



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

NDTRS Stats 2009

- ⌘ 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

- ✎ Development of guidelines from services nationwide consistently engaging with Travellers
- ✎ One to one interviews
- ✎ Low to high threshold services
- ✎ 18 Traveller service users interviewed

Challenges to Inclusion

*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

Practical Steps to Inclusion

- 1) Increase awareness of your service

- Link with existing services
- 40+ Traveller primary health care programmes
- Assertive Outreach
- Pavee Point Drugs Network



Practical Steps to Inclusion

∞ 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

Service user statements

‘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.’

Practical Steps to Inclusion

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

Finally...

Best response is collaborative working



PAVEE POINT
TRAVELLERS CENTRE

Drugs Programme

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