

Workshop 3 - Ethnic Minorities

Facilitators: Trevor McMahon & Kat Beirne, SAAT Safe & Well Project

1. General overview of key points covered in the workshop
 - Facilitators gave an overview of how they as an agency can bring additionality to services for Travellers and address key inequalities with specific pieces of work around 3 key themes: community development, youth and health (eg: men's health, young women's group)
 - 48% of the entire Traveller population in NI are located in Southern Health & Social Care Trust area
 - Literacy was said to be a huge problem
 - Examples of work included capacity building, young women's group, health work, cultural awareness

2. How do we link with other agencies and share information?
 - SAAT Safe & Well use partner agencies to engage eg: SELB, SH&SCT, NIHE, Early Years – Toybox, Traveller representatives
 - Inter-agency working, making links with key working groups, capitalising on existing relationships and sign posting to other agencies enable information sharing and drive the work forward

3. How do we agree goals for the family?
 - Agreed by consultation, policy research, involving individual groups, including the extended family and actively building relationships

4. Tips for practitioners working with particular groups of parents
 - Key to the whole process is involving Traveller people at the outset and recognising the diversity / compatibility issues which exist within Traveller groups
 - Investing time, building trust and flexibility of programme development are imperative to engaging the Traveller community
 - Being seen out on site delivering in Traveller homes or local venues is essential
 - Be realistic and honest about what can be facilitated and delivered
 - Respecting cultural difference, promoting equality and increasing access to services are the main outcomes
 - Be prepared to challenge stereotypes on both sides of the community