



Annual Report

2013-2014



Registered charity no. 1112326



Friends Families and Travellers

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Introduction to FFT

Friends, Families and Travellers (FFT) was established during the passage through Parliament of the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act and has become a leading national organisation seeking to address and bring an end to the inequalities faced by Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities.

FFT began life as an informal support group working primarily with New Travellers but since those early days has evolved into a formal organisation providing advice, advocacy, information and other services to all Gypsies, Travellers and Roma regardless of ethnicity, nationality, culture or background.

Very early in its history, FFT developed a working relationship with the Public Law Project and provided crucial groundwork for two landmark legal challenges that led to local authorities being required to undertake basic welfare inquiries before carrying out evictions. FFT's work in this field gained recognition when the organisation was short-listed for the Human Rights Award in 1999. FFT became a registered charity in 2005.

FFT is the only national charity (registered charity no. 1112326 in 2005) which works on behalf of all Gypsies, Travellers and Roma regardless of ethnicity, nationality, culture or background. FFT is also a non-profit making company limited by guarantee (no. 3597515).

Today, FFT is a membership organisation run by a Trustee Board, which in 2013/14 was made up of eight Trustees, four of whom were Travellers or of Traveller heritage and two of whom were lawyers specialising in Traveller issues.

We provide casework, advocacy, advice and information to Gypsies, Travellers and Roma directly, either by phone or by outreach work to sites. We also provide advice on issues concerning the travelling communities to third party organisations.

We offer advice and advocacy for individual Gypsies, Travellers, and Roma and their families and communities.

We provide training and awareness raising seminars to mainstream agencies within the voluntary and statutory sectors to help them to

deliver appropriate and culturally sensitive services to Gypsies, Travellers and Roma.

We disseminate and share knowledge and information about good practice for working with Gypsies, Travellers and Roma to a wide range of inquirers, including students, voluntary and statutory agencies and the media.

We carry out research, in partnership with academic institutions, to build and promote greater knowledge and understanding of the issues that affect the lives of the travelling communities.

We provide community support, health and wellbeing outreach services to Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, helping individuals and families to access into the mainstream agencies best suited to meet their needs.

We facilitate and mentor local self support groups to empower individuals, families and communities to fulfil their potential and to take greater control over their own lives. We also work to support and build the capacity of other local grassroots Gypsy, Traveller and Roma groups and organisations.

We work with young Gypsies, Travellers and Roma to help them to overcome the barriers to inclusion that they experience and to participate more fully within mainstream society.

We supply expert witness statements on site provision and other Gypsy and Traveller needs at planning inquiries to assist Gypsies and Travellers to secure their own sites or to influence decisions to evict from unauthorised sites.

We participate within wider equality and diversity groups and fora to ensure that the interests of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma are not overlooked within plans and strategies aimed at developing a more just and equal society.

We work in our own right and in partnership with other Gypsy, Traveller and Roma organisations to campaign for legal reform so that the rights and needs of the travelling communities are fully and adequately addressed.

Report of the Chair - Judy Pointing



While reviewing the year I would firstly like to express our delight that Baroness Whitaker accepted our invitation to become President of FFT. For many years she has spoken out at the highest level in support of Gypsies and Travellers and we welcome her passion and dedication. On the work front, 2013 was another very busy year with a myriad of ongoing and new projects. Our staff continued to deliver a broad range of projects covering health, training, mental health, young people, advice, information and advocacy, casework, work in prisons with Traveller prisoners, as well as influencing decision-makers and service-providers at all levels. Our staff worked with great dedication through the year and I would like to thank them all for their hard work.

There were a number of staff and trustee changes during the year. Staff members Clare Bingham and Lisa Bruton moved on to pastures new. Both made an enormous contribution to the work of the organisation during their time with us and we wish them well in their future careers.

Avril Fuller was appointed as our Young People's Co-ordinator and Rachel Wemyss, formerly a volunteer for FFT, was appointed as Health Policy Officer. Gemma Challenger and Abbie Kirkby both took maternity leave during the year, with mothers and babies all doing well. FFT volunteer Lucy Birkinshaw was appointed to provide maternity cover and Emma Bray was appointed as Health Outreach Worker.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Greg Yates as a trustee but we were grateful for the wealth of knowledge and experience he contributed to FFT. We were pleased to welcome two new members of the Traveller community to the Trustee Board, Pachie Lister and Dominique Corbett, who subsequently took on the role of treasurer.

We have made a concerted effort to increase the number of volunteer placements we can offer and during the year we have benefited from the

Report of the Chair - Judy Pointing

Continuation...

contribution of 20 very able volunteers. Many thanks to all of them. We were also pleased to offer a paid internship to Sam Blausten, a student at the University of Sussex, who carried out excellent work on the Oral History Project.

Our staff team have continued to successfully raise funds to support our work. We are immensely grateful to our funders for their ongoing support in making the work possible and enabling us to make a difference to the lives of Gypsies and Travellers.

Judy Pointing
Chair

Our Trustees

Our Trustees during 2013/14 were -

Judy Pointing (Chair)
Neil Ansell (Vice Chair)
Justine Compton (Honorary Treasurer)
Marc Willers
Tony Thompson
Rob Torkington
Greg Yates (Until October 2013)
Pachie Lister
Dominique Corbett

Our Director, Chris Whitwell, is also Company Secretary.

Report of the Director - Chris Whitwell



Once again I have the pleasure to introduce our Annual Report and I hope that you will take a few minutes to read in the pages that follow about the vast range of the work we are doing to bring to an end the racism and discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers which still runs like a malignant thread through the fabric of our society.

As the age of austerity continues to persist we have seen the demise of some fine organisations that have been wonderful champions for equality and social justice over many years. I was particularly saddened by the loss of MENTER, which has been a great supporter of Gypsies and Travellers in the East of England, shortly followed by Equality South West which has also done good work in that area. The list of good organisations coming to an end during this period is too lengthy for me to mention all but I am pleased to report that FFT, whilst not immune from the cuts, has managed to retain 16 staff throughout the year, all doing brilliant work to achieve our objectives on behalf of the travelling communities.

The year has brought mixed fortunes to Gypsies and Travellers. On the one hand Government policies have done little to resolve the barriers that Gypsies and Travellers face, but rather have placed further obstacles in the path of people seeking to identify a site for their home or wanting peacefully to pursue their traditional trades. MPs, including the current Minister with responsibility for Equalities, have made pejorative comments about Gypsies and Travellers with seeming impunity, demonstrating once again that they truly are the last bastion of 'acceptable' racism in this country.

Despite the set-backs and the continuous barrage of slings and arrows that the travelling communities experience I sense a new resilience within the communities, a real desire to make things better for the generations that follow. The people we work with, be they Romany Gypsy women wanting to improve their health status and that of their families, or the men that we work

Report of the Director - Chris Whitwell

Continuation...

with within the prison system wanting to ensure that the next generation does not make the same mistakes as they did, or the young people thirsty for new opportunities through education and training, all are demonstrating the inherent strength and pride that exists within the community.

There is also a new appetite amongst the various organisations that represent, or work on behalf of, Gypsies and Travellers to develop a stronger, more coherent and unified voice. There is a recognition that together we can bring about real change in the attitudes of society so that Gypsies and Travellers can finally be seen as a valued part of our society, not as some sort of unwelcome outsider to be moved on out of sight and out of mind as quickly as possible.

Please take a few minutes to look at our website or Facebook pages or join the thousands of people who support our cause. Every person who expresses their support gives us hope and strength to believe that we can make things better.

Visit us at

www.gypsy-traveller.org

and

[www.facebook.com/
FriendsFamiliesandTravellers](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsFamiliesandTravellers)

The Advice and Information Unit

Policy and Planning

The issues that arise through our casework directly inform our local and national policy work, and help us work towards our aim to bring about societal change.

This year has been a difficult one for Gypsies and Travellers, with a Secretary of State who has recovered many planning appeals relating to private sites in the green belt for his own consideration. Having done so the Secretary of State has, in the vast majority of cases, rejected his inspectors' recommendations that planning permission be granted or chosen to grant shorter periods of temporary permission than those which his inspectors considered it would be appropriate to grant. His actions seem to be undermining the work of his planning inspectors.

Changes to the welfare system, and the reduction in the availability of Legal Aid mean that many of our clients are now presenting with multiple issues requiring more complex and time consuming casework.

The Government is remaining quiet on whether it will be repealing Section 444 (6) of the Education Act. Perhaps after consulting on this last year it has realised that this would not be a positive development and so has put it on the back burner.

On a positive note, The Welsh Government has introduced a Statutory Duty on Local Authorities to provide caravan sites for Gypsies and Travellers in Wales, the consultation on which we naturally expressed our support.

We organised a fringe meeting at last year's Labour Party Conference on Gypsies and Travellers which was well attended and received by MPs, Councillors, Trade Union members and party members.

We have also responded to various consultations including to the Canal and River Trust, on reducing the 14 day mooring limit, the

The Advice and Information Unit

Policy and Planning

Continuation...

Department for Work and Pensions Work Capability Assessment Review, the Department for Communities and Local Government consultation on Park Homes-Making Site Rules, and to the Welsh Government Consultation on the proposed revision of the Managing Unauthorised Camping Guidance.

We continue to participate in the Department for Communities and Local Government's liaison meetings with Gypsy and Traveller groups which take place quarterly in London, and where issues such as the Scrap Metal Act, planning cases, the EU Roma Integration Strategy, Councillor training, and various other issues are discussed.

We met in Chester this year for a two day residential with various Gypsy/Traveller groups from all over the UK to discuss joint working and campaigning on issues such as voter registration, the media, and supporting the All Party Parliamentary group for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

We participate in various liaison meetings with local authorities and the Police in Sussex, such as with Mid Sussex, Brighton and Hove, and West Sussex, advising on new site designs, pitch allocations policies, and site management.

We also organised a conference this year, jointly with the Black Training and Enterprise Group, on improving outcomes for offenders from Gypsy and Traveller communities. This led on from our work supporting Gypsy and Traveller peer groups in Ford and Lewes prisons, and casework we are carrying out nationally on behalf of Gypsies and Travellers, and their families, in prisons all over the country. Gypsies and Travellers are very over-represented in prisons, with 5% of the prison population, or 1 in 20, coming from a Gypsy/Traveller background, yet Gypsies and Travellers only make up 0.5% of the UK population.

The Advice and Information Unit

A high quality front line service for Gypsies and Travellers throughout the UK

The Advice and Information Unit continues to provide support, advice and advocacy to Gypsies and Travellers through our casework helpline which directly informs our social policy and campaigning work at national level.

This year we are including information about all the casework carried out at FFT, both nationally and that carried out locally in Sussex by our outreach workers. Our casework directly informs our social policy and campaigning at a national level.

In 2013/14 we took on 780 cases on the following issues -

Types of Traveller:

40% of this casework was carried out on behalf of Romany Gypsies

31% on behalf of Irish Travellers

18% on behalf of new Travellers

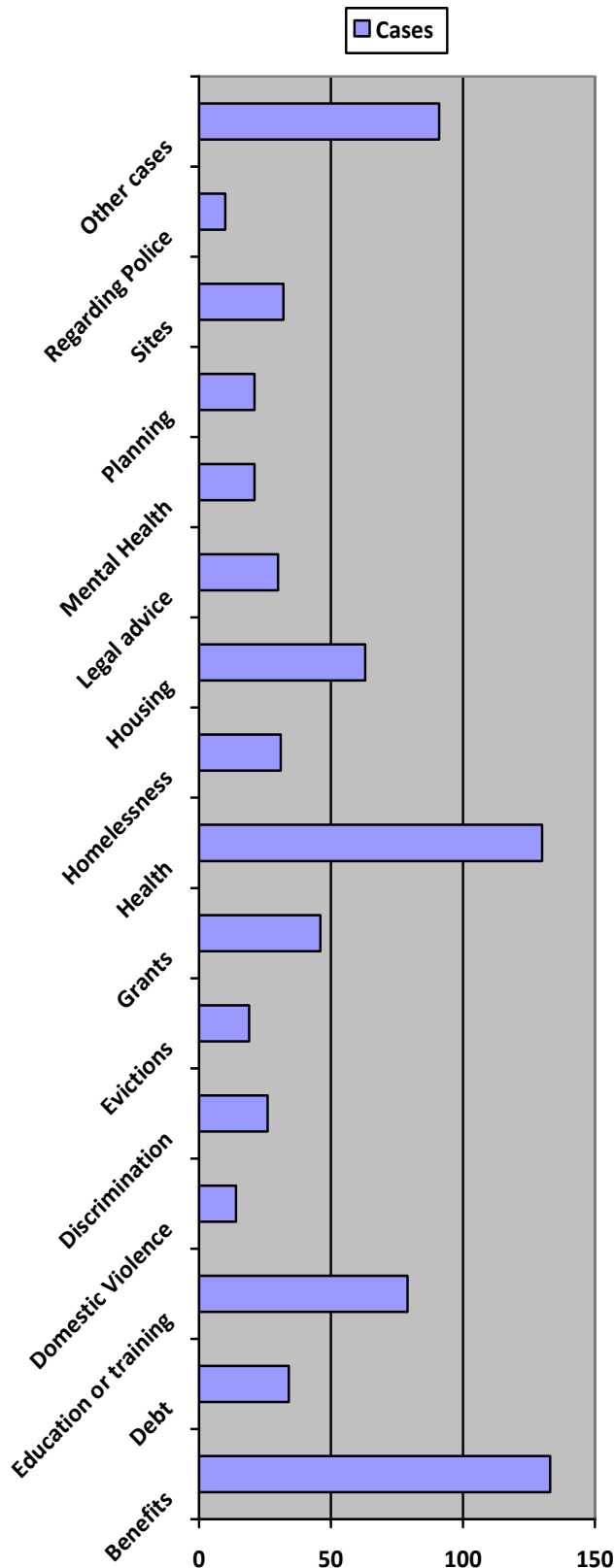
And the remainder on behalf of other Travellers.

This casework saw a financial benefit to our clients of £213,488 over the year. This includes £180,603 of benefits awarded or back-paid, £5,131 obtained for education or training and £9,444 obtained in grants for individuals and families in need.

We also advise other service providers regarding the support that they provide for Gypsies and Travellers.

The Advice and Information Unit

Continuation...



- And 91 other cases
- 10 cases regarding the police
- 32 cases on sites
- 21 cases on planning
- 21 cases on mental health
- 30 cases giving legal advice
- 63 cases on housing
- 31 cases on homelessness
- 130 cases on health
- 46 cases on grants
- 19 cases on eviction
- 26 cases on discrimination
- 14 cases on Domestic Violence
- 79 cases on education or training
- 34 cases on debt
- 133 cases on benefits

The Advice and Information Unit

Case Studies

Here is just a flavour of some of the cases with which we dealt in 2013/14 –

Case Study One

FFT helped an Irish Traveller family gain planning permission for their land in Surrey. The family needed expert statements and FFT were able to prepare these for a hearing. The family were granted temporary planning permission for the first time after living under constant pressure and fear of enforcement for many years. The four different family households are now able to access the ongoing medical and educational services which they desperately needed.

Case Study Two

FFT helped an Irish Traveller woman who had fled domestic violence access suitable accommodation for her and her family. FFT liaised between two local authority housing departments. FFT intervention resulted in an authority accepting a duty and successfully placing the woman in a Local authority bricks and mortar residence. FFT continues to support the family

Case Study Three

A Gypsy family contacted our National helpline for support to move on to a local authority site. They had been living on a private site where there were no facilities and with environmental issues. The couple were expecting a baby and for the health of the unborn child and mother needed to access secure site accommodation urgently. With the help of FFT they were successful in being allocated a pitch. The family are now living happily with baby on a local authority site and are accessing all the services which they needed.

Case Study Four

A New Traveller man who had been travelling around the country for 25 years on unauthorised sites contacted FFT. His health was deteriorating and he felt he could no longer continue to live in his uninsulated caravan accommodation on unsecure sites. FFT helped him access a GP and also access benefits for the first time. FFT supported him to make a homeless application and helped him to manage his appointments when he was referred into specialist secondary healthcare. With FFT support the man is now in receipt of all his benefit entitlements, has been awarded suitable bricks and mortar accommodation and continues to be treated by NHS specialists for his conditions. He reports that he is delighted to finally be able to address his serious health needs and has settled into permanent accommodation whilst still being able to be part of his community.

Staff



**Chris Whitwell,
Director of Friends, Families and
Travellers**

Chris was appointed Director in March 2006. He was previously working with FFT on a consultancy basis having held senior positions in the public and voluntary sectors.

**Emma Nuttall,
Advice and Policy Manager (Job Share)**
Emma initially started working for FFT as a volunteer. She is now the Advice Work Manager and has been working for FFT for over 14 years. Emma has a key role in policy work and represents the organisation in a number of national fora.



**Abbie Kirkby
Advice and Policy Manager (Job Share)**
Abbie has been working with FFT as a national caseworker since July 2007. Her background includes working with marginalised communities both in England and abroad.

**Sarah Mann,
Training and Capacity Building Manager**

Sarah joined FFT in August 2007. Her background is in community and environmental work, managing projects and training in the public and voluntary sectors.



Staff

**Zoe Matthews,
Strategic Health Manager**

Zoe is a trained Psychiatric Nurse with a degree in Anthropology and Sociology and has an MA in Health Promotion, where she specialised in the Health of Gypsies and Travellers. Initially joining as a volunteer, Zoe has now been working with FFT for over 14 years.



**Avril Fuller,
Young Person's Co-ordinator**

Avril is of Gypsy heritage and started as a volunteer with FFT before becoming a paid member of staff in 2003. Her background is with Traveller Education Services. Avril specialises in working with vulnerable people/learning difficulties/disabilities.

**Marya Sadouni,
Community Support Worker**

Marya, a Romany Gypsy, joined FFT in 2008, having previously been a volunteer. She worked previously as a carer in the healthcare profession and trained as a Doula nurse.



**Gemma Challenger,
Caseworker**

Gemma is a New Traveller and started with FFT in February 2007. Her background is working in learning disabilities.

Staff

**Lucy Birkinshaw, (from December 2013)
National Caseworker**

Lucy is an experienced caseworker with a background in working for Citizens Advice Bureaux and the Legal Services Commission.



**Lisa Bruton, (Until August 2013)
Health Policy Officer**

Lisa is a trainee psychotherapist with Brighton PCT. At FFT, she is involved in mental health research and Travellers, and creating a pool of Wellbeing resources for the community.

**Suzanna King,
Finance Officer**

Suzanna joined FFT in November 2005. Her background is in arts administration, working in Young People's and Children's Theatre.



**Michelle Gavin,
Caseworker.**

Michelle has been working for FFT as a National Caseworker since Jan 2010. Michelle is of Irish Traveller heritage through marriage. She is a founder member of GAIT (Gypsy and Irish Travellers Association South East) and previously worked as a volunteer caseworker and advocate.

Staff

**Liz MacPherson,
Heritage Lottery Project Officer**
Liz joined FFT in January 2010. Her background includes teaching at secondary level, and prior to FFT working for two other Sussex based Gypsy and Traveller groups.



**Charmaine Valler,
Community Engagement worker: Surrey**
Charmaine a Romany Gypsy joined FFT in 2011. Charmaine has a working background in mental health.

**Sarah Herlem,
Mental Health and Well-being Outreach Worker**
Sarah has been a Mental Health and Well-being Outreach Worker for FFT since September 2011. She has a background in counselling and therapeutic group work. She is experienced in working with a wide range of ages and issues including abuse, domestic violence, bereavement and substance misuse.



**Emma Bray (From October 2013)
Health Improvement Worker**
Emma started at FFT as a volunteer and became our Health Improvement Worker in October 2013. She is a Traveller and has a background in youth work.

Staff

**Rachel Wemyss,
Health Policy Officer**

Rachel joined FFT in August 2013 after volunteering with FFT whilst completing an MA in Social and Political Thought at Sussex. She previously worked with a digital rights organisation.



Volunteers

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers this year;

Michelle Polirer,
Jenny Gibson,
Jessica von Kaenel
Jessie Clifford,
Rhea Millward Thompson,
Daisy Stephenson,
Emmanuela Moaranda,
Anya Edmond-Pettit,
Mickey Murphy,
Teresa Sasiain,
Elizabeth Storey,
Georgi Hempson,
Kate Hutchinson,
Rachel Smith,
Julia Westgate,
and our intern Sam Blausten.

Join our organisation



Membership of FFT is now free and we would like anyone who shares our aims and objectives to sign up as soon as possible.

Membership entitles you to receive our Newsletter and to attend and vote at our Annual General Meetings. We are always pleased to hear from our members and to talk to them about the work that we are doing and,

importantly, membership of our organisation means that you are helping us in our struggle to bring an end to the racism, marginalisation and social exclusion suffered by the travelling communities.

If you would like to join us simply contact Suzanna on 01273 234777 or email: admin@gypsy-traveller.org

You can also support us and keep up with current issues by joining us on:

www.facebook.com/FriendsFamiliesandTravellers



<https://twitter.com/GypsyTravellers>



Partnership Working

We believe that, if we are to bring about positive and lasting change, we need to develop and strengthen our partnerships with all those other organisations that are working on behalf of Gypsies and Travellers. These include other national organisations such as the Traveller Movement in Britain as well as regional grass roots groups from all other regions of the country. There are many groups doing excellent work in all areas of the country but it is important that we all speak together with a coherent and unified voice if we are to bring about the legal and social policy changes that are so urgently required in order to achieve greater equality and justice for Gypsies and Travellers.

FFT is one of the larger organisations working on behalf of Gypsies and Travellers but it does not necessarily seek to take a lead role in its various partnerships but rather to provide consensual support to strengthen the voice of Gypsies and Travellers.

We are also committed to working with and supporting other organisations working in the field of equalities and human rights, in particular other national organisations working in the field of Race Equality and organisations seeking to bring about greater equality and justice for chronically excluded groups. We are a member of the BME Race Equality coalition (CORE) which is seeking to position race equality more centrally within wider equality agendas. We wish to ensure that Gypsy and Traveller issues are not just seen as a self-contained bubble but as part of a wider movement towards securing a fairer, more just and equal society.

Reaching Communities



This year saw the start of a new 5 year Reaching Communities Project in October, covering Sussex and extending to Surrey. Both outreach workers are from the Travelling Communities, enabling them to relate and build trust quickly.

Charmaine (in Surrey) and Marya (in Sussex) made an excellent start to the project. In the first 6 months, 182 people were helped to access services which they would not otherwise have had. Around half of the cases related to getting access to healthcare but homelessness and housing were also high on the list. Directly related to health and accommodation, people were also supported to access the financial help needed such as disability support.

Case Study

10 families on a local authority site suffered severe flooding at Christmas and were forced to move to the side of the road for safety. After moving back a few days later they were flooded again and the fire brigade evacuated them by boat. The local authority site manager offered to move the families to a rubbish tip and said they had nowhere else to put them. The families are currently crowded on hard-standing close to the site whilst it is rebuilt.

Our Outreach Worker supported families in putting together their complaints and FFT are pursuing the local authority over the unsafe way the families were and are being treated and tackling the Environment Agency over the lack of flood warning to sites. A new Sites Manager has recently been appointed by the local authority who has a good track record of helping Gypsies & Travellers.

In Sussex, we were able to “hit the ground running” as the health team had referrals ready to hand over and we had a high number of unauthorised encampments around Brighton where people were desperately in need of basic help with health and a safe place to stop.

In Surrey, our worker Charmaine had a different set of challenges. Charmaine had excellent contacts from previous health work but needed to build new relationships with other agencies. She also found that a lack of previous outreach and low engagement by agencies meant that she was finding long-standing problems going back several years and very complex cases requiring multi-agency involvement. Our workers on the national casework team were able to provide some welcome technical support on “sticky” cases. The differences in the work between the 2 counties are a good demonstration of the benefits of long term engagement and support.

Training and Learning

Over this year we delivered Gypsy & Traveller cultural capability training to a wide variety of organisations. Training was delivered by Sarah Mann, Charmaine Valler, Michelle Gavin, Emma Bray and Sarah Herlem as well as FFT Volunteers, Rachel Smith and Michelle Polirer.

We were fortunate to get funding from Brighton and Hove City Council to provide training for voluntary sector organisations, training over 120 people from over 70 organisations in 3 very busy sessions.

Linked to our strategic health work, we delivered training to several health bodies, with over 100 people trained in Bath & North East Somerset over 6 sessions, over 100 in West Sussex Mental Health over 4 sessions and 2 sessions with South East Coast Ambulance Service and their partner organisations.

Housing was also a popular theme this year, with 2 sessions delivered to Brighton & Hove City Council Housing Teams and one to Saxon Weald Housing Association. We also delivered training to Brighton and Hove's Stronger Families, safer Communities Team.

Linked to our Oral History Project, we were invited to provide training to the Heritage Lottery Fund's staff in London and across the country by video link up.

We worked with MacMillan to help them adapt their training materials to develop a Gypsy & Traveller specialist telephone helpline which is now up and running successfully.

Gypsies and Travellers

- 300,000 in UK (1 in 200)
- Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are legally recognised ethnic minorities



Oral History Project



Our Oral History Project was completed this year. The stories from 20 Romany Gypsies & Irish Travellers in Sussex were recorded, transcribed and translated into an immersive exhibition made up of 2 free-standing "turrets" with a different theme (e.g. "work" or "language") on each side. Each theme was told through snippets from the interviews illustrated by pictures. Visitors could listen to the interviews through headphones and see linked photos on DVD screens.



The turrets were linked by a large central panel showing a map of Sussex stopping places and a timeline which linked stories in the exhibition to significant law changes. The panel also had a large DVD screen showing a digital story and silent horses animation made by a volunteer. The exhibition was stewarded and had an

accompanying stewards folder to share with visitors

The complete experience of sound, pictures and text had a big impact on visitors at each of the 5 library and archive venues.

“Truly fantastical & well-researched... loved it!”

Comment left by visitor

18 Volunteers (6 from the travelling communities and 11 from the wider community) put huge efforts into the project. Volunteers were trained in oral history, curating & archiving, Gypsy & Traveller culture, sound recording and editing. The volunteers also said that they made friends with each other and felt a sense of team building through learning a new skill together. The process of interviewing also had a profound emotional effect on both interviewers and interviewees. Some of the volunteers who carried out interviews reported that “People told terrible things, without self-pity” and interviewees that “ it brings up buried stuff I didn’t realise I knew”.

A full set of the interviews, interview excerpts and their transcriptions were also sent on DVD to all the local archives.

Health and Social Care

The recent changes in the NHS are far reaching and everyone working in the field of Health and Social Care has had a lot to get their heads around. There is a new leader of the NHS, Simon Stevens and it remains to be seen what changes he will bring about. I personally hope that health inequalities are high on his agenda.

In the mean time we have seen a reduction in the role of the Department of Health, the growth of GP led Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the movement of Public Health back into Local Authorities. This has led to new challenges and some positive changes for staff at FFT. In policy terms, there is less Government funding to support third sector involvement than in previous years, whilst there has been an increase in opportunities to tender for contracts for service delivery. The lack of central funding and directive to a more localised model means that some of the big issues for marginalised and vulnerable groups of people now rely upon Public Health and CCGs to pick them up. We have some legislation and guidance that is meant to support this, but it is rather like being given tools for a job with far too few people to operate them.

My colleague Rachel Weymss has been contacting Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBBs) across the South East and South West of England to ensure that Gypsies and Travellers are included in their Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, and then working with CCGs and Local Authorities to encourage them to commission services for Gypsies and Travellers. As you may imagine this is a job with many hurdles. HWBBs need to decide which are their priority areas of work and if this is locally driven there may well be other factors which come into play such as unsympathetic Board members who are reluctant to be seen to be supporting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers. Whilst there is a need to address health inequalities, it is the Board which decides what these will be.

Health and Social Care

Continuation...

The next hurdle is getting the CCGs to understand the needs of Gypsies and Travellers themselves and to commission services which are useful and meet the needs of community members, rather than simply ticking the boxes. Once a service is commissioned the service delivery model needs to be appropriate. We can go so far down the line with a CCG or local authority only to find that they want us to deliver the service in a way with which they are familiar and which does not always work for our clients. There are only so many Rachels funded to support the work of ensuring that service planning and delivery is done in a way that is fully inclusive.

However, in light of the challenges the team continues to deliver some valuable support to community members. Rachel and I work at the policy level with Rachel supporting local work around the regions, whilst I work at national level trying to get those in ivory towers to understand how their policies will play out on the ground. We continue to work with the Inclusion Health Team at the Department of Health and I sit on the Inclusion Hub Advisory Group of the SE Coastal Ambulance Service who have recently been awarded a silver medal for their work on inclusion.

We continue to work on Health Improvement with various partners across Sussex and have developed a model whereby we support Gypsies and Travellers and FFT staff and volunteers through the Royal Society of Public Health, Health Awareness Programme, Levels 1 and 2. It is vital that we support community members to give them access to information that enables them to work within their own families and community groups. We have two members of staff working on the National Personal Health Budgets Programme to ensure that as Personal Health Budgets (PHBs) roll out that they are accessible and inclusive for all members of society. The PHBs are where those people suffering with long term conditions may be eligible for a payment to provide some of their own health care, as agreed in a formal health

Health and Social Care

Continuation...

plan. The advantage of this is that it leads to a much more personalised service. For example, Gypsies and Travellers who are nomadic may find it hard to maintain a personal carer through social services, but it will enable people to employ their own personal carer, who may be another member of the group. We look forward to the development of this programme as a more inclusive method of health and social care delivery.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Needs are still the poor relation within Health and Social Care provision. Many of our more vulnerable clients are living with huge amounts of stress resulting from a shortage of stopping places and insecure accommodation, bereavement, debt, racism and discrimination. The experience of racism itself is now proven to be linked to poorer mental health outcomes.

The issue of racism is one that comes up time and time again. Many of our clients are discriminated against both directly and indirectly. I have been working as trustee of National Voices and in partnership with the Race Equality Coalition (CORE) to explore and challenge the deeply embedded institutional racism within Health and Social Care Services. We hope to develop this work further during the next year.

Zoe Matthews, Strategic Health Manager

Youth Work



During the year, our youth worker, Avril, engaged with 188 Gypsy and Travellers children and young people. This was on authorised sites and unauthorised roadside and in housing or homeless. She gave 1 to 1 support to 86 young people and families and gave casework advocacy to access: CAMHS (5), Benefits(12), housing and

homelessness (12), Education and training to enable them to access work (37), individual grant applications (27).

Case Study

A Traveller boy aged 9 with severe physical disabilities becomes more aware of his disabilities as he gets older and self-conscious. Also feeling alienated from other young people his age. FFT worker works with young person to find out what activities he enjoys and specialist equipment needed to make his life as pain free as possible. FFT supports family with gaining an annual grant to provide specialist horse riding lessons, a specialist orthopaedic bed, radar key and tickets to see his favourite football team "Man U". The boy also joins in with some of FFT's summer activities and makes new friends with Travellers his age from all around Sussex.

With young people we ran groups and activities:

- Group of teenage girls - food preparation cookery sessions and sat a food hygiene training and gained certificates
- Sewing groups making corsets and dresses hired rooms in local Princes Trusts Centre
- Summer football and summer and winter activity trips
- CV and job support sessions
- Music groups for young people in Children or Youth Centres: Recording/mixing/writing lyrics/singing/exploring different musical instruments, producing a CD
- Music sessions in individual family homes with a Tutor and FFT Worker.
- Swimming and Gym Sessions for young people to access local leisure centres for young people to support healthy eating and physical activities for a healthy lifestyle
- Music groups for early years
- Climbing wall to local site
- Supporting, attending and facilitating a youth discussion group with 4 young people in London at a GTR conference with an adult and youth focus.

Funding for sports activities came from Sported and was delivered in partnership with Albion in the Community. Funding for music activities came from Youth Music and was delivered with our partner, Rhythmix.

Crystal's Vardo theatre



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ENGLAND**

Crystal's Vardo was premiered last year in June 2012, and has since performed twenty times in seventeen different venues to an audience of around 2,500.



In the summer of 2013 we received funding from The Arts Council which enabled us to tour the play and explore new audiences. Crystal's Vardo was originally written in response to the continued problems of discrimination and bullying faced by young Travellers and to give schools a tool to help tackle some of these issues by raising

awareness of Traveller history and culture within school. We toured the play in Surrey, Kent, Sussex and even as far as Manchester where it was extremely well received. The play was originally written for primary school children but we found that it reached out to a much bigger audience. We were invited to perform as part of an International Storytelling Festival at The Rose Theatre in Kingston which was a primarily adult audience.

'Crystal's Vardo was brilliant this evening! Should be shown to educate all..!' JoJo Keogh, MBE.

We went on to perform the play to Sussex Police as part of a police training event and student teachers at Brighton University.

'Thank you for educating me today and giving me an understanding of The Gypsy and Traveller Community.... story, cast excellent'

Crystal's Vardo theatre

Continuation...



Sussex Police Training event

One of the schools we visited in Bexley had a particularly positive outcome and the day following the performance, a young Gypsy girl and her family travelled to school in their horse drawn Gypsy wagon. This was the first time she had been willing to travel this

way to school, she was now proud and happy to be open about her heritage.

In February 2013 we received some funding from The Big Lottery Awards For All which gave us the opportunity to broaden the audience further, taking the play to both a men's open prison and a further education college for young adults. The prison performance was a great success and one of the inmates, an elder of the Traveller community said 'I can't believe something like this is happening'. Unfortunately during the college performance the actors experienced some racist comments being shouted from a small group of young adults. Although this was uncomfortable for the performers, it highlighted a problem

among a minority of students and the college were then able to address this with a positive outcome.



We hope Crystal's Vardo will be an ongoing project and that in the future we can secure some long term project funding.

Income and Expenditure Account:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
Incoming Resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Grants	2	60,833	241,080	301,913	364,247
Donations		1,928	-	1,928	501
Bank Interest		703	-	703	250
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Fees, subscriptions and publication sales		<u>102,019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>102,019</u>	<u>42,968</u>
Total Incoming Resources		<u>165,483</u>	<u>241,080</u>	<u>406,563</u>	<u>407,966</u>
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities	3	185,688	268,587	454,275	421,888
Governance costs	3	<u>2,967</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,967</u>	<u>3,141</u>
Total Resources Expended		<u>188,655</u>	<u>268,587</u>	<u>457,242</u>	<u>425,029</u>
Net (Outgoing) / Incoming Resources before transfers	4	(23,172)	(27,507)	(50,679)	(17,063)
Transfers		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net (Outgoing) / Incoming Resources after transfers		(23,172)	(27,507)	(50,679)	(17,063)
Fund Balances brought forward		<u>139,477</u>	<u>14,587</u>	<u>154,064</u>	<u>171,127</u>
Fund Balances carried forward	10	<u>116,305</u>	<u>(12,920)</u>	<u>103,385</u>	<u>154,064</u>

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

There have been no recognised gains or losses other than the result for the financial year and all surpluses or deficits have been accounted for on a historical cost basis.

...With grateful thanks to our funders and partners:

We could not achieve the many projects and services which we deliver without the help of our funders on whom we rely in order to survive as an organisation.

We are especially indebted to –



The Big Lottery who funded our Reaching Communities project aimed at building the capacity of Gypsy and Traveller individuals and communities throughout Sussex and Surrey.

The Heritage Lottery Fund who funded our Oral History Project which provides a valuable ongoing resource for local historians.



Lankelly Chase Foundation who funded our Mental Health and Wellbeing work.



Lloyds Bank Foundation who funded our engagement work in Surrey

The Irish Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: Emigrant Support Programme who fund part of our work on behalf of Irish Travellers.



The Tudor Trust, who provide us with much needed core funding.



Youth Music funded our Youth Music activities

...With grateful thanks to our funders and partners:

Continuation...



Children in Need

BBC Children in Need who fund our work with children and young people.

Sported funded our Young People's activities



The Department of Health who fund our Strategic health work to ensure that Gypsies and Travellers are included in the new structures, policies and procedures of the NHS.

The Henry Smith Charity who support our national casework and advocacy.

The Travellers' Aid Trust for supporting our work in prisons.



LOTTERY FUNDED



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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The Arts' Council for supporting our play Crystal's Vardo.



Garden Court Chambers and Matrix Chambers for supporting our work.



The various statutory agencies who support our health and outreach work including Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group, Brighton and Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council.

Finally we would like to thank FFT members, partners and colleagues in scores of other organisations who have given us help, encouragement and support over the year and without whom we could not have made nearly as much progress on behalf of the communities that we serve.