



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**LONDON
GYPSIES &
TRAVELLERS**

Challenging perceptions, changing lives

A message from the Chair

**LONDON
GYPSIES &
TRAVELLERS**

**Sarah Taylor, Chair of the Board
of Trustees, reflects on LGT's
achievements over the past year.**

The second year of the pandemic brought new and deepened stresses and strains for Gypsies and Travellers. They rose to the challenge. Our work to support and empower has continued undaunted by successive waves of coronavirus and in the face of continuing prejudice and discrimination. Gypsies and Travellers have been resilient and united in fighting challenges, ranging from negative media portrayals and oppressive central government legislation to everyday instances of prejudice locally.

We have provided a positive alternative message, sharing the community's identity and culture with pride and confidence. We educated service

providers and decision makers on the issues affecting Gypsies and Travellers, and the need to improve access to services and opportunities such as education and training.

LGT helped members of the community make their voices heard amid the noise of an ongoing public health crisis, advocating and providing practical support to many young people and families. We worked with our supportive funders, committed trustees and dedicated and skilled staff team to achieve more than ever before under the most difficult of circumstances.

Having pulled together and shown what we can achieve in troubled times, we look with hope to the future. This is my final message as Chair as I will shortly be stepping down from the role, but I am confident that London Gypsies and Travellers will rise to the challenges of 2022 and beyond.



About this report



*Positive relationships...
good communication*

Over the past year London Gypsies and Travellers has reviewed its strategic priorities, outcomes and objectives. This process centred on a theory of change, also developed during 2020/21.

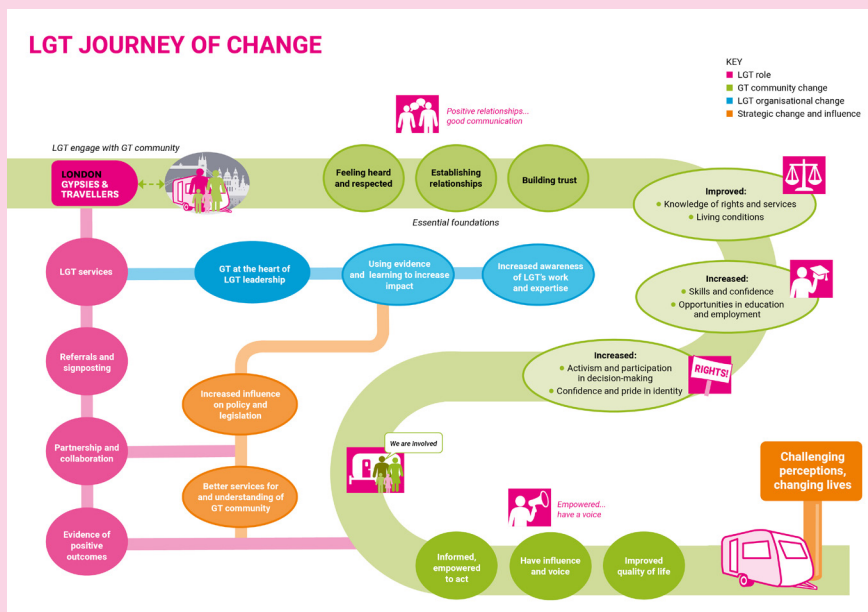
examples of our work and the impact it has had. This is not comprehensive, but shows a sample of our activity and the way our theory of change is being put into action.

Our theory of change demonstrates how we aspire to make a difference for the Gypsy and Traveller community at a strategic level and in developing our organisation.

It revolves around three main outcomes that we wish to achieve:

- Change for the Gypsy and Traveller community
- Strategic change and influence
- Change for our organisation

These outcomes are pivotal to all our work. Therefore in this annual report we are organising our activity in the past year under these three headings. For each we provide



PART 1

Change for the Gypsy and Traveller community

We seek for the Gypsy and Traveller community to be informed and empowered to act, to have influence, voice and an improved quality of life.

Here we focus on examples of activities which demonstrate some of these aspirations.

We are involved



"Since being away at university, I've had with a bit of an identity crisis related to my Traveller background. Spending some time working at LGT had me working on the issues faced by my community and led me to realise that these issues are faced by a group of people who have so much to be proud of. Reconnecting has been an amazing by-product of my internship experience."

Johnny Maughan, who completed a one-month internship with LGT in summer 2021

Improved living conditions

Accommodation advice and advocacy

Lack of suitable accommodation is one of the most urgent challenges for the community. Through our accommodation advice and advocacy work, we aim to increase the social inclusion of Irish Travellers, Romany Gypsies and Roma families living in houses, on sites and roadside camps in London.

We provide weekly advice and advocacy for families from London boroughs, enabling them to navigate the housing system more effectively, increasing their capacity to maintain their tenancy and avoid further housing crisis. We support families to access culturally suitable accommodation where possible.

Our accommodation advice team takes a preventive approach, building knowledge and skills within the Gypsy and Traveller community so that they can gain confidence and manage their own affairs effectively.



“What can be done for Travellers like myself stuck in temporary accommodation who want to live our nomadic way of life?”
Daniel

Improving living conditions

Pauline was living with her family in a rat-infested first floor flat. Access was by stairs, and it was difficult for her wheelchair-using son to get in and out. She approached the LGT Accommodation Advice Service, which intervened with the council. The council was eventually persuaded to move the family into more suitable accommodation.

“We are in a three-bed house now with ground floor access for the wheelchair, and I am so grateful for your help with the council,” says Pauline.

Access to rights and services

The Phoenix Arise Programme

The Phoenix Arise Programme supports Gypsies and Travellers who are, or have been, victims of domestic abuse. It has been tailored for Gypsy and Traveller women and men, in partnership with Solace Women's Aid.

We believe that, with the right kind of support and information, men and women can move towards a deeper understanding of abuse, its impact on children, how to prevent it and heal from it.

We run a six-week block of workshop sessions at the community centre at which LGT is based or external venues. We invite people to be themselves and to be forthcoming in asking questions.



The setting for all sessions is supportive, non-judgemental and informal. When in-person sessions have not been possible due to COVID 19, we have provided weekly support through phone calls.



"Two year ago my kids went into care. I was in an extremely bad place and suffered so badly. I had lost my confidence and thought that I would never recover. Someone put me in touch with the Phoenix Arise programme and it was such a help to me. Through all the courses and the support that I got I was able to work with the social workers and now, thank God, my children now come home every weekend and will be returning after Christmas."

Bridget

Opportunities in education and training

The Bright Futures programme

The Bright Futures programme aims to increase opportunities for young Gypsies and Travellers aged 8-21, helping them gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to make informed choices for their future.



for Gypsy & Traveller young people

We address extreme disadvantage, increase opportunities and foster talent by supporting access to education, training and employment. We provide group work and one-to-one support, alongside outreach to families living on caravan sites, in housing and roadside camps.

Our work focuses on:

- Improving employability
- Increasing skills and confidence
- Advocating in education
- Political education and activism

Vocational skills

"I wanted to share the experiences and criticism I went through to become a qualified professional hairdresser and to let Travelling girls know there are more opportunities in life than sitting at home, cleaning and babysitting."

Maggie Boyle, Irish Traveller and trainer on an LGT hairdressing and personal development course



"Attending the hairdressing course has boosted my morale. I would never have looked into doing a course like this. Being here has put things into perspective."

Paris, one of the hairdressing course participants

Activism and participation in decision making

Community development work

We support Gypsies and Travellers across London to influence the decisions that affect their lives.

Activities in 2021 have included:

- Working with residents to secure new sites and improvements to existing sites
- Organising London Gypsy and Traveller Forum meetings, focused on the 2021 elections for Mayor and London Assembly members
- Supporting community-led campaigns in response to significant policy issues
- Collaborating with the Greater London Authority and Gypsy and Traveller organisations to host Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month events

London Assembly letter campaign

Following the May 2021 elections for Mayor and London Assembly, LGT started a letter campaign, engaging community members and allies to email all 25 London Assembly members asking them to support the London Gypsy and Traveller Forum Manifesto. As a result, members across all political parties have asked questions about site provision, negotiated stopping, hate crime and mental health at Mayor's Question Time.

"I hope candidates got a bit of an insight into how draconian policies are affecting us. It saddens me to think that in 2021 we are having to ask for our basic human needs to be met."

Tracie Giles, chair of an online hustings event for the Mayoral and London Assembly election organised by LGT involving candidates from the Green, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour parties



Pride and confidence in identity

History month event

This was the fourth year that LGT organised a Gypsy, Roma Traveller History Month event along with the Roma Support Group, ACERT, Traveller Movement and Southwark Travellers Action Group, with support from the Mayor of London. Mena Mongan of LGT and Ollie Malik, a young Roma man, co-hosted the event.

"I know this has been a very difficult year for you. COVID 19 has impacted every aspect of our lives. I know that many of you are concerned about the impacts of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill... So it's even more important that we come together to talk about issues that are affecting your communities and also celebrate the heritage and culture of Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities in London."

Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice, Debbie Weekes-Bernard

Traveller histories exhibition

In July, with Southwark Travellers Action Group and Peabody, LGT organised an exhibition showcasing our Mapping the histories of London's Travellers' project in Southwark. The exhibition focuses on life in London between the 19th and mid-20th Century, using a selection of archival photos, newspaper cuttings and audio recordings of Romany and Irish Travellers sharing knowledge and memories.



"Very thought-provoking, powerful stuff. We all need reminding of the discrimination faced by Travellers so thank you for putting on this exhibition."

Local councillor

PART 2

Strategic change and influence

We seek an increased influence on policy and legislation affecting accommodation and equality.

We also seek more inclusive services for Gypsies and Travellers in areas of accommodation, social services, education and better understanding of issues affecting Gypsies and Travellers by service providers and decision makers.



“Travellers are an ethnic minority. Our way of life goes back hundreds of years, not days. We don’t want to trespass but there is nowhere to go. Councils are letting us down, they’re not providing the sites and stopping places to accommodate our culture. We want to live alongside other communities and contribute to the areas where we stop.”

Marian Mahoney, Vice Chair of LGT’s Board of Trustees, speaking at the Drive to Survive demonstration

Influence on policy and legislation

Policy work in London

We aim to hold politicians and decision makers accountable for policies and legislation that have a discriminatory impact on Gypsies and Travellers in London. We work in partnership to develop more inclusive policies that respond to the needs of the communities, with a focus on accommodation and equalities.

During 2021, at a local level, we:

- monitored how local authorities meet planning requirements to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers
- provided feedback on site management and housing policies
- supported good practice on negotiated stopping as an alternative to eviction

Across London, we:

- provided briefings for the London Gypsy and Traveller Forum, and Greater London Assembly members and officers

- worked with GLA officers to progress negotiated stopping protocols on GLA land and London-wide Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessment



"I support the negotiated stopping approach, not only because it is a humane response to settlements, but also given the positive housing and health outcomes it can yield for Gypsy and Traveller communities. The report from London Gypsies and Travellers strongly makes this point and recommends a negotiated stopping

protocol on GLA land, which my team is in the process of implementing."

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London



National policy and legal work

During 2021, at a national level, we:

- worked with other organisations across the country to support parliamentary opposition to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill
- intervened in two legal challenges: one against wide injunctions against persons unknown and the other against the planning definition of “Travellers”.

“We are proud to be involved in this hugely important legal scrutiny of the catch-all injunctions which have effectively banned Gypsies and Travellers from stopping in large areas of the country... The judgment reinforces the fact that Gypsies and Travellers have the right to a nomadic way of life and we continue to push for alternatives to evictions and injunctions.”

Debby Kennett, LGT Chief Executive, after a High Court ruling criticising the use of wide injunctions to ban Gypsies and Travellers from stopping

Drive to Survive demonstration

Working alongside community members and other organisations, LGT supported the Drive to Survive demonstration in London in July, protesting at the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and the threat it poses to the Traveller way of life.



“I’ve been on the road all my life, but this is going to affect my family, my grandchildren, my great grandchildren. What future do they have?”

Michael McDonagh, responding to the Police and Crime Bill

Bringing better understanding of the issues affecting Gypsies and Travellers

Communications and media work

This work aims to challenge the negative public and political perceptions about Gypsies and Travellers and change current distorted narratives. We also aim to inform Gypsies and Travellers about our activities and the laws and policies that affect their lives.

Current activity includes:

- Our Media that Moves project, run in collaboration with Leeds GATE and the Public Interest Research Centre, which is researching the root causes of negative media representations of Gypsies and Travellers and concluding on strategies to bring change
- A collaboration with the organisation On Our Radar to support Gypsies and Travellers in making a short film challenging politicians' perceptions about nomadism and the accommodation issues affecting the community

"The Media that Moves project is one of the best things we have been involved in. It gives us the strength to go forward on the right road to tackle the negative news that journalists publish about us every day."

Mena Mongan, Community Engagement Officer at LGT



PART 3

Change for our organisation

We seek for the Gypsy and Travellers to be at the heart of LGT's leadership, by taking on key roles both on the Board of Trustees and in the staff team. We aim to use evidence and learning to increase the impact of our work and expertise.



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GT community

"We've become closer as an organisation through this pandemic. We were able to get the information out to the community that we needed to. Personally, I would say this year has been LGT at its best. Like the community itself, we've always been able to adapt. That's one of our strengths."

LGT Community Campaigner and
Romany Gypsy Tracie Giles

3

Gypsies and Travellers at the heart of leadership

Trustee development

We support and develop our board to provide strategic oversight which is informed by lived experience.

"Since leaving London Gypsies and Travellers in 2011 I have kept in touch informally. So when the opportunity came to be on the Board of Trustees it felt like a natural transition. I have gained some new skills which I felt could be used. As an Irish Traveller, I feel my opinion is valued and always considered which is empowering. Mostly, I feel I have lots I could learn from the many experienced board members we



have. I have really enjoyed my time on the board so far and being part of the vision for LGT. I believe LGT is current and consistent in seeing things through while also ensuring community members are at the heart of it all."

Helena Kiely-Savin



Using evidence and learning to increase impact

LGT work on Theory of Change

During 2021, our work developing a theory of change and a strategic plan to 2024 centred on the process of defining our outcomes, a programme of activities based around them and key indicators to measure impact and change.



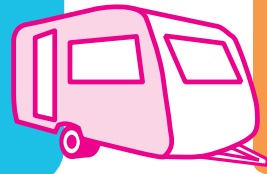
London Gypsies and Travellers is determined to gather and use strong evidence to form both the basis of what we do, and to define key messages and recommendations for action to improve the lives of Gypsy and Traveller families.

Understanding negative stereotyping

The Media that Moves initiative aims to gain a deep understanding of the systems that perpetuate negative stereotyping of Gypsies and Travellers, analysing key influences on the media, the stories they produce and the “frames” of Gypsies and Travellers that emerge.

The study, conducted for LGT and Leeds Gate by the Public Interest Research Centre (PIRC), is drawing from more than 30 interviews with Gypsy and Traveller representatives, journalists, editors, and academics, and an analysis of existing research and resources. Using this knowledge, and through a series of workshops within the community, PIRC is examining how current patterns of thought and influence can be broken.

Challenging perceptions, changing lives



London Gypsies and Travellers team

Staff

We would like to say a big thank you to all members of our staff team and farewell to those who moved on during 2021.

Debby Kennett, Chief Executive

Ilinca Diaconescu, Policy and Campaigns Coordinator

Lauren Tapp, Community Development Worker (until July 2021)

Tom Margetson, Community Development Worker (from Dec 2021)

Mena Mongan, Community Engagement Officer

Tracie Giles, Community Campaigner (until Sept 2021)

Liza Dodds, Youth Development Worker (until Sept 2021)

Amber Scott, Youth Support Worker (From Sept 2021)

Belle Tidswell, Youth Development Worker (From Dec 2021)

Geraldine Lindsay, Skills Development Coordinator

Warren Lee, Accommodation Advice and Advocacy Worker

Richard Lush, Administration and Operations

Board of Trustees

Sarah Taylor, Chair

Marian Mahoney, Vice Chair

Richard Bennett, Treasurer

Tunji Makanju

Stephen Cottle
(until July 2021)

Claire Cooper

Tessa Buchanan

Holly-Gale Millette

Sarah Edwards

Giorgio Mariani

Mark Penfold

Helena Kiely-Savin



Accounts

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations	2	325	272,374	272,699	276,531
Investment income	3	155	-	155	657
Other income	4	6,055	-	6,055	7,570
Total		6,535	272,374	278,909	284,758
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Policy/ Strategic Development		850	98,323	99,173	157,225
Youth		904	46,523	47,427	45,879
Community Development		2,720	126,654	129,374	112,736
Total		4,474	271,500	275,974	315,840
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		2,061	874	2,935	(31,082)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		168,711	35,804	204,515	235,597
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		170,772	36,678	207,450	204,515

Funders during 2021

Irish Government Emigrant Support Programme

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

London Borough Of Hackney

Lloyds Bank Foundation

Trust For London

BBC Children In Need

London Community Response Fund

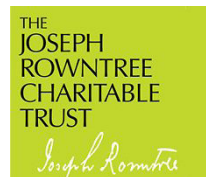
The Henry Smith Charity

The Baring Foundation



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs



**LONDON
COMMUNITY
RESPONSE FUND**



**LONDON
GYPSIES &
TRAVELLERS**



**The Baring
Foundation**

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Company No 3585698
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