



**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**



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FFT ANNUAL REPORT

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OUR IMPACT

TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS & INSTITUTIONS

HERITAGE & HISTORY

REPORTS & NEWS

FINANCE



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THIS YEAR

Our casework and outreach team helped people with over 4000 issues.

Our touring theatre production Crystal's Vardo was shown to over 1000 people, with many more accessing the digital version.

We trained over 3000 people on improving their practice and becoming more inclusive for Traveller, Romany and Roma communities.

A Message from our Chair

Our Traveller communities are faced with ever-growing challenges.

The introduction of the Policing Act has made negotiating a place to stop or a place to stay more difficult than ever.

The need for assistance from our Casework Team, particularly for help over accommodation, is greater than ever, and we are expanding this team to help address this growing demand.

Travellers are often financially vulnerable, and have been very severely impacted by the economic aftershocks of Covid-19, as well as its health impacts, and by the current state of turmoil in the economy.

Our thoughts are with the 400,000 Roma affected by the war in Ukraine. Some of them have managed to find their way here, and we are looking forward to expanding our work with this community.

My thanks as always to our fantastic team of staff, not least those who have moved on during the past year. Amazing work is being done on a day-to-day basis - all the youth groups and summer activities, the health work, all the awareness training and campaign work, and of course the never-ending tour of Crystal's Vardo, which celebrates its tenth birthday this year. Face-to-face contact is at the heart of everything we do.

—NEIL ANSELL Chair



Director's Report

In the wake of Covid-19, we face a new challenge in the struggle for the right to live a nomadic way of life.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act came into force in June 2022, shortly after this Annual Report's remit. Nevertheless, the Policing Act presents a monumental shift in the legal landscape concerning nomadism, warranting inclusion into this Annual Report.

Romany and Traveller communities and civil society long warned of the damaging effects this law could have. We are already aware of the Act's use across the country. People and families who travel now have less choice for where to stop and more stark choices to make.

Despite this, we have been humbled by the resilience, perseverance and solidarity shown by Gypsy, Traveller and nomadic communities over the past year. From Drive2Survive's protest on Parliament Square to parliamentarians speaking up for Gypsies and Travellers in the Commons and House of Lords, we have witnessed society's understanding of Traveller and Romany communities shift and change.

Challenges brought on by Covid-19 are now compounding with the Policing Act to create a perfect storm. From healthcare backlogs to a lack of stopping places, our work has become more urgent than ever before.

Over the past year, we supported over 4000 Gypsy and Traveller people with issues ranging from education and benefits to housing and accessing white goods, through our Sussex Outreach and National Helpline.

Our **Vision for Change** is set to end this year and we'll be updating our strategy to continue tackling the issues that matter most to Gypsy and Traveller people.

Earlier this year, we held the FFT Awards 2022 at the Irish Embassy in London. Supported by Ambassador Adrian O'Neill and with Martin Beanz Warde as compère, we were privileged to be able to recognise the hard work and incredible achievements of people and projects from across the communities.

It's clear that the last year has featured many highs and lows, and we have been overwhelmed by the solidarity and support we receive from people from all walks of life. Your support allows us to stand up for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, and for the right to live a nomadic way of life.

My heartfelt thanks go to our volunteers, our incredible staff team, Trustees, partners and supporters. You make our work possible.

—SARAH MANN DIRECTOR



Our Team

TRUSTEES

Neil Ansell
Chair

Dominique Corbett
Treasurer

Marc Willers
Vice Chair

Judy Pointing

Ben Stroud

Marius Taba

Darren Dighton

Tony Thomson

Rob Torkington

Heidi-Victoria Ireland

Alison Smith

Sarah Mann
Company Secretary

STAFF

Abbie Kirkby

Angela Barnett

Billie Dolling

Chris McDonagh

Debbie Luxon

Elijah Vardo
(From May 2022)

Emma Bray

Emma Nuttall

Emma Whitcombe

Emma Wilson

Ivy Manning

Jessi Bruce

Jonathan Jones

Josie Garrett

Lena Stokes

Lucy Hetherington

Lulu Jones

Maisie Lumsden

Martha Ostick

Mattey Mitchell

Maxine Lambert

Michelle Gavin

Millie Cooper

Ngawang Dhargyal

Rosie Fox

Sami McLaren

Samson Rattigan

Sarah Mann

Sarah Sweeney
(Until January 2022)

Suzanna King

Tarana Inam-McDermott

Tommy Buck

Victoria Gilmore

VOLUNTEERS

Amelia Jepson

Hal King

Kathy Smith

Michael Manning

Patience Manning

Terry Green

HONORARY PRESIDENT

Baroness Janet Whitaker

CRYSTAL'S VARDO CAST AND CREW

Jasmine Atkins-Smart

Kavanagh-Rose Rattigan
(Until January 2022)

Lucy Mepsted

Maisie Lumsden

Matt Allen

Neil Thomas

Sarah Harvey

Sarah-Jane Miller

Stewart James Barham

Suzanna King

Yannik Eilers

Our Impact

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

SUPPORTING NEEDS

FFT's outreach and casework teams supported over 4000 people with a range of issues, from liaising with social services to accessing white goods to arranging health appointments.

Our work has trodden old ground and broken new, so keep reading to find out what else we've been up to.

PROMOTING LEARNING

We held workshops in schools across Sussex to help improve the educational outcomes of young Romany, Roma and Traveller people, where we learnt more about the young people's aspirations. The success of the project led to young people considering new opportunities, as well as Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month celebrations at the University of Sussex and participating schools.

NURTURING CULTURE

Our Sussex Outreach team arranged a series of workshops as part of our Reaching Communities work, funded by The National Lottery. Open to all, we learnt about poetry and spoken word from the brilliant Damian Le Bas, blacksmithing from master craftsman Jake Bowers, as well as traditional wreath-making, barge ware rose painting and silversmithing.

WINNING TOGETHER

Our work with Together Co., LGBT Switchboard, Trust for Developing Communities and Sussex Interpreting Services won Social Prescribing Partnership of the Year at the National Association of Link Workers' #LinkWorkerDay2022 Awards.

COVID-19 FAQ

With Covid-19 still around, we worked with Arch Healthcare and Dr Tim Worthley to seek answers to Frequently Asked Questions from Gypsy and Traveller people, about the virus. We created a series of useful videos for easy reference and shared them across our social media.



I'd just like to say how much I appreciate all that Jessi has done for me in the last year. Nothing has ever been too much trouble for her, she has always been so thoughtful and helpful. She has sent emails (a lot) and spoke to people on my behalf and has honestly made the difference with my ongoing problem.

I would never have got this far without Jessi's help—she has always been very respectful to me and that means a lot. Nothing has ever been too much trouble for her. She's a star.

—JANET

I am really happy with all of the support that Tommy has given me – I hope he can be my support worker for a very long time!

—DEAN

Jonathan was very supportive and helpful and could not do enough for me while I was going through a tough time in my life. He regularly checked in to see if I was OK and anything I needed to do, he done his utmost best to try and help me and make it as easy as possible. He helped me from start to finish with the council until I got my permanent home—I would not have done it without him. I am very grateful for the help and support that Jonathan has given me.

—MICHAELA



Transforming Systems and Institutions

CHALLENGING NARRATIVES

Jeremy Clarkson, Jimmy Carr and Matthew Parris are just a few of the many columnists we report to IPSO for discriminatory articles, day in day out. This hate does not go unchallenged, and Matthew Parris met with Romany and Traveller people to find out about the real impact of his words. Jimmy Carr's heinous 'joke' led to widespread condemnation from community members, civil society and even 120 parliamentarians called on Netflix to remove Carr's show.

POLICE ACT 2022

Until the end of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill's parliamentary process, we stood alongside others at the vanguard of civil society's response to the Bill. Our work as Secretariat to the APPG for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma and the 6500+ emails you sent to MPs helped rally politicians to stand against the Bill. After the Bill's last debate, more than 630,000 people saw the solidarity shown by those who took part in our #WeRoamWithYou campaign. The Bill became an Act on the 28 June 2022.

INCLUSIVE SERVICES

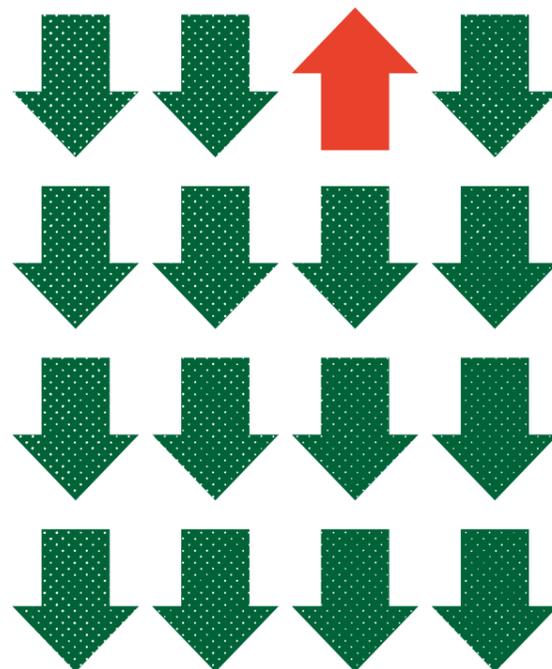
Our Inclusion Health tool, supported by NHS England and NHS Improvement, was developed with people with experience of health exclusion and partners at Homeless Link, Doctors of the World, National Ugly Mugs and Stonewall Housing. We are due to begin formal training in autumn 2022, but so far over 1100 people have attended our webinars and demonstrations!

ADDRESSING HEALTH NEEDS

In July, we released our report 'Locked Out: A snapshot of access to General Practice for nomadic communities during the COVID-19 pandemic', which showed 74 out of 100 GP surgeries broke NHS England guidance by failing to register our mystery shopper. The results of our research led to Public Health England calling on Directors of Public Health to address the health inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities.

ACCESSING COVID-19 VACCINE

We released a series of resources to support healthcare professionals in understanding barriers which may play a role in vaccine uptake, and further develop understanding of how healthcare services can be more accessible to Gypsies and Travellers. The resources ranged from webinars on supporting vaccination for Inclusion Health groups, to videos for community members on how to access the vaccine.



Recognising Heritage and Histories

MAKE SOME SPACE

Our theme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month (GRTHM) 2021 was 'Make Some Space', calling on wider society to 'make some space' for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in their day to day lives. During the final week of June, we had a special focus on 'Proud to Be'—an opportunity for Gypsy, Roma or Traveller people to share what makes them proud about being from a Traveller, Roma or Romany background.

CRYSTAL'S VARDO

This year, we released a Crystal's Vardo digital theatre film for people to watch remotely at events around the world, including in schools and prisons. Once Covid-19 restrictions relaxed, Crystal's Vardo was able to go back on the road at the start of 2022, and has already been seen by over 1000 people!



Reports and Webinars

We carry out evidence-based policy research and develop reports to target injustice at all levels. Here are some of our key research, reports and webinars we have developed or contributed to this past year:



[Briefing on accommodation issues facing Gypsies and Travellers in England](#)

Friends, Families and Travellers, March 2022

[Alternative Report to the Advisory Committee for the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: Focus Report on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities](#)

Friends, Families and Travellers, March 2022

[Shadow Report to the Universal Periodic Review Working Group and UN Member States: Focus Report on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities](#)

Friends, Families and Travellers, Roma Support Group, GATE Herts and Minority Rights Group International, March 2022

[Oral submission to Education Committee on challenges facing children and young people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds](#)

Emma Nuttall, February 2022

[Bridges and deserts: Creating a solid foundation for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller civil society](#)

Sarah Mann and Billie Dolling, December 2021

[Locked out: A snapshot of access to General Practice for nomadic communities during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Sarah Sweeney, Josie Garrett and Matthey Mitchell, July 2021

[Submission to the Public Bill Committee: on Part 4 Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill](#)

Friends, Families and Travellers, May 2021

[House of Lords briefing: Part 4 Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and Gypsies and Travellers](#)

Friends, Families and Travellers, October 2021

[Labour Conference Fringe Event: 'What does the Policing Bill mean for Gypsy and Traveller communities?'](#)

Friends, Families and Travellers, September 2021

[Improving access to immunisations for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people](#)

Friends, Families and Travellers, Roma Support Group, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Leeds GATE and Public Health England, February 2021

[Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories in the school curriculum](#)

Friends, Families and Travellers, January 2021



Finance

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	843,775	362,056	1,205,831	930,110
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Fees, subscriptions and publication sales	94,065	2,150	96,215	45,299
Investment income	-	-	-	52
Other income	-	-	-	22,306
TOTAL	937,840	364,206	1,302,046	997,767
EXPENDITURE ON				
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Office Costs	87,788	8,605	96,393	136,437
Project Costs	112,470	15,338	127,808	57,536
Staff Costs	607,723	236,648	844,371	658,842
Professional fees	41,511	44,794	86,305	32,678
Property Costs	25,509	1,440	26,949	27,259
Management charges	(34,636)	34,636	-	-
TOTAL	840,365	341,461	1,181,826	912,752
NET INCOME	97,475	22,745	120,220	85,015
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	226,323	35,325	261,648	176,633
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	323,798	58,070	381,868	261,648

In the News

We raise awareness of the inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities so that the public are equipped with information that enables them to hold the government to account.



[Ofcom accused of institutional racism over Dispatches Traveller episode](#)

The Guardian

[UK GPs 'refused registration to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller patients' during Covid-19 pandemic](#)

The Independent

[Boris Johnson urged to 'throw the book at' Tory MP who made 'hateful' Gypsies remarks](#)

Mirror

[Sometimes we need to stay silent and listen](#)

The Times

[Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups fear new government measures could harm their nomadic way of life](#)

Politics Home

['It's cultural genocide': the dark truth about GRT life in the UK](#)

Dazed

[Call for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history to be included in curriculum to combat racist bullying in schools](#)

iNews

['There are so many harmful stereotypes out there': What it's like to be a Traveller today](#)

Metro

[Huge drop in Traveller pitches funded by government](#)

Inside Housing

[Kill the Bill activists vow to make new police powers 'unenforceable'](#)

The Big Issue

[How schools can reverse Gypsy and Roma under-achievement](#)

Schools Week

['Draconian' law could threaten Travellers' nomadic traditions](#)

Telegraph & Argus



With Grateful Thanks to our Funders and Partners

[AB Charitable Trust](#)

[Baring Foundation](#)

[BBC Children in Need](#)

[Blagrove Trust](#)

[Brighton and Hove City Council](#)

[Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group](#)

[Brighton Youth Fund](#)

[Chalk Cliff Trust](#)

[Department of Health and Social Care](#)

[East Sussex County Council](#)

[Enterprise Development Programme](#)

[Esmée Fairbairn Foundation](#)

[Garden Court Chambers](#)

[Indigo Trust](#)

[Irish Government Emigrant Support Programme](#)

[Irish Youth Foundation](#)

[John Ellerman Foundation](#)

[Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust](#)

[Lloyds Bank Foundation](#)

[Lund Trust](#)

[Matrix Causes](#)

[Moving for Change](#)

[NHS England](#)

[Oak Foundation](#)

[Office for Health Improvement and Disparities](#)

[Roddick Foundation](#)

[Scottish Government](#)

[Southdown Housing](#)

[Sussex Community Foundation](#)

[Sussex Police Crime Commissioner](#)

[The Community Justice Fund](#)

[The Henry Smith Charity](#)

[The Legal Education Foundation](#)

[The National Lottery Community Foundation Infrastructure Programme](#)

[The National Lottery Community Foundation Reaching Communities Fund](#)

[Trust for Developing Communities](#)

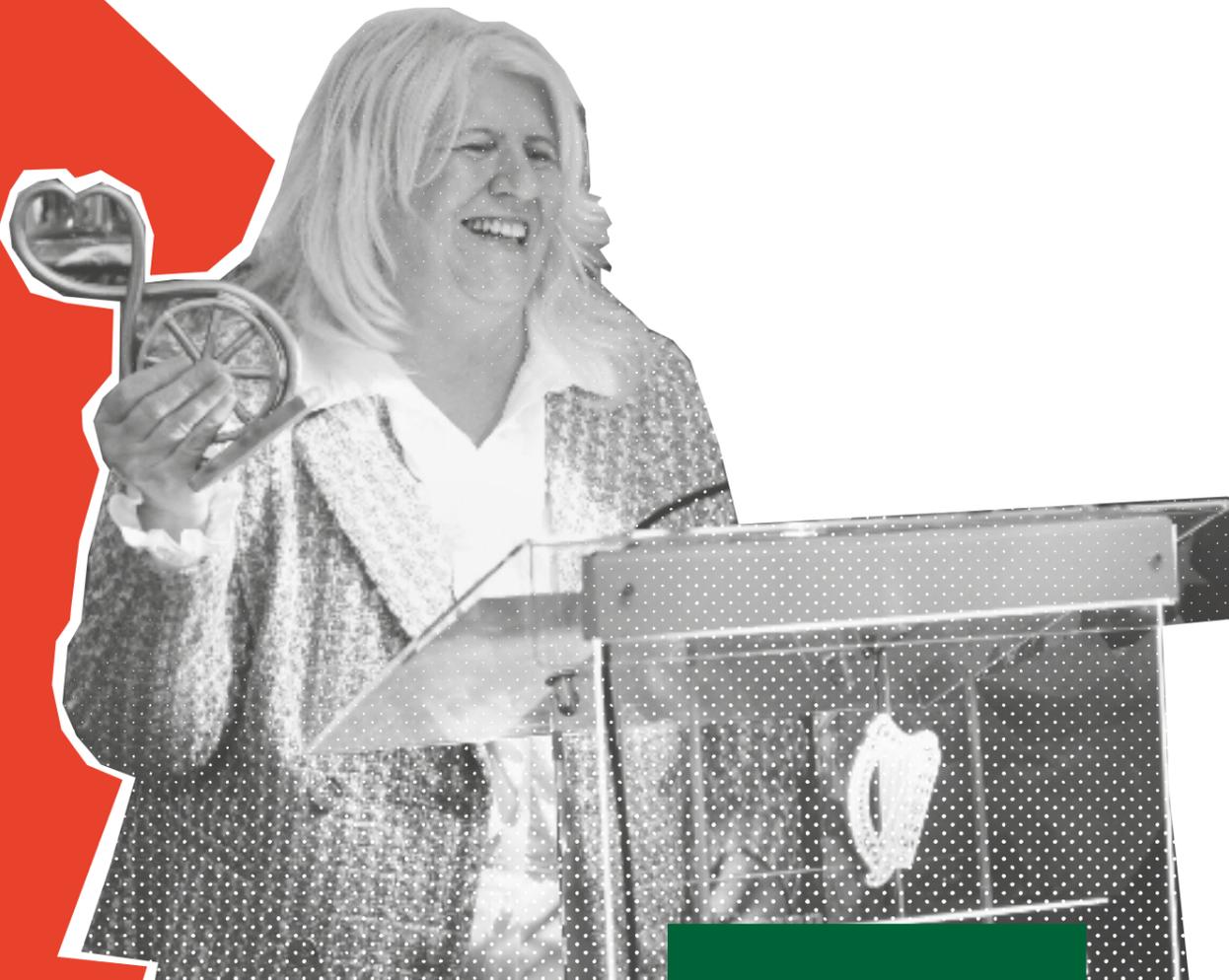
[Youth Futures Foundation](#)

Our Favourite Moment

A standout moment for all of us at Friends, Families and Travellers were the FFT Awards '22, held at the Irish Embassy in London.

Coming out of multiple lockdowns, restrictions and health scares, we were thrilled to be in a room full of incredible people, laughing together and finally embracing after two extremely long years.

Compèred by the brilliant Martin Beanz Warde and with a keynote speech from Ambassador Adrian O'Neill, the evening was certainly one to remember!



Josie O'Driscoll, winner of the Alexander Award for Lifetime Achievement at the FFT Awards 2022



Friends, Families and Travellers

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