



# Annual Report

## 2014-2015



Registered charity no. 1112326



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## Introduction to FFT

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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) 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 2014/15 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

## Introduction to FFT

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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 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 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 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

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This year marks the coming of age of FFT in that we are celebrating our 21st birthday. A lot has happened over those 21 years since the very beginning when a few people, led by Steve Staines, got together to try to challenge the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act which was to have such a devastating impact on the lives of Gypsies and Travellers and which brought to a sudden halt the progress (albeit slow) that had been made on meeting the national shortfall of Gypsy/Traveller sites.

Since those early days FFT has evolved and changed in many ways. Originally we were regarded as a predominantly 'New Traveller' organisation, most of the original Trustees being New Travellers or related in some way to that community. We were also more of a campaigning group than a service delivery organisation. Over the years we have evolved to become much more 'mainstream' and today over 80% of our work is with 'traditional' Travellers (Irish Travellers and English Romany Gypsies) rather than our prime focus being on New Travellers. However it is fundamental to our ethos that we work with all Gypsies, Travellers and Roma regardless of ethnicity, nationality, culture or background.

An important watershed for us was in 2005 when we finally became a Registered Charity and so were able to open the door to funding opportunities that were previously denied. This led to the rapid expansion of our organisation from five staff to twenty, assisted by the then Labour Government's 'Tackling Race Inequalities' Programme. Like all third sector organisations however FFT is now feeling the chill winds of austerity and our current staffing levels have dropped to fourteen.

We still deliver a wide range of projects and programmes, some of which you can read about in the following pages of this Annual Report, but all of which are built upon the three pillars of activity that we undertake - casework, capacity building and campaigning. A key strength of our

## Report of the Chair - Judy Pointing

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*Continuation...*

...organisation is that we use the data, insights and experience from our vast body of casework directly to inform our campaigning and social policy work at national level.

We have been fortunate to recruit and retain an excellent and highly motivated staff team, half of whom are themselves from the travelling communities and this diversity adds to the richness and creativity of our organisation.

But the work we do would not happen without the huge infrastructure of support for which we are highly grateful. We have a wide range of helpful funders who recognise the value of what we do and the positive outcomes that we achieve, and appropriate acknowledgement of their contribution to our work is made elsewhere in this report. A personal thank-you from me goes to each and every one of them.

I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Trustee Board, some of whom have been with FFT since its inception in 1994, and whose sheer dogged persistence has kept our organisation afloat during sometimes challenging periods. To get up at 3.00 am to fly from Scotland for a Trustee Board meeting takes real dedication, and I am grateful to Rob Torkington and all my other Board colleagues for their continued support.

I would like to say a big thank you to our esteemed Honorary President, Baroness Janet Whitaker who, along with Lord Eric Avebury, does so much in the House of Lords to promote the cause of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma and to hold Government to account where appropriate.

I feel sure that with supporters and allies like these maintaining the pressure on central Government we will finally bring about the changes that are needed to achieve an equal, just and cohesive society.

## Report of the Director - Chris Whitwell

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The past year has seen so much activity across a vast range of areas that it is difficult to know where to start in trying to encapsulate everything within a brief summary report. So I will not even try, but rather pick up on a few random thoughts, and leave you to mine the various riches contained in the specific project reports of my colleagues on the pages that follow.

Firstly I celebrate the fact that FFT has survived a year which has seen many excellent third sector organisations falling victim to the grim consequences of an economy based on continuing austerity. We have achieved this partly through prudent financial management and dogged persistence but I believe also through having built up a track record of excellence and reliability in the work that we deliver.

Another important factor is that most of our funders recognise that the inequalities faced by Gypsies and Travellers are some of the most intractable in today's society and that organisations like ours must be supported to help bring about the changes that are needed.

The strength, commitment, knowledge and creativity of our staff, trustees, volunteers and interns never ceases to amaze me and I am grateful to each and every one of them for their efforts to bring about a fairer and more just society for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma.

But whilst my colleagues achieve some amazing outcomes at the individual and family level, helping hundreds of clients facing serious and immediate crises in their lives, it is at the societal and structural level that things need to change. We need to make central Government, the public sector and the wider community face up to the fact that in these allegedly more enlightened times, racism and discrimination against Gypsies, Travellers and Roma is still a major issue, despite progress in other areas of the equalities agenda. For this reason we look to our natural allies,

## Report of the Director - Chris Whitwell

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*Continuation...*

...other BME organisations, who are themselves only too aware that the problems and negative outcomes of race inequality have not gone away, despite the issue no longer being on the Government's equalities agenda. We at FFT will work with our colleagues in other organisations that care about equality, not just Gypsy, Traveller and Roma organisations, but all those that seek fairness and social justice for those chronically excluded people that are so often overlooked (or vilified) by society.

We want also to work with central Government to help it meet its own responsibilities towards Gypsies, Travellers and Roma people. In the autumn of 2014, after a lot of thought, we decided to withdraw from the Department of Communities and Local Government's stakeholder group because we felt that it was lacking in direction, without support or involvement from Government Ministers. Now that new Ministers are in place we have re-joined the group and are keeping an open mind about its effectiveness in bringing key issues to the attention of Government.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to some of the people with whom we work and without whom we could not have made the progress we have. I will not repeat the acknowledgements that our Chair has made but will add a few of my own. I am grateful to the Chair and all the Trustees for their ongoing dedication, confidence and support. I also never cease to be impressed by the abilities, knowledge and perseverance of our colleagues in other organisations and, whilst singling out individuals for mention may seem unfair on all those other unsung heroes and heroines who do so much for the cause, I would like to pay special tribute to two people. One is Chris Johnson and his team at the Community Law Partnership, with whom we work closely to help individual clients who need to resolve their problems through legal action. The other is Gill Brown who has resolutely been the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma link to



## Report of the Director - Chris Whitwell

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*Continuation...*

Visit us at

[www.gypsy-traveller.org](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org)

and

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

...Parliament and the All Party Parliamentary Group. Gill has worked tirelessly, often unpaid, to ensure that parliamentarians are properly briefed about Gypsy, Traveller and Roma issues and, importantly, has kept all the various third sector organisations in the loop in a consensual and inclusive way.

As our Chair has said, 2015 marks our 21st birthday and a long and tortuous path has led us to this point. What will the next 21 years bring? Our wish is for a real change in society so that Gypsies, Travellers and Roma become fully accepted as an integral and valued part of our community, still able to pursue their nomadic way of life where they wish to do so, free from harassment, discrimination and persecution.

## Our Trustees

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Our Trustees during 2014/15 were -

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

Our Director, Chris Whitwell, is also Company Secretary.

## The Advice and Information Unit

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### Policy and Planning

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

In September 2014 the government launched a planning consultation proposing to change the definition of Traveller for planning purposes, meaning that if you are too old or ill to travel you would no longer be seen as a Traveller for planning purposes and would lose the right to live on a site. Unsurprisingly we were very against this proposal and we objected to it and promoted awareness of the proposal amongst our clients.

With the General Election of May 2015 then looming we launched an electoral registration campaign, helping Travellers register to vote and promoting the importance of voting to residents on sites in Sussex and Surrey particularly. Many of the Gypsies and Travellers we helped register to vote were doing so for the very first time.

We continue to participate in the Department for Education Gypsy and Traveller Stakeholder meetings and the Sussex Police Gypsy and Traveller Advisory Group meetings, and we provided training for Sussex and Surrey Police Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officers. We have withdrawn from the Department for Communities and Local Government Gypsy/Traveller Stakeholder meetings as we felt we were there to tick a box and were not being fully informed of things (for example of the planning definition consultation).

We have supported Gypsy/Traveller peer support groups in HMP Lewes and HMP Ford, and carried out casework for prisoners in these and other prisons round the country. Three inmates from HMP Ford open prison carried out their Community Voluntary Service Placements at FFT

## The Advice and Information Unit

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### Policy and Planning

#### *Continuation...*

...this year. This was a pioneering idea, suggested by the inmates themselves, and this is the first time that we are aware of inmates carrying out their community service at a Gypsy/Traveller voluntary organisation. We also delivered Gypsy/Traveller cultural awareness training to staff at the two previously mentioned Sussex prisons in conjunction with the inmate of HMP Ford who was doing his community service with FFT at the time.

We attended two residential two-day events with other Gypsy/Traveller groups from all over the country to network and see how we can work together to campaign on relevant issues.

We have responded to several student enquiries and research projects this year.

We have responded to various consultations including the Draft UK Report to the United Nations under the International Convention for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (CERD), the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Call for Evidence on Energy Issues Affecting Park Homes, Sussex Police Gypsy and Traveller Equality Action Plan, and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission's Strategic Priorities Consultation.

# The Advice and Information Unit

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

Our national advice line for Gypsies and Travellers provided telephone advice and support for 257 clients and 411 issues, the breakdown of this work is as follows -

### Type of Traveller

Irish Travellers 42%

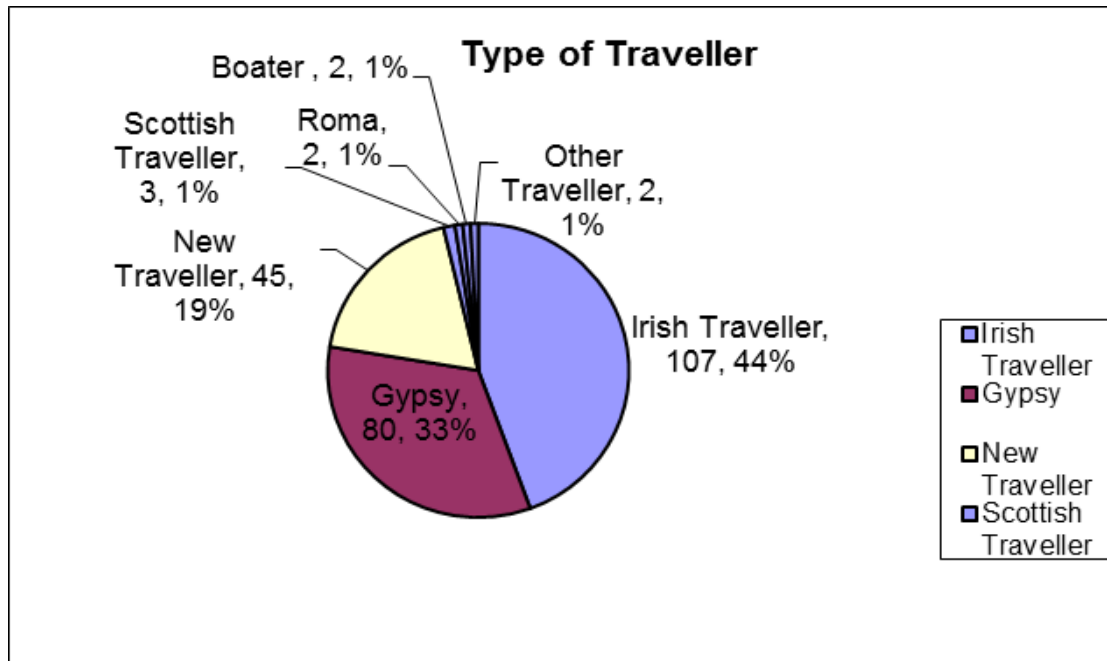
Romany Gypsies 31%

New Travellers 18%

Scottish 1%

Roma 1%

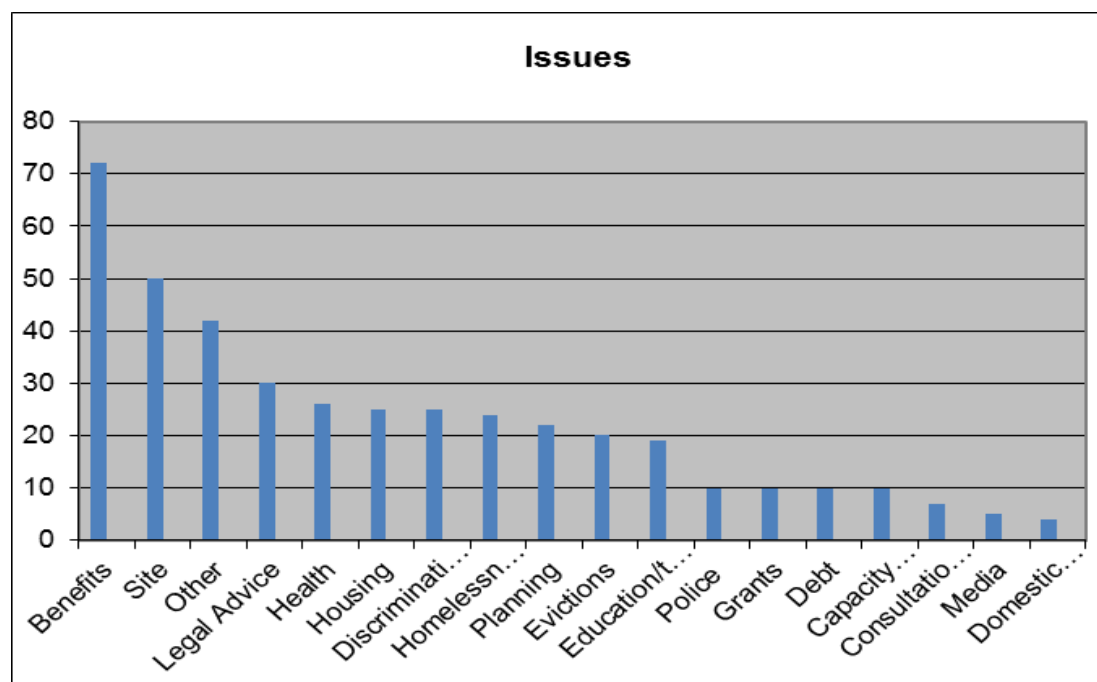
Boater 1%



## The Advice and Information Unit

The most commonly occurring issues we supported Gypsies and Travellers with through our advice line in 2014-2015 were benefits, site related issues, seeking legal advice, evictions, discrimination, planning and health, which were equally high in the last reporting year (2013-14).

Benefits - 72 cases / 17%  
 Sites - 50 cases / 12%  
 Legal Advice - 30 cases, 7.5%  
 Health - 26 cases / 6%  
 Discrimination - 25 cases / 6%  
 Housing - 25 cases / 6%  
 Homelessness - 24 cases / 6%  
 Planning - 22 cases / 5.5%  
 Eviction - 20 cases / 5%  
 Education / Training 19 cases / 4.5%  
 Police - 10 cases / 2.5%  
 Debt - 10 cases / 2.5%  
 Grants - 10 cases / 2.5%  
 Capacity Building / Organisational Development - 10 cases / 2.5%  
 Consultations - 7 cases / 2%  
 Media - 5 cases / 1%  
 Domestic Violence - 4 cases / 1%  
 Other - 42 case/10%



## The Advice and Information Unit

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Over 40% of the Gypsies and Travellers our Advice and Policy Team worked with last year were homeless (which includes those on unauthorised encampments). 25% said they are not literate and 32% have a disability and many more didn't answer this question so we expect these figures could be considerable higher. This helps illustrate the importance of our service in supporting vulnerable clients.

We are also pleased to say that the support we provided brought positive financial outcomes for many of our clients amounting to £169,700 over 2014-2015.

One important piece of policy related casework we have been involved in is supporting a Travelling Showman / Gypsy family who have been trying to access services for their disabled son whilst travelling. We supported the family in getting legal representation and wrote an expert witness statement for a Judicial Review case. The court ruled in the family's favour stating the LA was still able to provide services outside its boundaries - this is a major victory for the family and for the Gypsy and Traveller community as a whole. The case is on-going so watch this space.

Thank you very much to our volunteers this year: Michelle Polirer; Jessica von Kaenel-Flatt; Jenny Gibson and Cheney Mathias.

## The Advice and Information Unit

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### Case Studies

*Here is just a flavour of some of the cases with which we dealt in 2014/15 –*

FFT helped an English Gypsy family gain planning permission for their land in Kent. The family needed expert statements and FFT was able to prepare these for the planning authorities. The family were granted full planning permission for the first time and are now living without fear of enforcement. The couple and their six children are now able to access the ongoing medical and educational services which they needed.

A Gypsy lady contacted our national helpline for support when site management on her local authority Gypsy site wanted to make health and safety fire regulation changes- but at a cost to the client. FFT was able to advocate for the lady and this resulted in the Housing Association management implementing the changes at their own expense. The lady is now living happily in her home and is delighted with the improvements.

FFT assisted a man who has significant mental and physical health problems to gain access to a personal assistant through Adult Social Care. He now has a carer, from his own community who understands his background, to assist with daily living for 10 hours a week. FFT has now managed to secure a carer for a further ten hours a week through the NHS continuing care budget. This has made a significant improvement to this man who was struggling with day to day life.

FFT were able to help a New Traveller lady who was living on a private site negotiate with HMRC. The lady had been unwell and during this period her personal computer had broken down. This resulted in her filing a late self-employment tax return which produced penalties, causing the lady to become more anxious and depressed. FFT advocated on her behalf and the penalties were written off.

FFT assisted an Irish Travelling family to gain permanent planning permission for five plots which was large enough for the grandparents, their four children and all the grandchildren to live together and continue to access to education, work and health care. The entire family now has a secure base where they can live together. One family member needs twenty four hour access to breathing equipment which would have been difficult to access if they were living on the roadside.

FFT were contacted by a Gypsy living on a Council run site. She had lived on the site since it opened thirty years ago. They had always kept horses on Council land adjacent to the site. This client told me that Travellers had used the land for grazing for 200 years and it had been a traditional stopping place for Travellers. The residents had been issued with a notice from bailiffs stating that if horses were not removed by the following week then they would be removed. One elderly man on the site said that he would kill himself if he had to get rid of his horses. FFT negotiated with the Council for an extra 28 days. In this time FFT managed to negotiate with the Council (as a Solicitor could not be found to take on the case) and each resident was granted grazing rights for two horses on the land.

## Staff

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**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 15 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

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**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 15 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

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**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.

**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.

## Staff

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**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**  
**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.

A special Thank You to two members of staff who left us during the year:

Rachel Wemyss, Health Policy Officer, left at the end of the year to pursue a doctorate (after completing a pilgrimage walk to Santiago de Compostela).

Lucy Birkinshaw, National Caseworker, also left during this period to pursue voluntary activities.

Both made a great contribution to the work of FFT and will be sorely missed by their colleagues.

## Join our organisation

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**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:

Tel: 01273 234777

Email: [admin@gypsy-traveller.org](mailto:admin@gypsy-traveller.org)

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

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



<https://twitter.com/GypsyTravellers>



## Partnership Working

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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

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We are now in our second year of a 5 year Reaching Communities Project, covering Sussex and extending to Surrey.

Charmaine (in Surrey) and Marya (in Sussex) have had a busy year. 366 Gypsies and Travellers from 126 families were supported to access services that they would not have otherwise received (125 from 39 families in Surrey and 279 from 87 families in Sussex). Casework issues included 29% health (10% up from last year) 22% benefits, 21% housing/homelessness, 3% DV, and 6% discrimination (up from last year).

We assertively outreached to 6 Traveller sites in Sussex and 7 in Surrey. We also outreached to housed Travellers and 5 encampments. We also took case work through our telephone gateway at FFT as well as direct calls to Outreach Staff mobiles. Casework increased from an already high level last year so new outreach was to sites in particular need.

Through casework, 5 people were helped to access training or education. Just 3 others accessed IT training.

We worked in partnership with several agencies to run on-site confidence building activities:

- 20 people attended 2 sessions of tea and info with Traveller Education at Bridie's Tan
- At Fairbridge site and Bedelands site, 2 activity days with Fire Service, Blood pressure, CAB, Healthy Hearts and smoking cessation, attended by 16 and 20 people respectively.
- Surrey Fire Service installed smoke alarms at 20 sites following our liaison work after 2 tragic fire deaths.

We supported 26 people to attend agency focus groups and panels:

## Reaching Communities

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- 10 people at 2 Sussex Gypsy & Traveller Advisory Groups
- 8 people at 2 focus groups on BME health and under 5's
- 8 people at health consultation groups on cancer screening, healthy eating, HPV vaccine, maternity services/breastfeeding.
- 19 people were supported into paid employment (all but one in Sussex) focused of getting NI numbers and self-employment support with HMRC.

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### *Our learning from this year*

We are seeing different trends emerging in Sussex and Surrey work. Overall, Surrey statutory services seem not as well prepared to deal with Gypsies and Travellers and particular issues have appeared with a high number of requests for support with child protection issues (where social services appear to be struggling) and planning permission cases. Planning permission appeals and reversals are likely to be prominent over the next few years following the judicial review decision against government call-ins on Gypsy cases.

In Sussex we are seeing a high number of requests for support around employment, including Roma self-employment, difficulties with literacy for Job Agencies and a lack of formal work record. We have seen an increase in requests to get NI numbers, which has changed recently to a three stage process, requiring literacy. In response to this we set up a meeting with HMRC to exchange information and have gained access to 2nd tier support services within HMRC with plans for a future joint project.

In line with many charities we have seen an increase in debt as benefits no longer cover outgoings and we are training staff up to prepare for Universal Credit roll out.

## 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, Marya Sadouni, Michelle Gavin, Emma Bray and Sarah Herlem

Linked to our strategic health work, we delivered training to several health bodies, with 2 sessions for West Sussex Well-being Hubs and 2 sessions with South East Coast Ambulance Service and their partner organisations.

Housing was also a popular theme this year, with 1 session delivered to Brighton & Hove City Council Housing Teams and another to Sovereign Housing Association.

We also delivered training to Brighton and Hove's Stronger Families, safer Communities Team.

In Surrey, we delivered training to Cobham Children' Centre and Primary School and to the Richmond Foundation supporting people into work. We also delivered 2 sessions to Sussex and Surrey Probation Services.

We completed a national project with Citizens Advice as part of their "Stand Up for Equality" initiative to help them improve the service that all their Bureaux deliver to Gypsies & Travellers across the country. We helped co-design a

resource pack for all bureaux and a training programme to be delivered in 2 regions. We delivered the training for London & the SE.

### Gypsies and Travellers

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





## Health and Social Care

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*'The NHS is at a crossroads and needs to change and improve as it moves forward'.*

That was the message from NHS England's Chief Executive Simon Stevens when he launched the NHS Five Year Forward View ([www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/futurenhs](http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/futurenhs)). The Forward View represents the shared view of the national leadership of the NHS, setting out the choices - and consequences - that we will face over the next five years.

Zoe Matthews, FFT's Strategic Health Manager considers the implications for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers and organisations like FFT. Simon Stevens has stated that "It is perfectly possible to improve and sustain the NHS over the next five years in a way that the public and patients want. But to secure the future that we know is possible, the NHS needs to change substantially, and we need the support of future governments and other partners to do so." He explained: "We need to get serious on three fronts: we need to take our own health seriously, change the way services are provided, and yes ask the government to support us financially to carry on delivering high quality services.

Much of our work at FFT is dictated by where we can get funding from, the last few years have seen a shift from national funding for small charities like FFT working in health, to localised commissioning, often informed by what local communities are able to get into their Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. JSNA's are the documents which analyse the health needs of local communities, the danger being that if people's needs are not identified in the JSNA, then little attention or funding will be given to that group of people.

## Health and Social Care

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### National Gypsy and Traveller Health Inclusion Project

*Continuation...*

The last year of FFT's work for the department of Health on our 'National Gypsy and Traveller Inclusion Project' in partnership with LeedsGATE focused on supporting and encouraging Local Authorities and Commissioning Groups to include the needs of Gypsies and Travellers into their JSNA's (see Summary to left). Rachel Weymss worked to produce three excellent reports which capture this work (all available on FFT's website).

#### **Executive Summary**

This project was funded by the Department of Health and was aimed at addressing the chronic exclusion of Gypsies and Travellers across the health economy, supporting the Inclusion Health agenda and leading to improvements in the health of Gypsy and Traveller people in England. Two leading organisations in this field worked to provide a package of commissioning and implementation support to all levels of the new NHS architecture.

The project commenced shortly after the Health and Social Care Act (2012) was published, which for the first time placed an 'equality duty' on the Secretary of State for Health. It also came on the heels of publication of The Marmot Report - Fair Society, Healthy Lives. Critically the Marmot Report outlined the significant costs to the public purse generated by health inequities. Subsequent statements by Professor Sir Michael Marmot have indicated his view that whilst investment across the health gradient is required, investment should be targeted proportionally to reduce health inequity where it is most extreme. What data we have tells us that Gypsy and Traveller people are amongst the most vulnerable to health inequity. The National Gypsy and Traveller Health Inclusion project was never a 'soft' project, we were not specifically attempting to generate local good practice (although we have). FFT and Leeds GATE were seeking to observe, and perhaps positively influence, how the new 'commissioning' environment would impact on improving Gypsy and Traveller health.

As well as providing support, the organisations were able to utilise emerging guidance and commissioning tools to implement changes on the ground and at a local level. This has meant that we have been able to see first-hand how policy has translated into action for vulnerable and marginalised communities, and also where and why it is failing.

## Health and Social Care

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### National Gypsy and Traveller Health Inclusion Project

*Continuation...*

Gypsy and Traveller people's health is important on its own account but we might also view the inclusion of Gypsy and Traveller people's health, or not, as an exemplar of how the system deals with extremes of health inequity. Our conclusion must be that the new health commissioning system deals with such extremes very badly, often reinforcing, rather than addressing them, with all of the ongoing costs (human, social and financial) thereby generated.

The project culminated in an excellent conference *Health on the Margins - commissioning to tackle health inequalities in Gypsy and Traveller communities*, which was delivered in Birmingham and attended by over 100 health and social care representatives and supported by Traveller colleagues. The money for this project has now come to an end and it remains to be seen whether we will be funded by the DH to carry on our strategic work.

However, the Health and Social Care Projects continue to work at a local level to bridge Gypsies and Travellers into local health services, as well as providing health improvement and promotion advice to individuals, families and groups.

## Health and Social Care

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### National Gypsy and Traveller Health Inclusion Project

*Continuation...*

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#### *Health Improvement*

This work has been funded by Brighton and Hove Public Health as well as East Sussex and West Sussex Public Health, in order to deliver health promotion and health improvement interventions, wherever an opportunity exists. We also run a fortnightly Zumba class where we provide opportunities to discuss any health issues that people may want help with over a healthy lunch. There have been over 100 beneficiaries across Sussex, many of whom have been personally supported by FFT's Emma Bray to achieve better health outcomes.



## Health and Social Care

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### National Gypsy and Traveller Health Inclusion Project

*Continuation...*

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#### **Wellbeing Work**

FFT works with East Sussex County Council to support Gypsies and Travellers into Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Services across the county and has already reached out to and supported over 70 beneficiaries this year. Sarah has also worked with some service providers to see how they can improve service provision and access for Travellers.

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#### **Brighton and Hove CCG Engagement Project**

FFT works with our local CCG to engage Gypsies and Travellers into CCG decision making and consultations. This year Michelle has helped the CCG work with over 100 local Travellers to look at a number of different issues, ranging from peoples experience of local health services, down to particular issues such as screening for cancer and smoking cessation. In addition a help card was produced with the Gypsy Traveller community in Brighton to address the barriers to accessing primary care the community had identified.



- I need help filling in forms
- I need help reading and understanding
- I would like a GP who is the same gender as me
- I would like to speak to someone confidentially

## Health and Social Care

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### National Gypsy and Traveller Health Inclusion Project

*Continuation...*

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#### *Personal Health Budgets*

This project has involved FFT working on the second round of delivery for PHB at a local level but in conjunction with the national programme. There have been some good outcomes with a local Traveller being one of the few in Brighton and Hove to gain a PHB. This will be used as evidence for the national roll out of PHB. It is a good way of vulnerable and qualifying Travellers to get the support they need with health and social care in a more flexible way.

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#### *South East Coastal Ambulance Service*

FFT have been working with SECAMB on their Inclusion Advisory Hub as consultants and have supported the ambulance service with their Equality Delivery System 2, which is the mechanism by which the NHS works on Equality and Diversity issues.

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#### *National Voices*

I continue to represent FFT and as a member of the Trustee Board where I have worked to increase the equality and diversity of the board, (two new BME members) in addition to promoting the Inclusion health agenda wherever there is an opportunity.

*Zoe Matthews, Strategic Health Manager*

## Youth Work

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During the year, our youth worker, Avril, engaged with 169 Gypsy and Travellers children and young people. This was on authorised and unauthorised sites, on the roadside, in housing or homeless.

We gave 1 to 1 support to young people and families and casework advocacy to access: CAMHS, children services, social services, benefits, housing and homelessness, education and training to enable them to access college, or work, individual grant applications. We also worked with service providers to improve their knowledge of Gypsy and Travellers.

With young people we ran groups and activities:

- Swimming and gym passes to enable access to local leisure centre
- Music groups - early years - guitar lessons - singing group in school
- Discussion Group with a focus on what the young people, would like from this project
- Climbing wall to local site to engage and promote activities
- Supporting, attending and facilitating a youth activity and encouraging
- Being part of discussion groups at a national GTR conference
- Bush craft sessions to build confidence, motivation and self-esteem
- Sewing group to gain an arts award provided by Gladrags costume charity
- Driving theory training sessions to support lifestyle and work opportunities
- Discussion Health Chat Groups and Zumba
- Support a group of young people Level 1 RSPH Royal Society Public Health training and to sit an exam to gain a certificate of passing
- Attend local youth clubs with a football focus with Albion in the community, youth events, youth professional meetings

## Youth Work

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### *Continuation...*

- Engaging wellbeing coach with young people Albion in the community to support healthy eating and physical exercise
- Attended the GTR History month event at the V&A Museum London with 2 young people

Funding for sports activities came from Sported. Funding for music activities came from Youth Music and was delivered with our partner, Rhythmix.

### **Case Study**

A young person living on an unauthorised site in Brighton, estranged from her parents due to their marriage break down, was busking for a living and attending some circus skill training.

The trainers said she should apply for more advanced training. She did not have the means to earn enough money for this training, so after talking to her trainers and seeing her skills, I contacted the Princes Trust because she had been on their 12 week programme. They put me in touch with a referral for financial support with the Sheffield Princes trust, along with 3 other funders we covered her fees for Sheffield Circus performance training, which she completed and gained a qualification.

She is now working and saving towards this next training, her plan has all ways been to work and tour with European circuses, and to be an independent performer and trainer, she would like to share her skills because it has helped her mentally, physically and socially.



## Crystal's Vardo Theatre

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Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Crystal's Vardo is now in its 4th year! During 2014/15 we were successful in securing more funding from the

Arts Council which enabled us to explore new audiences and develop the production further. Two new actors joined the company and Rachel Wemyss created some beautiful shadow puppetry as a backdrop to the performance. We toured the play to schools and events in Wales, Bristol, Nottingham, Kent, Surrey and Central London, also funded by Awards for All. Crystal's Vardo was also featured in a new book 'How to create Kind schools' written by Jenny Hulme <http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/new-book-how-to-create-kind-schools/>

What really struck me during the tour was the diversity of the audiences and the far reaching effect of the play, how different aspects touched different audiences and how it seemed to work on many levels. A men's prison audience is almost the antithesis of the audience the play was originally written for, children aged 7-11 and yet it was just as effective.



I think it comes down to the fact that the history of Gypsies and Travellers is in itself a fascinating story and Crystal's journey is one that almost everyone can relate to. The head of drama at William Ellis Boys' school in Camden said of the play

*'A very strong narrative, which told a powerful and important story very clearly'*

On a personal level I found the prison performance very emotional and inspiring mainly due to the reaction after and the discussion that ensued. The audience had a very broad ethnic mix

## Crystal's Vardo Theatre

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*Continuation...*



which included not only Romany Gypsies, Irish Travellers and Roma from Hungary and Poland but also Muslim, Hindu and Afro-Caribbean. What was interesting was the realisation that there was in many cases a shared history and language but also an understanding of the persecution of a single community. It gave the prisoners and officers something positive to focus on and apparently they talked

about it for months after. In fact we were invited to return this year for GRTHM 2015 and once again it was a great success!

*"I believe there are a whole wealth of new audiences to tap into. Crystal's Vardo should be shown to educate all'.*

Jo Jo Kerr MBE

We do still need to secure long term project funding to enable this to happen.



# Income and Expenditure Account:

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Grants	2	117,776	292,889	410,665	301,913
Donations		1,092	-	1,092	1,928
Bank Interest		394	-	394	703
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Fees, subscriptions and publication sales		<u>92,805</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92,805</u>	<u>102,019</u>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b><u>212,067</u></b>	<b><u>292,889</u></b>	<b><u>504,956</u></b>	<b><u>406,563</u></b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
Charitable activities	3	175,686	278,000	453,686	454,275
Governance costs	3	<u>5,225</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,225</u>	<u>2,967</u>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>		<b><u>180,911</u></b>	<b><u>278,000</u></b>	<b><u>458,911</u></b>	<b><u>457,242</u></b>
<b>Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources before transfers</b>	4	<b>31,156</b>	<b>14,889</b>	<b>46,045</b>	<b>(50,679)</b>
<b>Transfers</b>		<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>
<b>Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources after transfers</b>		<b>31,156</b>	<b>14,889</b>	<b>46,045</b>	<b>(50,679)</b>
<b>Fund Balances brought forward</b>		<b><u>116,305</u></b>	<b><u>(12,920)</u></b>	<b><u>103,385</u></b>	<b><u>154,064</u></b>
<b>Fund Balances carried forward</b>	10	<b><u>147,461</u></b>	<b><u>1,969</u></b>	<b><u>149,430</u></b>	<b><u>103,385</u></b>

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:

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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 –



LOTTERY FUNDED

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.



LOTTERY FUNDED

## LLOYDS BANK FOUNDATION

England & Wales



Lloyds Bank Foundation who provided us with core funding to support our organisational development.

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



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA NA hÉIREANN  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF IRELAND

The Tudor Trust, who provide us with core funding.

the  
Tudortrust



Youth Music funded  
our Youth Music activities

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

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*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 funded 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 ENGLAND**

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.