



# NEON CONF - GRT

## Universities of Sussex

Chris Derbyshire/Lily Maguire – Widening Participation

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Bringing greater  
inclusion for non-  
typical target groups:  
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# Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community

**National strategies for widening participation in higher education often exclude specific consideration of GRT communities.**

**Professor Louise Morley (HEIM)**

# Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community



# Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community



# Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community

**Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller pupils are among the lowest achieving groups of pupils at every key stage of education, although some GRT pupils achieve very well at school.'**

[www.gov.uk/case-studies](http://www.gov.uk/case-studies)

# Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community

**‘Overall, the fact that Gypsy, Romany, and Traveller pupils tend to have low prior Attainment [on entering KS3], have Special Educational Needs and are entitled to Free School Meals is likely to be affected by cultural factors.’** [Improving the outcome for Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller pupils: final report. DfE 2010]



# Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller community

GRT students are 11 times less likely to enter HE than any other group (3% contrasted with 10% for CLAs, for example) - No funding available to GRT uni applicants – HEIM Conf 2017

# Widening Participation?

Discourse on WP working with under-represented but little work being done with GRT (Gypsy, Romany, and Traveller) communities.

# Fair access policy

The screenshot shows a browser window with the URL 'offa.org.uk/universities-and-colleges/guidance/target-groups/'. The page features a blue header with the 'offa' logo and the text 'office for fair access'. A navigation menu includes links for 'Web accessibility', 'Skip to content', 'Glossary', 'Contact us', 'About OFFA', 'Find an access agreement', 'Quick facts', 'Universities & colleges', 'Publications', and 'Evidence & good practice'. A search bar is located in the top right. Below the header, an orange banner contains the text: 'The Office for Fair Access closed at the end of 31 March 2018 and responsibility for higher education access regulation transferred to the [Office for Students](#)'. The breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home >> Universities and colleges >> Guidance and useful information >> Target groups'.

## Target groups

Access agreements and OFFA's remit concern students from under-represented and disadvantaged (and often limited to):

- people from [low income backgrounds](#)
- people from [lower socio-economic groups](#) or from neighbourhoods where higher education is economically disadvantaged backgrounds
- [Black and minority ethnic groups](#)
- [disabled people](#)
- people with mental health problems, Specific Learning Difficulties and/or who are on [mature](#) and [part-time](#) learners
- [care leavers](#)
- [carers](#)
- [people estranged from their families](#)
- people from gypsy and Traveller communities.
- refugees
- children from military families.

All of these students face particular barriers to access and participation in higher education. Institutions should use their own data, and research to understand the issues that affect the [strategic guidance](#), which provides further information relevant to specific years.

The screenshot shows the 'Office for Students' website search page. The header includes the 'Office for Students' logo and a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'Advice and guidance', 'For students', 'News, blog and events', and 'Publications'. The breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home > Site Search'. The main heading is 'Site search'. Below this is a 'Keyword search' section with a search box containing the text 'gypsy' and a search icon. At the bottom, it states 'Your search returned 0 results' and provides sorting options: 'Sort by: [Published Date](#) | [Relevance](#)'.

# Number-crunching

- ONS Census survey analysis suggests 58,000 people declaring themselves as GRT
- Ofsted Report 'Overcoming Barriers' suggests in 2014 19,000 young learners
- Only 200 went to university last year, experts estimate, roughly 3-4 per cent of the population compared with 43 per cent of young people nationally:  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/gypsy-students-face-prejudice-at-universities-smn0g5vhq>  
05.06.18.

# Need?

The challenge for schools in the 21st century is to offer learning environments that allow Gypsies, Roma, Travellers and other minorities to maintain their identity, but also to acquire new and adapt old **skills**.

**Sites of resistance: Gypsies, Roma and Travellers in school, community and the academy**

Andrew Ryder Corvinus University Budapest and the Third Sector Research Centre, University of Birmingham Monday 11 December 2017:

<https://www.bera.ac.uk/blog/sites-of-resistance-gypsies-roma-and-travellers-in-school-community-and-the-academy> 05.06.18.



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# Barriers to HE

- Education
  - Attainment
  - Attendance
  - Exclusion
  - Bullying/ discrimination
- Culture
  - Cultural identity
  - Language/systems of knowledge
  - Norms and expectations
- Material barriers
  - Poverty
  - Healthcare
  - Housing
  - Attitudes to loans

# Project

**Rationale:** When you contrast the fortunes of CLA students with that of the GRT community in the education system it would appear that despite both facing challenging barriers one group receives a more positive-loaded support and empathy than the other.

We propose to explore the circumstance and experiences of a number of key-stakeholders, to share best practice, and to explore whether we can advance this pre-conception or navigate some of the barriers.

## **Stakeholders:**

- **Local Authority ISEND representative**
- **Primary Schools**
- **Secondary Schools**
- **University of Sussex**
- **Representatives of the GRT community**

# Objectives

Press Association - 2015

*Children from gypsy, traveller or Romany backgrounds make up a "hugely disproportionate" number of inmates in youth prisons, figures reveal.*

*One in 10 (11%) of those held in secure training centres (STCs) said they were from these groups, despite making up an estimated 0.1% of the overall population.*

*In addition, one in 12 detainees (8%) at youth offender institutes (YOIs) considered themselves to be gypsy, Romany or traveller.*

## Seeking to:

- **To establish an awareness audit**
- **To provide a network opportunity**
- **To share awareness**
- **To share best practice**
- **Potential CPD opportunity**
- **Establish a working group as part of a potential project/ or expand to another area**



# Development

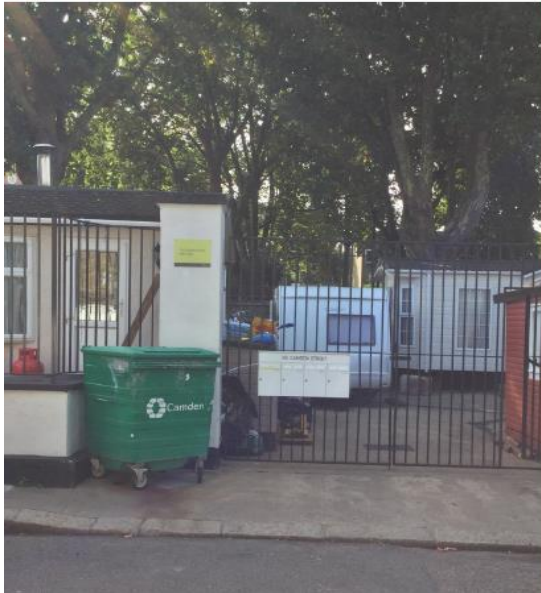
## Exploring:

- **Sharing KS2/KS3 best (and not so best) practices –**
- **Transition issues from a KS3 perspective**
- **Sharing issues**
- **Working toward a meaningful/ measurable intervention to address GRT Inclusivity**
- **Open discussion**
- **Next steps**



# PHASE 1

## Gypsies and Travellers



### Outcomes:

- **University to positively target GRT students as part of future cohorts**
- **Secondary schools to work in synergy on activities with Primary feeders**
- **Secondary schools to replicate good transition practice from KS2/KS3 to KS4/KS5**
- **University of Sussex to have presence in high-entrant GRT Primary schools**
- **Greater careers support**
  - **Primary schools to access Secondary events**
  - **Targeted career information**
- **Alumni for Primary school**
- **Aspirations included in Primary school 'Transition Passport'**

# PHASE 2?



## Potential:

- **Extend to Opportunity Area; Hastings**
- **Extend remit/reach of current project**
  - **Community engagement**
  - **Campus awareness**
  - **CPD**
  - **Tracking and monitoring**
  - **Case studies**
  - **Positive role models and advocats**

# SUCCESS?





Thank you very much  
Feel free to ask questions please?

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