

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y

Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH/PO/504/25

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15 October 2025

Dear John,

Thank you for the question you asked in the Senedd on Wednesday 24th September regarding improving the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites in Wales.

In my response I promised to write to you, and members of the Local Government Housing Committee, with an update on progress against the recommendations made by the committee. Please see that update attached.

I hope this information is helpful in updating the Committee's recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Annex A – Welsh Government Updates to Local Government Housing Recommendations from February 2025:

<u>Recommendations</u>	<u>Welsh Government Update</u>
<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>The Welsh Government provides an update on progress made against recommendations in our 2022 report on the provision of sites for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>An update on progress made against the 21 recommendations made by the Local Government and Housing Committee in 2022 can be found as part of Annex B.</p>

<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>The Welsh Government should provide the Committee with the latest data on the number of transit pitches in Wales and update us on how it intends to increase transitory provision in Wales including how it will ensure that the needs of Gypsies and Travellers are met.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>There is currently no transit site provision in Wales.</p> <p>One of the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan (ArWAP) actions is to engage with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community members to identify the need to provide appropriate transit provision.</p> <p>Officials met with all local authorities in January 2024 to discuss taking a regional approach to the provision of transit sites and collection of associated data. The overwhelming feedback was that a nationwide evidence base would need to be commissioned to understand movement of Gypsies and Travellers both in and out of Wales and in and out of local authority boundaries.</p> <p>Welsh Government awarded a contract to Gypsies and Travellers Wales (GTW) to build a national evidence base about the need for transit sites, in collaboration with relevant regional parties and Gypsy and Traveller people. Having this information will help to ensure that transit provision is located appropriately and is accessible to those who need it.</p> <p>This contract will provide an evidence base of the needs of transit provision across Wales, make recommendations for the location of transit provision and provide a suitable model for implementing transit sites.</p> <p>Involving community members in this evidence-based approach is essential to help understanding of the travelling life for families across Wales.</p> <p>Officials will receive a full report in December, after which officials will work with local authorities to discuss plans for transit facilities across Wales.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>The Welsh Government should work closely with local authorities and members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities to deliver additional temporary negotiated stopping sites. All negotiated stopping sites in Wales must provide appropriate waste and sanitary services.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>As part of the transit contract referenced above, the contractor will include discussions and options around negotiated stopping places in tandem with or as an alternative to transit provision. Once we have the final recommendations, we will work with local authorities on the recommendations.</p> <p>Welsh Government provides capital site funding available to local authorities to fund either local authority sites or transit sites. In 2024-25, we extended the eligibility criteria to include the acquisition of land which can be used for new pitches, new sites, transit sites or temporary/negotiated stopping places.</p> <p>In addition, a public consultation on four Welsh Government guidance documents has been completed. One of these, '<i>Managing Unauthorised Encampments in Wales</i>', has been updated to include a three-path approach for local authorities to adopt when engaging with families on encampments.</p> <p>The guidance also supports the development of transit sites and temporary/negotiated stopping places, with a clear emphasis on meeting the family's welfare needs, including the provision of suitable waste management and sanitation facilities.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>The Welsh Government sets out how it is monitoring use of the Sites Capital Grant to ensure that funds are being used appropriately and address the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Wales.</p> <p>Response: Accept</p>	<p>In 2024-25 Welsh Government made available £3.44m capital funding for local authorities to improve, extend or build new local authority sites, whether residential or transit; and for land acquisition of new sites. The same amount has been made available in 2025-26 financial year.</p> <p>Once funding is awarded, monthly monitoring meetings are held between the Gypsy Roma Traveller grant manager and the local authority to track progress, confirm that agreed works are completed, and ensure that funds are used appropriately to meet the needs of families.</p> <p>Last year, 14 local authorities received capital funding for a variety of site improvements to the value of £1,865 million. These improvements included refurbishment of utility blocks, renovating community buildings, installing electric smart meters, replacing fencing, digital connectivity and improving drainage. So far this year we have approved 14 grants totalling £2.41 million.</p> <p>One example of the positive impact this funding has had is the installation of domestic rate meters at local authority sites in Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil. These improvements are welcomed by residents.</p> <p>It is essential that local authorities carry out meaningful consultation with residents to understand their needs before submitting bids for financial support. This is discussed at each Welsh Government assessment panel to ensure engagement and value for money is achieved.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>The Welsh Government reviews the criteria and application process for the Sites Capital Grant to ensure that it is effectively utilised by local authorities to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.</p> <p>Response: Accept</p>	<p>The Sites Capital Grant guidance for 2025-26 was updated earlier this year to place greater emphasis on developing new pitches, ensuring the funding is available to help address the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment unmet need across Wales.</p>

<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>The Welsh Government should set out how it will work with local authorities to ensure that Gypsy and Traveller site maintenance is undertaken, and how it will tackle local authorities' failure to maintain and improve those sites. As part of this, it should consider how local authorities fund and prioritise Gypsy and Traveller site maintenance.</p> <p>Response: Accept</p>	<p>The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that Gypsy and Traveller sites are not only maintained but improved, with dignity, safety and inclusion as non-negotiable principles.</p> <p>Welsh Government works closely with local authorities to promote planned and prioritised site maintenance rather than reactive approaches.</p> <p>To support this, four guidance documents are being reviewed following a public consultation over the Summer. One of these documents, '<i>Managing Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Wales</i>', places stronger emphasis on developing responsive maintenance plans in consultation with residents, with a focus on long-term sustainability.</p> <p>The guidance also highlights the importance of providing clear and accessible channels for families to report issues and seek assistance, empowering communities to actively participate in improving their living conditions.</p> <p>Where funding is sought through the Welsh Government Sites Capital Grant, local authorities must demonstrate meaningful engagement with site residents regarding proposed refurbishments before bids are approved.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7</p> <p>The Welsh Government should explore how the Sites Capital Grant could be used to support the development of private sites.</p> <p>Response: Accept</p>	<p>Officials are considering how best to support the development of private sites. Insights from the private planning advice pilot will inform our approach to this recommendation.</p>

<p>Recommendation 8</p> <p>The Committee Recommends that: The Welsh Government should progress the pilot programme to provide advice to Gypsies and Travellers seeking help to develop private sites as a matter of urgency and update the Committee in three months.</p> <p>Response: Accept</p>	<p>Buying land that is ultimately deemed unsuitable to turn into a Gypsy and Traveller site as a permanent home for their families has been a recurring problem throughout Wales.</p> <p>The Welsh Government is working in partnership with Travelling Ahead (TGP Cymru) on a pilot project to provide tailored planning advice for families who wish to develop their own site.</p> <p>During this pilot, we aim to better understand the demand of community members in need of planning advice or wanting to set up their own private sites.</p> <p>This 18-month pilot, is a key part of delivering the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan, helping Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families access safe, culturally appropriate accommodation.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9</p> <p>The Welsh Government should reinstate the Gypsy and Traveller Forum with urgency.</p> <p>Response: Accept</p>	<p>The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Stakeholder Group has been reinstated, involving community members, local authorities, third sector organisations and Welsh Government officials.</p> <p>The purpose of these meetings is bringing together Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people with local authorities and voluntary sector organisations, to ensure all our policy work and decisions support the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities throughout Wales.</p> <p>This will too ensure that decisions and actions are informed by lived experience and actively support the wellbeing and rights of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities throughout Wales.</p> <p>We have awarded a contract to ‘There and Back Again’ to coordinate invitations and reimburse community members for their time and contributions in these meetings.</p> <p>We have already held two meetings of the new Gypsy, Roma and Traveller group in Mid Wales and West Wales. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in South Wales, in October, with North Wales to follow in early 2026.</p>

<p>Recommendation 10</p> <p>The Committee Recommends that: The Welsh Government should ensure that each local authority has a Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer.</p> <p>Response: Accept in principle</p>	<p>Welsh Government is not responsible for local authority staffing decisions; we can, however, encourage local authorities to appoint designated Gypsy and Traveller Liaison officers. We are aware that 15 local authorities already have designated Gypsy and Traveller posts.</p> <p>It is essential for all local authorities to recognise the importance of having a dedicated Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Liaison Officer to understand the unique needs of these communities are understood and addressed. This commitment by local authorities will foster an inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.</p> <p>A further ArWAP goal is to ‘Set up community mentor or liaison roles for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people’. Officials are currently considering options on how to develop this initiative.</p> <p>The community mentor roles will include leadership training to ensure that the mentors are well-equipped to support their communities. This training will be identified and led by the mentors themselves, ensuring it is tailored to the community's needs.</p>
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Annex B – Welsh Government Updates to Local Government Housing Recommendations from August 2022:

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Welsh Government Progress</u>
<p>Recommendation 1: The Welsh Government should set out how it intends to support local authorities in the provision of sites that are appropriate for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, including how it will work with local authorities and communities to mitigate the challenges of finding suitable land for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller site accommodation.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Welsh Government has a programme of monitoring with local authorities to review their plans to address unmet need identified in their 2016-2022 Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment. These meetings are at ministerial and official level.</p> <p>Welsh Government provides capital site funding to local authorities to fund either residential sites or transit sites. This can fund projects to refurbish existing accommodation, construct new pitches and improve the sustainability of sites for residents. Last year, we extended the eligibility criteria to include the acquisition of land to try and unblock local authority barriers to the provision of sites.</p> <p>Welsh Government has awarded funding to Travelling Ahead (TGP Cymru) to provide private planning advice to communities over an 18-month period in addition to the existing Advocacy and Advice contract). This will help to mitigate the challenges for finding suitable land for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: The Welsh Government should set out how it intends to support Corporate Joint Committees and individual local authorities to develop a network of transitory provision, and how it will monitor and ensure progress.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Welsh Government has awarded a contract to Gypsies and Travellers Wales (GTW), to provide research in the form of a national evidence base on the needs of transit across Wales. The research will make recommendations around the location and models of transit.</p> <p>Involving community members in this evidence-based approach will help us to understand the travelling life for families across Wales.</p> <p>Officials will receive a full report in December, after which officials will work with local authorities to discuss plans for transit facilities across Wales.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: The Welsh Government should provide an update on arrangements for an independent and trusted advice service for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, including funding, resource and skills requirement.</p>	<p>Welsh Government has awarded Travelling Ahead (TGP Cymru) to deliver an Advocacy and Advice service to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people following a competitive procurement exercise. This contract will be delivered from September 2024 to August 2027.</p> <p>The objectives of the service are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate equality of opportunity for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers within Welsh society.

<p>Response: Accepted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and connect with expert advice services to help community members integrate effectively into Welsh society, including advocating changes to public processes where necessary. • Support community cohesion through challenging negative stereotypes and fostering good relations between groups. • Empower communities and individuals to have a voice and make representations on their own behalf on policy development and any other issues raised. • Support the Welsh Government to eliminate racism and discrimination and advance equality of opportunity and to offer solutions to the barriers Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people face. • Work collaboratively with Welsh Government to address systemic issues impacting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and designing solutions to resolve issues reflecting the lived experience of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. • Fully engage with evaluation of the contract, both evaluation of the contract's performance as well as evaluation with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller service users. • The service is also available to adults, children and young people in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in Wales.
<p>Recommendation 4.: The Welsh Government should work with local authorities to ensure that they have the necessary resources to fulfil their duties under the Housing Act.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Since all Welsh local authorities Cycle 2 (2016-2022) Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessments have been approved, officials have regular monitoring meetings to ensure local authorities are meeting the identified need of their communities. The site Capital Grant is available to help them to do that.</p> <p>Officials work in partnership with local authority Gypsy, Roma and Traveller leads to support their day-to-day interactions with community members, through monitoring of their 2016-2022 GTAA compliance, through the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller stakeholder group and through the case work officials become involved with as highlighted by our Advocacy and Advice contract providers.</p> <p>The policy team has a dedicated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller grant manager to support applications from local authorities. Monitoring meetings are set up between the Gypsy, Roma Traveller grant manager and the local authority to ensure all works are undertaken and completed as agreed and funds are being used appropriately.</p>

<p>Recommendation 5: The Welsh Government must ensure that the Housing Act is effective in providing suitable sites for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. It should therefore set out how it intends to tighten its monitoring of the implementation of the Act.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>As part of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) process, officials meet regularly with local authorities to hold them to account for their duty in meeting the need they identified in their GTAA.</p> <p>These monitoring arrangements have also included raising awareness of the £3.44 million Capital Sites Grant. As a result, uptake during this financial year has led to £2.4 million being approved so far.</p> <p>Section 104 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 gives Welsh Ministers the power to direct the authority to exercise its powers under section 56 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013. This is a power Ministers will consider using if it appears that local authorities are not making all reasonable efforts to meet their duties.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: The Welsh Government should provide further information about how and when it will use its powers to ensure that local authorities deliver on their duties under the Housing Act.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>The escalation process is assessed considering timelines for planning activities by local authorities, ensuring Welsh Government officials are kept informed of any potential risks or delays. If progress is unsatisfactory, officials will request an update from local authorities, emphasising their statutory duty. This ensures accountability and timely resolution of issues.</p> <p>If a resolution cannot be found, officials will brief Ministers, who may wish to escalate this with Council leaders.</p> <p>Section 104 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 gives Welsh Ministers the power to direct the authority to exercise its powers under section 56 of the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013. This is a power Ministers will consider using if it appears that local authorities are not making all reasonable efforts to meet their duties.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7. The Welsh Government should set out its plans, including timescales, for evaluating the effectiveness of the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan in helping to provide sites for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>The ArWAP was refreshed in 2024 and includes new actions and timelines with goals and actions to improve outcomes for Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller people.</p> <p>These actions and goals are embedded across numerous policy areas who are responsible for reporting on outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people to the ArWAP External Accountability Group (EAG).</p> <p>The External Accountability Group for the ArWAP now includes 2 members with expertise in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller policy area. Their participation will aid in evaluating the effectiveness of the ArWAP.</p>

<p>Recommendation 8.</p> <p>The Welsh Government should provide an update on the timescales for the actions in the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan which are already underway.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Officials met with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller stakeholders and community members to discuss the ArWAP refresh in May 2024. Feedback from community members were that the actions were too complicated, and the language needed to be simplified.</p> <p>The actions were revised and approved by in December 2024. Following the refresh, one new action was included related to community mentor/liaison roles. The remaining actions were simplified and timescales reviewed. Of the fourteen actions, six have been completed and one is nearing completion. Five goals remain in the policy development stage.</p> <p>An additional action was incorporated to address the availability and readiness of relevant powers under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, which commits Welsh Government to respond appropriately should circumstances change.</p> <p>Key updates include:</p> <p><u>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Stakeholder Group:</u></p> <p>One of the most immediate actions was to set up a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller group which has now held two hybrid meetings with community members, stakeholders and local authorities in Aberystwyth and Llanelli. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in South Wales in October, with North Wales to follow in early 2026.</p> <p>This group includes members of the community. ‘There and Back Again’ who has been awarded the contract to coordinate invitations and reimburse community members for their time and contributions.</p> <p><u>Transit:</u></p> <p>The transit research contract has been awarded to Gypsies and Travellers Wales (GTW) to provide research and recommendations around where transit provision would be most suitable across Wales and what this could practically look like. Involving community members in this evidence-based approach will help in understanding the travelling life for families across Wales and prevent social exclusion of this community. Recommendations are due to Welsh Government by December 2025 and will be shared with relevant local authorities following this.</p>
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	<p><u>National Training Programme:</u> Taye Training has been awarded the contract to deliver Gypsy, Roma and Traveller training to all 22 local authorities. This training is currently being co-developed with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community members, which will be rolled out from April 2026 for three years.</p> <p><u>Private Planning Advice Pilot:</u> An 18-month private planning pilot is being delivered by Travelling Ahead (TGP Cymru) to provide tailored planning advice for families who wish to develop their own site.</p> <p><u>Guidance Documents:</u> Officials have revised four guidance documents pertaining to the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community and all have now been consulted on.</p> <p>In correlation to the public consultation, third sector organisations were commissioned to engage directly with Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities to explore what these guidance documents mean to them.</p> <p>The final guidance has been informed by over 200 interviews from this community, whose voices have been listened to and reflected in the final guidance, which are to be published in the coming months.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: In reviewing the sites guidance, the Welsh Government should explain how it intends to engage with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to ensure that design and location needs of communities are better reflected in the guidance.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>In parallel with the public consultation of four Gypsy and Traveller guidance documents for local authorities, my officials awarded contracts with two Gypsy, Roma and Traveller organisations to undertake facilitated engagement work on these draft guidance documents to inform their development.</p> <p>These documents include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Wales • Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites in Wales • Undertaking Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessments • Managing Unauthorised Encampments <p>Due to the high level of community engagement, the forthcoming publication and distribution of these final documents to local authorities is intended to support them in their responsibilities to meet the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities.</p>

<p>Recommendation 10: The Welsh Government should conduct a review of all guidance relating to the provision of sites for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>All Gypsy and Traveller guidance documents have been reviewed and are currently undergoing final updates, following the public consultation and community engagement.</p> <p>Capital Site Guidance was also reviewed for 2025-26 and will again be revisited for 2026-27.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11: The Welsh Government should provide further details on the learning and development support that will be provided to local authority elected members on Gypsy and Traveller communities' culture, needs and strengths. This should include details on: who will receive the training; timescales; how it will be resourced and delivered; and whether it will be a statutory requirement to undertake the training.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Taye Training has been awarded the contract to deliver Gypsy, Roma and Traveller training to all 22 Local authorities. This training is currently being co-developed with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community members.</p> <p>The delivery of these training sessions to all local authorities will commence from April 2026 over a 3-year period. A mock training session will be delivered to community members and Welsh Government in December 2025.</p> <p>Officials will liaise with Taye Training regularly throughout the development stages.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12: The Welsh Government should set out how it intends to evaluate the impact of the training for local authority elected members on Gypsy and Traveller communities' culture, needs and strengths.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that our national training programme for local authority elected members has a real and positive impact on understanding Gypsy and Traveller communities' culture, needs and strengths.</p> <p>The contract with our training provider includes an evaluation of the content and delivery of the programme.</p> <p>This evaluation will include feedback from participants and evidence of improved engagement with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.</p> <p>We will use the findings from this evaluation to inform future policy and practice, and we are committed to sharing these outcomes with stakeholders to ensure transparency and continuous improvement.</p> <p>This work forms part of our wider commitment under the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan.</p>

<p>Recommendation 13: The Welsh Government should include community councillors in the commitment in the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan to provide training for local authority elected members on Gypsy and Traveller communities' culture, needs and strengths.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Welsh Government's commitment under the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan is to deliver Gypsy, Roma and Traveller cultural awareness training to all local authority elected members and officials across Wales.</p> <p>To help achieve this, Taye Training, working on behalf of the Welsh Government will deliver Gypsy, Roma and Traveller training to all 22 local authorities from April 2026.</p> <p>I wrote to all Elected officials during the summer to provide an update of the work we are doing to support this community.</p> <p>The National Training Programme will be delivered to a range of employees including Elected officials, local authority leaders and any other local authority officials who support this community.</p> <p>I want to ensure that all local authorities in Wales understand the values, needs and lived experiences of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people, which is why this training will be co-developed and delivered by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community members.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14: The Welsh Government should set out what steps, other than those in the Anti-racist Action Plan, it will take to improve knowledge and understanding of the culture, needs and strengths of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities among the wider community.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Within the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan, there is an action under the Leadership chapter to set up community mentor or liaison roles for Gypsy, Traveller people.</p> <p>Officials are considering policy options to recruit members from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community to step into this community mentor/liaison role. Officials will also be considering mechanisms by which community mentors can be used within local authorities.</p> <p>Addressing the under-representation of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller voices, mentoring, coaching, and community leadership programmes will increase understanding of racial inequality and strengthen the knowledge and understanding of the culture and needs of the community.</p> <p><u>Winter Fuel</u> Gypsy and Traveller communities, particularly local authority site residents, commonly pay high rates for fuel because their sites are classed as commercial premises. Caravans also have limited options for sustainability and are costly to heat. Some families rely on expensive gas bottles.</p> <p>In 2024-25, Welsh Government provided funding of £500k for a package of winter fuel support to the Gypsy Roma</p>

	<p>Traveller community. This comprised £200k to the Fuel Bank Foundation and £300k to local authorities to support this community during the winter months. Officials are considering a similar model for 2025-26 support.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15: The Welsh Government should review whether the existing Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments process is the most appropriate and effective way of assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>The GTAA process was reviewed in 2024.</p> <p>Public consultation of four Gypsy and Traveller guidance documents has taken place, including the 'Undertaking a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment' Guidance. Community Engagement has also been carried out to inform the development of these guidance documents to ensure community voices have been incorporated meaningfully.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16: The Welsh Government should work with local authorities to review how engagement and consultation with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities during the accommodation assessment process can be improved, including the extent to which the measures and actions within the Anti-racist Action Plan have made a difference.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>A fully informed Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is only achievable through effective engagement with the community. The revised GTAA Guidance strengthens the requirement for meaningful and effective engagement with Gypsy and Traveller communities.</p> <p>Public consultation of four Gypsy and Traveller guidance have taken place, which includes 'Undertaking a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment'.</p> <p>This guidance has been informed by interviews with over 200 members of the Gypsy and Traveller community, whose voices have been listened to and reflected in the final guidance.</p> <p>The guidance also considers the impact of the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan, with a focus on how its measures have influenced engagement and consultation practices during the assessment process.</p> <p>I expect positive relationships between all local authorities and communities to underpin all future GTAAs, and my officials will continue to monitor how engagement practices evolve in line with the guidance.</p>
<p>Recommendation 17: The Welsh Government should clarify what process is in place to monitor the Gypsy and Traveller</p>	<p>There is a scrutiny process both at official level and at Ministerial level as part of the GTAA cycle process. Once a GTAA is submitted and scrutinised, Ministers can accept reject or accept with modifications, each local authorities GTAA but are expected to continue to deliver against their</p>

<p>Accommodation Assessments on an all-Wales basis in order to gain an understanding of accommodation needs at a national as well as a local level.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>existing GTAA until the new assessment had been approved.</p> <p>Officials can use the content of the GTAA's, their existing knowledge about the quality of Gypsy and Traveller sites and any casework identified through the Advocacy and Advice contract to discuss specific sites or issues with local authorities.</p> <p>As outlined above, as part of the GTAA process, officials are carrying out regular monitoring with local authorities to hold them to account for their duty in meeting the need they identified in their GTAA.</p> <p>These monitoring arrangements have also included raising awareness of the Capital Sites Grant funding and uptake this financial year to date has been excellent.</p>
<p>Recommendation 18: The Welsh Government should conduct a broader review of how the funding for the development of sites relates to the requirements in terms of the standards of sites.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Officials review the Site Capital guidance annually to ensure standards are followed and the most up to date information and guidance is included.</p> <p>We have added the option to use the capital grant for site acquisition to further support local authorities to meet their duty to provide accommodation for these communities.</p> <p>As a result of increased market costs, the guidance now reflects the maximum cost per new pitch has been increased from £150,000 to £200,000.</p> <p>We have also removed bidding round deadlines, so that in 2025–26, the bidding process will remain open year-round.</p>
<p>Recommendation 19: The Welsh Government should explore all possible options for funding Gypsy, Roma and Traveller accommodation, including whether the criteria for the Capital Sites Grant should be broadened to allow local authorities to purchase land for the development of new sites and how funding could be used to support the development of private sites.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>As part of the Capital Sites funding for 2024-25, we have added the option to use the capital grant for site acquisition to further support local authorities to meet their duty to provide accommodation for these communities.</p> <p>Officials are currently exploring how we can fund private sites for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.</p>

<p>Recommendation 20: The Welsh Government should provide an update on the work undertaken to provide transit pitches across Wales before the Senedd's summer recess in 2023.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Please see response to Recommendation 2.</p>
<p>Recommendation 21: The Welsh Government should set out how it intends to work with the police and partner organisations to communicate to the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities any anticipated changes to plans for enforcing the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 in Wales.</p> <p>Response: Accepted</p>	<p>Officials are members of the Criminal Justice Anti-Racist Wales Subgroup who are working collaboratively with police forces and community representatives to develop protocols for managing unauthorised encampments.</p> <p>A Task & Finish Group has been established, bringing together community members, Welsh Government officials, representatives from all four Welsh police forces and voluntary sector partners.</p> <p>This group is working to finalise the protocols and ensure they reflect the lived experiences of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.</p>