

Croydon Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2013

Final Report
November 2013

RRR Consultancy Ltd

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Acknowledgements

RRR Consultancy would like to acknowledge the many people who contributed their experience and perceptions so usefully to the research.

We would also like to acknowledge the Gypsy and Traveller, and Travelling Showpeople, families who were involved in the research. We thank them for allowing us into their homes and for their honesty and earnestness in answering our many questions.

The Authors

RRR Consultancy Ltd was founded by Dr Alan Rust-Ryan and Dr Kate Rust-Ryan. They undertake research and consultancy in all areas of social policy from small-scale projects to long-term research studies.

The *RRR Consultancy* team has a proven successful track record in research and training relating to children, young people and adults, policy and practice, families and communities, housing, community development, hard to reach people and groups, education, multi-agency working, and service users and service provision.

RRR Consultancy also offer 'best practice' training courses to help ensure that public, voluntary and private organisations understand and successfully implement policies in areas such as domestic violence, children and families.

Glossary

Authorised site

A site with planning permission for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site. They can be privately owned (often by a Gypsy or Traveller), leased or socially rented (owned by a council or registered provider).

Average

The term 'average' when used in this report is taken to be a mean value unless otherwise stated.

Bargee Traveller

The term Bargee Traveller is used to describe people living and working on the waterways of Europe. Many Bargees have a nomadic lifestyle and may use their boat for living, working or both.

Bedroom standard

The bedroom standard is that used by the General Household Survey, and is calculated as follows: a separate bedroom is allocated to each co-habiting couple, any other person aged 21 or over, each pair of young persons aged 10-20 of the same sex, and each pair of children under 10 (regardless of sex). Unpaired young persons aged 10-20 are paired with a child under 10 of the same sex or, if possible, allocated a separate bedroom. Any remaining unpaired children under 10 are also allocated a separate bedroom. The calculated standard for the household is then compared with the actual number of bedrooms available for its sole use to indicate deficiencies or excesses. Bedrooms include bed-sitters, box rooms and bedrooms which are identified as such by respondents even though they may not be in use as such. For this study, a modified version of the bedroom standard was applied to Gypsies and Travellers living on sites.

Bricks and mortar accommodation

Permanent housing of the settled community, as distinguished from sites.

Caravan

A mobile living vehicle. Also referred to as a trailer.

Concealed household

A household or family unit that currently lives within another household or family unit but has a preference to live independently and is unable to access appropriate accommodation (on sites or in housing).

Development Plan Documents (DPD)

Local Development Framework documents that contain policies and are subject to external examination by an Inspector.

Doubling up

More than one family unit sharing a single pitch.

Eastern European Roma

Gypsies from Eastern Europe. Culturally distinct from English Gypsies but with some cultural and linguistic links, most no longer live in mobile accommodation. Their numbers have increased in the UK since the fall of Communism and the expansion of the European Union in 2004.

Emergency stopping places

Emergency stopping places are pieces of land in temporary use as authorised short-term (less than 28 days) stopping places for all travelling communities. They may not require planning permission if they are in use for fewer than 28 days in a year. The requirements for emergency stopping places reflect the fact that the site will only be used for a proportion of the year and that individual households will normally only stay on the site for a few days.

Family unit

A group of related people who live and/or travel together. It is assumed that each family unit would require one pitch to live on, containing up to three trailers. It is used as the basis for assessing accommodation requirements.

Gypsy

Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in Britain. In this report it is used to describe English (Romany) Gypsies, Scottish Travellers and Welsh Travellers. English Gypsies were recognised as an ethnic group in 1988.

Gypsy and Traveller

As defined for the purpose of the Housing Act 2004, in this report it includes all Gypsies, Irish Travellers, New Travellers, Travelling Showpeople, Eastern European Roma and other Travellers who adopt a nomadic or semi-nomadic life.

Irish Traveller

Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in Britain. Distinct from Gypsies but sharing a nomadic tradition, Irish Travellers were recognised as an ethnic group in England in 2000.

Mobile home

For legal purposes it is a caravan, but not normally capable of being moved by towing.

Net need

The difference between need and the expected supply of available pitches (e.g. from the re-letting of existing socially rented pitches or from new sites being built).

New Traveller

Members of the settled community who have chosen a nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle (formerly New Age Traveller).

Newly forming families

Adult individuals, couples or lone parent families living as part of another family unit of which they are neither the head nor the partner of the head and who need to live in their own separate accommodation, and/or are intending to move to separate accommodation, rather than continuing to live with their 'host' family unit.

Overcrowding

An overcrowded dwelling is one which is below the bedroom standard. (See 'Bedroom Standard' above).

Permanent / residential site

A site intended for long-stay use by residents. They have no maximum length of stay but often constraints on travelling away from the site.

Pitch

Area on a site developed for a family unit to live. On socially rented sites, the area let to a tenant for stationing caravans and other vehicles.

Plot

Area on a yard for Travelling Showpeople to live. As well as dwelling units, Travelling Showpeople often keep their commercial equipment on a plot.

Primary data

Information that is collected from a bespoke data collection exercise (e.g. surveys, focus groups or interviews) and analysed to produce a new set of findings.

Private rented pitches

Pitches on sites which are rented on a commercial basis to other Gypsies and Travellers. The actual pitches tend to be less clearly defined than on socially rented sites.

Registered Provider

A provider of social housing, registered with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) under powers in the 2008 Housing and Regeneration Act. This term replaced 'Registered Social Landlord' (RSL) and encompasses housing associations, trusts, cooperatives and companies.

Secondary data

Existing information that someone else has collected. Data from administrative systems and some research projects are made available for others to summarise and analyse for their own purposes (e.g. Caravan Count).

Settled community

Used to refer to non-Gypsies and Travellers who live in housing.

Site

An area of land laid out and used for Gypsy and Traveller caravans, which can be authorised (have planning permission) or unauthorised. They can be self-owned by a Gypsy and Traveller resident, or rented from a private or social landlord.

Socially rented site

A Gypsy and Traveller site owned by a council or registered provider.

Tolerated

An unauthorised development or encampment may be tolerated by the local authority meaning that no enforcement action is currently being taken.

Trailer

Term commonly used by Gypsies and Travellers for a moveable caravan.

Transit site/pitch

A site/pitch intended for short-term use, with a maximum period of stay.

Travelling Showpeople

People who organise circuses and fairgrounds and who live on yards when not travelling between locations. Most Travelling Showpeople are members of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.

Unauthorised development

A site / land owned by Gypsies and Travellers, but without the appropriate planning permission to station caravans.

Unauthorised encampment

Where Gypsies and Travellers reside on land they do not own and without permission from the owners. The land can be public or privately owned.

Unauthorised site

Land occupied by Gypsies and Travellers without the appropriate planning or other permissions. The term includes both unauthorised development and unauthorised encampment.

Utility block

A small permanent building on a pitch with bath/shower, WC, sink and (in some larger ones) space to eat and relax. Also known as a utility shed or amenity block.

Winter quarters

A site occupied by Travelling Showpeople, traditionally used when not travelling to provide fairs or circuses. Many now involve year-round occupation.

Yard

A term used for a site occupied by Travelling Showpeople. They are often rented by different families with clearly defined plots.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- S1. This report details the findings from the Croydon Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessment (GTANA). The report was commissioned by Croydon's Spatial Planning Service.
- S2. The report considers a range of Gypsy and Traveller groups found in Croydon, including English Gypsies, Irish Travellers, New Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across different tenure types. It draws on primary and secondary data sources including:
- **Secondary information:** including a literature review and secondary data analysis
 - **Stakeholder consultation:** with local organisations involved with Gypsies and Travellers
 - **Face-to-face surveys** of Gypsies and Travellers
- S3. The report includes qualitative data based on views and experiences of accommodation provision and wider service issues.
- S4. The aim of the study is to quantify the accommodation and housing related support needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Croydon for the period 2013/14-2033/34.
- S5. This is in terms of residential and transit/emergency sites and bricks and mortar accommodation. The results will be used to inform the allocation of local authority resources as an evidence base for policy development in housing and planning.

Literature review

- S6. Existing research into Gypsies and Travellers suggests that the legislation implemented since the 1960s has negatively impacted on Gypsy and Traveller communities, with the Housing Act 2004 and subsequent guidance designed to address this imbalance. The Equalities Act 2010 afforded Gypsies and Irish Travellers legal protection against discrimination, including from housing authorities.
- S7. However, it is apparent from the research that the most pressing issue remains the inadequate permanent and transit/emergency site provision. With around one fifth of Gypsies and Travellers residing in unauthorised developments or encampments, the Government has responded with increased funding for site provision.
- S8. Despite increased powers for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour and to evict where necessary, the Government has acknowledged that increased site provision is the most effective means of dealing with unauthorised developments and encampments.

- S9. The need for detailed information regarding the current and future accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community further reinforces the need for Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessments (GTANAs).

Population trends

- S10. While there are deficiencies in the Caravan Count, it remains the only national source of secondary data on caravan levels and is useful for determining trends in the number of Gypsies and Travellers living on sites. This has been used in conjunction with data collected locally by the Council in order to look at Gypsy and Traveller population trends and estimates in Croydon.
- S11. London contains one of the smallest numbers of caravans of any English region. When the population of London is taken into account the density of caravans is the lowest in England at 11 per 100,000 settled population, compared to 36 for England.
- S12. Similarly, when adjusted for population, Croydon's caravan count is one of the lowest in South London, and is very low compared to some neighbouring local authorities such as Sevenoaks and Tandridge. However, this finding should be considered within the context of Croydon's dense urban character and that most open space within the borough is protected. The figures suggest that although London and the South East have a relatively low density of Gypsy and Traveller caravans, parts of the regions have relatively high densities.
- S13. There were persistent numbers of unauthorised caravan days in the Croydon area during 2012/13. However, a large proportion of unauthorised encampments were due to the movements of a small number of families. These factors combined with evidence derived from stakeholders suggest the need for an emergency stopping place rather than transit site.

Stakeholder Consultation

- S14. A stakeholder session was conducted in April 2013 with local authority officers involved with Gypsy and Traveller issues, including those working in neighbouring authorities. In terms of new accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller families, it is apparent that there is a preference for small, privately owned sites.
- S15. It was suggested that larger sites can be difficult to manage and some stakeholders spoke against meeting future need by expanding existing sites. Also, existing residents of the Lathams Way site are opposed to any substantial enlargement of the existing site. Ideally, new sites should be located in open space and contain well equipped amenity blocks.

- S16. Barriers to providing new provision include the need to identify potential land for sites, the affordability of land, the complexity of the planning system, and community opposition to new sites. Few Gypsy and Traveller families either locally or in neighbouring boroughs have been able to both buy land and get planning permission to develop it as a permanent site.
- S17. There was some recognition that there are persistent numbers of unauthorised encampments within the borough. These mainly consist of Irish Traveller families who desire permanent accommodation within Croydon.
- S18. Importantly, there was general agreement against the provision of new transit sites. Alternatively, it was suggested that there may be a need for temporary (or emergency) stopping places.
- S19. Stakeholders acknowledged the needs of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation. It was noted that there can be cultural differences between Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation and members of the settled community.
- S20. Finally, the focus group acknowledged whether living on sites or in bricks and mortar accommodation, Gypsy and Traveller families are less likely to access health, education or other types of services. Families living on unauthorised encampments found it particularly difficult to access all types of services. Service providers need to work together so that they can deliver a coordinated approach to providing services to Gypsy and Traveller families.

Accommodation need

- S21. Accommodation need for Croydon was assessed using a model in accordance with Practice Guidance issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG). It contains seven basic components: five assessing need and two assessing supply, which are applied to each sub-group of Gypsies and Travellers, based on primary data.
- S22. The total requirement for accommodation in Croydon over 20 years is as follows:
- 49 residential pitches
 - 1 emergency stopping place
 - 0 Travelling Showpeople yards.
- S23. Table S1 shows the need for residential pitches in Croydon over the 20 year period:

Table S.1: Summary of Gypsy and Traveller pitch needs 2013-33	
Period	
Total at 2013	19
<i>Need 2013-18</i>	27
Total at 2018	46
<i>Need 2018-23</i>	7
Total at 2023	53
<i>Need 2023-28</i>	7
Total at 2028	60
<i>Need 2028-33</i>	8
Total at 2033	68
<i>Total Need 2013-33</i>	49
Annualised need	2.5

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Conclusions

S24. As well as quantifying accommodation need, the study also makes recommendations on key issues. The main ones are as follows:

- According to the survey undertaken with Gypsies and Travellers in Croydon they prefer small family-sized permanent/residential sites, which tend to have fewer inter-family tensions and should be easier to manage. The stakeholder meeting undertaken as part of the GTANA confirmed that smaller sites are preferred.
- Survey results suggest that both public and private sites will be required dependent on need. Specific sites available should be outlined in future DPDs and guidance offered on the type of land that is likely to obtain planning permission as well as land that is *unlikely* to. Specific advice on the planning process should also be offered.
- As per Croydon's Local Plan (2013), it is important that the Council works with Registered Providers and public sector landowners in Croydon to identify the potential for new pitches.
- Such an approach would also assist Travelling Showpeople, for whom there is currently no temporary or permanent provision in Croydon.
- The GTANA needs calculations suggest a requirement for an emergency stopping place in Croydon to further reduce the number of unauthorised encampments. However, it is recommended that this is not situated close to the existing Lathams Way site.
- Also, the Council need to consider providing permanent site accommodation to the Irish Traveller families who make up a large proportion of unauthorised encampments.
- The conditions of local authority sites should be regularly monitored to ensure that maintenance issues are swiftly resolved. The combination of different issues impacting negatively on the Lathams Way site suggests that it may require

refurbishment. There is also a need to consider how safety issues on the Lathams Way site can be improved.

- It is recognised that cultural factors can impact on the educational achievement of Gypsies and Travellers. There is a need to further support good practice in education such as the work undertaken by the Traveller Education Service and to further consider how educational needs can be met.
- Similarly, the adverse impact of travelling on the health needs of Gypsies and Travellers suggests that there is a need to further consider how such impacts can be ameliorated e.g. the provision of health outreach services.
- Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation sometimes face discrimination and hostility from the settled community. It may be useful to consider the provision of alternative accommodation which directly meet the needs Gypsies and Travellers such as group housing schemes.
- Local housing authorities should include Gypsy and Irish Traveller categories on ethnic monitoring forms to improve data on population numbers, particularly in housing. Also, there needs to be better sharing of information between agencies which deal with the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- Information should be made available in a variety of forms (as well as visits by Liaison and Support Officers) to ensure that the Gypsy and Traveller community are aware of the type of help and support available to them.
- Regular training and workshop sessions with local authority and service provider employees (and elected members) would help them further understand the key issues facing the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- The population size and demographics of Gypsies and Travellers can change rapidly. As such, their accommodation needs should be reviewed every three to five years.

1. Introduction

Study context

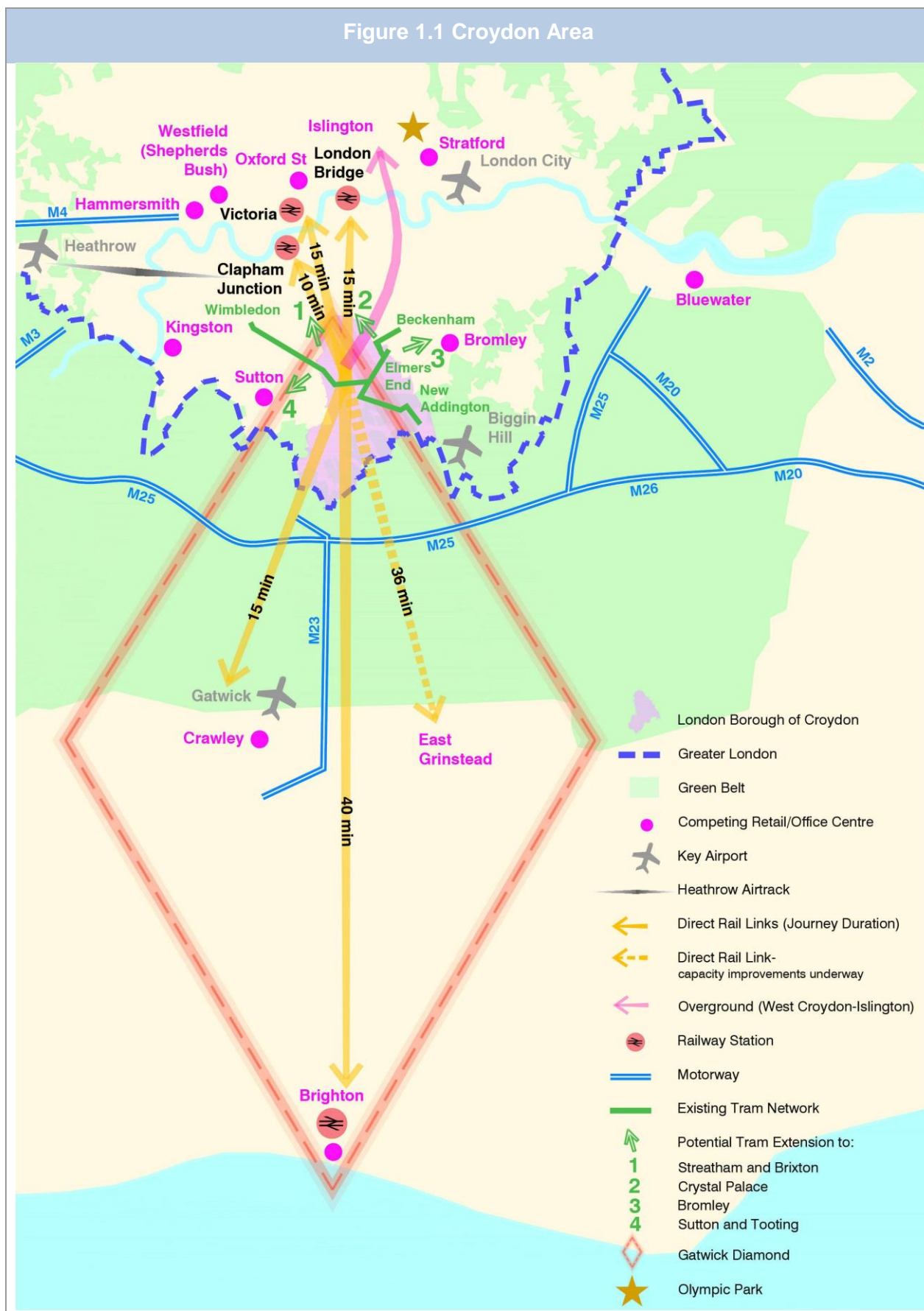
- 1.1 In March 2013, Croydon Council commissioned *RRR Consultancy* to undertake the Croydon Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA). The purpose of the assessment is to quantify the accommodation and housing related support needs of Gypsies and Travellers (including Travelling Showpeople) in terms of residential and transit/emergency sites, and bricks and mortar accommodation for the period 2013/14-2033/34. The results will be used to inform the allocation of resources and as an evidence base for policy development in housing and planning.
- 1.2 Data collection and analysis will follow practice guidance set out by Communities and Local Government (CLG) in 'Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments' (October 2007) and 'Local Housing Assessment: A Practice Guide' (March 2005), obliging local authorities to assess the level of need for Gypsy and Traveller sites.
- 1.3 To achieve the study aims, the research drew on a number of data sources including:
 - **Review of secondary information:** including a literature review and secondary data analysis
 - **Consultation** with organisations involved with Gypsy and Traveller issues
 - **Face-to-face surveys** of Gypsies and Travellers

Borough context

- 1.4 According to its Local Plan (2013)¹, Croydon is a borough of contrasts containing distinct places from Victorian railway suburbs in the north and along the railway line in the valley towards Purley and Coulsdon, to 20th century suburbs on wooded hillsides in the south and away from the railway line in the east.
- 1.5 In Croydon Metropolitan Centre the borough has more shops in one location than anywhere else in London apart from the West End itself. However, in 2011 they faced stiff competition from other centres such as Bromley, Kingston and Bluewater.
- 1.6 The Metropolitan Centre has more office floor space than anywhere else in South London and neighbouring districts in Surrey, but many of the offices in Croydon are seen as dated and vacancies have increased. Croydon competes against more recent office developments in Docklands, Redhill and surrounding boroughs.

¹ See: <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/contents/departments/planningandregeneration/pdf/localplan/localplan-adopted.pdf>

- 1.7 In 2011 the borough ranked as the 14th least deprived borough in London, (out of 33 authorities). Deprivation levels, however, differ greatly, with greater concentrations in the north of the borough and in Addington in the east. The Victorian and Edwardian areas of the borough suffer from deprivation as do some of the inter- and post-war local authority built housing estates. Generally, the south and east of the borough contain some of the least deprived areas of London.
- 1.8 In 2011 Croydon was the largest borough in London in terms of population (with a population of 363,000 people) and was expected to grow by 30,000 people by 2031. Demographically Croydon is a young borough and in 2011 a quarter of its residents were under the age of 20.
- 1.9 However, the residents of the borough are getting older and by 2031 the number of people in Croydon over the age of 65 will have increased by 41%. In contrast the population aged between 20 and 64 will have increased by just 2.5%. By 2031 Croydon will also be a more diverse borough with over half of the population being a member of a black and minority ethnic community compared to 36% in 2001.
- 1.10 The Green Belt around Croydon together with the protection of open spaces elsewhere in the borough has ensured that over a third of the borough is open space. Whilst this is an asset, it is also a constraint for the borough as it limits the land available for new homes to house Croydon's growing population.
- 1.11 A map showing Croydon in its sub-regional context is shown in Figure 1.1 below:



Source: Croydon Local Plan (2013)

Policy background

- 1.12 In May 2010 a new Coalition Government was elected. It aimed to bring about new legislation regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. The Coalition's *Our Programme for Government*² set out the government's intention to publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities.
- 1.13 In April 2011 the Communities Secretary Eric Pickles announced proposals for a more local way of providing sites for Travellers, building on earlier commitments to strengthen measures to tackle the abuse of the planning system. Its first action was to announce its intention to abolish the regional plans which contained the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation targets.
- 1.14 In new proposed planning guidelines, the Green Belt and countryside will have more robust protection, local councils will have more discretion, and local planning authorities will have a stronger hand in supporting appropriate development. Central guidance to councils on compulsorily purchasing land for travellers' sites will be removed and top-down Whitehall planning rules, which Ministers believe are counterproductive, will be abolished.
- 1.15 According to the CLG, planning regulations have seriously harmed community relations over the last few years, by imposing targets for traveller sites on local councils and increasing the number of unauthorised sites. At the same time the old planning rules created a perception of special treatment for some groups, undermining the notion of 'fair play' in the planning system and further harming community cohesion.
- 1.16 The new planning policy will give councils the freedom and responsibility to determine the right level of traveller site provision in their area, in consultation with local communities, while ensuring fairness in the planning system. It sits within a broader package of reforms to abolish the previous Government's Regional Strategies and return planning powers to councils and communities.
- 1.17 In March 2012 the Government published its planning policy for traveller sites, which replaces the previous circulars relating to Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Show People (01/2006 and 04/2007 respectively). The guidance emphasises the need for local authorities to use evidence to plan positively and manage development. In particular, it states that in assembling the evidence-base necessary to support their planning approach, local authorities should:
- effectively engage with both settled and traveller communities

² HM Government, *The Coalition: our programme for government*, May 2010 located at: http://www.direct.gov.uk/prod_consum_dg/groups/dg_digitalassets/@dg/@en/documents/digitalasset/dg_187876.pdf

- co-operate with traveller groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of the likely permanent and transit/emergency accommodation needs of their areas
- and use a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of local plans and make planning decisions

1.18 The new planning policy gives councils the freedom and responsibility to determine the right level of traveller site provision in their area, in consultation with local communities, while ensuring fairness in the planning system. It sits within a broader package of reforms to reduce the amount of National Planning Policy and abolish the previous Government's Regional Strategies and return planning powers to councils and communities.

1.19 The aim of the new planning policy is to encourage plan-making by councils and communities, by giving them a greater say in how they meet their development needs. It will also give communities, developers and investors more certainty about the types of applications that are likely to be approved. This will help to speed up the planning process.

How does the GTANA define Gypsies and Travellers?

1.20 The GTANA adheres to the definition of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople as defined by the CLG Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (March 2012). It states that for the purposes of planning policy "gypsies and travellers" means:

Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.

1.21 For the purposes of planning policy, "travelling showpeople" means:

Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.

Report format

1.22 The Croydon GTANA contains two sections. Section A contains the findings of primary data derived from the stakeholder consultation and analysis derived from the literature review and secondary data analysis. Section B gives the need assessments and draws conclusions on the research whilst Chapter 10 summarises the results from previous chapters.

Summary

- 1.23 The Housing Act 2004 made a major change in requiring that Gypsies and Travellers accommodation needs be addressed by local authorities. The present study is one of the results of that initiative.
- 1.24 In April 2011 the Communities Secretary Eric Pickles announced proposals for a more local way of providing sites for travellers, building on earlier commitments to strengthen measures to tackle the abuse of the planning system. Its first action was to announce its intention to abolish the regional plans which contained the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation targets.
- 1.25 In March 2012 the Government published its planning policy for traveller sites. The guidance emphasises the need for local authorities to use evidence to plan positively and manage development.
- 1.26 The purpose of this assessment is to quantify the accommodation and housing related support needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Croydon between 2013 and 2033. This is in terms of residential and transit/emergency sites, and bricks and mortar accommodation. The results will be used to inform the allocation of resources and as an evidence base for policy development in housing and planning.

SECTION A: CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

The first section of the Croydon Traveller Accommodation Needs Study contains results from analysis of secondary data. The chapters draw on a range of secondary data:

- Current plans and strategies relating to Gypsies and Travellers
- CLG Caravan Count data and County Council data on population levels and accommodation patterns

These are considered in turn. Section A starts however by describing the national policy context in which Gypsies' and Travellers' accommodation needs should be addressed.

2. Literature review

Introduction

- 2.1 This section examines previous literature and research relating to Gypsies and Travellers. It examines a number of key themes including legal definitions relating to the Gypsy and Traveller community and issues relating to current site provision. The aim is to provide the reader with a background on Gypsy and Traveller issues and the policy context in which this Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) is situated.

Legal Definitions

- 2.2 It is essential to clarify legal definitions relating to the Gypsy and Traveller population, not merely for semantic reasons, but to ensure that their legal rights are recognised and that discrimination does not take place. However, there is no comprehensive source of information about the number or characteristics of Gypsies and Travellers in England.
- 2.3 According to Niner³, there are three broad groupings of Gypsies and Travellers in England: traditional English (Romany) Gypsies, traditional Irish Travellers, and New Travellers. There are smaller numbers of Welsh Gypsies and Scottish Travellers. Romany Gypsies were first recorded in Britain around the year 1500, having migrated across Europe from an initial point of origin in Northern India.
- 2.4 However, one key issue relates to whether it is possible for one definition to be agreed for both planning and housing purposes. According to CLG (2012) guidance on planning policy for traveller sites, the definition of Gypsies and Travellers is:

*Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.*⁴

- 2.5 Importantly, Gypsies and Irish Travellers have been recognised by the courts to be two distinct ethnic groups, so have the full protection of the Equalities Act 2010. The courts made clear that travelling is not a defining characteristic of these groups, but only one among others. This is significant, because the majority of Britain's estimated 300,000 Gypsies and Travellers are thought to live in conventional housing, some by choice, some because of the severe shortage of sites⁵.

³ Pat Niner (2004), op cit.

⁴ CLG, Planning policy for traveller sites, March 2012 p.8

⁵ Commission for Racial Equality, *Common Ground Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers - Report of a CRE inquiry in England and Wales*, (Summary), May 2006, pages 3-4.

2.6 However, unlike Gypsies and Travellers, Travelling Showpeople are not considered to be an ethnic minority. Although some Gypsies and Travellers may earn a living as 'travelling showpeople', Travelling Showpeople as a group do not consider themselves to belong to an ethnic minority⁶.

2.7 According to CLG (2012) guidance on planning policy for traveller sites, the definition of Travelling Showpeople is:

*Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.*⁷

2.8 Also, for the purposes of Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTANAs), Travelling Showpeople are included under the definition of 'Gypsies and Travellers' in accordance with The Housing (Assessment of Accommodation Needs) (Meaning of Gypsies and Travellers) (England) Regulations 2006. It recommends that Travelling Showpeople's own needs and requirements should be separately identified in the GTANA.⁸

2.9 The *Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 3190*, issued in January 2007, offers a similar definition as used in housing legislation. It defines Gypsies and Travellers as:

- persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a caravan; and
- all other persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including –
 - i) such persons who, on the grounds only of their own or their families or dependent's educational, or health needs or olds age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently: and
 - ii) members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such)

2.10 It is the *Statutory Instrument 2006* definition that is used in the GTANA.

Current provision of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation

Introduction

2.11 As noted above, the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act removed the obligation for local authorities to provide sties for Gypsies and Travellers. This led, along with a change in the use of land and more land being identified for housing, to too few sites for Gypsies and Travellers.

⁶ CLG, *Consultation on revised planning guidance in relation to Travelling Showpeople*, January 2007, p. 8

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

Types of sites

2.12 Nationally there are six different types of site accommodation in use by Gypsies and Travellers including: local authority sites, privately owned commercial sites, family owned sites, Gypsy-owned land without planning permission, unauthorised encampments and transit accommodation⁹:

i. Local Authority Sites

2.13 According to Niner¹⁰, the great majority of local authority sites are designed for permanent residential use. In 2013 only 248 (5%) pitches were intended for transit or short-stay use in England (and not all of these are actually used for transit purposes). The latest Caravan Count undertaken in January 2013 suggests that there are 4,711 permanent and transit pitches capable of housing 7,888 caravans.

ii. Privately Owned Commercial Sites

2.14 The majority of privately owned commercial sites are Gypsy and Traveller owned and managed. Most are probably used for long-term residence, but there is also an element (extent unknown) of transit use. The January 2013 Caravan Count suggests that there are 9,102 caravans occupying private caravan sites in England.

iii. A Family Owner Occupied Gypsy Site

2.15 As Niner states, family sites are seen as the ideal by many Gypsies and Travellers in England.¹¹ They are also often seen as unattainable. There are two major obstacles: money/affordability and getting the necessary planning permission and site licence. While the former is clearly a real barrier to many less well-off Gypsies and Travellers, getting planning permission for use of land as a Gypsy caravan site (and a 'site' in this context could be a single caravan) is currently a major constraint on realising aspirations among those who could afford to buy and develop a family site.

iv. Gypsy-Owned Land without Planning Permission

2.16 In January 2013, 1,835 caravans were recorded as being on unauthorised sites on Gypsy-owned land consisting of 938 'tolerated' and 897 'not tolerated' by local authorities in England. Again, according to Niner, while evidence is lacking, there is a strong impression from local authority officers and parliamentary questions that the number of Gypsies/Travellers moving onto their own land without planning consent is increasing. This has contributed to dissatisfaction with planning enforcement powers on the part of the settled community¹².

⁹ This section draws extensively on research undertaken by Pat Niner in 2003 on behalf of the then Department for Transport, Regions and the Environment (DETR) on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites in England and later incorporated into her paper on *Accommodating Nomadism? An Examination of Accommodation Options for Gypsies and Travellers in England* (2004), op cit.

¹⁰ Pat Niner (2004), op cit.

¹¹ Ibid. Page 146-7.

¹² Ibid. Page 147.

v. An Unauthorised Encampment

2.17 In May 2006 the CLG published local authority guidelines for dealing with unauthorised encampments. Whilst much of the discourse of this document refers to legislative powers local authorities hold in order to remove unauthorised campers, it nonetheless recognises that such unauthorised camping is at least partly the consequence of too few permanent sites. This is again was acknowledged by the CLG¹³ who underlined the view that enforcement against unauthorised sites can only be used successfully if there is sufficient provision of authorised sites. The January 2013 Caravan Count suggests that there are 2,693 unauthorised caravans.

vi. 'Transit' Accommodation

2.18 It is the option for accommodation for full-time Travellers and for seasonal and occasional Travellers while away from 'home' or base that is most inadequate. As stated above, there are only 248 transit pitches (not all used for short-term purposes) in England. At present unauthorised encampments 'accommodate' the great majority of 'transit' mobility in an almost totally unplanned manner. No national record is kept of the number of actual 'sites' affected, but extrapolation from local records in different areas suggests that it must be thousands each year.

2.19 To summarise the figures noted above:

- In January 2013, data from CLG for the number of caravans show that there are 18,729 caravans on both authorised and unauthorised sites in England
- 16,036 or 86% of these are on authorised sites (6,934 on local authority sites and 9,102 on authorised private sites).
- 2,693 or 14% are on unauthorised developments or encampments
- Between January 2011 and January 2013 the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in England recorded increased from 18,383 to 18,729, although whilst the number of caravans on authorised council and private sites has increased, the number of caravans on unauthorised developments has decreased by 416.

2.20 Research undertaken by the Commission for Racial Equality (2006) shows that over two-thirds (67%) of local authorities say they have had to deal with tensions between Gypsies and Travellers and other members of the public. In response, the Government is providing £60 million of funding that councils and other registered providers can use to provide new authorised sites for travellers between 2011 and 2015. Councils and other registered providers can apply to the Home and Communities Agency to use the funding. In April 2011 the Government passed legislation that applies the Mobile Homes Act (1983) to local authority traveller sites. This means that people living on local authority traveller sites are treated the same as people living on other sorts of council-owned caravan sites.

¹³ CLG, *Gypsy and Traveller Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement: Interim Report to Ministers*, March 2007.

2.21 Finally, the CLG's document *Planning Policy for Traveller Sites*¹⁴ (March 2012) states that local planning authorities should set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in their area, working collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities. Local planning authorities should, in producing their Local Plan:

- a) identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites⁷ sufficient to provide five years' worth of sites against their locally set targets
- b) identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years six to ten and, where possible, for years 11-15
- c) consider production of joint development plans that set targets on a cross-authority basis, to provide more flexibility in identifying sites, particularly if a local planning authority has special or strict planning constraints across its area (local planning authorities have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries)
- d) relate the number of pitches or plots to the circumstances of the specific size and location of the site and the surrounding population's size and density and
- e) protect local amenity and environment

Caravan Counts

2.22 Although the biannual Caravan Counts are useful in enabling local authorities to estimate total numbers twice yearly, they are not immune from critique. According to research undertaken by Niner on behalf of the ODPM¹⁵, it is likely that the biannual Caravan Count seriously underestimates the Gypsy and Traveller population for a number of reasons, including a lack of commitment on behalf of local authorities and attempts to minimise apparent need by undercounting, and the lack of involvement of Gypsies and Travellers.

2.23 Research undertaken by the ODPM¹⁶ (2004) concluded that some local authority officers have serious reservations about the count due to:

- officer knowledge of 'guesstimates' or errors in their own authority's count;
- anecdotes of poor practice elsewhere;
- discrepancies between personal knowledge/observation and the count; and
- internal inconsistencies in published figures suggesting entries in the wrong cell etc.

2.24 Nonetheless, the biannual caravan count remains the only source of comparative national data on Gypsies and Travellers.

¹⁴ CLG, *Planning for Traveller Sites* (Summary), June 2011.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Niner, Pat, *Counting Gypsies & Travellers: A Review of the Gypsy Caravan Count System*, ODPM, February 2004 located at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/158004.pdf>

Summary

It is apparent from the evidence described above that increased provision of permanent and transit sites is to not only to ensure that Gypsies and Travellers are accommodated, but to ensure good relations between the Traveller community and settled communities. The provisions of the 2004 Housing Act go some way to ensure that the site provision gap left by its predecessor is adequately addressed. Also, whilst it is apparent that the CLG acknowledge that improved provision, rather than legal enforcement, is the more cost-effective response to unauthorised encampments, it is not yet clear how far the £60m additional funding will go in resolving the site provision gap. The Mobile Homes Act (1983) which came into force in April 2011 means that people living on local authority traveller sites will be treated the same as people living on private mobile home/ caravan sites.

Health and education

Introduction

2.25 Although there are many facets of the Gypsy and Traveller lifestyle that may impact on the life-chances of individuals, it is arguable that health and education remain two of the most important. Despite relatively scarce research being undertaken on the Gypsy and Traveller lifestyle, existing research points to poor health and educational opportunities. According to the Commission for Racial Equality, Gypsies and Irish Travellers have the poorest life chances of any ethnic group today. In terms of education, Gypsy and Irish Traveller pupils in England are the group most at risk of failure in the education system.

Health

- 2.26 According to Cemlyn et al¹⁷, although statistical data is not currently collected within the National Health Service about the needs of Gypsies and Travellers, studies have found that the health status of Gypsies and Travellers is much poorer than the general population. Parry et al (2004) found that, even after controlling for socio-economic status and comparing them to other marginalised groups, Gypsies and Travellers have worse health than others: 38% of a sample of 260 Gypsies and Travellers had a long-term illness, compared with 26% of age and sex-matched comparators.
- 2.27 Significantly more Gypsies and Travellers reported having arthritis, asthma, or chest pain/discomfort than in the comparison group (22%, 22% and 34%, compared with 10%, 5% and 22% respectively). An outreach project in Wrexham noted that when compared to a control group of residents from a deprived local area, Gypsies and Travellers had lower levels of exercise, a significantly poorer diet (particularly in respect of fresh fruit and vegetables), and had far higher rates of self-reported anxiety and depression (Roberts et al,

¹⁷ Cemlyn, Sarah, Greenfields, Margaret, Burnett, Sally, Matthews, Zoe and Whitwell, Chris (2009) *Inequalities Experienced by Gypsy and Traveller Communities: A Review*, Equality and Human Rights Commission, London.

2007). It also found that the risk of premature death from cardiac disease was particularly high for Gypsy and Traveller men.

- 2.28 In response, there is growing evidence that outreach services is one means by which health inequalities within the Gypsy and Traveller community can be tackled. The NHS Improvement Plan¹⁸ suggested that there was a need for the Government to engage fully with patients and the public in order to deliver better health outcomes for the poorest in our communities and ease pressures and costs for the NHS in the long run.
- 2.29 The Plan recommended that models of outreach and community engagement would need to be built into mainstream services nationally, once evaluation had demonstrated their real value. However, although there is evidence that outreach services are effective in tackling health inequalities in the Gypsy and Traveller community, there is yet no evidence on the cost-effectiveness of such programmes.
- 2.30 Research by Matthews¹⁹ suggests that some outreach services such as health visitors can go some way to plugging the gaps for advice or preventative services e.g. immunisation, but cannot offer full services for those who are ill. If Travellers are moved rapidly, it can be difficult even for outreach workers to see Travellers that quickly, and so they are never offered any care.
- 2.31 The research cites anecdotal evidence which suggests that women are more likely to access services if supported by outreach workers, some of whom are from Gypsy and Traveller communities. They found that among Gypsy and Traveller women, there is support for offering specialist training in basic midwifery to members of their communities to enable them to support mothers in a culturally appropriate manner while assisting them in accessing appropriate care from qualified midwives.

Mental health

- 2.32 Mental health constitutes a key health issue. Gypsies and Travellers have been found to be nearly three times more likely to be anxious than others, and just over twice as likely to be depressed, with women twice as likely as men to experience mental health problems²⁰.
- 2.33 A range of factors may contribute to this, including the stresses caused by accommodation problems, unemployment, racism and discrimination by services and the wider public, and bereavement.

¹⁸ NHS, *The NHS Improvement Plan: Putting People at the Heart of Public Services*, June 2004.

¹⁹ Matthews, Zoe, *The Health of Gypsies and Travellers in the UK*, A Race Equality Foundation Briefing Paper, November 2008.

²⁰ Parry et al (2004) *The Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers in England*, University of Sheffield located at: http://www.shef.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.437131/file/GT-report-summary.pdf

- 2.34 Numerous GTANAs have reported Gypsies and Travellers in housing experiencing hostility from neighbours, and it is likely that the constant exposure to racism and discrimination has a negative impact on mental health²¹.
- 2.35 For women, long-term mental health difficulties can result from feeling trapped on a site where no-one would want to live²². Moving into housing is associated with depression and anxiety, and may be reflective of loss of community and experiences of racism and discrimination.
- 2.36 Greenfields²³ found that, where New Travellers moved into housing to escape violence or because of family law cases which impacted on their ability to live on a site, respondents reported depression and anxiety in a similar manner to Gypsies and other Travellers. In response to the consultation, Shelter noted that research is needed into mental health issues among housed Travellers, while a specialist Traveller team referred to 'Travellers psychological aversion to housing and how housing can impact on Travellers' mental and physical health'.
- 2.37 Parry et al²⁴ found that the health impacts of residence in housing were profound, with travelling acting as a protective factor in terms of both physical and mental health. Gypsies and Travellers living in housing who travelled rarely had the worst health status of all Gypsy and Traveller groups and reported the highest levels of anxiety. Conversely, isolation from relatives and community structures has a profoundly negative impact on well-being, social functioning and mental health.
- 2.38 Although there are fewer studies specifically relating to Travelling Showpeople, the CLG acknowledge that, as many of the issues facing this group are the same as those facing Gypsies and Travellers, it can reasonably be assumed that conclusions relating to the health of this group can be extended to cover Travelling Showpeople.

Education

- 2.39 Research has found that poor attendance exacerbated by lack of support meant that Gypsy and Traveller children were consistently under-achieving compared with national education

²¹ Cemlyn et al (2009) Inequalities Experienced by Gypsy and Traveller Communities' Review, Equality and Human Rights Commission located at:
http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/12inequalities_experienced_by_gypsy_and_traveller_communities_a_review.pdf

²² Appleton, L. et al. (2003) Smalls's contribution to understanding the needs of the socially excluded: the case of Gypsy Traveller Women. *Clinical Psychology*, (24), pp.40-6.

²³ Greenfields, M. (2002) The impact of Section 8 Children Act Applications on Travelling Families. PhD (unpublished). Bath: University of Bath.

²⁴ Ibid.

standards.²⁵ In response the Government published *Aiming High: Raising the Achievement of Gypsy and Traveller Pupils: A Guide to Good Practice* in 2003. This guide offers practical advice and guidance to schools on how to develop effective policies and practices to help raise the achievement of Gypsy and Traveller pupils.

- 2.40 However, research undertaken by the National Federation for Educational Research (NFER) (2005) on the education of Gypsy and Traveller children in Wales confirmed assumptions that their educational attainment is lower than national averages. They found that attainment of Gypsy Traveller children was lower than non-Gypsy and Traveller children at Key Stages 2, 3 and 4, whilst their level of additional educational needs was greater than those of non-Gypsy and Traveller children.
- 2.41 The mobility of Gypsies and Travellers is affected by the availability of sites. Forced mobility leads to interrupted education and poses a challenge to local authority staff attempting to engage with the families. In response, NFER argue for the need for additional funding to support the education of Gypsies and Travellers because of the additional educational needs of this group, their lack of attainment, and the cultural influences which impact on their engagement in education. This funding could be used to increase schools' and teachers' awareness of these factors and develop strategies to engage and retain Gypsies and Travellers in education²⁶.
- 2.42 Over the last decade, new technology has been increasingly used for supporting the continued learning of Gypsy and Traveller pupils in more engaging and imaginative ways. The E-Learning and Mobility Project (E-Lamp) has developed interactive learning approaches to support students' work with their distance learning packs (Marks, 2004). This method is now being developed to support excluded pupils too.
- 2.43 The EHRC²⁷ states that the Government in England has given considerable attention to the education of Gypsies and Travellers, although Ofsted's clarion call in 2003 that 'the alarm bells rung in earlier reports have yet to be heeded', remains relevant today. One of the findings to emerge is that despite relevant policy guidance and the impressive development of good practice in a number of areas, other aspects of policy contradict these efforts.
- 2.44 Finally, there is concern that government debt reduction policies may adversely impact on Traveller education schemes. An article recently published in *The Independent* (based on research undertaken by the Irish Traveller Movement) suggests that nearly half of 127

²⁵See Levinson, Martin P. & Sparkes, Andrew C. (2003), *Gypsy Masculinities and the School–Home Interface: exploring contradictions and tensions*, *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, Vol. 24, No. 5.

²⁶ National Federation of Educational Research (NFER), *Research into the education of Gypsy Traveller children in Wales* located at <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/research-areas/pims-data/summaries/research-into-the-education-of-gypsy-Traveller-children-in-wales.cfm>

²⁷ Op Cit

authorities have either abolished their traveller education service or drastically cut staff levels. Of 127 authorities 24 planned to scrap their traveller education support team while a further 34 were cutting more than a third of staff. The situation may be even worse during 2012, with 20 councils refusing to reveal projected staffing levels as they were "under review", "undecided", "unknown" or being "restructured".

Summary

Both in terms of health and education, Gypsies and Travellers suffer lower life-chances compared with 'settled' community members (although it must also be noted that members of the Gypsies and Travellers living in 'bricks and mortar' accommodation similarly experience comparably poor health and education). To some extent, that these experiences are due to issues discussed elsewhere in this section i.e. the lack of suitable site provision and the relative 'invisibility' of the Gypsy and Traveller community to service providers. There is some concern that recent cuts to Traveller education schemes may adversely impact on Gypsy and Traveller children's educational attainment. Also, it is important to ensure that Gypsies and Travellers in Croydon are located on sites which have good access to adequate health and education services.

Gypsy and Traveller Group Housing Schemes

- 2.45 One fairly recent development of good practice in relation to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation provision is group housing schemes – residential housing developments with additional facilities and amenities specifically designed to accommodate extended families of Travellers on a permanent basis.
- 2.46 In 2005 the Northern Ireland Housing Executive evaluated four group housing schemes – two in Belfast and two in 'rural' areas (Omagh and Toome). While the evaluation focused mainly on the partnerships and processes involved in instigating and developing this new form of accommodation, it also elicited some views on the suitability of the housing for the needs of its occupants.
- 2.47 The Traveller families in both schemes responded very positively to the question of whether the aims of group housing had been met and they reported noticeable improvements to their standards of living. The main improvements cited by both families were in terms of security, comfort, heating, electricity and sanitation:

'We've always lived here and now we're set here. We don't have anybody coming and telling us what to do. I've no complaints about the scheme. We have all the space that we need. We have the comfort thing as well'²⁸.

²⁸ Chartered Institute of Housing and University of Ulster: *Outlining Minimum Standards for Traveller Accommodation*, March 2009 located at:<http://www.equalityni.org/archive/pdf/travguideSDSHWeb100409.pdf>

- 2.48 A similar scheme is Clúid Housing Association's Castlebrook Group Housing Scheme for Travellers in Newcastle, Co. Dublin. The scheme consists of seven houses built for an extended family. The scheme design considered the views of stakeholders including Travellers. An evaluation concluded that the scheme has resulted in high-quality, long-term local authority/housing association accommodation. Also, it suggests that that given a similar stakeholder approach, this development project could be replicated²⁹.

Summary

- 2.49 It is not possible for a brief discussion, as in this section, to adequately encapsulate all research relating to such a complex and diverse social group as Gypsies and Travellers. Nonetheless, it is possible to identify a number of key themes. Although much legislation implemented since the 1960s has negatively impacted on the Gypsy and Traveller community, it is arguable that the 2004 Housing Act and subsequent legislation has sought to address this imbalance. Also, whilst there is still some debate as to what constitutes an adequate definition of 'Gypsy and Traveller', the Equalities Act 2010 has gone some way to ensuring that some members of the Gypsy and Irish Traveller communities are afforded legal protection against discrimination.
- 2.50 However, it is apparent from the research discussed above that the most pressing issue remains that of inadequate permanent and transit site provision. With around one fifth of Gypsies and Travellers residing in unauthorised developments or encampments, the Government has responded with increased funding for site provision.
- 2.51 Despite increased powers for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour and to evict where necessary, the Government has acknowledged that increased site provision is the most effective means of dealing with unauthorised developments and encampments. As discussed in Chapter 4, although the number of unauthorised encampments has gradually decreased over recent years, evidence presented in Chapter 9 shows further need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation during the period 2013-2033.
- 2.52 Lastly, the need for detailed information regarding the current and future accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community further reinforces the need for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments.

²⁹ Clúid Housing Association, Review of Castlebrook: A Traveller Housing Project, located at: http://www.cluid.ie/_fileupload/Castlebrook%20Traveller%20Report.pdf

3. The policy context in Croydon

Introduction

- 3.1 The election of the Coalition in May 2010 precipitated a significant shift in government policy regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation targets. The London Plan, published in July 2011³⁰, determined that the Mayor did not consider it appropriate to include detailed policies regarding provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Also, the new Localism Act 2011 set out that local authorities and communities should be involved in setting Gypsy and Traveller accommodation targets.
- 3.2 Nonetheless, there remains a need for robust evidence in determining Gypsy and Traveller accommodation targets. As such, the Croydon Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) will provide a sound policy basis on which to determine the required level of provision. To assess the current state of play, existing documents have been examined to determine what reference is made to Gypsy and Traveller issues.
- 3.3 The intention is to highlight areas of effective practice in Croydon, and examine the extent to which authorities are currently addressing the issue. Furthermore, understanding the current position will be important in the development of future strategies intended to meet accommodation need and housing related support need among Gypsies and Travellers.

Regional research and policies

London Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2008

- 3.4 The London-wide Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessment was published in March 2008³¹. It determined the accommodation needs for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in London by borough, sub-region and region.
- 3.5 Based on survey interviews with over 800 Gypsies and Travellers living on sites and in housing, the research concluded that there was a total need in London for between 130 and 554 pitches for the period 2007-12, and between 96 and 154 pitches for the period 2012-17³². The research also identified the need for 40 transit pitches throughout London.

³¹ Fordham Research, *London Boroughs' Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment*, London Councils/GLA, 2008

³² The upper range incorporates the needs of households currently in 'bricks and mortar' accommodation but who have a psychological aversion to conventional housing.

- 3.6 Specifically in relation to Croydon, the research suggested that there was a minimum need of 10 pitches between 2007-17, and a maximum need of 19 pitches for the same period. It also identified a need for 2 Travelling Showpeople plots for the period 2007-17.

The London Plan – Consultation draft replacement plan 2009

- 3.7 The draft London Plan (October 2009)³³ considered a number of factors when determining the need for future pitch provision within London including: the role that bricks and mortar accommodation can play in meeting housing needs; the limited supply of land in London; the need for lower density developments compared with wider housing requirements; and the need to both reinforce the existing pattern of provision as well as consider a wider geographical provision which enables more equitable and efficient use of scarce housing land and finance resources.
- 3.8 The draft Plan took a strategic Londonwide view that regarded the needs of Gypsies and Travellers already living in caravans on pitches as a priority within the pan-London monitoring benchmark of 538 pitches pa. This was based on the midpoint between meeting the needs of these groups and meeting the additional needs of those identified by the GTANA as living in bricks and mortar accommodation. In relation to Croydon, the draft Plan identified a need for 22 pitches for the period 2007-17.

The London Plan 2011

- 3.9 The election of the Coalition Government in May 2010 precipitated a substantial shift in the role of regional policies in determining future pitch provision. The London Plan was published in July 2011³⁴. In contrast to the draft Plan discussed above, it determined that the Mayor did not consider it appropriate to include detailed policies regarding provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the London Plan.
- 3.10 Instead, it states that boroughs are best placed to assess the needs of, and make provision for these groups whether through new pitch provision, protection or enhancement of existing pitches, or by other means. Boroughs were deemed responsible for determining the right level of site provision in their areas and in consultation with local communities. They will set targets for provision based on robust evidence of local need. In effect, the London Plan revoked the regional, subregional and borough pitch targets contained in previous draft Plans.

³³ Located at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london/london-plan/strategy/download.jsp>

³⁴ Located at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/planning/publications/the-london-plan>

Croydon strategies and plans

Croydon Housing Strategy Evidence Base (2011)³⁵

- 3.11 In determining the Croydon Housing Strategy 2011-2015 the Council collated supporting data in the form of an evidence base. In relation to Gypsies and Travellers, it states that an informal survey by council officers during 2008 of gypsy and traveller families, who either lived locally or had close ties with Croydon, broadly supported the findings of the London GGTANA in estimating a local need for up to an additional 20 pitches in the borough.
- 3.12 Also, it notes that Croydon had already provided four extra pitches on its existing Latham's Way site (in 2008), reducing the need for new pitches in the borough

Croydon Local Plan (Strategic Policies) – April 2013

- 3.13 According to the Croydon Local Plan (2013) there is a need for between 6 and 15 new Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Croydon up to 2017 providing for the Gypsy and Traveller communities. It states that the location of new pitches must enable the residents to access services including schools and health facilities in the same way that residents of new houses need to be able to access community facilities. In addition, it recognises that Gypsy and Traveller sites need good access to the road network as they often need to move larger vehicles as part of their livelihood and way of life. More specifically, it states that if pitch targets are not met, it will review Croydon Local Plan, re-appraise the availability of land in the borough to identify new sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and work with Registered Providers and public sector landowners in Croydon to identify other potential for new pitches.
- 3.14 Policy SP2.7 of the Local Plan states that:

³⁵ Located at: <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/contents/departments/housing/pdf/756912/evidence-base.pdf>

The Council will seek to deliver ten additional Gypsy and Travellers pitches in the borough by 2021 to meet the need of Croydon's Gypsy and Traveller community. This will be achieved by allocating land for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals DPD. Proposals for sites should meet the following criteria:

- a. Should be available and deliverable; and
- b. Should have good access to essential services including health and education facilities and access to local shops; and
- c. Have good means of access from roads and be near bus routes and other transport nodes; and
- d. Not be located in areas of high flood risk (Flood Risk Zone 3); and
- e. Should not have unacceptable adverse impact on the biodiversity of the borough.

Source: Croydon Local Plan (Strategy Policies) April 2013

Summary

- 3.15 Recent national policy has been reflected in the region with more responsibility moving to local rather than regional planning authorities, through Local Development Frameworks, Local Housing Strategies, and Local Development Plan Documents.
- 3.16 The Croydon Local Plan (2013) states that there is a need for between 6 and 15 new Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Croydon up to 2017 providing for the English Gypsy and Irish Traveller communities. This will be achieved by allocating land for Gypsy and Traveller pitches in the Croydon Local Plan: Detailed Policies and Proposals DPD.

4. Trends in the population levels of Gypsies and Travellers

Introduction

- 4.1 This section examines Gypsy and Traveller numbers in Croydon and population trends. The primary source of information for Gypsies and Travellers in the UK as a whole is the CLG Caravan Count. This was introduced in 1979 and places a duty on local authorities in England to undertake a twice yearly count for the CLG on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in their area. The count was intended to estimate the size of the Gypsy population for whom provision was to be made and to monitor progress in meeting need.
- 4.2 Although the duty to provide sites was removed in 1994, the need for local authorities to conduct the count has remained. There are, however, several weaknesses with the reliability of the data. For example, across the country counting practices vary between local authorities, and the practice of carrying out the count on a single day ignores the rapidly fluctuating number and distribution of unauthorised encampments. Concerns have also been raised over a lack of commitment on the part of some local authorities to detect Gypsies and Travellers (particularly on unauthorised sites), since this minimises the apparent need for new sites and services.³⁶
- 4.3 Significantly, the Count is only of caravans and so Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation are excluded. It should also be noted that pitches often contain more than one caravan, typically two or three.
- 4.4 However, despite concerns about accuracy, the Count is valuable because it provides the only national source of information about numbers and distribution of Gypsy and Traveller caravans. As such, it is useful for identifying trends in the Gypsy and Traveller population, if not determining absolute numbers.
- 4.5 Additional data on unauthorised encampments has been gathered by Croydon Council for the purpose of both assessing need and monitoring the effectiveness of enforcement approaches and providing a good overview of the numbers of unauthorised caravans in the past three years in the county.
- 4.6 This data has been used in conjunction with the CLG Caravan Count figures. It is worth noting that since this monitoring tends to be more comprehensive than many local authorities the relative number of unauthorised caravans counted in Croydon as compared to other boroughs may be higher although more accurate.

³⁶ Pat Niner (2003), *Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller Sites in England*, ODPM.

- 4.7 The CLG Count distinguishes between socially rented authorised sites, private authorised sites, and unauthorised sites. Unauthorised sites are broken down as to whether the sites are tolerated by the council or are subject to enforcement action. The analysis in this chapter includes data from January 2011 to January 2013. It distinguishes between socially rented and private authorised sites, and unauthorised sites.

Total population

- 4.8 The total Gypsy and Traveller population living in the UK is unknown, with estimates for England ranging from 90,000 and 120,000³⁷ (1994) to 300,000³⁸ (2006). There are uncertainties partly because of the number of different definitions that exist, but mainly because of an almost total lack of information about the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers now living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Estimates produced for the CLG suggest that at least 50% of the overall Gypsy and Traveller population are now living in permanent housing.
- 4.9 Local authorities in England provide a count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans in January and July each year for the CLG. The January 2013 Count (the most recent figures available) indicated a total of 18,729 caravans. Applying an assumed three person per caravan³⁹ multiplier would give a population of over 56,000.
- 4.10 Again, applying an assumed multiplier of three persons per caravan and doubling this to allow for the numbers of Gypsies and Travellers in housing,⁴⁰ gives a total population of around 112,000 for England. However, given the limitations of the data this figure can only be very approximate, and is likely to be a significant underestimate.

National and regional levels

- 4.11 Given that one of the distinctive characteristics of the population is its mobility, it is first of all necessary to consider the national situation as this will help place Croydon in context.
- 4.12 Table 4.1 shows the absolute number of caravans. It can be seen that the London contains the second smallest number of caravans of any English region.

³⁷ J. P. Liegeois, (1994) *Romas, Gypsies and Travellers* Strasbourg: Council of Europe. This is equivalent to 0.15% to 0.21% of the total population.

³⁸ Commission for Racial Equality, *Common Ground Equality, good race relations and sites for Gypsies and Irish Travellers - Report of a CRE inquiry in England and Wales*, (Summary), May 2006, pages 3-4.

³⁹ Pat Niner (2003), op. cit.

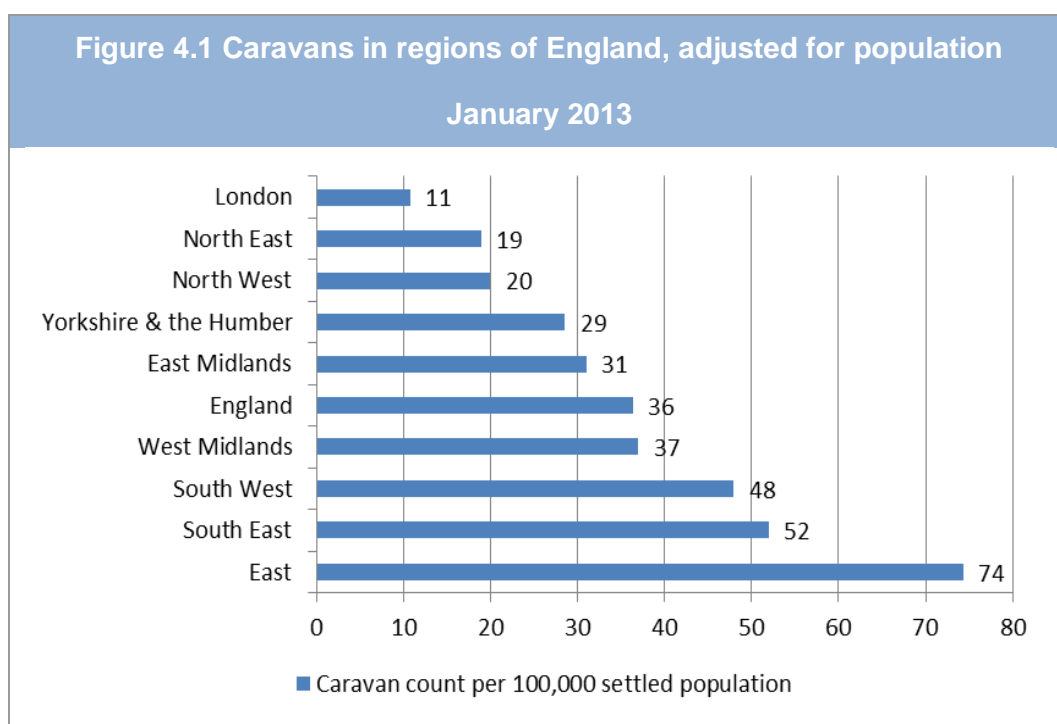
⁴⁰ Ibid.

Table 4.1 Caravans in regions of England, January 2013				
South West 2,505	South East 4,390	London 847	East 4,254	West Midlands 2,021
East Midlands 1,377	Yorkshire & Humber 1,499	North West 1,344	North East 492	ENGLAND 18,729

Source: CLG Caravan Count, January 2013

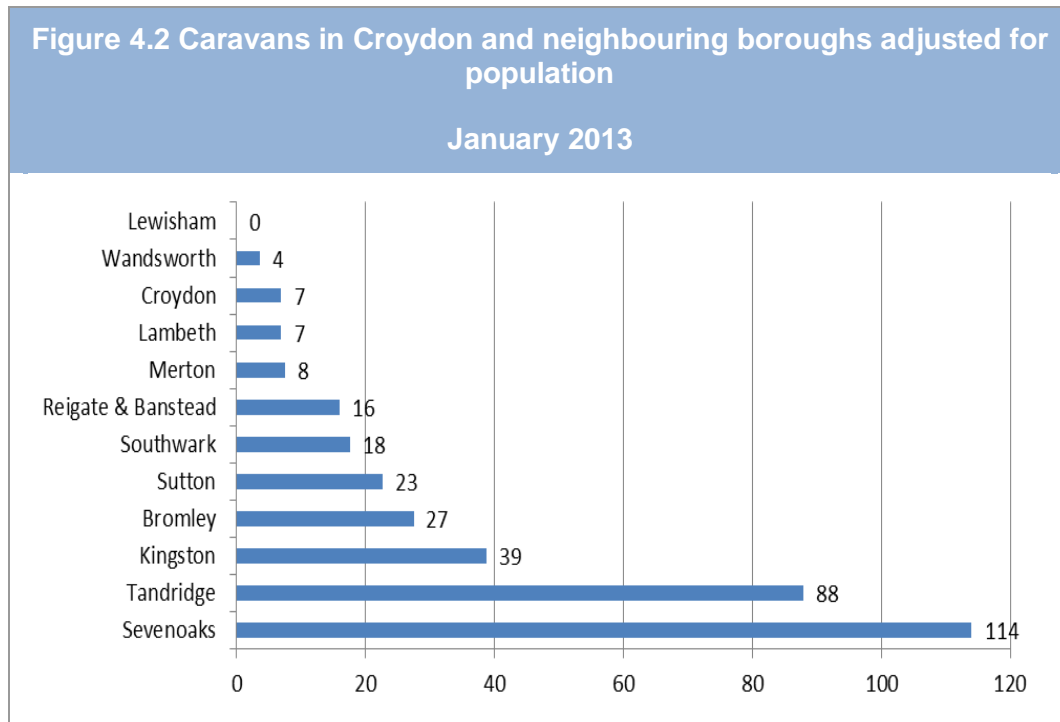
4.13 Figure 4.1 shows the results from the Caravan Count in January 2013 for each region of England. Due to the differing sizes of the English regions, the values have been adjusted for population to create useful comparative figures.

4.14 When the population of London is taken into account the density of caravans is below the English national average at 11 per 100,000 settled population, compared to 36 for England.



Source: CLG Caravan Count, January 2013

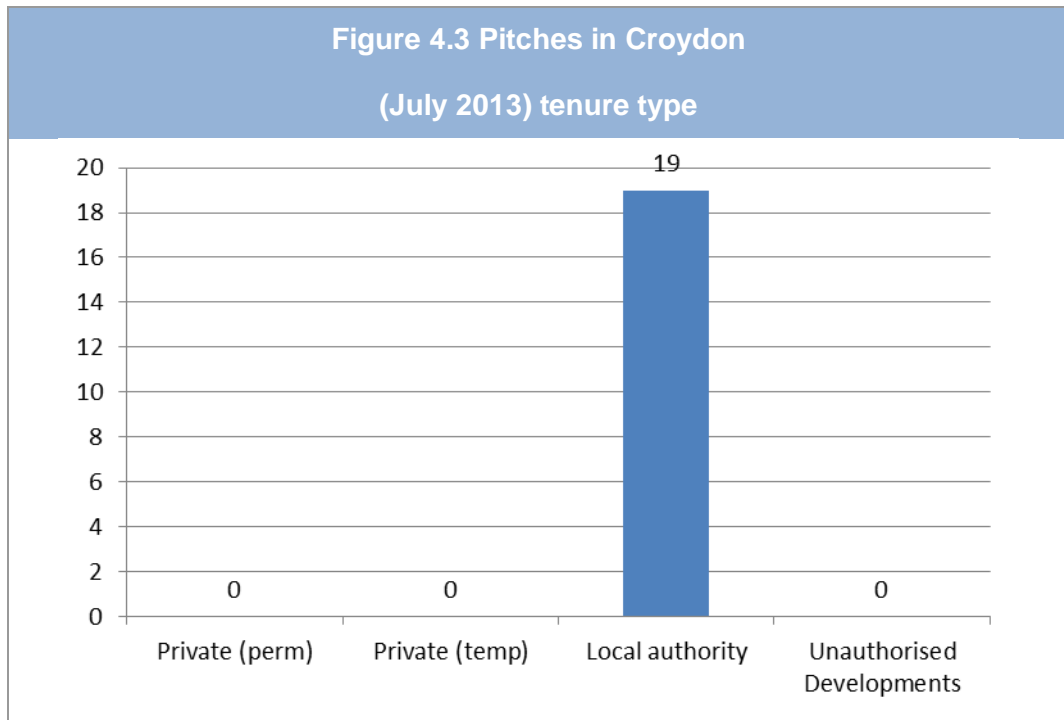
4.15 Figure 4.2 shows Croydon's Caravan Count in the context of neighbouring areas, again adjusted for population. As the chart below shows, Croydon's count is one of the lowest in South London, and is very low compared to some neighbouring boroughs such as Tandridge and Sevenoaks.



Source: CLG Caravan Count, January 2013

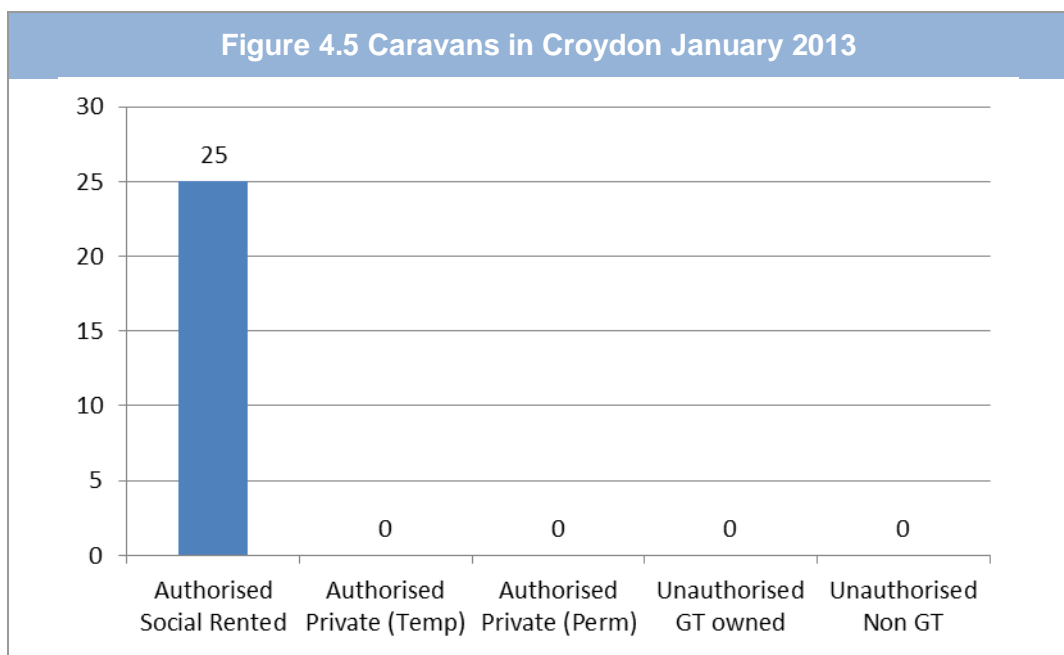
Pitches in Croydon

- 4.16 The following provide information on the size and type of Gypsy and Traveller sites in Croydon. The first set of charts give an indication of the current overall numbers of pitches available to Gypsies and Travellers. These include all authorised sites and also those unauthorised sites which are ‘tolerated’ by councils or the planning system and therefore have a degree of permanency.
- 4.17 The data indicates a total provision of 19 permanent and no temporary pitches across Croydon. The pitches are located at the local authority owned Lathams Way site which has been in use since 1988 and was last updated in 2008.



Source: CLG January 2013

- 4.18 The Caravan Count data for Croydon shows a slightly different picture, primarily because it is based on numbers of caravans rather than numbers of pitches. As noted in Chapter 2, there are issues regarding the accuracy of the caravan count, although it remains the only source of nationwide comparative data on Gypsy and Traveller caravans. The most recently published caravan count took place in January 2013.
- 4.19 As seen in the chart below, the CLG caravan count shows that there were 25 caravans located at the Latham's Way site in January 2013.

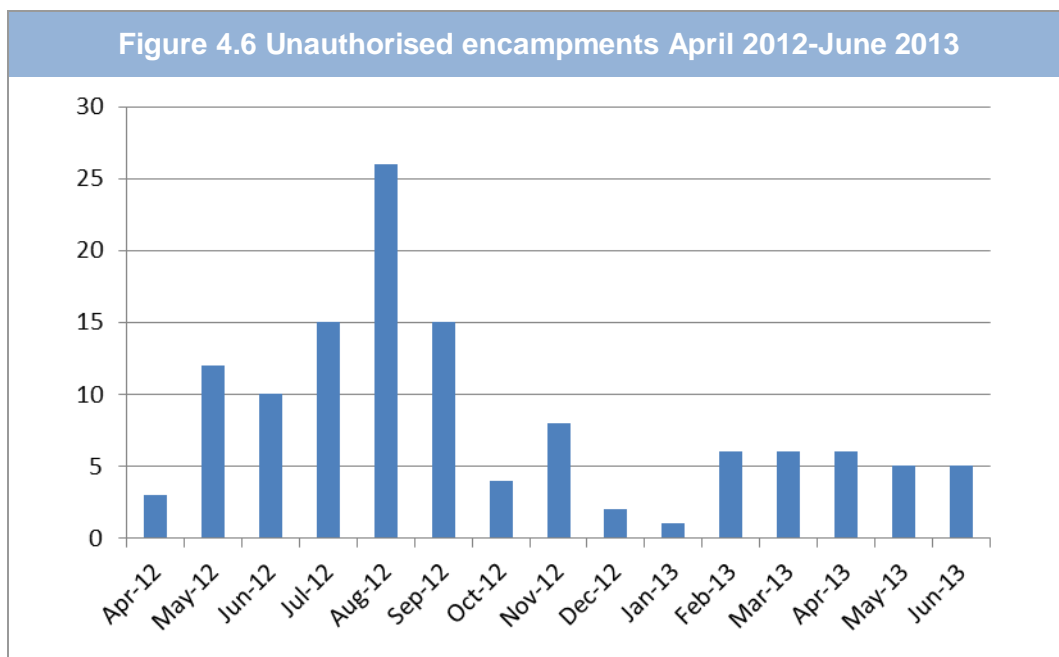


Source: CLG 2013

- 4.20 Data is also available in Croydon from planning data showing provision for Travelling Showpeople. Currently, there are no Travelling Showpeople yards or plots located in Croydon.
- 4.21 The cultural practice of Travelling Showpeople is to live on a plot in a site yard in static caravans or mobile homes, along with smaller caravans used for travelling or inhabited by other family members (for example, adolescent children). Their equipment (including rides, kiosks and stalls) is kept on the same plot.
- 4.22 It should consequently be borne in mind that the amount of land needed to live on is greater than for Gypsies and Travellers. For clarity, we refer to Travelling Showpeople 'plots' rather than 'pitches', and 'yards' rather than 'sites' to recognise the differences in design.

Unauthorised sites

4.23 Croydon also has some short-term unauthorised caravans, which have been extensively documented by the Council. Figure 4.6 shows that between April 2012 and June 2013 there were a total of 124 unauthorised encampments within the borough recorded by the council. Unauthorised encampments are more likely to take place during summer months when Gypsy and Traveller families are more likely to travel. Nonetheless, there was a slight downward trend of unauthorised encampments during the 14 month period.

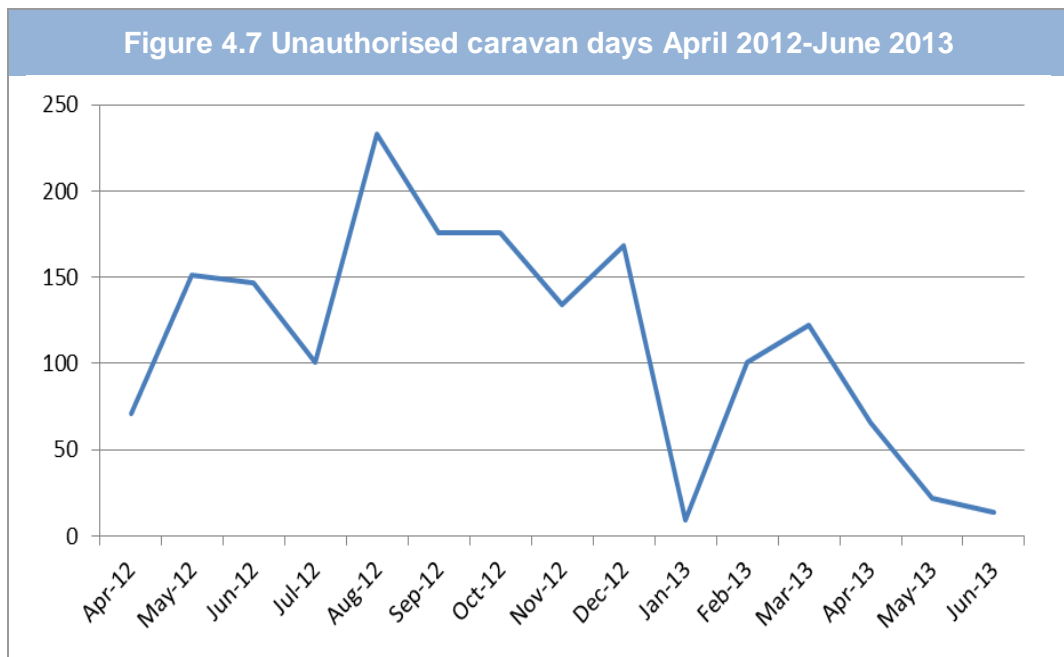


Source: CLG Caravan Count January 2013

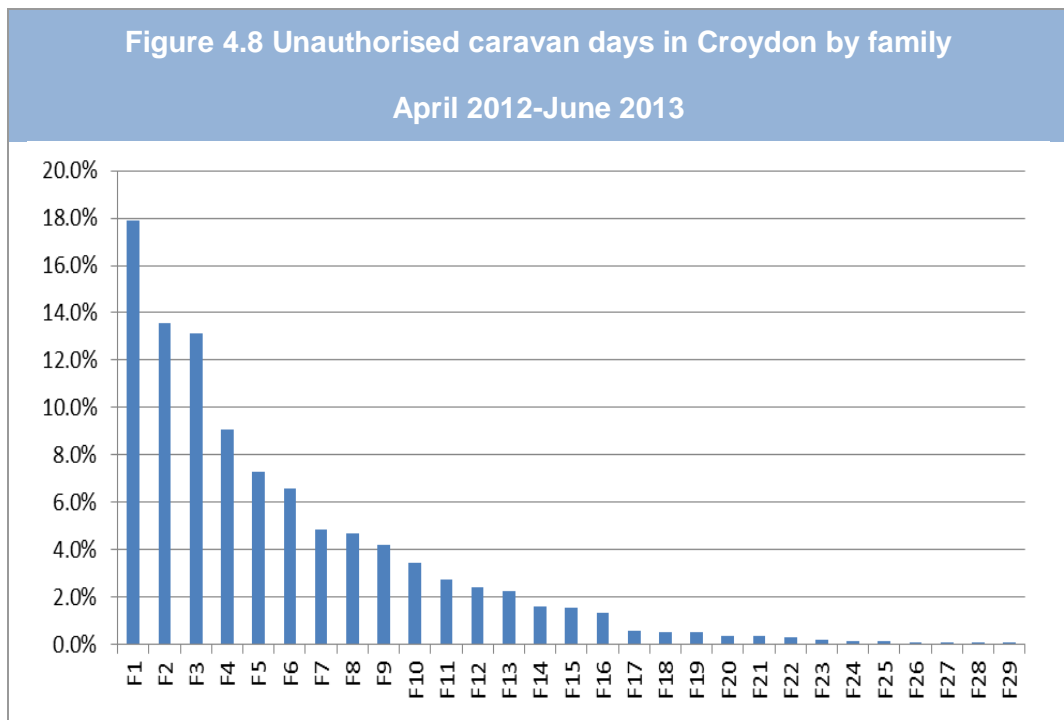
4.24 It is also possible to determine trends of unauthorised encampments by examining 'caravan days'. These are calculated by multiplying the number of caravans on an unauthorised encampment by the number of days that the encampment lasts. This information is useful because it gives a rough indication of comparative demand in Croydon.

4.25 Figure 4.7 shows differing patterns of unauthorised caravan days in Croydon. Similar to the above, it shows that the number of unauthorised caravan days peaked during the summer months of 2012 and have been relatively small during 2013.

4.26 However, as Figure 4.8 shows, over two thirds (67.6%) of all unauthorised caravan days in Croydon during the period April 2012 to June 2013 were due to the movements of only six families.



Source: Croydon Council 2013



Source: Croydon Council 2013

Summary

- 4.27 There are two major sources of data on Gypsy and Traveller numbers in Croydon – the national CLG Caravan Count and the local Council data. The CLG count has significant difficulties with accuracy and reliability. Both break down the caravans or pitches counted according to type and tenure.
- 4.28 The CLG count indicates that London has a relatively low number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans. Similarly, Croydon has a low number of caravans per population compared with surrounding areas.
- 4.29 There is provision of 19 permanent and no temporary pitches across Croydon. The pitches are located at the local authority owned Lathams Way site which has been in use since 1988 and was last updated in 2008.
- 4.30 Data is also available in Croydon covering provision for Travelling Showpeople. There is currently no Travelling Showpeople provision in Croydon.
- 4.31 There were persistent numbers of unauthorised caravan days in the Croydon area during the last year. However, a large proportion of unauthorised encampments were due to the movements of a small number of families. These factors combined with evidence derived from stakeholders suggest the need for an emergency stopping place rather than transit sites.

5. Stakeholder consultation

Introduction

- 5.1 A consultation with a range of stakeholders was conducted in April 2013 to provide in-depth qualitative information about the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. The aim was to obtain both an overall perspective of issues facing Gypsies and Travellers, and an understanding of local issues that are specific to Croydon.
- 5.2 In recognition that Gypsy and Traveller issues transcend geographical boundaries and the need to cooperate the consultation consisted of stakeholders and representatives from several local authorities including council officers with responsibility for Gypsy and Traveller issues as well as planning, housing and education officers.
- 5.3 Themes covered in the stakeholder event included: the need for additional provisions and facilities; travelling patterns; the availability of land; accessing services; and work taking place to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers. This chapter presents brief summaries of the focus group and highlights the main points that were raised.

Accommodation

- 5.4 The focus group began by discussing the current pitch provision. Croydon currently has one Gypsy and Traveller site located at Lathams Way which contains 19 pitches and is owned by the local authority.
- 5.5 The stakeholders agreed that there are generally good relations between the Lathams Way site residents and local authority officers. There had recently been some issues with rubbish being dumped around the site although residents explained that this derived either from families temporarily residing on the site or members of the public. In response the Council were considering erecting fencing around the site that would prevent unauthorised access by members of the public.
- 5.6 It was noted by stakeholders that the local authority had recently undertaken a feasibility study which looked at the potential for doubling the site's size to 40 pitches. It was acknowledged that the site is currently occupied by inter-related English Roma families and that Irish Travellers tend not to use the site. Residents would prefer any expansion to be limited to 4 or 5 additional pitches.
- 5.7 Also, land adjacent to the site which would be used for the expansion is currently being used by families for grazing horses. The families living at Latham's Way viewed this characteristic of the site as being important both for cultural and work reasons.

- 5.8 According to one stakeholder the Lathams Way site is poorly sited (in terms of access to services) and has poor facilities. Except for the small amount of available land used for grazing horses there are currently no open spaces or play areas for children.
- 5.9 Stakeholders discussed the ideal location and amenities of new sites. It was suggested that any new provision should be located in areas with sufficient open space (although it was acknowledged that this may be difficult to find in the local area).
- 5.10 Ideally, as well as offering well equipped amenity blocks (e.g. containing baths) it was suggested that new sites should contain communal facilities which provide families with a space in which to meet in order to undertake social or educational activities.
- 5.11 Also, it was emphasised by one stakeholder that new sites need to have safe play areas for children. However, it was suggested that mixed use sites which combine both accommodation and work spaces are probably not appropriate for families living in Croydon.

Unauthorised encampments

- 5.12 Stakeholders agreed that one key issue which needs to be addressed is unauthorised encampments. It is currently regarded by Croydon Council as a 'very big problem'. It was stated that unauthorised encampments tend to take place around industrial areas. Stakeholders from neighbouring authorities said that unauthorised encampments in their local areas were more likely to take place on open spaces or parks.
- 5.13 Enforcements by Council officers mean that families on unauthorised encampments tend to stay for only a few days. Also, one stakeholder stated that it tends to be the same [Irish Traveller] families that are residing on unauthorised encampments in Croydon.
- 5.14 As such, the families sometimes become frustrated with having to provide the same information to enforcement officers each time they occupy a new unauthorised encampment. Generally, tensions between the families living on unauthorised encampments and Council officers have increased in recent months.
- 5.15 According to one stakeholder, the need to provide transit provision within Croydon is more urgent than the need to provide permanent provision. They suggested that temporary space could be made available for, say, around two weeks. This would give families sufficient time to consider alternative accommodation.
- 5.16 The families living on the unauthorised encampments tended to be Irish Travellers. According to one stakeholder, the families are aware of the impact that constantly travelling has on children's education. In response, they were hopeful that the Council would soon provide new accommodation.

- 5.17 One stakeholder from a neighbouring local authority said that they had few unauthorised encampments but more unauthorised developments with temporary planning permission.

Barriers

- 5.18 Stakeholders agreed that finding suitable space constituted only one barrier to providing new sites. Key barriers identified included the availability and affordability of land, the need to identify potential land for sites, the complexity of the planning system, and community opposition to new sites. Barriers in relation to families accessing health or education services are discussed in the relevant section.
- 5.19 It was acknowledged by stakeholders that the proposed location of new sites is likely to be a politically sensitive issue. So, it is possible that potential sites could be identified but that either political or community opposition may thwart the development process. Also, given the current austerity measures it was acknowledged that new Gypsy and Traveller sites may not be regarded by some as a priority for local authorities.
- 5.20 It was suggested that holding information sessions with elected members could be used to help inform them of the key issues facing Gypsies and Travellers within the borough. These could also be used to highlight the aims and objectives of the Gypsies and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA).

Travelling Patterns

- 5.21 It was suggested by one stakeholder that the residents of Lathams Way do not regularly travel. One reason they don't travel is because they believe they may lose the right to remain on their pitch if they do.
- 5.22 However, they are more likely to travel during the summer months, or during the autumn months when fairs and circuses take place. The main reasons for families travelling include for work and to attend family events such as marriages or christenings. However, it was agreed by stakeholders that to maintain a sense of culture was one of the key reasons why families still travel.
- 5.23 As mentioned above, there are a number of predominantly Irish Travellers who reside on unauthorised encampments around Croydon. They tend to move to a new location around every two days.

Availability of land

- 5.24 One key issue discussed by stakeholders was the availability of land for new sites. The stakeholders know of few Gypsy and Traveller families either locally or in neighbouring boroughs that had been able to both buy land and get planning permission to develop it as a permanent site.

- 5.25 It was acknowledged that land within Croydon was too expensive for families to buy. Also, the identification of private land as a potential new site is likely to increase its price. As such, it was suggested that land currently owned by the local authority is may be more likely to be developed for new sites. Nonetheless, one stakeholder stated most of the potential sites identified by a neighbouring local authority were actually on privately owned land.
- 5.26 Also, it was agreed that even if families could afford to buy land the planning process meant it is difficult for them to gain planning permission. An example was given of a family living nearby who had waited 10 or 15 years to gain planning permission for a small private site. However, it was stated that the new planning guidance enabled local authorities to consider granting planning permission to families who had long-term residence on unauthorised developments.

Community

- 5.27 It was acknowledged by stakeholders that there could be tensions between Gypsies and Travellers and members of the settled community. Also, it was suggested that media portrayals of Gypsies and Travellers had served to reinforce negative stereotypes. These can cause tensions between the two communities to build and makes supporting the provision of new sites more difficult. One particular misapprehension was that the Gypsy and Traveller community are associated with increased crime rates.
- 5.28 It was recognised that there could be tensions between Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation and the settled community. However, due to a lack of recording it can be difficult to determine how many Gypsy and Traveller families were currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Some Gypsies and Travellers living in housing choose not to make their identity known to neighbours in order to avoid being stigmatised.
- 5.29 Again, it was mentioned that some families lived in housing as it enabled them to avoid being identified as Gypsies and Travellers and, as such, to avoid harassment. However, some families living in housing still visited sites during the day in order to maintain familial ties. One stakeholder described it as families trying to maintain their cultural identity but feeling constrained by living in housing.
- 5.30 It was suggested that some families living in bricks and mortar accommodation were doing so due to a lack of choice but would prefer to live on sites. Many of the families living in housing would prefer to own their accommodation although most reside in social housing.

Access to Health/Education/Services

- 5.31 The stakeholders agreed that whether living on sites or in bricks and mortar accommodation, Gypsy and Traveller families are less likely to access health, education or other types of services. Families living on unauthorised encampments found it particularly difficult to access all types of services.
- 5.32 It was suggested that younger Gypsy and Traveller families are keener than previous generations to ensure that their children receive a good education. Although the Council has been quite successful in encouraging Gypsy and Traveller children to attend school, there is currently a lack of school places within local areas. Gypsy and Traveller children are more likely to attend primary rather than secondary school. This is particularly the case with boys who may be required to work within the family business once they reach a certain age.
- 5.33 It was agreed that there could be differing relations between local schools and the Gypsy and Traveller community and some are more supportive of their needs than others. Schools are made aware that those families living in unauthorised encampments may have to quickly find new accommodation and that such constant moving may negatively impact on educational opportunities. Although this situation requires understanding by schools they are not always sympathetic. Also, some Gypsy and Traveller children live in Bromley but attend Croydon schools.
- 5.34 One stakeholder stated that recently, Gypsy and Traveller children living on unauthorised encampments appear more likely to attend school. Attendance may be influenced by external factors such as the implementation of School Attendance Orders on Gypsy and Traveller families, or internal factors such as the desire by families for children to have a safe place to learn and play.
- 5.35 Every London borough used to have a Traveller Education Service. However, austerity cuts mean that this service has been drastically reduced in many areas. Also, there used to be a library bus which attended Gypsy and Traveller sites including Lathams Way, but this service no longer exists within the borough.
- 5.36 Nonetheless, there is good communication between the Traveller Education Services that remain. Colleagues from neighbouring authorities will liaise to ensure that educational support to children is maintained. Gypsy and Traveller families will also liaise with the Traveller Education Services to let them know when and where they are moving, again to ensure that educational support can be maintained.
- 5.37 Although education remains a key issue there is some evidence that Gypsy and Traveller families there were also difficulties with families accessing health and social welfare services. In particular, some families are not registered with a GP. Also, there are some outreach health services operating within the borough. For example, Age UK has a

community health bus providing services within the borough although it doesn't visit the Latham's Way site.

- 5.38 However, Gypsy and Traveller families may be reluctant to use services. It was suggested that service providers need to work together so that they can a coordinated approach to providing services to Gypsy and Traveller families. This may also require encouraging families to make better use of services available to them.

General

- 5.39 Finally, it was suggested that although local authorities already cooperate on planning issues, it would be useful if they could cooperate more on Gypsy and Traveller issues. This would not necessarily require discussing planning issues, but enable general issues regarding the Gypsy and Traveller community to be discussed.

Summary

- 5.40 To summarise, the focus group provided a wealth of qualitative data on the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families. There are good relations between local authority officers and residents of the Lathams Way site. However, the residents are opposed to any substantial enlargement of the existing site. Ideally, new sites should be located in open space and contain well equipped amenity blocks.
- 5.41 Barriers to providing new provision include the need to identify potential land for sites, the affordability of land, the complexity of the planning system, and community opposition to new sites. Few Gypsy and Traveller families either locally or in neighbouring boroughs have been able to both buy land and get planning permission to develop it as a permanent site.
- 5.42 There was some recognition that there are persistent numbers of unauthorised encampments within the borough. These tend to consist of the same Irish Traveller families who desire permanent accommodation within Croydon. Enforcements by Council officers mean that families on unauthorised encampments stay for only a few days.
- 5.43 It was recognised that there could be tensions between Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation and the settled community. However, due to a lack of recording it can be difficult to determine how many Gypsy and Traveller families were currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 5.44 Finally, whether living on sites or in bricks and mortar accommodation, Gypsy and Traveller families are less likely to access health, education or other types of services. Families living on unauthorised encampments found it particularly difficult to access all types of services. Service providers need to work together so that they can deliver a coordinated approach to providing services to Gypsy and Traveller families. This may also require encouraging families to make better use of services available to them.

SECTION B: NEED ASSESSMENTS

The second section of this report contains the accommodation need assessments. Chapter 6 presents key findings drawn from analysis of the surveys undertaken with Gypsy and Traveller families living on sites. Chapter 7 discusses the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller families living in bricks and mortar accommodation. Chapter 8 discusses the accommodation needs of Travelling Showpeople. Chapter 9 contains the assessments for Gypsies and Travellers, and outlines need in terms of residential pitches, transit/emergency pitches and bricks and mortar accommodation. Chapter 10 draws conclusions on the research findings.

6. Gypsies and Travellers living on sites

Introduction

- 6.1 This chapter examines the key findings derived from the Gypsy and Traveller survey (primary research). It looks at key issues such as satisfaction with current accommodation, access to services, and health and education needs. It is based on a survey of 27 households living on sites in the survey area.

Table 6.1 Breakdown of sample living on sites			
	Auth. Site	Unauth. site	Total
Families	18 (67%)	9 (33%)	27 (100%)

Source: 2013 GTANA

- 6.2 Weighting was applied to the survey in order to ensure that it represented the whole population. This was calculated by comparing the proportion of occupied authorised pitches to the number of completed surveys:

Table 6.2 Sample weighting	
Pitches	19
Sample	18
%	94.7%
Weight	1.056

Gypsies and Travellers living on sites

Population Characteristics

- 6.3 The survey represented 96 Gypsies and Travellers living on authorised and unauthorised sites consisting of 57 Gypsies and Travellers living on authorised sites in Croydon and 39 Gypsies and Travellers living on unauthorised sites. Interestingly, this compares with figures derived from the 2011 Census which suggests there are 234 Gypsies and Travellers living in Croydon.⁴¹ However, the Census figures are likely to reflect a larger proportion of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation and a smaller proportion living on sites.

⁴¹ See ONS 2011 Census Table KS201EW Ethnic Group located at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/>

- 6.4 The average size of families living responding to the survey is 3.6 people compared to a 2011 UK average of 2.4. The survey was completed by respondents representing a fairly wide range of age groups. Over a quarter (29%) of respondents were aged between 31-40 compared to around a fifth aged 51-60 (21%) and just under a fifth (18%) aged 41-50. Smaller proportions of respondents were aged 18-30 (14%), 61-70 (11%) or 71 or over (7%).
- 6.5 Around four fifths (79%) of respondents completing the survey were female compared with one fifth (21%) males. Although the survey was undertaken throughout all times during the day (usually between 9am and 7pm), the gender difference may reflect the likelihood that females (especially those with young children) are more likely to reside on site during the day.
- 6.6 There was a significant difference between Gypsies and Travellers living on authorised sites and those on unauthorised encampments in Croydon with most of the former describing themselves as Romany Gypsies (89%) (two respondents described themselves as 'other'), and all of the latter describing themselves as Irish Travellers (100%).

Table 6.3 Number of people in household (sites)

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	3	16%	1	11%	4	14%
2	7	37%	1	11%	8	29%
3	1	5%	2	22%	3	11%
4	2	11%	2	22%	4	14%
5	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
6 or more	4	21%	3	33%	7	25%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.4 Respondent age

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
18-30	3	16%	1	11%	4	14%
31-40	3	16%	5	56%	8	29%
41-50	4	21%	1	11%	5	18%
51-60	4	21%	2	22%	6	21%
61-70	3	16%	0	0%	3	11%
71+	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.5 Gender						
	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	2	11%	4	44%	6	21%
Female	17	89%	5	56%	22	79%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.6 Ethnicity						
	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Romany Gypsy	17	89%	1	11%	18	64%
Irish Traveller	0	0%	8	89%	8	29%
Other	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Residency characteristics

- 6.7 Respondents were asked the tenure of their current pitch. Over two thirds (71%) of respondent households were residing on the Lathams Way local authority site, whilst nearly a third of respondent households (29%) were living on unauthorised encampments within Croydon.
- 6.8 Over two thirds of respondents (68%) had lived on site for more than five years although all the households living on unauthorised encampments had lived on their current site for less than one month. These findings emphasise the residential longevity of Gypsies and Travellers living on authorised sites in Croydon. The commitment of families to remaining on the authorised site is reflected in the fact that all (100%) of families living at Lathams Way stated that they did not intend to move in the future. All families living on unauthorised sites stated that they intend to move within 1 month, but will remain within Croydon. They stressed that they have lived in the Croydon area for many years.
- 6.9 Satisfaction rates on sites are generally low although unsurprisingly, there are differences between families living on authorised sites and those living on unauthorised sites. Over a third (37%) of residents living at Lathams Way are satisfied with their site compared with only 11% living on unauthorised sites. However, whilst almost two thirds (66%) of residents living at Lathams Way are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with their site, over half (55%) of households living on unauthorised sites said they are dissatisfied with conditions. However, nearly two thirds (64%) of all respondent households cited their site's current location as being 'good'.

- 6.10 Three quarters (75%) of respondents cited 'living next to family' the main reason for satisfaction with the site they live on. Similarly, respondents cited 'always lived here' (11%), 'feel safe' (4%), 'living in a secluded location' (4%), 'like Croydon' (4%), and 'better than nowhere' as reasons for satisfaction.
- 6.11 The reasons for dissatisfaction with living on sites are more varied with the most common reasons cited as 'being moved on' (26%) and 'traffic' (26%). Smaller proportions of respondents stated 'amenities need upgrading' (16%), 'too much rubbish' (13%), 'poor environment' (10%), 'poor postal service' (6%), and 'overcrowded' (3%). Also, respondents living on the Lathams Way site felt that there is now too little space. Initially, the site had provided space for living and grazing animals but this had been reduced over recent years by the development of shops and industry on land surrounding the site.
- 6.12 Residents of the Lathams Way site also felt that there is a problem receiving mail. Currently, mail for all families is delivered to a unsecure, open box. Residents said that this system of delivery led to mail frequently going missing. They would prefer for mail to be delivered to each pitch individually or to secure, individual mail boxes located close to the warden. Families living on unauthorised sites said that they have problems collecting mail although some rely on family or friends to receive mail on their behalf.
- 6.13 One key issue related to the above is safety. Most (95%) of families living on the authorised site felt safe, compared to three quarters (75%) of families living on unauthorised sites. However, few families living on either authorised sites (11%) or unauthorised sites (18%) felt that their current sites offered safe places for children to play. Also, families living on authorised sites (100%) or unauthorised sites (89%) felt that noisy or dangerous traffic is a problem for site residents. Importantly, limited space was an issue for families living on authorised sites (63%) and unauthorised sites (89%).
- 6.14 Families living on the Lathams Way site felt that children lack safe space to play and how space is restricted by the location of the site and absence of any playing or communal area. They talked about how other Gypsy and Traveller sites have space for animals to graze and children to play. They also talked about how they felt that repair jobs take a long time to get done – if at all. Some talked about how the site had not been updated for some time and was in need of a refurbishment including new gates, a better drainage system and drains, a need for updated utility blocks, a cleaner and safer site.
- 6.15 Families living on unauthorised sites spoke about problems disposing of rubbish as most places don't have proper disposal facilities. They felt that the provision of transit or emergency sites would address this issue as they would contain suitable amenities for the disposal of rubbish. They said that this would reduce council costs in the long term and help minimise conflict with the settled community.

Table 6.7 Tenure						
	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Rents from the council	19	100%	0	0%	20	71%
Unauthorised encampment	0	0%	9	100%	8	29%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.8 Length of residency						
	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than one month	0	0%	9	100%	9	32%
Up to 6 months	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
6-12 months	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
1-2 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
3-5 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
More than 5 years	19	100%	0	0%	19	68%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.9 Intention to stay						
	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than one month	0	0%	9	100%	9	32%
Up to 6 months	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
6-12 months	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
1-2 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
3-5 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
More than 5 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Not intend to move	19	100%	0	0%	19	68%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.10 Satisfaction with the site

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Very satisfied	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Satisfied	7	37%	1	11%	8	29%
Neither sat nor dis	12	63%	3	33%	15	54%
Dissatisfied	0	0%	2	22%	2	7%
Very dissatisfied	0	0%	3	33%	3	11%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.11 Rating of the site's location

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Good	17	89%	1	11%	18	64%
Fair	0	0%	8	89%	8	29%
Poor	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.12 Reasons for satisfaction

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Close to family	16	84%	5	56%	21	75%
Always lived here	2	11%	1	11%	3	11%
Feel safe	1	5%	0	0%	1	4%
Secluded location	0	0%	1	11%	1	4%
Like Croydon	0	0%	1	11%	1	4%
Better than nowhere	0	0%	1	11%	1	4%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.13 Reasons for dissatisfaction

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Being moved on	0	0%	8	89%	8	26%
Traffic	8	36%	0	0%	8	26%
Amenities need upgrading	5	23%	0	0%	5	16%
Rubbish	4	18%	0	0%	4	13%
Poor environment	2	9%	1	11%	3	10%
Poor postal service	2	9%	0	0%	2	6%
Overcrowded	1	5%	0	0%	1	3%
Total	22	100%	9	100%	31	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.14 Safe place for children on site?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	2	11%	3	33%	5	18%
No	17	89%	6	67%	23	82%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.15 Is noisy or dangerous traffic a problem here?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	19	100%	8	89%	27	96%
No	0	0%	1	11%	1	4%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.16 Is noisy or dangerous traffic a problem here?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	19	100%	8	89%	27	96%
No	0	0%	1	11%	1	4%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.17 Enough space for you on your site?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	7	37%	1	11%	8	29%
No	12	63%	8	89%	20	71%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Access to services

- 6.16 Generally, respondents stated access to services such as shops, post offices, health services, and primary and secondary schools as being 'easy' or 'okay'. Respondents reported access to shops as being 'easy' (61%) or 'okay' (36%) whilst only 1 (4%) reported access as 'hard'. However, there were differences between Gypsies and Travellers living on the authorised site and those living on unauthorised sites with 89% of the former stating access to shops as being 'easy' compared with none for the latter.
- 6.17 Fewer respondents reported access to post office services as being 'easy' (7%) although most reported access as 'okay' (89%). Only 1 (4%) respondent reported access to post office services as being 'hard'. Again, a similar proportion stated access to health services as being 'easy' (7%), 'okay' (86%) or 'hard' (7%). Only 2 (7%) of respondents reported easy access to primary schools compared with 86% stating 'okay' and 7% 'hard'. A similar proportion stated access to secondary schools as being 'easy' (7%) or 'okay' (86%), compared with 2 (7%) respondents who reported access as being 'hard'.
- 6.18 The preferred method of gaining information about services was through word of mouth (54%) or through a site warden (29%). Smaller proportions of respondents preferred to receive information by a newsletter (11%) or through a liaison officer. Literacy problems amongst some respondents emphasised the need for non-written forms of communication. Also, some respondents stated that they prefer to rely on members of their own community for support and information.
- 6.19 Just under a half (46%) of all respondents stated that they had suffered discrimination when trying to access services. Similarly, 21 (75%) stated that they had been a victim of racism or bullying. However, none of the Gypsies and Travellers experiencing harassment or bullying had reported the incidence to the police. The main reasons for not doing so included wanting to deal with such problems within the Gypsy and Traveller community or believing that reporting incidences to authorities would be ineffective.

Table 6.18 Access to services (shops)

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Easy	17	89%	0	0%	17	61%
Okay	2	11%	8	89%	10	36%
Hard	0	0%	1	11%	1	4%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.19 Access to services (post office)

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Easy	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
Okay	17	89%	8	89%	25	89%
Hard	0	0%	1	11%	1	4%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.20 Access to services (health services)

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Easy	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
Okay	16	84%	8	89%	24	86%
Hard	1	5%	1	11%	2	7%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.21 Access to services (primary school)

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Easy	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
Okay	16	84%	8	89%	24	86%
Hard	1	5%	1	11%	2	7%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.22 Access to services (secondary school)

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Easy	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
Okay	16	84%	8	89%	24	86%
Hard	1	5%	1	11%	2	7%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.23 Preferred means of communication

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Word of mouth	8	42%	7	78%	15	54%
Warden	8	42%	0	0%	8	29%
Newsletter	3	16%	0	0%	3	11%
Liaison officer	0	0%	2	22%	2	7%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.24 Discrimination accessing services

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	8	42%	5	56%	13	46%
No	11	58%	4	44%	15	54%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.25 Victim of racism or bullying

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	13	68%	8	89%	21	75%
No	6	32%	1	11%	7	25%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Health, education and employment

- 6.20 Respondents were asked if they, or anyone else in their household, experienced health issues. Over a fifth (23%) of respondents stated that they, or someone else in their family, suffered from a long-term health issue. The next most common health issues cited were asthma (17%), physical disability (17%) and high blood pressure (17%). Smaller proportions of households stated that they contained who suffers from headaches (10%),

- suffer problems due to old age (7%). One household contains a child with a physical disability (3%), one household contains someone suffering from diabetes (3%) and one household contains someone suffering from mental health issues (3%).
- 6.21 Three quarters of families (75%) have a permanent registration with a General Practitioner (GP) and 4% have a temporary registration. However, over a quarter (21%) of respondent households (all living on unauthorised sites) were not registered with a GP.
- 6.22 Most residents living on the Lathams Way site said the site location created health and safety issues for residents. They felt that the high volume of traffic, the proximity to illegally disposed rubbish, and proximity to electricity pylons created an unhealthy environment.
- 6.23 The survey asked households with children whether they attended school. Over a third (39%) of all respondent households contains school-age children. However, only 2 (18%) families stated that their children attended school all of the time and 8 (73%) some of the time. 1 (9%) household stated that their children did not attend school at all. The main reasons cited for children not attending school included and 'cultural reasons' (50%), 'lack of permanent address' (23%), 'being moved on' (23%) and 'bullying' (5%).
- 6.24 Families living on unauthorised sites spoke about how having a site would mean that their children could get a proper education and better jobs in the future. One child talked about how he wanted a good education and had career ambitions. However, he also said that being constantly moved made it harder to get a good education or job as moving makes it harder to study.
- 6.25 Respondents were asked about their own and their partner's employment status. Perhaps reflecting a sensitivity to questions about occupation nearly half (46%) of respondents described their occupation as 'other'. Nearly a fifth (18%) of all respondents described themselves as retired, 14% as 'self-employed'.
- 6.26 Only 7% described themselves as 'housewife', in full-time employment (7%) or in part-time employment (7%). Partner's employment status differed somewhat from main respondents with 30% described as 'retired', 30% as 'housewife', 20% as 'self-employed', and 20% as 'other'. Over two thirds of respondents said that they find it difficult to find work with the main reasons including no permanent address (67%), health issues (17%), and the recession (17%).

Table 6.26 Health issues

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Long-term illness	7	29%	0	0%	7	23%
Asthma	4	17%	1	17%	5	17%
Physical disability	5	21%	0	0%	5	17%
Blood pressure	3	13%	2	33%	5	17%
Headaches	2	8%	1	17%	3	10%
Problems due to old age	2	8%	0	0%	2	7%
Physical disability (child)	1	4%	0	0%	1	3%
Diabetes	0	0%	1	17%	1	3%
Mental Health	0	0%	1	17%	1	3%
Total	24	100%	6	100%	30	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.27 Registered with a GP

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Permanent	19	100%	2	22%	21	75%
Temporary	0	0%	1	11%	1	4%
No	0	0%	6	67%	6	21%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.28 Problems accessing health services in the area

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	0	0%	5	56%	5	18%
No	19	100%	4	44%	23	82%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.29 School age children in family

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	5	26%	6	67%	11	39%
No	14	74%	3	33%	17	61%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.30 School attendance

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes, all	1	20%	1	17%	2	18%
Yes, some	4	80%	4	67%	8	73%
No	0	0%	1	17%	1	9%
Total	5	100%	6	100%	11	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.31 Reasons for not going to school

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Culture	5	100%	6	35%	11	50%
Lack of permanent address	0	0%	5	29%	5	23%
Being moved on	0	0%	5	29%	5	23%
Bullying	0	0%	1	6%	1	5%
Total	5	100%	17	100%	22	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.32 Employment status

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Other	10	53%	3	33%	13	46%
Retired	5	26%	0	0%	5	18%
Self-employed	0	0%	4	44%	4	14%
Housewife	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
Employed part-time	1	5%	1	11%	2	7%
Employed full-time	1	5%	1	11%	2	7%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.33 Partner's employment status

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Retired	3	60%	0	0%	3	30%
Housewife	0	0%	3	60%	3	30%
Self-employed	1	20%	1	20%	2	20%
Other	1	20%	1	20%	2	20%
Total	5	100%	5	100%	10	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.34 Difficult to find work?						
	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	5	56%	7	88%	12	71%
No	0	0%	1	13%	1	6%
Don't know	4	44%	0	0%	4	24%
Total	9	100%	8	100%	17	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Travelling

- 6.27 The survey asked households the extent to which they had travelled during the last 12 months. Perhaps reflecting the length of residency characteristics discussed above, over half (57%) of respondents stated that they had not travelled during the last 12 months. There were distinct differences between Gypsies and Travellers living in authorised and unauthorised sites with 84% of the former having not travelled during the last 12 months compared with none (0%) of the latter. Only 2 households (7%) had travelled twice during the last 12 months, whilst 10 (36%) respondent households (all living on unauthorised sites) had travelled five or more times during the last 12 months.
- 6.28 Respondents were asked their reasons for travelling (they could state more than one reason). The main reasons included for cultural reasons (67%), because they are being moved on (24%) (all consisting of travellers living on unauthorised sites), and to visit family (9%). Reflecting the high proportion of respondent households living on unauthorised sites 71% of families said that the last type of site they used was an unauthorised encampment compared with 4 (24%) using a private site a 1 (6%) using a council site.
- 6.29 Over three quarters (83%) respondent households had remained for less than 1 month at their previous site, whilst 2 (17%) had stayed for between 1-3 months. No respondent households had stayed at their previous site for more than 3 months.
- 6.30 Nearly two thirds (64%) of respondents stated that they would never stop travelling, compared to 7 (25%) who stated that they had already stopped, and 1 (4%) said that they would stop travelling in the future. Reasons for stopping travelling included 'health and/or support needs' (72%), 'age/too old' (17%), or 'wanting to settle' (11%).

Table 6.35 Number of times travelled in last 12 months

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0	16	84%	0	0%	16	57%
1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
2	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
3	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
4	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
5 or more times	1	5%	9	100%	10	36%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.36 Reasons for travelling in last 12 months

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Culture	18	90%	4	31%	22	67%
Being moved on	0	0%	8	62%	8	24%
To see family	2	10%	1	8%	3	9%
Total	20	100%	13	100%	33	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.37 Type of accommodation used in last 12 months

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Unauth. not own land	0	0%	12	86%	12	71%
Private site	3	100%	1	7%	4	24%
Council site	0	0%	1	7%	1	6%
Total	3	100%	14	100%	17	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.38 How long at last site

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 1 month	2	67%	8	89%	10	83%
1-3 months	1	33%	1	11%	2	17%
4-6 months	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
7-12 months	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
1-2 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
3-5 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
More than 5 years	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	3	100%	9	100%	12	100%

Table 6.39 Evicted or moved on in the past year						
	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	0	0%	9	100%	9	31%
No	19	100%	0	0%	20	69%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	29	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.40 Will stop travelling						
	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	0	0%	1	11%	1	4%
No	10	53%	8	89%	18	64%
Already stopped	7	37%	0	0%	7	25%
Don't know	2	11%	0	0%	2	7%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.41 Reasons for stopping travelling						
	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Health or support needs	7	78%	6	67%	13	72%
Age/too old	2	22%	1	11%	3	17%
Want to settle	0	0%	2	22%	2	11%
Total	9	100%	9	100%	18	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Current accommodation need

- 6.31 Households were asked if there are enough spaces for Gypsies and Travellers in the area. Perhaps unsurprisingly, only 1 (4%) felt that there were enough spaces whilst 26 (93%) believe that there is not. Similarly, 93% of respondents believe that there is a need for additional transit pitches or emergency stopping places with the Croydon area. Importantly, three quarters (75%) of respondents said that one or more family members had moved out of the local area due to a lack of accommodation provision. However, nearly all (90%) of respondents said that family members would return to the local area if space was available.

- 6.32 Reflecting the discussion in Chapter 5 regarding stakeholder views on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation preferences, over two thirds (68%) of respondents stated that they would like to buy their own land on which to live. In contrast (and reflecting high local land values), no (0%) respondents stated that they were able to buy land on which to live in the Croydon area.

- 6.33 Importantly, in relation to the assessment of accommodation needs a quarter (25%) of respondent households (all living in unauthorised sites) stated that they need or are likely to move to a different home within the next five years.
- 6.34 In terms of accommodation preferences, 6 (86%) of respondents stated that they would prefer to live in a social rented property, and 1 (14%) in any type of house (i.e. either owned or rented).
- 6.35 When asked about the preferred location of new sites, respondents did not mention specific places in Croydon, but talked about preferred site characteristics and amenities i.e. the need for new site to be located away from industrial areas, to include well equipped amenity blocks, to have sufficient space to keep animals, and for it to contain safe spaces for children.

Table 6.42 Enough spaces in the area for Gypsies and Travellers?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	1	5%	0	0%	1	4%
No	17	89%	9	100%	26	93%
Don't know	1	5%	0	0%	1	4%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.43 Need for more permanent sites in the local area?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	17	89%	9	100%	26	93%
No	1	5%	0	0%	1	4%
Don't know	1	5%	0	0%	1	4%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.44 Need for transit/emergency stopping spaces in Croydon?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	12	63%	9	100%	21	75%
No	6	32%	0	0%	6	21%
Don't know	1	5%	0	0%	1	4%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.45 Family members moved out of local area due to lack of pitches

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	15	79%	6	67%	21	75%
No	4	21%	3	33%	7	25%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.46 Would they move back?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	13	87%	6	100%	19	90%
No	2	13%	0	0%	2	10%
Total	15	100%	6	100%	21	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.47 Would you like to develop a site?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	13	68%	6	67%	19	68%
No	6	32%	3	33%	9	32%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.48 Are you able to buy/develop a site?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
No	13	100%	6	100%	19	100%
Total	13	100%	6	100%	19	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.49 Need/likely to move to a different home?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	0	0%	7	78%	7	25%
No	19	100%	2	22%	21	75%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.50 Preferred type of accommodation?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Social rented site	0	0%	6	86%	6	86%
House	0	0%	1	14%	1	14%
Total	0	0%	7	100%	7	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Future accommodation need

- 6.36 Although a quarter of respondents stated that they need to move within the next 5 years, 13 (43%) of respondents stated that they contain household members who require separate accommodation in the next five years. Four respondent households (31%) contain someone who requires separate accommodation now or within a year, 4 (31%) require it within 1-2 years, and 5 (38%) within 2-5 years.
- 6.37 In contrast to the findings above suggesting that a majority of Gypsy and Traveller families would prefer to live on land owned by themselves, most (92%) households requiring accommodation in the future would prefer to live on a Council site, and only 1 (8%) on a private site.

Table 6.51 People in household need separate accommodation in the next 5 years?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	8	42%	5	56%	13	46%
No	11	58%	4	44%	15	54%
Total	19	100%	9	100%	28	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.52 When need separate accommodation?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Now	4	50%	0	0%	4	31%
Within a year	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
1-2 years	3	38%	1	20%	4	31%
3-5 years	1	13%	4	80%	5	38%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	8	100%	5	100%	13	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Table 6.53 Type of type of home required?

	Auth.		Unauth.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
On existing (Council) site	7	88%	0	0%	7	54%
Council site	0	0%	5	100%	5	38%
Private site	1	13%	0	0%	1	8%
Total	8	100%	5	100%	13	100%

Source: 2013 GTANA

Summary

- 6.38 The survey was undertaken with a total of 27 households living in Croydon including 18 households living on authorised sites, and 9 households living on unauthorised encampments. The survey covered 96 Gypsies and Travellers living on both authorised sites and unauthorised encampments. There was a significant difference between Gypsies and Travellers living on authorised sites and those on unauthorised encampments in Croydon with most of the former describing themselves as Romany Gypsies (89%), and all of the latter (100%) describing themselves as Irish Travellers.
- 6.39 One factor reflecting the residential longevity of the survey respondents was that over two thirds of respondents (68%) had lived on site for more than five years although all the households living on unauthorised encampments had lived on site for less than one month.
- 6.40 Satisfaction rates on sites located are generally low although unsurprisingly, there are differences between families living on authorised sites and those living on unauthorised sites. Whilst almost two thirds (66%) of residents living at Lathams Way are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with their site, over half (55%) of households living on unauthorised sites said they are dissatisfied with conditions.
- 6.41 Three quarters (75%) of respondents cited 'living next to family' the main reason for satisfaction with the site they live on. The reasons for dissatisfaction with living on sites were more varied with the most common reasons cited as 'being moved on' (26%) and 'traffic' (26%).
- 6.42 One key issue was safety. Most (95%) of families living on families living on authorised sites felt safe, compared to three quarters (75%) of families living on unauthorised sites. However, few families living on either authorised sites (11%) or unauthorised sites (18%) felt that their current sites offered safe places for children to play. Also, families living on authorised sites (100%) or unauthorised sites (89%) felt that noisy or dangerous traffic is a problem for site residents. Importantly, limited space was an issue for families living on authorised sites (63%) or unauthorised sites (89%).
- 6.43 Generally, respondents stated access to services such as shops, post offices, health services, and primary and secondary schools as being 'easy' or 'okay'. Just under a half

(46%) of all respondents stated that they had suffered discrimination when trying to access services. Similarly, 21 (75%) stated that they had been a victim of racism or bullying. However, none of the Gypsies and Travellers experiencing harassment or bullying had reported the incidence to the police. The main reasons for not doing so included wanting to deal with such problems within the Gypsy and Traveller community or believing that reporting incidences to authorities would be ineffective.

- 6.44 Perhaps reflecting the length of residency characteristics discussed above, over half (57%) of respondents stated that they had not travelled during the last 12 months, whilst 5 (6%) respondents stated that they had travelled once during the same period. There were distinct differences between Gypsies and Travellers living in authorised and unauthorised sites with 84% of the former having not travelled during the last 12 months compared with none (0%) of the latter. Nearly two thirds (64%) of respondents stated that they would never stop travelling.
- 6.45 Few respondents felt that there are enough spaces for Gypsies and Travellers in the area. Only 1 (4%) felt that there were enough spaces whilst 26 (93%) believe that there is not. Similarly, 93% of respondents believe that there is a need for additional transit pitches or emergency stopping places within Croydon. Importantly, a quarter (25%) of respondents said that one or more family members had moved out of the local area due to a lack of accommodation provision. However, nearly all (90%) of respondents said that family members would return to the local area if space was available.
- 6.46 Importantly, in relation to the assessment of accommodation needs a quarter (25%) of respondent households (all living on unauthorised sites) stated that they need or are likely to move to a different home within the next five years. Also, 13 (43%) of respondents stated that they contain household members who require separate accommodation. Almost all (92%) of households containing someone who requires future accommodation said that they would prefer to live on a Council owned site
- 6.47 Chapter 7 examines the accommodation needs of families living in bricks and mortar in Croydon.

7. Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation

Introduction

- 7.1 This chapter examines the key findings derived from the survey undertaken with Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation. It looks at key issues such as satisfaction with current accommodation, access to services, and health and education needs. It is based on a survey of 10 households living in bricks and mortar accommodation within Croydon. The survey households were identified by the Croydon Traveller Education Service.
- 7.2 Weighting was applied to the survey in order to ensure that it represented the whole population. This was calculated by comparing the estimated number of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation to the number of completed surveys:

Households	50
Sample	10
%	20.0%
Weight	5.00

Housing Characteristics

- 7.3 Three fifths (60%) of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation were residing in the private rented sector compared with around one third (30%) renting from the local authority with few families (10%) renting from a housing association. Half of all families living in bricks and mortar accommodation (50%) had previously lived on an unauthorised site with two fifths (40%) having previously lived in a private rented property. Few (10%) had previously lived on a local authority site.
- 7.4 Similar to the findings relating to Gypsies and Travellers living on sites, those residing in bricks and mortar accommodation showed longevity of tenure with 50% having lived in their current accommodation for 3 years or more. However, 10% of families had lived in their current accommodation for up to 6 months, 20% for between 6-12 months and 20% for between 1-2 years.
- 7.5 Families stated a fairly wide range of reasons as to why they were currently residing in bricks and mortar accommodation. The most common was due to a lack of sites (30%) whilst some stated it is because they wanted to improve access to services for their children (20%) or because they have no alternative (20%). Fewer families stated that they

were currently residing in bricks and mortar accommodation because they kept being moved on from unauthorised encampments (10%), for educational reasons (10%), or for other reasons (10%).

7.6 The majority of families were either satisfied (20%) living in their current bricks and mortar accommodation or neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (50%). However, nearly one third (30%) of families stated that they are very dissatisfied with living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Table 7.2 Housing tenure type		
	No.	%
Rents from a private landlord	30	60%
Rents from the Council	15	30%
Rents from a HA	5	10%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.3 Tenure of previous accommodation		
	No.	%
Unauthorised encampment	25	50%
Private rented house	20	40%
Council site	5	10%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.4 Length of residency		
	No.	%
Up to 6 months	5	10%
6-12 months	10	20%
1-2 years	10	20%
3-5 years	20	40%
More than 5 years	5	10%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.5 Reason for moving into housing		
	No.	%
Not enough sites	15	30%
For children	10	20%
No alternative	10	20%
Kept being moved on	5	10%
Educational reasons	5	10%
Other reason	5	10%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.6 Satisfaction with current accommodation		
	No.	%
Very satisfied	0	0%
Satisfied	10	20%
Neither	25	50%
Dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	15	30%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Access to services

- 7.7 Generally, respondents stated access to services such as shops, post offices, health services, and primary and secondary schools as being 'easy' or 'okay'. Respondents reported access to shops as being 'easy' (70%) or 'okay' (30%) with none (0%) reporting access as 'hard'. The same proportion reported access to post office services as being 'easy' (70%) or 'okay' (30%). Again, the same proportion stated access to health services as being 'easy' (70%) or 'okay' (30%). Three fifths (60%) of respondents reported easy access to primary and secondary schools compared with 40% stating 'okay'.
- 7.8 The preferred method of gaining information about services was through a home visit (50%), by telephone (40%), by newsletter (10%), or through a liaison or support worker (10%).
- 7.9 In comparison to Gypsies and Travellers living on sites, more (90%) families living in bricks and mortar accommodation stated that they had suffered discrimination when trying to access services.
- 7.10 All families (100%) stated that they had been a victim of racism or bullying although only 40% of the Gypsies and Travellers experiencing harassment or bullying had reported the incident to the police. The main reasons for not doing so included wanting to deal with such

problems within the Gypsy and Traveller community or believing that reporting incidences to authorities would be ineffective.

Table 7.7 Access to services (shops)		
	No.	%
Easy	35	70%
Okay	15	30%
Hard	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.8 Access to services (post office)		
	No.	%
Easy	35	70%
Okay	15	30%
Hard	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.9 Access to services (health services)		
	No.	%
Easy	35	70%
Okay	15	30%
Hard	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.10 Access to services (primary school)		
	No.	%
Easy	30	60%
Okay	20	40%
Hard	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.11 Access to services (secondary school)		
	No.	%
Easy	30	60%
Okay	20	40%
Hard	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.12 Best way to keep informed about services		
	No.	%
Home visit	25	50%
Telephone	20	40%
Newsletter	5	10%
Liaison officer	5	10%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.13 Discrimination accessing services		
	No.	%
Yes	45	90%
No	5	10%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.14 Victim of racism or bullying		
	No.	%
Yes	50	100%
No	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.15 Report crime to the police		
	No.	%
Yes	20	40%
No	30	60%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Health, education and employment

- 7.11 Respondents were asked if they, or anyone else in their household, experienced health issues. Half (50%) of all respondent households stated that they contained someone suffering from mental health issues. Just under a third of households contained someone who suffered from asthma (30%), a learning disability (30%), a physical disability (30%), or a child with a physical disability (30%). Fewer households contained someone who has health problems due to old age (20%) or diabetes (20%). All families (100%) have a permanent registration with a General Practitioner (GP) although 10% stated that they have problems accessing health services in the area.
- 7.12 The survey asked households with children whether they attended school. Over two thirds (70%) of all respondent households living in bricks and mortar accommodation contain school-age children. All families (100%) containing school age children stated that some of their children attend school regularly.
- 7.13 Respondents were asked about their own and their partner’s employment status. Three fifths (60%) all respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation described themselves as ‘housewife’ whilst 40% are unemployed. All (100%) respondents stated that they experience difficulties in finding work.

Table 7.16 Health issues		
	No.	%
Mental Health	25	50%
Asthma	15	30%
Learning disability	15	30%
Physical disability	15	30%
Physical disability (child)	15	30%
Long-term illness	15	30%
Problems due to old age	10	20%
Diabetes	10	20%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.17 Registered with a GP		
	No.	%
Permanent	50	100%
Temporary	0	0%
No	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.18 Problems accessing health services in the area		
	No.	%
Yes	5	10%
No	45	90%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.19 School age children in family		
	No.	%
Yes	35	70%
No	15	30%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.20 Attend school regularly		
	No.	%
Yes, all	0	0%
Yes, some	35	100%
No	0	0%
Total	35	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.21 Employment status		
	No.	%
Housewife	30	60%
Unemployed	20	40%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.22 Partner's employment status		
	No.	%
Unemployed	20	100%
Total	20	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.23 Difficult to find work?		
	No.	%
Yes	50	100%
No	0	0%
Don't know	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Current accommodation need

7.14 Households were asked if there are enough spaces for Gypsies and Travellers in the area. Perhaps unsurprisingly, no families felt that there were enough spaces whilst 50 (100%) believe that there is not. Similarly, all (100%) respondent households believe that there is a need for more permanent and transit sites within the study area. Also, four fifths (80%) of respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation stated that one or more family members had moved out of the local area due to a lack of accommodation provision.

7.15 Importantly, in relation to the assessment of accommodation needs four fifths (80%) of respondent households currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation stated that they need or are likely to move to a different home within the next five years. The main reasons for wanting to move included the impact of the benefit cap (50%), not enough space (50%), due to harassment (38%), because they can't settle (13%), or due to a threat of eviction (13%).

7.16 In terms of accommodation preferences, three quarters (75%) of families likely to move home would prefer to live on a local authority owned site whilst a quarter (25%) stated that they would live in any type of accommodation as long as they could move.

Table 7.24 Enough spaces in the area for Gypsies and Travellers?		
	No.	%
Yes	0	0%
No	50	100%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.25 More permanent sites are required in the area?		
	No.	%
Yes	50	100%
No	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.26 Need for transit/emergency stopping spaces in the area?

	No.	%
Yes	50	100%
No	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.27 Family members moved out of area due to lack of pitches?

	No.	%
Yes	40	80%
No	10	20%
Total	50	80%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.28 Need /likely to move to a different home?

	No.	%
Yes	40	80%
No	10	20%
Total	50	80%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.29 Reasons for wanting to move?

	No.	%
Benefit cap	20	50%
Lack of space	20	50%
Harassment	15	38%
Can't settle	5	13%
Threat of eviction	5	13%
Total	40	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.30 Preferred type of future accommodation?

	No.	%
Council/social rented site	30	75%
Any type of accommodation	10	25%
Total	40	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.31 Where would you move to?		
	No.	%
Croydon	15	38%
Anywhere	10	25%
Out of the local area	5	13%
Didn't say	10	25%
Total	40	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Future accommodation need

7.17 Three fifths (60%) of respondent households living in bricks and mortar accommodation stated that they contain household members who will require separate accommodation in the future. However, few (17%) stated that they require separate accommodation either now or within a year, whilst a third (33%) require it within 1-2 years, and half (50%) within 3-5 years.

7.18 In contrast to the findings above suggesting that most Gypsy and Traveller families would prefer to live on land owned by themselves, half (50%) of households requiring accommodation in the future said that they would prefer to live on a local authority owned site whilst the remaining half (50%) would live in any type of accommodation. Half (50%) of all future households would like to remain in Croydon whilst, a third (33%) didn't know where they would like to live, whilst the remainder (17%) would live anywhere.

Table 7.32 People in household need accommodation within 5 years?		
	No.	%
Yes	30	60%
No	20	40%
Total	50	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.33 When need separate accommodation in the next 5 years?		
	No.	%
Now	5	17%
Within a year	0	0%
1-2 years	10	33%
3-5 years	15	50%
Total	30	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.34 Type of accommodation required?		
	No.	%
Council/social rented site	15	50%
Any	15	50%
Total	30	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Table 7.35 Where future household like to live?		
	No.	%
Croydon	15	50%
Anywhere	5	17%
Don't know	10	33%
Total	30	100%

Source: 2013 GTAA

Summary

- 7.19 The survey was undertaken with 10 households living in bricks and mortar accommodation in the study area. Four fifths (60%) of Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation were residing in the private rented sector compared with around one third (30%) renting from the local authority with few families (10%) renting from a housing association.
- 7.20 Similar to the findings relating to Gypsies and Travellers living on sites, those residing in bricks and mortar accommodation showed longevity of tenure with 50% having lived in their current accommodation for 3 years or more. These findings emphasise the residential longevity of Gypsies and Travellers living in the study area.
- 7.21 Families stated a fairly wide range of reasons as to why they were currently residing in bricks and mortar accommodation. The most common was due to a lack of sites (30%) whilst some stated it is because they wanted to improve access to services for their children (20%) or because they have no alternative (20%).
- 7.22 The majority of families were either satisfied (20%) living in their current bricks and mortar accommodation or neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (50%). However, nearly one third (30%) of families stated that they are very dissatisfied with living in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 7.23 Generally, respondents stated access to services such as shops, post offices, health services, and primary and secondary schools as being 'easy' or 'okay'. In comparison to Gypsies and Travellers living on sites, more (90%) families living in bricks and mortar accommodation stated that they had suffered discrimination when trying to access services. All families (100%) stated that they had been a victim of racism or bullying although only

40% of the Gypsies and Travellers experiencing harassment or bullying had reported the incident to the police.

- 7.24 In relation to health, half (50%) of all respondent households stated that they contained someone suffering from mental health issues. Also, just under a third of households contained someone who suffered from asthma (30%), a learning disability (30%), a physical disability (30%), or a child with a physical disability (30%). All families (100%) have a permanent registration with a General Practitioner (GP) although 10% stated that they have problems accessing health services in the area.
- 7.25 Over two thirds (70%) of all respondent households living in bricks and mortar accommodation contain school-age children. All families (100%) containing school age children stated that some of their children attend school regularly.
- 7.26 In relation to employment, three fifths (60%) all respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation described themselves as 'housewife' whilst 40% are unemployed. All (100%) respondents stated that they experience difficulties in finding work.
- 7.27 No respondents felt that there are enough spaces for Gypsies and Travellers in the area. Similarly, all respondents living in bricks and mortar accommodation felt that there is a need for additional transit pitches or emergency stopping places with the Croydon area.
- 7.28 Importantly, in relation to the assessment of accommodation needs four fifths (80%) of respondent households currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation stated that they need or are likely to move to a different home within the next five years. The main reasons for wanting to move included the impact of the benefit cap (50%) and not having enough space in their current home (50%).
- 7.29 Also, three fifths (60%) of respondent households living in bricks and mortar accommodation stated that they contain household members who will require separate accommodation in the future. However, few (17%) stated that they require separate accommodation either now or within a year, whilst a third (33%) require it within 1-2 years, and half (50%) within 3-5 years. Half (50%) of households requiring accommodation in the future said that they would prefer to live on a local authority owned site whilst the remaining half (50%) would live in any type of accommodation.

8. Travelling Showpeople

Introduction

- 8.1 As described in Chapter 1, Travelling Showpeople are included in the definition of Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of housing strategies, but are subject to separate planning guidance. Given the presence of Travelling Showpeople in Croydon and that they may face similar accommodation issues to Gypsies and Travellers they have been included in this report.
- 8.2 There is currently no permanent site accommodation for Travelling Showpeople (known as 'yards') within Croydon. However, there is a long history of fairs and circuses taking in place within the local area. At the time the survey was undertaken (July 2013) a funfair was taking place at Ashburton Park, Croydon.
- 8.3 As such, three Travelling Showpeople families temporarily residing in Croydon took part in the survey. The families derived from neighbouring boroughs and were temporarily residing in the local area.
- 8.4 The fair was being overseen by a single family whilst the rides and activities were provided by a number of different families who often come together to host a fair in different parts of the country. As one of the families said: 'it's like a market – people come along and run their own individual rides or stalls one day and then might run them at another place the next day'.
- 8.5 All three families said that they had been hosting fairs in Croydon for generations. They all liked coming to Croydon and felt that the location of the park was good and liked the local people. They felt that better access to amenities on Croydon sites where fairs are hosted would be helpful, but said that families currently share costs and that providing their own facilities and amenities is part of running fairs.
- 8.6 One particular concern that they felt needs addressing is education. The families felt that the education system does not do enough to accommodate the educational and cultural needs of Travelling Showpeople children.
- 8.7 The families currently liaise with their children's schools. One spoke about how Travelling Showpeople feel that the government is "trying to limit our travelling – stopping us from being able to take our children out of school for our work, our culture." They said that the Showman's Guild were in the process of trying to address this issue with the government.
- 8.8 Similar to the Gypsy and Traveller community, Traveling Showpeople regard having their children travel with them as culturally important. They talked about how having travelling teaches children about Showpeople culture and enables parents to pass on important skills and abilities. They talked about how they inherited their trade from parents and how their

children will inherit their trade from them. They said that this had happened for generations and that whilst valuing the importance of education they hoped it would continue for generations to come.

- 8.9 They all commented on how they liked working in Croydon, and how the local community welcomed them. However, they also commented on how the settled communities continue to 'lump us all together and tarnish us all with the same brush'. They talked about how people confuse the cultural identities of Travelling Showpeople with Gypsies and Travellers and said this is one reason why they continue to experience discrimination from the settled community.
- 8.10 They stated that although they do not require permanent accommodation within Croydon there is a need for more space and better provisions for Travelling Showpeople families. They also felt that more sites are needed for Gypsies and Travellers in the local area.
- 8.11 The families commented on how they felt that the planning process needed to help families from all the different cultures and groups to get their own pitches and yards. They felt that it continues to be difficult for families to gain their own space.
- 8.12 They spoke about how Travelling Showpeople need space for equipment which they require access to at all times (whether at their own yards or away when hosting fairs). They mentioned that the size and volume of equipment used has grown over recent years and, as such, families require more space. Finally, they talked about how difficult it continues to be to get planning permission for new yard or 'even to expand existing yards'.

Summary

- 8.13 Although there are no Travelling Showpeople yards currently located in Croydon interviews were undertaken with three families. Although they did not require permanent accommodation within Croydon they stated that there is a need for more space and better provisions for Travelling Showpeople families in the local area.

9. Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need

Introduction

9.1 This chapter presents the detailed technical calculation of the Gypsy and Traveller needs assessment. The model used is based on the example given in the CLG Guidance. General comments on the findings are contained in Chapter 10.

9.2 The chapter contains the following sections:

- Requirements for residential pitches in Croydon 2013-2018
- Requirements for transit pitches/emergency stopping places 2013-2018
- Requirement for housing 2013-2018
- Requirement for residential pitches and housing 2013-2018: summary
- Requirements for transit pitches: 2018-2033
- Borough summary 2018-2033

Requirement for residential pitches, 2013-2018: summary⁴²

9.3 The need for residential pitches in Croydon is assessed according to a 15-step process, based on the model suggested in CLG guidance and supplemented by data derived from the survey. The results of this are shown in the Table 9.1 below, while the subsequent section contains explanations of the sourcing and calculation of the figures for each step.

9.4 The overall need is for 27 new pitches across Croydon. This amounts to a total need for approximately 5.3 pitches per annum for the 2013-2018 period.

⁴² Please note that due to rounding column totals may differ slightly from row totals

Table 9.1 Estimate of the need for permanent residential site pitches, 2013-2018

1) Current occupied permanent / residential site pitches	19.0
<i>Current residential supply</i>	
2) Number of unused residential pitches available	0.0
3) Number of existing pitches expected to become vacant through mortality 2013-2018	0.5
4) Number of family units on sites expected to leave Croydon in next 5 years	0.0
5) Number of family units on sites expected to move into housing in next 5 years	0.0
6) Residential pitches planned to be built or to be brought back into use 2013-2018	0.0
7) Additional supply generated by movement within the stock	4.0
8) Less pitches with temporary planning permission	0.0
Total Supply	4.5
<i>Current residential need: Pitches</i>	
9) Family units (on pitches) seeking residential pitches in the area, 2013-2018, excluding those already counted as moving due to overcrowding in step 11	0.0
10) Family units on unauthorised encampments requiring residential pitches in the area	8.0
11) Family units on unauthorised developments requiring residential pitches in the area	0.0
12) Family units currently overcrowded on pitches seeking residential pitches in the area, excluding those containing an emerging family unit	4.0
13) New family units expected to arrive from elsewhere	0.0
14) New family formations expected to arise from within existing family units on sites	9.0
Total Need	21.0
<i>Current residential need: Housing</i>	
15) Family units in housing but with a psychological aversion to housed accommodation	10.0
Total Need	31.0
<i>Balance of Need and Supply</i>	
Total Additional Pitch Requirement	26.5 → 27
Annualised Additional Pitch Requirement	5.3

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Requirement for residential pitches, 2013-2018: steps of the calculation

9.5 The calculations depend on base information derived from the GTANA using data corroborated by local authorities in Croydon. The key variables used to inform the calculations include:

- The number of Gypsies and Travellers housed in bricks and mortar accommodation
- The number of existing Gypsy and Traveller pitches
- The number of caravans on unauthorised encampments requiring accommodation
- The number of caravans on unauthorised developments
- The number of vacant pitches
- The number of planned new pitches

Table 9.2 Base data used for G&T need calculations (2013)

Housed G&Ts	Authorised Pitches	Unauth. encamp	Unauth. dev's	Vacant pitches	New pitches
50	19	9	0	0	0

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

9.6 The subsequent calculations described below are dependent on a combination of results obtained through the 2013 GTANA survey and existing research or data on Gypsies and Travellers. For example, the number of family units currently overcrowded on pitches seeking residential pitches in Croydon was determined by the survey to be 6.8%:

- Existing pitches: 19
- Proportion of overcrowded pitches: 21%
- $19 \times 0.21 = 4.0$

9.7 The remainder of this chapter describes both the process and results of the Gypsy and Traveller needs calculations.

Supply of pitches 2013-2018

Step 1: Current permanent residential site pitches

9.8 Based on information provided by the County Council and districts and corroborated by information from site surveys. There are currently 19 authorised Gypsy and Traveller pitches in Croydon. These sites are wholly owned by the local authority with none owned privately.

Step 2: Number of unused residential pitches available

9.9 There are currently no vacant pitches on authorised sites in Croydon.

Step 3: Number of existing pitches expected to become vacant, 2013-2018

9.10 This is calculated using mortality rates, as applied in conventional Housing Needs Assessments. The figures for mortality, however, have been increased in line with studies of Gypsy and Traveller communities suggesting a life expectancy approximately 10 years lower than that of the general population.⁴³ The table below shows the relevant calculation.

⁴³ E.g. L. Crout, *Traveller health care project: Facilitating access to the NHS*, Walsall Health Authority, 1987. NB: For Travelling Showpeople, the standard mortality rate is used.

Table 9.3 Number of existing pitches expected to become vacant 2013-2018

<i>From Authorised Pitches</i>	
Current supply of occupied permanent / residential site pitches	19
Pitches released from this number by mortality over 5 years according to adjusted mortality rates (assuming inheritance of pitch by any remaining adult residents of pitch)	0.537
Expected pitches released 2013-2018	0.537 → 0.5

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Step 4: Number of family units in site accommodation expressing a desire to leave Croydon

9.11 It was assumed, given that development of sites is likely to occur in the areas surrounding Croydon as well as in the planning area itself, that those currently living on sites expecting to leave the area permanently in the next five years – out of choice (step 9) or due to overcrowding (step 12) would generally be able to do so.

9.12 In total, given the low level of interest in leaving Croydon, this resulted in the supply of no pitches.

Step 5: Number of family units in site accommodation expressing a desire to live in housing

9.13 It was assumed that all those currently living on sites planning to move into housing in the next five years (step 5), or preferring to move into housing from an overcrowded pitch (step 12), would be able to do so. This excluded those planning to move due to site management issues, since it was assumed that these could be resolved in the light of the findings of this study.

9.14 There are no families currently living on Croydon pitches planning to move onto housing.

Step 6: Residential pitches planned to be built or brought back into use, 2013-2018

9.15 No new pitches are planned to be built or brought back into use in Croydon during the period 2013-2018.

Step 7: Additional supply generated by movement within the stock

9.16 This figure, although not included in the CLG model, allows for the fact that movement of families from pitches onto different pitches (steps 9 and 12) not only generates demand/need but also supply. Pitches vacated by moves out of Croydon or into housing are excluded, since these are already counted in steps 4 and 5 above. This generates a total supply of 4.0 pitches.

9.17 It is recognised that of course those moving from overcrowded pitches will not release pitches large enough for every family. However, there are many smaller newly forming family units within the total households generating need.

Step 8: Pitches with temporary planning permission

9.18 It is assumed families living on pitches whose planning permission expires within the period 2013-2018 will still require accommodation within Croydon. There are currently no pitches with temporary planning permission located in Croydon.

Need for pitches 2013-2018

Step 9: Family units on pitches seeking residential pitches in Croydon, 2013-2018

9.19 The guidance suggests that those moving from pitch to pitch should be included in the need section. The supply also generated by this is taken into account in step 7. These family units reported that they 'needed or were likely' to move to a different home in the next five years, and wanted to stay on an authorised site, or that they were currently seeking accommodation.

9.20 This category of need overlaps with those moving due to overcrowding, counted in step 11, and so any family units which are both overcrowded and seeking accommodation are deducted from this total. As no families currently living on pitches stated that they are currently seeking accommodation, this generated no additional need.

Step 10: Family units on unauthorised encampments seeking residential pitches in the area

9.21 Guidance indicates that all those living on unauthorised encampments or developments must be provided with alternative accommodation. Using survey data, it has been calculated how many families on unauthorised encampments (including long term ones tolerated by councils) want residential pitches in Croydon. They generate a need for 8 residential pitches (please note that only Gypsies and Travellers requiring permanent accommodation within Croydon have been included in this calculation – transiting Gypsies and Travellers are included in separate calculations).

Step 11: Family units on unauthorised developments seeking residential pitches in the area

9.22 The guidance also indicates that all those living on unauthorised developments must be provided with alternative accommodation. Regularising families living on their land without planning permission would reduce the overall level of need by the number of pitches given planning permission. There are currently no families living on unauthorised developments within Croydon.

Step 12: Family units on overcrowded pitches seeking residential pitches in the area

9.23 Guidance indicates that those on overcrowded pitches should be provided with pitches of an adequate size. Households which also contain a newly formed family unit that has not yet left are excluded. This is because it is assumed that once the extra family unit leaves (included in the need figures in step 12) their accommodation will no longer be overcrowded. The calculations suggest that there is a need for around 4.0 pitches to resolve overcrowding over the period 2013-2018.

Step 13: New family units expected to arrive from elsewhere

9.24 In the absence of any data derivable from secondary sources on the moving intentions of those outside Croydon, it is assumed that the inflow of Gypsies and Travellers into the area will be equivalent to the outflow. In addition, inflow equivalent to the outflow of newly forming family units must be considered. Together, these amount to an inflow of nil family units.

Step 14: New family formations expected to arise from within existing family units on sites

9.25 The number of individuals needing to leave pitches to create new family units was estimated from survey data. Allowing for those planning to leave the area, and for estimated rates of marriages to both Gypsies and Travellers and non-Gypsies and Travellers, it is thought that this will result in the formation of 9.0 new households requiring residential pitches during the 2013-2018 period.

Step 15: Family units in housing with a psychological aversion to housed accommodation

9.26 It was decided for the purposes of the GTANA survey that only those households that had demonstrated through their answers to the questionnaire a psychological aversion to housing could be considered to be in need of a pitch. This was determined by identifying those respondents who said in their questionnaire responses that they had been forced to live in a house or that they suffered adverse psychological effects due to living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

9.27 Even if the family unit in question was in overcrowded or unsuitable housing, psychological aversion was taken into account, since if no psychological aversion was present, the need for larger accommodation could potentially be met within the housing stock. This generated a total need for 10.0 housing units from Gypsies and Travellers (shown as step 15 in Table 7.1).

Requirements for transit/emergency stopping places: 2013-2018

9.28 Many of the family units living on unauthorised encampments present a need for permanent, residential pitches or housing in Croydon. Based on Council data from the 14 month period April 2012 to June 2013 (analysed in Chapter 4), there were 127 unauthorised encampments in Croydon.

9.29 This equates to 1,691 unauthorised caravan days over the 14 month period or 3.7 unauthorised caravans per day. However, as mentioned in Chapter 4 over two thirds of unauthorised encampment days are due to the movements of only six families. Some of these families are regularly found in Croydon and their needs will be met through the residential provision already outlined. The remainder are classified as irregular visitors passing through the area for work or holiday reasons. As such, the actual need the families present is for 1 transit or emergency pitch.

Requirement for housing 2013-2018: summary

9.30 The need for housing generated by Gypsies and Travellers in Croydon is assessed according to an 11-step process, based upon the inputs and outputs to the pitch requirements model above (which itself is based upon CLG Guidance). The results of this analysis are shown in the tables below, while the subsequent section contains explanations of the sourcing and calculation of the figures for each step.

9.31 Table 9.5 shows no additional family units requiring bricks and mortar accommodation.

Table 9.5 Estimate of the need for bricks and mortar dwellings, Gypsies and Travellers 2013-2018	
<i>Dwellings currently occupied by Gypsies and Travellers</i>	
1) Dwellings occupied by Gypsies and Travellers	50.0
<i>Current supply of dwellings from Gypsy and Traveller sources</i>	
2) Number of dwellings expected to become vacant through mortality 2013-2018	1.4
3) Dwellings vacated by those with a psychological aversion to housing moving onto sites	10.0
4) Number of family units on sites expected to leave Croydon in next 5 years	0.0
5) Dwellings vacated by movement within the stock (steps 6 and 8 below)	35.0
Total Supply	46.4
<i>Current need for dwellings</i>	
6) Family units (currently in housing) seeking new accommodation without psychological aversion to housing and therefore not moving onto a site, 2013-2018	25.0
7) Family units on unauthorised pitches seeking housing in Croydon	1.0
8) Family units in overcrowded housing without a psychological aversion to housing and therefore not moving onto a site (minus those releasing space through the movement of an emerging family unit)	10.0
9) Households moving into Croydon (100% of outflow)	0.0
10) Newly forming family units	30.0
11) Households moving into housing from sites	0.3
Total Need	66.0
<i>Additional Need</i>	
Total Additional Housing likely to be occupied by Gypsies and Travellers	19.6
Annualised Additional Housing	3.9

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Requirement for housing 2013-2018: steps of the calculation

Supply of housing 2013-2018

Step 1: Current numbers of dwellings occupied by Gypsies and Travellers

9.32 Currently there are estimated to be 50 household occupying bricks and mortar accommodation in Croydon.

Step 2: Number of existing houses expected to become vacant, 2013-2018

9.33 This is calculated using modified mortality rates based on lower life expectancy of Gypsies and Travellers.

Table 9.6 Number of houses currently inhabited by Gypsies and Travellers expected to become vacant 2013-2018

Number of dwellings currently occupied	50
Dwellings released from this number by mortality over a 5 year period (assuming inheritance of pitch by any remaining adult residents of pitch)	0.057
Expected dwellings released 2013-2018	1.413 → 1.4

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Step 3: Number of dwellings vacated by those with a psychological aversion to housing

9.34 This supply arises from family units moving onto sites that were considered to have a psychological aversion to housing, as detailed in step 15 of the assessment of dwelling requirements. This leads to an estimated supply of 10.0 dwellings.

Step 4: Number of family units in site accommodation expected to leave Croydon in the next 5 years

9.35 It is assumed in this study that all those planning to move out of Croydon would be able to do so. The components of this are the outflow from Croydon associated with psychological aversion to housing (step 15 of the assessment of pitch requirements), families seeking new housed accommodation outside the Croydon (step 6 of this assessment), and families needing to move due to overcrowding preferring to move out of Croydon (step 8 of this assessment).

9.36 Given that no households plan to leave Croydon, this resulted in no additional supply of housing.

Step 5: Dwellings vacated by movement within the stock

9.37 This figure, although not included in the CLG model, allows for the fact that movement of families from one house into another (steps 6 and 8) not only generates demand/need but also supply. Dwellings vacated by moves out of the Croydon and by those with a psychological aversion to housing are excluded, to prevent overlap with the supply counted in steps 3 and 4 above.

9.38 It is recognised that those moving from overcrowded dwellings will not release dwellings large enough for every family; however there are many newly forming family units within the total households generating demand, which are likely to be seeking smaller units.

Demand for housing 2013-2018**Step 6: Family units seeking new accommodation (without a psychological aversion to housing and therefore not moving onto a site)**

9.39 It is assumed in this model that only the need will be met, rather than demand. Therefore any household not determined to have a psychological aversion to housing but declaring that they 'need or are likely to move' in the next five years is considered to be likely to generate a need for a house.

- 9.40 The calculation provides the total number moving into bricks and mortar dwellings from this source. Deductions are made to avoid overlap with those moving for reasons of overcrowding or psychological aversion to housing.

Step 7: Family units on unauthorised pitches seeking housing in the area

- 9.41 When need arising from unauthorised pitches was considered in the assessment of pitch requirements, no family units were identified as wanting to move into housing.

Step 8: Family units in overcrowded housing (without a psychological aversion to housing and therefore not moving onto a site)

- 9.42 Many family units living in overcrowded housing do not have a psychological aversion to housing and therefore generate a need for a house rather than a pitch. Households which also contain a newly formed family unit that has not yet left are excluded. This is because it is assumed that once the extra family unit leaves (included in the need figures in step 12) their accommodation will no longer be overcrowded.

Step 9: New family units expected to arrive from elsewhere

- 9.43 In the absence of any data derivable from secondary sources on the moving intentions of those outside Croydon, movement into the area was expected to equal movement out of the area, both from existing and emerging households, in this case zero.

Step 10: New family formations expected to arise from within existing family units in housing

- 9.44 The number of individuals needing to leave bricks and mortar dwellings to create new family units was estimated over the next five years. Allowing for those planning to leave Croydon and for estimated rates of marriages to both Gypsies and Travellers and non-Gypsies and Travellers, it is thought that this will result in the formation of 30 new households during the 2013-2018 period.

Step 11: Family units voluntarily moving into housing from sites

- 9.45 This is the result of steps 8 and 12 of the assessment of pitch requirements, which showed that no households located on an unauthorised pitch need or expect to move into housing in the next five years.

Requirement for residential pitches and housing 2018-2023: summary

- 9.46 Looking further into the future, with all those with a psychological aversion assumed to be already moved onto sites, only natural increase, mortality, and movement into and out of the area need be taken into account. Since movement within the stock is largely neutral in terms of pitches or dwellings released, this is not taken into account. The base figures for this calculation are shown below.

Table 9.7 Base figures as at 2018 assuming all need is met for 2013-2018

	2013 Base	Change 2013-2018	2018 Base
Authorised pitches	19	27	46
Unauthorised pitches	9	-9	0

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

9.47 Following CLG (2007) guidance an annual family growth rate of 3.9% (equating to 16.9% over a five year) is applied. Currently, the rate of new family unit formation will vary between sites and housing, probably due to differing household types found in each. However, due to the projected movements between these accommodation types in 2013-2018 it was considered more realistic to use the average rate across both given above. It is suggested that these rates are likely to continue in the period 2018-2023.

9.48 Mortality rates are projected to be the same as in 2013-2018, although due to the changing size of population, the absolute numbers of pitches and houses freed will vary. Movement into and out of Croydon is also assumed to continue at the 2013-2018 rate.

Table 9.8 Estimate of the need for residential pitches 2018-2023

<i>Pitches as at 2018</i>	
1) Pitches occupied by Gypsies and Travellers	46.0
<i>Supply of pitches</i>	
2) Pitches expected to become vacant due to mortality 2018-2023	1.3
3) Number of family units on pitches expected to move out of Croydon 2018-2023	0.0
Total Supply	1.3
<i>Need for pitches</i>	
4) Family units moving into Croydon (100% of outflow)	0.0
5) Newly forming family units	7.8
Total Need	7.8
<i>Additional Need</i>	
Total additional pitch requirement, 2018-2023	6.5
Annualised additional pitch requirement	1.3

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Table 9.9 Estimate of the need for bricks and mortar dwellings 2018-2023

<i>Known dwellings currently occupied by Gypsies and Travellers</i>	
1) Dwellings occupied by Gypsies and Travellers	70.0
<i>Current supply of dwellings from Gypsy and Traveller sources</i>	
2) Dwellings expected to become vacant due to mortality 2018-2023	2.0
3) Number of family units in housing expected to move out of Croydon 2018-2023	0.0
Total Supply	2.0
<i>Need for dwellings</i>	
4) Households moving into Croydon (100% of outflow)	0.0
5) Newly forming family units	11.8
Total Need	11.8
<i>Additional Need</i>	
Total additional housing likely to be occupied by Gypsies and Travellers	9.9
Annualised additional housing	2.0

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Requirements for transit pitches/emergency stopping places: 2018-2033

9.49 The assumption for transit pitches or emergency stopping places for 2018-2033 allows a vacancy rate and spare capacity. It is unlikely that the extent of travelling will increase in the future, so no further transit or emergency pitches will be needed. This assumption should, however, be kept under review.

Accommodation needs summary 2013-2033

9.50 The following summary tables give an overview of projected need for residential pitches and dwellings over the 2013-2033 period. It is important to emphasise that these figures are evidence of need and are not targets for new provision – the final borough targets may well vary and should be kept under review.

9.51 These are based on the proportions of pitches and houses showing these needs or demands on the planning area basis, rather than individual cases within the borough. This is because the statistical sample for individual boroughs is relatively small, and therefore analysing small subgroups within individual districts and boroughs, especially where the overall Gypsy and Traveller population is small, may create significant anomalies.

9.52 In addition the summaries show the projected changes to the overall Gypsy and Traveller population in housing, although this change is dependent on the provision of the pitches reported to be required. Finally, the summary provides an overview of the resulting situation in terms of the location of the Gypsy and Traveller population over the 2013-2033 period, starting with the base figures at the current time (2013).

Table 9.10: Summary of Gypsy and Traveller pitch needs 2013-33

Period	
Total at 2013	19
Need 2013-18	27
Total at 2018	46
Need 2018-23	7
Total at 2023	53
Need 2023-28	7
Total at 2028	60
Need 2028-33	8
Total at 2033	68
Total Need 2013-33	49
Annualised need	2.5

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Table 9.11 Twenty year summary (2013 – 2033)

	Base Numbers 2013	Additional need 2013- 2018	Additional need 2018- 2023	Additional need 2023- 2028	Additional need 2028- 2033	Additional need 2013- 2033*	Numbers as at 2033
Unauth. encamp	9	-	-	-	-		
Unauth. dev	0	-	-	-	-		
Res. pitches	19	27	7	7	8	49 (2.5)	68
Housing	50	20	10	11	13	54 (2.7)	104

* annualised figures shown in brackets

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Summary

9.53 The following table summarises the number of residential and transit pitches/temporary stopping places required. It shows that a further 38 residential pitches are needed over twenty years. Additionally 1 emergency stopping place is required in the first five years of the plan period.

Table 9.12: Summary of Gypsy and Traveller net accommodation needs 2013-33

Period	Residential pitches	Emergency stopping places
Total 2013-18	27	1
Total 2018-23	7	0
Total 2023-28	7	0
Total 2028-33	8	0
Total 2013-2033	49	1

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

10. Conclusions on the evidence

Introduction

- 10.1 This final chapter draws conclusions. The main source of this is the quantitative analysis in Chapter 6 on Gypsies and Travellers, although reference is also made to qualitative findings.
- 10.2 Due to the complexity of any attempt to calculate the need for this type of accommodation, it is necessary to specify quite narrowly what is measured and what is not. As such, this chapter will summarise some of the earlier discussion in Chapters 1 and 2. It then makes a series of recommendations relating to meeting the identified need for new pitches, site management and facilities, and recording and monitoring processes.

Accommodation measurement issues

- 10.3 Calculating levels of need for Gypsies and Travellers is a complex process, due to the number of factors involved. Firstly, Travellers Accommodation Assessments differ significantly from conventional models for assessing housing need. As recognised in the CLG guidance, accommodation need goes beyond standard categories of suitability and affordability to encompass Gypsies' and Travellers' need to maintain their way of life by living in caravans. The need is not simply for accommodation, but for accommodation which acknowledges their cultural identity based on a mobile lifestyle.
- 10.4 Secondly there is an issue of data gathering. Travellers Housing Needs Studies do not possess such large sample sizes as conventional housing need surveys. Nor is it culturally feasible to collect the detailed financial data which is conventionally achieved in mainstream surveys of housing need. The sample sizes required by conventional studies are never achieved in Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments (GTANAs). The 2013 GTANA has a large sample size comparable to others carried out so far in England, but is still too small for conventional housing needs analysis. Hence, the analysis has to include qualitative data rather than solely quantitative.
- 10.5 Thirdly, in conventional housing needs analysis it is important to separate analysis of need from the aspirations of respondents. For example, respondents may aspire for one type of housing (for instance a detached bungalow) but in practice (unless financially capable of choosing) be obliged to accept whatever is available that meets their household size requirements.

- 10.6 It is far harder to make such a distinction in a GTANA. The traditional method of distinguishing need and demand, by considering the ability to buy the required accommodation on the open market cannot be applied to GTANAs: firstly since the barriers to accessing pitches are not always cost-related, and secondly because gathering reliable financial and employment information from Gypsies and Travellers, due to cultural barriers, can be difficult.
- 10.7 This background provides the basis for the definition of need given in the guidance and used in this report (see Chapter 1). This goes beyond the definition used for the settled community based on financial constraints and the standard categories of unsuitability; it also includes accommodation made unsuitable due to the psychological effects brought about by giving up the traditional, caravan-based life.

Policy Changes

- 10.8 As noted in Chapter 1, in 2012 the Coalition Government brought about new legislation regarding Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. This emphasises a more localist way of providing sites for travellers, building on earlier commitments to strengthen measures to tackle the abuse of the planning system.
- 10.9 The new planning policy gives councils the freedom and responsibility to determine the right level of traveller site provision in their area, in consultation with local communities, while ensuring fairness in the planning system. It sits within a broader package of reforms to abolish the previous Government's Regional Strategies and return planning powers to councils and communities.

New pitch provision

- 10.10 Table 10.1 summarises the results from Chapter 9:

Table 10.1: Summary of Gypsy and Traveller net accommodation needs 2013-33		
Period	Residential pitches	Emergency stopping places
Total 2013-18	27	1
Total 2018-23	7	0
Total 2023-28	7	0
Total 2028-33	8	0
Total 2013-2033	49	1

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

- 10.11 Table 10.2 shows pitch requirements for the whole of Croydon for the period 2013/14 to 2033/34. The main drivers of need include families living on unauthorised encampments wanting to permanently reside in Croydon, overcrowding, and new family formations.

10.12 Table 10.3 shows housing requirements between 2013-2033. The low need for additional housing is due to very few currently living on site wanting to live in bricks or mortar accommodation, whilst some Gypsies and Travellers currently living in bricks in mortar accommodation display psychological aversion (so would prefer to live on site). Future need is mainly due to population growth. New housing provision for Gypsies and Travellers may need to accommodate larger families. Also, there may be a requirement for space to accommodate trailers and caravans.

10.13 Table 10.4 shows emergency stopping place requirements for the same period.

Table 10.2: Summary of Gypsy and Traveller pitch needs 2013-33	
Period	
Total at 2013	19
<i>Need 2013-18</i>	27
Total at 2018	46
<i>Need 2018-23</i>	7
Total at 2023	53
<i>Need 2023-28</i>	7
Total at 2028	60
<i>Need 2028-33</i>	8
Total at 2033	68
<i>Total Need 2013-33</i>	49
Annualised need	2.5

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Table 10.3: Summary of Gypsy and Traveller housing needs 2013-33	
Period	
Total at 2013	50
<i>Need 2013-18</i>	20
Total at 2018	70
<i>Need 2018-23</i>	10
Total at 2023	80
<i>Need 2023-28</i>	11
Total at 2028	91
<i>Need 2028-33</i>	13
Total at 2033	104
<i>Total Need 2013-33</i>	54
Annualised need	2.7

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

Table 10.4 Emergency stopping place requirements 2013-2033	
2013-2018	2018-2033
1	0

Source: Croydon GTANA 2013

The location of new sites

- 10.14 Based on survey responses, most Gypsies and Travellers living in the Croydon area would prefer small, family sized sites. Stakeholder comments suggested that smaller sites have fewer inter-family tensions and are therefore easier to manage.
- 10.15 This distribution is based on where need arises and is not necessarily where it should be met. Specific sites suitable for development should be outlined by local authorities and guidance offered on the type of land that is likely to obtain planning permission as well as land that is *unlikely* to. Advice on the planning process should also be offered.
- 10.16 Ongoing monitoring of site provision and vacant pitches should be undertaken by the Local Planning Authorities alongside discussions with Gypsies and Travellers to ensure that any additional need that may arise over the study period is identified. The precise location (along with design and facilities) will, however, need to be drawn up in consultation with Gypsies and Travellers to ensure the extra provision meets their needs. Government guidance on site design stresses the importance of access to services and the promotion of 'integrated co-existence' between the site and surrounding community.⁴⁴
- 10.17 It important to acknowledge the cultural sensitivities involved in allocating housing to Gypsy and Traveller families. For example, allocating housing without access to open space may negatively impact on re-housed families' satisfaction with accommodation.
- 10.18 The health and safety implications of a new site's location should be considered in finding a balance between offering sites in good locations and the additional land costs this would entail. The settled community neighbouring the sites should also be involved in the consultation from an early stage. There may be scope for expanding existing sites to meet some of the need. However, the preference is for smaller sites which tend to be easier to manage.
- 10.19 In terms of identifying broad locations for new sites, there are a number of factors which could be considered including:

Costs

- Purchase of land

⁴⁴ CLG Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Good Practice Guide, May 2008 located at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/designinggypsiesites.pdf>.

- Implementation of Service – connecting to nearby mains (electricity, gas, water, sewage)
- Drainage

Social

- School catchment areas
- Sustainability - are e.g. bus routes nearby?
- Proximity of social services – sports facilities for welfare, entertainment such as cinemas etc.

Availability

- Who owns the land and are they willing to sell?
- Is access easy or will easements across other land be needed both for humans and for services/utilities?
- Are utilities close enough to service the site at realistic prices?

Deliverability

- Planning – does it meet existing general planning policy in terms of residential use?
- Likely objections?
- Owner can sell easily and quickly?
- Utilities can connect?
- Highways can connect?

10.20 Evidence derived from the survey suggested that respondents did not identify preferred locations for new sites in the Croydon area. Instead, they talked about preferred site characteristics and amenities i.e. the need for any new sites to be located away from industrial areas, to include well equipped amenity blocks, to have sufficient space to keep animals, and to contain safe spaces for children.

10.21 Gypsies and Travellers undertaking the survey also suggested that it is important that new sites are located close to amenities such as shops, schools and health facilities and have good transport links. Also, there was concern by residents of the Lathams Way site that new sites have paved access and good lighting as they currently have to walk alongside busy traffic.

10.22 CLG (2012) guidance suggests that Local planning authorities should strictly limit new traveller site development in open countryside that is away from existing settlements or outside areas allocated in the development plan. Local planning authorities should ensure that sites in rural areas respect the scale of, and do not dominate the nearest settled community, and avoid placing an undue pressure on the local infrastructure.

10.23 It also states that when considering applications, local planning authorities should attach weight to the following matters:

- a. effective use of previously developed (brownfield), untidy or derelict land
- b. sites being well planned or soft landscaped in such a way as to positively enhance the environment and increase its openness
- c. promoting opportunities for healthy lifestyles, such as ensuring adequate landscaping and play areas for children
- d. not enclosing a site with so much hard landscaping, high walls or fences, that the impression may be given that the site and its occupants are deliberately isolated from the rest of the community
- e. that they should determine applications for sites from any travellers and not just those with local connections

10.24 Finally, given the cross-border issues relating to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs it is important that local authorities cooperate at planning policy level over the plan period.

Summary

10.25 There is an overall shortfall in Croydon over the next twenty years of some 49 residential pitches and 1 emergency stopping place for Gypsies and Travellers. The policy process that follows on from this research will also need to consider how Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople can be helped through the planning process to find suitable sites. The study also highlighted a number of issues relating to the management and condition of sites i.e. that funding for sites must take into account management costs and that smaller sites are easier to manage. Finally, it recommends promoting race equality towards Gypsies and Travellers and ensuring that Gypsies and Travellers have sufficient access to services.

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