

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO REVIEW OF SERVICE PROVISION FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS – AN UPDATE
JANUARY 2007 P4 Annex A Recommendations

Recommendation	Response/Latest Position	Relevant Links
<p>Recommendation 1: (SEDU) We recommend that in all official communication the words “Gypsy” or “Traveller” should be capitalised.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The Strategic Equality & Diversity Unit wrote to Heads of Group and Heads of Division outlining this new policy as part of the work on progressing the Race Equality Scheme in February 2004.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: (SEDU) We urge the UK Government to clarify the RRA and put the matter of coverage under the Act beyond doubt, by listing in the Act those groups of Gypsies and Travellers that regard themselves as having a separate ethnic or racial identity.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is linked to recommendation 6 from <i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i>.</p>	<p>Although not specifically mentioned by the Race Relations Act, the Welsh Assembly Government acknowledges the fact that Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised by the courts as two distinct ethnic groups and are clearly protected by it. Although all race equality action plans will cover this group, it has included specific references to Gypsies & Travellers in relevant action plans (and their revisions). These include the Departments for; Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills (DELLS); Environment, Planning & Countryside (EPC); Local Government & Culture (LG&C); and Social Justice & Regeneration (SJ&R).</p> <p>The CRE’s scrutiny report on Gypsy and Traveller policy – <i>Common Ground</i>, was published in July 2006. The Welsh Assembly Government welcomes this report as it reinforces many of the messages contained within the <i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i> and the <i>Review of Service Provision for Gypsies & Travellers</i>. WAG is not working in isolation and is taking the recommendations from Common Ground into account, along with recommendations from the other two key reports mentioned here (for example it forms part of recommendation 6 from Pat Niner’s research that “..WAG and local authorities should consider carefully and implement the recommendations from the Commission for Racial Equality’s scrutiny exercise on services for Gypsies and Irish Travellers when it is published..”). Common Ground reinforces the fact that Gypsies & Travellers have the full protection of the Race Relations Act.</p> <p>In February 2006 the DCLG (formerly ODPM) issued a circular which set out some definitional points on Gypsies and Travellers.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 3: (STATISTICS / LGP) We recommend that a twice-yearly survey of numbers of Gypsies and Travellers be estimated as soon as possible. The survey should be designed in consultation with service providers and Gypsies and Travellers themselves to ensure that it</p>	<p>The Minister for Social Justice & Regeneration decided that the Assembly should re-start a Gypsy & Traveller site survey and that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG)) should carry out this survey in Wales on behalf of the Assembly.</p> <p>The bi-annual count was re-introduced on 19th July 2006 with first results</p>	<p>A Statistical Release (160/2006) presenting results from the first count is available via the WAG website: http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/housing-2006/hdw200611301/?lang=en</p>

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<p>captures the right information. At the very least it should provide accurate data on the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population, as well as a break down by age groups, distribution across the country and information on mobility. Information should also be included on the number of housed Gypsies and Travellers (The Gypsy and Traveller communities should be involved in collecting the information).</p> <p>NB: This recommendation is linked to recommendation 2 from <i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i>.</p>	<p>published in November 2006. The count was co-ordinated by the DCLG and undertaken by nominated Local Authority officers. The first count went well where only 2 authorities did not provide a return. The next count will take place during January 2007.</p> <p>Background to Caravan Count</p> <p><u>How was the count conducted?</u></p> <p>The count was split into four parts and collected information on: socially rented sites with planning permission; privately funded sites with planning permission; unauthorised sites without planning permission (unauthorised development); and unauthorised encampments.</p> <p>The Department for Communities & Local Government collected information using their Internet-based statistical data collection process. This provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proven data collection process using the internet, together with on-line data validation; • Results directly comparable with local authorities in England. <p>The forms are consistent with those used within England, with the exception of the ethnicity categories being expanded to include 'Welsh Gypsy'. This proposal was subject to consultation with Local Government in Wales as recommended by the Equality of Opportunity Committee report.</p> <p>We have also discussed the need for the biannual surveys with the WLGA on a number of occasions. The WLGA are supportive of the rationale behind the surveys and the need for local authorities to gain better information in relation to Gypsies and Travellers. The WLGA also encourages its member authorities to participate and use the information as part of their planning process.</p> <p>In addition, we also discussed the re-introduction of the Gypsy & Traveller Caravan Count with the Cardiff Gypsy & Traveller project who also supported the rationale and provided advice on ethnic categories used on the form.</p> <p>Every effort is being made to ensure that the 2 local authorities that didn't participate in the Summer count will be on board for January's</p>	<p>Similar data for England is available via DCLG's website: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1153575</p>
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	<p>count.</p> <p>LGP are currently considering DCLG's proposal to slightly modify January's count. The change would involve an additional question relating to vacant pitches to monitor how long they have been vacant - whether medium or long term.</p> <p>If the change is introduced in Wales appropriate training/guidance will be provided to officers responsible for undertaking the count. A decision will be made shortly.</p> <p><u>What information was collected?</u></p> <p>Information collected was about individual sites rather than at an all-local authority level basis, which is normal for statistical forms. More specifically, it collected information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of sites; • Number of pitches; • Number of caravans; and • Predominant type of site resident. <p>A review of the equivalent English survey showed that a site survey would not give reliable information about the population of Gypsies & Travellers and the characteristics of those Gypsies & Travellers. This is because this sort of information requires face-to-face questioning of site residents, and local authority staff are not able to do this consistently across all authorities and across all Gypsy or Traveller sites.</p> <p>Some relevant information was also collected by Pat Niner's research project that was set up in response to Recommendation 8 below, which provided a more detailed view of site provision for Gypsies & Travellers. Pat Niner's study didn't just collect quantitative data via the count, but also collected qualitative information via face to face interviews and group discussions. It also provided a means of quality assuring the data collected via the count.</p> <p><u>What information was not collected?</u></p> <p>Whilst the ethnic backgrounds of individuals were not collected, local authorities were asked to provide (if possible) the overall ethnicity of site resident on socially rented sites with planning permission.</p>	
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	<p><u>Other relevant information sources</u></p> <p>To add to existing data on Gypsies & Travellers, the 2005 'Living in Wales Survey' will provide some attitudinal research on the subject of Gypsies & Travellers. Results for the 2005 Living in Wales Survey are due to be released in December 2006, however results will only be available at an all-Wales level.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 4: (LGP / SEDU) We recommend that the Assembly Government should take the lead by working closely with the Commission for Racial Equality, those already working with Gypsies and Travellers in Wales (including Traveller Education Officers, Gypsy Liaison Officers and voluntary bodies), Welsh media and representatives of the Gypsy and Traveller communities, to identify ways to improve the quality of media reporting of Gypsy and Traveller cultures. The Assembly should present proposals of action to the Equality of Opportunity Committee that consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What stronger and more specific forms of guidance, including best practice guides, can be developed and issued to public bodies and the general public. • Any additional measures that can be taken against authority figures who make racist or inflammatory comments. • How it will ensure that Gypsies and Travellers are specifically considered in equality training and guidance delivered to Local Authorities and other public bodies. • The enhanced role that the race equality councils will play in delivering change, including ensuring that all public agencies that come into contact with Gypsy-Travellers review their anti- 	<p>The WAG Social Justice & Regeneration Department is currently recruiting for people to staff a dedicated Gypsy & Traveller unit. This unit will be responsible for taking forward and co-ordinating many of the outstanding recommendations from the 'Review of Service Provision for Gypsies & Travellers' and 'Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales'. It is hoped that the unit will be staffed early in the new year (2007). This recommendation will be the responsibility of the new Gypsy & Traveller Unit to take forward.</p> <p>A Minority Ethnic Communications Toolkit has been produced by the Central Office of Information (COI) and the WAG Corporate Publicity Team, available through the Assembly. It is intended to support better engagement with and communications about all Minority Ethnic groups, including Gypsies & Travellers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In particular, the toolkit provides some facts and figures on Gypsies & Travellers, and suggested methods of engaging with these communities. <p>This toolkit could be used to contribute to any media guidance that is produced for use in Wales. LGP and SEDU will continue to provide help and assistance where possible to carry forward this recommendation.</p>	

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<p>discrimination policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Gypsies and Travellers will be considered in the development of Race Equality Scheme under the Race Relations Amendment Act. • The development and implementation of a national media campaign and other activities such as media seminars to challenge attitudes. • How the media might assist with self-advocacy for example through the possibility of offering trainee-ships or work experience to young Gypsy Travellers, and any other ways that the media can be targeted to improve and enforce self-regulation. 		
<p>Recommendations 5 & 6:</p> <p>Recommendation 5: (LGP / SEDU) We recommend that the Assembly and Local Authorities pay particular attention to ensuring that Gypsies and Travellers are consulted on policy developments and that accessible and appropriate consultation methods are adopted. They should draw on the expertise of people who already act as advocates, who can help identify the best mechanisms to consult with Gypsies and Travellers in a particular area and to avoid misunderstandings or raised expectations. Particular attention should be paid to providing Gypsies and Travellers with full feedback on the results of consultation and the rationale for subsequent decisions.</p> <p>Recommendation 6: (LGP / PSD) We recommend that more support be given to staff who act as a central contact and advocate for Gypsies and Travellers. They should be given the resources to undertake capacity-building work and to encourage</p>	<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>In the spirit of partnership working, LGP and SEDU recently organised an event to officially launch Pat Niner's report - Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales. The purpose of the launch was to provide an opportunity for service providers and other interested parties to consider the report, its recommendations and conclusions in both plenary and workshop sessions. The workshop sessions covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Housing • Engagement Support Body • Engagement - Public bodies engaging with Gypsies & Travellers <p>Some members of the Gypsy & Traveller community were present throughout the day and most chose to attend the planning workshop. Their comments have been included in the summary report which has been provided to relevant Ministers. Comments received in all workshops have been fed back to relevant policy divisions. It should perhaps be pointed out that the members of the Gypsy & Traveller community who attended presented their own personal opinions and did not claim to represent "All Gypsies & Travellers". However, this does not make their comments any less valuable.</p> <p>Recommendation 6 (LGP)</p>	

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<p>self-advocacy.</p>	<p>This recommendation relates to recommendations 4 & 5 of the Pat Niner report - <i>'Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales'</i>.</p> <p>As a result of the Pat Niner report, a dedicated Gypsy & Traveller unit is to be established within the Social Justice & Regeneration Department. This unit will, when established, take forward recommendation 6. The new unit will be able to provide advice, assistance and information on best practice regarding engagement with the Gypsy & Traveller community. However it is the responsibility of each individual department to ensure that they engage and consult with their target audience in the appropriate way.</p> <p>This recommendation concerns staff within Local Authorities, Local Education Authorities, Local Health Boards, the police, the Gypsy & Traveller unit within WAG etc. There is also a role for the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).</p>	
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<p>Recommendation 7: (HOUSING) We recommend that the Welsh Assembly Government's Housing Department clarify the position on paying housing grants for site provision and advise Local Authorities accordingly. We further recommend that changes to primary legislation should be made to put Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites on the same footing as other housing stock, in terms of for example, availability of grants, pitch allocation policy and management issues.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is linked to recommendations 3 & 14 from <i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i>.</p>	<p>Welsh Assembly Government Ministers have accepted the principle that the feasibility of including site provision as a permissible purpose for Housing Associations should be pursued. This will be a responsibility of the new Gypsy & Traveller Unit.</p> <p>There are significant obstacles to the re-classification of Gypsy & Traveller caravan sites as a form of Social Housing, i.e. local authority provision could be included within the Housing Revenue Account. Principally these relate to the provision of Housing Revenue Account Subsidy which would fall to HM Treasury.</p> <p>In addition, the Housing Bill received Royal Assent on 18th November 2004. Sections 225 and 226 of the Housing Act 2004 require local authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers as part of their review of the housing needs of their area. Proposals to meet identified needs should be incorporated in their local housing strategy.</p> <p>The Act also gives the National Assembly the power to issue guidance (in Wales) in relation to carrying out assessments and preparing strategies. Assembly officials liaised with colleagues in ODPM (now DCLG) on guidance on assessment of housing markets and needs.</p> <p>Following this, Assembly officials issued draft guidance for consultation in July 2005 on assessment of housing markets and needs. Detailed guidance on assessing the needs of Gypsies and Travellers is located in the Local Housing Market Assessment Guide, Annex F which was published in March 2006. This is available via the following link: http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/housing/publications/marketassessguide?lang=en</p>	
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<p>Recommendation 9: (HOUSING / LGP) We recommend that there should be a duty to provide, or facilitate the provision of accommodation for Gypsies & Travellers and that additional funding should support this. The Assembly Government should consult service providers and Gypsies & Travellers over the most effective way in which a duty to provide sites could be placed in statute. In the short term the Assembly Government should review all its circulars and guidance on site provision to ensure that they promote site development as far as possible. In particular, we recommend that Local Authorities be asked to develop a strategy for meeting the needs of Gypsies & Travellers in their area.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is linked to recommendation 3 from <i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i>.</p>	<p>At present the Assembly Government's strategy is not to pursue the creation of a statutory duty for site provision, as this encourages a compliance culture which has not in the past delivered a commitment to Gypsy & Traveller issues or high quality site provision. It is felt that an approach based on a requirement to assess and plan for needs is more likely to lead to good quality sites located according to the demonstrable needs of the community.</p> <p>Housing Division are currently working towards commencing Section 225 and 226 of the Housing Act 2004, which when commenced will require Local Authorities to carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers as part of their local housing strategy.</p>	
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<p>Recommendation 8: (LGP) We recommend that there should be an audit of existing site provision to identify demand for further sites and gather information on good site design, facilities and location, which will inform future site development. This should start with a review of existing information to identify gaps that may require additional research.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>In December 2004 the Welsh Assembly Government commissioned Pat Niner of the University of Birmingham to establish the accommodation needs of Gypsies & Travellers in Wales.</p> <p>The purpose of the Gypsy & Traveller study is to inform the development of the Welsh Assembly Government's policy on Gypsies & Travellers by providing information on the number, location and conditions of Gypsy & Traveller sites in Wales.</p> <p>The published report makes 28 recommendations. The report provides an indication of the need for new site provision with the estimated costs. The project is intended to provide an indication of the obstacles to new site provision, the contribution of the planning system to the promotion of Gypsy & Traveller accommodation and good practice in site provision, management and design.</p> <p>Main developments since the research was conducted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of the setting up of a dedicated Gypsy and Traveller unit; • Secured a grant for the refurbishment of <u>existing</u> Gypsy & Traveller sites that exceeds the amount recommended by Pat Niner's research; • The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has reintroduced the Gypsy & Traveller Caravan Count Survey. First results were published on 30th November 2006; • Working to enact sections 225 and 226 of the Housing Act 2004; • A replacement circular "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan sites" was issued for public consultation in December 2006. The consultation will finish at the end of March 2007; • WAG will develop a national strategy for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation provision. This will be incorporated into Housing Division's Operational Plan for 2007-08; • WAG will develop a model site license agreement; • WAG has commissioned an in-depth research report into Gypsy and Traveller children's experience of learning in Wales; • WAG is taking account of recommendations from the CRE scrutiny report – <i>Common Ground</i>. 	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p><i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i> can be accessed via the following link:</p> <p>http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/localgovpublications/617471/?lang=en</p>
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<p>Recommendation 10: (PLANNING) We recommend that there is full and open consultation on proposed public site developments. Residents in the settled community should be given information about official sites. Guidance should be prepared on managing objections and tackling offensive comments or behaviour; this guidance should also apply to handling planning applications for private sites.</p>	<p>This is being taken forward in the context of revision of existing planning policy guidance, circular guidance and the development of Assembly guidance on the new Local Development Plan (LDP) system (see response to recommendation 11 for further detail). http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/depc/epcpublications/PlanPubs/Devplans/?lang=en</p> <p>This was introduced by the Planning and Compensation Act (PCPA) 2004 and brought into force in October 2005 by the <i>PCPA Commencement & Consequential & Transitional Provisions (Wales) Order 2005</i> and the <i>Town & Country Planning Act (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005</i>. http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/depc/epcpublications/PlanPubs/Devplans/?lang=en</p> <p>A guide for the public on how they can become involved in the consultation process has been published (2006). This leaflet is available from local libraries, local authority public offices, upon the request from the Welsh Assembly, on the Welsh Assembly Government website or upon request How and when an objection can be made, and how it is dealt with, is covered in the leaflet. The guide does not cover tackling offensive comments or behaviour; it is a purely factual leaflet on the planning preparation process. http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/depc/epcpublications/PlanPubs/Devplans/?lang=en</p>	
<p>Recommendation 11: (PLANNING) We recommend that, when considering the construction of new sites or the refurbishment of existing sites, the same level of commitment to full consultation should be applied to meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers as applies in other areas, for example in social housing and regeneration initiatives.</p>	<p>This is being pursued through the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) for Local Development Plans. Every Local Planning Authority (LPA) has to prepare a Delivery Agreement which is approved by the authority and agreed by the Assembly. One part of the Delivery Agreement is the Community Involvement Scheme and the LPA has a duty to consult with community groups when preparing it (a full list is included in (The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plans) (Wales) Regulations 2005)).</p> <p>“Local Development Plans Wales: Planning Policy on LDPs (including the CIS)” was issued in October 2005. A manual for practitioners (LDP Manual) was also published in July 2006 and includes a specific reference to Gypsies and Travellers when referring to engagement with traditionally under-represented groups.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 12: (PLANNING)</p>	<p>A draft circular, “Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites”, was</p>	

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<p>We recommend that an urgent review should be conducted to produce a revised planning framework for Gypsy and Traveller site development. This review should actually seek the involvement of Gypsies and Travellers, and individuals with experience of making or supporting planning applications. The aim of the review should be to identify barriers and find ways to facilitate site development, support individuals through the planning process and to establish a wider definition of who constitutes a 'Gypsy' for the purposes of planning regulations – we recognise that this may require a change in primary legislation.</p>	<p>issued for public consultation in December 2006. The consultation will finish at the end of March 2007.</p> <p>The circular was informed by the Niner research study, "Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales" and includes a revised definition for Gypsies & Travellers. In particular, it also takes forward recommendation 16 from Pat Niner's research which calls for the Assembly to issue circular guidance on the need for local planning authorities to "...identify actual locations for sites in Local Development Plans wherever assessments indicate that there is a need".</p>	
<p>Recommendation 13: (LGP) We recommend that circular 76/94 on dealing with unauthorised encampments be revised. The revised version should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stress the importance of thoroughly assessing the needs of those families involved before taking action • strongly advise against impounding caravans and thereby making people homeless. <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is linked to recommendations 18, 19 & 20 from <i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i>.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The finalised guidance on "Managing Unauthorised Camping", produced jointly by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Home Office, was issued at the beginning of January 2005.</p> <p>In addition, Local Government Policy Division proposes to carry out a review with Local Authorities on the operation of 'Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping'. Work is currently in progress to place the Guidance on the Assembly's website. It is anticipated that the review will be conducted in early 2007. The findings will be reported to the Minister for Finance, Local Government & Public Services, the Equality of Opportunity Committee and the newly established Gypsy & Traveller Unit.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Recommendation 14: (LGP) We recommend that Local Authorities be required to provide, or facilitate the provision of transit sites (in line with recommendation 9 on site provision in general). The Assembly should make funding available to support the development of these sites. In the short term we recommend that the Assembly</p>	<p>Pat Niner's research study recommends (Recommendation 21) that the Welsh Assembly Government should carry out or encourage a review of the current condition and role of 'transit' pitches on existing local authority sites with a view to making proposals to either convert to residential use or ensure, through active site management, that the pitches fulfil a true transit function.</p> <p>When established, the new Gypsy & Traveller unit will take the above recommendation forward (rec. 21 from Niner Report). Given the clear</p>	

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<p>issues clear guidance, drawing on experiences from across the UK, setting best practice on meeting the needs of 'short stay' Gypsies & Travellers.</p>	<p>link, it would be logical for the unit to also take forward this recommendation.</p> <p>The recommendation has been accepted by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). Annex F of the Local Housing Market Assessment Guidance includes assessment of the need for transit sites. http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/housing/publications/marketassessguide?lang=en</p>	
<p>Recommendation 15: (LGP) We recommend that the guidance referred to in recommendation 9 on site provision should include best practice advice on designing sites – this should include advice on selecting site locations, layout and facilities. The audit of existing site provision, at recommendation 8, will assist in this process. The guidance should be drawn up in consultation with Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is linked to recommendation 8 from <i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i>.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The purpose of Pat Niner's research is to inform the development of the Welsh Assembly Government's policy on Gypsies & Travellers by providing information on the number, location and conditions of Gypsy & Traveller sites in Wales as well as information on good practice in site provision, management and design.</p> <p>Housing accepts that a decent site standard should be developed following consultation as part of grant criteria. At present there is no statutory obligation for Local Authorities to have site standards. Consideration will also be given to the possibility of new legislation.</p> <p>Additional work needs to be undertaken on linking this with grant criteria and how it would be monitored. Other issues to consider are whether the grant would include RSLs. Planning would be able to assist in relation to new sites or extensions to existing sites.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Recommendation 16: (LGP) We recommend that Local Authorities work with the Royal Mail to find a solution that is workable and fair.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Pat Niner's research study does not look specifically into the problems experienced with Royal Mail. LGP will consult the WLGA on this recommendation.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 17: (LGP) We recommend that the Assembly Government looks more closely at Local Authority charges for utilities and discusses charging policy with them and utility companies.</p>	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Pat Niner's research study does not look specifically into Local Authority charges for utilities and discusses charging policy with them and utility companies. LGP will consult the WLGA on this recommendation.</p>	

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<p>Recommendation 18: (LGP) We recommend that additional funding be made available to refurbish and improve existing sites. The views of site residents and the results of the audit referred to in Recommendation 8 should inform priorities.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is linked to recommendations 10, 11 & 12 from <i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i>.</p>	<p>COMPLETED.</p> <p>Relates to recommendation 10 of Pat Niner's Report which has been carried forward by Housing Division.</p> <p>The Welsh Assembly Government has secured funding for a Gypsy & Traveller Sites Refurbishment grant scheme of £1million per year during 2007-08 to 2009-10. This was put forward in the draft budget laid before the National Assembly for Wales in October 2006 and was agreed by Plenary in December 2006. It should be made clear that this amount exceeds the amount recommended by Pat Niner's research and will go a long way towards improving the quality of <u>existing</u> sites. It will not however be used to develop new sites.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Recommendation 19: (HOUSING) We recommend that the revised guidance referred to in Recommendation 9 should include model-licensing agreements, which make clear the respective roles and responsibilities of site managers and residents. They should also include clear and transparent dispute resolution mechanisms.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is linked to recommendation 22, 23, 24 & 25 from <i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i>.</p>	<p>Recommendation 22 of the Pat Niner report states that:</p> <p><i>"The Welsh Assembly Government should develop a model site licence agreement setting out rights and responsibilities of both the landlord and the licensee in plain and easy-to-understand language. The possibility of giving licensees rights equivalent to those enjoyed by social tenants, including greater security of tenure, should be explored"</i></p> <p>WAG will develop a model site license agreement setting out rights and responsibilities of both the landlord and the licensee in plain and easy-to-understand language. This will be incorporated into Housing Directorate's operational plan for 2007-08.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 20: (HOUSING) We recommend that there should be no expectation or pressure for Gypsies and Travellers to move into settled housing. Where Gypsies and Travellers do wish to move into this type of accommodation they should receive help and support with the application process and with managing the transition from previous accommodation.</p>	<p>There is no expectation on Gypsies & Travellers to move into settled housing. However, for those who wish to do so, most landlords will have some form of information pack for new or prospective tenants and should offer help to those who might have literacy problems. This includes the provision of information on audio tapes for example. To ensure that landlords are doing this, regulation of housing associations and local authorities includes audit processes which assure compliance with expectations regarding service user information.</p> <p>Local Authorities are required to take into consideration the Assembly Government's 'Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness'. The Code states that, 'Social housing exists to meet the needs of a diverse range of people, many of</p>	

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	<p>whom represent some of society's most vulnerable and excluded groups'.</p> <p>The Code of Guidance was recently reviewed and now contains explicit reference to the responsibility to consider the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in allocation schemes. Consultation on the draft of the code will begin imminently. Allocation schemes should be sensitive to meet a diverse range of groups whose support needs may be equally as diverse. The guidance includes a list of persons that allocation schemes should be sensitive to.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 21: (HEALTH) We recommend that the Assembly completes a full literature review and undertakes further research into the health needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Wales to establish baselines for service provision. This information should be used to inform future health policy and the development of local strategies and it may be necessary to routinely collect specific statistical information.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> Health Promotion Division is now known as Public Health Improvement Division</p>	<p>The Health Promotion Division has commissioned a research programme, Health (ASERT) Programme Wales, on health promotion issues among Ethnic Minorities, Refugees, Asylum seekers and Gypsies & Travellers in Wales from the Research Centre for Trans-cultural Studies in Health at Middlesex University. The overall aim of the research was to enhance the evidence base for health promotion policy and programme development for Ethnic Minority, Refugee and Traveller groups.</p> <p>The main focus of the Health ASERT Programme Wales is health promotion, but it also examined a wide range of issues affecting the health of Gypsies & Travellers including their health needs, social determinants of health and health care interventions.</p> <p>This included a systematic review of the literature on the health beliefs, health status, access to/use of services by the Gypsy & Traveller population and of appropriate health care interventions. Main findings & recommendations and a review of the literature (Gypsy & Traveller population) have now been published. These have been distributed to the Chief Executives of all local health boards, the National Public Health Service (NPHS), health alliances and voluntary groups.</p> <p>Information on the ASERT programme is available at:</p> <p>http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/health/ocmo/research/asert/?lang=en</p> <p>Additional research has been undertaken to inform this report by the All Wales Gypsies & Travellers Group (see recommendation 27 for description of this group). This has drawn together best practice from across Wales and will be disseminated to all Local Health Boards (LHBs). The last few reports are in the final proofing stages prior to</p>	

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	<p>publication. Reports already published can be accessed via the link and are downloadable. Once all the work has been disseminated, evidence of if/how the reports are being used will be collected.</p> <p>The Statistical Directorate of the Assembly does not currently collect or publish information on the health status or service use of the Gypsy & Traveller population, however the pupil-level school census (PLASC) collects information on ethnicity, and there are plans to link this with other information. The Statistical Directorate also restarted the Gypsies and Travellers caravan count in July 2006. Results were published at the end of November 2006.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 22: (HEALTH) We recommend that primary and secondary health care staff, including non-medical personnel who act as first point of contact for patients, must receive training on equality issues including specific guidance on removing barriers to Gypsies and Travellers accessing health services. The training should begin at the point of entry into the NHS and be part of the continuous professional development of staff.</p>	<p>Equality and diversity training is addressed in LHBs and Trusts through their Business Services Centres (BSC) in conjunction with the WAG Strategic Equality & Diversity Unit (SEDU). The NHS Race Equality and Human Rights Centre are currently developing a programme to strengthen and reinforce awareness of the <i>Race Relations Amendment Act (2000)</i> across departments including Trusts & LHBs, and are producing an electronic learning package (CD Rom) addressing cultural competence for the health service in Wales.</p> <p>Diversity training is also offered at individual GP practice level. Some LHBs have appointed Diversity Officers who undertook training for all Board members. Trusts and LHBs should address the need for this training, especially by reception staff providing the first point of contact for Gypsies and Travellers trying to access primary care.</p> <p>There is a need for corporate mechanisms to deliver governance requirements. Chief Executives should ensure that all staff have access to diversity training. This may be obtained from the NHS Equality and Human Rights Unit.</p> <p>The National Public Health Service (NPHS) will be developing a needs assessment template to assist the LHBs in identifying the health, social care and wellbeing needs of Gypsies and Travellers as part of the wider SMG. The NPHS also intends to develop evidence based best practice guidance to support the LHBs in meeting these needs.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 23: (HEALTH) We recommend that the Assembly Government develop mechanisms to encourage GPs and dentists to register</p>	<p>Officials have written to each LHB drawing their attention to <i>the Review of Service Provision for Gypsies and Travellers</i>.</p> <p>Community Dental Services (salaried services provided by NHS Trusts)</p>	

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<p>Gypsies and Travellers as patients, for example incentives for registration, specific targets for registering Gypsies and Travellers.</p>	<p>provide a range of special services which may include dental treatment for disadvantaged groups. The Welsh Assembly Government is currently undertaking a review of the Community Dental Services in Wales. The responsibility for the provision of NHS dental services lies with Local Health Boards and it is a matter for each of them to determine the appropriate level and type of services. Under the new reforms (from October 2005) with the commencement of the relevant sections of <i>the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003</i>, LHBs will have a duty to provide or secure primary dental services to the extent it considers reasonable.</p> <p>Gypsy and Traveller access to the primary care system is through the normal registration process. The general medical services contract is a nationally agreed and negotiated contract. Local Health Boards are responsible for the provision of general medical services in their area. Everyone has the right to register with a GMS practice and to receive GMS services and where people have difficulty they should contact the LHB which has powers to allocate.</p> <p>All LHBs will be able to use funding from their budgets to develop local enhanced services to meet local priorities. These priorities, many of which are identified in the LHBs Health and Wellbeing Strategies, could benefit Gypsies and Travellers and any other specific groups.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 24: (HEALTH) We recommend that in drawing up the Information Management and Technology Strategy 'Informing Healthcare' the Assembly Government should ensure that the particular needs of mobile groups like Gypsies and Travellers are taken into account.</p>	<p>Electronic patients' records are integral to the implementation of the Informing Healthcare Strategy. Epidemiology statistics are logged only by disease and not by the diversity sub-set necessary to identify Gypsy & Traveller issues.</p> <p><i>Informing HealthCare (IHC)</i> is scoped to address the needs of all patients in Wales requiring care whatever their origin or residential history. Any systems deployed will either share patient identification technology with NHS England or be interoperable with it.</p> <p>It is the intention of the programme that patient histories in England and Wales will be available in either country and discussions are currently on going with the National Programme for IT as to how this is best achieved. Subject to appropriate security measures the Welsh history should be available anywhere in the world where there is access to the web. Amongst other things this will be a key requirement in ensuring patient access to their own records.</p>	

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	<p>In summary, therefore, it is planned that IHC will support the requirements of peripatetic citizens.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 25: (HEALTH) We recommend that, where specific health professionals deliver services, every effort should be made to ensure continuing care. Specialist provision – to ensure there is access to wider expertise, cover during inevitable absences and to reduce the isolation of staff, should be provided with training and development opportunities.</p>	<p>Continuity of care should be ensured in relation to health and other professionals such as community nurses, health visitors and speech therapists. Succession planning to ensure this takes place is imperative. Difficulties were experienced in the guaranteed delivery of continuity of care including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • difficulties in the recruitment and retention of community nurses, speech therapists and health visitors; • managing care pathways for mobile people, although this would be eased with the development of electronic records; • targeting roadside travellers in order to provide them with appropriate Primary Care information. <p>LHBs are best placed to manage services needed to address the needs of Gypsy and Traveller groups. This may involve the use of mobile units or other service outreach units.</p> <p>Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategies should include succession planning for the delivery of services to such vulnerable groups to help avoid the problems caused by absence. These services should be embedded as part of the planning and delivery of care services.</p> <p>LHBs are aware of the significance of the elimination of health inequalities as emphasised in both the <i>Townsend</i> and <i>Wanless</i> reports, which will form an important part of their service delivery. Addressing this should be integral to the work of LHBs.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 26: (HEALTH) We recommend that health bodies should ensure that they build up expertise in service provision to Gypsies and Travellers across the health service through training, secondments and work shadowing. This will ensure that the needs of this client group are mainstreamed and should help to ensure that there is a pool of expertise available.</p>	<p>There is already benchmarking, networking and best practice sharing, especially on public involvement issues taking place between LHBs. LHBs may need to strengthen ways of sharing facilities and expertise, particularly in addressing the needs of specific minority groups such as Gypsies and Travellers, building on existing services, and expertise being provided. The work of the National Assembly for Wales on Specific Minority Groups (SMGs) will help strengthen this by identifying common themes across a number of minority groups and providing policy guidance for local and national levels. The Assembly will also link with Local Authorities (LAs) to share best practice and develop an integrated approach.</p>	

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	<p>The network facilitated in the Trusts and LHBs by SEDU for vulnerable groups could be strengthened to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers communities.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 27: (HEALTH) We recommend that the Assembly consider forming an All Wales steering group. The role and responsibilities of the steering group could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing up best practice guidelines for dissemination to the Local Health Boards based on existing information and shared knowledge • Steering and disseminating further research into the health needs of Gypsy-Travellers • Providing a strategic reference point for generic workers/specialist health professionals and multi-agency forums/co-ordinating groups in each Local Health Board area. • Reviewing the monitoring and evaluation of Local Health Board strategies and programs for this client group, including anti-discriminatory policy reviews. • Providing a strategic reference point for All-Wales co-ordination between professionals in other fields of service provision to Gypsies & Travellers, such as education and accommodation. • Advising and disseminating information on targeted funding streams and programs available to meet the needs of Gypsies & Travellers and how to access those funds and programs (see rec. below). • Involving Gypsies & Travellers themselves in future consultation on service provision and providing them with a focal point for exchange of views 	<p>The All Wales Gypsy & Traveller Group (AWGTG) was established to consider the health recommendations raised in the report. This group has drawn together evidence from across Wales and has identified a number of key issues that are consistent with other specific minority groups. Many of the points raised above are currently being incorporated into policy guidance and the group's response to the recommendations was issued to LHBs in January 2006. This document will help to ensure more equitable access and availability of appropriate services and will strengthen the development of local needs assessments as part of informing local Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategies.</p> <p>The All-Wales multi-professional, multi-agency Selected Minority Group (SMG) was established by the Welsh Assembly Government in partnership with the National Public Health Service (NPHS) to identify the common healthcare priorities for four minority groups. These groups are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gypsies and Travellers; • Homeless People; • Asylum Seekers and Refugees; • Black and Minority Ethnic Groups. <p>The SMG has produced guidance (which incorporates evidence from research commissioned from the University of Wales, and examples of good practice into Guidance for LHBs and Trusts) to support them in the Health Needs Assessment process and development of the HSCWB Strategies to take full account of the needs of these vulnerable groups. The Guidance was recently disseminated at two workshops in Wrexham and Swansea. Best practice identified by the AWGTG on the services for Gypsies and Travellers will continue to be fed back into the SMG which focuses on the following groups:</p> <p>This Group may wish to consider the establishment of an all-Wales network to help share and develop best practice in addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. The work of the SMG is ongoing.</p>	

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<p>and feedback, if necessary using existing support and liaison officers as their intermediaries.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 28: (HEALTH) We recommend that the Assembly ensure that all LHBs develop and implement a strategy that demonstrates how they will meet the health needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their area.</p> <p>This should include details of how they will remove barriers to access for example through employing specialist health professionals (i.e. health visitors, paediatricians, health promotion workers, dentists and midwives) or through a generic worker. This will facilitate access, address specific health inequalities, and act as advocate for Gypsies and Travellers among other health professionals. It should put in place or support existing mechanisms to ensure multi-agency co-ordination between the different agencies involved in service provision to Gypsies and Travellers. It should also specifically address the need for outreach to deliver health services on sites.</p>	<p>We have written to each LHB drawing their attention to the <i>Review of Service Provision for Gypsies and Travellers in Wales</i> to help ensure they will take this into account when developing new LHB policies.</p> <p>The Assembly provides common generic advice/guidance to LHBs on access to services. It is for the LHBs with their partners to address the health needs of their whole population including the needs of all its vulnerable groups, and services should be commissioned to meet those needs. The 'Service Development & Commissioning Guidance for Selected Minority Groups' will help to inform the next round of the health needs assessments and development of the HSCWB Strategies.</p> <p>The revised guidance for the development of the HSCWB strategies is currently out for consultation. The monitoring and implementation of the 'Service Development & Commissioning Guidance' will be reflected in the new guidance for commissioning the Health, Social Care & Well Being Strategies and we anticipate that this will also be considered in the new Performance Improvement Framework for the NHS.</p> <p><i>The Primary Care strategy</i> allowed for the mainstreaming of provision to diverse communities as a fixed part of the policy context. The Balanced Scorecard approach could help accommodate a built-in target for vulnerable groups during the SaFF process.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 29: (HEALTH) We recommend that the Assembly Government's Health Promotion Division work with health bodies to develop a range of accessible and culturally appropriate health promotion material, building on existing best practice in this field and based on the health needs identified by research. Existing health promotion networks and specialists working with Gypsies and Travellers should be used to disseminate this material.</p>	<p>The Health Promotion Division commissioned a research programme, Health ASERT Programme Wales, on health promotion issues among Ethnic Minorities, Refugees/Asylum seekers and Gypsies and Travellers in Wales from the Research Centre for Trans-cultural Studies in Health at Middlesex University. The overall aim is to enhance the evidence base for informing health promotion policy and programme development for Ethnic Minority, Refugee and Traveller groups. Any materials developed will be disseminated in accordance with this recommendation.</p> <p>One of the core elements of the recommendations from the evidence drawn from this research is to advocate ways of involving minority communities in developing more culturally competent health promotion services. Main findings & recommendations, and a review of the</p>	

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<p>NB: Health Promotion Division is now known as Public Health Improvement Division</p>	<p>literature (Gypsy & Traveller population) have been published. These have been distributed to the Chief Executives of all local health boards, the NPHS, health alliances voluntary groups.</p> <p>Information on the ASERT programme is available at:</p> <p>http://www.cmo.wales.gov.uk/content/work/research/asert-e.htm</p> <p>http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/health/professionals/ocmo/communications/reports/?lang=en.</p> <p>The Public Health Improvement Division is also working with a group of midwives, health visitors and others to look at pregnancy and childcare health information needs of parents and carers who are unable to read English or Welsh, or who have low literacy levels. This is with specific reference to The Pregnancy Book and Birth to Five (Department of Health publications adapted for use in Wales by the Welsh Assembly Government, and provided free of charge to first time mothers via their midwives and health visitors).</p> <p>Some materials (e.g. weaning materials) have been produced as pictorial resources. Work to further identify and/or develop suitable pictorial or written resources is also on-going. For example, audio CDs of the Pregnancy Book and Birth to Five are now available, but need further work.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 30: (HEALTH) We recommend that specific programs are developed to tackle the specific health inequalities in the Gypsy and Traveller community (for example, chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease that are less diagnosed and treated than in the settled community).</p>	<p>Some specific progress to address the needs of Gypsies and Travellers already exists with support from the Assembly Health and Inequalities fund. In particular, in Wrexham LHB's area and Monkton Priory school. In addition, reference to prevention, screening and accidents for diabetes and coronary heart disease can be found within the LHB's Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategies.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 31: (HEALTH) We recommend that, in addition to ensuring that general funding is allocated to Local Health Board strategies to meet the health needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Wales, the Assembly puts mechanisms in place to ensure timely information and</p>	<p>In relation to this recommendation it was agreed that the best way forward was to develop a guidance template and that web access and design could be improved with better signposting which will be looked at as part of the WAG normal annual procedures for the Health and Inequalities Fund.</p> <p>The IIHF is not open to bids at the present time. All funding is fully</p>	

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<p>guidance on the bidding process for targeted funds is provided to the health professionals working with this client group.</p>	<p>committed to the furtherance of the current portfolio of 62 projects. Following a further extension, announced by the Minister in February this year, the majority of the projects will now go through to 31st March 2008.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 32: (ANID) That in developing PLASC (the electronic records system), consideration be given to the requirements of mobile groups such as Gypsies and Travellers. Particular attention should be paid to definitions to ensure that they cover all the relevant groups of Gypsies and Travellers and consideration also be given as to whether a PLASC reference can be given to children outside the school system.</p>	<p>Accepted. There is no difficulty with this in principle, and we will be considering the necessary policy changes and appropriate consultation.</p> <p>The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) made certain recommendations regarding pupil registration which will inform the re-drafting of Circular 52/90.</p> <p>The research will involve looking closely at PLASC and results for national curriculum assessments and external examinations (to be published in the Autumn) will identify whether existing data is representative or whether it should be extended.</p> <p>Any change to the valid responses for ethnicity (which currently include options for Gypsy / Roma and Traveller of Irish Heritage) would require public consultation and careful consideration of the data collection burden placed on schools if changes are made.</p> <p>Preparatory work is in hand (PID1) to develop systems to extend the PLASC individual, electronic data collection model to pupils currently educated in pupil referral units or otherwise than at school (EOTAS). To this extent LEAs have provided us with information on the current availability of data on EOTAS children. This is being fed into the development by the Assembly of a basic data gathering tool. We plan to pilot the tool within a number of LEAs early in the new year when their Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) will submit an electronic return in place of their normal STATS 1 form. This pilot phase will help better inform the future development of processes for gathering data on traditionally harder to reach groups including Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p>The Head of Additional Needs & Inclusion Division wrote to Directors of Education in June reminding them of their duty to record data on pupils' national identity and ethnic backgrounds on the National Pupil database with the intention of strengthening local and national ethnic monitoring to aid in identifying inequality of opportunity.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 33: (SMD) LEAs Education Strategic Plans should include detailed information on how they</p>	<p>The work on the first stage of the rationalisation of education plans has been completed. Four key education plans have been replaced by the Single Education Plan as from 1st September 2006. The new Single</p>	

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<p>intend to meet the educational needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their area and how they will remove barriers to access and attainment.</p>	<p>Education Plans cover the period 1st September 2006 to 31st August 2008 when they will be replaced by an integrated Children and Young People Plan covering education and children’s services.</p> <p>The new Single Education Plan regulations place a requirement on LEAs to include in their plans their strategy for education provision for pupils with additional learning needs with the expectation that this would cover children from Gypsy & Traveller communities. This strategy should focus on enabling these pupils to fulfil their potential through additional provision in school and/or provision outside a school setting. The strategy should also refer to monitoring of progress and outcomes for individual pupils in the additional learning needs groups.</p> <p>The Welsh Assembly Government is not required under the regulations to approve plans, although the Assembly Government is a statutory consultee and provided comments on all 22 draft plans.</p> <p>All 22 Single Education Plans have been completed. The extent to which the needs of Gypsy Traveller children are taken into account varies. The better LEAs describe current plans and provision for these children and set targets for action over the life of the plans.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 34: (ANID) That the Assembly Government put the mechanisms in place to monitor how effectively LEAs are meeting their statutory duty to educate Gypsy and Traveller children, for example by including consideration of the effectiveness of LEA provision in Estyn’s remit for inspections of schools and LEAs.</p>	<p>PSD commissioned the National Foundation For Educational Research (NFER) to produce a report ‘Research into the Education of Gypsy Traveller Children in Wales’. This was completed in February 2006 and includes the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers attending school, achievement levels and issues around general educational need.</p> <p>Estyn produced a report in December 2005 – ‘The Education of Gypsy Traveller Learners – A Survey of Provision made by Schools and Local Authorities to Meet the Needs of Gypsy & Traveller Learners as part of its remit to the Welsh Assembly Government. The report contains a number of recommendations for LEAs, schools and the Assembly Government. Estyn’s framework for the inspection of LEAs includes a section for Inspectors to evaluate, grade and report on how effective the LEA is in meeting the needs of and raising standards of specific groups including Gypsy Traveller learners.</p> <p>Both reports will inform the re-drafting of Circular 52/90 ‘Meeting the Education Needs of Travellers and Displaced Persons’.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 35: (ANID)</p>	<p>Work has begun on updating this Circular. Account will be taken of a</p>	

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<p>That the Assembly Government's Education Department updates Circular 52/90 on meeting the Education needs of Travellers to cover existing best practice in Gypsy and Traveller education. The revised circular should be drawn up in consultation with service providers and Gypsies & Travellers.</p>	<p>range of evidence and research including the NFER and Estyn reports.</p> <p>The NFER research was commissioned following the Review but by the time the report was available, a moratorium on recruitment meant that there was no staff resource to take the review of the Circular forward. A consultant has now been taken on to update the Circular and produce fresh guidance which will go out to consultation following the Assembly election next year.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 36: (ANID) That the funding available for the Section 488 Grant be increased to enable support for specialist "Traveller Education Services" or similar in all LEAs with a Gypsy and Traveller population.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The Section 488 Gypsy & Traveller Grant remained at £900,000 for 2006/07. This money is matched at a 25% grant rate by LEAs, making the total for this financial year £1.2m. In addition, the grant is again being match-funded by the European EQUAL Programme.</p> <p>Competing pressures in budget planning rounds have prevented an increase in the specific grant for Travellers' education and other ethnic minority achievement grants.</p> <p>The future of the Section 488 grant scheme is currently being considered along with two other Welsh Assembly ethnic minority inclusion grant schemes to establish if their effectiveness can be improved. It will be for the Minister for Education to decide, but it is probable that the recommendation that will be put to her shortly will be to leave the Travellers grant as it is. This would recognise the specialised education and support needs of this group of learners and the discrete service provision for them within LEAs.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Recommendation 37: (ANID) We recommend that schools with Gypsies & Travellers living within their catchment area should be given targets for access, continuing attendance and attainment by Gypsy & Traveller pupils.</p>	<p>Schools already set targets for pupils. In addition, from the reports Additional Needs & Inclusion Division (ANID) receives from LEAs in receipt of the Traveller Education Grant it is clear that most authorities seek to arrange a continuity of provision and try to attract/maintain interest particularly when Gypsy & Traveller pupils progress to secondary school.</p> <p>ANID will also address this as part of the update of circular 52/90 referred to above. Work on this has begun.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 38: (YAPP) We recommend that schools should ensure that their anti-bullying and anti-racism</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>Circular available at:</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>

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<p>strategies include specific reference to Gypsies and Travellers.</p>	<p>http://www.learning.wales.gov.uk/scripts/fe/news_details.asp?NewsID=864</p>	
<p>Recommendation 39: (TLD) The training provided to teachers and other staff in schools must include guidance on removing barriers to Gypsies and Travellers accessing education. This should begin at teacher training stage and be part of the continuous professional development of staff.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The Welsh Assembly Government has published new Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) Standards, which all trainee teachers must meet before they are qualified. These replace the ones set out in Circular 13/98.</p> <p>They aim to deal with the standards which teachers should meet in respect of pupils from all cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic backgrounds rather than trying to identify each and every one. Provisions in the new Standards which are particularly relevant to this recommendation will require trainees to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the diverse learning needs of pupils and endeavour to provide the best possible education for them to maximise their potential, whatever their individual aspirations, personal circumstances or cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic backgrounds; • understand how pupils' learning can be affected by their physical, intellectual, linguistic, social, cultural and emotional development; • take account of and support pupils' varying needs so that girls and boys, from all ethnic groups, can make good progress; • select and prepare resources, and plan for their safe and effective organisation, taking account of pupils' interests and their language and cultural backgrounds; • establish a purposeful learning environment where diversity is valued and where pupils feel secure and confident; • take account of the varying interests, experiences and achievements of boys and girls, and pupils from different cultural and ethnic groups, to help pupils make good progress; • recognise and respond effectively to social inclusion and equal opportunities issues as they arise in the classroom, including by challenging stereotyped views, and by challenging bullying or harassment, following relevant policies and procedures. <p>These new QTS Standards may be applied voluntarily by initial teacher training (ITT) providers to courses starting on or after 1st September 2006 and, subject to transitional arrangements, will apply on a mandatory basis for all trainees on all ITT courses or programmes on or after 1st September 2007.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>

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	<p>All providers of ITT are required to obtain accreditation by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) in order to run courses of ITT which allow their students to gain QTS. In order to be accredited by HEFCW, a provider must (amongst other things) run courses of ITT which meet the requirements laid down by the National Assembly for Wales, and which lead students to achieve the QTS Standards laid down by the Assembly.</p> <p>The QTS Standards allow providers autonomy in deciding how they will organise their training and respond to individual trainees' needs. They do not set a curriculum, nor do they specify how training should be organised or run.</p> <p>Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is aimed at meeting the individual needs of the teacher, as perceived by the teacher and identified either as part of their performance management arrangements or within the school development plan. The issues of compulsory training, and reaching all teachers, may need to be addressed through the use of inset days with the LEAs.</p> <p>Additional Needs & Inclusion Division is currently drafting specific guidance for LEAs and schools on means of maximising ethnic minority achievement including that of Gypsy & Traveller children. Two papers will be produced – one on the principles behind this and one on best practice; the intention is that they will help teachers support minority ethnic pupils in reaching their full potential.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 40: (ANID) That the guidance in the revised Circular 52/90 should include advice on additional homework support for Gypsy and Traveller children.</p>	<p>This was looked at as part of the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) research and is also covered in the Estyn report. The findings and recommendations in these reports will inform the re-drafting of the circular.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 41: (SPD) That schools review their curriculum, lesson plans and course material to ensure that it is relevant to Gypsy & Traveller pupils and, where appropriate, it draws on examples from Gypsy & Traveller culture.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is being taken</p>	<p>The Minister has approved the timetable for consultation on, and the implementation of, the revised school curriculum. Consultation on the Foundation Phase Framework and revised school curriculum will take place between 8th January 2007 and 30th March 2007 with implementation from September 2008. Following the consultation, the Qualifications & Curriculum Group (Q&CG) will compile a report which will require a response from the incoming Government. Q&CG will then act on the Minister's response and prepare documentation for</p>	

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<p>forward by the Qualifications & Curriculum Group (Q&CG).</p>	<p>distribution to schools in January 2008. Schools need time to familiarise themselves with the Foundation Phase, revised National Curriculum, 14-19 pathways and the skills, PSE & CWW frameworks. Two terms have been allowed for this with implementation from September 2008.</p> <p>The 'Including all Learners' statement to be placed at the beginning of all the subject orders makes specific reference to eliminating discrimination and harassment and promoting positive attitudes, equal opportunities and participation in all areas of school life. The statement highlights every school's responsibility to develop opportunities which support the ethnic/cultural identities of all pupils and work to reduce environmental and social barriers. It also states that schools should choose materials to provide a meaningful, relevant and motivating curriculum for learners to meet specific needs and further all-round development.</p> <p>The programmes of study are necessarily broad, providing the basis for teachers to plan schemes of work over a key stage, but they do provide a number of references which schools can use to make their curriculum more relevant and engaging for minority groups. For instance, using art and music from different cultures, studying dance and movement from different traditions in Physical Education (PE), learning to respect others' views in Religious Education (RE) and so on. The Foundation Phase also provides a clear focus on developing positive attitudes to diversity and living in a multi-cultural society.</p> <p>The development of learning pathways 14-19 will offer a wider range of more relevant courses and qualifications secured through local 14-19 Networks and Young People's Partnerships. Young people will receive support from learning coaches and improved careers advice with a clearer focus on individual needs.</p> <p>There will also be access to an enhanced range of Personal Support where needed. This increased flexibility and improved support is designed to encourage all young people but it will be particularly helpful for those whose attendance at secondary school tends to be very poor, especially in terms of their continuation in education/training which is often true of Gypsy & Traveller youngsters.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 42: (PSD) That the Assembly Government should ensure that any activity to review the National Curriculum to tackle racism and</p>	<p>The findings of the Equality of Opportunity Committee were taken into account in the work on the revised curriculum.</p> <p>During the review, a group was set up to specifically consider Additional</p>	

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<p>promote tolerance includes specific consideration of Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is being taken forward by the Qualifications & Curriculum Group (Q&CG).</p>	<p>Needs issues, including the needs of pupils from the Gypsy and Traveller community. Equal Opportunities issues were also considered by the cross phase group and specifically taken into account in the revision of the PSE Framework.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 43: (PSD) That the Assembly Government considers making provision for additional flexibility in the National Curriculum at key stages 2, 3 and 4 to meet the needs of Gypsy & Traveller children.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is being taken forward by Additional Needs & Inclusion Division (ANID) and the Qualifications & Curriculum Group (Q&CG).</p>	<p>The removal of end of key stage tests and increased emphasis on teacher assessment and assessment for learning will support schools in meeting the needs of Gypsy & Traveller pupils.</p> <p>The Estyn report looks at how the curriculum meets the needs of Gypsy & Traveller children. Its recommendations will be taken into consideration in the amendment of Circular 52/90.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 44: (PSD) That the Assembly Government pays particular attention to transition between primary and secondary education and that additional support is made available to Gypsy and Traveller pupils to enable them to make the transition effectively.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation was taken forward by Performance & Improvement Division (PID) and Additional Needs & Inclusion Division (ANID).</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>In the 'invitation to bid' letter (for the Traveller and Displaced Persons grant 06-07) sent to LEAs, Additional Needs & Inclusion Division (ANID) specified that they would look favourably at projects that encourage a smooth transition for Gypsy & Traveller pupils between primary and secondary schools.</p> <p>Circular 52/90 will also be amended to reflect this issue drawing on evidence provided in the Estyn and NFER reports.</p> <p>Regulations coming into force in September 2006 will require the governing bodies of maintained secondary schools and their feeder primary schools to draw up Transition Plans. Initial Plans are to be in place by September 2007 to support those Year 6 pupils making the move from primary to secondary school in September 2008.</p> <p>The Regulations and Guidance issued to schools in September 2006 (National Assembly for Wales Circular 30/2006) promote continuity and progression in the delivery of the curriculum and better alignment of classroom practice.</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Recommendation 45: (DfTE)</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>

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<p>That the Assembly Government ensures that any proposed system for transfer of pupils and data sharing takes account of the situation of Gypsy & Traveller pupils.</p>	<p>The recommendation was accepted. New regulations, the Education (Pupil Information) (Wales) Regulations 2004, came into force on 30th April 2004. http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2004/20041026e.htm</p> <p>The revised 'Educational records, school reports and the common transfer system - the keeping, disposal, disclosure and transfer of pupil information' was issued in May 2006. http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/circulars/educational_records?lang=en</p>	
<p>Recommendation 46: (TSCP) That schools should aim to make learning relevant to the whole family through the development of supported literacy groups etc.</p> <p>NB: This part of Training, Skills & Careers Policy Division (TSCP) is now known as Skills, Business & Employability Division (SBE).</p>	<p>Our All-Age National Basic Skills Strategy, <i>Words Talk, Numbers Count</i>, includes extensive programmes with families of school-age children. Family Literacy and Numeracy programmes are available in schools across Wales, giving parents the opportunity to improve their own skills as well as their children's.</p> <p>We have also introduced a programme aimed at bringing parents up to date with what children are learning – <i>Keeping up with the Children</i>. All Local Education Authorities in Wales are delivering <i>Keeping up with the Children</i> programmes.</p> <p>Under the Basic Skills Strategy, Local Education Authorities in Wales have received support to establish language and play co-ordinators. These co-ordinators are able to target groups such as Gypsies and Travellers. Language & Play and Family Literacy/Numeracy Co-ordinators will be asked to identify opportunities for introducing LAP and family programmes to Gypsies & Travellers in their Delivery Plans for 2007-08. In addition the Basic Skills Agency (BSA) will make contact with representatives of Gypsy and Travellers at national level with the aim of raising awareness of the LAP materials and support programme opportunities through LEAs. Implementation of actions by the Basic Skills Agency as part of the Basic Skills Strategy and in support of schools is completed. The programmes themselves are ongoing.</p> <p>In addition the Strategy provides Strategic Intervention Grants (SIGs) to enable Local Education Authorities to support work with more difficult to reach groups and individuals. SIG co-ordinators will be asked to collect data on the extent to which Gypsy and Traveller families are supported through the SIGs programme in the next quarter and will be asked to identify opportunities to increase the support available. Discussions are</p>	

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	<p>to be held with two of the National Support Project co-ordinators to explore opportunities for providing additional basic skills support for Gypsies and Travellers – the NSP for Young People and the NSP for Groups at Risk.</p> <p>The Strategy identifies Travellers as one group at risk of social exclusion and states that the Strategy will continue to support the work of voluntary and community organisations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offering training to staff to identify and support those with basic skills needs; • making sure they know where they can refer learners to quality provision; • providing opportunities to share good practice. 	
<p>Recommendation 47: (PSD) That schools actively encourage family members' involvement in the life of the school, for example involvement in Parent Teacher Associations/Boards of Governors or by offering opportunities to work as teaching assistants.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is being taken forward by Additional Needs & Inclusion Division (ANID), Children's Strategy Division (CSD) and Schools Management Division (SMD).</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The guidance can be accessed at: http://www.learning.wales.gov.uk/pdfs/c3403-community-focused-schools-e.pdf</p> <p>The guidance sets out the Welsh Assembly Government's aim of schools not only providing education for pupils but also creating a community spirit amongst parents and reaching out to the wider community more generally. In terms of parents this is not just about schools providing facilities that they can use, but also involving parents in the life of the school, through for example, involvement in playgroups, out of hours learning, sporting activities, school trips, volunteering in the school or more formally through involvement in Parent Teacher Associations/Boards of Governors or by offering opportunities to work as teaching assistants.</p> <p>The annual reports provided by the LEAs on the expenditure and results of the Traveller Grant comment on the centrality of home/school liaison. All LEAs currently accessing the grant encourage effective home/school liaison from all pupils but especially Gypsies & Travellers. Evidence suggests that Gypsies & Travellers are encouraged to remain at school because of this family contact.</p> <p>To supplement this, WAG has secured further funding for Gypsies & Travellers through the European EQUAL Programme. Part of the project</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>

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	includes encouraging home/school liaison and outreach.	
<p>Recommendation 48: (YAPP) That consideration be given to the role of education in schools, at home and via distance learning and that having done so the guidance on education otherwise than at school is revised to ensure that its provisions are being applied appropriately.</p> <p>NB: This recommendation is being taken forward by Additional Needs & Inclusion Division (ANID).</p>	<p>The revised guidance circular 3/99 was issued for consultation under the title 'Inclusion and Pupil Support' in April 2005. A young person's consultation document 'Inclusion and Pupil Support – Helping everyone to get the best from school' was also produced in conjunction with National Children's Home (NCH) Cymru and young people from Funky Dragon who gave advice on content and presentation.</p> <p>The consultation received a large number of detailed responses which were been used to develop the final circular. This was issued in November 2006.</p> <p>The Committee may wish to note that the guidance includes individual chapters devoted to the provision of education outside of the school setting, and also elective home education by parents. In addition there is a section dealing with specific pupil groups at risk of disaffection, including Gypsy & Traveller children. Fuller guidance, relating just to Gypsy & Traveller children, will form part of the update of Circular 52/90.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 49: (LGP) We recommend that multi-agency groups should be set up in every local authority area. These should include representatives of all the bodies with an interest in providing services to Gypsies and Travellers, for example representatives from health, education, social care, planning, site management and so on. Every effort should be made to involve local Gypsies and Travellers in the work of those groups to ensure their voices are heard.</p>	<p><u>Health</u></p> <p>LHBs should develop plans to address the needs of selected minority groups such as Gypsies & Travellers and build on good practice across Wales to strengthen specialist working with selected minority groups with key stakeholders such as Local Authorities and the voluntary sector. Assembly Government to encourage the establishment of multi-agency groups, addressing the needs of specific minority groups.</p> <p><u>LGP</u></p> <p>As in recommendation 5 of the Pat Niner report 'The Welsh Government, should in consultation with existing agencies already working with Gypsies & Travellers, consider how best to develop a support body (or bodies) to work with and for Gypsies & Travellers across Wales. This work will be further explored by the dedicated Gypsy & Traveller Unit.</p> <p>Examples of LA's that have set up multi-agency groups are Local authority officers who were responsible for carrying out the Gypsy & Traveller Caravan Count Survey.</p> <p>LGP will also consult the WLGA on this recommendation.</p>	

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<p>Recommendation 50: (HOUSING) We recommend that the Assembly Government appoint an All Wales Co-ordinator to champion the views and needs of Gypsies and Travellers and drive forward service provision, working with Traveller Education Service staff, Gypsy Liaison Officers and other service providers and advocates for Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p><u>NB:</u> This recommendation is linked to recommendation 5 from <i>Accommodation Needs of Gypsy-Travellers in Wales</i>.</p>	<p>The new Gypsy and Traveller Unit will co-ordinate Assembly Government policies for Gypsies and Travellers, and will work with partner organisations to encourage joined up thinking which will help ensure that Gypsies and Travellers have greater involvement in issues that affect them.</p> <p>In addition the Gypsy & Travellers Officials Working Group has been restructured to ensure a more strategic, co-ordinated and effective approach to policy development and delivery in this area. The group will be used to promote and facilitate cross-departmental working, providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, identifying good practice and disseminating information to colleagues across departments. It will also identify and establish a pool of expertise across departments which can be used to help the group and the unit in taking forward work. The restructured group is chaired by the Director of the Social Justice and Regeneration Department and will report regularly to Ministers.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 51: (HEALTH) We recommend that special effort be made to ensure that specialist workers, in the sites management, health and education fields, do not become isolated from other colleagues and that they are given adequate support and training and career development opportunities.</p>	<p>LHBs encourage shared integrated working across health, education and housing to combat isolation and help implement these ideas. Multidisciplinary teams involving a range of specialist workers should work together to keep integrated services.</p> <p>LGP will provide support where necessary.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 52: (ALL DEPARTMENTS) We recommend that longer term funding, i.e. for more than one year, should be made available to support service provision.</p>	<p>This should be explored by the dedicated Gypsy & Traveller Unit when established.</p> <p>An example is that the Welsh Assembly Government has secured funding for a Gypsy & Traveller Sites Refurbishment grant scheme of £1million per year during 2007-08 to 2009-10. This was put forward in the draft budget laid before the National Assembly for Wales in October 2006 and was agreed by Plenary in December 2006. It should be made clear that this amount exceeds the amount recommended by Pat Niner's research and will go a long way towards improving the quality of <u>existing</u> sites. It will not however be used to develop new sites.</p>	