

# 2017

## FFT ANNUAL REPORT



# A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR, NEIL ANSELL

The past year saw the departure of our former Director Chris Whitwell, and I would like to convey our gratitude to him for more than a decade of dedicated service, in which he oversaw the expansion and increased effectiveness of our work with Gypsies and Travellers. I am very pleased to welcome our new Co-Directors Sarah Mann and Zoe Matthews. They were both already well-established members of the team and I am happy to report that due to a smooth and well-organised period of transition they were able to hit the ground running, so that we are well placed to continue fighting the huge challenges that still face our many clients.!

## OUR TEAM

Our team is made up of great people from all the Travelling Communities and the settled communities working together.

### TRUSTEES DURING 2016/17

**Neil Ansell**  
Chair

**Dominique Corbett**  
Treasurer

**Judy Pointing**

**Marc Willers**

**Tony Thompson**

**Rob Torkington**

**Justine Compton**

**Paola Uccellari**

**Chris Whitwell**  
Company Secretary

### STAFF

**Chris Whitwell**  
Director

**Sarah Mann**  
Deputy Director

**Zoe Matthews**  
Strategic Advisor

**Abbie Kirkby**  
Advice & Policy Manager  
(job-share)

**Emma Nuttall**  
Advice & Policy Manager  
(job-share)

**Michelle Gavin**  
Projects Coordinator

**Avril Fuller**  
Outreach & Youth  
Coordinator

**Marya Sadouni**  
Community Support  
Worker

**Gemma Challenger**  
National Caseworker  
and Well-being Worker

**Liz MacPherson**  
Young People's  
Worker

**Samson Rattigan**  
Young People's  
Worker

**Charmaine Valler**  
Community Support  
Worker

**Suzanna King**  
Finance Worker

**Emma Bray**  
Health Improvement  
Worker

**Sarah Herlem**  
Well-being Worker

**Carolyn Horrox**  
National Caseworker

**Sarah Sweeney**  
Training Promoter and  
National Caseworker

### VOLUNTEERS

**Angela Barnett**

**Barnie Bamford**

**Avery Howell**

**Dean Hodge**

**Bev Wells**

**Juliet McCaffrey**

**Finn Taylor- Hansen**

### INTERN

**Ivy Manning**



# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We are delighted to make our first contribution to this annual report.

We feel very lucky to be taking over the leadership of such a dedicated and talented team of Staff, Volunteers and Interns and we are grateful to Chris Whitwell for leaving FFT in such good shape. We look forward to supporting their work and working with our great team of Trustees to deliver our mission to end racism and discrimination against all Gypsies, Roma and Travellers and to protect their right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

The core of our work continues to be practical advice and legal support

to Gypsies, Roma and Travellers both nationally and locally, helping them to get a fair deal. We will challenge racism and discrimination wherever it's found – from pub to parliament.

We also want to do more to share the great stories we come across every day of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers hard work in the health service, the police and every part of British life and to celebrate our rich culture and history.

**Sarah Mann  
and Zoe Matthews**

## HUMAN RIGHTS ARE GYPSY RIGHTS

Gypsies and Travellers learned how to use Human Rights to challenge discrimination against Gypsy & Travellers from the British Institute of Human Rights at a road show hosted by FFT. We shared our experiences of how human rights violations against the Gypsy and Traveller communities can be successfully challenged.



Friends Families and Travellers

## AWARDS



### SECTOR STAR

Excellence in furthering equality and diversity



Long-serving FFT worker Avril Fuller voted Happiness Champion

### HAPPINESS AWARDS

Action for Happiness and Happy City projects.



**NHS England**

Celebrating Participation in Healthcare award

# A BRIGHT FUTURE!

Children discovered more about school and built skills and confidence at our new After School Club. Young People enjoyed a packed summer of activities and got individual support and mentoring during term time whilst they tried new, fun things.



## NEW VOICE

Homeless Travellers and other homeless people were supported to become a new grassroots 'No Fixed Abode Residents Group' which is becoming a force to be reckoned with. Together with Liberty and the EHRC we supported NFA to oppose new PSPO legislation being used against homeless people.



# ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

Here are a few of the projects which have made a difference

## BETTER INFORMED

### MORE PITCHES!

Our research uncovered an appalling lack of progress on site provision. Only 10 of the 66 Local Authorities we spoke to had identified a 5 year supply of specific deliverable sites, as required by Government. We have used these figures to bring pressure for more pitches which Travellers desperately want and need.

### SAFER CHILDREN

With our families' stories, we made and shared guidance for Children's Services to help improve their knowledge and practices as part of a campaign to safeguard Gypsy and Traveller children..

### BURIAL TRADITIONS

We made a guide which shows professionals how to support bereaved families to bury their loved ones in traditional Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller ways.



### GYPSY VOICES HEARD AT:

- The United Nations Review of Human Rights.
- The Lammy Review of BAME in the Criminal Justice System
- Parliament's Women and Equalities Select Committee and Select Committee on Financial Exclusion.

# BETTER LIVES

## WOMEN TOGETHER

Gypsy & Traveller women came together to build a culturally relevant story of domestic abuse which they then used to educate others in their community to recognise and deal with domestic abuse.



## YOUNG ROMANY GYPSY MAN

“I was nervous at first but I was able to settle in with the other people who were on the FFT course. I learnt so much, I sat the exam and passed it! I gave up smoking after I did the course and I got my Mum to as well. I talk to other Travellers now and encourage them to quit.” He gained a Level 2 Royal Society of Public Health qualification in Behaviour Change (equivalent to GCSE).

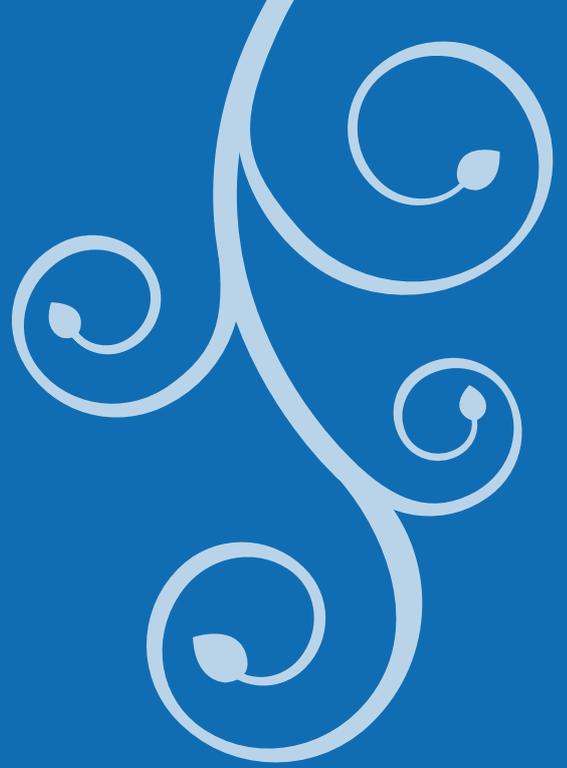
## IRISH TRAVELLER MOTHER

“I was in a house with an abusive landlord. Gemma got me housed properly. I’ll never forget it. My children wanted to go to school but there wasn’t enough stability to send them. Gemma made it possible. My children have never met her but they always mention her. When there’s stuff people’s doing to you – people aren’t going to believe you because you’re a Traveller. She pushed through a complaint and they apologised to me and compensated me.”

## ONLINE CULTURAL TRAINING

Over 2000 learners, from local authorities, domestic violence services, health, criminal justice, children’s services and law, have increased their understanding of Gypsy and Traveller culture and issues and learned how to work better for Gypsies and Travellers.





# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

**Our national phone line is an essential lifeline for those in crisis and we reach many families and children through our youth, health and community outreach work in Sussex and Surrey.**

This year, we have supported **459** clients resolve **922** difference issues.

In our national casework and outreach work, we have:

Supported **56** homeless families with accessing accommodation.

Helped **15** clients and their children fleeing from domestic violence.

Assisted **226** families to access over £168,000 grants and disability benefits they were entitled to but would otherwise have missed out on.

Enabled **112** people to get the right legal advice on discrimination, eviction, planning and safeguarding children.

Helped **83** people get into education or training.

Supported **45** people to get their voice heard in local and national decision-making.

**In our health work, we have** successfully supported and trained **9** people to gain RSPH Level II qualification in Understanding Health Training.

Developed an online Healthy Life peer support group with over **55** members.

Co-produced four themed Health Reports with over **100** Gypsies and Travellers giving actionable recommendations to both local and national policy forums.

Ensured **145** people got the health treatment they needed and provided **57** individuals with mental health support.

## **Culture and Awareness**

Crystal's Vardo has reached the hearts and minds of over **10,000** people!

**79** people from **31** organisations gained Gypsy and Traveller Cultural Awareness through our seminars.

Over **2000** learners have taken our cultural awareness e-learning and feel more equipped to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers accessing their services.

**85** people celebrated Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month with us in Sussex.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017**

	Not es	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2017 Total funds £	2016 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	69,897	288,410	358,307	319,588
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Fees, subscriptions and publication sales		59,340	8,672	68,012	68,510
Investment income	3	346	-	346	229
<b>Total</b>		<b>129,583</b>	<b>297,082</b>	<b>426,665</b>	<b>388,327</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Office Costs	4	12,331	1,484	13,815	13,668
Project Costs		12,960	7,516	20,476	10,367
Staff Costs		120,940	253,448	374,388	344,035
Professional fees		9,975	10	9,985	11,442
Property Costs		19,114	558	19,672	24,589
Management charges		(30,888)	30,888	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>144,432</b>	<b>293,904</b>	<b>438,336</b>	<b>404,101</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(14,849)</b>	<b>3,178</b>	<b>(11,671)</b>	<b>(15,774)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	13	<b>(3,580)</b>	<b>3,580</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(18,429)</b>	<b>6,758</b>	<b>(11,671)</b>	<b>(15,774)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>130,574</b>	<b>3,082</b>	<b>133,656</b>	<b>149,430</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>112,145</b>	<b>9,840</b>	<b>121,985</b>	<b>133,656</b>





FFT is the only national charity working to end racism and discrimination against all Gypsies Travellers and Roma, and to protect their right to pursue a nomadic way of life.

We believe in achieving equality of opportunity and a fair deal for all Travellers.

**Contact details**

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Fax **01273 234 778**  
**fft@gypsy-traveller.org**  
**www.gypsy-traveller.org**

**Like us on Facebook**

/FriendsFamiliesandTravellers

**Follow us on Twitter**

@GypsyTravellers

**Youtube channel**

<http://bit.ly/2xDTd8u>

# WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

**Big Lottery** (Local Sustainability Fund)  
Organisational development and e-learning.

**BBC Children in Need**  
Young Gypsies and Travellers support.

**Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Irish Youth Foundation, Sportivate and Brighton Youth Collective.**  
Engagement with young people.

**The Paul Hamlyn Foundation**  
Internship and youth voice programme.

**Tudor Trust and Lloyds Bank Foundation**  
Much needed core support.

**Henry Smith Charity, the Irish Government Emigrant Support Programme and Sussex Community Foundation**  
National advocacy for Gypsies and Irish Travellers.

**The Arts Council and Awards**  
for All 'Crystal's Vardo' performances and workshops

**Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group, Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council and NHS England**  
Health outreach, engagement, promotion and research.

“... a very powerful show. Children learnt a lot and were able to understand the prejudices the GRT community have faced” Teacher

## CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS

Crystal, a young Gypsy bullied at school, runs away with her Grandfather's horse and Vardo on a journey through time. She meets her Gypsy ancestors in India and Henry VIII and all the way to the present and maybe the future. Audiences laugh and cry with Crystal and her story.

