

**LONDON
GYPSIES &
TRAVELLERS**

LONDON FORUM

**TUESDAY 17TH JULY
2018**

**TEMPORARY
ACCOMMODATION**

ACCOMMODATION ADVICE SERVICE

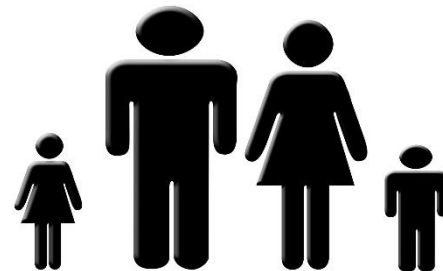
Main aims:

- Provide advice to Gypsy and Traveller families living in houses, on official sites and unauthorised encampments in most London boroughs
- To support our service users in gaining skills and confidence, which will help them maintain their tenancy and deal with statutory services effectively



FACTS AND FIGURES

- 170,000 homeless in London
- 54,000 families in T.A. in London
- The LGT Accommodation Advice Service currently sees approximately 78 families living in T.A. - majority have been in T.A. for over 3 years
- Difficulty finding reliable data regarding the Travelling community due to nomadic lifestyle and not wanting to identify themselves due to prejudice



WHAT IS TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION?

- T.A. can be provided by your local council if you become homeless
- T.A. includes: Bed & Breakfasts, hostels, refuges, shared accommodation, bedsits, studio flats, and private rented accommodation
- There is no limit on how long you could stay in T.A. as long as the council say it is suitable for you



GYPSIES + TRAVELLERS COULD QUALIFY FOR T.A. IF THEY:

- Face eviction from their pitch, encampment or tenancy
- Have nowhere legal to park their mobile home



ISSUES GYPSIES & TRAVELLERS FACE IN T.A.

- Unsuitability
- Isolation
- Vulnerability
- Prejudice and racism
- Unaffordability
- Overcrowding
- School links lost
- Changes to benefits causing debt



HOW THIS AFFECTS GYPSIES + TRAVELLERS

- Family and community links lost
- Common traditions and shared way of life
- Young, single women being placed in hostels or B+B
- Restrictions on visitors
- Being exposed and vulnerable to prejudice
- Physical and mental health can deteriorate



CASE STUDIES

5 evictions on the same day:

- Landlord reclaims properties and evicts tenants - served Section 21
- Geraldine contacted Council housing dept. immediately
- Was able to bypass the Home Connections stage to save time and effort
- Provided detailed information on each family: children, health, etc.
- Found Temporary Accommodation properties for each family

Unsuitable hostel:

- *Young, heavily pregnant woman placed in mixed hostel*
- *Verbally abused over Traveller heritage by other residents*
- *Surrounded by alcohol and drug use*
- *Council housing dept. said they could not move her again*