

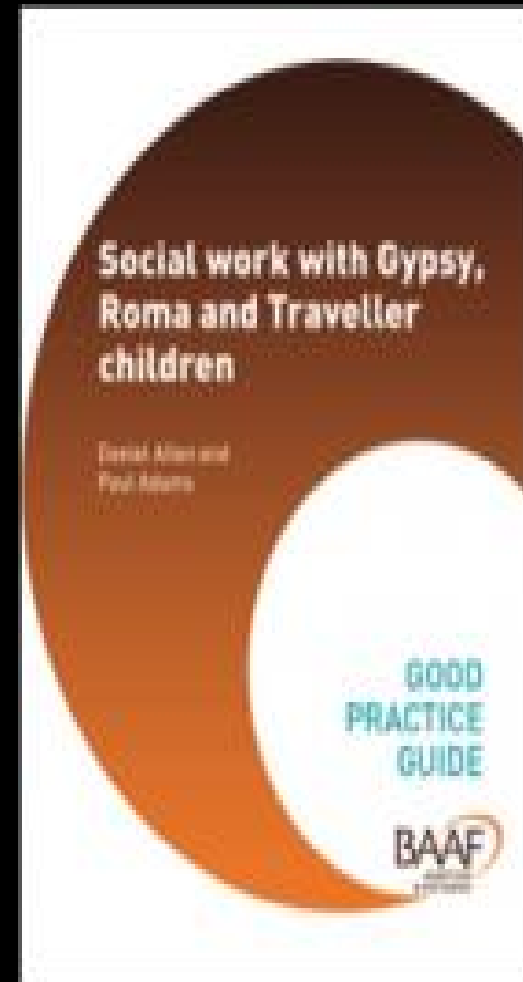
Social work engagement with Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities, good practice and international concerns.

Dr Dan Allen

Why are we here?

- The pathologization of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and their families leads to oppressive coercive practice. Cultural relativism on the other hand can lead to reluctance when intervention might be needed.

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller?



England

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total number of children in care	60,910	61,520	65,520	67,080	68,110
Travellers of Irish heritage	30	60	90	120	180
Gypsy/Roma	30	60	90	120	180

'The relationship between the carer and the child is far more important than whether the child and carer share the same religious beliefs, cultural mores, or ethnicity'.
(Department for Education, 2011)

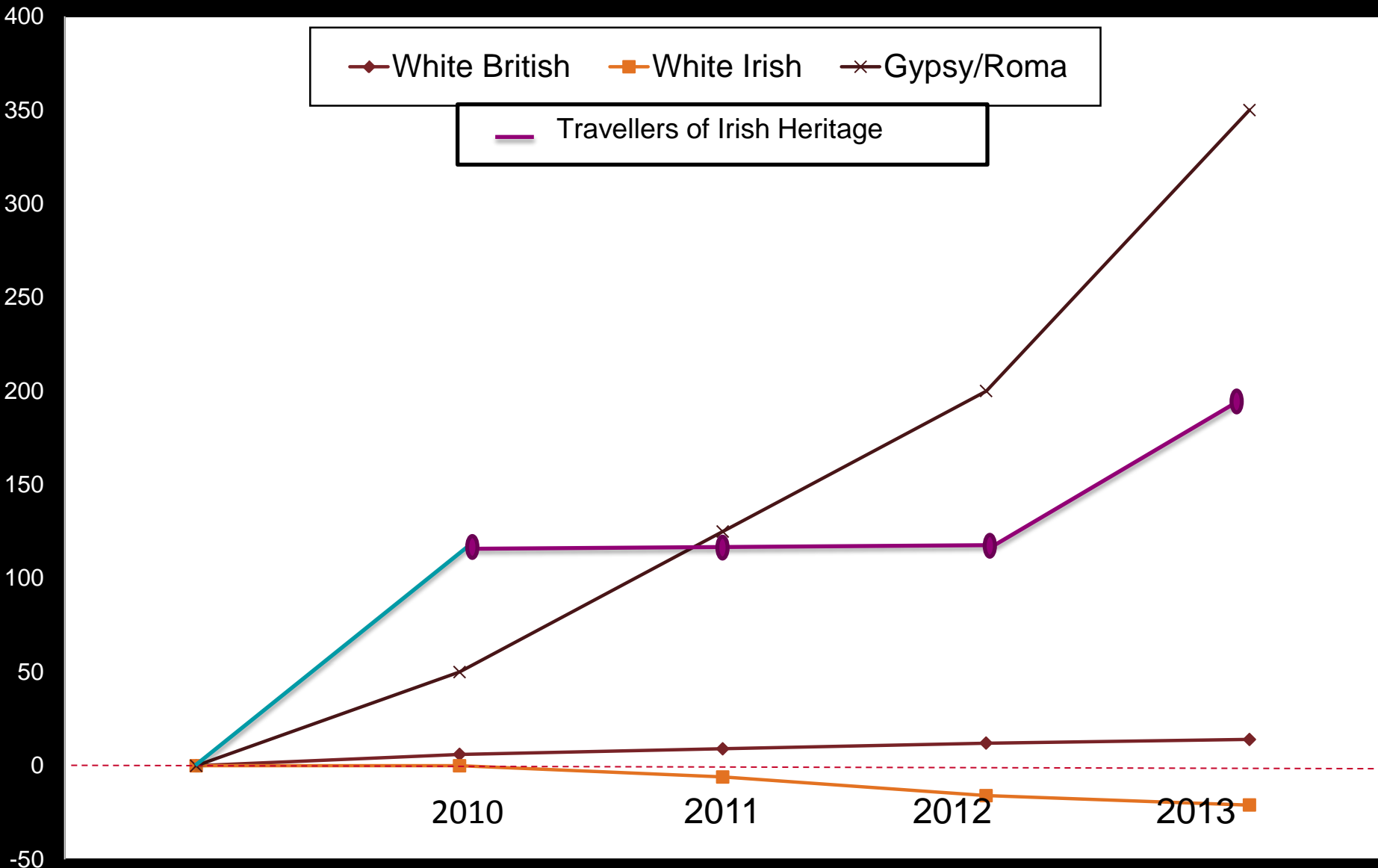
(Department for Education (2012) Children Looked After in England (Including Adoption and Care Leavers) Year Ending 31 March 2012, London: DfE, accessed 8 April 2013, at www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001084/sfr20-2012.pdf)

Northern Ireland

Ethnicity	Boys	Girls
Total	15,210	14,252
Number in care		
White	7,200	7,009
Refused/Unk	7,581	6,813
Black	41	272
Chinese	27	23
Indian sub-continent	7	13

From the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety (2012) Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2011/12, Stormont: Community Information Branch, accessed 8 April 2013, at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/children_s_social_care_statistics_for_northern_ireland_2011-12.pdf

PERCENTAGE INCREASE FOR GYPSY ROMA AND TRAVELLER CHILDREN LIVING IN CARE IN ENGLAND BETWEEN 2009 AND 2013



The position of Roma children in Care in Europe

	Bulgaria	Czech Republic	Hungary	Italy	Romania	Slovakia
Percentage of Roma children in children's homes visited	63.0%	40.6%	65.9%	10.4%	28.0%	2.5%
Share of Roma in the total population	10%	3%	7%	0.23%	9%	9%

A Life Sentence (European Roma Rights Centre, 2011)

Impact of care

