



Impact of Involvement with Travellers (April 2018—January 2019)

Developing Involvement Together

The impact of involvement with the Travellers has been hugely positive, with involvement taking place at all levels. The following are some examples of what has changed by involving service users and carers in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services.

Collaboration and joint working



Our Pregnancy Journey



Our Pregnancy Journey booklet was developed in response to a request from Traveller women in the Southern Trust area and will be used as a reference to support their pregnancy journey.

The Traveller community across the Southern Trust area (Armagh, Coalisland, Dungannon, Craigavon and Newry) and Meath Travellers Workshop shared their ideas, suggestions and valuable feedback.

Key staff within Traveller Support Groups/Worker, Public Health Agency and Trust Staff (eg. Midwifery) contributions were invaluable. Advice for the pre-conception stage of pregnancy was identified as a key area to support Travellers and their understanding of health and wellbeing factors to consider for a healthy pregnancy.

Our Pregnancy Journey booklet will be launched and celebrated with the Traveller community, and shared with health professionals.

Educational Attainment, Employment and Skills

An Tearmann offer a drop in support service for Travellers five days per week, to provide support and signposting to local services.

An Tearmann also offer additional educational support to primary school aged children from the local area. The Home Work Club runs four days per week during term time. A member of the local Traveller community is being supported to complete her level 3 qualification in childcare through this program.

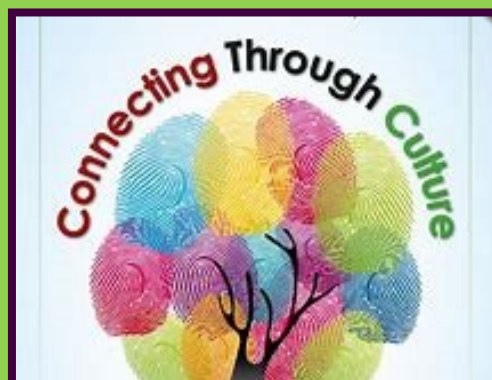


Targeted Programmes

Fifteen children from all ethnic backgrounds in the Armagh area took part in a Good Friend Good Neighbour Project. This programme complemented an earlier programme addressing good relations within the local neighbourhood.

Following on from this 14 young people took part in

'I Am Traveller' project to explore Traveller culture as a single identity but the programme developed and was renamed as the 'Connecting Through Culture' project.



The Cross Border Women's group

ran for 7 weeks and feedback from Nell McDonagh, facilitator and the women who attended was all very positive.

This was a Traveller led initiative and provided the women with a space to come together to recognise, develop their ability and potential and encourage them to talk about common problems which all of the Traveller women in the group experienced. This is something the women would like to see continued.

Targeted Programmes



"I really enjoyed meeting the other women and sharing our life stories many which were very similar."

"It was a wonderful opportunity and experience to come together as Traveller women to talk about our everyday lives and that of our family."

Reducing Stigma

Two very successful Traveller Living History Exhibitions showcased in **Craigavon and Newry** provided by Meath Traveller Workshop in partnership with Craigavon Traveller Support Committee.

The exhibitions included a fully restored Barrel Top Wagon (one of the most significant symbols representing traditional Traveller culture), the traditional tent, working tin smith, story telling by a Traveller woman and a camp fire.



There was great attendance in Newry from both schools and local community. Thirty plus Travellers and over 150 from local community attended the event in Craigavon.