



Government
Events

Improving Outcomes With Gypsy, Roma And Traveller Communities: The National Strategy

Thursday 12th March 2020
Event Guide





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For this Conference, you are entitled to 8 CPD points.



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Welcome Letter

Dear Delegate,

Welcome to Improving Outcomes With Gypsy, Roma And Traveller Communities: The National Strategy.

This conference will provide you with a valuable opportunity to gain insight into best practice policies and initiatives from local authorities, public bodies, and other organisations who are tackling disparities in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and working to improve services that engage with these communities.

If you have any questions or queries please ask our onsite management team, who will be more than happy to help you. They are located at the registration desk.

We hope you have a rewarding and enjoyable day.

Yours truly,

David Blake
Government Events



Our Future Events

Please look at our website, www.GovernmentEvents.co.uk,
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[The Adult Safeguarding Conference 2020: Protecting Adults At Risk Of Abuse And Neglect](#)

Thursday 21st May, Central London

[The National Conference for Nurses 2020](#)

Tuesday 16th June, Central London

[NHS Technology 2020: Harnessing Digital, Data and Technology in Healthcare](#)

Wednesday 17th June, Central London

[Palliative and End of Life Care Provisions Conference 2020](#)

Thursday 9th July, Central London

For any enquiries, please call 0330 0584 285 or email Enquiries@governmentevents.co.uk

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Agenda AM

- 09:00-09:50 **Registration, Refreshments and Networking**
- 09:50-10:00 **Chair's Welcome Address**
Professor Thomas Acton FRSA OBE, Emeritus Professor of Romani Studies, University of Greenwich, Visiting Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, and Visiting Professor, Bucks New University
- 10:00-10:20 **Keynote Address: Negotiating Conflict When Managing And Delivering Sites**
Professor Jo Richardson, Associate Dean Research and Innovation and Professor of Housing and Social Research, De Montfort University
- 10:20-10:40 **Keynote Address: Tackling Health Inequalities For Gypsy, Traveller and Boater Communities**
Sam Worrall, Health Policy Officer, Friends, Families and Travellers
- 10:40-11:00 **Question and Answer Session**
- 11:00-11:30 **Refreshment and Networking Break**
- 11:30-11:50 **Case Study: Challenging Misconceptions And Prejudices Towards Gypsy, Roma, And Traveller Communities**
Professor Thomas Acton FRSA OBE, Emeritus Professor of Romani Studies, University of Greenwich, Visiting Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, and Visiting Professor, Bucks New University
- 11:50-12:10 **Case Study: Helping Schools To Integrate And Support The Educational Attainment Of GRT Children And Young People**
Sue Hurtle, REMA Lead Teacher (West), Children, Schools & Families Directorate, Surrey County Council
- 12:10-12:30 **Case Study: The Parallel Lives Project – Integrating The East of England Roma Community**
Sue Hay, Project Worker, Parallel Lives Roma Project and Rachel Heathcock, Project Worker, Parallel Lives Roma Project

12:30-12:50 **Question and Answer Session**

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12:50-13:40 Lunch and Networking

Agenda PM

13:40-14:00 **Keynote Address: Tackling Health Inequalities Faced By Gypsy, Roma And Traveller Communities**
Professor Louise Condon, Professor of Nursing, Swansea University

14:00-14:20 **Case Study: Managing Traveller Sites And Improving GRT Inclusion In Planning**
Heather Stevens, Principal Policy Planner, East Hampshire District Council

14:20-14:40 **Question and Answer Session**

14:40-15:10 **Refreshment and Networking Break**

15:10-15:30 **Keynote Address: Exploring Barriers For Members Of GRT Communities When Reporting Hate Crimes**
Josie O'Driscoll, CEO, Gate Hertfordshire and Orla Dellow, Hate Crime Case Worker, Gate Hertfordshire

15:30-15:50 **Case Study: Analysing Reports Of Hate Crime Incidents Against GRT People**
Dr Naomi Thompson, Lecturer in Youth and Community Work and David Woodger, Programme Convenor in Community and Youth Work, Goldsmiths University of London

15:50-16:10 **Question and Answer Session**

16:10-16:15 Chair's Closing Address

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Speaker Biographies

Professor Thomas Acton FRSA OBE

Emeritus Professor of Romani Studies, University of Greenwich, Visiting Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, and Visiting Professor, Bucks New University

Thomas Acton ran the first Gypsy Council Caravan summer school on a disused airfield in 1967. After a doctorate from Oxford in 1974 on Gypsy politics he taught sociology for many years and became Professor of Romani Studies at Greenwich University in 1997. In 2014, with Andrew Ryder and Sarah Cemlyn he edited "Hearing the Voices of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities" (Policy Press, Bristol) which looks at the uneasy balance for Romani organisations between challenging and co-operating with government strategies - on which he has written many other books and articles. He has been involved in support roles for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller-led organisations 53 years. He is currently an unpaid Professor at three non-elite universities, Patron of the Roma Support Group, secretary of Brentwood Gypsy Support Group and a former secretary of the Gypsy Lore Society.



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09:50-10:00, 11:30 -11:50

Professor Jo Richardson

Associate Dean Research and Innovation and Professor of Housing and Social Research, De Montfort University

Jo Richardson is Professor of Housing and Social Inclusion at De Montfort University, Leicester. She has undertaken research funded by a range of funding councils, charities and public bodies. Jo's work on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation has been funded twice by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, most recently for her report published in 2016. You can follow Jo on Twitter @socialhousing and further details about her research can be found here: <https://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/academic-staff/business-and-law/jo-richardson/jo-richardson.aspx>



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10:00-10:20

Sam Worrall

Health Policy Officer, Friends, Families and Travellers

Sam Worrall is a New Traveller who is sometimes also a liveaboard boater. She is a member of the health policy team at Friends, Families and Travellers. Friends, Families and Travellers is a national charity seeking to end racism and discrimination against Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, whatever their ethnicity, culture or background, whether settled or mobile, and to protect the right to pursue a nomadic way of life.



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10:20 – 10:40

Sue Hurlley

REMA Lead Teacher (West), Children, Schools & Families Directorate, Surrey County Council

Sue's teaching career spans 35 years, in which she's had the privilege to work with children and young people at all phases of education. The past 20 years have been spent as a Specialist Teacher and Manager within Surrey's Race Equality and Minority Achievement Team. Her dynamic team supports schools countywide to develop inclusive practice for many Gypsy and Traveller children and their families, so they can enjoy increased opportunity and achieve Surrey's vision: for 'Children and young people to be happy, healthy, safe and confident about their future'. Two personal passions have emerged for Sue during her time in education. First, a firm belief that partners must work together and collaborate creatively for GRT children and young people to achieve best outcomes. Second is for each child's unique learning journey to start with confident and secure reading skills. This passion led Sue to train in Reading Recovery and become a Dyslexia Specialist Teacher.... for which she achieved Distinction and Student of the Year!



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11:50-12:10



Sue Hay

Project Officer, Parallel Lives Roma Project, East of England LGA

Sue has a Social Sciences Honours Degree from the University of Lancaster and an Msc in Public Health from the University of the Southbank, London. She worked in Community Development for Warrington & Runcorn Development Corporation in the 1980's, and then in similar roles with Cambridge City Council. Sue then moved into a long and rewarding career in Public Health as a Senior Public Health Manager and Commissioner, working on Health Inequalities, Drugs and Alcohol services, Sexual Health and Childhood Obesity programmes. She then set up her own freelance consultancy business, working with local and central government before joining the East of England Local Government Association's Strategic Migration Team in 2011 working on cultural competency training for frontline agencies.

Since 2017 Sue has worked on the Parallel Lives Roma integration project, linking with a wide range of local partner organisations and with Roma Support Group nationally to help service providers across the East of England's most populous Roma areas to understand their cultural background and particular needs in accessing everyday services.

Rachel Heathcock

Project Officer, Parallel Lives Roma Project, East of England LGA

Rachel is a graduate of Coventry University and holds a BSc in Third World Development Studies. She also holds a PGCE and a Diploma in Antenatal Education. Rachel began her career in secondary education and developed a passion for supporting children with Special Education Needs. This stimulated her interest in improving and delivering community services for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. This led to her taking up an innovative role developing schools as community hubs. A change of career direction in 2005 saw Rachel accept a role as an Emergency Planner for Cambridgeshire County Council, particularly focussing on Business Continuity. In 2010 Rachel began a new role working with the Strategic Migration Partnership. Rachel has been involved in a variety of projects across the East of England, which have; researched, developed, evaluated health, social, citizen engagement and integration practices within the Migrant Community. In addition, Rachel is a Senior Practitioner and qualified Assessor for the National Childbirth Trust.



12:10-12:30

Professor Louise Condon

Professor of Nursing, Swansea University

Professor Louise Condon has a clinical background in nursing, midwifery and health visiting, and an academic background in social policy. She holds a joint chair with Swansea University and Swansea Bay University Health Board, which facilitates research into real world health issues. Her research focuses on public health and health inequalities, including several studies in collaboration with Gypsies and Travellers. Recent published studies have focused on the health behaviours of parents who have migrated to the UK (<http://theconversation.com/migrants-travel-to-the-uk-for-a-new-life-but-its-not-always-a-healthier-one-67575>) and the facilitators and barriers to immunisation among Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (<https://youtu.be/eACDLhUr-FI>).



13:40-14:00

Heather Stevens

Principal Policy Planner, East Hampshire District Council

Heather Stevens is a leading instigator of change within local authorities, ensuring the voice of the Traveller community is heard in the plan making process and new sites are planned and built. Acutely aware of the responsibility local authorities must lead the way and the steep uphill climb to achieve change, she has introduced cross service working groups, councillor training and on the ground engagement with the Traveller community. There is still a lot to do, and this is what drives her forwards to share experiences, hear from others and keep pushing for positive change.

Heather is currently working for East Hampshire District Council, which is preparing a new Local Plan and provides planning services to other local authorities.



14:00 – 14:20



Josie O'Driscoll

CEO, Gate Hertfordshire

Josie O Driscoll is an Irish Traveller who has lived a nomadic life travelling around UK until an illness forced her family to settle in Hertfordshire in the nineties. Josie worked in her local Citizens advice bureau as a gateway assessor and coordinated their Gypsy Traveller project. She volunteered with The Traveller Movement in London as a Community development worker and researcher for many years. She holds an Advanced Award in the Management of Gypsy & Traveller Sites and she has won several community engagements awards. She has trained as a Roma mediator on the Council of Europe Romed program. She sits on several local and national governmental advisory and Equality and hate crime boards. In 2008 she Founded and chaired the charity GATE Herts before taking on her current role as Chief Officer, she is committed to working towards the elimination of discrimination and disadvantages facing Gypsies, Traveller and Roma people.

Orla Dellow

Hate Crime Case Worker, Gate Hertfordshire

Orla is the Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Hate Crime case worker for GATE Herts and the Report Racism GRT website. She has a Community Development & Housing Management Degree from University College Dublin (UCD) in Ireland. Her background is working with vulnerable people, most recently within the Simon Community and the YWCA. Her experience includes working with communities and schools to encourage people to build better relationships. She also believes in advocating for those who are marginalised when social, economic and political decisions affect their lives.



15:10-15:30

Dr Naomi Thompson

Lecturer in Youth and Community Work, Goldsmiths University of London

David Woodger

Programme Convenor in Community and Youth Work, Goldsmiths University of London

Dr Naomi Thompson and David Woodger Lecture in the Social Sciences with a focus in Community Development and Youth work at Goldsmiths, University of London. Naomi specialises in youth, faith and inclusion with research interests in faith-based youth work and the inclusiveness of such provision. David research specialises on race, racism, social justice and equalities. He is particularly interested in examining professional practice in the context of institutional racism.

Both Naomi and David are most interested in co-produced and applied research that ensures the voices of young people and communities are heard, particularly where these voices have been marginalised and/or excluded.

Naomi and David have been researching GRT issues working together with Gate Herts from 2017.



15:30-15:50



Delegate List

South Cambridgeshire District Council, *Traveller Liaison Officer*
Gloucestershire County Council, *Job title Principal Lead Officer, G&T services Gloucestershire County Council*
Bridgend County Borough Council, *Consultation Engagement and Equalities Manager*
Children and Families Directorate, *Manager of Social Inclusion and Equality*
Coventry City Council, *Ethnic Minority Achievement Lead*
South Gloucestershire Council, *Enforcement Officer*
Birmingham City Council, *Principal Planning Officer*
East Sussex County Council, *Health Improvement Partnership Specialist*
Basildon Borough Council, *Head of Planning*
Southwark Council, *Graduate Planner*
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, *Senior Education Safeguarding Officer*
Warwickshire County Council, *Senior Leader GRT*
East Suffolk Council, *Principal Environmental Health Officer*
Herefordshire Council (Public Health Team), *Health Improvement Practitioner*
Northern Ireland Housing Executive, *Principal Officer*
Northern Ireland Housing Executive, *Senior Principal Officer*
Traveller Team, East Sussex County Council, *Team Manager, Gypsy & Travellers, East Sussex County Council*
Elim Housing Association, *Head of Housing Services*
East Sussex County Council, *Equality and Inclusion Manager*
Milton Keynes Council, *Gypsy and Traveller Project Manager*
Greater London Authority, *Housing Policy Manager*
Southern Housing Group, *Area Services Manager*
Cambridge City Council, *Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer*
Babcock Training (Educational Services) Ltd, *Lead for Attendance & Ed Welfare, CME, EHE and GRT*
Hull City Council, *Gypsy Support Officer*
London Borough of Brent, *Travellers Site and Garages Project Manager*
Mayfield School, *Deputy Headteacher*
Brighton Hove City Council, *Traveller Liaison Officer*
Brighton Hove City Council, *Traveller Liaison Team Manager*
Northampton Partnership Homes, *Tenancy Support Officer*
School Improvement Liverpool Ltd, *EMTAS Manager*
Newark & Sherwood District Council, *Senior Planner, Planning Policy*



Thank you for attending our conference.

We hope you found the day interesting and insightful. Speaker presentations will be made available to download on completing the post show survey which will be emailed to you within one week after the event.

We wish you a safe journey home.

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