The Traveller community

A Matter of Inclusion
Our Geels — Traveller Health Study

- 40,129 Travellers
- 1% of total population
- 63% > 25 years of age
- Male life expectancy – 61
- Suicide rates – 6 times higher
- 70% of all deaths

www.pavee.ie/ourgeels
66% increase between 2007 & 2009
2009 figure: 269
4 in every 5 clients were male

Main problem substances reported:
1) Alcohol
2) Opiates
3) Cocaine

79% reported never injecting
Good Practice Guidelines

- Development of guidelines from services nationwide consistently engaging with Travellers

- One to one interviews

- Low to high threshold services

- 18 Traveller service users interviewed
Travellers are, ‘under-represented as clients of drug treatment, education and prevention services and face barriers to accessing them’.

2006 NACD Report

Causes:

- 1) Stigma & Embarrassment
- 2) Lack of awareness of existing services
- 3) Limited formal education
1) Increase awareness of your service

- Link with existing services
- 40+ Traveller primary health care programmes
- Assertive Outreach
- Pavee Point Drugs Network
2) Implement a Social Inclusion Policy
- Service User Charter
- QuADS – Progression Routes Initiative

3) Promote Cultural Sensitivity & Awareness
- Importance of key-working relationships
  - Trust building
  - Levels of engagement
- Reading & writing difficulties
- The need for confidentiality
‘I didn’t know what other help I could get. I’d never heard of treatment centres.’

‘...if someone can’t read and write, they’ll read and write everything for you’.

‘You’re confident like, everything is confidential. If I seen anyone coming in that I knew, I could go up to the room’.

‘I didn’t tell them I was a Traveller at first, do you know what I mean, then when I seen other Travellers coming in I wasn’t afraid to say it.’
At the next level of inclusion:

4) Actively promote Traveller participation
   - Linking with established networks to source Traveller rep
   - Provide on-going support and guidance

5) Need to bring Traveller issues to Task Forces
   - NERDTF initiative
   - Coffee mornings in local Traveller projects
   - Assertive outreach in conjunction with Pavee Point
Best response is collaborative working

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