
Traveller Health Unit

Community Healthcare Organisation

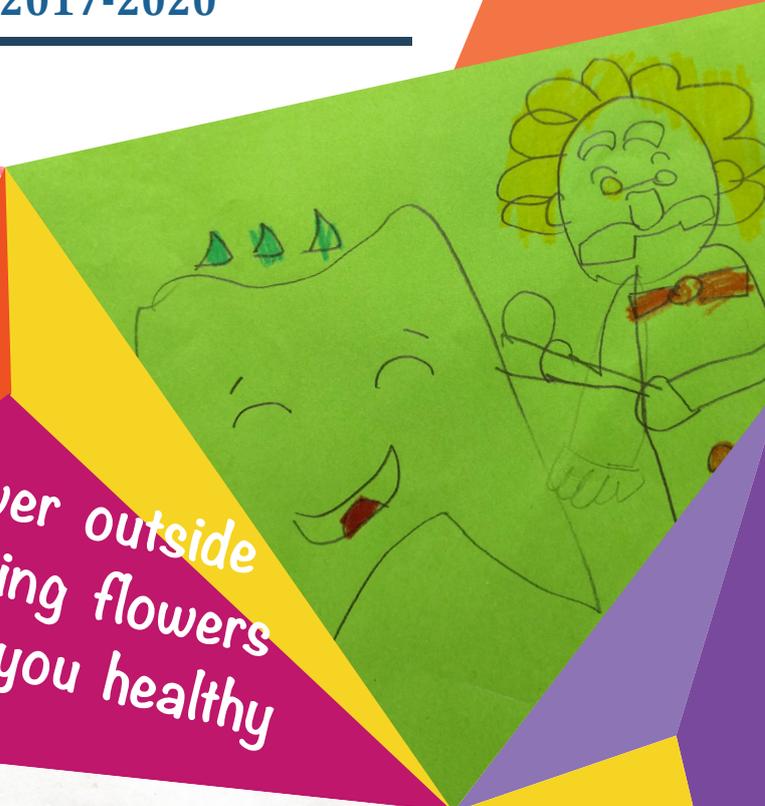
Area 2

(Galway, Mayo & Roscommon)

Strategic Plan 2017-2020



Flower outside
growing flowers
keep you healthy



I play
games outside
in the garden



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Foreword

The Traveller Health Strategy (2017 – 2020) for Galway, Mayo and Roscommon (HSE CHO Area2) considers the context of the Traveller Health Unit (THU) and sets out a strategic approach based on the social determinants of health, community development and the life-cycle approach - the Strategy is underpinned by an Equality and Human Rights Statement and considers the four main areas for strategic focus and implementation in the years ahead.

Statistics in relation to Traveller health demonstrate that health inequalities continue to be a significant issue for the Traveller community. To continue addressing these inequalities CHO Area 2 has developed this Strategy in an effort to strengthen our concerted efforts in addressing such.

There have been some great achievements since the THU was established in July 1996 with a particular emphasis on the establishment of a Peer Led Primary Health Care programmes across the region. This has led to a much greater engagement by the Traveller community with sectors of Health Service Executive (HSE) and many other key stakeholders.

Active participation of the Traveller community has been sought at every step of the way in developing this Strategy, commencing with a consultation process in July 2016. This process coincided with the Traveller Health Unit celebrating its 20th anniversary. This was further followed up with an independent facilitator at which the Traveller Health Unit members negotiated a strategic way forward.

It is my great pleasure to have been asked to write this Foreword and I would like to acknowledge everyone who contributed to its development which ensures that Traveller health is given key prominence in the emerging structures of our health service and that health inequalities will be reduced considerably. These include Primary Care, Social Care, Health and Well-Being, Mental Health, Tusla and the Saolta Hospital Group. On behalf of all THU members I wish to sincerely thank the local and regional HSE management and the national Social Inclusion Office for its support to us over the lifetime of the Traveller Health Unit.

I wish to express particular thanks to the children from the After-School Services in Tuam, County Galway and the Early Years Services Castlebar, Co Mayo. They have provided us with beautiful drawings on what health means to them. Thank you for allowing us to share your wonderful work.

A plan for the implementation of the Strategy will be drawn up annually.

Mary Syron, Chairperson Traveller Health Unit, (1996- 2017)

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Ann Irwin
Social Research, Strategic Planning, Policy Analysis



ANN IRWIN
ANNIRWIN@BIRCOM.NET

Section 1. Introduction

The Traveller Health Unit in the Community Healthcare Organisation Area 2 was established as the HSE West Traveller Health Unit in 1996 to address the issues of access to and uptake of health services by members of the Traveller community with a view to addressing their exceptional poor health status and the health inequalities experienced by them.

The work of the Traveller Health Unit (THU) in the Community Healthcare Organisation Area 2 (THU CHO 2) is underpinned by the social determinants of health that are at the root of Traveller health inequalities. This approach enables a holistic approach to health and wellbeing in the region.

The THU CHO2 has a significant track record in addressing health inequalities in the Traveller community in the region. This strategic plan seeks to build on the work of the THU and its members and provide a strategic approach to the work to 2020. The process of developing the plan allowed for a significant focus on the values that drive the THU CHO 2 and the member organisations, as well as a range of strategies that will enable the achievement of THU CHO 2 vision of a healthy Traveller community, where all members of the Traveller community can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where there is full equality for Travellers across the lifecycle.



Crystal Sweeney, After-School Services, Tuam, Co. Galway

Review & Strategic Plan

In 2017, the THU CHO 2 held a review and planning process. The process included consultation with the Traveller community and a series of workshops with THU members. This strategic plan is the outcome of that process.

Traveller Health Units

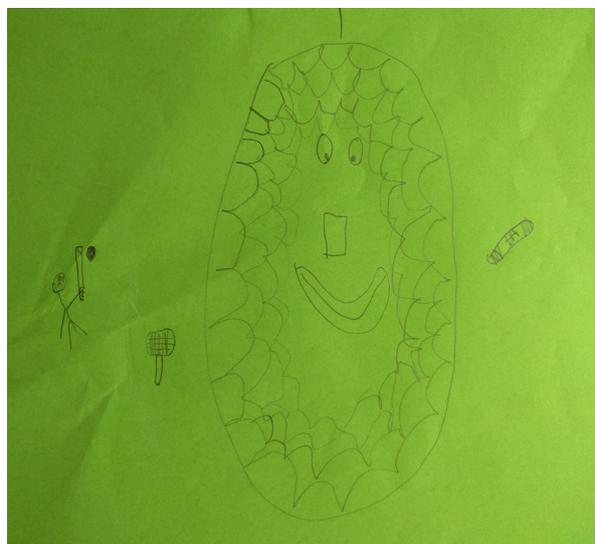
The establishment of Traveller Health Units originated in the *Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community*. The report recommended that that each Health Board establish a Traveller Health Unit to:

- Monitor the delivery of services to Travellers and setting regional targets against which performance can be measured;
- Ensure that Traveller health is given prominence on the agenda of the Health Board;
- Ensure coordination and liaison within the Health Board and between the Health Board and other statutory and voluntary bodies in relation to the health situation of Travellers;
- Collect data on Traveller health and utilisation of health services;
- Ensure appropriate training of health service providers in terms of their understanding of and relationship with Travellers;
- Support the development of Traveller specific services, directly by the Health Board or indirectly through funding appropriate voluntary organisations.¹

The recommendation to establish Traveller Health Units was implemented as part of the National Traveller Health Strategy 2002-2005. The strategy reaffirms the right of Travellers to appropriate access to healthcare services that take into account their particular needs, culture and way of life, and sets out a range of actions to support Traveller Health Units, Primary Health Care Programmes and other initiatives.

The strategy acknowledges that many of the major determinants of health such as social, environmental and economic factors are beyond the direct remit of the health sector. It states that Traveller Health Units should have a role in the following:

- The development of service plans.
- Planning and monitoring research into Travellers' health status and access to health services in conjunction with other boards and the THAC.
- Production of information for inclusion in the Health Board's Annual Report.
- Liaison with Managers for Travellers' Health in other Health Board areas.
- Liaison with Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees in the relevant local authorities



Anonymous aged 6 years, After-School Services, Tuam, Co Galway

¹ Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community 1995

OUR GEELS - FINDINGS

- The life expectancy of Traveller men as 15 years less than the majority male population (this gap had widened since 1987)
- Traveller women 11 years less than the female majority population
- Infant mortality was recorded as 3.5 times higher
- Death by suicide in the Traveller community as 6 times higher accounting for 11% of all deaths in the Traveller community
- Heart disease/stroke/Cancer/lung disease the main causes of death
- High levels of unemployment, poor accommodation, low levels of education and continuing discrimination were all recorded as having a major impact on health

It has long been acknowledged that Travellers face significant health inequalities. In the foreword to the national Traveller Health Strategy, the then minister stated that the Irish Traveller community experience a level of health which falls far short of that enjoyed by the general population.

The ***Our Geels, All Ireland Traveller Health Study*** was published in 2010. It provides the key context within which the Traveller Health Unit implements its mandate. It provides the evidence base for its priorities and work.

The *Our Geels* study established significant inequalities in the health status of the Traveller community and in their access to health services. It concluded that the Traveller community 'has a higher burden of ill-health than does the general population'. It further identified that the 'burden of health problems experienced by Travellers is arguably strongly attributable to social conditions and educational and cultural opportunity and engagement'.

The particular influence of social determinants on the poor health of Travellers of poor accommodation, low levels of education and discrimination were emphasised. Low levels of trust from Travellers in health professionals and high levels of reporting of poor encounters with health professionals were highlighted.

The study established issues of low life expectancy and high mortality rates for the Traveller community. It identified the main

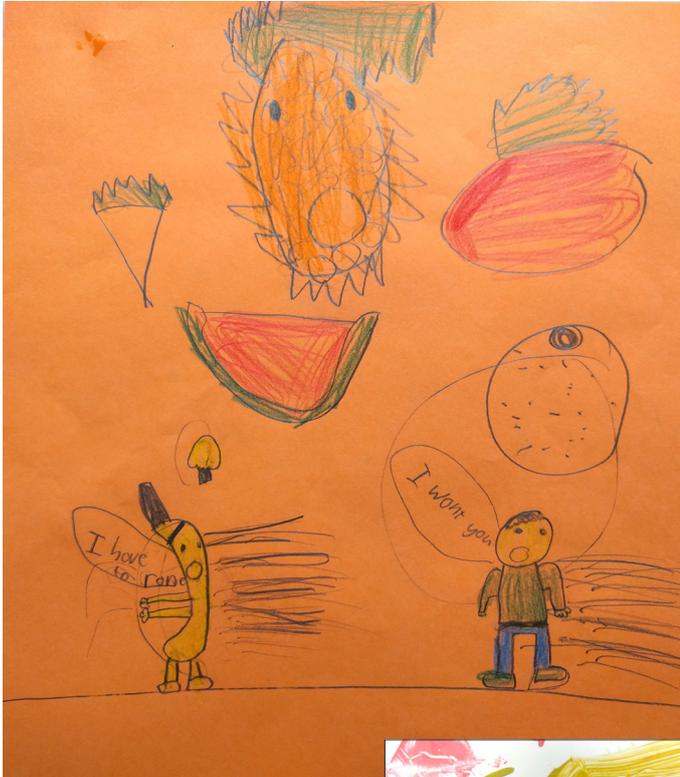
causes of death as including heart disease and stroke, cancer and lung disease alongside high accident and suicide rates. Particular issues of concern were identified in the areas of mental health, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, respiratory conditions including chronic bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. Risk factors such as smoking, high blood pressure, cholesterol, and dietary consumption of fried foods were found to be high.

Health Policy

Healthy Ireland, the government framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Ireland over the coming generation, was launched in 2013. Healthy Ireland sets out a wide framework of actions that will be undertaken by Government Departments, public sector organisations, businesses, communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing and reduce the risks posed to future generations. The vision is, *A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility*. The Framework describes four high-level goals and 64 actions that will work together to achieve the goals:

- Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life
- Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities
- Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing
- Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland

Goal 2 acknowledges that health and wellbeing are not evenly distributed across Irish society. This goal requires interventions to target particular health risks and a broad focus on addressing the wider social determinants of health – the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work and age – to create economic, social, cultural and physical environments that foster healthy living. This is particularly relevant to, and complements the aims of, the THUs and Traveller organisations.



Anonymous aged 6 years, After-School Services, Tuam, Co Galway



Jessica, Early Year's Services, Castlebar, Co. Mayo - Picture of me and Emily playing games

Connecting for Life is Ireland's National Strategy to reduce suicide (2015-2020). It contains seven strategic goals. Goal 3 specifically aims to target approaches to reduce suicidal behaviour and improve mental health among priority groups. These include groups most vulnerable to suicide in Ireland. The Travelling community has been identified one such priority group.

A list of national and regional polices and strategies are included in Appendix 1.

Roma community

The Traveller Health Unit CHO2 is acutely conscious of the needs of the Roma community in the region. It is also aware that, increasingly work to address the needs of Travellers and the needs of Roma are being linked.

While conscious that this an area of work that will require exploration in the future, in the absence of a needs analysis on the needs of Roma in the region, this strategic plan will continue the focus on addressing the needs of the Traveller community.

10 Common Basic Principles on Roma (Traveller) Inclusion

In 2009, the EU adopted 10 Common Basic Principles on Roma (Traveller) Inclusion as a tool for both policy-makers and practitioners managing programmes and projects. They are:

- 1 Constructive, pragmatic and non-discriminatory policies
- 2 Explicit but not exclusive targeting
- 3 Inter-cultural approach
- 4 Aiming for the mainstream
- 5 Awareness of the gender dimension
- 6 Transfer of evidence-based policies
- 7 Use of European Union instruments
- 8 Involvement of regional and local authorities
- 9 Involvement of civil society
- 10 Active participation of Roma (Traveller)

National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy

The Department of Justice and Equality published the National Traveller/Roma Integration Strategy in 2017. Among the key initiatives and developments arising from the development of this Inclusion Strategy are State recognition of Travellers as an ethnic group of the Irish nation and a commitment to reinvigorated efforts by the State to ensure that Travellers and Roma interact fully with the public health sector in order to address some of the underlying health-related challenges facing those communities. It sets out strategies in place to improve outcomes for the Traveller and Roma communities in the areas of education, accommodation, health, employment and anti-discrimination. The aim is to ensure a coordinated approach across Government in order to best meet the needs of people from the Traveller and Roma communities in line with the standards of the EU Framework for the Implementation of Roma Integration Strategies. The overall goal is to improve public service engagement with Traveller and Roma communities, and improve outcomes for Travellers and Roma in Ireland².

Traveller Ethnicity

Traveller ethnicity was formally recognised by the Irish State in March 2017. While the practical implications of recognition have yet to be identified, the THU, Community Healthcare Organisation Area 2 welcomes this development and commits to contributing to the implementation of consequent initiatives.

² National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017 – 2021

Section 3. Regional Context

According to Census 2011, there are 29,495 members of the Traveller community in Ireland. Just over 20% of the population, 5,922 Travellers, live in the CHO 2 region.

Ages	Galway City	Galway County	Mayo	Roscommon	Region	State
0 - 4	314	388	239	39	980	4,676
5-9	230	339	189	44	802	3,905
10-14	188	305	183	48	724	3,554
15 - 19	173	282	157	52	664	3,279
20 - 24	158	211	138	66	573	2,772
25 - 29	135	176	96	35	442	2,356
30 - 34	116	185	75	21	397	1,999
35 - 39	98	159	77	15	349	1,662
40 - 44	84	104	63	27	278	1,526
45 - 49	49	107	50	13	219	1,127
50 - 54	39	65	33	11	148	835
55 - 59	25	52	33	6	116	618
60 - 64	31	44	18	8	101	452
65 years & over	26	58	34	11	129	734
All ages	1,666	2,475	1,385	396	5,922	29,495

Primary Health Care in the area

The THU CHO 2 funds the Primary Health Care (PHC) programmes in the region. The concept of PHC was established at the joint WHO/UNICEF conference in Alma-Ata in 1978. It is a flexible system that can be adapted to the health problems, culture, way of life and stage of development of a community. PHC enables individuals and communities to improve health through informed health care, self-help and mutual aid.

The work of the PHC programmes in the region is underpinned by a whole team approach (WTA), as envisaged by the National Traveller Health Strategy, that works from a community development perspective to address the health inequalities in the Traveller community that combines the skills of health and community development practitioners. The WTA includes:

- Community Health Workers that provide health information and supports to members of the Traveller community, and represent issues of importance to the Traveller community on appropriate structures.
- Joint PHC Co-ordinators, one specialising in health and the other in community development;
- Community Development Workers (CDW);
- CDW Traveller Men's Health Workers;
- Designated Public Health Nurse

There are currently six PHC projects in the region based in Ballina, Castlebar, Tuam, Loughrea, Galway City and Roscommon town. Following the findings of the AITHS there are now two part-time CDW for Traveller men's health in the region to work to improve the very poor health status of Traveller men. The work includes facilitating community projects with Traveller men that includes working with other relevant agencies to facilitate health promotion and highlighting Traveller men's health on a variety of forums.

Section 4. Strategic Approach

The approach of the Traveller Health Unit Community Healthcare Organisation Area 2 is underpinned by three key elements:

- The Social Determinants of Health;
- A Community Development approach;
- The Life-Cycle

Social Determinants of Health

Health is "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." WHO 1948

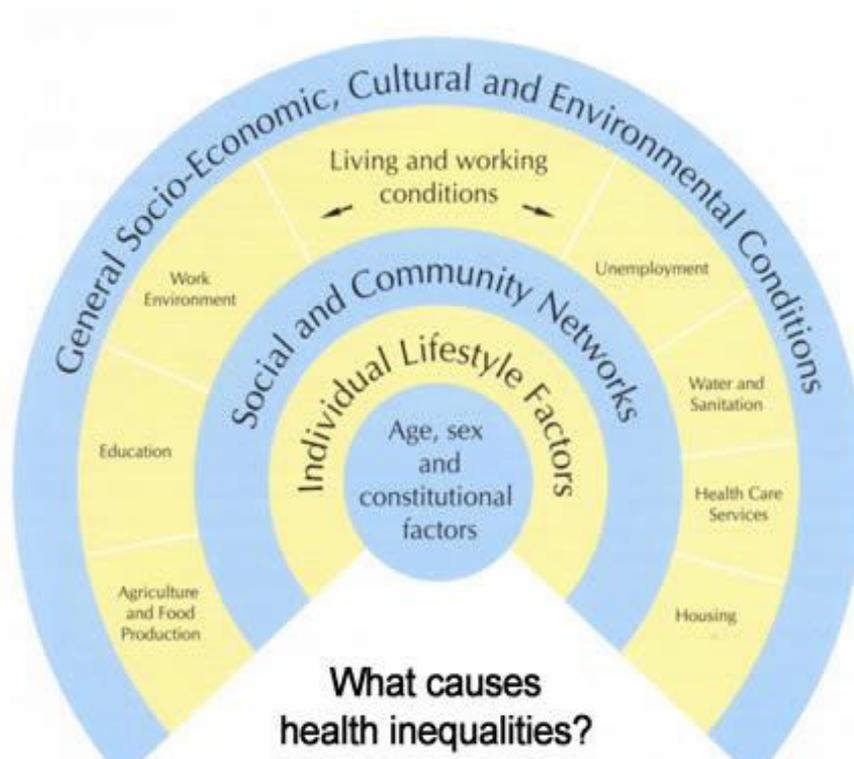
According to the World Health Organisation, health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Health is a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living; it is a positive concept emphasising social and physical resources as well as physical and mental capacity.

The figure to the side represents the social determinants of health. Nationally and internationally, it is accepted that health is

impacted by the social, economic, environmental and cultural factors. Factors that contribute to a person's current state of health may be biological, socioeconomic, psychosocial, behavioural, or social in nature. Five determinants of health of a population are generally recognised:

- Biology and genetics such as sex and age;
- Individual behaviour such as alcohol use, injection drug use (needles), unprotected sex, and smoking;
- Social environment such as discrimination, income, and gender;
- Physical environment such as where a person lives and crowding conditions;
- Health services such as access to quality health care and having or not having health insurance.

Figure 1 Determinants of Health



It suggests that good physical and mental health can be promoted by improving factors in these determinants.

As mentioned above, the Traveller Health Strategy acknowledges that many of the major determinants of health such as social, environmental and economic factors are beyond the direct remit of the health sector. The *Our Geels* study adopted a holistic approach to health, using a social-determinants model that acknowledges the broader impact of social, economic, environmental and political policy on health. This strategy is in keeping with public policy on health in the Republic of Ireland³, most recently in *Healthy Ireland*, which states, to influence the broader determinants of health, a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is required.⁴

The social determinants of health are a key influencing factor in the work of the THU CHO 2 and the organisations it funds. They underpin the work of the health teams and provide the rationale for focusing on areas that impact on the health of the Traveller community in the region.

Community Development

It was agreed that the principles of community development would underpin all the work of the THU and the Traveller projects. Community development is ‘a developmental activity comprised of both a task and a process. The task is social change to achieve equality, social justice and human rights, and the process is the application of principles of participation, empowerment and collective decision making in a structured and co-ordinated way’.

Principles of community development

- Collectivity – collectivity includes collective analysis, collective action and collective outcomes in pursuit of a just and equal society;
- Empowerment - community work is about empowering communities increasing knowledge, skills, consciousness and confidence to become critical, creative and active participants;
- Participation - participation is rooted in the belief that communities have the right to identify their own needs and interests and responses required
- Social Justice and Sustainable Development

Figure 2 Principles of Community Development



³ Our Geels: All Ireland Traveller Health Study, p.7

⁴ Healthy Ireland A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025, p. 19

- Promoting a just society involves **promoting policies and practices that challenge injustice and value diversity;**
 - Promoting a **sustainable society involves promoting environmentally, economically and socially sustainable policies and practices.**
- Human Rights, Equality and Anti-discrimination - Community work is concerned with the promotion of human rights and equality in society and with addressing the multiple forms of discrimination experienced by many groups.

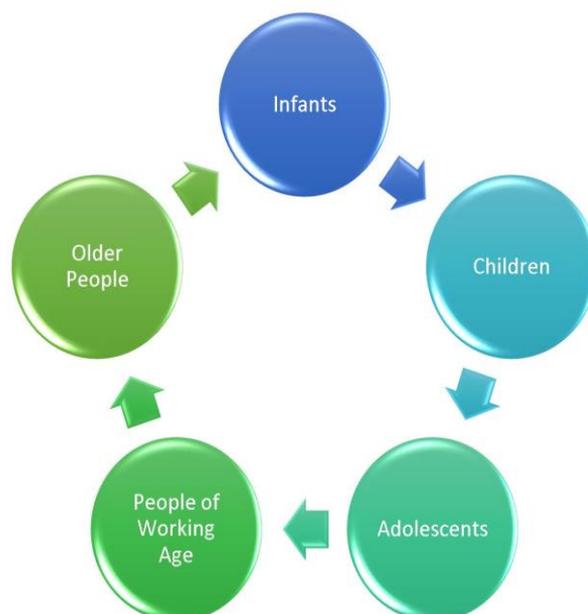


Eddie Sweeney, After-School Services, Tuam, Co Galway

Lifecycle approach

This strategic plan is underpinned by a lifecycle approach that acknowledges the distinct stages of life from birth to death. It acknowledges the similarities faced by the Traveller community of similar ages, but it also acknowledges that there are differences associated with circumstances, gender, health status, etc.

Figure 3 Lifecycle Approach



Section 5. Equality and Human Rights Statement

OVERARCHING VALUES

This strategic plan and the work of the THU is underpinned by:

- A belief in the right of Travellers to full equality and a commitment to working to achieve this;
- A belief in the right of Travellers to full participation in all aspects of society and at all levels, including in decisions that affect their lives;
- A belief in, and a commitment to, the value of diversity and diverse expressions of culture.

In arriving at an agreed set of values and principles that underpin the work of the THU CHO 2, the members of the THU were mindful of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014, which places a positive duty on public sector bodies to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality, and protect human rights, in their daily work. The members of the THU regard this as a valuable opportunity to embed human rights and equality considerations into their functions, policies and practices, and to promote this approach with all agencies, organisations and structures that engage with Travellers.

- The THU is committed to **autonomy** of the Traveller community, including:
 - The right of Travellers to identify as a distinct ethnic group;
 - Autonomy for and within the Traveller community;
 - The full expression of identity for Travellers;
 - Supporting the ability to question and challenge.
- The THU is committed to **democracy**, including:
 - Community development principles that promote participation, empowerment and collective action;
 - Working in a way that is transparent.
- The THU is committed to **dignity**, including:
 - Promoting diversity;
 - Working in a way that challenges racism and discrimination in all its forms;
 - Working in a culturally appropriate way;
 - Promoting an understanding of Traveller culture that is underpinned by respect;
 - Working in a way that is flexible and person-centred.
- The THU is committed to **inclusion**, including:
 - The right of Travellers to be fully included in the social, economic, cultural and political life of society;
 - The right of Travellers to be included in decisions that affect their lives;
- The THU is committed to **social justice**, including:
 - The right of Travellers and Roma to full equality in health and wellbeing;
 - The right of Travellers to equality in education, accommodation and employment;
 - The right of Travellers to full socio-economic, political and cultural equality.

Section 6. THU Vision, Mission & Strategic Focus

Vision

A healthy Traveller community, where all members of the Traveller community can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where there is full equality for Travellers across the lifecycle.

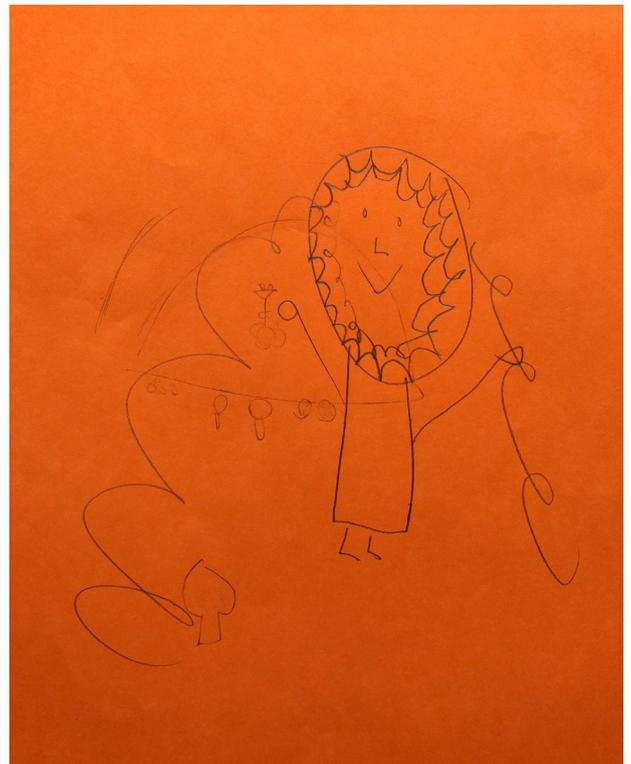
Mission

To advance the health and wellbeing of the Traveller community in the region by:

- Working in partnership with Travellers, Traveller organisations and health service providers to identify and address the structural barriers to full equality in the social determinants of health;
- Providing peer-led, culturally appropriate supports; and
- Influencing health and other services to ensure they are delivered in an appropriate way to Travellers.



Michael Mongan, After-School Services, Tuam, Co Galway



Katie Sweeney, After-School Services, Tuam, Co Galway

Strategic Focus

This strategic plan will strategically focus on four areas:

1. Promoting optimum health and wellbeing outcomes for Travellers in the region;
2. Consolidating and increasing active participation, representation & decision-making by Travellers and Traveller organisations;
3. Promoting Interculturalism
4. Developing the THU as a resource for Travellers.

Strategic Focus 1

Promoting optimum health and wellbeing outcomes for Travellers in the region

Objective - The THU will support and facilitate work to promote good physical and mental health and wellbeing for Travellers

Intervention 1.1. Identifying and addressing health inequalities

- The THU will continue to identify and address health inequalities in the region. It will:
 - Submit a business case to the HSE to carry out an assessment of the human rights and equality issues relevant to the THU functions;
 - Link with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) to prepare an Equality and Human Rights Statement;
 - Submit a business case for funding to carry out a base line study of Traveller health in the region;
 - Consolidate and further develop Traveller specific programmes, models and materials to address inequalities in physical and mental health, suicide prevention and wellbeing, in line with national best practice;
 - Promote good health practices within the Traveller community by actively promoting healthy lifestyles and wellbeing;
 - Ensure that key national strategies in the area of health and wellbeing are implemented locally in a culturally appropriate way, particularly the All Ireland Traveller Health Study

Intervention 1.2. Identifying and addressing inequalities in the social determinants of health

- The THU will continue to support initiatives in the area of accommodation. It will:
 - Raise awareness of the impact of poor and/or culturally inappropriate accommodation on health and wellbeing;
 - Raise awareness and support the demand for culturally appropriate adequate accommodation;
 - Make representations to local authorities where appropriate.
- The THU will continue to support initiatives in the area of education. It will:
 - Raise awareness of the importance of education to Travellers and the link between health and wellbeing;
 - Make representation to the Department of Education where appropriate.
- The THU will continue to support initiatives and build networks in the area of employment. It will:
 - Explore and raise awareness of the links between unemployment or low-paid employment on health and wellbeing;
 - Make representation to the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.
- The THU will continue to support initiatives in the area of discrimination. It will:
 - Raise awareness of the impact of discrimination on health and wellbeing;
 - Actively seek to address discrimination across all HSE divisions, TUSLA Child & Family Agency and other relevant services;

Strategic Focus 2

Consolidating and increasing active participation, representation & decision-making by Travellers and Traveller organisations

Objective - The THU will work in an empowering way to develop the active and meaningful participation of Travellers in all areas of service provision

Intervention 2.1. Enhancing the peer-led approach

- The THU will protect and enhance the peer-led approach to addressing Traveller health inequalities. It will:
 - Ensure the sustainability of the health teams based on the Whole Team Approach;
 - Ensure the development of a business case to address the need for a Primary Health Care Project for Traveller men

Intervention 2.2. Ensuring the integrated THU model

- The THU will protect and enhance existing integrated, partnership approaches and promote new opportunities. IT will:
 - Promote, support and resource the work of the Traveller organisations;
 - Ensure that the THU model is consolidated and developed;
 - Promote, support and resource the integrated community development/health & wellbeing response.

Intervention 2.3. Ensuring active participation of Travellers

- The THU will continue to support the Traveller Projects to identify and address barriers to active participation and decision-making. It will:
 - Continue to seek representation for Travellers at all levels in health and wellbeing structures to influence decision making bodies;
 - Ensure the provision of appropriate support, training and mentoring.

Strategic Focus 3

Promoting Interculturalism

Objective - The THU will ensure the development of an intercultural approach to health and wellbeing in the region.

Intervention 3.1 Promoting awareness

- The THU will ensure that all THU representatives are fully informed and up to date on all aspects of the Health Status of the Traveller Community. It will:
 - Actively promote awareness of *Our Geels* and the ongoing inequalities faced by Travellers within all services;
 - Advocate for a specific focus on Traveller health and wellbeing within services;
 - Ensure all services are adhering to the legal obligations associated with the Public Sector Duty;
 - Support the recognition of Travellers rights to Minority Ethnic Status.

Intervention 3.2 Developing evidence

- The THU will promote an intercultural approach to data gathering in the region. It will:
 - Actively promote the use of an ethnic identifier within all HSE divisions and Tusla so that the situation of Travellers can be assessed and interventions monitored;

Intervention 3.3 Developing capacity for Interculturalism

- The THU will continue to develop capacity to promote and provide intercultural training and capacity building. It will:
 - Actively advocate through the National Traveller Health Advisory Forum (NTHAF) for the development of an accredited Quality Assured national *Traveller-Friendly Services* training programme;
 - THU members to provide access to training opportunities to service providers;
 - Promote the implementation of the Positive Public Sector Duty in all HSE health divisions, Tulsa and all relevant services;

Intervention 3.4 Influencing services

- The THU will engage with policy makers and service providers in each of the areas in which it works to inform and influence their work with Travellers. It will:
 - Continue to work with relevant organisations to ensure Traveller Issues are kept on agenda
 - Make policy submissions where appropriate to improve policy and practice in HSE Health Division's, TUSLA and all relevant services.

Strategic Focus 4

Developing the THU as a resource for the Traveller community.

Objective - To ensure that the THU will be maintained and strengthened in the Galway, Mayo, Roscommon region.

Intervention 4.1 Project sustainability

- The THU will strive to ensure or aim to ensure the sustainability of the Traveller Projects in the region. It will:
 - Advocate for additional funding and resources to enable projects to meet the escalating demands on services;
 - Advocate for resources to ensure that current Community Health Workers are provided with quality employment;
 - Advocate for additional resources for the health team;
 - Ensure resources for Continual Professional Development for all employees.

Intervention 4.2 Internal relevance

- The THU will ensure the relevance of internal processes and structures. It will:
 - Continue to review and support the development of the THU structure with specific focus on maintaining appropriate membership including the priority areas identified in the All Ireland Traveller Health Study;
 - Ensure the ongoing monitoring, review and planning of the THU work;
 - Design and implement an appropriate model of monitoring, review and evaluation of THU interventions.
 - Advocate at the National Traveller Health Advisory Forum for the development of a meaningful reporting mechanism that reflects the qualitative and quantitative work of the projects.
 - Develop an Annual Action Plan that will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed.

Intervention 4.3 External relevance

- The THU will ensure the relevance of external processes and structures. It will:
 - Continue to engage at a national level and make sure that the experience of the region is central to policy development, implementation and evaluation;
 - Continue to build relationships with all stakeholders;
 - Continue to support partnership approaches;
 - Promote the work of the THU in the region.

Section 7. Implementation and Review



Anonymous aged 6 years, After-School Services, Tuam, Co Galway



Anonymous, Early Year's Services, Castlebar, Co. Mayo – Clodagh and me playing games

The THU will develop annual work plans on the basis of the Strategic Plan, establishing priorities and reviewing progress regularly. It will have primary responsibility for implementation and will continue to provide high-level oversight on the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The THU will ensure that the strategic plan is on the agenda for all meetings and will convene a special meeting annually to review progress and to set priorities for the following period.

There are well developed structures in the region that while independent of the THU, work to achieve the priorities established. These structures include the Regional Traveller Health Network and the Community Health Workers Forum. These structures will continue to meet and will have a role in monitoring and reviewing implementation of this strategic plan.

Appendix 1 National and Regional Strategies & Frameworks

National Strategies & Frameworks

Area	Title	Publisher	Date of Publication
Alcohol	Steering Group Report on National Substance Misuse Strategy http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Steering_Group_Report_NSMS.pdf	Dept. of Health	2012
Carers	The National Carers' Strategy: Recognised, Supported, Empowered http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/National-Carers-Strategy.pdf	Dept. of Health	2012
Children	Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, 2014-2020, National Policy Framework for Children and Young People http://www.dcvr.gov.ie/documents/cypp_framework/BetterOutcomesBetterFutureReport.pdf	Dept. of Children and Youth Affairs	2014
Drugs	New Drugs Strategy	Dept. of Health	In Preparation
Healthy Ireland	A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/HealthyIrelandBrochureWA2.pdf http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/h/hi/HIDocs/HiimplementationplanWeb.pdf	Dept. of Health	2013
Maternity	Creating A Better Future Together, National Maternity Strategy 2016-2026 http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Final-version-27.01.16.pdf	Dept. of Health	2016
Mental Health	A Vision for Change	Dept. of Health & Children	2006

	http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/Mentalhealth/Mental_Health - _A_Vision_for_Change.pdf			
Positive Ageing	Positive Ageing – Starts Now! The National Positive Ageing Strategy http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/National_Positive_Ageing_Strategy_English.pdf	Dept. of Health	2013	
Primary Care	Primary Care: A New Direction http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/primcare-report.pdf	Dept. of Health & Children	2001	
Sexual Health	National Sexual Health Strategy 2015-2020 http://www.crisispregnancy.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/National-Sexual-Health-Strategy.pdf	Dept. of Health	2015	
Suicide Prevention	Connecting for Life http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Connecting-for-Life_LR.pdf	Dept. of Health & Children & HSE	2015	
Tobacco Free Ireland	Tobacco Free Ireland http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/TobaccoFreeIreland.pdf https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/TobaccoControl/framework/Tobacco_free_Ireland_Action_plan.pdf	Dept. of Health	2013	
Women's Health	National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020: creating a better society for all http://www.merrionstreet.ie/MerrionStreet/en/imageLibrary/20170503_National_Strategy_for_Women.pdf	Dept. of Justice & Equality	2017	
Young People	National Youth Strategy 2015-2020 http://www.dcyu.gov.ie/documents/publications/20151008NatYouthStrat2015to2020.pdf	Dept. of Children & Youth Affairs	2015	

Education	Action Plan for Education 2016-2019 http://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Action-Plan-for-Education-2016-2019/	Dept. of Education & Science	2016
Mental Health	National Framework for Mental Health Promotion – currently being developed by HSE National Framework for Positive Mental Health Promotion in the Family Resource Centre Programme - currently being developed by Family Resource Centres in partnership with Tusla, HSE and Mental Health Ireland		In Preparation
Men's Health	National Men's Health Action Plan 2017-2021 http://www.mhfi.org/HI-M.pdf	Dept. of Health	2017
Obesity	A Healthy Weight for Ireland: Obesity Policy and Action Plan 2016-2025 http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/A-Healthy-Weight-for-Ireland-Obesity-Policy-and-Action-Plan-2016-2025.pdf	Dept. of Health	2016
Physical Activity	Get Ireland Active: National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Get-Ireland-Active-the-National-Physical-Activity-Plan.pdf	Dept. of Health & Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport	2016

Regional Strategies & Frameworks

Area	Title	Publisher	Date of Publication
Alcohol and Drugs	<p>Family Support Strategy 2017-2020 http://www.wrdatf.ie/uploadedfiles/Family-Support-Strategy-2017-2020-Web-Version_1.pdf?PHPSESSID=956c295e3d4b8aa77ded3b58cc9cf0d8</p> <p>Regional Strategy for Galway, Mayo and Roscommon</p>	Western Drugs Task Force	2016 In Preparation
Children	<p>Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) Plans</p> <p>Galway City Early Years Health and Wellbeing Plan 2016-2020</p> <p>Implementation Plan for Children for Galway and Roscommon</p>	<p>Tusla</p> <p>Galway Healthy Cities, HSE, Galway City Partnership, CYPSC</p> <p>Tusla</p>	2016 In Preparation
County Plans	Local Economic and Community Development Plans, Galway City, Galway County, Mayo and Roscommon	Local Authorities	2015, 2016



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