



Improving Health Outcomes for the Gypsy and Traveller Community

Summary

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Leeds 2016-21 prioritises improving the health of the poorest the fastest. **The Gypsy and Traveller population has one of the highest levels of inequality in the city.** The Cottingley Springs site is a local authority Gypsy and Traveller site whose residents face various challenges in regard to social inclusion, access to services and health and wellbeing. The site is in Wortley ward.



Community Health Needs Assessment

We carried out a Public Health Community Needs Assessment in 2013, including site visits from NHS Leeds CCG/LCC senior team members and NHS England. **A range of developments were agreed to improve primary care and take a preventative approach for residents at Cottingley Springs.**

Project Implementation

The project group⁽¹⁾ worked with Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Advocacy group (GATE) to coproduce a model to improve primary care access and health outcomes for this community. The project uses an asset based, community development approach.

The aim of the project was to enable people to access mainstream provision close to their homes, where they would be welcomed, accepted and respected. The nurse would build relationships and support primary care changes to improve the health care pathway.

The learning would contribute to the model of inclusion health for vulnerable groups being developed by NHS Leeds CCG and LCC Public Health.

(1) Project Group members: Tim Taylor Public Health, Sue Wilkinson LWCCG, Claire Graham Leeds GATE, Ellie Rogers Leeds GATE, Joanne Davis Public Health, Elaine James LWCCG Macmillan funded GP



Key Aspects of the Project

- **Outreach nurse** working with **GP practices** near Cottingley Springs to improve registration numbers
- They have supported attendance for **chronic condition management**
- More **effective pathways into health and social care services.** Accident and Emergency figures show a high use of services from the Cottingley Springs community
- Providing information on key public health **cancer screening programmes** such as breast, bowel and open access X-ray, and cervical screening
- Exploring potential delivery of **opportunistic vaccination and immunisation**
- Increasing awareness and uptake of **tailored NHS Health Checks**
- Developing **accessible information** suitable for people with **low level literacy** eg. pharmacy first
- Engaging the Gypsy and Traveller community in **targeted improvement work** eg. screening and cancer awareness projects
- Supporting **improved ethnicity recording**

Positive relationships were formed:

"I talk to you because I know you - might not talk to a doc about a check-up unless I'd talked to them before" - Male 40s

"I like you people, I would go if you lot organised it" (referring to GATE staff) - Female 40s

Excerpts from conversations conducted at Lee Gap Fare, Gypsy and Traveller event

Project Evaluation

An evaluation by Leeds Beckett University demonstrated the importance of improving access for the Gypsy and Traveller community by **involving them in the design** of the service.

Tim Taylor
Head of Public Health (Localities and Primary Care)
Adults and Health Directorate
Leeds City Council
tim.taylor@leeds.gov.uk

"Leeds - best city for health and wellbeing"

