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Gypsy and  
Traveller Liaison  
Service

*Annual Report*

2012/3

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If you need more information or a different format phone 0845 155 1015, email [travellers@devon.gov.uk](mailto:travellers@devon.gov.uk), text 80011 (start your message with the word Devon), textphone 0845 155 1020 or, write to Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QD.

## Executive Summary

The County Council's Gypsy Traveller Liaison Service (GTLS) provides a responsive and cost effective service which seeks to address the unmet needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in Devon. The GTLS continues to meet the demands placed upon it and set goals for the future within local, regional and national policies.

From April 2012 to April 2013 the service built on established good practice and saw greater communication between all stakeholders through multi-agency working. A half day training event was invaluable in raising awareness of the different responsibilities and solutions available. Over the past twelve months, the service has seen more agencies feeling able to work directly with the Gypsy Traveller Community and engage in a two way process of identification of needs and solutions. The placing of Public Health promotion within the Council offers us the opportunity to further progress health improvement outcomes amongst our communities.

The service has managed 39 unauthorised encampments in the twelve month period and provided a range of advice and guidance to others on dealing with encampments on their land.

The potential of two new authorised sites within the Devon area should reduce number of unauthorised encampments on County Council land in future and provide better facilities for communities. However, the need to identify further land or other solutions to address the lack of pitches and sites remains, particularly in the north and east of the county. The full impact of Welfare Reform changes are yet to be realised, although we have seen increases in the number of homeless people's encampments on Devon County Council land, particularly in Exeter.

We hope this report provides an insight into the complex issues involved and how these are addressed. As a service, we are always open to suggestions, comments and requests for training or guidance.

The introduction of a new handbook, code of conduct, monitoring forms and national policies next year should add an extra dimension to clarify roles and responsibilities. The code of conduct has been trialled at a number of sites and proved to be a success; the service has noticed an immediate reduction in untidiness at sites.

# Introduction

## Gypsy and Traveller Groups

Romany Gypsies include English, Welsh and Scottish Gypsies and European Roma. Gypsies have the longest known history of the Traveller groups and are a recognised ethnicity/race. Gypsies' ethnic roots lie in Northern India, where nomadic groups first started moving towards Europe around 1,000 years ago.

Irish Heritage Travellers have a long and detailed history, starting in Ireland as long ago as the 15th century. At a similar time, Gypsies were unlikely to settle in Ireland, due to the already established communities of Tinkers (metal workers) who would be in competition for the work and stopping places. They are predominantly of strong Catholic faith, and prefer to send their children to Catholic schools.

Showmen are a cultural minority with a long, rich history of providing travelling entertainment and fairground rides at local Markets and festivals.

Circus Families have a long heritage as travelling entertainers. The service they provide is generally wanted, accepted and enjoyed by the majority of the population.

New Travellers arose mainly in the 20th century, adopting a 'low impact lifestyle' for environmental, social and/or economic reasons. Many of the adults have grown up in mainstream society, and are well versed in education and other service entitlements. All families and communes tend to be different with little commonality on accommodation, mobility, work or faith trends

According to the most recent Census data by the Office for National Statistics, Ethnic Gypsies and Travellers nationally make up 0.1 per cent of the population. Devon has less than the national average, however we know that many do not disclose their ethnicity and therefore figures are an under-representation. Figures do not capture data on New Age Travellers who have a significant presence in Devon and the South West:

**Census Data 1**

	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Gypsy/ Irish Traveller</b>	<b>% Gypsy Irish Traveller</b>
<b>East Devon</b>	132457	90	0.07%
<b>Exeter</b>	117773	93	0.08%
<b>Mid Devon</b>	77750	88	0.11%
<b>North Devon</b>	93667	45	0.05%
<b>South Hams</b>	83140	45	0.05%
<b>Teignbridge</b>	124220	118	0.09%
<b>Torridge</b>	63839	54	0.08%
<b>West Devon</b>	53553	21	0.04%
<b>Devon</b>	746399	554	0.07%

## The Gypsy Traveller Liaison Service

Staffing within the service consists of:

- One full time Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer (GTLO),
- One full time Assistant Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer (AGTLO).

Management has been provided from within the Policy and Partnerships Team (Services for Communities).

The Portfolio Holder for Travellers and Gypsies is Councillor Roger Croad.

We regularly consult with Devon County Council legal department to ensure safe and lawful decisions are made.

We also work closely with the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller Achievement Service at Babcock LDP (Education Support).

Staffing this year has been reduced due to maternity leave of the Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer. However thanks go to the Council's Corporate Equality Officer for assisting during this period and taking a fresh look at our policies and procedures.

The GTLS works not only with Gypsies and Travellers but acts as a reference point and contact for all initial enquiries within Devon and neighbouring regions. Information requests come from a wide range of sources. Often the first point of contact is the My Devon contact centre. Enquirers include:- the settled community, parish councillors, district councillors, county councillors, researchers, planning departments, housing and health agencies, students, the media, or personnel in other districts and regions. Information about the service and communities is provided on the Devon County Council website.

The GTLS monitors enquiries to gauge the main issues and responds to each issue on a case by case basis: identifying, understanding and balancing needs. Where necessary, we will make changes to policy or practice to ensure we achieve a fair and effective outcome in all that we do.

The GTLS regularly keeps up to date and shares information via its membership of NAGTO (National Association of Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officers).

## The County Council's Roles and Responsibilities

The County Council considers its responsibilities under three broad areas:

- The duty to promote equality and human rights, and specifically to promote an environment in which the rights and responsibilities of both Gypsies and Travellers and the housed community are respected.
- Providing the Gypsy and Traveller community with a liaison link to assist in access to welfare and other support services.
- Being a substantial landowner.

### Equality Duties and Human Rights

Although there is no legal right to stop on someone else's land without their consent, there is nothing unlawful in following a nomadic lifestyle. In fact, we have a Human Right to 'private and family life' which means a right to a live how we choose (i.e. to live a nomadic or settled life), provided it does not interfere with other rights or laws.

The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to treat someone less favourably because of a range of protected characteristics, including race, nationality or ethnic or national origins. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are defined as a racial group in law. A Public Sector Equality Duty places a duty on the Council to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons of different groups.

Further information is available from [www.devon.gov.uk/equalitylegislation](http://www.devon.gov.uk/equalitylegislation).

### Welfare and Liaison

Through the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Service (GTLS), the County Council seeks to provide both Gypsies/Travellers and the wider community with a point of contact for advice and help for all related issues.

In terms of access to services, Gypsies and Travellers have the same entitlements to access services as any other member of society. When travelling or living on an Unauthorised Encampment (UE'S), access to services especially health, education and social care can be more challenging.

The GTLS has a key role in facilitating access and, when needed, will be an escort on site for doctors and others or take individuals to medical appointments, but will not act on behalf of another service or individual. As with anyone, where safeguarding concerns are identified, the relevant services will be contacted.

Sometimes homeless rough sleepers, who do not regard themselves as Gypsy or Traveller by definition or choice, are present on UE's. In this case the GLTS will work in partnership with local homeless charities and housing providers.

### **As a substantial Landowner**

Devon County Council is a significant landowner in the county and owns or leases buildings from which council services are delivered or administered – for example, offices, day centres, waste disposal sites, vehicle parking and highway depots. In addition, the County Council has areas of land such as county farms, highways, highway verges and lay-bys.

In relation to all its land and property interests the County Council has responsibilities to service users, staff and visitors, as would any other landowner. However, in the case of trespass and the creation of an UE, the County Council cannot trigger possession proceedings in the same way that private or commercial landowners can. In addition to land use issues, the County Council is required to conduct assessments of any public health issues and the welfare, education, human rights and needs of the occupiers. A Court may refuse our request for possession (eviction) if there are over-riding welfare needs.

In most but not all cases, the presence of an UE can generate a range of concerns from the neighbouring members of the housed community. It is another role of the GLTS, to seek to create positive relationships where possible, and, in any event to seek to reduce friction and mitigate the impact of the UE. The GLTS will liaise with the Police and local Racial Equality Council where community tensions escalate.

### **Meeting housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers**

The responsibility for planning and housing rests with District Councils as per the Planning Policy for Travellers Sites 2012. This updates the Housing Act 2004.

Local Authorities with Housing responsibilities (in Devon these are District and Unitary Councils) are required to, by March 2013 (updating annually):

- Use a robust evidence base to identify a five year supply of specific and deliverable sites for Gypsies and Travellers.
- Identify broad locations for six to ten years.
- Grant Temporary Planning Permission to site requests, in the absence of a five year supply.

Devon County Council has a 'duty to co-operate' under Section 102 of the Localism Act 2011 and therefore a duty to assist other authorities in sourcing suitable sites/pitches.

At present there is no site provision other than the two sites of Sowton and Broadclyst, offering a total of 16 pitches which equates to 16 housing units. As with the settled community, this makes

no provision for the next generation. As a result of this the GTLS manages a number of UE's throughout Devon whilst waiting for provision to become available. This can at times include large groups that are in transit, but, is in the majority limited to long term smaller sites. We have worked hard this year with all involved to limit site sizes where we can. We tend to see New Age Traveller communities on longer term small encampments and Irish Traveller Communities on temporary (transit) encampments – sometimes up to 30 or so caravans as family groups converge on the limited land available.

To bring change to this situation, The County Council is happy to facilitate or, be involved in Devon-wide or regional forums for site planning. We will work in partnership with Districts to develop a strategy for identifying Temporary Stops, Transit and Permanent sites from our own land, to fulfil our duty to co-operate and foster good relations by reducing the number of UEs.

Consultation with Gypsies and Travellers is vital for seeking effective solutions. This may include working with areas of temporary acceptance within districts that are owned by other providers. The GLTS can facilitate consultation with individuals on UEs, but, there should be a Gypsy/Traveller Forum for each District. Currently only Teignbridge District have a working Forum.

The County Council is willing to work in partnership with other landowners to help identify suitable sites and individual pitches, particularly when involved in planned housing developments where pitch allocation can be part of those plans. Partners include:

- Local authorities, including neighbouring authorities.
- Highways Agency.
- Private landowners and businesses, particularly those near main transport routes with hard-standing areas.
- Ministry of Defence.
- Farmers.
- Church/religious organisations.
- British Residual Land Board.

The GLTS would particularly welcome to hear from people willing to act as landlords of Gypsy and Traveller tenants, or seek new tenants so that those on UEs can be properly accommodated.

The GTLS will also comment on planning strategies and has participated in local development framework meetings throughout Devon. We are able to impart ideas and solutions used in other areas throughout the United Kingdom because of our networks.

## Achievements made during the past 12 months

### Key Duties of the Gypsy Traveller Liaison Service

Below is a list of the key duties the Gypsy Traveller Liaison Service has undertaken during the last twelve months:

- Managing two authorised sites owned/leased by Devon County Council, comprising 11 fixed pitches within the Exeter District and 5 fixed pitches within East Devon District Council.
- Responding to and managing Unauthorised Encampments (UEs) across land owned by Devon County Council (DCC) including highways land.
- Providing an assessment and liaison service for land owned by The Highways Agency.
- Adopting the Devon Tree Framework to ensure tree safety at our sites and considering other health and safety issues for both fixed sites and unauthorised encampments.
- Working in partnership with homelessness agencies to advise those who are homeless and camped on our land of any works being undertaken and when possession of the land will take place.
- Working with other agencies across the County including District Councils, Health, Education and the Police to support the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and respond to any issues.
- Updating on our own protocol to reflect the changes in government legislation as well as providing an easy read guide of our processes and expectations.
- Reducing friction within communities through consistent and fair application of a code of conduct, upon which toleration of UEs depends.
- Responding to consultations on planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites.
- Attending and working proactively in any district forums, research projects and consultations.
- Providing data to health services on issues and current practice and, if necessary, advocate for change via partnership working.
- Improving the relationship between settled and Gypsy and Traveller communities across Devon, by working to develop a better understanding between the differing cultures in order to help break down the barriers that exist.
- Supporting both the settled and Traveller community in accessing services.
- Being the first point of contact for anyone with questions, concerns or needing contact with the community.

# Make up of Gypsy Traveller communities in Devon 2012-2013

## Permanent Sites – Sowton and Broadclyst

Management of these sites is provided through the GTLS. Duties include, maintaining tenancies, liaison with residents, reading letters, support with utility bill issues, guidance and support with accessing agencies, support in times of conflict, reporting and implementation of repairs.

The Mobile Homes Act (amended) is legislation that has been implemented this year to cover authorised sites. During this year the GTLS has been working to educate residents around this piece of legislation and as a result has undertaken a piece of work to simplify the site licence in conjunction with the residents.

We are pleased to report a new ten year renewable lease has now been signed with the National Trust for the site at Broadclyst. This provides time for us to dovetail maintenance and offer security to residents living at the site.

We have introduced a fair rent agreement and from 01/04/2013 the weekly rent per pitch at both sites will be £60.00 per week; this is in line with market rents.

We have recently submitted a bid to the Homes and Communities for funding under the Gypsy Traveller site refurbishment scheme. If successful, this would enable us to implement a variety of upgrades that need to be completed. Increased rents will enable a rolling maintenance programme.

Successful partnership working with Plymouth and Devon Racial Equality Council's Gypsy and Traveller Worker, alongside the Council's Adult and Community Learning service has resulted in an uptake of literacy and computer courses. In addition, we have enabled more external agencies to offer services at the site. These include stop smoking advice, healthy initiatives, personal goal setting, basic literacy and computer training.

Site	District	Number of Adults	Number of Children
Sowton	Exeter	22	2
Broadclyst	East Devon	12	5
Total		34	7

## Unauthorised Encampments (UEs) Devon County Council owned land.

This year there have been 25 short term Unauthorised Encampments (UEs) across Devon. The UEs each vary in size, location and how long the Gypsies and Travellers plan to remain there. The vast majority of these have been within the South Hams area. Over the past twelve months we witnessed diverse groups arriving throughout the winter season which could be attributed to national economic issues.

There are 16 longer term unauthorised but tolerated encampments. These are home to Gypsies and Travellers that are not highly mobile but still travel for economic purposes around Devon and beyond. Some of these encampments may be on Highways Agency land and we work with the travellers and this agency when this occurs.

The responsibility of District Councils to either allocate land for Gypsies and Travellers or to provide social style accommodation is progressing although this has not progressed as quickly as hoped. Teignbridge District Council submitted a planning application for a 15 pitch Traveller's site with grant funding received via the Homes and Community Agency. The plans can be viewed on Teignbridge District Councils website and the final decision is due 08/04/2013. We have assisted with the proposed site at Haldon, working closely with communities and stakeholders to bring about change.

South Hams and West Devon are in the process of undertaking a Housing Needs Assessment. South Hams has a planning application for a transit provision at Broadley Park and again the details of this can be viewed on their website.

We have responded quickly to any requests and support needed. The level of UEs we saw this year across Devon once again demonstrates the shortage of permanent and transit sites. The longer-term UEs continue to be home to many G/Ts looking for suitable formal sites. We will continue to work with Districts to increase the number of authorised pitches/sites in Devon and this is again listed as a target for 2013/14.

The GTLS continues to be successful in reducing the costs associated with dealing with UEs. This is a result of better communication with the community and better multi-agency working in relation to co-ordinating services such as waste collection, and provision of temporary sanitation options.

We have again experienced occupations by homeless people in tents. Included in our targets for next year is to explore options and consistent ways of working to ensure the health and wellbeing of those involved.

National policy changes, legislation and Localism made us aware of the need to update and make a handbook that makes clear our roles within current legislation.

Although this represents no shift in policy it will be a simpler guide for these complex issues.

The main thrust of change next year is in line with government guidance following the vast amount of money wasted at Dale Farm and other areas in a process of moving and eviction. Devon County Council arranged for a training event held at Exeter University on 25<sup>th</sup> February in order that we and our partner agencies are up to date with changes and what this means for all.

The tables below details the number of UE's by district. Short Term UE's are mainly for groups that are travelling through and do not wish to stay long term. These figures could suggest where there is most need for short term solutions such as a tolerated area, or, transit pitches.

These figures do not include encampments on District Council Land, such as neither car parks, nor do they include information about those on other land for example land owned by the Forestry Commission or Dartmoor National Parks. These encampments can be the same group looking for somewhere to park up short term, or subject to eviction from other district council land .

#### Short Term UE's 1

District	Adults	Children	No of UE's
Exeter	18	0	3
East Devon	64	20	5
Mid Devon	3	0	1
North Devon	12	0	3
West Devon	3	0	1
South Hams	108	54	11
Teignbridge	6	0	3
Torridge	0	0	0
Total	214	74	27

Aside from transit or short term solutions there is a need for permanent site provision.

The Homes and Communities Agency have made monies available to districts to provide new site provision.

The next table highlights where this shortfall of accommodation is most acute. However, these needs could change with economics and employment conditions do either, countywide, regionally or nationally.

**Long Term UE's 1**

District	Adults	Children	No of UE's
Exeter	0	0	0
East Devon	6	2	1
Mid Devon	2	0	1
North Devon	6	1	1
West Devon	4	0	1
South Hams	37	11	7
Teignbridge	33	6	2
Torridge	0	0	0
Total	88	20	16

**Totals 2012/13 1**

Type of encampment	Adults	Children
Long Term UE	88	20
Short Term UE	214	74
Fixed	34	7
Total	336	101

As these tables highlight, services and agencies need to address both short and long term accommodation issues for these communities. These figures do not include those of each district and, other landowner's encampments. The GTLS is included in service updates from each district and, have, when requested assisted when information or advice.

As a service, we have been networking and liaising to offer solutions and identify gaps in provision and to improve outcomes for the Gypsy Traveller community. Agencies procedures do not always understand the difference between fixed, transit or unauthorised encampments. However we have been able to achieve the results listed in the table below by education and negotiating for change.

**Table 1 Further examples of improved access to information and services**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Number of G/T's who benefitted if known</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Carers Link	16	Many of our communities similar to those within the settled community do not recognise the role they undertake, particularly long term partnerships
Warm Home Applications	13	This scheme will now be available for a further two years and offers insulation and fuel poverty schemes. It also provides improved waiting times for those vulnerable tenants to whom a loss of energy supply could be damaging
PALS and Care Direct	12	Regular contact for various issues relating to the elderly/mobile access in the community and G/T's with disabilities or having difficulty acquiring services
Palliative Care	4	This year we have seen these services provided on both UEs and fixed sites
Charity Applications	7	1 application to Exeter Municipal Charities and 6 applications to the Northcott foundation. The majority of these are for household items when moving from a caravan to a home- nothing fits
Turntable	5	This Reusable furniture store based in Exeter works on a referral scheme and we are now included as referrers. This enables households to purchase low cost items that have been donated to Turntable

## Multi Agency Work

The GTLS has been successful in engaging agencies in helping to deliver services to Gypsies and Travellers, through being involved in and supporting various pieces of work during the year that benefitted communities across Devon. Main projects this year were:

- Finalising the Race Hate Crime Survey co ordinated by PDREC and supported by Devon and Cornwall Police, Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement Service and Devon County Council.
- Assisting Teign Housing and the Haldon Travellers with their consultations. Teignbridge Gypsy Traveller Forum and Haldon Users Group attendance.
- Promoting South West Forum Gypsies and Travellers National Awareness Programme.
- In partnership with PDREC, Health Promotion Devon (NHS), Adult Education assisting residents in accessing Literacy and Health Trainer support..
- In partnership with PDREC, LINK and Health Promotion Devon (NHS) we promoted a women's health day. Attendees were offered carers checks, no smoking advice, healthy eating options and a variety of relevant information. By participating in the Police Independent Advisory Group, we have been active in monitoring third party reporting and informing practice to enable positive solutions.
- We have worked with Parish and District Councils to provide support, information, education, advice and possible solutions. One such example being the bi annual caravan count. This year these counts enabled information on flooding and severe weather issues to reach Gypsies and Travellers communities.
- We provide a reference point and contact for Devon Adult and Children's services to enable through care and service provision.
- We worked with Dartmoor National Parks to facilitate a dialogue and working procedures for an encampment within their boundaries.
- We are signed up to the Homes and Community Agency Newsletter and updates and via this mechanism applied for the grant for refurbishments.
- We work with the Forestry Commission to address any issues when works are undertaken or encroachments are on their land.

- We have worked closely with the District Housing Departments to ensure new tenancies are supported and workable. We have provided a contact point for information and support to assist individuals applying for housing solutions. We also work with private sites to offer housing options.
- We work with the Gypsy Traveller Achievement Team to ensure all children of school age on our land in Devon can be supported in education.
- We regularly work with GP practices, dentists, mental health teams, children and adult services across Devon to facilitate access and treatment options.
- We work with Regional and National Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officers to exchange good practice and be aware of any potential sites or vacancies available to our communities. Further to ensure standardised practice.
- We ensure that private planning applicants are aware of South West Planning Aid and the services this group can provide. District Planning departments regularly contact us to either start a dialogue, arrange site visits, or, report on developments. This year we were particularly active with Teignbridge District Council in their strategic planning.

## Planning

The process of gaining private planning permission for a Gypsy/Traveller family site can prove costly and lengthy. The GTLS will liaise with the family, make a site visit (often more than one) and support the family by confirming Gypsy/Traveller status and any other supporting work that is necessary, such as support with literacy issues.

This year however there has been less need for support as planning departments within some districts have made services more accessible and consumer friendly. Gypsies and Travellers, via the Teignbridge Forum, have worked with the planning department to enable an easy read, accessible and inclusive booklet.

As well as direct work with other agencies, the GTLS has played a part in bridging the gap for delivery of services to Gypsies and Travellers by liaising with a whole host of agencies. This is part of managing UEs across Devon, and by facilitating this service for Gypsies and Travellers,

it helps address the short fall in access to services that this community. The following case studies show how this is all put into practice.

### **Case Study: South West Forum Gypsies and Travellers National Awareness Programme, National Policies and our response.**

There have been many changes/consultations within planning law over the last 12 months.

Nationally there had been a lack of training and resources available on Gypsy/Traveller issues. In order to address some of these concerns, we enlisted the assistance of South West Forum to facilitate an awareness programme in Devon.

The event which took place in February at the Innovations Centre at Exeter University was oversubscribed. Attendees included representatives from Parish Councils, District Councils, Highways Agency, Housing Associations, Health and Wessex Community Assets.

The speakers were Ric Pallister OBE and Richard Bennett. Both have been part of the LGA Gypsy and Traveller Task Group. The programme began with the history, definition, numbers, public perceptions and the problem.

*“One in five Gypsy and Traveller Caravans are on unauthorised sites”*

*“Gypsy Travellers are the most socially excluded group in the country”*

*“Tensions with the settled community - £18 million spent annually on enforcement “*

The Solution was the need nationally for 3,500 pitches to provide adequate and appropriate provision. They showed how Government Policy and initiatives provided for this to happen, including:

- Housing Act 2004
- Planning Policy for Travellers Sites 2012
- Ministerial Working Group Report 04/2012
- Public Sector Equality Duty
- Tenancy Rights
- National Affordable Housing Programme
- New Holmes Bonus Scheme.

### **Case Study 2: Mobile Travellers – A seasonal issue affecting many districts.**

- Within Devon, one location has witnessed a large amount of highly mobile Travellers encamping there throughout the past twelve months. The Travellers arriving here have

been largely Irish Travellers and often over six trailers/caravans in size. This location for the travellers provides an area off the main road with no through traffic.

- There is no transit provision after Bristol and no District or other landowner has identified any land that could be used by such groups on a temporary acceptance basis. This area of land is next door to a power station which has certain extra safety measures which made the lighting of fires or use of welding equipment on the site highly dangerous. In addition, children playing near security fences and barriers concerned the staff at the power station.
- Following a successful multi agency case meeting we agreed to work together to identify suitable sites and develop an 'easy read' code of conduct to improve behaviour on UEs and deal with safety issues relating to that particular site.
- 
- We also established swift access to health services in the area. Meeting the health needs of the community is highly important: 18 per cent of Gypsy Traveller mothers have experienced the death of a child and 42% of Gypsy Travellers have long term illnesses compared to 18% of the settled community.
- **Case Study 3: The Handbook**
- The Devon County Council protocol on managing unauthorised encampments needed updating. The service has set about to create an easy to read guide on our policies and procedures for managing unauthorised encampments. During the development of the handbook, it was tested in relation to each unauthorised encampment and any new issues were added so that our 'custom and practice' was articulated in writing. Consultation on the handbook is likely to begin in September 2013.

## Ongoing issues for 2013/2014

Issue	Outcome
Attend and work on South Hams/ West Devon land identification forum	To identify an area of temporary acceptance for Irish Travellers
Production of a Devon County Council Gypsy and Traveller protocol for Unauthorised Encampments	A user friendly handbook
Continued Health drive on both authorised and unauthorised sites	Better health outcomes for Gypsy/Travellers
To support cross border working on the provision of gypsy traveller sites	Reduction of long term UE's
To revise our Code of Conduct	Different locations have different needs
Monitor and assess the impact of welfare reforms on our communities	To maintain stability
Establish practice for homelessness issues	Equal treatment for anyone on DCC land
To ensure Health Promotion Links now a function of DCC	To improve health outcomes within our community
To continue to work with Parish District and County Councillors for community cohesion and inclusion	To aid better understanding between the settled community and those camped on our land
To pursue our HCA bid to fund improvement works	Improved outcomes for our communities
To work with communities in a flexible manner to enable appropriate responses to changing needs	More efficient service provision and communication to all stakeholders

## Appendix 1

### Budget 2012/13

#### A. Summary

Expenditure:	
Staff salaries including travel, training and on costs	£ 58,358.00
Site maintenance and repairs	£20,038.00
Electricity and water on sites	£10,414.00
Miscellaneous including DCC in-house recharges	£ 2,584.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£91,394.00</b>
Income:	
Rents	£35,860.00
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>£55,534.00</b>

## B. Breakdown of comparative costs

This section is highlighted to show what the potential costs would be if the County Council decided to take action to evict Gypsy and Traveller groups on a routine basis. Whilst such action would not be necessary in all cases, as groups often move on before court action is taken, it does show that the continued approach taken by the County Council is much more cost effective.

The other consideration is that, once evicted from one site, many groups simply move onto another Council owned site, resulting in multiple actions being taken against the same G/T. This is without taking into account the human costs of such an approach.

Fees for legal and court costs per eviction	770.00
Liaison with sites to collect relevant information for the legal team	100.00
Transportation of 1 x caravan to secure site	*400.00
*Some families have more than one caravan, so this estimate is conservative	
Total cost of eviction per family: (Average for 2 Adults and children with 1 caravan)	1,270.00
Total families for 2012/13 (335 Adults / 3 at 1 caravan per unit)	112 units
Total cost for eviction only policy (112 x 1270)	<b>142,240.00</b>
Estimated cost if management of the two authorised sites were contracted out	45,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>187,240.00</b>
Actual current costs relating to UEs and management of authorised sites: 2 x Staff Annual Salary – including on costs, travel and training	58,358.00

Costs for portaloos provision for UEs at 1 per site for 4 weeks average for 25 short term sites	2,500.00
Costs for portaloos for provision for 6 long term UE's	7,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,658.00</b>
<b>Total savings using the current system for in house management and a tolerated sites policy</b>	<b>118,582.00</b>