

Report of Activity

Anti eviction

Supporting campaigns and anti eviction activities in relation to the following groups or Sites.

Dale Farm, Cray Hill, Essex

Three Oaks Caravan Park - Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire

Wickford Farm, Pinstone Way, Denham, Buckinghamshire

The Willows, Bishopstone, Buckinghamshire

The Warren, South Buckinghamshire

Ver Meadow, Redbourn, Bedfordshire

Moate Farm, Canterbury, Kent

The Stokes Family, Near Theal, Berkshire

Lynton Close, Brent, London

The Price & Ward Families, Milton Keynes, North Buckinghamshire

John Johnson, Hampshire

Website:

For more than a year now I have run, maintained and hosted the website: www.gypsy-association.com as a resource for the Gypsy & Traveller community.

This website concentrates on promoting community cohesion to help the community prevent evictions by disseminating information, hosting web pages for groups and promoting co-operation between Gypsy & Traveller groups and sites with in the South East of England and the UK.

Illustration of most recent activity

Gypsy & Traveller Floating Support Team

The Floating Support Team has been in existence for more than a year, however the different sections have worked together in a symbiotic but informal way. From the beginning of 2007 we have been making arrangements to formalise the elements of the Floating Support Team to encourage community cohesion and provide a better service to the community.

The G&T Floating Support Service provides flexible support for Gypsy's & Traveller's in the Thames Valley and South East England.

Who is the Service for?

The Team supports Gypsy's & Traveller's in the Thames Valley, South East England & beyond who are experiencing problems arising from exclusion, literacy or numeracy, racism or discrimination, ill health or substance misuse and problems claiming benefits.

The service was setup principally to address the needs of families and individuals of any age from the Gypsy & Traveller communities. Romany Gypsy's, English Scottish, Welsh and Irish Traveller's This service is involved in providing assistance to individuals and families facing eviction, individuals and families living by the roadside, individuals and families living on council, private and unauthorised sites:

Referrals can come from the community, Police, Social Services or any group concerned with the welfare of Gypsy's and Traveller's.

What does it do?

The service offers advice on a varied set of issues and problems specific to the Gypsy & Traveller Communities, tailored to the needs and goals of Gypsy's & Traveller's.

The Service provides support for it's clients and signposting to mainstream and specialist services where necessary and beneficial, liaising with other organisations on behalf of and with clients.

The principle areas of support are accommodation, helping to avoid evictions, human rights, health, literacy and education, racism or discrimination, planning, drug or alcohol misuse, livestock and management issues, with claiming benefits and supporting Gypsy's & Traveller's in prison.

Staff have a background of working in these areas and aim to provide a model of integrated support. We recognise and understand Traveller's specific support needs, and the difficulties in their lives which may lead to hardship and even breakdown.

The Team works with these individuals or families, where possible advocating with statutory service providers on their behalf:

- Expertise in evaluating and supporting clients with complex needs.
- Can offer flexible packages of support, tailor-made for individuals.
- Help with issues and problems that encourage Gypsy's & Traveller's to attain a better quality of life and sustain a stable home.
- Advocacy and support in linking in with relevant services.
- Assistance with problems experienced in accessing current services. This service dovetails with certain outside agencies for either supported or general needs.

Who is The Gypsy & Traveller Floating Support Team

The service is a part of the Gypsy & Traveller South East Network provided by a small but experienced team from the client community that use specialist skills and knowledge to target the needs of Gypsy's & Traveller's, which traditionally receive few services and often have access issues.