What is the Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) Outreach and Inclusion Team?

The team supports children and young people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities to do well in learning and have skills for life by providing bespoke, specialist support and interventions that complement, rather than replace, the support provided by other teams within Children’s Services.

The team is based within the Youth Offer (guide), and families’ engagement with the team is on a voluntary basis.

Which children, young people and families does the team work with?

The team can work with any GRT family with children and young people aged 0-19 years. Our Gypsy Roma Traveller communities in Leeds are not one homogeneous group. Therefore, this may include families identifying as Romany Gypsy; Irish Traveller; Central and Eastern European, from countries such as: Czech Republic; Slovakia, Romania; Poland and others. [Please note this is not an exhaustive list]

Families do not need to define themselves by the term GRT to seek the support of the GRT Outreach & Inclusion Team.

What support does the GRT Outreach and Inclusion Team offer to families?

The team offers a range of support to children, young people and their families in GRT communities. Some of this work is specific to the ages of the children; please see overleaf for further details.

The work of the team includes, but is not limited to, the following support for families with children of all ages:

- Delivering time-limited individual or group work programmes;
- Acting in an advocacy or mediating role on behalf of families;
- Supporting access to universal services and provision;
- Providing families with the skills and knowledge they need to keep themselves and their children safe;
- Offering community learning, e.g. English language skills for new migrants, and safer sleeping tips for parents of babies and young children;
- Helping families to make positive changes where there are concerns about particular behaviours;
- Working in partnership with any targeted or statutory services that families are engaged with; and
- Working in partnership with the police to address safeguarding issues in relation to immigration, domestic violence and abuse (guide), and human trafficking (guide).

The team is staffed by Family Outreach and Inclusion Support workers.
How do Family Outreach Workers support GRT children and families?
Family Outreach Workers work predominantly with 0-5 year olds and their families, supporting them to access universal services including children’s centres and health visiting (guide). They work to increase parental awareness of the importance of Early Years education, and provide outreach early learning opportunities through offering the Nursery Bus at temporary roadside encampments and at the permanent Cottingley Springs site.

How do Inclusion Support Workers support GRT children and families?
Inclusion Support Workers work predominantly with school-aged children, from reception year up to Year 11. They support families to successfully navigate statutory processes such as school admissions, support schools to identify and address potential barriers to learning for children and young people from GRT communities, and offer individual and group work programmes for children and young people in need of additional educational support.

How can practitioners refer a family for support from the team?
Families’ engagement with the GRT Outreach and Inclusion Team is voluntary, so potential referrals must be discussed and agreed with the family in advance. In order to make a referral, practitioners must complete a referral form, which asks for a range of information about the family’s history and previous engagement with services (if any), the issues that need to be addressed in order to improve outcomes, and the changes practitioners would like to see. The form also provides space to note the child, young person and/or family’s view of the difference the team could make to them.

Please note that the GRT Outreach and Inclusion team do not accept referrals where the primary reason is for translation.

Key contacts and further information
If you would like to find out more information about what the team offer, discuss a potential referral or obtain a referral form, please contact the GRT Outreach and Inclusion Team on 0113 378 5033, or via email at grt.outreach.inclusion@leeds.gov.uk.