

There is no generally accepted figure for the number of Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland. The Scottish Executive carries out a Twice Yearly Count of Gypsy/Traveller caravans on Local Authority sites, private sites and roadside camps, which suggests a Scottish population of around 3,000, but this figure excludes housed Gypsy/Travellers. “The July 2008 Count recorded an estimated 744 households living on sites and encampments in Scotland. This is estimated to represent a population of around 2,455 people, lower than the 2,823 people reported in July 2007.”⁷ Nonetheless, the Community itself estimates that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 people who would identify themselves as Scottish Gypsy/Travellers.⁸

As for the number of recently arrived Roma, NGOs such as the Roma Support Group, Equality and community organisations have been referring to a much higher number than the official figure. They have been lobbying in order for the British government to take into account the specific needs of these numerous and diverse communities, as well as to encourage the British government to act in accordance with the European Commission's request for every member state to submit a National Roma Integration Strategy. In spite of the economic recession and the employment restrictions placed by the British government on all nationals from Bulgaria and Romania, the number of Roma moving to the UK has been rising steadily. Although it is not known exactly how many Roma live in the UK, the best estimate is around 500,000, even though the real figure may be twice as many. The estimate of 500,000 – 1,000,000 is based on the findings of the 2009 study ‘The movement of Roma from new

³ Office for National Statistics (2011), *Questions and Answers from the Census Roadshows 2011*, available at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/the-2011-census/census-consultations/planned-events/census-september-2011-roadshows---questions-and-answers.pdf>.

⁴ Council of Europe (2003), *Specialist Group on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers (MG-S-ROM) 16th meeting, 27-28 November 2003*, available at: [www.coe.int/T/DG3/RomaTravellers/archive/documentation/mgsrom/reports/2003/MGSROM\(2003\)14report_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/T/DG3/RomaTravellers/archive/documentation/mgsrom/reports/2003/MGSROM(2003)14report_en.asp).

⁵ Edumigrom Survey Studies (2010), *Ethnic Differences in Education in England: Survey Report*, available at: www.sociology.leeds.ac.uk/assets/files/research/cers/Ethnic%20Differences%20in%20Education%20in.pdf.

⁶ Show Racism the Red Card (2009), *Out of Site*, available at: www.article12.org/pdf/Out_of_Site.pdf.

⁷ Scottish Government Social Research (2009), *Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland: The Twice Yearly Count – No. 14 July 2008*, available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/266283/0079697.pdf>.

⁸ Highland Gypsy/Traveller Health & Wellbeing Initiative (2005) *Final Report*, available at: <http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/542F36E8-42D7-494B-9860-A7C0A0DC5BE6/0/gtfinalreport.pdf>.

EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England)⁹.

This means that according to the above estimates, as many as 1.5 million Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT) may be living in the UK, although the accuracy of this figure is by no means certain.

No similar mapping exercise has been undertaken in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Contacts with local organisations and other stakeholders working with Roma communities in Scotland suggest there are approximately between 2000-3000 Roma living in Glasgow-Govanhill.¹⁰ However, this number is representative of Eastern Slovak Roma only; there are also Romanian Roma living in Glasgow who were not included in the study. In Wales, the RGT (Roma Gypsy Traveller) Network have been aware of 50-60 closely-linked Romanian Roma family units across Cardiff, Newport and Bristol, the majority of whom are all originally from a few small neighbouring villages and towns in Arad County, North-Western Romania. The largest local Romanian Roma communities in South-East Wales are based in Cardiff and Newport.¹¹ In Northern Ireland, the Multi-Cultural Resource Centre in Belfast conducted research with 60 Roma individuals from Belfast.¹²

The vast majority of Roma who have moved to the UK from mainland Europe are EU citizens; the most numerous national groups are Slovak, Romanian and Czech Roma (Rumungre and Vlax Roma), Polish Roma (Lovari), Hungarian and some Bulgarian and Lithuanian Roma. Some are former refugees, (failed) asylum seekers and British citizens. There is a small percentage of non-EU nationals: FYROM and Kosovar Roma (Ashkali and/or Balkan Egyptians), mainly asylum seekers.

As opposed to the indigenous Gypsy and Traveller communities, all of the recently arrived Roma communities are sedentary, in spite of their high fluidity and mobility, motivated by inner economic migration for the most part. Some of them frequently go back to their countries of origin. Among Romanian Roma, there is also frequent movement between the UK and Spain.

⁹ Fremlova, L., and Ureche, H. (2009) *A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England)*, European Dialogue, available at: http://equality.uk.com/Resources_files/movement_of_roma.pdf.

¹⁰ Poole, L., and Adamson, K., (2008), *Report on the situation of the Roma community in Govanhill*, Glasgow, School of Social Sciences, University of the West of Scotland, Oxfam, Glasgow CHCP, 2008, available at: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/ukpoverty/downloads/roma_report.pdf.

¹¹ Presentation by Ruth Bates at the All-Party Parliamentary Group Meeting on Gypsies, Roma and Travellers on 26 January, 2011

¹² Multi-Cultural Resource Centre (2010), *Strangers in a Strange City: Belfast's Roma community*, available at: www.southbelfast.org.

2 Education

In its Progress report by the Ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers (hereafter referred to as the inter-ministerial report),¹³ published in April 2012, the Department for Communities and Local Government acknowledged that Gypsies, Roma and Travellers experience some of the worst outcomes of any ethnic or social group, including below average educational attainment. The inter-ministerial report contains 28 measures from across Government that are supposed to improve outcomes for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers across education, health, accommodation, employment and in the criminal justice system. The Ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, set up in November 2010 by Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, brings together ministers from seven Government departments.

The Progress report by the Ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers openly declares its commitment to achieving equality for this excluded, underrepresented and disenfranchised ethnic minority group. However, critics have argued that “equality requires state action, underpinned by a commitment to social justice and should ideally be mediated and delivered through community representation and intercultural dialogue, a notion of inclusivity which will ensure change is relevant and tailored to the needs of excluded people. (...) [T]his assertion appears to be at odds with Coalition Government thinking as reflected in the policy framework they apply to Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. This policy is hierarchical, does not engage with or adequately promote community groups and opposes forms of positive action; as a consequence of localism it is reluctant to endorse central government interventions.”¹⁴

The research findings of the 2009 Mapping Survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England¹⁵ (hereafter referred to as the 2009 mapping survey) show that education through the Traveller Education Support Service and the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service has been a major force in fostering the social inclusion of Roma pupils of both indigenous and migrant heritage. These services are often the first, and sometimes the only contact Roma have with any service providers. The invaluable work done by education officers and schools with Roma pupils and their families has served as a ‘springboard’ for other agencies to reach out to these communities in a multi-agency approach. In areas where local authorities have used the Pupil Level Annual School Census to count the number of their Roma students, services have been formatted to better reflect the needs of the Roma communities. These initiatives are aimed at the whole family; Roma are employed as teaching assistants and outreach staff to engage Roma families in their children’s education, family health and other service provision.

Some outstanding local initiatives have been undertaken in the field of the education and social inclusion, whereby Roma are employed as teaching assistants and outreach staff to engage Roma families on their children’s education, family health and other service provision. The importance of these initiatives, including the Gypsy Roma Traveller History month, which seem to be unique in the whole of the EU, was acknowledged by a 2009 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.¹⁶

¹³ Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2012). Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers; see:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/mwgreporttravellers

¹⁴ Ryder, A., Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Richardson, J., Van Cleemput, P., (2012),

A Critique of UK Coalition Government Policy on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities; see:

www.edf.org.uk/blog/?p=19051.

¹⁵ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) The Movement of Roma from New EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England); see:

www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf

¹⁶ Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union (FRA) (2009). The situation of Roma EU citizens moving to and settling in other EU Member States; see: http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/ROMA-Movement-Comparative-report_en.pdf

Many local authorities have been expressing concern over the recent cuts to funding and the impact this has had on outreach work. Those local authority areas where the level of provision to Roma has been excellent have already seen major consequences of the budget cuts such as losing key staff members and funding. The reduction of outreach work is expected to have further negative influence on community relations, social tension and the work of the police.

Teachers' associations working with Gypsy, Traveller and Roma pupils, namely ACERT (Advisory Committee for the Education of Romany and other Travellers) and NATT (National Association of Teachers of Travellers) have been concerned about the impact that local authority cuts have been having on Gypsy, Traveller and Roma pupils. For instance, in London it has been estimated that 12 out of the 32 Traveller Education Services in the London Boroughs had been abolished since 2007. Critics of the inter-ministerial report claim that "[g]iven the fragility of the Traveller Education Service and its key role in supporting educational access and achievement, it is strange that the Government does not express explicit support for this network in the inter-ministerial report under the key section on educational attainment as such top-level endorsement could be used by practitioners to safeguard and protect the services in the local authorities in which they work."¹⁷

a. Early years education (pre-school/kindergarten)

In England, every child is entitled to 15 hours of free early years education per week starting the term when they turn 3. However, there is anecdotal evidence that despite a recent increase in the number of Roma children attending preschool facilities, the numbers are still lower than for other pupils.

For instance the 2009 mapping survey found that "in the 50 local authorities that recorded the number of Roma children, there were 3,975 Roma children between the age of 0 and 11; 89 Roma children attended preschool facilities and 629 were not enrolled into any kind of preschool provision."¹⁸

The same seems to apply to Gypsies and Travellers. "Very often, Gypsy and Traveller children will start school with little or no experience of pre-school settings. This may place them at a disadvantage and at higher risk of academic underachievement because of the basic skills and socialisation opportunities outside their own communities that have been missed. Travelling may result in baseline assessments being missed."¹⁹

b. Compulsory school attendance

School attendance is compulsory for any child in England and Wales from the age of 4 to the age of 16 (or 18). The 2009 mapping survey found that "in the 50 local authorities that recorded the number of Roma children, there were 3,975 Roma children between the age of 0 and 11; 2,564 Roma children between the age of 0 and 11 were in school. 675 Roma children were not enrolled. Additionally, there

¹⁷ Ryder, Cemlyn, Greenfields, Richardson, Van Cleemput (2012). A Critique of UK Coalition Government Policy on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities; see: www.edf.org.uk/blog/?p=19051

¹⁸ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) The Movement of Roma from New EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England), p. 51; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf

¹⁹ Welsh Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (2008). Moving Forward – Gypsy Traveller Education, Guidance, Welsh Assembly Government Circular No: 003/2008 Replaces Circular No: 52/1990, p. 15; see: www.learn-ict.org.uk/projects/inclusion/swansea_inc/handbook/wag_docs/Moving_Forward_-_Gypsy_Traveller_Education.pdf

were 2,614 Roma children between the age of 11 and 18. 1,592 Roma children between the age of 11 and 18 were in school. 610 Roma children were not enrolled.”²⁰

As for Gypsy and Traveller children, barriers to school enrolment tend to be linked to their housing conditions. As Lord Avebury observes, “[n]either the Human Rights Act nor the Race Relations Acts have been effective tools for delivering better education and healthcare to Gypsies and Travellers. Reference is made to the finding that 10,000 - 12,000 Gypsy and Traveller children of secondary age were not registered and did not attend school, and to the Government’s proposals for spreading good practice to raise the achievement of Gypsy and Traveller pupils. There is a right to education in law, but the first condition for its implementation is that children should have access to a school near their home, and regular proximity to services is also high on the list of factors influencing the health of the Gypsy and Traveller population.”²¹ Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children “have the same right to education as all other children in the UK but many children only have intermittent access to schools due to the shortage of stopping places for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families. (...) In Northern Ireland, for example, recent research found that the majority of Traveller children do not attend secondary school.”²²

Although there are no national data available on school attendance disaggregated by ethnicity, a 2003 report calculated attendance rates based on an evaluation of provision and support for Traveller pupils in 11 Local Education Authorities (LEAs) between 2001 and 2003. The report found “that the average attendance rate for all Traveller pupils was around 75%, which is the worst attendance profile of any ethnic minority group and well below the national average. While there have been improvements in access to primary schools, [the same report] estimated that 12,000 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children might not be registered at secondary schools in England and Wales. In Scotland it has been estimated that only 20% of Gypsy / Traveller children of secondary age attend school regularly, and this may be even lower in more remote areas.”²³

As part of a 2011 Roma Education Fund sponsored pilot study,²⁴ a number of participating schools throughout the UK have reported that their Roma pupils of migrant origin were the fastest achieving ethnic group. Also, according to attendance officers, attendance by Roma pupils at primary and secondary schools was increasingly improving, very often reaching the national standard²⁵ of minimum school attendance or above.

c. Educational attainment

The inter-ministerial report notes: “At present, Gypsy and Roma pupils, along with pupils of Irish Traveller heritage, are amongst the lowest-achieving groups at every Key Stage of education, although individual pupils can and do achieve very well. In 2011, just 25% of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils achieved national expectations in English and mathematics at the end of their primary education, compared with 74% of all pupils. At the end of secondary education, just 12% of

²⁰ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) The Movement of Roma from New EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England), p. 51; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf

²¹ Foreword by Lord Avebury in Johnson, C., and Willers, M., (2007), Gypsy and Traveller Law, Chris Johnson and Marc Willers, Legal Action Group Education and Service Trust Ltd (second edition), p. vii.

²² Bartlett, W., Benini, R., Gordon, C., (2011) Measures to Promote the Situation of Roma Citizens in the European Union London School of Economics, p. 101; see: www2.lse.ac.uk/businessAndConsultancy/LSEConsulting/pdf/Roma.pdf.

²³ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 92; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf

²⁴ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) From Segregation to Inclusion Roma Pupils in the United Kingdom A Pilot Research Project; see: www.romaeducationfund.hu/sites/default/files/publications/ref_uk_report_nov2011_screen_singlepages.pdf

²⁵ The average attendance for a child in England is 95%. www.thackleyschool.com/Parents/Sickness+and+Attendance

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils achieved five or more good GCSEs, including English and mathematics, compared with 58.2% of all pupils.”²⁶

“At Key Stage 4 (ages 14-16) in 2008 only 7.3% of Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils, and 6.8% of Gypsy/Roma pupils achieved 5+ A* - C GCSE grades (including English and maths) against a national average of 47.8%. (...) At Key Stage 2 (ages 7-11) the results for GRT pupils are the lowest of any minority ethnic group. Data from the Statistical First Release Attainment Data 2007 reveals that for Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils only 35% achieved the expected level in English and Maths, and only 49% achieved the expected level in Science. For Gypsy/Roma pupils 35% achieved the expected level in English, 36% in Maths, and 52% in Science.”²⁷

The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission notes that “selected examples demonstrate the extent of underachievement of Gypsies and Travellers. In 2003, 28% of Travellers of Irish Heritage and 42% of Gypsy / Roma pupils achieved level 2 or above in reading at Key Stage 1 compared to 84% of all pupils. In 2007, 26% of Irish Travellers and 27% of Gypsy / Roma achieved this level compared to 84% overall. The pattern of achievement is reflected in subsequent key stages and other subject areas. While Gypsy and Traveller pupils show some relative development through primary school, the inequalities remain and are starkly demonstrated in GCSE results. Moreover, Gypsies and Travellers are the only ethnic group whose performance has deteriorated in recent years. In 2003, 42% of Irish Travellers and 23% of Gypsy / Roma achieved 5+ A*-C GCSEs or GNVQs compared to 51% of all pupils, while in 2007 this dropped to 16% of Irish Travellers and 14% of Gypsy / Roma compared to 59% of all pupils”.²⁸

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people have been identified as having the lowest attainment of any pupil group in Wales and are the group most at risk of disengagement from school. They are disproportionately represented amongst pupils who are excluded from school and those not attending school regularly.²⁹ “Most Gypsy and Traveller parents recognise the benefit of primary education for their children and are keen for their children to attend school for Key Stages 1 and 2 to gain functional literacy and numeracy skills. Often Gypsy and Traveller parents will have had negative experiences of secondary school. Coupled with their cultural and moral concerns about sex education, drugs culture and teenage behaviour, there remains a common reluctance among many Gypsy and Traveller parents to allow their children to remain in school throughout secondary education and many pupils do not transfer to Key Stage 3.”³⁰

Despite the above assertions made regarding the underachievement of Roma pupils, there have been signs among secondary school Roma, particularly among those of migrant origin, suggesting they can achieve well. For instance, Babington Community College in Leicester has 70 Roma heritage pupils

²⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2012). Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, p. 7; see:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/mwgreporttravellers

²⁷ Department for Communities and Local Government (2011) Third Report submitted by the United Kingdom Pursuant to Article 25, Paragraph 2 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; see: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_3rd_SR_UK_en.pdf

²⁹ Estyn (Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales), (2011) The education of Gypsy Traveller pupils: An update on provision in secondary schools; see www.estyn.gov.uk/english/docViewer/201883.5/the-education-of-gypsy-traveller-pupils-an-update-on-provision-in-secondary-schools-june-2011/?navmap=30,163

²⁹ Estyn (Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales), (2011) The education of Gypsy Traveller pupils: An update on provision in secondary schools; see www.estyn.gov.uk/english/docViewer/201883.5/the-education-of-gypsy-traveller-pupils-an-update-on-provision-in-secondary-schools-june-2011/?navmap=30,163

³⁰ Welsh Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (March 2008), Moving Forward – Gypsy Traveller Education, Guidance, Welsh Assembly Government Circular No: 003/2008 Replaces Circular No: 52/1990, p. 14; see: www.learn-ict.org.uk/projects/inclusion/swansea_inc/handbook/wag_docs/Moving_Forward_-_Gypsy_Traveller_Education.pdf.

from Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Romania. At Babington, Roma pupils attend 90% of the time even though most live 5 miles away and the most common reason for absence is the inability to pay the bus fare when money is short. Many Roma pupils achieve well. Last year 38.3% of year 11 Roma pupils left with 5A*-C with English and Maths and one Roma pupil passed maths GCSE at grade B at the end of year 9.³¹

An increasing number of Roma pupils of migrant origin have been going on to college and university.³² Anecdotally, it is known that colleges in some areas are providing specific vocational courses, and young Roma are entering university and various professions such as law, teaching, planning and journalism.³³

d. Vocational training and qualifications

According to the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain, “[v]ocational education appears to be an area the government wants to develop following Secretary of State for Education’s commissioning a review into pre-19 vocational education. The 2010 report by the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain on Traveller economic and social inclusion found that younger Gypsies, Roma and Travellers had a strong interest in vocational skills, and favoured experiential styles of learning. The survey found that 35% of their sample of 95 interviewees had experience of further or vocational education, and that the learning styles supported in post-school education were more acceptable to young people from these communities.”³⁴ Even though no similar research into educational preferences by migrant Roma has been undertaken thus far, anecdotal evidence seems to indicate that technical colleges are popular among young Roma of migrant heritage.

According to the 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the recorded numbers of Gypsies and Travellers entering post-16 education are very small: just 26 students in 2007. “At this level also, Irish Travellers and Gypsy / Roma have the lowest achievement of all ethnic groups, although caution is needed because of the small numbers. Within this overall picture of inequality for Gypsies and Travellers, boys are even more educationally disadvantaged, with girls making better progress than boys in both primary and secondary school.”³⁵ The dearth of research into Scottish Gypsy / Traveller young people’s experiences of further and higher education was also pointed out.³⁶

Despite a recent trend of increasing numbers of young Roma of migrant origin enrolling in colleges and universities, literacy levels among adult Roma migrants tend to be very low; in extreme cases adult Roma have had little or no experience of schooling, or they were sent to special schools for children with mental disabilities.

³¹ Email correspondence of 15 March 2012 with Lead teacher for Ethnic Minority Attainment, Babington Community College, Leicester

³² Information provided by the International Association of Roma Professionals (2012). www.inarp.org.

³³ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 95; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf

³⁴ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (ITMB) Moore, M., and Brindley, M., (2010) Gypsies And Travellers: Shadow Report (A Response To The United Kingdom’s 18th And 20th Report On The International Convention On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Racial Discrimination (CERD), p. 24; see: <http://irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/ITMB-Shadow-Report1.pdf>

³⁵ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 95; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

³⁶ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 95; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

In relation to educational levels in adult indigenous Roma communities, the 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission refers to research by Hatley-Broad (2004) according to which literacy levels are well below the national average, drawing on estimates from the 1990s of 75,000 adult Gypsies and Travellers having lower than functional literacy levels. It has been reported that “problems with basic skills are likely to be far greater among Gypsies and Travellers than the mainstream population, even though they may be as high as one in five in the population overall. Nevertheless, there is only limited recent research that investigates adult literacy levels among Gypsies and Travellers.”³⁷

e. Different types of schooling

It has been estimated that between 2000 and 2004 there was a 40% increase in Elective Home Education (EHE) among Travellers.³⁸ The following reasons for choosing EHE were reported: fear of cultural erosion, perceived lack of relevance of the secondary school curriculum, and fear of racist bullying.

New technology has been increasingly used for supporting the continued learning of Gypsy and Traveller pupils in more engaging and imaginative ways. Often, due to their mobile life style, not all Gypsy and Traveller pupils can attend the same school through the academic year. This is why the Department for Education recognised the need to provide good quality distance learning materials for travelling pupils and has been funding the E-Learning and Mobility Project (E-Lamp) which supplies them with laptops, data cards and distance learning packs. This method is now being developed to support excluded pupils too, to ensure that they do not fall behind with their work whilst out of school and to maintain continuity in learning which has been another priority topic.

The Scottish Government currently funds and meets with the Scottish Travellers Education Programme (STEP) and the Traveller Education Network (TENET), who work with education authorities in promoting and developing inclusive educational approaches for both settled and mobile Gypsy/Traveller families. The STEP/Learning and Teaching Scotland produced Inclusive Educational Approaches for Gypsies and Travellers within the context of interrupted learning provides valuable guidance for 84 local authorities.³⁹

f. Issues of segregation and integration

The 2011 pilot research study entitled *From segregation to inclusion: Roma pupils in the UK* found that 85% of the 61 Czech and Slovak Roma respondents who participated in the survey had been

³⁷ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 95; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

³⁸ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, p. 122; see www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf
Ivatts, A., (2006) The Situation Regarding the Current Policy, Provision and Practice in Elective Home Education (EHE) for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children (London: DfES); see: <http://aim1he.wordpress.com/2007/01/18/ivatts-report-elective-home-education/>.

³⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2011) Third Report submitted by the United Kingdom Pursuant to Article 25, Paragraph 2 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; see: www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_3rd_SR_UK_en.pdf.

placed into special school, or de-facto segregated (Roma only) school or kindergarten prior to migrating to the UK with their families. All of them attended mainstream schools in the UK.⁴⁰

However, it also noted with concern that at a secondary school in Medway, with a few exceptions, most of the Roma students seemed to have been put into an English as an Additional Language (EAL) unit separated from other, non-Roma, students. This appeared strange as according to the headteacher at a local primary school, which is one of BORA's primary feeder schools, those children who had previously studied there left the school with fluent (or almost fluent) English and highly improved attainment in literacy, maths, and science. The researchers also noted that the students said that they were not receiving adequate instruction and support.

The 2010 report by the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain *Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers* notes that "[i]n response to a broad question about negative and positive experiences of school, 47 interviewees in the G/IT sample (55% of this sub-sample) experienced bullying and discrimination during their time in education. Such bullying ranged from 'name calling' (e.g 'Pikey'; 'Dirty Gypsy') to intensely violent enacted bullying and racism and actual physical segregation from other children."⁴¹

g. Experiences and perceptions of discrimination

The 2010 report by the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain *Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers* notes that "78% of the G/IT sample (67/86 interviewees) reported that they had experienced racism at some point in their lives with 23% of respondents noting that this occurred on a regular basis. For many interviewees, racism consisted of direct challenges from the wider community which manifested itself in social, community and work environments. Experiences of racism were reported by interviewees to be especially prominent in school with both teachers and pupils participating in racist behaviours. For some interviewees, experiences of racism have declined after leaving school as interaction with the wider community has become reduced, for others their negative experiences have continued, building up a history of discriminatory experiences and memories of poor quality interactions with the 'wider' community."⁴²

Some of the barriers encountered by Gypsy, Traveller and Roma of migrant heritage pupils include enforced mobility and interrupted learning as a result of evictions and, in the case of Roma of migrant origin, economic migration; consistent experiences of racist harassment and bullying; excessive exclusions linked to these experiences and to inadequate school responses; the lack of mainstreaming and validation of the communities' cultures in the school setting; the limited relevance of the curriculum for some pupils; cultural barriers that children have to negotiate between home and school; teachers' low expectations and lack of knowledge of these pupils culture, traditions and identity; and the impact of national targets on schools' readiness to admit Gypsies, Travellers and Roma. Racist harassment and bullying, seems to be the most prominent theme, particularly among Gypsy and Traveller pupils. It has been noted that Gypsy and Traveller parents consider schools unsafe for their children in view of the racism and name-calling they experience, and this can lead to supporting

⁴⁰ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) From Segregation to Inclusion Roma Pupils in the United Kingdom A Pilot Research Project; p.9, see:

www.romaeducationfund.hu/sites/default/files/publications/ref_uk_report_nov2011_screen_singlepages.pdf

⁴¹ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) *Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers*, p. 117; see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf

Ivatts, A., (2006) *The Situation Regards the Current Policy, Provision and Practice in Elective Home Education (EHE) for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children* (London: DfES); see: <http://aim1he.wordpress.com/2007/01/18/ivatts-report-elective-home-education/>.

⁴² Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) *Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers*, p. 138; see www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf

Ivatts, A., (2006) *The Situation Regards the Current Policy, Provision and Practice in Elective Home Education (EHE) for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children* (London: DfES); see: <http://aim1he.wordpress.com/2007/01/18/ivatts-report-elective-home-education/>.

children's self-exclusion. "Amongst those in the G/IT sample who were explicit about the nature of the racism they had experienced, 8 interviewees/ (12%) reported they had experienced direct racist violence, 8 interviewees/(12%) had experienced verbal abuse, 10 interviewees/(15%) had experienced other forms of 'direct' (unspecified) racism whilst 14 interviewees/(21%) reported what we have classified as 'indirect racism', such as hearing people discuss Gypsies and Travellers in a hostile or derogatory manner without realizing that the participant was present or was a member of the Gypsy and Traveller community."⁴³

A number of migrant Roma respondents participating in the 2009 mapping survey reported instances of racist bullying at school from other children; they claimed that this was usually due to the perceived East European migrant origin.⁴⁴ However, according to two respondents, their children faced initial hostility from their school peers after they had ascribed as Roma/European Gypsies, or after their peers had found out about their ethnic origin. Similarly, twelve local authorities reported more than 10 instances of racist bullying while 23 local authorities reported fewer than 10 instances of racist bullying at their schools.

The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission notes that "while some schools have good anti-racist policies and anti-bullying strategies that involve an integrated response, others fail to take it seriously, so that neither children nor parents have confidence in reporting incidents. [...]teachers [are] frequently not believing or dismissing these complaints, and sometimes viewing being picked on as 'normal'. [...] the inadequacy of individualised responses to racist bullying that fail to take into account the broader social and structural influences affecting the lives of Gypsies and Travellers" has also been pointed out.⁴⁵

The same report claims that Gypsy / Roma pupils were the third mostly likely group to be excluded. However, published Government figures on permanent exclusion by ethnic origin from 2005 to 2006 do not include Gypsies and Travellers as an ethnic group.⁴⁶

Major projects or initiatives

Traveller Education Support Service and/or Ethnic Minority Achievement Service teams work with both Gypsy and Traveller and migrant Roma pupils. As has been discussed above, these services have been diminished, restructured or disbanded altogether, as has been the National Strategies Programme, first introduced in 1998 to help schools, colleges and early years settings raise children's standards of attainment and improve their life chances. At present, there seems to be no similar "umbrella programme" for improving the achievement by Gypsy, Traveller and Roma pupils in the UK.

Currently, there are three multi-disciplinary, transnational projects working with migrant Roma communities:

⁴³ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, p. 139; see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf.

⁴⁴ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) The Movement of Roma from New EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England), p. 76; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf

⁴⁵ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 97; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

⁴⁶ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 93; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

1. The “**Roma-Net project**”⁴⁷, part of URBACT (funded by the EU European Regional Fund), and implemented by Glasgow City Council as a partner. The focus of the Roma Net project is the integration of Roma populations. The common challenge of the project is to attempt to overcome negative attitudes, to improve consultation and engagement with the Roma community. The Roma-Net partners believe that the key factor to the integration of Roma populations is in a cohesive society, delivering the goals of the Lisbon Strategy. By sharing expertise and spreading good practices, the partners hope to improve local policy development and deliver capabilities for stronger community cohesion between Roma and their neighbouring communities across Glasgow. An overarching objective is to inform and support other agencies to develop and implement local action plans that will support and facilitate better services, through improved access and a step-by-step integration approach, to support the social inclusion of young Roma and their transition into active adult citizens. Project partners are Nagykálló and Budapest (Hungary), Almería and Torrent (Spain), Bobigny (France), Bologna and Udine (Italy), Glasgow (United Kingdom), Karviná (Czech Republic), Košice (Slovakia). Project activities include visits to partner cities, a dissemination seminar on models of good practice (Brussels, 8th November 2012) and a final conference (February, 2012). The project has produced a number of outputs, such as case studies, learning clusters, project leaflets and newsletters in five languages.⁴⁸

Project launched: 25 November 2009

Project completed : 19 January 2013.

2. The “**Roma Source**” project (www.romasource.eu), co-funded by the European Union’s Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme and implemented by Migration Yorkshire. Roma SOURCE is a European project that aims to combat and reduce discrimination through developing mutual understanding between Roma and mainstream communities, promoting equal rights and highlighting best practice. Roma SOURCE [Sharing of Understanding Rights and Citizenship in Europe] is a two year project which works in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. Migration Yorkshire is coordinating the European project as the lead partner, and is running one of the regional projects – Yorkshire and Humber Roma SOURCE. The project involves eight organisations from six European countries, with each organisation working on different aspects of the project in their region: Regional Administration of Varna, Bulgaria, Action Synergy, Greece, Former State Fostered Children's Association, Hungary, Municipality of Pescara, Italy, Federacion Maranatha De Asociaciones Gitanes, Spain, Regional Vice-Ministry for Family and Solidarity – Valencia, Spain, Migration Yorkshire and University of Salford, United Kingdom. Some of the partners work in regions of Europe which are traditionally home to Roma communities, others in regions which have more recently become a destination. Working with colleagues from areas in Europe where Roma are from and have traditionally settled will provide opportunities to share knowledge, skills and expertise that will both benefit Roma and also lessen the impacts on the local communities that they have moved to. The overall European project focuses on a number of key areas, with different European regions leading on each: conducting research and mapping Roma communities, protecting the rights of children and ensuring that they are safe from harm, addressing the health needs of Roma and the impacts of new arrivals on health authorities and providers, addressing worklessness and tackling employer prejudice and discrimination, effective participation of Roma communities in policy making and society, working in schools. Migration Yorkshire works with a range of partner organisations from different sectors that work with Roma. The work will include coordinating a regional network to share learning, knowledge and expertise around how local areas respond to Roma, raising the profile of Roma issues - as identified by partners-, working on health and community engagement issues, making sure local partners are supported in delivery by

⁴⁷ Roma Net Project (2012), available at: <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/active-inclusion/roma-net/our-project/>.

⁴⁸ Roma-Net Project (2012) available at: <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/active-inclusion/roma-net/our-outputs/>

providing information and guidance on delivering to Roma. Yorkshire and Humber Roma SOURCE have produced short films by Roma children in Leeds.⁴⁹ The overall budget is £1,000,000.⁵⁰

The AIMER Project (Achieving the Integration of Migrant Communities and Ethnic Residents) was funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the INTERREG IVA 2 Seas Programme.⁵¹ The main aim of the project was to integrate migrant communities and in the UK, France, and Belgium. The project started on 1 November 2009 and finished on 30 June 2012. The main activities included: design and delivery of training, including the host languages; welcome pack for new migrants to assist with access to local services (for example housing, social care); citizenship development: ways of informing and educating new migrants; cultural mediation; legal mediation (advice and support); mediation for employers of ethnic minorities; capacity building to set up new organisations; forums for ethnic minority communities. The total budget eligible was 2,476,394.00€ financed at 50% by the ERDF. Three activities are planned: Activity 1: Welcome & Integration of Migrant Communities (627,167.4€= 25.3% of the total budget); Activity 2: Legal & Cultural Mediation ((694,991.4€= 28.1% of the total budget); Activity 3: Capacity building (504,287.4€=20.4% of the total budget).⁵²

The vast majority of projects in the field of education are on-going, central-government funded, local, based at individual schools and funded by schools and/or local authorities. For instance in the last academic year (2011-2012), local schools in Rotherham were given an extra £266,892 to employ more support for Roma children. The funding is allocated to schools by central government (£2,600 - £4,000 pp according to age) but schools have the discretion to set aside a certain percentage. Last year, based on consultation with the local Roma communities, Rotherham primary and secondary schools were able to employ Roma teaching assistants of migrant Roma origin and to implement school-based projects such as walking buses (whereby designated staff accompany children to school in the morning), breakfast clubs, after school clubs, English classes for parents and New to You sales (second-hand school shops where parents can purchase items such as pushchairs for 50 pence). As part of multi-agency working, health practitioners give out free toothbrushes, toothpaste, free samples of head lice shampoo, deodorants, shampoo, combs etc.

Some schools provide free dinners (Free School Meals) and uniforms to poor and socially disadvantaged Gypsy, Traveller and Roma pupils. Leicester City Council provides bus passes for all Gypsy, Traveller and Roma pupils living within a radius of more than 3 miles from their school.

Throughout the UK, there has been an increased tendency towards employing Roma teaching assistants/liaison officers or Roma school mediators to facilitate communication. Increasingly, local authorities and agencies are provided with cultural training on Roma.

⁴⁹ Migration Yorkshire (2012), available at: <http://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/?page=yorkshireromasource>.

⁵⁰ Leeds City Council (2010) *Yorkshire to lead major European project on Roma: A partnership of Yorkshire councils has won £1million EU funding to lead a Europe-wide project to improve both the lives of Roma people and the local communities they live alongside*, available at, <http://newsfeed.leedsvirtualnewsroom.co.uk/2010/09/yorkshire-to-lead-major-european.html>.

⁵¹ Aimer Project (2012) available at: www.aimerproject.eu/.

⁵² Aimer Project (2012) *Achieving the Integration of Migrant communities and Ethnic Residents: Sharing Experiences of the Journey to date*, available at: www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/admin/page_ext_attachments/37

3 Employment

The inter-ministerial report notes that “quantitative evidence on unemployment rates has not been collected.” The Commission for Racial Equality Gypsies and Travellers Strategy paper in 2004 noted a lack of systematic data on Gypsy and Travellers employment and reports anecdotal evidence indicating unemployment is high among Gypsies and Travellers. Smith and Greenfields (2012) note that “little attention has been paid to the economic position of Gypsies and Travellers, not least because there is a lack of systematic data on the employment status and working patterns of these communities. Few of the programmes set up to tackle unemployment specifically target this population and, anecdotally, a mismatch exists in relation to mainstream back-to-work programmes and community needs.”⁵³

a. Paid employment

Despite the aforementioned lack of data, a local survey in Gravesham noted that “There are low levels of employment among Gypsies and Travellers living on sites with 28.4% (42) of the households surveyed stating they were either employed or self-employed, the majority being self-employed. The majority of respondents indicated they looked after the home.”⁵⁴

Among the Gypsy and Traveller communities, there is limited evidence on Gypsy and Traveller employment practices and preferences which indicates a strong preference for male self-employment, often associated with working in family groups and undertaking employment such as gardening, scrapping metal, building and market trading. Women have until relatively recently traditionally been involved in harvesting work, making holly wreaths or other traditional seasonal 'female' crafts.⁵⁵

Anecdotal information from community workers and Travellers Education Services staff (borne out by some Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment findings) indicates that housed Gypsies and Travellers may be more likely to seek employment which is similar to that of their neighbours (for example, in a local factory) than to follow the employment patterns favoured by people living on sites. GTAAs indicate greater interest in accessing employment-related training on the part of housed Gypsies and Travellers, as compared with site residents.

Since the EU enlargements in 2004 and 2007, many more Roma have moved legally to the UK to find work, equal opportunities and a good education for their children (economic and social rights largely denied them in their countries of origin), and to escape racism and discrimination. The 2009 mapping survey found that many Roma in the UK work for low wages on temporary contracts organised by exploitative gang masters and/or recruitment agencies. Their vulnerability is often exploited. Some agencies charge newly arrived Roma large sums for temporary work placements, completing paper work, arranging work registration cards, bank accounts and finding accommodation.⁵⁶

The survey found that 51.9% of the Roma respondents were employed. Most respondents thought employment was a crucial point of entry into British society. Employment was reported by the vast majority of respondents as the key reason for their decision to come and live in England; employment

⁵³ Smith, D., Greenfields, M., (2012), *Housed Gypsies and Travellers in the UK: work, exclusion and adaptation*; see: <http://rac.sagepub.com/content/53/3/48.abstract>

⁵⁴ Gravesham Borough Council (2007) *Consultation on Core Strategy Key Issues and Options: Gravesham Local Development Framework*; p. 56; see: www.gravesham.gov.uk/media/pdf/d/p/CoreStrategyIssuesOptionsMain_1.pdf.

⁵⁵ Greenfields, M. (2006a) *Bricks and Mortar Accommodation, Travellers in Houses*. In C. Clark, & M. Greenfields, eds. *Here to Stay*. Hatfield: University of Hertfordshire Press. pp. 49-53.

⁵⁶ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) *The Movement of Roma from New EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England)*; pp. 86-87; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf; Equality: Roma in the UK, see <http://equality.uk.com/Roma.html>.

was also thought to be the only means of being able to provide a future for the respondents' children.⁵⁷

Thirty-one Roma reported working in menial jobs: most of them were A8 nationals and male who worked in the food processing or meat packing industries, some worked as cleaners in supermarkets. Only four people worked in qualified and three in semi-qualified jobs.

The vast majority of A8 Roma were employed through private employment agencies which often offer very low wages in menial jobs; as a result of economic hardship, A8 citizens, including the Roma, are forced to take up due to an increasing shortage of vacancies. Temporary contracts seemed to vary from one agency to another: some were entitled to sick pay and others were not.

The findings also indicate that in families consisting of two parents, the father tended to work, doing whatever jobs there were available, usually menial, low skilled jobs with short-term contracts. The mother would look after the children and the household. In single-parent families (with usually the mother looking after the children on her own), the mother would work as well as look after the children. In the course of the research, the research team came across two cases of single fathers looking after their children. The aforementioned patterns of work in the family were more typical of A8 Roma who, unlike A2 Roma, are not practically barred from employment. Upon the 2004 (Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia) and 2007 (Romania and Bulgaria) accessions, the UK government imposed employment restrictions on all nationals from the new accession states, including Roma. "These employment restrictions make it much harder for Roma to work legally and make them more vulnerable to gang masters and recruitment/employment agencies operating illegally. It has forced many Romanian Roma families to hide from the authorities, not send children to school, register with GPs or access other support."⁵⁸

b. Self-employment

Of the 13 people who reported working as self-employed, only two were A8 nationals, the rest were A2 nationals for whom self-employment is the only way of being able to work in the UK. Eight A2 Roma reported not being able to work due to the employment restrictions imposed on A2 nationals.

The findings indicate that survival strategies employed by A2 Roma are impacted by the employment restrictions imposed on A2 citizens. Self-employment appears to be the most frequent type of employment taken by Romanian Roma in order to be able to stay in the UK after the first three months. It was noted that self-employment effectively comes to mean more a means of legally staying in the UK than a category of labour. A high number of self-employed Romanian Roma reportedly sell the Big Issue. A2 Roma, especially Romanians, also reportedly work on construction sites or as house painters, decorators or cleaners.

From 1 May 2004 to 30 April 2011, A8 nationals, including Roma, had to register under the Worker Registration Scheme.⁵⁹ Once an A8 national had legally worked for 12 months they no longer had to register under the Workers Registration Scheme and are not restricted in their access to benefits. A8 nationals in work (full or part-time, in employment or as self-employed) can obtain child benefits and in-work benefits such as tax credits; before 1 May 2011, they were able to do so as long as their

⁵⁷ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) The Movement of Roma from New EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England); pp. 56-57; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf;

Gravesham Borough Council (2007) Consultation on Core Strategy Key Issues and Options: Gravesham Local Development Framework; p. 56; see: www.gravesham.gov.uk/media/pdf/d/p/CoreStrategyIssuesOptionsMain_1.pdf;

⁵⁸ Equality (2012) Fact sheet: Roma from EU Member States and employment conditions in the UK; see: http://equality.uk.com/Resources_files/fact_sheet_employment.pdf.

⁵⁹ UK Border Agency (2008) Worker Registration Scheme: see: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/eea/wrs/.

employment was registered under the Workers Registration Scheme. The access to benefits for nationals from a number of EEA countries who live in the UK is restricted by the “right to residence” and “habitual residence” tests. In general, the right of residence in the UK is given to any national from another EEA country who is working in employment or as self-employed, or can prove that they can support themselves economically. The right to reside, and with it access to benefits and tax credits, is not given to an unemployed person who has yet to complete a period of 12 months of continuous registered employment. Sometimes a habitual residence test is used at an interview to check the length, continuity and general nature of actual residence, the reasons for coming to the UK and the claimant's future intentions.

From 2007, A2 nationals, including Roma, can only be self-employed or in short-term agricultural work under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS). Otherwise the employer has to apply for a work permit and, if this is granted, then the national must apply for an Accession Worker card under the Worker Authorisation Scheme (a process to be completed before employment can legally begin). Nationals in work (full or part-time, in employment with an Accession Worker Card or as self-employed) can obtain child benefit and in-work benefits such as tax credits for as long as they are in employment or self-employed. If the person is on a low income they may be entitled to housing benefit and council tax benefit. They may not claim jobseekers allowance or income support until they have legally worked in the UK without interruption for a period of 12 months of continuous employment.⁶⁰

An A2 national who has worked legally in the UK without interruption for a period of 12 months is exempt from worker authorisation and has the same rights as other EEA nationals which means that they may apply for benefits such as jobseekers allowance and income support, housing benefit, council tax benefit, child benefit and child tax credits.

In the Scottish context, as a result of Devolution, the situation is complicated by the division of responsibilities between Scotland and Westminster; in Section 5 of the 1998 Scotland Act, 11 key policy areas are reserved to Westminster. These include employment, social security and immigration. The Scottish Government is responsible for the following areas: healthcare, education, children's services, housing and policing. The interpretation of the 2004/38/EC directive that outlines the rights and entitlements of A8 migrants to social housing and homelessness assistance has been problematic. “In Scotland, unlike in England, there were no regulations laid down relating to A8 access to social housing and homelessness assistance until the Scottish Executive (now Scottish Government) drew up a Code of Guidance confirming the same housing entitlements for A8 nationals as other European citizens. That said, there is a contradiction here. Whilst A8 nationals are eligible for social housing which potentially increases their ability to break the cycle of poor housing, social exclusion and racism at the community level, the 'no recourse to public funds' legislation (which denies unemployed A8s Housing Benefit) makes unemployed migrants vulnerable to homelessness or continued dependency on the private rented sector in cases where they are unable to afford the rent. In these circumstances, unemployed A8 migrants would be unable to access social housing despite their eligibility being unrestricted by law.” “This situation creates problems for both policy makers and service providers at the local and regional levels. For example, the Scottish Government can draw up codes of guidance in relation to say homelessness or improved access to welfare services for A8 migrants, but local councils and service providers are then left to interpret them whilst at one and the same time ensuring that their actions are in line with the primary legislation enacted at Westminster. In this way policy making at the different levels can and does become contradictory.”⁶¹ “The Scottish Government Code of Guidance confirmed the responsibility of local councils and housing authorities to accommodate [the Roma]. However, the legal opinion given to the City of Edinburgh was that homeless A8 individuals and their families are only entitled to local authority provided homelessness

⁶⁰ Work permits and accession worker cards. See: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/eea/bulgariaromania/

⁶¹ Poole, L., and Adamson, K., (2008) Briefing on the situation of the Roma community in Govanhill, Glasgow, School of Social Sciences, University of the West of Scotland, p. 46; see: <http://archive.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/inquiries/migration/subs/SEGlasgowCHCP1.pdf>.

assistance if they are economically active (and hence entitled to Housing Benefit), given the limitations of the primary legislation issued from Westminster. This position has been replicated in Glasgow given the shared policy context and has given rise to a situation whereby, should the council's Homelessness Unit agree to follow the Code of Guidance from Scottish Government, it must find not only the costs of housing but also the full household costs for homeless families who have no access to public funds in the form of benefits, all without additional funding.⁶²

c. Communal work and other forms of payment schemes

In terms of communal work, the Clean Green team project mentioned in section *Major projects or initiatives*, is an example of how migrant Roma have got involved in voluntary communal work in Glasgow to improve one of Glasgow's neighbourhoods. Communal work projects, however, do not seem to be emerging very often.

Seasonal work is a form of employment in which Gypsy and Traveller communities have been traditionally involved. It most frequently entails fruit, vegetable or berry picking, working on farms and in agriculture or market selling in winter. It has been argued that "[r]eported increased competition for seasonal and manual work by economic migrants from Eastern Europe (Home and Greenfields, 2006) has added still further to the decline in employment in the sector of traditional farm labour.

In connection with EU accession, and especially in relation to the 2007 enlargement, whereby Romania and Bulgaria acceded to the EU, the British government have been running the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS). The SAWS is designed to allow farmers and growers in the UK to recruit low-skilled overseas workers from Romania and Bulgaria to undertake short-term agricultural work up to six months. The scheme works on the basis of a quota. In 2008, the quota was 16,250 places. In 2009 the quota is 21,250 places. The scheme is managed by nine approved operators. The workers enrolled in the SAWS carry out low-skilled work such as planting and gathering crops, on-farm processing and packing of crops and handling livestock. Workers must be paid at least the Agricultural Minimum Wage and provided with accommodation by the farmer or grower employing them. The SAWS is a short-term immigration category. Thus, it is impossible for workers enrolled in the SAWS to claim any benefits.

d. Unemployment

There is dearth of statistics on both Gypsy and Traveller and migrant Roma unemployment; however, the 2009 mapping survey and anecdotal evidence mentioned earlier on in this chapter suggest that the unemployment rate among these communities is high, ranging between 48% (among migrant Roma) and 71.6% (among Gypsies and Travellers).⁶³

As for migrant Roma, A2 and A8 nationals who have worked legally in the UK without interruption for a period of 12 months have the same rights as other EEA nationals which means that they may apply for benefits such as jobseekers allowance and income support.

⁶² Ibid, p. 58

⁶³ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) The Movement of Roma from New EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England); pp. 56-57; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf; Gravesham Borough Council (2007) Consultation on Core Strategy Key Issues and Options: Gravesham Local Development Framework; p. 56; see: www.gravesham.gov.uk/media/pdf/d/p/CoreStrategyIssuesOptionsMain_1.pdf.

e. Child labour and exploitation

In relation to Gypsies and Travellers, the 2010 report by the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain notes that “a lack of formal training in business practices could also cause difficulties for some respondents leading to a danger of exploitation or ‘boom and bust’ cycles.”⁶⁴

There is currently no data on exploitation and child labour in migrant Roma communities. In the course of the 2009 mapping survey, the issue of labour exploitation came up on a number of occasions. Roma, many of whom may be desperate to do whatever job is available to be able to leave for the UK, often end up at the hands of exploitative gang masters and employment agencies (some may be actually advertising or recruiting in the country of origin at issue). Cases have been reported of Roma being exploited by landlords (either being held captive or evicted as a result of debt/no written tenancy contract) or by agencies which may pay Roma a wage which is beneath the minimum wage or Roma being overcharged for registration fees.⁶⁵

Child labour and trafficking have been topics of recent debates in relation to Romanian Roma and a number of isolated cases in which Romanian Roma minors were caught begging, pick pocketing or working in fields.⁶⁶ Even though trafficking of young Roma from EU Member States does occur, it is still proportionally rare.⁶⁷ Despite anecdotal evidence, to date, no research has been conducted in the UK on the phenomenon of trafficking of Roma. Some Roma adults do not believe they are engaging in trafficking or exploitation if a group of young people (under 18 years of age) to whom they are related, are brought to the UK with the consent of the parents and the young people in order to work and send money back to their family to survive poverty or buy property. However, it is exploitive, if the young people are under legal working age.

Anecdotal evidence indicates there is also a small number of people (often non-Roma) who traffic groups of Roma people, including young Roma under 18 years of age, to whom they have no family connection, for the purpose of labour exploitation and commercial gain. The trafficking of young Roma from families for the purposes of prostitution and sexual exploitation is rare and government figures which are by no means comprehensive would seem to confirm this.⁶⁸

f. Old age pension

The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission notes that “the likelihood of becoming old enough to draw a state pension is considerably less for Gypsies and Travellers than for members of the wider population. In addition, for people who have been self-employed on a casual basis for most of their life, highly mobile or worked in relatively low-skilled manual trades, the likelihood of payment of enough national insurance contributions to warrant a full pension is low. Women are particularly unlikely to have made contributions towards retirement, as a result of caring responsibilities and casual employment throughout their lifetimes. Unlike the situation in Ireland,

⁶⁴ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) *Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers*, p. 51; see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf.

⁶⁵ Fremlova and Ureche (2009) *The Movement of Roma from new EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England)*, European Dialogue, pp. 86; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf.

⁶⁶ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2012) *Submission from the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain for the Police and press relationship phase of the Leveson Inquiry*; see: www.levesoninquiry.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Submission-from-The-Irish-Traveller-Movement-March-2012.pdf

⁶⁷ European Roma Rights Centre/People in Need Slovakia (2011) *Breaking the silence: Trafficking in Romani Communities*, see: <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/download.action;jsessionid=cyqRQXZbj2lmTTjLQJnLhJQszKv92Xx4zx8Sqf5FZHWnsm8yN4jK!134714294?nodeId=533837de-1dc2-460c-b93f-3e23910e147b&fileName=Breaking+the+silence.pdf>.

⁶⁸ Equality (2012) *Fact sheet: Roma from EU Member States and employment conditions in the UK*; see: http://equality.uk.com/Resources_files/fact_sheet_employment.pdf.

Travellers without a birth certificate cannot rely on baptismal certificates for identification and the lack of a birth certificate or adequate official documentation relating to period of residence in the UK, may militate against access to anything other than basic state pension benefits, and even these may be greatly delayed. Given the low percentage of Gypsies and Travellers aged 50 and over who are in paid employment, access to disability or unemployment benefits is critical.”⁶⁹

As for migrant Roma pensioners, there is currently no evidence suggesting Roma migrants receive old age pension from the UK (or from their home countries). However, there is anecdotal evidence that those Roma who were given refugee status and were in paid employment receive pension.

g. Experiences and perceptions of discrimination

According to the 2010 report by the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain, “[t]he most frequently cited experience of employment related racism relates to discrimination in recruitment when participants provide a site address.”⁷⁰

Regarding the employment discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers, “direct discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers still occurs in recruitment practices. [Reports found] evidence of Travellers experiencing racist stereotyping at work leading to constructive dismissal for which no compensation was sought as a result of lack of knowledge of remedies. The London accommodation needs assessment noted that a quarter of those interviewed who lived on sites felt they had suffered employment discrimination on account of their address.”⁷¹

Similarly, the 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission considered that anecdotal evidence and data from Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTANA) across the UK indicates that Gypsies and Travellers who live on a site, or who are known to be members of local Gypsy or Traveller families, encounter discrimination when applying for paid work.

As for Roma of migrant heritage, the 2009 mapping survey found that those respondents who were working or were seeking employment reported that, in general, their Roma ethnicity was not an issue within the labour market in England; however, they noted that in the course of the recruitment process, they believed that their East European origin was perceived quite negatively. Those respondents who believed their knowledge of English was poor also maintained that they were facing immense linguistic barriers.⁷²

However, a recent case of a Glasgow-based Job Centre staff verbally abusing Roma migrants has highlighted the fact that discrimination and prejudice may occur in the statutory sector, too.⁷³ In a recent report by the Govanhill Law Centre entitled “Unequal and Unlawful Treatment”, evidence was gathered from more than 60 families on their treatment at the hands of the job centre staff working for the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). According to the authors, many claims by Roma are automatically dealt with as fraudulent by HMRC. In some cases, their passports and birth certificates were kept by the authorities for several years, which meant

⁶⁹ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 237; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

⁷⁰ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, p. 143, see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf

⁷¹ Ibid., p. 104.

⁷² Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) The Movement of Roma from New EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England), p. 76; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf

⁷³ Scotsman (2012) Revealed: Abuse of Roma at Glasgow job centre routine; 20 May 2012; see: www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/revealed-abuse-of-roma-at-glasgow-job-centre-routine-1-2306203

travel outside Britain was impossible. In fact, cases of wrong decisions by Job Centre Plus or of an improper application of the habitual residency test have been reported anecdotally throughout the UK.

In relation to formal employment and factors which impact on employability among nomadic and settled Gypsies and Travellers, according to the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain, “[t]he most dramatic finding is the high proportion (52%) of economically active respondents living in housing. (...) This stark figure which demonstrates the decline in traditional accommodation types of many economically active Gypsies and Travellers may be a factor in the ‘success’ of some respondents in higher managerial positions who have used their sedentarism (particularly when their parents moved into housing and the respondent has accessed education) to support a more ‘mainstream’ career path.”⁷⁴

In terms of informal employment, the report by the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain notes that “evidence (...) found very low levels of engagement with the informal economy with some participants reporting that they had resorted to such work only when times were extremely difficult or they knew that declaring income to the Benefits agency for a one-off or very short term piece of work would lead to stoppage of benefits and difficulties in re-establishing a claim, potentially leading them into rent arrears or other forms of debt.”⁷⁵

Regarding Roma women’s participation in employment, the same report goes on to suggest “that a number of younger women wish to develop their own businesses or enter into an occupation where they are not performing a secondary economic role. These changes represent a significant departure from the rigid gender roles and expectations of the traditional Traveller Economy. Amongst the younger female interviewees there was a strong interest in gaining vocational qualifications which would enable them to balance gender roles rather than performing a purely domestic role in marriage, as well as some evidence of young women deferring marriage to their early twenties rather than marrying in their teens. (...) Approximately 50% of the overall G/IT female sample were single, a factor that may have enabled (or necessitated) their employment. This group of female participants were either young single girls (...) or divorced, separated or widowed older women. In the main these participants were employed in ‘mainstream’ labour. Waged labour by female Gypsies and Travellers was also utilised as a mechanism for bringing economic stability to the household where a husband was engaged in the ‘Traveller Economy’. Where a working woman had a self-employed partner, whose earnings fluctuated, a certain level of household income could be guaranteed where a female partner held a waged position.”⁷⁶

As for migrant Roma women, the 2009 mapping survey suggests that in traditional Roma communities, especially among Eastern Slovak and Romanian Roma, middle-aged women are still predominantly confined to the household, resulting in an increased exclusion and marginalisation. However, there is an increasing trend among young Roma women towards economic independence.

Major projects or initiatives

As mentioned in Chapter 2 (Education), despite the recent budget cuts, local authorities and schools increasingly choose to employ Roma liaison/community workers and teaching assistants.

Currently, there are three multi-disciplinary, transnational projects working with migrant Roma communities:

⁷⁴ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, p. 98; see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf

⁷⁵ Ibid., p. 69

⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 5

The Roma-Net project⁷⁷, part of the URBACT (funded by the EU European Regional Fund), implemented by Glasgow City Council as a partner. The focus of the Roma Net project is the integration of Roma populations. The common challenge of the project is to attempt to overcome negative attitudes, to improve consultation and engagement with the Roma community. The Roma-Net partners believe that the key factor to the integration of Roma populations is in a cohesive society, delivering the goals of the Lisbon Strategy. By sharing expertise and spreading good practices the partners hope to improve local policy development and deliver capabilities for stronger community cohesion between Roma and their neighbouring communities across Glasgow. An overarching objective is to inform and support other agencies to develop and implement local action plans that will support and facilitate better services, through improved access and a step-by-step integration approach, to support the social inclusion of young Roma and their transition into active adult citizens. Project partners are Nagykálló and Budapest (Hungary), Almería and Torrent (Spain), Bobigny (France), Bologna and Udine (Italy), Glasgow (United Kingdom), Karviná (Czech Republic), Košice (Slovakia). Project activities include visits to partner cities, a dissemination seminar on models of good practice (Brussels, 8th November 2012) and a final conference (February, 2012). The project has produced a number of outputs, such as case studies, learning clusters, project leaflets and newsletters in five languages.⁷⁸

Project launched: 25 November 2009

Project completed: 19 January 2013.

The Roma Source project (www.romasource.eu), co-funded by the European Union's Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme and implemented by Migration Yorkshire. Roma SOURCE is a European project that aims to combat and reduce discrimination through developing mutual understanding between Roma and mainstream communities, promoting equal rights and highlighting best practice. Roma SOURCE [Sharing of Understanding Rights and Citizenship in Europe] is a two year project which works in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. Migration Yorkshire is coordinating the European project as the lead partner, and is running one of the regional projects – Yorkshire and Humber Roma SOURCE. The project involves eight organisations from six European countries, with each organisation working on different aspects of the project in their region: Regional Administration of Varna, Bulgaria, Action Synergy, Greece, Former State Fostered Children's Association, Hungary, Municipality of Pescara, Italy, Federacion Maranatha De Asociaciones Gitanes, Spain, Regional Vice-Ministry for Family and Solidarity – Valencia, Spain, Migration Yorkshire and University of Salford, United Kingdom. Some of the partners work in regions of Europe which are traditionally home to Roma communities, others in regions which have more recently become a destination. Working with colleagues from areas in Europe where Roma are from and have traditionally settled will provide opportunities to share knowledge, skills and expertise that will both benefit Roma and also lessen the impacts on the local communities that they have moved to. The overall European project focuses on a number of key areas, with different European regions leading on each: Conducting research and mapping Roma communities; protecting the rights of children and ensuring that they are safe from harm; addressing the health needs of Roma and the impacts of new arrivals on health authorities and providers; addressing worklessness and tackling employer prejudice and discrimination; effective participation of Roma communities in policy making and society; working in schools. Migration Yorkshire works with a range of partner organisations from different sectors that work with Roma. The work will include coordinating a regional network to share learning, knowledge and expertise around how local areas respond to Roma; raising the profile of Roma issues, as identified by partners; working on health and community engagement issues; making sure local partners are supported in delivery by providing information and guidance on delivering to Roma. Yorkshire and Humber Roma SOURCE have produced short films by Roma children in Leeds.⁷⁹ The overall budget is £1,000,000.⁸⁰

⁷⁷ Roma Net Project (2012), available at: <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/active-inclusion/roma-net/our-project/>.

⁷⁸ Roma-Net Project (2012) available at: <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/active-inclusion/roma-net/our-outputs/>.

⁷⁹ Migration Yorkshire (2012), available at: <http://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/?page=yorkshireromasource>.

The AIMER Project (Achieving the Integration of Migrant Communities and Ethnic Residents) was funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the INTERREG IVA 2 Seas Programme.⁸¹ The main aim of the project was to integrate migrant communities and the host countries in the UK, France, and Belgium. The project started on 1 November 2009 and finished on 30 June 2012. The main activities included: design and delivery of training, including the host languages; welcome pack for new migrants to assist with access to local services (for example housing, social care); citizenship development: ways of informing and educating new migrants; cultural mediation; legal mediation (advice and support); mediation for employers of ethnic minorities; capacity building to set up new organisations; forums for ethnic minority communities. The total budget eligible was 2,476,394.00€ financed at 50% by the ERDF. 3 activities are planned: Activity 1: Welcome & Integration of Migrant Communities (627,167.4€= 25.3% of total budget); Activity 2: Legal & Cultural Mediation ((694,991.4€= 28.1% of total budget); Activity 3: Capacity building (504,287.4€=20.4% of total budget).⁸²

Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council are implementing a two-year project, co-funded by the European Social Fund, working with Gypsies and Travellers, entitled Gypsy and Traveller Employment Support. The project provides specialised one-to-one support for Gypsies and Travellers and offers employability skills and work placements. It supports self-employment and new businesses.⁸³

Cheshire Gypsy and Traveller Voice (www.travellersvoice.org/) offer tailored and culturally appropriate advice services to Gypsies and Travellers regarding employment, training and business development. They are a Gypsy/Traveller-led organisation and as such are able to have the trust and confidence of the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

In Glasgow, Oxfam worked in conjunction with Govanhill Community Development Trust, Glasgow's Regeneration Agency and the local environmental group Great Gardens on a short-term voluntary project.⁸⁴ As part of the Govanhill Backcourts Initiative, the Clean Green Team was formed in January 2012, consisting of ten migrant Slovak Roma residents (7 women, 3 men), members of a Roma community group called Romano Lav.⁸⁵ They were giving 25 hours a week of their time for 12 weeks in the spring of 2012. They were supervised by staff from Great Gardens and Clean Glasgow. The project was coordinated by Govanhill Development Community Trust and the partners were

⁸⁰ Leeds City Council (2010) *Yorkshire to lead major European project on Roma: A partnership of Yorkshire councils has won £1million EU funding to lead a Europe-wide project to improve both the lives of Roma people and the local communities they live alongside*, available at, <http://newsfeed.leedsvirtualnewsroom.co.uk/2010/09/yorkshire-to-lead-major-european.html>.

⁸¹ Aimer Project (2012) available at: www.aimerproject.eu/.

⁸² Aimer Project (2012) *Achieving the Integration of Migrant communities and Ethnic Residents: Sharing Experiences of the Journey to date*, available at: www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/admin/page_ext_attachments/37

⁸³ European Social Fund (2012) Gypsy and Traveller Employment Support Specialised one-to-one support for gypsies and travellers in Central Bedfordshire offering employability skills and work placement; see: www.esf-works.com/projects/projects/403275.

⁸⁴ Roma Net (April 2012) *Newsletter Number 4*; p. 8, see:

http://urbact.eu/fileadmin/Projects/Roma_Net/outputs_media/Roma-Net_newsletter_N4_04may_Final.pdf.

⁸⁵ Romano Lav is a newly formed Roma constituted group with its main interests in sharing information about the issues in the community, spreading of Roma culture and participating in Govanhill initiatives. The group has been established and supported by a Roma support worker who works for Oxfam. Romano Lav was Oxfam's main partner in consulting and delivering the initiative in the wider Roma community. In co-operation with Glasgow Open Museum and Community Health Partnership (CHP), Romano Lav were involved in a Roma photo traveling exhibition "Walking in your shoes" that took place in Govanhill Bath, Kelvingrove Galleries, New Victoria Hospital and other places in October 2012. The Roma support worker introduced the project to Romano Lav and eight young people were identified to participate in the project. The finance for cameras and other expenses come mostly from NHS but also from local organisations. Romano Lav has established a partnership with Confab in order to prepare a drama/musical production Music of Strangers. Music of Strangers is a music and vocal composition that mixes traditional and contemporary Roma and Scottish music and dance. Partners: West of Scotland Regional Equality Council, Oxfam Scotland. Funded by: Glasgow Life, Glasgow City Council, Awards for All, Glasgow Vibrancy Group

Oxfam, Glasgow's Regeneration Agency, Glasgow City Council and Great Gardens. The Clean Green Team cleaned streets and planted trees mostly in the Govanhill area. In addition they were getting language support that was delivered by Langside College and for the last 3 weeks they were also getting employability support from Glasgow's Regeneration Agency. It was hoped that through their participation in the Backcourts Initiative, they would eventually secure employment. Six of the trainees have continued in the backcourt initiative. The group was involved in work with The Residents Group (local voluntary group consist of local residents) which was perceived very well in terms of integration and engagement within the Govanhill community. Oxfam organised an educational trip to David Marshall Lodge for the group; for most of them it was the first time they have been in the Scottish countryside. The articles which were published in Daily Mail and Evening Times about the Clean-Green Initiative were highly positive and beneficial for the Roma community and local residents. The biggest satisfaction was when the Clean-Green team won their category for the best clean-up initiative in Glasgow at the Evening Times Award called "Streets Ahead". Another key learning point was that there is no tradition of voluntary work in Central and Eastern European countries. However, the fact that Roma people who are facing many poverty issues were involved for the first time in a voluntary programme and actually delivered something for the wider community was a huge success. Although the participants have enjoyed the work they have also suggested some recommendations for future voluntary projects. The idea came from Romano Lav members who wanted to challenge the perception that local Roma population is the cause of many problems in Govanhill and to fill in the time by gathering skills and language abilities which will enable them to participate in the backcourt initiative. The funding came from the Scottish government, Oxfam's Unwrapped Programme and Govanhill Community Development Trust.⁸⁶

A UK-based charity Equality, in conjunction with the Big Issue and the Allen Lane Foundation, has been running a series of seminars and training courses focusing on and supporting Roma self-employment and entrepreneurship.⁸⁷

⁸⁶ Email correspondence with Marcela Adamova, Oxfam's Roma Support Worker and founder of Romano Lav, July – November 2012

⁸⁷ Equality (2012) Empowering and informing Roma in small-scale enterprises/self-employment: see; <http://equality.uk.com/Enterprise.html>

4 Housing and neighbourhood

It has been noted that a central aspect of the multi-dimensional deprivation experienced by Gypsies and Travellers is securing culturally appropriate accommodation. Furthermore, there is a direct relationship between Gypsy and Travellers and migrant Roma's accommodation difficulties and access to employment, education, healthcare and other services.

The inter-ministerial report notes there are around 3000 caravans (or 20% of the total) located on unauthorised sites, either on sites developed without planning permission, or on encampments on land not owned by Gypsies and Traveller. Residents of unauthorised sites experience problems accessing health and education services. The instability of their accommodation impacts negatively on life chances.⁸⁸

Critics of the inter-ministerial report suggest that "Steve Staines of the Traveller Law Reform Project reported to the Panel Review in 2011 that a survey of 34 councils (excluding those in Greater London) revealed a reduction of 360 pitches at the time that plans were accepted by councils, when compared to the targets that had previously been set by Regional Assemblies under the older regime."⁸⁹ Around one in four Gypsies and Travellers living in caravans do not have a legal place on which to park their home, and they are thus, in law, homeless.⁹⁰

The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission suggests that "many families reluctantly accept the alternative of local authority housing. They are however, typically housed on the most deprived estates, sharing the wider environmental disadvantages of their neighbours and exposed to more direct and immediate hostility focused on their ethnicity or lifestyle. This also involves dislocation from their families, communities, culture and support systems, leading to further cycles of disadvantage."⁹¹

a. Quality and affordability of housing

A report by the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) suggests that "many Gypsies and Travellers who reside on local authority sites, find themselves living in poorly selected locations, in poor quality and badly maintained accommodation where for example 'slabs' on which caravans are placed are cracked and broken or utility blocks containing washing machines and showers are damp or poorly heated, and frequently facing high rates of unemployment. A consistent complaint amongst tenants concerns the high rents which are disproportionate when one considers that residents must provide their own homes (caravans); and that services are frequently poorly delivered so that (for example) post is delivered to a central point on site to be collected by tenants or rubbish collection is from a central point or at the main gate of a potentially large site. It has been claimed in a number of reports that poor services and high rents on public sites may both be a cause of friction between

⁸⁸ Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2012). Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, p. 7; see:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/mwgreporttravellers

⁸⁹ Ryder, A., Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Richardson, J., Van Cleemput, P., (2012), A Critique of UK Coalition Government Policy on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities; see: www.edf.org.uk/blog/?p=19051.

⁹⁰ Ryder, A., Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Richardson, J., Van Cleemput, P., (2012), A Critique of UK Coalition Government Policy on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities; see: www.edf.org.uk/blog/?p=19051.

⁹¹ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report:12, p. v.; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf

neighbours and between local authorities and residents as well as a disincentive to some families to come off benefits and gain employment.”⁹²

In terms of property ownership, the same report observes that “forty one per cent of the G/IT sample owned their own homes (either sites or houses). (...) Of the sample of G/ITs resident in housing, 8 interviewees/13.5% reported that they already had a mortgage whilst 20 interviewees/34% reported that they would like to be able to buy property/obtain a mortgage if they could. Nearly one in four respondents (24% of the sample) who answered this question did not wish to obtain a mortgage which is considerably higher than we would expect to see in the ‘mainstream’ population where nearly 70% of households are owner-occupiers.”⁹³

The 2009 mapping survey found that many Roma, including children and young people, live in poverty, sub-standard accommodation, often shared with other families. Some are destitute. Severe overcrowding often leads to poor health, and low school attendance and attainment by children. 63% of Roma of migrant origin were living in extended families. Overcrowding is a very serious issue, especially in poorer households of Romanian and some eastern Slovak Roma. The average number of people living in a household was 6. However, if broken down by nationalities, on average, 10 people lived in Romanian and Bulgarian Roma households, as opposed to the Czech, Slovak, Polish and Hungarian Roma homes, which have an average of 4 people per household.

Romanian Roma were particularly vulnerable: one respondent said there were 27 people sharing accommodation in the same house, other Romanian Roma respondents reported 17, 16, 14 and 13 people per household respectively.

Several respondents participating in the survey commented on long-term community tension and very fragile relations, especially in areas traditionally inhabited by mixed minority communities, Asian/Pakistani communities in particular. Some respondents reported that they had to go and pick up their children from school as older Asian boys would bully their children, either physically assaulting them or stealing their mobiles and other possessions. A number of respondents also referred to animosity by British non-Gypsy, Roma or Traveller children from the neighbourhood, swearing at their children because of their perceived East European migrant origin.

Participants in the first meeting of Slovak and Czech Roma which took place in Glasgow in 2009 claimed housing conditions were often unsatisfactory in terms of hygiene, dampness, overcrowding and the overall condition of the property, and the rents charged in the UK. Housing was deemed highly problematic as most accommodation is offered and provided by private landlords. This was confirmed by the findings of the 2009 mapping survey: approximately a 25% of all the respondents lived in council housing, the rest lived in privately rented accommodation. None of them owned the property in which they lived.

In some cases, there are informal agreements, without contracts, with private landlords which leave families vulnerable to the landlord’s discretion. The participants also believed that where an agreement exists and has been signed, some issues may arise around upholding the terms and conditions by the tenants as a result of their poor knowledge of English. At the same time, in a situation where the tenants do not understand their rights, it may be much easier for the landlord to take advantage of this. A case was reported by one of the participants from Newcastle of a Roma family not entering into any form of contract with the landlord; instead, the family promised to make repairs to the place, redo and repaint it. Once the family redid the house, the landlord ordered the family to leave.⁹⁴

⁹² Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, p. 104; see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf

⁹³ Ibid., p. iv; p. 106.

⁹⁴ Fremlova, L., (2009), Report of the first meeting of Slovak and Czech Roma in Glasgow, European Dialogue/Oxfam, p. 7; see: www.scribd.com/doc/37036587/Roma-Report.

b. Access to social or private housing

The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission suggests that “many families reluctantly accept the alternative of local authority housing. They are however, typically housed on the most deprived estates, sharing the wider environmental disadvantages of their neighbours and exposed to more direct and immediate hostility focused on their ethnicity or lifestyle. This also involves dislocation from their families, communities, culture and support systems, leading to further cycles of disadvantage.”⁹⁵

As for migrant Roma, A2 and A8 nationals, including Roma, who have worked legally or been self-employed in the UK without interruption for a period of 12 months have the same rights as other EEA nationals which means that they may apply for benefits such as jobseekers allowance and income support, housing benefit, council tax benefit, child benefit and child tax credits. They may also apply for council housing; although the waiting lists are very long, certain socially vulnerable cases get priority, for instance in families where no adult works and/or there are disabled children or family members.

In the Scottish context, as a result of Devolution, the situation is complicated by the division of responsibilities between Scotland and Westminster; in Section 5 of the 1998 Scotland Act, 11 key policy areas are reserved to Westminster. These include employment, social security and immigration. The Scottish Government is responsible for the following areas: healthcare, education, children’s services, housing and policing. “The Scottish Government Code of Guidance confirmed the responsibility of local councils and housing authorities to accommodate [the Roma]. However, the legal opinion given to the City of Edinburgh was that homeless A8 individuals and their families are only entitled to local authority provided homelessness assistance if they are economically active (and hence entitled to Housing Benefit), given the limitations of the primary legislation issued from Westminster. This position has been replicated in Glasgow given the shared policy context and has given rise to a situation whereby, should the council’s Homelessness Unit agree to follow the Code of Guidance from Scottish Government, it must find not only the costs of housing but also the full household costs for homeless families who have no access to public funds in the form of benefits, all without additional funding.”⁹⁶

The interpretation of the 2004/38/EC directive that outlines the rights and entitlements of A8 migrants to social housing and homelessness assistance has been problematic. “In Scotland, unlike in England, there were no regulations laid down relating to A8 access to social housing and homelessness assistance until the Scottish Executive (now Scottish Government) drew up a Code of Guidance confirming the same housing entitlements for A8 nationals as other European citizens. That said, there is a contradiction here. Whilst A8 nationals are eligible for social housing which potentially increases their ability to break the cycle of poor housing, social exclusion and racism at the community level, the ‘no recourse to public funds’ legislation (which denies unemployed A8s Housing Benefit) makes unemployed migrants vulnerable to homelessness or continued dependency on the private rented sector in cases where they are unable to afford the rent. In these circumstances, unemployed A8 migrants would be unable to access social housing despite their eligibility being unrestricted by law.” “This situation creates problems for both policy makers and service providers at the local and regional levels. For example, the Scottish Government can draw up codes of guidance in relation to say homelessness or improved access to welfare services for A8 migrants, but local councils and service providers are then left to interpret them whilst at one and the same time ensuring that their actions are

⁹⁵ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. v.; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

⁹⁶ Poole, L., and Adamson, K., (2008) Briefing on the situation of the Roma community in Govanhill, Glasgow, School of Social Sciences, University of the West of Scotland, p. 46; see: <http://archive.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/inquiries/migration/subs/SEGlasgowCHCP1.pdf>.

in line with the primary legislation enacted at Westminster. In this way policy making at the different levels can and does become contradictory.⁹⁷

In terms of property ownership, the same report observes that “41% of the G/IT sample owned their own homes (either sites or houses). (...) Of the sample of G/ITs resident in housing, 8 interviewees/13.5% reported that they already had a mortgage whilst 20 interviewees/34% reported that they would like to be able to buy property/obtain a mortgage if they could. Nearly one in four respondents (24% of the sample) who answered this question did not wish to obtain a mortgage which is considerably higher than we would expect to see in the ‘mainstream’ population where nearly 70% of households are owner-occupiers.”⁹⁸

c. Location and access to public utilities and infrastructure

As previously discussed in the report, Gypsies and Travellers who travel or are semi-itinerant tend to live on authorised sites and unauthorised sites or encampments; some of the authorised sites are local authority sites (i.e. provided by local authorities). However, whether authorised or unauthorised, sites and encampments tend to be located in remote locations or near industrial sites, railways, roads etc. “[A]ll too often, the combination of dreadful accommodation conditions and the often isolated locations of sites, which may have poor transport links to adjoining neighbourhoods, exacerbate the risk of social exclusion created by geographical paucity of place.”⁹⁹

As discussed above, the 2009 mapping survey and other research have demonstrated that migrant Roma most frequently live dispersed in larger cities, in traditionally poorer, low cost areas and neighbourhoods inhabited by other migrants and/or Brits of Asian/Pakistani descent. It has been reported by several local authorities that migrant Roma have tended to move into the same streets, which has resulted in the social exclusion of some Roma families, particularly of those coming from Romania.

d. Security of tenure

At a meeting with representatives of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in March 2011, representatives of the Irish Traveller Movement, as well as of Gypsy and Traveller and migrant Roma organisations voiced their concerns over the recent changes to legislation. They believed the shift towards more localisation would facilitate an increased speed of evicting Gypsies and Travellers. This was also related to the eviction at Dale Farm, the largest eviction of Gypsies and Travellers in the UK, which went ahead in October 2011 and was completed in November 2011. The eviction focused on 51 plots without planning permission which accommodated approximately 80 families (300 people of whom approximately 50% were children) who, however, owned the land. It was reported that some of the evicted families moved to the adjacent pitches.¹⁰⁰ “While some have been offered ‘bricks and mortar’ housing, many do not want

⁹⁷ Poole, L., and Adamson, K., (2008) Briefing on the situation of the Roma community in Govanhill, Glasgow, School of Social Sciences, University of the West of Scotland, p. 46; see:

<http://archive.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/inquiries/migration/subs/SEGlasgowCHCP1.pdf>.

⁹⁸ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, p. 106; see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf.

⁹⁹ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, p. 104; see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf.

¹⁰⁰ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2012) Irish Traveller Movement in Britain optimistic about new plans to accommodate homeless Dale Farm Traveller families; see: <http://irishtraveller.org.uk/irish-traveller-movement-in-britain-optimistic-about-new-plans-to-accommodate-homeless-dale-farm-traveller-families/>

this, and the Council has not offered alternative culturally adequate housing to all those residents facing eviction.”¹⁰¹

In this connection, it is worth noting that in the summer of 2010, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) launched a pilot scheme attempting to remove homeless EEA nationals, some of whom were reported to be of Roma origin, on the grounds that they are not exercising residence rights in the UK. The scheme has been heavily criticised by organisations such as The AIRE Centre, ILPA and Migrants' Rights Network. “Those most at risk of expulsion [...] are economically inactive, destitute EEA nationals who have resided in the UK for more than three months but less than five years, are not engaged in or seeking work, cannot otherwise be classified as workers or self-employed, and do not have any EEA family members who fall into one of the residence categories. Even for those in that group, however, it is arguable that expulsion is unlawful. These individuals may be said to be exercising residence rights as self-sufficient individuals. (...) It is also important to note that any attempt to expel an EEA national on this basis must obey certain procedural safeguards, including notification of the decision and its basis, a right of appeal, the possibility of suspending removal during the appeal. If it is lawfully possible to remove an EEA national on this basis, it is not lawful to impose an exclusion order on the individual removed, meaning EEA nationals who have been removed like this can return right away to the UK.”¹⁰²

e. Residential Segregation

No data on residential segregation exist, please see section 4.d Location and Access to Public Utilities and Infrastructure

f. Experiences of discrimination in housing

As for Gypsies and Travellers, whether settled or travelling, “[n]umerous evidence indicates that neighbours of Gypsies and Travellers complain about social, employment or cultural practices such as scrapping vehicles or metal, work vehicles parked outside houses (...) – all activities which may be much treasured and regularly practised by Gypsies and Travellers who have moved into bricks and mortar accommodation. [A] study of homelessness and ethnic minority communities in Scotland found that two projects working with Gypsy / Travellers felt that the apparent acceptability of racial hostility against their client group was higher than that affecting other ethnic minority groups, refugees or asylum-seekers. The experience of hostility was confirmed in interviews with Gypsy /Travellers from which it emerged that the choice of whether to live in housing or on sites was significantly affected by their perceived safety from harassment. Overall, the evidence is overwhelming that for many if not most Gypsies and Travellers moving into housing (particularly on 'rough' estates), experiences or fear of discrimination can lead to significant negative impacts, which exacerbate the risk of leaving housing and returning to insecure accommodation on unauthorised sites or developments.”¹⁰³

The 2010 report by the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain notes that segregated locations of habitation, (both isolated rural sites and local authority sites occupying marginal space), act as further barriers to engagement with wider communities. Thus such spatial marginalisation, when combined

¹⁰¹ Amnesty UK (2011) Dale Farm is a forced eviction on an unprecedented scale; see: www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=19763

¹⁰² Migrants' Rights Network (2010) Factsheet on the Expulsion of Homeless EEA Nationals; see: www.migrantsrights.org.uk/publications/briefing-papers/factsheet-and-faq-expulsion-homeless-eea-nationals.

¹⁰³ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 25; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

with intense bonding social capital, are factors that exacerbate and accentuate separation from the 'mainstream'.¹⁰⁴

Major projects or initiatives

It is worth noting that no initiatives to boost housing projects for Gypsies and Travellers have been undertaken following revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies on 6 July 2010, the Department for Communities and Local Governments (DCLG) issued new guidance for planning authorities, which included the following passage: "Local councils are best placed to assess the needs of travellers. The abolition of Regional Strategies means that local authorities will be responsible for determining the right level of site provision, reflecting local need and historic demand, and for bringing forward land in DPDs [Development Plan Documents]. They should continue to do this in line with current policy. Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAAs) have been undertaken by all local authorities and if local authorities decide to review the levels of provision these assessments will form a good starting point. However, local authorities are not bound by them. We will review relevant regulations and guidance on this matter in due course."¹⁰⁵

As the Director of Friends, Families and Travellers pointed out in his briefing paper for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, "[t]he fact that it is a major issue however reflects, not the lack of suitable land to use for new sites but the fact that, for the most part, local authorities are unwilling to provide sites, or grant permission for privately owned sites, within their area. (...) The essential reason why local authorities have been unwilling or unable to provide new sites is that there is enormous prejudice from people in the settled community against Gypsies and Travellers."¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁴ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, p. 135; see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf.

¹⁰⁵ Department for Communities and Local Government (2010) Guidance for Local Planning Authorities following the revocation of Regional Strategies; see: www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2010/DEP2010-1414.pdf

¹⁰⁶ Friends, Families and Travellers (2010) Briefing paper for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Gypsies and Travellers; see: www.gypsy-traveller.org/briefing-paper-appg/.

5 Health

The inter-ministerial report notes that Gypsies and Travellers suffer from poor health and lower life expectancy. It highlights research indicating differences in life expectancy of over 10% less than the general population and that the health Gypsies and Travellers starts to deteriorate markedly when individuals are over 50. High infant mortality rates, high maternal mortality rates, low child immunisation levels, mental health issues, substance misuse issues and diabetes are also highlighted as areas of concern.¹⁰⁷

a. Health status/ limitations in daily activities, mental health and disability

Physical and mental ill-health and early death, as well as the issue of accessing healthcare and culturally sensitised healthcare services, have been recognised as major issues among Gypsy and Traveller and migrant Roma communities for a long time. For instance it has been found that just 3% of Gypsies and Travellers in Leeds were aged over 60, despite an overall Leeds average life expectancy of 78 years.¹⁰⁸ The Roma Support Group's Mental Health Advocacy Project found that the Roma community had poor physical health such as cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, hepatitis B, cardiovascular and respiratory ailments, multiple sclerosis and life expectancy being approx. 5-6 years lower than amongst other socially disadvantaged and ethnic minority populations in the UK. They collected statistical data, which indicated poor mental health amongst a high number of service users accessing their Health Project. Their records showed that approx. 50% of over 300 clients were suffering from mental health problems, including depression, personality disorders, dementia, learning disabilities, suicidal tendencies, self-abuse, dependency/misuse of drugs, etc. About a hundred of their existing service users stated their wish to access mental health services and we recorded a further 9 clients, who had already accessed services but came up against barriers, which they could not overcome.¹⁰⁹

Parry et al. (2004) note that nomadic Gypsy and Traveller children are between one-and-a-half and two times more likely to die in the first year of life than children in the settled community. It has been suggested that “[h]ealth status in the Gypsy Traveller group is correlated with those factors that are recognised as influential on health: age, education and smoking. However the poorer health status of Travellers cannot be accounted for by these factors alone. Gender differences were found; women were twice as likely as men to be anxious, even when education, smoking and carer status was taken into account.”¹¹⁰

Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010) found that “48% of respondents smoked with the highest rates among the Roma (74%) and lowest among the Albanians/Kosovans (20%). With alcohol consumption, 51%

¹⁰⁷ Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2012). Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, p, 12; see:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/mwgreporttravellers

¹⁰⁸ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 49; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

¹⁰⁹ Smolinka-Poffley, G., and Ingmire, S., (2012) Roma Mental Health Advocacy Project; see: <http://romasupportgroup.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Roma-Mental-Health-Advocacy-Project-Evaluation-Report.pdf>

¹¹⁰ Glenys Parry, G., Van Cleemput, P., Peters, J., Moore, J., Walters, S., Thomas, K., Cooper, C., (2004) The Health Status of Gypsies & Travellers in England: Summary of a report to the Department of Health 2004 (University of Sheffield); see: www.shef.ac.uk/content/1/c6/02/55/71/GT%20report%20summary.pdf

admitted to mild or moderate drinking and rates were highest among Polish (69%) and Lithuanian people (68%).”¹¹¹

As for disability, in a recent report by Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living and Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group entitled “The Wheels of Change”, the issues of disability within the Gypsy and Traveller communities and barriers experienced by disabled Gypsies and Travellers are explored. “The overall lack of information accessible to the Gypsy and Traveller community adds to the inconsistency of support available. (...) Of concern though, are the 24% of respondents who do not have any help at all from their local community. (...) Research has found that there is a reluctance of GPs to register members of travelling communities without a fixed address.”¹¹²

Issues relating to mental health and suicide in particular seem to be affecting Gypsy and Traveller communities disproportionately. “[S]mall studies and anecdotal evidence suggests that Gypsies and Travellers suffer from high levels of mental illness including depressive illness, psychotic episodes linked to alcohol and schizoaffective disorder. Alcoholism appears to be a prevalent local problem amongst this group in North Wales.”¹¹³

Evidence provided by the Irish Traveller Movement at the meeting with the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on 10 March 2011 confirmed a high rate of suicide amongst Irish Travellers in and out of prison due to their experience of discrimination, hopelessness, depression, unemployment and repeated criminalisation.

“Both Pavee Point (2005) and Nexus (2006) reported young people committing suicide as a result of confusion or distress over their sexual orientation.”¹¹⁴ Considering that “young gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual people were at increased risk of suicide and self-harm and the highly heterosexualised norm found within Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople communities and expectations of early marriage, it is unsurprising that suicide may appear to be the only route out an impossible situation for some Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) people.”¹¹⁵

However, statistical data are not currently collected within the National Health Service (NHS) about the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, or the services they receive, which means that national data about their health and healthcare status are not available. “Although Gypsies and Travellers suffer from poor health, there is a lack of reliable research evidence on their health status.”¹¹⁶

The 2009 mapping survey found that 63% of the respondents were living as extended families. In practice, this can mean at times that people, including small babies, infants, toddlers and school-age children sleep in kitchens, bathrooms, halls and elsewhere. Such overcrowding may have implications

¹¹¹ Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010) Health and Social Care Needs Assessment of Eastern European (including Roma) individuals living in Barking and Dagenham: Final Report (Institute for Health and Human Development); p. 31; see: www.nelft.nhs.uk/_documentbank/Health_care_needs_assessment_Eastern_Europeans_2010_final.pdf

¹¹² Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL) & Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group (DGLG) (2010) The Wheels of Change: A report on the barriers faced by disabled Gypsies and Travellers when accessing the Social Care system, pp. 4-5; see: www.dglg.org/download/files/Wheels_of_Change_Report.pdf.

¹¹³ Welsh Assembly Government Inequalities in Health Funded Project (2006), Coronary Heart Disease and Gypsies and Travellers: Redressing the Balance, Phase One: Final Report Summary, see:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/improvement/communities/fund/inequalitiesnorth1/balanceproject/?lang=en>

¹¹⁴ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report:12, p. 83; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

¹¹⁵ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report:12, p. 83; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

¹¹⁶ Welsh Assembly Government Inequalities in Health Funded Project (2006), Coronary Heart Disease and Gypsies and Travellers: Redressing the Balance, Phase One: Final Report Summary, see: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/improvement/communities/fund/inequalitiesnorth1/balanceproject/?lang=en>

for health, with raised incidence of conditions such as respiratory problems, childhood TB, and meningitis.¹¹⁷

Some of the obstacles the respondents included long waiting periods for appointments, inadequate quality of services and language barriers, which were referred to as the most serious problems associated with accessing healthcare in England and Scotland. The lack of provision of culturally sensitive services was seen as another barrier to community members accessing services. Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010) found this applied to particularly the Roma. “Culturally specific norms and taboos about such subjects as sexual health, homosexuality, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, disability and mental health means that it is often difficult to discuss these issues openly in front of other community or family members. It can also be inappropriate for women to discuss certain sexual health issues with male health staff. This can lead to these issues being hidden and not dealt with until too late.”¹¹⁸

Another research report found that “[m]ost of the Roma community members who were supported by the mental health advocacy project were female (66%), came to the UK from Poland (88%) before 2004 and were asylum seekers (77.5%). The majority (63%) were Catholic, over 60% did not acquire education at a level higher than secondary school and 72% were unemployed. Over 90% stated that they suffer not only from mental health problems but also from physical health problems and again 90% stated that they struggle with non-health related problems such as housing, low income and debts and other family members suffering from long term illnesses.”¹¹⁹

Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010) have provided the following testimonies from migrant Roma healthcare users in London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham on their experience of accessing healthcare. The Roma were included because they are known to disproportionately suffer worse health and social inequalities. The main issues raised by the testimonials included difficulties in accessing local services such as GPs, mental health services, lack of materials and information to assist the Roma communities in understanding and a lack of awareness of the Roma culture and the taboo nature of subjects such as learning disabilities and mental health.

“When I go to see GP I never have an interpreter. This is a big problem for us.”

“We do not understand the system and find it difficult to communicate. When we receive letters we do not understand what they mean”.

“Perhaps authorities could create an information package for Roma and other migrants about the services available to them, how they work and how to access them. It would be good if the information was written in simple language and translated into Romanian so people can understand it.”

“Roma adults need education about mental health and disabilities. It cannot be done overnight and authorities must realise that health and especially mental health, learning and other disabilities are taboo subjects amongst Roma. Authorities should be aware that those subjects are very sensitive and if they want to change things they should provide culturally appropriate support for Roma with mental

¹¹⁷ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2011) Access and Health of Roma Communities in the UK.

See: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5797309470/pdf_training_module_h1_roma.pdf.

¹¹⁸ Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010) Health and Social Care Needs Assessment of Eastern European (including Roma) individuals living in Barking and Dagenham: Final Report (Institute for Health and Human Development), p. 23; see: www.nelft.nhs.uk/_documentbank/Health_care_needs_assessment_Eastern_Europeans_2010_final.pdf.

¹¹⁹ Smolinka-Poffley, G., and Ingmire, S., (2012) Roma Mental Health Advocacy Project, p. 6; see: <http://romasupportgroup.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Roma-Mental-Health-Advocacy-Project-Evaluation-Report.pdf>.

health problems, learning difficulties and other disabilities and for their families. There should be support centres open for Roma with staff aware of the Roma culture.”¹²⁰

The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission notes that [l]ow levels of immunisation for children can be a particular problem where families are highly mobile, continuity of care is lacking, and specialist health visitors for the Gypsy and Traveller community are not available. Concerns over the possible ill-effects of inoculations can also be an issue: in an outbreak of measles in 2006/7, a large number of unvaccinated Gypsy and Traveller children developed measles, leading to ill-health, disability and, in one case, death.¹²¹

Health needs assessments by Cumbria NHS (2009), NHS West Sussex (2010), Cambridge PCT (2010), Surrey NHS (2011), NHS Luton (2009) report low levels of immunisation amongst Gypsy and Traveller children: “the percentage of Traveller children receiving the full immunisation programme (42% is significantly lower than that of the wider population of Cumbrian children (95%).”¹²²

“Preventative measures such as immunisation, contraception and cervical screening had poor uptake amongst Travellers.”¹²³

b. Unmet needs in the area of health

Research has found that Gypsies and Travellers who have a physical disability tend not to mix with people in the settled community due to a number of factors: “lack of trust by both parties, some headline-grabbing discriminatory practices and many unsubstantiated myths about Gypsies and Travellers. It is therefore unlikely that people from this community would welcome the intervention of public bodies. Many may not ask for help for fear that this means that they have to 'settle' in order to receive any help with their impairment or that their lives may be forced to change, making it difficult to follow their beliefs and values.”¹²⁴

In the UK, Hepatitis B is found in endemic levels within the Romanian Roma community. The majority of families only discover they have the infection after arriving in the UK while having routine medical screening. There is a very poor understanding of Hepatitis of all types. Patients are often very confused when first told that they have the disease.

It has been noted by some health professionals in the UK that extended family groups on occasion present a higher than expected incidence of certain complaints.

There are a disproportionately high number of Slovak and some Czech Roma who have severe hearing loss or are totally non-hearing. Across all the nation groups the number of Roma suffering from epilepsy is higher than within their national mainstream.

¹²⁰ Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010) Health and Social Care Needs Assessment of Eastern European (including Roma) individuals living in Barking and Dagenham: Final Report (Institute for Health and Human Development), pp. 19-24; see: www.nelft.nhs.uk/_documentbank/Health_care_needs_assessment_Eastern_Europeans_2010_final.pdf.

¹²¹ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report:12; p. 55; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

¹²² Cumbria NHS (2009) Health Needs Assessment: Gypsies and Travellers; see: www.cumbria.nhs.uk/YourHealth/PublicHealthInformation/HealthNeedsAssessmentCumbriaGypsyTravellersReport.pdf.

¹²³ Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust (2010) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Cambridgeshire Travellers; see: http://cambridge.newcastlejsna.org.uk/webfm_send/25.

¹²⁴ Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL) & Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group (DGLG) (2010) The Wheels of Change: A report on the barriers faced by disabled Gypsies and Travellers when accessing the Social Care system, pp. 4-5; see: www.dglg.org/download/files/Wheels_of_Change_Report.pdf.

There is a high incidence of intra-group marriages, in some cases higher than 90%. These endogamous marriages result in genetic diseases that can become typical for some Roma communities. There is for example one large extended family of Romanian Roma where 9 individuals have been diagnosed with Arthrogryposis, which in the UK is a relatively rare genetic disorder.

It has been noted by UK healthcare and social service staff in a number of areas that there are higher rates of contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, scabies, pediculosis, and other skin problems among particular Roma communities, especially eastern Slovak and Romanian Roma. Furthermore, overcrowded conditions make eradication of these problems an extremely difficult task.

Due to the deeply embedded traditions governing sexuality among the various different Roma groups, the position of people of minority sexual orientation(s) is particularly challenging and vulnerable. Anecdotal evidence indicates that Roma lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex (LGBTI) people are often ostracised by their communities; in the case of gay and lesbian Roma, they are at times “forced” by family and/or community pressures to hide their sexuality by either remaining outside relationships or marrying a person of the opposite sex.

Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010) note that “homosexuality remains a hidden subject. [We] were advised that the Roma were ‘not ready’ to tackle it. Whilst no anecdotal stories were given of violence against homosexuals, there was some evidence, although small, of self-harm, even suicide. Basically, attitudes as mentioned above within these communities are akin to pre-1950s western attitudes. It is unlikely that someone from these communities who is indeed homosexual or lesbian would know where to get help or advice and is likely to keep their feelings and desires suppressed. (...) Amongst the Roma community, there was presently little opportunity in any way to raise these issues. Perhaps, as the community slowly integrates itself, understandings and opportunities for dialogue on this issue will arise, and health services should continue to look for such opportunities.”¹²⁵

“While mainstream attitudes towards LGBTI people are generally becoming more positive, accepting and open-minded, for Gypsies and Travellers who are lesbian or gay, the situation may not be so simple as their communities are more likely to express the hostile attitudes towards LGBTI people that are also found in some other ethnic minority communities. Accordingly, a clash of opinions, rights and expectations may occur for members of those communities who are LGBTI, leading to significant pain, loss and sometimes rejection by family members.”¹²⁶

The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission also suggests that “[n]o research on the subject of sexual orientation within Gypsy and Traveller communities appears to have been carried out in the UK or Ireland.”¹²⁷ The same appears to apply to lack of research on LGBTI Roma who have moved to the UK from Central and Eastern Europe.

Conversely, some positive developments have recently taken place in UK-based migrant Roma community organisations such as the International Association of Roma Professionals; supported by international LGBTI Roma, as well as Roma mediators trained as part of the Council of Europe’s Roma mediation programme, they have started focusing their project work on LGBTI issues among Roma communities.

¹²⁵ Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010) Health and Social Care Needs Assessment of Eastern European (including Roma) individuals living in Barking and Dagenham: Final Report (Institute for Health and Human Development), p. 27; see: www.nelft.nhs.uk/_documentbank/Health_care_needs_assessment_Eastern_Europeans_2010_final.pdf.

¹²⁶ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report:12; p. 247; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

c. Medical insurance coverage

Pursuant to domestic and EU legislation, all British and EU citizens, including those of Gypsy, Traveller and migrant Roma heritage, who are residents in the UK are entitled to free National Health Service (NHS) treatment.

The 2009 mapping survey found that even though a number of cases of Romanian Roma were not able to register with the NHS due to procedural error or their ineligibility for UK residency as part of the employment restrictions imposed on A2 citizens, the vast majority of the respondents and their children were registered with a local GP. Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010) found that “8 in 10 people were registered with a GP but the figure varied across the groups. Whereas 97% of Albanians/Kosovars were registered, only 57% of Roma had done so. People who were not registered mentioned ignorance of the process (36%), never tried/bothered to (32%) and language barriers (20%) as the main obstacles.”¹²⁸

Another obstacle to accessing healthcare, identified by the mapping survey, is a significant cultural difference: most Roma who migrated to the UK from Central and Eastern Europe are used to having one GP only, unlike in England where they may see different GPs in a practice. As a result, some Roma reported travelling back to their countries of origin to access the local healthcare systems, which some believed were of a higher standard; gynaecology, cancer treatment and hospital care were also mentioned as the most frequent reasons for returning to their countries of origin for medical treatment.

As for GPs registering Gypsies and Travellers, research has found that some GPs are reluctant to register members of travelling communities without a fixed address.¹²⁹ One of the main reasons why Gypsies and Travellers do not access health services has been attributed to the complex procedures for registering and accessing services.¹³⁰ The National Association of Traveller Health workers (NAHWT) suggested that “[t]he most common problem for Travellers is difficulty in accessing primary care through GPs because of their insistence in having a permanent address. Some GPs only register families as temporary residents, resulting in exclusion from a range of services, such as screening. Others allegedly refuse to register Gypsies and Travellers at all.”¹³¹

A 2008 qualitative study into the health experience of Gypsies and Travellers in the UK found a distinct lack of understanding around Gypsy and Traveller culture in hospitals. Also, it was noted that social issues may take priority over health related issues; this may determine whether or not one decides to access medical services. “Hygiene is important as is discretion and sensitivity to the information requirements of the patient and family. Gypsy Travellers are aware that their mobility (voluntary or enforced) can negatively impact on health care. Home care for the terminally ill is often preferred to hospital care often due to poor understanding of their cultural and personal needs and an aversion to ‘bricks and mortar’. Care may be provided by the extended family. Palliative care provision should consider the needs of Gypsy Travellers including respect for their culture and support for caring at home.”¹³²

¹²⁸ Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010) Health and Social Care Needs Assessment of Eastern European (including Roma) individuals living in Barking and Dagenham: Final Report (Institute for Health and Human Development), p. 31; see: www.nelft.nhs.uk/_documentbank/Health_care_needs_assessment_Eastern_Europeans_2010_final.pdf.

¹²⁹ Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL) & Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group (DGLG) (2010) The Wheels of Change: A report on the barriers faced by disabled Gypsies and Travellers when accessing the Social Care system, pp. 4-5; see: www.dglg.org/download/files/Wheels_of_Change_Report.pdf.

¹³⁰ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 52; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Jesper, E, Griffiths, F. & Smith, L. (2008) A qualitative study of the health experience of Gypsy Travellers in the UK with a focus on terminal illness. Primary Health Care Research & Development, Vol. 9 (No.2), p. 2; see:

d. Circumstances around giving birth

Parry et al. (2004) suggest there is quantitative evidence of an excess prevalence of stillbirth and neonatal death among Gypsy and Traveller women. The qualitative study suggests that several factors may be implicated: lack of health knowledge, difficulties in access and negative attitudes to ante-natal care, and bad experiences of health care based on a lack of ‘cultural safety’ and mutual misunderstandings.¹³³

They also note that “[m]ore Gypsy Traveller women had children than their age sex matched counterparts (...) We therefore only examined the rates in the two groups with children: 150 Gypsy Travellers and 141 comparators, although within these groups, the Gypsy Traveller mothers had more pregnancies and deliveries. [M]ore Gypsy Travellers experienced one or more miscarriages – 43 (29%) and Caesarean sections – 33 (22%) Gypsy Traveller women compared with 18 (16%), and 20 (14%) respectively of the non-Gypsy Traveller group with children. Conversely, hypertension was less commonly reported by the Gypsy Traveller women – 2 (1%) compared with 11(8%) of comparators. (...) 25 of 142 Gypsy Traveller women (17.6%) had suffered the death of a child (of any age but excluding miscarriages) compared with one of 110 matched comparators (0.9%). Information was missing for two Gypsy Travellers and six comparators.”¹³⁴

As for Roma migrants, there is anecdotal evidence suggesting that literacy levels, lack of knowledge of their rights and entitlements as EU citizens and lack of familiarity with and ability to navigate UK healthcare systems and the various different services available impacts on whether or not a mother assesses healthcare. The 2009 mapping survey found that mothers with new born babies and mothers who had given birth both in their countries of origin and in the UK were much happier with the medical staff’s approach to them in the UK than in their home countries where the staff would treat them as “Gypsies” by assigning them to segregated maternity wards at times.

e. Experiences and perceptions of discrimination

The vast majority of Roma of migrant origin who participated in the 2009 mapping survey reported they were generally happy with healthcare in England, mainly because they had not been subjected to discriminatory treatment on the grounds of their ethnicity. This has been supported by statements made by Roma from Glasgow, Scotland.¹³⁵

Some Roma of migrant origin noted they had been declined healthcare provision in their countries of origin, which, according to them, had never happened to them in England.

According to the Pacesetters programme, “the social exclusion of Roma is compounded by the lack of acknowledgement of their ethnic minority status. This results in their exclusion from ethnic profiling in the pursuit of health equity. Gypsies, Roma and Irish Travellers (GRT) are routinely overlooked on ethnic monitoring forms that are derived from categories used in the 2001 census form. For example, the Mental Health and Ethnicity Census (Count Me In) failed to include categories for GRTs. Although this omission from routine ethnic monitoring will be redressed with their inclusion as ethnic categories in the 2011 census, the challenges in acquiring baseline data for monitoring the

http://wrap.warwick.ac.uk/267/1/WRAP_Griffiths_Primary_Healthcare_Research_and_Development_Paper_Jesper_et_al_f_or_archive.pdf

¹³³ Glenys Parry, G., Van Cleemput, P., Peters, J., Moore, J., Walters, S., Thomas, K., Cooper, C., (2004) The Health Status of Gypsies & Travellers in England: Summary of a report to the Department of Health 2004 (University of Sheffield), p. 71; see: www.shef.ac.uk/content/1/c6/02/55/71/GT%20report%20summary.pdf

¹³⁴ Ibid, p. 33.

¹³⁵ Fremlova, L., (2009), Report of the first meeting of Slovak and Czech Roma in Glasgow, European Dialogue/Oxfam; see: www.scribd.com/doc/37036587/Roma-Report.

effectiveness of their interventions, for example on access to health care, have exercised the Pacesetters sites.¹³⁶

Major projects or initiatives

The “**Pacesetters Programme**” was a nationwide project led by Sheffield University, which took place in the following locations: East Midlands, West Midlands, South East Coast, South West, Yorkshire and Humber, London-Newham, targeting both indigenous and migrant Roma communities. The programme provided a new opportunity to reduce the Health Inequalities faced by Gypsies and Travellers and locally to develop a survey to identify specific needs within this minority group.

The programme had a different remit in each of the locations; i.e. health ambassadors (800 practitioners trained), patient adult health record (reaching 229 practitioners), staff cultural awareness training, directory of local services for the community, raising awareness among indigenous Roma communities and staff cultural awareness raising, increased GP registration and to raise awareness of mental health issues among Newham’s Roma.

“NHS Newham Pacesetters”

This project was set up in 2008 to address the health needs of the Roma community in the London Borough of Newham, which was estimated at around 900 families. The main objective of the project was to increase registrations with GPs. The project also worked to improve the Roma community’s awareness of health issues and build confidence within NHS Newham in dealing with Roma people. The Pacesetters scheme was delivered in partnership between NHS Newham and Roma Support Group (RSG), a voluntary sector organisation working to improve the quality of life of Roma people. The project brought together a range of professionals from across clinical, acute care, mental health, education and other backgrounds to work towards better health outcomes for Roma in Newham. The project employed a number of initiatives to engage Roma people. Roma health communication workers were employed for two days a week and were based within the Roma Support Group. They were the central access point within the Roma community and offered individual help to people regarding health issues and conducted interviews to assess health needs. The cultural awareness programme involved training sessions carried out amongst NHS Newham staff by Roma Support Group to raise awareness of the culture, tradition and health needs of Roma people, including age and gender issues and to build confidence in dealing with them. The health event and health MOT was held at the end of 2009 in conjunction with the Roma Support Group’s AGM. The event highlighted issues around smoking, diet and heart disease. Attendees were also offered a health MOT which measured BMI, blood pressure and blood sugar levels. Transitional terms of registration enabled Roma people to register with a GP with a proof of ID rather than a proof of residence. This was to take into account the fact that many Roma are overseas nationals and in housing situations that make providing proof of residence difficult, and was a direct means of addressing low levels of GP registration. The project focused on providing an opportunity to mainstream health providers to identify and address a range of health issues within the Roma community. The collaboration between NHS Newham and Roma Support Group was central to the success of the project. As RSG are known to and trusted by the Roma community, their involvement helped support a level of access and engagement which would otherwise not have been possible. In what professional development is concerned, as well as improving the health awareness of the Roma community, an essential element of the project was to build the knowledge and understanding of NHS staff so they can address the particular needs and challenges of the Roma community effectively and with sensitivity. The project innovated because, through working with the Roma Support Group, it was able to introduce

¹³⁶ Van Cleemput, P., Bissell, P., Harris, J., (2010), Pacesetters Programme: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller core strand (Evaluation Report for the Department of Health), Public Health Section SchARR, The University of Sheffield; p. 22; see: www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.435531/file/Final-full-Pacesetters-report-edited-with-photos-May-2010.pdf.

discussion of certain health issues, such as mental health, which were sometimes a taboo within the community, against a backdrop of community and cultural events.¹³⁷

“Roma SOURCE health champion pilot”, Sheffield, is one of three health champion pilot projects run and funded through the Roma SOURCE project. The health champion approach was adopted because top-down approaches to Roma health had proven less effective than desired. The Sheffield initiative was led by NHS Sheffield, in collaboration with Sheffield Wellbeing Consortium and the Pakistan Advice and Community Association (PACA). It aimed to encourage healthier lifestyles amongst Sheffield’s Roma communities by use of health champions – people from within the Roma community who by example and encouragement could promote a community-led approach to health improvement. The aim of the project was to involve Roma people in promoting healthier lifestyles within their own communities. The project trained up two Roma volunteers from the local community as ‘lead health champions’ who received detailed training through Sheffield NHS and Altogether Better. They in turn trained other Roma as ‘supporting health champions’. The total group of champions included both men and women. The champions helped to run and organise a number of sessions for local Roma. Using Roma people to work within their own community, to set their own priorities for health improvement, and raise awareness of health issues within Sheffield’s Roma community was a significant element in ensuring community involvement in the pilot. In terms of partnership, the project brought together public sector, voluntary organisations and community members. Each of these project partners provided an important contribution to the success of the project.¹³⁸ The project also contributed to personal development as the two lead health champions subsequently gained salaried employment in health-related areas on the strength of the skills they acquired through the project. These jobs were significantly better than they would have felt eligible for before the project. The success of the project, owed a lot to the active work already taking place within the Roma community by PACA, which gave it a springboard to successful engagement. The success of the health champions in finding work had the unexpected side effect of encouraging members of the Roma community to take a more active part in community voluntary work, which has continued after the lifetime of the scheme.¹³⁹

“Leeds Roma Health Needs Assessment”

NHS Leeds conducted their Roma Health Needs Assessment (RHNA) in 2011/2012, as a conscious attempt to systematically include Roma within local health strategy and policy. The main aims of the RHNA were to identify the health status and needs of Roma communities in Leeds, to reduce health inequalities and improve access to services. To achieve this, the RHNA intended to identify barriers in accessing primary and secondary health care services and any wider determinants affecting Roma health. The RNHA adopted a range of approaches:

- Cross sector involvement: NHS Leeds recognised they lacked detailed knowledge of the Roma community, and involved Advocacy Support, a leading Leeds-based voluntary sector organisation working with Roma, and Leeds City Council’s Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement Service in the planning of the RHNA to address this.
- Voluntary sector facilitator: Advocacy Support, a leading Leeds-based voluntary sector organisation working with Roma was commissioned to facilitate community sessions. Recruiting local Roma people to assist the survey: Local Roma people were recruited and trained to assist in devising the survey and in delivering the focus group sessions.

¹³⁷ Migration Yorkshire (2012) *Improving the health of Roma communities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region a guide to good practice*, see, p. 9, available at: www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/userfiles/file/publications/rs-healthgoodpracticeguide-v2-en.pdf.

¹³⁸ Migration Yorkshire (2012) *Improving the health of Roma communities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region a guide to good practice*, see p.7, available at: www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/userfiles/file/publications/rs-healthgoodpracticeguide-v2-en.pdf

¹³⁹ Migration Yorkshire (2012) *Improving the health of Roma communities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region a guide to good practice*, see, p. 13, available at: www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/userfiles/file/publications/rs-healthgoodpracticeguide-v2-en.pdf.

- Multi-format surveys: Surveys were circulated in Czech, Slovak and Romani. A number of these surveys were delivered in the form of focus groups.

The RHNA established the main issues affecting Roma in Leeds with respect to: general health and lifestyle issues; issues of access to primary and secondary care; mental health concerns and wider determinants of health such as housing, finance and the local environment. The findings of the RHNA are being incorporated in the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy – the overall health plan for the city.

The strategic approach implied that the recognition that Roma health needs should be included in the development of health strategy. In terms of partnership, the use of a voluntary sector partner that was trusted by Roma people increased the level of engagement with the local community. In recognition of low levels of literacy, low levels of English skill, and a widespread preference for the spoken over the written word, survey information was gained through focus groups in addition to traditional printed survey forms. This helped increase the response rate. The use of community mediators proved a vital means of ensuring cultural sensitivity and increasing awareness of the surveys and focus groups, as well as of the whole RHNA process. The RHNA recognised that poor health outcomes in Roma communities are often affected by wider issues such as housing, economics and the local environment. Identifying and acting upon these issues was a key part of the process.¹⁴⁰

However, due to the recent policy changes and budget cuts, many of these initiatives may not be sustained as few were embedded and mainstreamed as envisaged.

¹⁴⁰ Migration Yorkshire (2012) *Improving the health of Roma communities in the Yorkshire and Humber Region a guide to good practice*, see, p. 8, available at: www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/userfiles/file/publications/rs-healthgoodpracticeguide-v2-en.pdf.

6 Poverty/Economic situation

In relation to the socio-economic position of Gypsies and Travellers, issues pertaining to accommodation and site provision vis-a-vis the recent changes to government policy on Gypsies and Travellers appear to be central issues determining access by the various communities to other services.¹⁴¹ Similarly, access to the labour market is key to the economic and social inclusion of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma.

a. Households at risk-of-poverty

The 2009 mapping survey found that many migrant Roma, including children and young people, live in poverty, sub-standard accommodation, often shared with other families. Some are destitute, earning nothing or a fraction of the legal minimum wage. Severe overcrowding often leads to poor health, and low school attendance and attainment by children.

The survey found that of the 104 respondents, 53 were in receipt of benefits and 51 were not in receipt of any benefits. “Among the 53 people who reported receiving benefits were 13 people who had come to England before accession and were granted refugee status. As a result, they enjoyed more extended rights and entitlements, such as income support, jobseeker’s allowance or disability pension: those benefits that are otherwise inaccessible for A8 nationals, including Roma, who have not been in continuous employment for 12 months, and are inaccessible to A2 nationals. (...) Those A8 respondents, who did not have refugee status and/or came after accession and worked through employment agencies on a temporary basis, maintained it was virtually impossible to claim social welfare other than in-work benefits such as tax credit, child tax credit, council tax credit, and housing benefit, due to the temporary nature of most jobs. This was of particular concern in several cases where the respondents had just lost their jobs but were unable to claim jobseeker’s allowance. Some respondents also mentioned cases of their Roma friends who were unable to claim social welfare as a direct result of exploitative employment agencies taking the WRS fee but not registering them with the Home Office. Others mentioned cases of employment agencies not giving people employment contracts or pay slips: hence the absence of proof of steady, continuous employment. The position of A2 Roma was much more difficult. With the exception of the respondents who had obtained refugee status and/or British citizenship (6) and/or the vast majority of those who reported being employed or self-employed (25), unemployed A2 Roma were not receiving benefits.”¹⁴²

“[T]he average number of people living in a household was 6. However, if broken down by nationalities, on average, 9 people lived in Romanian and Bulgarian Roma households, as opposed to the Czech, Slovak, Polish and Hungarian Roma homes which have an average of 4 people per household. One Romanian Roma respondent said there were 27 people sharing accommodation in the same house, other Romanian Roma respondents reported 17, 16, 14 and 13 people per household respectively. In practice, this can mean at times that people, including small babies, infants, toddlers and school-age children sleep in kitchens, bathrooms, halls and elsewhere. (...) The majority of practitioners were very aware of poverty being the major area of concern for the Roma. They reported the difficulties with which Roma obtained decent and adequate housing, and with the low incomes with which they were trying to cover the cost of essentials for their children at home and within the school setting, school uniforms and meals, transport costs to school etc. They also noted how difficult it was for many to find money to travel to and from work and to pay the fees to employment agencies.

¹⁴¹ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report:12; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

¹⁴² Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) The Movement of Roma from New EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England), pp. 63-64; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf

These practitioners were concerned because such heavy financial and social strains have implications for the whole family and also on their ability to comply with their statutory obligations. For example, it was argued that in cases where families were facing the greatest levels of poverty, the children were far less likely to attend school regularly, not only for the reasons cited above but also because the families immediate daily priorities lay elsewhere: mainly in securing their day-to-day livelihoods. Free school meals (FSM) and subsidies for school uniforms were of major concern: they are granted to those pupils whose parents receive social assistance. Cases of A8 Roma where parents had just started work and applied for child benefit, tax credit and/or housing benefits, were among the topics most frequently discussed by TESS staff. They were concerned that, whilst the parents were being assessed by the relevant authorities, their children were not entitled to financial support for FSM and school uniforms. In the case of A2 Roma, they had no eligibility to FSM or uniform grants. Some local authorities or individual schools were in a position to help these families, but not all and not in all cases.”¹⁴³

The communities have very little support in some areas and they are often unable to access the services in place because of their lack of familiarity with the systems and processes in the United Kingdom. Roma from Poland and the Czech Republic appear to be more able to navigate the British systems. Romanian and some Slovak Roma seem to be the most disadvantaged and the most vulnerable, living in the most overcrowded conditions, often with 15+ people in one accommodation unit, and the greatest poverty. Roma adults, especially women, are generally isolated and marginalised, mixing only with other Roma. By nature of their traditional role of “mothers”, Roma women tend to be confined to the household and to be looking after the children, which excludes them not only from socialising with other Roma, but also from interacting with non-Roma within the social, cultural, economic and educational spheres of their life.

b. Financial situation: income and expenditures

The employment restrictions imposed on A2 nationals, especially on A2 Roma, mean that the Roma, some of whom are illiterate or semi-literate and have no employment history potentially due to discriminatory attitudes within the labour market of their home country, are severely restricted in terms of their chances of earning a living in the UK. At the same time, employment is one of the most important forces driving the movement of Roma from Central and Eastern Europe to the UK. This means that at present, there are large numbers of very poor, sometimes destitute Roma families who have no income, no access to benefits and resort to begging, pick-pocketing or stealing. Most of them are Romanian and some, according to local service providers, are Slovak. This ultimately affects children in a very negative way as there is very little or no finance in the household. As a result, the children may skip school since they do not qualify for free school meals, free uniforms etc.

As for Gypsies and Travellers, there is evidence suggesting that “[i]ncome levels among the Gypsy and Traveller community are low. 57.8% of households living on site responded to questions on income with 92.6% of those stating they had incomes less than £10,000. The majority of these households also received some public financial support, including housing benefit (35.8%).”¹⁴⁴

c. Financial situation: social transfers/debts/borrowing

The 2010 report by the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain notes that among Gypsies and Travellers, there is traditional Traveller ambivalence towards debt, “a finding which is congruent with attitudes to

¹⁴³ Fremlova, L., Ureche, H., (2009) *The Movement of Roma from New EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England* (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England), pp. 68, 89-90; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf

¹⁴⁴ Gravesham Borough Council (2007) *Consultation on Core Strategy Key Issues and Options: Gravesham Local Development Framework*; p. 56; see: www.gravesham.gov.uk/media/pdf/d/p/CoreStrategyIssuesOptionsMain_1.pdf.

preferences for Traveller economies/self-employment, independence and employment flexibility, all factors which will prove further obstacles to mortgage uptake, over and above lack of fiscal assets.” It also maintains that taking out a mortgage is a procedure which is new to most indigenous Roma and as such has not been internalised as ‘normalised debt’.”¹⁴⁵

There is anecdotal evidence suggesting that some migrant Roma arrive from Central and Eastern Europe heavily indebted to usurers and their debt “follows” them in the UK. At times, this may entail various forms of exploitation and debt bondage.

d. Malnutrition and hunger

It has been noted among both indigenous and migrant Roma that their nutrition is at times poor in vitamins, fibres and other nutrients.

In terms of malnutrition and hunger being signs of material distress, poverty and, at times destitution, this was noted to have been the case in a number of cases relating to socially disadvantaged Roma who moved to the UK from Eastern Slovakia and/or Romania. Typically, one or both parents (main breadwinners) became unemployed; as they had not worked for long enough (through employment agencies), they were not entitled to jobseeker’s allowance. In practice, they lost their main source of income but could not claim benefits and were unable to provide for their children. In a number of cases, the parents took their children to hospital and the children were subsequently put into care.¹⁴⁶

e. Material deprivation and/or other non-income poverty indicators

Material deprivation has been reported especially in large Gypsy, Traveller and Roma families, both sedentary and travelling. The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission notes that “the housing of Gypsies and Travellers on run-down housing estates means that they are exposed to the same levels of deprivation as their sedentary neighbours, while also being subject to hostile and racist attitudes and treatment from neighbours whose perceptions have been shaped by negative media coverage and political responses. The highly problematic accommodation situation of Gypsies and Travellers will therefore continue to fuel conflict and to undermine the development of cohesion.”¹⁴⁷

Whether a child is in receipt of free school meals is a significant non-income poverty indicator. The Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) reports that “the information on receipt of free school meals is typically regarded as proxy measure to identify rates of poverty amongst a range of excluded groups. According to data supplied by the Department of Education, take up of free school meals stands at 46% of Irish Travellers and 39% of Gypsy/Romany pupils, a figure which indicates extremely high levels of economic exclusion and reliance on welfare benefit payments.”¹⁴⁸

There is anecdotal evidence suggesting that some migrant Roma arrive from Central and Eastern Europe heavily indebted to usurers and their debt “follows” them in the UK. At times, this may entail various forms of exploitation and debt bondage.

¹⁴⁵ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, p. 107; see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf.

¹⁴⁶ Controversy over removal of Roma children from families in UK (www.romatransitions.org/controversy-over-removal-of-roma-children-from-families-in-uk/); Another view of the alleged removals of Romani children in the UK (www.romea.cz/english/index.php?id=detail&detail=2007_3588)

¹⁴⁷ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 183; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

¹⁴⁸ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, p. 69; see: www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf

Major projects or initiatives

Currently, there are three multi-disciplinary, transnational projects working with migrant Roma communities which include actions aiming at poverty reduction:

The “**Roma-Net project**”¹⁴⁹, part of the URBACT (funded by the EU European Regional Fund), implemented by Glasgow City Council as a partner. The focus of the Roma Net project is the integration of Roma populations. The common challenge of the project is to attempt to overcome negative attitudes, to improve consultation and engagement with the Roma community. The Roma-Net partners believe that the key factor to the integration of Roma populations is in a cohesive society, delivering the goals of the Lisbon Strategy. By sharing expertise and spreading good practices the partners hope to improve local policy development and deliver capabilities for stronger community cohesion between Roma and their neighbouring communities across Glasgow. An overarching objective is to inform and support other agencies to develop and implement local action plans that will support and facilitate better services, through improved access and a step-by-step integration approach, to support the social inclusion of young Roma and their transition into active adult citizens. Project partners are Nagykovács and Budapest (Hungary), Almería and Torrent (Spain), Bobigny (France), Bologna and Udine (Italy), Glasgow (United Kingdom), Karviná (Czech Republic), Košice (Slovakia). Project activities include visits to partner cities, a dissemination seminar on models of good practice (Brussels, 8th November 2012) and a final conference (February, 2012). The project has produced a number of outputs, such as case studies, learning clusters, project leaflets and newsletters in five languages.¹⁵⁰

Project launched: 25 November 2009

Project completed: 19 January 2013

The “**Roma Source**” project (www.romasource.eu) is co-funded by the European Union’s Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme and implemented by Migration Yorkshire. Roma SOURCE is a European project that aims to combat and reduce discrimination through developing mutual understanding between Roma and mainstream communities, promoting equal rights and highlighting best practice. Roma SOURCE [Sharing of Understanding Rights and Citizenship in Europe] is a two year project which works in Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. Migration Yorkshire is coordinating the European project as the lead partner, and is running one of the regional projects – Yorkshire and Humber Roma SOURCE. The project involves eight organisations from six European countries, with each organisation working on different aspects of the project in their region: Regional Administration of Varna, Bulgaria, Action Synergy, Greece, Former State Fostered Children's Association, Hungary, Municipality of Pescara, Italy, Federacion Maranatha De Asociaciones Gitanes, Spain, Regional Vice-Ministry for Family and Solidarity – Valencia, Spain, Migration Yorkshire and University of Salford, United Kingdom. Some of the partners work in regions of Europe which are traditionally home to Roma communities, others in regions which have more recently become a destination. Working with colleagues from areas in Europe where Roma are from and have traditionally settled will provide opportunities to share knowledge, skills and expertise that will both benefit Roma and also lessen the impacts on the local communities that they have moved to. The overall European project focuses on a number of key areas, with different European regions leading on each:

- Conducting research and mapping Roma communities;
- Protecting the rights of children and ensuring that they are safe from harm;
- Addressing the health needs of Roma and the impacts of new arrivals on health authorities and providers;
- Addressing worklessness and tackling employer prejudice and discrimination;
- Effective participation of Roma communities in policy making and society;

¹⁴⁹ Roma Net Project (2012), available at: <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/active-inclusion/roma-net/our-project/>.

¹⁵⁰ Roma-Net Project (2012) available at: <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/active-inclusion/roma-net/our-outputs/>.

- Working in schools.

Migration Yorkshire works with a range of partner organisations from different sectors that work with Roma. The work will include coordinating a regional network to share learning, knowledge and expertise around how local areas respond to Roma; raising the profile of Roma issues, as identified by partners; working on health and community engagement issues; making sure local partners are supported in delivery by providing information and guidance on delivering to Roma. Yorkshire and Humber Roma SOURCE have produced short films by Roma children in Leeds.¹⁵¹ The overall budget is £1,000,000.¹⁵²

The AIMER Project (Achieving the Integration of Migrant Communities and Ethnic Residents) was funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the INTERREG IVA 2 Seas Programme.¹⁵³ The main aim of the project was to integrate migrant communities in the UK, France, and Belgium. The project started on 1 November 2009 and finished on 30 June 2012. The main activities included: design and delivery of training, including the host languages; welcome pack for new migrants to assist with access to local services (for example housing, social care); citizenship development: ways of informing and educating new migrants; cultural mediation; legal mediation (advice and support); mediation for employers of ethnic minorities; capacity building to set up new organisations; forums for ethnic minority communities. The total budget eligible was 2,476,394.00€ financed at 50% by the ERDF. 3 activities are planned: Activity 1: Welcome & Integration of Migrant Communities (627,167.4€= 25.3% of total budget); Activity 2: Legal & Cultural Mediation ((694,991.4€= 28.1% of total budget); Activity 3: Capacity building (504,287.4€=20.4% of total budget).¹⁵⁴

¹⁵¹ Migration Yorkshire (2012), available at:

<http://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/?page=yorkshireromasource>.

¹⁵² Leeds City Council (2010) *Yorkshire to lead major European project on Roma: A partnership of Yorkshire councils has won £1million EU funding to lead a Europe-wide project to improve both the lives of Roma people and the local communities they live alongside*, available at,

<http://newsfeed.leedsvirtualnewsroom.co.uk/2010/09/yorkshire-to-lead-major-european.html>.

¹⁵³ Aimer Project (2012) available at: www.aimerproject.eu/.

¹⁵⁴ Aimer Project (2012) *Achieving the Integration of Migrant communities and Ethnic Residents: Sharing Experiences of the Journey to date*, available at: www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/admin/page_ext_attachments/37

7 Active citizenship and rights awareness

The previous five chapters have illustrated the exclusion and marginalisation experienced to different degrees by members of Gypsies and Travellers and migrant Roma communities in practically all spheres of life. The issues of citizenship, rights awareness and participation are inextricably linked to equality of opportunities and outcomes in education, literacy, and in accessing employment, housing and healthcare. Discriminatory treatment and violations of human and at times social, economic, cultural and political rights by individuals, at times by institutions and governments tend to go hand in hand with low levels of rights awareness among disadvantaged and disfranchised communities. Raising rights awareness has been one of many tasks of the numerous Gypsy and Traveller and migrant community organisations and various other advocates and champions of equality for these groups.

a. Awareness of the existence of representative Roma organisations, other civil society organisations, anti-discrimination legislation and equality bodies

There are over 30 active civil society and community organisations working with Gypsy and Travellers and migrant Roma in the UK (the figure is likely to be much higher as some initiatives operate only locally or regionally and/or do not necessarily have a website.)

The growth of Gypsy and Traveller organisations, conferences and activities in the last decade has been remarkable. The Romani Rights Association, the Society for Traveller People and the Gypsy Council have existed for many years. Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, Friends, Families and Travellers, the Irish Traveller Movement, the former Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition, subsequently the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups, or the Roma Support Group, Equality, the International Association of Roma Professionals, the Roma Voice or the Roma Education Support Trust have developed in the last two decades.

b. Awareness and use of complaints procedures

The independent statutory equality body responsible for the promotion and enforcement of equality and non-discrimination laws and for recording and processing complaints and allegations of violations in England, Scotland and Wales is the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) The EHRC's functions do not extend to Northern Ireland, where there is a separate Equality Commission (ECNI) and a Human Rights Commission (NIHRC), both established under the terms of the Belfast Agreement.

The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission refers to anecdotal evidence of a high-level of racist incidents and hate crime, but extremely low levels of reporting of such crime and low levels of awareness of Racial Equality Councils, combined with over-policing of the communities. This means that members of Roma communities are frequently not aware of and/or familiar with institutions and mechanisms governing reporting discrimination and hate crimes (such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission or the Equality Act), or suing those who have discriminated against them; by extension, Gypsy and Travellers often seek advice regarding planning applications from community organisations or lawyers who have worked on cases relating to planning permissions.

The same report notes that “[t]here is also a consistent strand of evidence through different studies that some Gypsies and Travellers have adopted a resigned approach towards such experiences, downplaying them and seeing them as an intrinsic part of their cultural experiences, and not expecting assistance from the authorities. (...) a young Gypsy's experience of police harassment before his prison sentence: 'there was a bit of harassment before I came in. Just after Christmas we was raided

four times like. Nothing you can do about that I suppose”¹⁵⁵. Scholars further reported “that ‘it was taken as a hazard of Travelling life’ and ‘considered a waste of time to report such events’. [a] study in Grampian concluded that very few incidents were reported, that there was a lack of confidence in the progress of any complaint, and an acceptance of the inevitability of prejudice and harassment for Gypsies and Travellers: ‘I have had it all my life’. However, there is perhaps a slightly different emphasis in this region, in that [it was] found that 56% thought they would make a formal complaint, although again only in relation to serious incidents such as physical attack, and 27% had made complaints about incidents of prejudice and harassment. The majority of these were to the police, although this amounted to only 14 complaints, while seven were to the local racial equality council, and one to the local authority.”¹⁵⁶

However, the data provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in response to the freedom of information request (please see Annexes) shows that there have been 261 complaints made by indigenous and migrant Roma to the Equality and Human Rights Commission over the past 5 years, which may indicate there is a level of awareness of complaints procedures among indigenous and migrant Roma in the UK.¹⁵⁷ The Equality and Human Rights Commission has not carried out any awareness raising campaigns for combatting discrimination against Roma/Gypsy/Travellers or indeed raising the awareness among the Roma community about the national legislation that prohibits discrimination on ethnic and racial grounds in employment, education, healthcare, housing. The only national campaign targeting issues such as equality and tackling discrimination seems to be the Kick It Out campaign, which was first launched in 1993 by the Commission for Racial Equality and which has since then successfully engaged with Roma in a number of football teams.¹⁵⁸

c. Participation in elections and political representation

The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission states that “[t]he pervasive racism, hostility and rejection Gypsies and Travellers experience from mainstream society, undermines any confidence they might have in engaging in voting or membership of political parties. Citizens expect that their political leaders will demonstrate commitment to developing solutions to political, social and economic problems. However, in relation to Gypsies and Travellers, the expression of overt racism extends to the top of the political hierarchy.”¹⁵⁹

A number of Gypsies and Travellers became involved in politics as political representatives: political activist on behalf of Roma and chair of the Gypsy Council (elected a Labour district councillor in the

¹⁵⁵ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 156; see:

www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf

¹⁵⁶ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 156; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf

¹⁵⁷ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)’s response to the FOI request, sent by EHRC on the evening of 31 October, 2012.

¹⁵⁸ Barclays Premier League (2012) QPR Achieve Quality Standard: Club awarded Preliminary Level of the Equality Standard for Professional Football Clubs, 7 June 2012; see:

www.premierleague.com/en-gb/news/news/qpr-achieve-equality-standard.html;

Kick it Out (2012) QPR Unearthing Talent Across the GTR Community, 8 May 2012; see: www.kickitout.org/1418.php, http://www.kickitout.org/Campaign_chronology.php.

¹⁵⁹ Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report: 12, p. 217; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf

1990s, subsequently mayor of Castle Point in 2003); a Gypsy/Traveller woman has been twice elected a Liberal Democrat councillor in North Norfolk¹⁶⁰ and is active in promoting sites and challenging public opposition; five prominent Gypsy/Traveller campaigners who have also been widely engaged in groups throughout Europe. However, at present there is no information available suggesting that Gypsies or Travellers have served on governmental, regional and local authorities positions as ministers, parliamentarians, or mayors.

At the central government level, three groups have been working over the past three years: the All-party Parliamentary Group on Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (APPG GRT), which strives to address the social inclusion of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities, to improve community relations, and to tackle accommodation issues¹⁶¹; the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Education Stakeholder Group set up in 2009 by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (present-day Department for Education); and the Cross-Departmental Working Group on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller inequalities.

d. Participation and representation in non-governmental organisations

Gypsy, Travellers and migrant Roma become increasingly involved in non-governmental and community organisations; it has been suggested above that over the past two decades, the number of civil society organisations has increased. In spite of the UK not signing up to the Decade of Roma Inclusion, representatives of UK based Gypsy, Traveller and migrant Roma community organisations frequently participate in international fora.

NGOs working with/for Gypsy and Traveller communities in the UK include the following: Irish Traveller Movement in Britain, Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers, Traveller Law Reform Project, Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group, Friends, Families and Travellers, The Gypsy Council, Labour Campaign for Travellers' Rights (Prof Thomas Acton), National Association of Teachers of Travellers, National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups, National Association of Gypsy and Traveller Officers, National Association of Health Workers with Travellers, National Traveller Action Group, Travellers' Times, UK Association of Gypsy Women, Cardiff Gypsy, East Anglia Gypsy Council, London Gypsy, Article 12 in Scotland and Traveller Unit.

NGOs working with/for Roma communities in the UK include the London-based Roma Support Group, Equality, the International Association of Roma Professionals, the Multi-Cultural Resource Centre (Belfast), the RGT (Roma Gypsy Traveller) Network (Cardiff), Romano Lav (Glasgow), the Roma Education Support Trust or the Peterborough-based ROGA project (Roma of Great Achievements). Leading UK charities such as Oxfam GB (Glasgow) and the Children's Society (New Londoners) have been doing work with Roma communities; in their projects and programmes, Save the Children, Minority Rights Group International, Amnesty International UK or Migrants' Rights Network have been aware of the Roma in the UK, as well as of some of the issues faced by the communities.

e. Experiences and perceptions of racial/ethnic discrimination

Barriers to voter registration include physical difficulties related to lack of secure sites, enforced mobility as a result of evictions or hostile attitudes by settled non-Gypsy/Traveller/Roma neighbours, lack of a postal address, and restricted postal deliveries even if resident on some public sites. The 2009 report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission report notes that “[f]ocus groups during GTAAs revealed numerous examples of the unwillingness of the Post Office to deliver on sites, or

¹⁶⁰ “In recent years there has been only a solitary Gypsy/Traveller councillor in the UK, Candy Sheridan who sat as a Liberal Democrat on North Norfolk district council.” www.guardian.co.uk/uk/the-northerner/2012/jul/25/discrimination-at-work-roma-gypsies-and-travellers-caravans-voting-franchise.

¹⁶¹ Parliament, UK (2012), Full list of Members of All-Part Groups for Gypsy Roma Travellers, available at: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmallparty/register/gypsy-roma-travellers.htm/

dependence on periodic visits from a warden to release mail from an office. (...) Barriers also affect involvement in the broader arena of participatory democracy, rather than purely representative democracy. Public involvement and participation in planning and developing services is a major plank of Government policy.”¹⁶²

The data provided by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in response to the freedom of information request (please see Annexes) shows that there have been 261 complaints made by Gypsies, Travellers and migrant Roma to the Equality and Human Rights Commission over the past 5 years.¹⁶³

Major projects or initiatives

A specialist research team at the University of Leicester launched in October 2012 Britain's most comprehensive study of hate crime. It is a major two-year project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, “examining the experiences of those who are victimised because of their identity, vulnerability or perceived 'difference' in the eyes of the perpetrator. The research will also seek to gather information from people whose victimisation often slips under the radar, including the homeless, refugees, asylum seekers, Gypsies and Travellers, those with mental health problems, and those belonging to alternative subcultures. The research will be of benefit to potential and actual victims of hate crime, community groups, networks and associations, the police, local authorities, Victim Support, the Ministry of Justice and Home Office, and charities and third sector organisations. The research team also plan to post regular updates on their progress via a dedicated project website and through social networking media in order to make the project as accessible and transparent as possible.”¹⁶⁴

The Council of Europe's Roma mediation programme ROMED has been recently launched in the UK after DCLG ministers agreed that ROMED could be run in England, and the Scottish and Welsh Governments and the Northern Ireland Executive agreed that it go ahead in the rest of the UK.¹⁶⁵ It is a joint Council of Europe/European Commission action which is also supported at local level by Open Society Institute and local or regional networks, non-governmental organisations and associations.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶² Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009) Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report:12, p. 170; see: www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf.

¹⁶³ “Please find attached a table of all the complaints the Commission has received from people from Gypsy / Romany / Traveller (GRT) communities. Please note this includes complaints received on behalf of people from these communities where it is clear the person who contacted us has acted on their behalf. Complaints made by other members of the public about GRT matters have not been included. We should also note that the majority of this data was sourced from our Helpline database using a word search facility and therefore is reliant on the searchterms used. A range of search terms were used to maximize the search results, however, please do be aware that words spelt incorrectly through typographical error will not have been captured. Finally, please note that the complaint details provided have been presented to you in an edited format to provide a concise description of the complaint in an anonymised form.” Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)'s response to the FOI request, sent by EHRC on the evening of 31 October, 2012.

¹⁶⁴ Dr Neil Chakraborti and Jon Garland from the Department of Criminology at the University of Leicester said the research will broaden the scope of all previous studies of hate crime. Dr Chakraborti, Principal Investigator, said: "We will be working with the widest range of victims ever covered in a single hate crime study." (...) "This research will shed new light upon their needs and their experiences of victimisation. Throughout the two years we will be working closely with criminal justice agencies, including the police, and other organisations in a position to support victims of targeted violence and harassment because we want the research to make a real difference to policy and practice." (...) Mr Jon Garland, co-investigator in the research, said: "The project will offer new perspectives of what it's actually like to be targeted because the victim is somehow "different". It will uncover the true impact of such harassment and violence and will help criminal justice agencies, both locally here in Leicester and also nationally, to understand fully the harmful impact of hate crime." <http://phys.org/news/2012-10-leicester-comprehensive-hate-crime.html>.

This information was confirmed by Jon Garland in an email of 10 October, 2012.

¹⁶⁵ Email from the Department for Communities and Local Government (13 September, 2012)

¹⁶⁶ Council of Europe (2012) Romed Project, available at: <http://coe-romed.org/about>; ACERT (2012) Romed Project, available at: www.acert.org.uk/romed-project/.

The Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers has been named the National Focal Point for ROMED programme in the UK. The training is scheduled to take place between December 2012 and March 2013.

Last year saw perhaps the largest “mobilisation” of Gypsy, Traveller and migrant Roma communities as the 2011 Census; for the first time, people could identify as Gypsy or Traveller. Various national organisations held census events at which community members and advocates explained what census is and why it is important (and necessary) to fill it in.¹⁶⁷ For instance the Irish Traveller Movement in Britain advertised vacancies for field staff positions such as census collectors. A Peterborough-based migrant Roma organisation held the annual celebration of the International Roma Day at the end of March to encourage migrant Roma to fill in the form. However, none of these initiatives received EU funding.

To date, there appears to have been no media campaign by the relevant ministry (Department for Communities and Local Government - The DCLG noted in 2010 that “many participants spoke in favour of the Government running a positive campaign to raise awareness and counter racism, similar to stop smoking or swine flu. Such a campaign could also communicate the business case for diversity and showcase good practice”)¹⁶⁸ or government agency (such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission, previously the Commission for Racial Equality) for raising the awareness among the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities about the national legislation that prohibits discrimination on ethnic and racial grounds in employment, education, healthcare, housing. The only national campaign targeting issues such as equality and tackling discrimination seems to be the Kick It Out campaign, which was first launched in 1993 by the Commission for Racial Equality and which has since then successfully engaged with Roma in a number of football teams.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁷ Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010) Census 2011: Have Your Say & Tick the Gypsy/Traveller Box; see: www.facebook.com/notes/irish-traveller-movement-in-britain/census-2011-have-your-say-tick-the-gypsytraveller-box/498722852456

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¹⁶⁹ Barclays Premier League (2012) QPR Achieve Quality Standard: Club awarded Preliminary Level of the Equality Standard for Professional Football Clubs, 7 June 2012; see: www.premierleague.com/en-gb/news/news/qpr-achieve-equality-standard.html; Kick it Out (2012) QPR Unearthing Talent Across the GTR Community, 8 May 2012; see: www.kickitout.org/1418.php, http://www.kickitout.org/Campaign_chronology.php.

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2. Statistical tables

2.1 The 2011 Census

According to the Office of National Statistics, multivariate statistics, including data on ethnicity will be released as part of the second release of 2011 Census statistics, which will take place between November 2012 and February 2013.¹⁷⁰

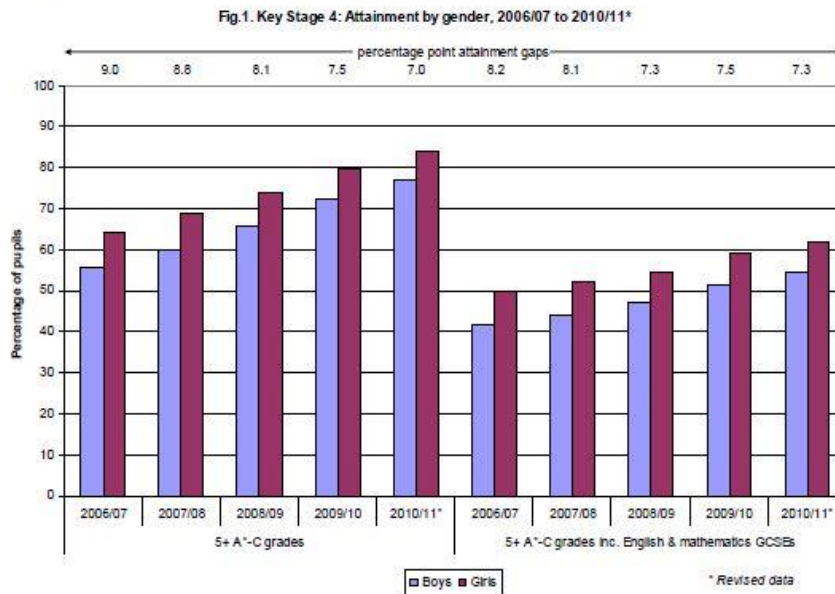
2.2 Official statistics: Statistics in England and regional statistics

In their 2006 Common Ground Inquiry, the Commission for Racial Equality (now the Equality and Human Rights Commission) estimated that there are between 270,000 and 360,000 Gypsies and Travellers in England living in houses, and around three times those numbers maintaining a nomadic lifestyle.¹⁷¹

¹⁷⁰ This was confirmed by a representative of the Office of National Statistics in a phone call of 10 October, 2012. Office of National Statistics: Release plans for 2011 Census statistics; see www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/census-data/2011-census-prospectus/release-plans-for-2011-census-statistics/second-release-of-2011-census-statistics/index.html

¹⁷¹ Edumigrom Survey Studies (2010), *Ethnic Differences in Education in England: Survey Report*, p. 59; see: http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/UDRW/images/items/doc1_14552_725034799.pdf.

The chart below shows the percentage of girls and boys achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, and 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSEs in each year since 2006/07.

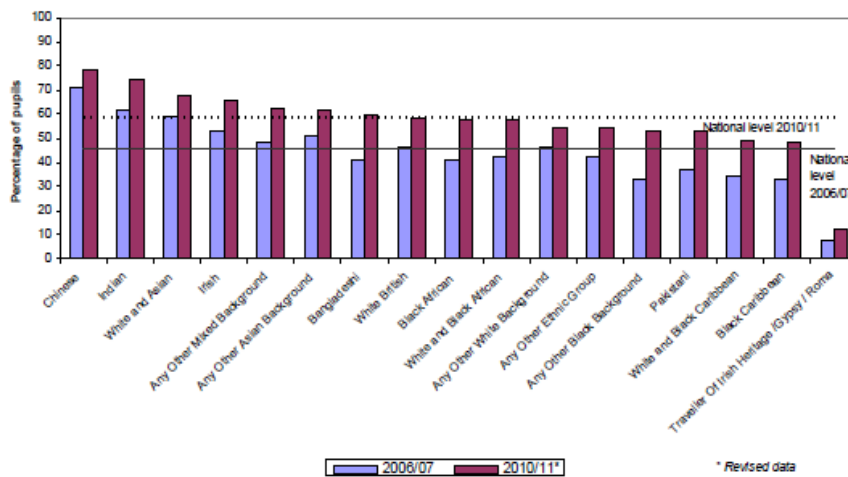


See table 1 for more information on attainment by gender.

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Within each of these broad ethnic groups, the individual ethnic groups show further variability which can be seen in the following chart:

Fig. 2. Key Stage 4: Proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics GCSEs by ethnic group, 2006/07 and 2010/11*



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¹⁷² Department for education statistical first release *DfE: GCSE and Equivalent Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England, 2010/11*: p. 3, see: <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001057/index.shtml>.

¹⁷³ Department for education statistical first release *DfE: GCSE and Equivalent Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England, 2010/11*: p. 4, see: <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001057/index.shtml>.

(3) English as a first language

When comparing the percentage achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent *including* English and mathematics GCSEs, pupils whose first language is English (58.5 per cent) performed better as a group than pupils whose first language is other than English (55.8 per cent). However, pupils whose first language is other than English performed better when looking at the proportion achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent.

First Language attainment gaps 2006/07 to 2010/11
(English as a first language minus first language other than English)

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent	1.0	2.0	1.2	0.2	-0.4
5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including English and mathematics GCSEs	2.6	3.4	3.4	3.1	2.7

The attainment gap between the proportion of pupils in each group achieving the English Baccalaureate is 1.1 percentage points, with 15.5 per cent of pupils whose first language is English achieving this indicator compared with 14.4 per cent of pupils whose first language is other than English.

A higher proportion of pupils whose first language is other than English achieved the expected level in progress in English than those whose first language is English. 78.1 per cent of pupils whose first language is other than English achieved the expected level of progress in English, compared with 71.1 per cent of pupils whose first language is English, a gap of 6.9 percentage points. The gap is wider for mathematics; 75.8 per cent of pupils whose first language is other than English achieved the expected level of progress in mathematics, compared with 63.6 per cent of pupils whose first language is English, a gap of 12.2 percentage points.

See table 1 for more information on attainment by first language.

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¹⁷⁴ Department for education statistical first release *DfE: GCSE and Equivalent Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England, 2010/11*: p. 5, see: <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001057/index.shtml>.

(4) Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility

Pupils known to be eligible for FSM performed less well as a group at all the main indicators at Key Stage 4, than all other pupils (pupils known not to be eligible for FSM and pupils with unknown eligibility grouped together)³.

The attainment gap between the proportion achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent *including* English and mathematics GCSEs is 27.4 percentage points – 34.6 per cent of pupils known to be eligible for FSM achieved this indicator compared with 62.0 per cent of all other pupils. There has been a very gradual narrowing of the attainment gap from 27.9 percentage points in 2006/07. However the attainment gap between the proportion achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent has narrowed faster by 8.7 percentage points between 2006/07 and 2010/11, with 64.6 per cent of pupils eligible for FSM achieving this indicator in 2010/11, compared with 83.0 per cent of all other pupils.

FSM attainment gaps 2006/07 to 2010/11

(All other pupils (pupils known not to be eligible for FSM and pupils with unknown eligibility

³ In previous years, comparisons were made between pupils known to be eligible for free school meals and pupils known not to be eligible for free school meals.

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grouped together) minus pupils eligible for FSM)

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent	27.1	26.7	24.0	20.3	18.4
5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent <i>including</i> English and mathematics GCSEs	27.9	27.8	27.7	27.6	27.4

For pupils eligible for FSM, 7.9 per cent were entered for all the subject areas of the English Baccalaureate, with 4.3 per cent achieving it. 23.8 per cent of all other pupils entered for the subject areas of the English Baccalaureate, a gap of 15.9 percentage points when compared with pupils eligible for FSM, and 17.2 per cent achieved the English Baccalaureate, a narrower gap of 12.9 per cent.

A lower proportion of pupils eligible for FSM achieved the expected level of progress in English, with 54.9 per cent of pupils eligible for FSM achieving this, compared with 74.5 per cent of all other pupils – a gap of 19.6 percentage points. For mathematics, the gap is wider at 23.3 percentage points – 44.8 per cent of pupils eligible for FSM achieved the expected level of progress in mathematics, compared with 68.0 per cent of all other pupils.

See table 1 for more information on attainment by ethnicity.

Of those pupils known to be eligible for FSM, there are variations in pupil achievement across key groups of interest. These are illustrated by comparisons with the national average:

For White British boys eligible for FSM, 26.0 per cent achieved 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent *including* English and mathematics GCSEs, compared with the overall national level of 58.2 per cent – an attainment gap of 32.2 percentage points. This gap is similar to that observed in 2009/10 but has widened by 1.2 percentage points since 2006/07. The attainment of White British boys eligible for FSM has improved over the last 5 years, but not as much as the overall national level.

For Black Caribbean boys eligible for FSM, 33.2 per cent achieved 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent *including* English and mathematics GCSEs, compared with the overall national level of 58.2 per cent – an attainment gap of 25.0 percentage points. This gap has narrowed by 2.3 percentage points since 2009/10 and by 2.9 percentage points since 2006/07.

See table 2a for more information on attainment by FSM eligibility and ethnicity.

Worked example

	Total	Number not achieving 5+ A*-C grades	Number achieving 5+ A*-C grades
Number of pupils on roll	140	N/A	N/A
Number of pupils included in the national results	141	21	120

In the example above there are 140 pupils on roll. The number of pupils included in the national results achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent is 120. Therefore the percentage achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent would be calculated as

$$\frac{120}{140} \times 100 = 85.7\%$$

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¹⁷⁵ Department for education statistical first release *DfE: GCSE and Equivalent Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England, 2010/11*: p. 15, see: <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001057/index.shtml>.

Table 9: Full ethnicity breakdown of each school for NorthCity LEA, 2008

School	White British	Irish	Traveller of Irish Heritage	Gypsy Roma Background	Any Other White	White and Caribbean	White and Black African	White and Black Pakistani	White and Asian	any other White and any other	Any Other Mixed Background	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Any Other Asian Background	Caribbean	Somali	Other Black African	Any Other Black Background	Chinese	Yemeni	Any Other Ethnic Group	Ethnic Minority	Not Known	Total
1	1023	7	0	0	33	48	13	3	26	21	8	227	17	20	27	31	17	12	15	2	10	537	22	1582	
2	591	1	0	1	19	42	2	8	5	2	1	90	16	11	19	27	28	2	2	15	8	299	0	890	
3	481	0	0	13	22	11	0	1	5	4	1	45	2	13	11	53	15	9	0	22	6	233	0	714	
4	166	1	0	0	57	12	4	0	1	7	1	112	19	44	14	51	45	9	8	28	29	442	0	608	
5	1029	12	0	0	19	20	15	11	4	22	3	2	0	5	40	1	49	11	2	1	4	211	12	1252	
6	1131	2	0	0	3	12	1	0	3	5	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	2	0	38	22	1191	
7	902	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	20	0	922	
8	847	1	3	0	2	18	2	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	4	44	37	928	
9	1660	0	0	0	8	24	0	5	2	4	4	5	0	4	7	0	5	1	3	2	1	75	3	1738	
10	69	1	0	1	8	19	2	6	12	9	10	359	6	10	17	77	32	2	0	105	4	680	0	749	
11	964	1	1	0	5	47	6	1	8	10	10	121	1	17	21	30	24	3	1	38	10	355	7	1326	
12	905	1	0	0	4	13	2	3	6	5	1	59	8	2	3	0	9	2	2	0	2	122	0	1027	
13	838	4	0	0	15	32	4	1	12	23	15	166	51	6	26	33	4	5	3	3	7	410	1	1249	
14	1107	6	0	0	16	59	7	4	9	25	5	118	28	28	29	42	32	9	25	34	33	509	41	1657	
15	1537	3	0	0	3	25	5	1	1	23	3	9	3	8	10	1	3	1	3	0	3	105	15	1657	
16	632	0	0	0	2	13	2	0	11	4	4	5	0	9	2	4	18	3	4	4	10	95	1	728	
17	815	0	0	0	6	41	5	7	2	13	1	43	0	1	9	0	16	0	0	1	2	147	8	970	
18	1061	16	0	1	66	14	4	0	7	30	8	1	0	8	26	0	55	12	3	0	7	258	5	1324	
19	732	0	1	1	0	29	0	3	8	12	0	149	108	17	8	8	9	7	1	11	10	382	5	1119	
20	814	3	2	0	13	24	3	1	4	9	0	14	3	0	9	2	39	2	5	0	10	143	7	964	
21	866	2	0	1	43	20	3	10	21	8	10	56	10	18	7	94	3	2	15	9	9	341	34	1241	
22	863	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	4	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	2	0	0	23	0	886	
23	1259	12	0	0	27	35	5	2	25	22	14	39	2	30	9	32	18	3	37	21	45	378	11	1648	
24	1305	1	0	0	0	30	3	2	6	9	2	2	0	6	10	1	12	2	3	0	7	96	9	1410	
25	1274	1	0	1	3	16	6	2	1	4	2	3	0	1	4	0	1	6	1	1	0	53	13	1340	
26	745	0	0	0	4	22	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	2	1	45	2	792	
27	861	0	0	0	1	9	1	3	0	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	28	0	889	

Please note that 'Ethnic Minority' is now classed as all pupils except White British and Not Known. Source: Local Education Authority data

¹⁷⁶ Edumigrom Survey Studies (2010), *Ethnic Differences in Education in England: Survey Report*, p. 59; see: http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/UDRW/images/items/doc1_14552_725034799.pdf.

Ethnicity	All	
	No.	%
White European	97	41
White	32	14
Roma	12	5
White Other	9	4
Mixed European	7	3
Polish	5	2
European Other	2	1
Czech Jewish	1	< 1
Hungarian with Romanian nationality	1	< 1
Hungarian	1	< 1
White Polish	1	< 1
Czech	1	< 1
European	1	< 1
No response given	65	23
Total	235	100

It is clear that people have different understandings in relation to the issue of ethnicity. Nearly a quarter of the sample provided no response to this question, while some respondents described their ethnicity in terms of their nationality (for example Polish, Czech, Hungarian). Taking only those who did provide an answer (170 respondents), over half described themselves as White European (57%). As can be seen, 12 respondents in the sample identified themselves as Roma (of which 8 were Czech and 4 were Slovak).

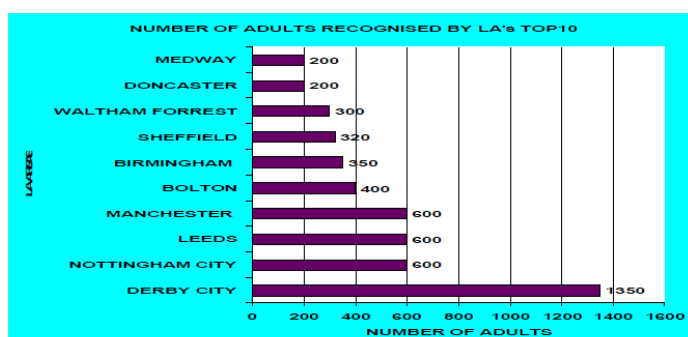
Looking in greater detail at those who did not provide a response with regard to their ethnicity shows that 57% of Slovak, 43% of Romanian and 37% of Czech respondents did not provide information about their ethnicity (compared to 13% of Polish, with the remaining nationalities all providing information on ethnicity). Feedback from one community interviewer suggests that the number of Roma in our sample was higher than the identified number; however, people were reluctant to divulge their ethnicity given the discrimination that Roma communities have experienced.

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2.3 Other statistics: The Movement of Roma from new EU Member States: Mapping Survey of A2 and A8 Roma

6.5 Data analysis: Roma populations in England

Although there are substantial A2 and A8 Roma populations living in the South and Southeast of England (Kent, Southend-on-Sea,⁶⁶ London, Slough), the largest populations of A2 and A8 Roma are based in cities across Northern England. The major concentrations of A2 and A8 Roma populations are now found in the North of England, the East Midlands, Kent and in north and east London. The most numerous of these national groups are the Slovak, Czech and Romanian Roma communities.



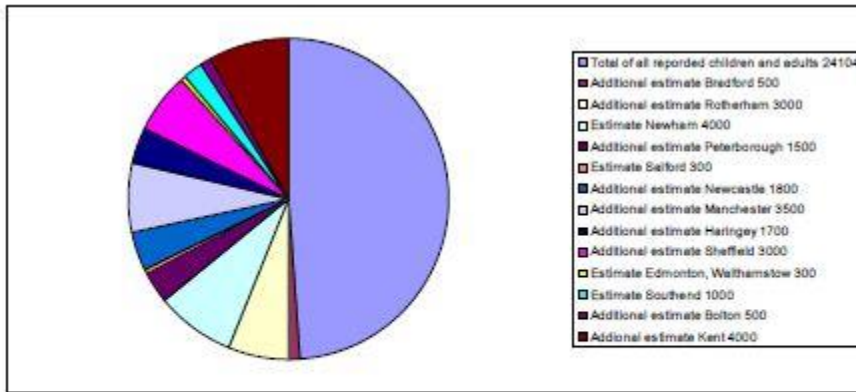
Graph 1: Top ten cities where most Roma live as reported by local authorities

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¹⁷⁷ North West Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (2011), *Working with Roma in the North West of England*, p. 51, see:

www.northwestsmp.org.uk/images/stories/documents/pdfs/cohesion/final%20roma%20report%20.pdf.

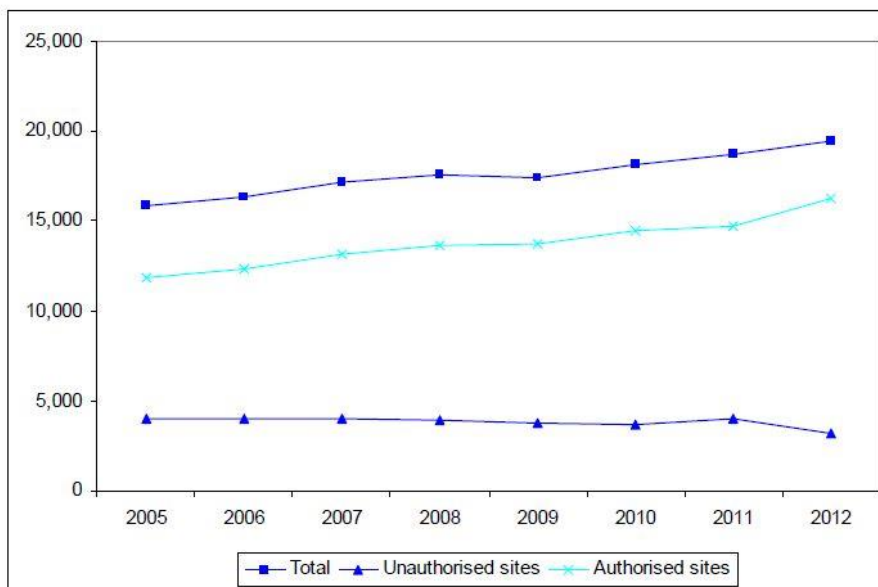
¹⁷⁸ *The Movement of Roma from new EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England)*, European Dialogue, p. 38, 68



Graph 60: Total estimate of 49,204 A2 and A8 Roma children and adults in England is based on the official data provided by the 50 local authority areas, which recorded the number of either children only or children and adults, including additional estimates for 13 individual areas from local authorities and estimates gathered in the course of interviews and focus groups with practitioners and Roma took place

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Figure 2: Total number of caravans in England (July counts only)



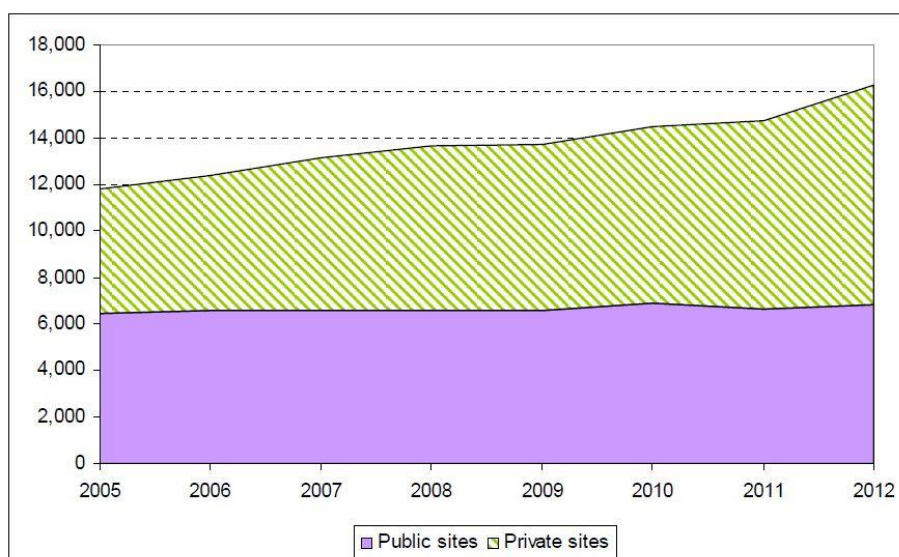
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see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf.

¹⁷⁹ *The Movement of Roma from new EU Member States: A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England)*, European Dialogue, pp. 80-83; see: www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf.

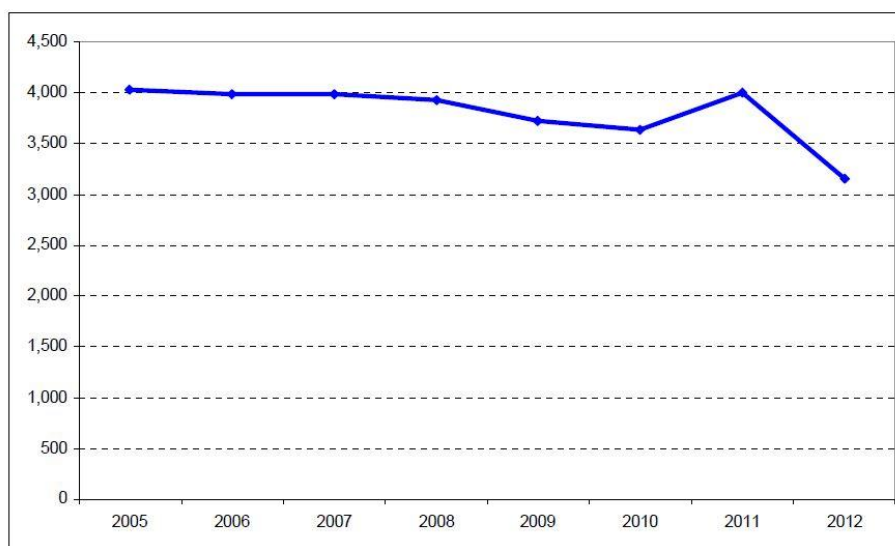
¹⁸⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) *Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans – July 2012*, available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11710/caravan.pdf, p. 3.

Figure 3: Number of caravans on authorised sites in England (July counts only)



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Figure 4: Number of caravans on unauthorised sites in England (July counts only)



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¹⁸¹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans – July 2012, available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11710/caravan.pdf, p. 4.

¹⁸² Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans – July 2012, available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11710/caravan.pdf, p. 4.

3. Table of complaints

A FOI (freedom of information) request was submitted to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). The EHRC have submitted the information on complaints involving indigenous and recently settled Roma.

Year	Number of Cases
2012 (including September)	51
2011	74
2010	37
2009	40
2008	54
2007	5

4. Table of sources (reports and studies on Roma)

	Title, author, source	<i>A mapping survey of A2 and A8 Roma in England (Patterns of settlement and current situation of new Roma communities in England); Fremlova and Ureche (2009a); www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783573829/The-Movement-of-Roma-From-New-EU-Member-States.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report (commissioned and funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families; present-day DfE)</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>104 interviews with Roma respondents in 11 areas of England; a survey all local authorities in England</i>
	Location	<i>11 localities (cities and communities in North England, the Midlands, South England, North and East London, East Anglia)</i>
	Target population	<i>Migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Roma work for low wages on temporary contracts by exploitative agencies. Many Roma live in poverty and sub-standard rented accommodation shared with others. Poor health. Low school attendance and attainment by children. Most primary school Roma children attend school regularly, substantial post-eleven drop-out rates. Families cannot afford to pay for school meals or uniforms</i>
	Methodology	<i>Quantitative and qualitative data; case studies</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional within the UK but also transnational, using models of good practice in working with Roma who have moved to the UK from CEE</i>
	Title, author, source	<i>From segregation to inclusion: Roma pupils in the UK; Roma Education Fund/Equality (2009) Fremlova, L., Ureche, H.; www.romaeducationfund.hu/sites/default/files/publications/ref_uk_report_nov2011_screen_singlepages.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	

Sample	<i>114 Roma respondents</i>
Location	<i>London, Wolverhampton, Derby, Southend-on-Sea, Chatham, Leicester, Rotherham, Peterborough</i>
Target population	<i>Roma of migrant origin</i>
Key findings	<i>85 per cent of all the Roma pupils had been placed into special/practical schools or Roma schools or Roma kindergartens in Slovakia and the Czech Republic All the Roma pupils now study in mainstream education in the UK and have had no Special Education Needs diagnosed in the UK.</i>
Methodology	<i>Qualitative and quantitative data, semi-structured interviews or in focus groups, case studies</i>
Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional within the UK but also transnational, using models of good practice in working with Roma who have moved to the UK from CEE</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>New Roma communities in England; Fremlova and Ureche (2009b); www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783574293/New+Roma+Communities+in+England.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>104 interviews with Roma respondents in 11 areas of England; a survey all local authorities in England</i>
	Location	<i>11 localities (cities and communities in North England, the Midlands, South England, North and East London, East Anglia)</i>
	Target population	<i>Migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Roma work for low wages on temporary contracts by exploitative agencies. Many Roma live in poverty and sub-standard rented accommodation shared with others. Poor health. Low school attendance and attainment by children. Most primary school Roma children attend school regularly, substantial post-eleven drop-out rates. Families cannot afford to pay for school meals or uniforms</i>
	Methodology	<i>Quantitative and qualitative data; case studies</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional within the UK but also transnational, using models of good practice in working with Roma who have moved to the UK from CEE</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Getting to know the Roma communities in England; Fremlova and Ureche (2009c); www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783574496/Getting-to-</i>
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		Know-the-Roma-Communities-in-England.pdf
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>104 interviews with Roma respondents in 11 areas of England; a survey all local authorities in England</i>
	Location	<i>11 localities (cities and communities in North England, the Midlands, South England, North and East London, East Anglia)</i>
	Target population	<i>Migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Roma work for low wages on temporary contracts by exploitative agencies. Many Roma live in poverty and sub-standard rented accommodation shared with others. Poor health. Low school attendance and attainment by children. Most primary school Roma children attend school regularly, substantial post-eleven drop-out rates. Families cannot afford to pay for school meals or uniforms</i>
	Methodology	<i>Quantitative and qualitative data; case studies</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional within the UK but also transnational, using models of good practice in working with Roma who have moved to the UK from CEE</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Improving engagement with the Roma community; Roma Support Group (2010);</i> www.romasupportgroup.org.uk/documents/Roma%20Support%20Group%20Research%20Report.pdf
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	Sample	<i>87 Roma community members were involved in this research</i>
	Location	<i>London</i>
	Target population	<i>Migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>The research has revealed the maturity and readiness of the community to engage with statutory bodies and their mainstream empowerment mechanisms, dispelling the myth of the Roma being a community that is “hard to reach”. However, one of the most</i>

		<i>important themes of the research emphasised that the empowerment of Roma communities and their engagement cannot happen without recognising the roots of Roma social exclusion and the impact that anti-Roma discrimination had on the community relationship with mainstream society.</i>
	Methodology	Action research
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional and national within the UK</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Report on the situation of the Roma community in Govanhill, Glasgow; Poole, L., and Adamson, K., (2008), School of Social Sciences, University of the West of Scotland, Oxfam, Glasgow CHCP, www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/ukpoverty/downloads/roma_report.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>Lydia Zelmanova Marcela Adamova produced a report outlining work and incorporating valuable data on Roma</i>
	Location	<i>Glasgow</i>
	Target population	<i>Migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Contacts with local organisations and other stakeholders working with Roma communities suggest there are 2,000 – 3,000 Roma living in Glasgow-Govanhill</i>
	Methodology	-
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional and national within the UK</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Report of the first meeting of Slovak and Czech Roma in Glasgow; Fremlova (2009); www.luciefremlova.co.uk/app/download/5783574756/Report+of+the+first+meeting+of+Roma+in+Glasgow.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
The	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓

	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	Sample	-
	Location	<i>Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester, Southend-on-Sea, Newcastle</i>
	Target population	<i>Migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Roma face very similar issues throughout the UK in education, housing, employment, healthcare. Roma work for low wages on temporary contracts by exploitative agencies. Many Roma live in poverty and sub-standard rented accommodation shared with others. Poor health. Low school attendance and attainment by children. Most primary school Roma children attend school regularly, substantial post-eleven drop-out rates. Families cannot afford to pay for school meals or uniforms</i>
	Methodology	<i>Qualitative data, focus groups</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional within Scotland and national within the UK</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Strangers in a Strange City: Belfast's Roma community; Multi-Cultural Resource Centre (2010), www.southbelfast.or</i>
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	Sample	<i>60 Roma</i>
	Location	<i>Belfast</i>
	Target population	<i>Migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Roma are marginalised, have little or no English. ¾ are not registered with the authorities; do not know how to become so. Most work in the informal economy due to A2 restrictions</i>
	Methodology	<i>Qualitative data</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional and national within Northern Ireland</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Working with Roma in the North West of England; North West</i>
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		<i>Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (2011),</i> www.northwestrsmmp.org.uk/images/stories/documents/pdfs/cohesion/final%20roma%20report%20.pdf
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>Questionnaires circulated to the statutory, community and voluntary sectors</i>
	Location	<i>Liverpool, Bolton, Manchester, Salford, Wigan, Sefton, Tameside, Leigh</i>
	Target population	<i>Migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Over 600 known Roma families in Bolton; in Manchester, number of Romanian Roma increasing in Longsight, Levenshulme; information from different agencies in Salford suggests several hundred people in Higher Broughton, Swinton and Eccles; in Wigan, the Health Visitor caseload audit showed 78 Roma children (0-5 years) resident in the borough, The Citizens Advice Bureau report 78% of their Roma clients have dependent children and 49% are unemployed</i>
	Methodology	<i>Qualitative and quantitative data</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional and national within the UK</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Migrant Workers in Liverpool: A Study of A8 and A2 nationals; Liverpool City Council/University of Salford (2008), Lisa Scullion, Gareth Morris</i> <i>Salford Housing & Urban Studies, Unit</i> <i>University of Salford,</i> www.usir.salford.ac.uk/9263/1/Liverpool_migrant_worker_report.pdf
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>Community interviews with 170 respondents, 12 identified as Roma (8 Czech and 4 Slovak)</i>

	Location	<i>Liverpool</i>
	Target population	<i>Migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Evidence of hate crime, verbal/ physical abuse, particularly against Slovak and Czech nationals of the Roma community. Consultation with the police revealed that under-reporting of hate crime was an issue</i>
	Methodology	<i>Qualitative and quantitative data</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional and national within the UK</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Unequal and Unlawful Treatment: Barriers faced by the Roma Community in Govanhill, Govanhill Law Centre;</i> http://govanlc.blogspot.co.uk/2012/06/launch-of-govanhill-law-centres-unequal.html
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>Review and analysis of all 60 Roma cases</i>
	Location	<i>Glasgow</i>
	Target population	<i>Migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Refusal of benefit due to an erroneous decision made by a public authority in 53% of cases; no response from the public authority where clients made a formal complaint; unreasonable delay in the public authority providing a decision to the detriment of clients in 56% of cases; at least 44% were dealt with by HMRC's 'Compliance Team' without the client knowing this was what was causing the additional delay; HMRC holds our clients' passports and birth certificates for many months to several years; unreasonable requests for information from our clients were made by public authorities in 35% of cases</i>
	Methodology	<i>Qualitative and quantitative data; case studies</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement Programme: Information for Local Authorities and Schools; Department for</i>
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		<i>Children, Schools and Families (July 2008)</i>
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>N/A</i>
	Location	<i>National</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Encouraging attainment and attendance by all Roma pupils</i>
	Methodology	<i>Qualitative data; policy report</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Improving the outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils; Department for Education (2010), www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DFE-RR043.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>National data analysis Progress mapping (through questionnaires to schools) Literature review Case studies</i>
	Location	<i>National</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Much more needs to be done to achieve equality in educational opportunities for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils. Without a framework of targeted support at both local and national levels, the improvement of outcomes for these pupils is likely to remain unacceptably slow</i>
	Methodology	<i>Qualitative and quantitative data Case studies</i>
	Representativeness,	<i>National</i>

	transferability of findings	
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	Title, author, source	<i>The Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children and Young People; Department for Children, Schools and Families (2008), www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/projects/ema/getfile.php?src=74/Inclusion+of+Gypsy+Roma.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>National policy document</i>
	Location	<i>National</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Raising the achievement of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children is the responsibility of everyone within the education system and a significant measure of the effectiveness of policies to combat educational and social exclusion. Ofsted has reported that Gypsy, Roma & Traveller pupils have the lowest results of any ethnic minority group and are the groups most at risk in education. This has been confirmed by the School Census data since 2003</i>
	Methodology	<i>National policy document</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities: A review - Research Report:12; Cemlyn, S., Greenfields, M., Burnett, S., Matthews, Z., Whitwell, C., (2009), www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	Sample	<i>National policy document</i>

	Location	<i>National</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>EHRC review report on the state of Roma equality, racism and discrimination in the UK across all public sectors and services</i>
	Methodology	<i>National policy document</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010);</i> www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	Sample	<i>Traveller Economic Inclusion Project</i>
	Location	<i>National</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma face a wide range of barriers perpetuating their economic exclusion</i>
	Methodology	<i>National policy document</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Roads to Success: Economic and Social Inclusion for Gypsies and Travellers, Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (2010);</i> www.irishtraveller.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Roads_to_Success-15-11.pdf
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓

	Sample	<i>Traveller Economic Inclusion Project</i>
	Location	<i>National</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma face a wide range of barriers perpetuating their economic exclusion</i>
	Methodology	<i>National policy document</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers; Department for Communities and Local Government (2012); www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/mwgreportravellers</i>
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	Sample	<i>National and EU policy document (NRIS)</i>
	Location	<i>National (NRIS)</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>UK government is committed to tackling inequalities experienced by Indigenous and migrant Roma in order to foster their social inclusion</i>
	Methodology	<i>National and EU policy document (NRIS)</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National and EU policy context (NRIS)</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Travelling to a Better Future; Welsh Government (2012); Welsh Department for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning and Skills (2012) http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/communitycohesion/publications/travellingtoabetterfuture/?lang=en</i>
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>
Thematic	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓

	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	Sample	<i>Welsh Assembly (NRIS)</i>
	Location	<i>Regional</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Welsh assembly is committed to tackling inequalities experienced by Indigenous and migrant Roma in order to foster their social inclusion</i>
	Methodology	<i>National and EU policy document (NRIS)</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National and EU policy context (NRIS)</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Consultation on Core Strategy Key Issues and Options: Gravesham Local Development Framework; Gravesham Borough Council (2007), www.gravesham.gov.uk/media/pdf/d/p/CoreStrategyIssuesOptionsMain_1.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	Sample	<i>Governmental report</i>
	Location	<i>Regional</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Gravesham needs an efficient strategy of working with indigenous Roma to foster their social inclusion, mainly in terms of their access to adequate and culturally sensitive housing</i>
	Methodology	<i>Regional policy framework</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Pacesetters Programme: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller core strand (Evaluation Report for the Department of Health) Van Cleemput, P., Bissell, P., Harris, J., (2010), Public Health Section SchARR, The University of Sheffield; www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.43553!/file/Final-full-Pacesetters-report-edited-with-photos-May-2010.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>

Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>Over 1000 practitioners</i>
	Location	<i>Regional</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>It is of key importance to raise awareness by both indigenous and migrant Roma and practitioners in the field of health</i>
	Methodology	<i>Regional research</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional and national</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Health and Social Care Needs Assessment of Eastern European (including Roma) individuals living in Barking and Dagenham; Tobi, Sheridan and Lais (2010); Institute for Health and Human Development)</i> www.nelft.nhs.uk/documentbank/Health_care_needs_assessment_Eastern_Europeans_2010_final.pdf
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>293 indigenous Roma, 27 Roma with health issues</i>
	Location	<i>National</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Health issues experienced by indigenous Roma are diverse and healthcare providers need to be able to tailor culturally sensitive services</i>
	Methodology	<i>National research</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Gypsies And Travellers: Shadow Report (A Response To The United Kingdom's 18th And 20th Report On The International</i>
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		Convention On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Racial Discrimination (CERD); Irish Traveller Movement in Britain (ITMB) Moore, M., and Brindley, M., (2010); http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/docs/ngos/ITMB_Gypsy_Traveller_CERD79.pdf
	Source and type	Non-Governmental report
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	Sample	Policy paper
	Location	National
	Target population	Indigenous Roma
	Key findings	Despite UK government's commitment to tackling inequalities experienced by Indigenous and migrant Roma, exclusion, racism and discrimination persist
	Methodology	Policy paper
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	National and international

	Title, author, source	Situation Regarding the Current Policy, Provision and Practice in Elective Home Education (EHE) for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children; Ivatts, A., (2006) http://aim1he.wordpress.com/2007/01/18/ivatts-report-elective-home-education/
	Source and type	Governmental report
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	Policy paper
	Location	National
	Target population	Indigenous Roma
	Key findings	Between 2000 and 2004 that there was a 40 percent increase in Elective Home Education
	Methodology	National policy paper

	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National</i>
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	Title, author, source	<i>A Critique of UK Coalition Government Policy on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities; Ryder, Cemlyn, Greenfields, Richardson, Van Cleemput (2012); www.edf.org.uk/blog/?p=19051</i>
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>Policy paper</i>
	Location	<i>National</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>Coalition policy on Roma has decreased support to indigenous and migrant Roma, the most discriminated against ethnic minority group in the UK</i>
	Methodology	<i>National policy paper</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Moving Forward – Gypsy Traveller Education, Guidance, Welsh Assembly Government Circular No: 003/2008 Replaces Circular No: 52/1990; Welsh Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (March 2008), www.learn-ict.org.uk/projects/inclusion/swansea_inc/handbook/wag_docs/Moving_Forward - Gypsy Traveller Education.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	Sample	<i>Policy paper</i>

	Location	<i>Regional</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>The Welsh Assembly is committed to raising attainment by indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Methodology	<i>Policy paper</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>Regional, national</i>

	Title, author, source	<i>Third Report submitted by the United Kingdom Pursuant to Article 25, Paragraph 2 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; Department for Communities and Local Government (2011) ; www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_3rd_SR_UK_en.pdf</i>
	Source and type	<i>Non-governmental report</i>
Thematic area	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	Sample	<i>Policy paper</i>
	Location	<i>National</i>
	Target population	<i>Indigenous and migrant Roma</i>
	Key findings	<i>As a CoE member, UK must observe its legal commitments</i>
	Methodology	<i>Policy paper</i>
	Representativeness, transferability of findings	<i>National and international</i>

5. Roma networks

Type of Associations, Organisations, NGOs	Name of Organisation	Email/Website	Roma involvement	Main area of expertise
Governmental group	All-party Parliamentary Group on Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (APPG GRT)	http://www.travellerslaw.org.uk/appg.htm http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmallparty/register/gypsy-roma-travellers.htm	None or very limited	The purpose of the APPG GRT is “to address the social inclusion of [G]ypsy Roma and [T]raveller communities, improve community relations, and tackle accommodation issues. Traveller Law Reform Project provides the secretariat for the group. Recently, it has widened its remit to education, employment, healthcare, gender, youth, culture, discrimination”
Cross-departmental working group	Cross-Departmental Working Group on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller inequalities	ian.naysmith@communities.gsi.gov.uk	None or very limited	Devises strategies, including the National Roma Integration Strategy requested by the European Commission
Departmental group	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Education Stakeholder Group		Very limited	Stakeholders from the statutory and non-statutory sectors, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Offers advice, actively engages in raising awareness and helping to change attitudes and behaviours, supports the Department's work to improve levels of ascription, attendance, transition, attainment by GRT pupils. Chaired by Lord Avebury
NGO	International Association of Roma Professionals	www.inarp.org	Predominantly Roma	Education, employment, benefits, healthcare, housing, media; diversity, equality, cultural training; mediation, empowerment; promotion of positive role models
NGO	Equality	www.equality.uk.co	¼ Roma	Education, employment, benefits, healthcare,

		m		housing
NGO	Roma Support Group	www.romasupportgroup.org.uk	Roma person as a board member; some Roma staff	Education, employment, benefits, healthcare, housing
NGO	RGT (Roma Gypsy Traveller) Network			Education, employment, benefits, healthcare, housing
NGO	Oxfam GB	MAadamova@oxfam.org.uk	One Roma member of staff	Education, employment, benefits, healthcare, housing
NGO	Roma of Great Abilities (ROGA)	Petrtorak@hotmail.com	Predominantly Roma	Promotion of positive role models, work with media and police
NGO	Irish Traveller Movement in Britain	www.irishtraveller.org.uk	National second-tier community development charity	Education, employment, benefits, healthcare, housing; promotion of increased race equality, civic engagement, inclusion, service provision and community cohesion
NGO	Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers (ACERT)	www.acert.org.uk	Open membership organisation with an elected board	Promotion of equal access to education for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT), safe and secure accommodation for GRT, equal access to health and other community services for GRT, fostering good community relations; promoting an end to discrimination against GRT groups on racial and other grounds
NGO	East Anglia Gypsy Council	Peter Mercer, M.B.E., 3 Oxney Road Traveller Site, Peterborough, PE1 5NX; john.day@talktalk.net		Support for Gypsies and Travellers in Cambridgeshire
NGO	Friends, Families and Travellers	fft@gypsy-traveller.org , www.gypsy-traveller.org	National non-profit voluntary organisation	Provides formal advice, information and training to all Traveller – whether traditional or new, settled or on the road.
NGO	The Gypsy Council	info@gypsy-	Association of Gypsies	Promoting of Gypsy and Traveller human

		association.co.uk www.gypsy-association.co.uk	and Travellers in and outside the Thames Valley	rights, supporting and empowering the communities, issues regarding education and literacy, challenging racism and discrimination, support with planning applications; support within the prison system
NGO	Labour Campaign for Travellers' Rights (Prof Thomas Acton)	c/o 25 Clarence Road, London N22 8PG; romanistan@yahoo.com		
NGO	National Association of Teachers of Travellers + other professionals (NATT+)	llewins@bucks.gov.uk	Association of teachers of Gypsy Roma and Traveller pupils	Provides support and educational advice
NGO	National Association of Gypsy and Traveller Officers	www.nagto.co.uk		Helps Local Authority Gypsy Liaison Officers share knowledge, compare best practice and improve standards of service
NGO	National Association of Health Workers with Travellers	Janice Adkins 01978352880		Provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge, information and resources; acts as a national voice to highlight the impact of legislation and local policies on the health and welfare of Gypsy/Traveller communities
NGO	National Travellers Action Group	codona@aol.com		
NGO	Travellers' Times	www.travellerstimes.org.uk	Rural Media Company run by Gypsy and Traveller journalists	Publishes Travellers' Times and Travellers' Times online
NGO	Traveller Law Reform Project	www.travellerslaw.org.uk		Works towards positive changes in the law for Gypsies/Travellers; the TLRP officer services the All Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsy Roma Travellers
NGO	Cardiff Gypsy and Traveller project	admincgpt@btconnect.com		Aims to support and enable Gypsies and Travellers in Cardiff to achieve a high and

				sustainable quality of life within their own culture; runs drop-in advice service and advocacy and support programme
NGO	UK Association of Gypsy Women	rachelfrancisingham@yahoo.co.uk	Managed solely by English Romany Gypsy women; central organisation dealing with issues relating to Romany Gypsies throughout the UK with representation in Scotland and Wales	Promotion of equality and diversity by eliminating discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation or religion; advancing education and raising awareness
NGO	London Gypsy and Traveller Unit	www.lgtu.org.uk		Supports Gypsies and Travellers in London; strives to influence decisions affecting their lives; to improve their quality of life and opportunities available to them, and to challenge the discrimination routinely experience by these communities
NGO	National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups	www.nationalgypsyttravellerfederation.org		Promotes social inclusion of excluded Gypsy and Traveller communities, provides a network group that enables more effective participation by community members; educates the general public in the culture, life and traditions of the Gypsy and Traveller community
NGO	Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group	info@dglg.org	Assistance and information provision to the Gypsy community in and around Derby and throughout the UK	Seeking and securing authorised stopping places and planning permission; advising local authorities on site matters; healthcare education and guidance; supporting children in school and education, welfare aid and housing guidance; host agency to the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups