

# Engagement of Gypsy Roma and Traveller families-everyday lives and service provision

Salford Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service



National Association of Teachers of Travellers  
+Other Professionals

# Diverse communities

Same umbrella but very different communities

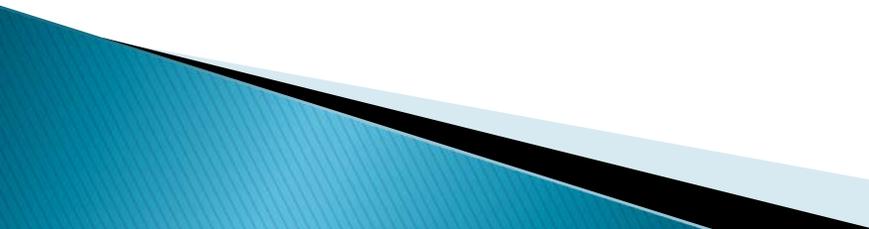
- Different circumstances
- Different needs
- Different cultural heritage
- Different experiences
- Different families



# Challenges—the evidence

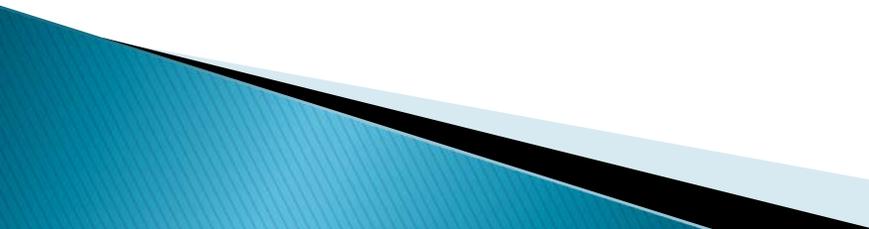
- ▶ High levels of accommodation insecurity -20% shortfall in site provision
  - ▶ Department of Health Report 2004 and other reports- Gypsies and Travellers have worse health status than the general population and other ethnic minority groups
  - ▶ An excess prevalence of miscarriages, still births, neonatal deaths and premature death of older offspring.
  - ▶ In 2010 the Department for Education report- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils as amongst the most vulnerable in the education system in terms of academic underachievement.
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# Challenges—the evidence

- ▶ Increase of GRT pupils on Child Missing in Education (CME) lists
  - ▶ Increase of GRT pupils on Elective Home Education (EHE) lists
  - ▶ Gypsy Roma and Travellers are over represented in the youth offending service
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# The reality in many local authorities

Severe shortage of school places resulting in:

- Siblings requested to go to different schools
  - Long journeys to school with high costs/poor transport links
  - First choice of school unlikely to be available
  - Little engagement from LA whilst waiting for a school place
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# The reality in many local authorities

Unclear systems:

- ▶ On-line admission systems
  - ▶ Weak transition arrangements and delays with in-year fair access panels
  - ▶ Lack of transparency of Academy schools admissions procedures and available places
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Salford City Partnership

# Gypsy Roma Traveller Action Research Project: Findings *October 2014*



# Awareness



# What really matters?

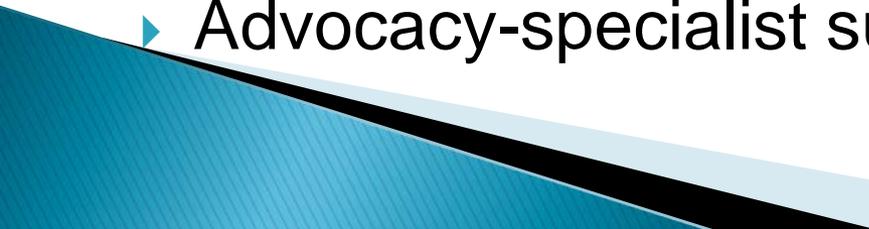
**trust (95%)**

**positive relationships (75%)**

**cultural competency (90%)**



# Findings and Recommendations

- ▶ Trust is non-negotiable
  - ▶ Cultural competency- Training
  - ▶ Effective outreach essential
  - ▶ Creative and flexible ways of solving issues/overcoming barriers
  - ▶ Empowerment-positive action for GRT community members
  - ▶ Advocacy-specialist support and advice
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# Empowerment and Positive Action

- ▶ Raising Profile of GRT communities through cultural events
- ▶ Active involvement of community members— all ages in schools and in the community

# EAL Best Practice for Roma pupils

- ▶ Access to the curriculum
- ▶ Enjoyment of learning
- ▶ Support and encouragement
- ▶ Achieving
- ▶ Feeling valued and feeling safe

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ensuring-roma-children-achieve-in-education>

# Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month



Gypsy Roma Traveller

HISTORY MONTH



# Roma Talent



# Salford Holocaust Memorial Event

  
HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL DAY



# GRT Achievement Award Ceremony at the University



# Networking and Influence on Strategic Planning



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