



East of England
Local Government Association



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

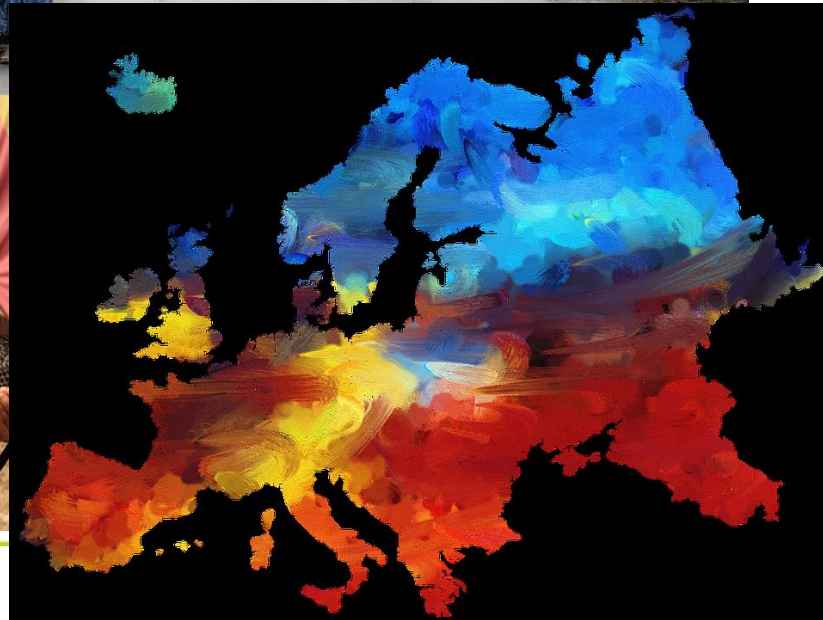
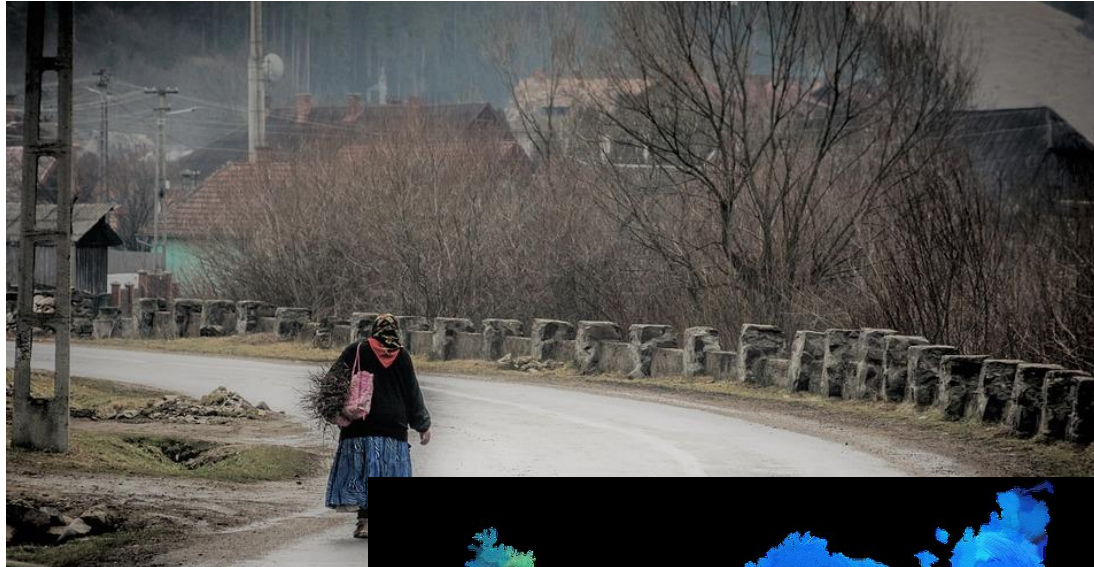
Parallel Lives Roma Project

Thursday 12 March 2020

Rachel Heathcock and Sue Hay

Project Leads

Who are the Roma Community?



Roma in the East of England

Town/City	Languages spoken by Roma families	Countries of origin	Estimated population 2013	Estimated population 2020
Peterborough	Romanes, Slovak, Czech, English, Latvian Lithuanian	Slovakia, Czech Republic	3,000	6,000
Southend-on-Sea	Romanes, Polish, Czech	Poland, Czech Republic	1,000	3,000
Ipswich	Romanes, Romanian, Spanish	Romania	300	3,000
Luton	Romanes, Romanian, Spanish, German, French	Slovakia, Romania	275	3,000
Cambridgeshire	Romanes, Polish, Slovak, Czech, English	Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Czech Republic	170	1,000
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	Romanes, Polish, Slovak, Romanian, Learning English	Poland, Slovakia, Romania	140	500
Essex (excluding Southend & Thurrock)			50	250
Central Norfolk			10	100
TOTAL			4,945	16,850

Integration and Engagement Issues

- **Language barriers (Access to ESOL / Interpreters / Need for everyday English not language courses)**
 - **Lower expectations of healthcare, education and professional services – therefore not accessing services**
 - **Limited employment prospects & low income**
 - **Unsuitable housing – HMOs**
 - **Transience (impact on schooling and healthcare)**
 - **Risk of exploitation**
 - **Professionals understanding the different Roma clans and diverse cultural expectations**
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Workshop Delivery



Location	Cultural Awareness Workshop Number of Attendees	Safeguarding Workshops Number of Attendees
Southend, Thurrock and Essex	100	45
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	50	88
Luton	51	78
Ipswich	76	104
Total	277	315



Support at a Local Level

- **Multi-Agency working**
 - **Luton Roma Interagency Forum**
 - **Schools**
 - **Ipswich Roma Interagency Support**
 - **Developing County Contacts**
 - **Open Dialogue Workshops**
 - **Sharing National best practice**
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Project Legacy

- **Professionals with greater Roma cultural understanding**
 - **Project Evaluation**
 - **Professional Networks**
 - **Roma in the East of England Film**
 - **Website**
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Questions and Contact Details:



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