



## Get Vocal Programme

### Supporting Older Travellers in Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown....because sometimes, memories aren't enough

#### The Programme

Older people have a very important role and a huge amount to offer in terms of experience, knowledge and skills. Getting older does however present many challenges and for members of the Traveller community, ageing provides a series of specific challenges, not least of which is the fact that when a Traveller community member reaches the age of 50 they are considered to be an older person.

Even though older Travellers are held in high esteem by their community, and are generally part of strong familial networks, it has been our experience (having delivered a number of social initiatives to older Travellers through our Community, Health and Well-Being Programme in 2009) that many older Travellers can still experience isolation. In particular older Travellers, owing to health status and educational attainment may not have the capacity or confidence to come together to get vocal about issues affecting them.

#### Our Aims

The overall aim of the Get Vocal project is to carry out research into the profile, experiences and service needs of older Travellers in Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown, to document the profiles, experiences and needs and around this, to develop a countywide strategy for this group. In addition, we will support the establishment and continued facilitation of a network or group where older Travellers can come together to begin to vocalise these concerns in a structured and supported environment and to develop self advocated responses to identified needs. Such a network has the added value of creating a space for older Travellers to come together socially and move beyond their immediate familial networks, to discuss issues, build new relationships and to support one another to find viable solutions to challenges that they face.

The development of such a network is an exciting prospect. We hope that through this network older Travellers will not only increase their capacity and confidence to self advocate, but will become more involved in all of the programmes on offer within the Southside Traveller Action Group. We look forward to enriching our organisation with their experience, knowledge and skills!!



**Niamh Crudden** – The Get Vocal Programme Facilitator - will be supporting the establishment of and providing ongoing facilitation for the network and working closely with the researchers to profile the experiences and illuminate the needs of older Travellers in the county.

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Southside Travellers Action Group envisions an Ireland where the human and civil rights, dignity, hopes and distinct cultural identity of Travellers are acknowledged and respected. Operating within the context of community development principles and practice, we design, develop and deliver integrated programmes which proactively respond to the needs of Travellers living in Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown and surrounding areas.

**Celebrating 25 years (1985 – 2010)**