



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL BEING PROGRAMME

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Overview of Presentation

- Background to Southside Travellers
- All Ireland Traveller Health Study 2010
- Structure of the Community Health and Wellbeing Programme
- Present work
- Going forward



Southside Travellers Action Group

Vision, Mission, Principles, Integrated Programmes



Vision, Mission and Core Principles

Our Vision

“Southside Travellers envisions an Ireland where the human and civil rights, dignity, hopes and distinct cultural identity of Travellers is acknowledged and respected”

Our Mission

“Operating within the context of community development principles and practice, we seek to realise our vision through the design, development and delivery of a series of integrated programmes which proactively respond to the needs of Travellers in Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown and surrounding areas”



Core Principles

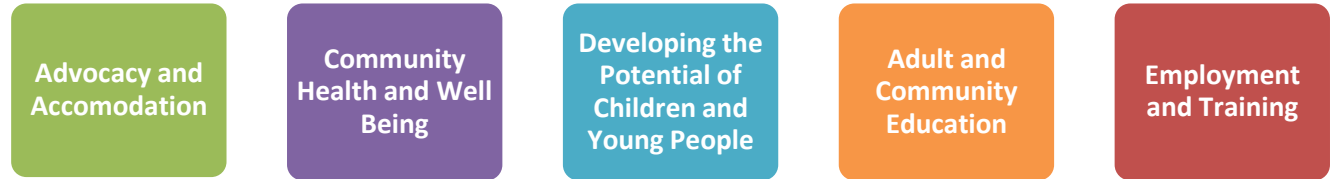
All of our work is guided by the following core principles:

Traveller Leadership and Participation
Advocacy and Equality
Partnership and Accountability

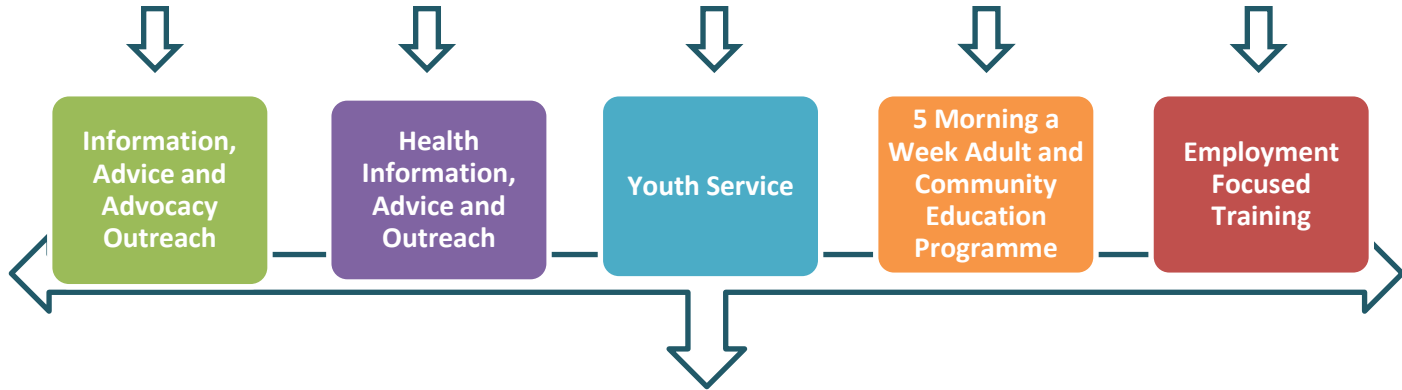
Southside Travellers Resource Centre (DLR)

Integrating Resources and Programmes

Core Programmes



Core Work



2010 New Integrated Programmes

- | Culture Awareness Training | Gailles | Homework Club | Saturday Club | Life Coaching | Career Guidance | Jobs Club |
- | Day-Time Supported Drop-In Community Space | Accomodation Clinic |
- | **Get Vocal Programme** | Chill Out Zone | Men's Drop – in |



Traveller Health

All Ireland Traveller Health Study 2010

- This study was the single largest and most comprehensive study on Traveller health conducted in Ireland.
- The study looked at areas such as social and living conditions of Traveller families, Children's health, Adult health status, mortality rates, smoking, alcohol and drugs, exercise, diet, social capital and social support, Health issues specific to women, health service utilisation, mortality and suicide.

Summary of the main findings of the Study

- There was a participation rate of 80% and estimated national population of Travellers (incl NI) was 40,129.
- Age Structure
 - 42% under 15 compared to 21% of general pop
 - 63% under 25 compared to 35% of general pop
 - 3% aged 65 and over compared with 13% of general pop
 - Only 8 Travellers in total were found to be over 85
- Life expectancy
 - In 1987 the gap in life expectancy between Traveller women and their settled counterparts was 12yrs, the gap in 2008 was 11yrs
 - In 1987 the gap in life expectancy between Traveller men and their settled counterparts was 10 yrs it is now 15yrs

Summary of the main findings of the Study

- Mortality
 - Traveller men have 4 times the mortality rate of the general population
 - Traveller women have 3 times the mortality rate of the general pop
 - If Travellers had the same health status as the general population the number of deaths expected in a year would be 54 and the actual number of deaths was 188.
 - Suicide is 6 times the rate of the general population and accounts for approximately 11% of Traveller death.
 - Infant mortality rate for Travellers is 3.5 times the rate of the general population. 4 infant deaths per 1000 in the national population compared with 14 infant deaths per 1000 in the Traveller population.

Summary of the main findings of the Study

- Morbidity
 - Over 52% of Travellers aged 40 – 60 who were interviewed were diagnosed with high blood pressure in the last year compared to 35% of the general population.
 - Over 42% of Travellers were diagnosed with high cholesterol in the last year compared to 30% of the general pop.
- Main causes of Death
 - Heart Disease and stroke = 25%
 - Cancer = 19%
 - Lung Disease =13%

Summary of the main findings of the Study

- Causes of Gap in levels of Morbidity and Mortality.
 - Both Travellers and health service providers interviewed acknowledged that social determinants were the main cause of the poor health status of Travellers.
 - Accommodation, education, employment, poverty, discrimination, lifestyle and access and utilisation of services
- Social Determinants
 - 4.8% of Travellers in ROI are either employed or self employed.
 - 38.5% of the 30 -44yr old Travellers and 25.8% of 45 – 64yr old Travellers had primary education only.
 - Difficulty in reading affected 28.8%

Summary of the main findings of the Study

- Lifestyle
 - 66.3% said that illicit drug use is a problem in the community.
 - 30.9% of Travellers said price is a factor that prevents them eating healthily. Overall there is a 15% higher rate of smoking among travellers compared to the general population.
- Adult Health Services
 - Barriers identified were waiting lists (62.7%), embarrassment (47.8%) Lack of information (37.3%)
 - Complete trust in health professional was 41% lower than the general pop by 82%

Summary of the main findings of the Study

- Value of the Primary Health Care Projects

-Health information

83% of those interviewed said that they got their information and advice from primary health care projects and Traveller orgs.

Southside Travellers Community Health and well being programme in Practice

- Manager : Sally Connors
- 7 Health Link Workers (part-time)
- General work
- Outreach to 145 families.
- Dissemination of information regarding Men's Women's and children's health.
- Support to make appointments with relevant practitioners.
- Assistance with filling out forms.
- Family support.
- Counselling service.
- Support around domestic violence.
- Work with older people.
- Linking with local service providers.

Going forward

- More targeted strategic planning to identify specific, achievable and time bound short, medium and long term goals which are continually monitored and evaluated so that we are constantly self reflecting and adapting the way we work to ensure we are achieving our optimum output.
- To ensure that this planning reflects the most prevalent health and well being issues as highlighted in the All Ireland Traveller Health Study.
- To place specific emphasis on developing our responses to men's health issues, mental health and suicide and drug use and infant mortality.

The Steering Committee

- To bring varying expertise together to support the development of innovative approaches to dealing with the most prevalent health problems in the Community.