

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**LONDON
GYPSIES &
TRAVELLERS**

Challenging perceptions, changing lives



A message from the Chair

LONDON GYPSIES & TRAVELLERS

Since becoming a trustee in 2020 and then taking on the role of Chair of the Board this year, I have been blown away by the dedication of LGT staff and trustees to improve the lives of Gypsies and Travellers in London.

One of our priorities is to tell the community directly about the changes that will seriously affect them, using language that can be easily understood. We do this throughout our media work, outreach and daily conversations. For me, this has been incredibly important. Having become involved in LGT at the age of 16, I know the power that communication and outreach have to change the lives of individuals and benefit the whole community.

LGT's approach is to provide a place of acceptance, creating opportunities for involvement by Gypsies and Travellers so that they can bring change for their community. Getting involved opened my eyes and raised my aspirations.

Over the past year, I have been struck by the significance of our legal work. It worries me that so many in my community are not even aware of how the law is being used to threaten our way of life. LGT not only communicates this but challenges it through the courts. This work will determine what the lives of young Gypsies and Travellers are like in the future.

I always leave trustees meetings with a sense of gratitude to those running the organisation. It was their dedication that inspired me to take on the role of Chair – something I never thought I could do. Now we need more Gypsies and Travellers to ask themselves what they can do to contribute and steer the organisation at a time when the future of our community is under threat as never before. I hope you will join us.

Helena Kiely-Savin



People we have worked with this year

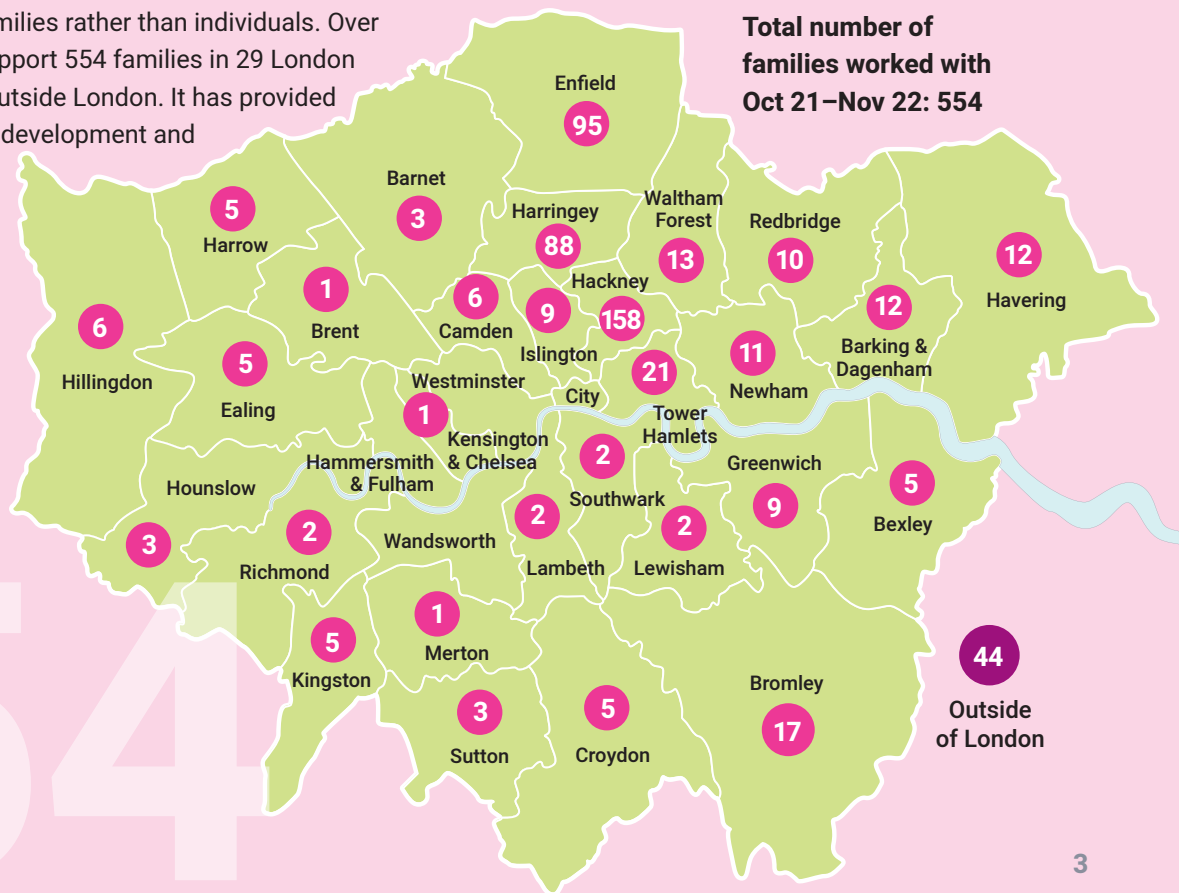
LGT normally works with families rather than individuals. Over 2022, LGT has worked to support 554 families in 29 London boroughs, and 44 families outside London. It has provided advocacy and advice, youth development and community development.

**Total number of families worked with
Oct 21–Nov 22: 554**

Advice & advocacy
373

Youth development
80

Community development
132



PART 1

Supporting, empowering, providing opportunities

Meeting accommodation needs

Through our accommodation advice and advocacy work, we aim to increase the social inclusion of Gypsies and Travellers living in houses, on sites and roadside camps in London.

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

We played an important role this year in the Mayor of London's assessment of the accommodation needs of

Gypsy, Traveller, Showmen and Roma people – submitting evidence and supporting members of the community to take part and complete surveys.



The initiative will show the need for different types of homes in the next 10 years, so that new sites, stopping places and better homes can be provided.

Stacey's story

In March 2022 Stacey and her three children had to leave their accommodation, fleeing domestic violence. The council offered them unsanitary and unsafe temporary housing, 20 miles away from Stacey's family support network. We advised her to ask for a review of her housing situation and supported her with communications. Five months later Stacey told us she had been offered a nice rented maisonette 10 minutes from her mother's home which she had accepted.

"Thank you for doing the job you do. It really helps us out especially when I'm under so much stress."

Stacey



WATCH the accommodation needs assessment film



Addressing domestic abuse

The Phoenix Arise programme

The Phoenix Arise programme supports people experiencing domestic abuse. Referrals often come directly from families or via social services or other domestic violence services. Weekly sessions take place in-person or by phone.



The work is tailored to individuals and families working through issues together in a safe and confidential space. A total of 14 families engaged with the programme in 2022.

Workshop and film

In February, LGT hosted a workshop delivered by the Traveller Movement, centred around a screening of their film about domestic abuse “Never Going to Beat You”. The workshop provided recognition for the Phoenix Arise programme, gave an opportunity for women to talk about their experiences, and made clear that social services needed to have a better understanding of the challenges that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities face daily.

“The biggest achievement was giving the women a voice. We could hear their stories and witness their passion and fire. They felt they had to do something to try and change the ongoing discrimination and educate social workers to raise awareness of the challenges faced in the community.”

Geraldine Lindsay, LGT’s Skills Co-ordinator

Bright futures for young people



Through our Bright Futures programme, we strive to increase opportunities for young Gypsies and Travellers, helping them gain the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to make informed choices for their future.

We passionately believe that enabling young people to have a voice is crucial in the struggle of Gypsy and Traveller communities for recognition and equality. We work directly with Gypsy and Traveller young people in groups and through one-to-one support, providing outreach to families on caravan sites, in housing and on roadside camps.



"I absolutely loved it. They were so nice and made everything sound so easy. I loved being able to make things and be able to say: I made that."

Jason, a participant on a [metalwork course](#) organised as part of the Bright Futures initiative

"There is more than one way to make a living out of scrap metal. The workshops familiarised the students with a number of metalwork processes, so they feel confident using tools, basic welding, grinding and shaping hot metal."

Metalwork course organiser Belle Tidswell, LGT's Youth Development Worker

80

young people accessed the Bright Futures programme

38

have since accessed education or employment

during 2022

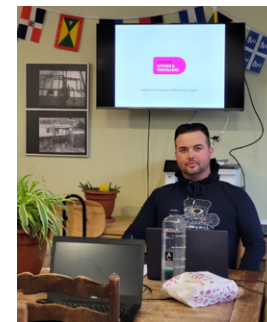
Community campaigns mentorship



The Moving for Change professional mentorship programme seeks to provide training and work experience for members of Gypsy and Traveller communities.

LGT secured funding through the programme to create a new learning role and recruited Irish Traveller Dan Cash as

a Community Campaigns Mentee. The mentorship provides the opportunity to learn both within the organisation and through external training, to gain a range of skills, knowledge and practice in community development, campaigns and communications work.



"The mentorship has given me so much knowledge about the way that LGT works. I have enjoyed working with my colleagues and learned a lot from my mentors. I have met some great people and seen a lot of different sites in London. I hope I can inspire other Travellers like myself to stand up and make a change."

Dan Cash

PART 2

Influencing policy and law

Working with the London Assembly

In June, LGT hosted a site visit and community meeting to inform members of the London Assembly Planning and Regeneration Committee about the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities. The committee visited a Hackney site and then joined a community meeting nearby. This was an opportunity for politicians to see an example of site accommodation and listen to community members' experiences of the accommodation crisis and everyday racism.



The meeting was well attended by residents from local authority sites and bricks and mortar housing from Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Haringey and Newham, as well as representatives from Southwark Travellers Action Group and the Traveller Movement.



**WATCH the film
about the visit**



Highlights of work with the London Assembly

LGT has hosted three London Gypsy and Traveller Forum meetings in 2022. Subjects covered include:



Mental health impacts on Gypsy and Traveller communities



The new London Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment



The cost of living crisis

We are involved



9 London Assembly Members attended the Forum meetings across the year.



Between December 2021 and 2022 there were 27 questions

asked by Assembly Members on issues concerning Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Londoners.

Areas included in questions include:

- accommodation
- mental health
- discrimination
- hate crime
- services for women
- services for young people

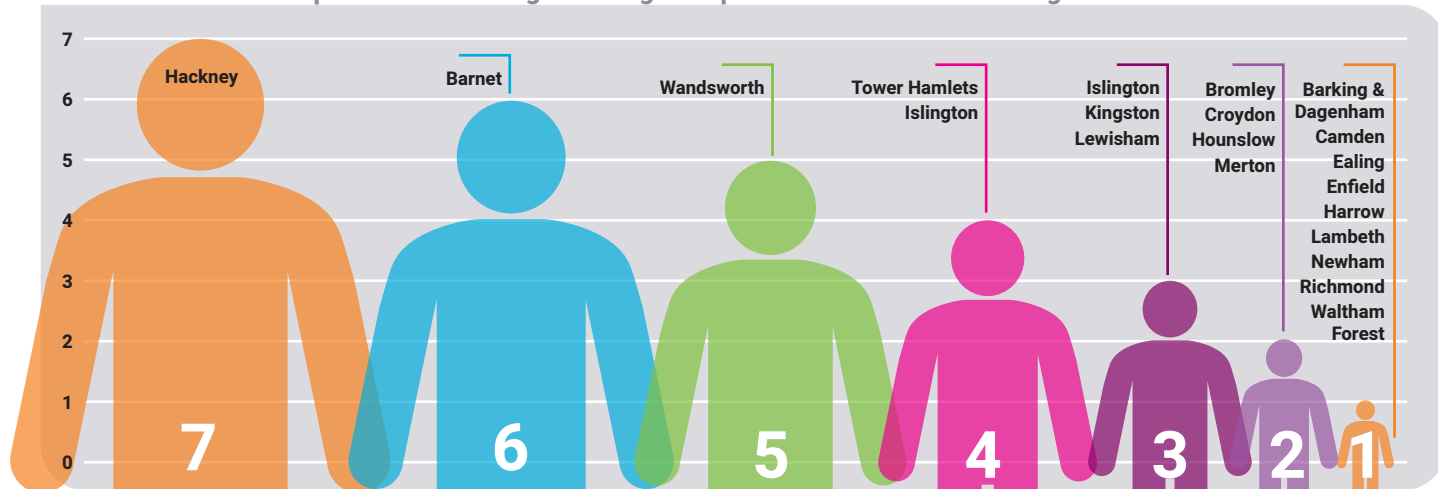
Council elections

In the run-up to the London local council elections on 5th May, LGT launched an election pledge campaign asking candidates to take a stand against the racism and discrimination that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities continue to face. A total of 49 candidates signed the pledge, with many sending messages of support in videos and on social media.

"Racism and prejudice needs to be tackled head-on in every borough. Local authorities should be at the forefront of ensuring that happens. Local authorities also have a critical role to play in ensuring there is equitable access to services and proper engagement with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities."

Hina Bokhari, Liberal Democrat London Assembly Member

Number of candidates per London borough who signed up to the Local Election Pledge 2022



Campaigning



LGT launched a campaign to highlight how draconian laws have eroded the lives and culture of Gypsies and Travellers, and how

the introduction of the new Police Act is effectively criminalising the lives of nomadic people.

Named “Nowhere left to turn”, the campaign is centred around [a new LGT video](#), showing the reality of Gypsy and Traveller lives and how over many decades local authorities have failed to fulfil their legal responsibilities to provide authorised family pitches or sites for Gypsies and Travellers. The film calls on local policy makers to act to address these issues.

It was made by a working group of Gypsies and Travellers with On Our Radar, a film company that specialises in projecting the voices of marginalised communities. LGT has held two screening events with local councillors, using



the film as a starting point for dialogue and to raise awareness among politicians about the shortage of sites and stopping places.

“I’m very pleased with the end result.”

The first time I saw the film, it was a bit of a shock seeing myself talking, but then I got really drawn in. It’s just the truth and how we live. It’s what we want to see more of.”

Mena Mongan, who featured in “Nowhere left to turn”



WATCH the film

Legal challenges to discrimination

Over the year, LGT continued its legal fight to uphold the rights and way of life of Gypsies and Travellers.

LGT and other organisations representing Gypsies and Travellers were granted permission by the Supreme Court to continue their legal challenge against councils' use of "wide injunctions" preventing Gypsies and Travellers from stopping on public land. The move follows a Court of Appeal judgement in January 2022 stating that courts could grant injunctions to prevent unidentified groups of people from occupying land.

There was a significant victory for Gypsies and Travellers in a separate court case, also supported by LGT. This was a challenge to the current planning definition of "Traveller", which means that those who have permanently stopped travelling for work due to a disability, health condition or age will not get planning permission on their own

land or have their accommodation needs assessed and met. The challenge was brought by Romany Gypsy Lisa Smith.

In November, the Court of Appeal ruled that the effect of the planning definition was discriminatory.



"This case both exposes and recognises the discrimination Gypsies and Travellers face in the planning system"

Debby Kennett, LGT Chief Executive, after the Lisa Smith case victory

"The nature of the discrimination...was the negative impact on those Gypsies and Travellers who had permanently ceased to travel due to old age or illness, but who lived or wanted to live in a caravan. This discrimination was inextricably linked to their ethnic identity."

The Court of Appeal ruling in the Lisa Smith case

PART 3

Building understanding



Traveller History Month

In June, LGT marked Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month with many activities. We flew the Roma flag at Islington Town Hall to mark the start of the month, co-hosted a history month celebration at London City Hall and opened our LGT Traveller Histories exhibition at the Exchange Erith in Bexley.



Celebrating heritage

In October, we celebrated the long contribution of Gypsies and Travellers to community life in London by taking part in the unveiling of a blue plaque in Wardley Street, Wandsworth, where members of the community have lived and worked since Victorian times. Among those present were the Hilden brothers (pictured) who were residents of Wardley Street as children.



Challenging perceptions, changing lives



Working to change media coverage

The Media that Moves report

In January, LGT along with Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange (Leeds GATE) launched an important new report analysing the media's negative stereotyping of Gypsies and Travellers and proposing new ways forward to tackle discriminatory coverage.

Based on 30 interviews with journalists, editors and activists, and on workshops with the Gypsy and Traveller community, the report examines the key role of the media in systems

*"Stuff about Gypsies sells in terms of the amount of clicks you get and the amount of advertising revenue you can get off the back of it."
"Prejudice is a business model."*

Journalists interviewed for the report

that perpetuate exclusion and discrimination, what the main influences on the media are, and where their narratives come from. Its proposals range from organisations working with journalists more closely to build

Research findings will fuel much-needed change

"This report is just the beginning. Our aim is for Media That Moves research findings to become the backbone for multiple projects and much-needed change within the media." Ilinca Diaconescu, LGT Policy and Campaigns Coordinator

understanding, to challenging the powerful media systems that perpetuate long-held misunderstandings and bigotry.

Throughout the year, LGT and Leeds GATE facilitated discussions and learning based on the report with a new group open to Gypsies and Travellers interested in media and communications work, as part of the Moving for Change network.

www.londongypsiesandtravellers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Media-That-Moves-Full-Report.pdf



Working with the media

As in previous years, LGT worked with responsible media to try and educate the public about the reality of Gypsy and Traveller lives and the challenges being faced by the community.

Among our most successful collaborations was one with journalists from the *Financial Times* newspaper, who wanted to make a film about the problems Gypsies and Travellers

face accessing banking and insurance services. The resulting video presented testimony from Gypsies and Travellers and financial experts to show how the community is being financially excluded – with many people being refused car or home insurance because they live on sites rather than at addresses that are deemed “permanent”. Among those featured were LGT Board member Marian Mahoney and Accommodation Advice Support Worker Warren Lee.



“The community is organising to curb abuses, but the financial services industry continues to insist there is no fundamental problem.”

Robert Wright, *Financial Times* journalist



**WATCH the
FT video**



London Gypsies and Travellers team

Thanks to our brilliant staff team and trustees.

Debby Kennett, Chief Executive

Ilinca Diaconescu, Policy and Campaigns
Coordinator

Tom Margetson, Community Development
Worker

Mena Mongan, Community Engagement Officer

Dan Cash, Community Campaigns Mentee (from
May 2022)

Geraldine Lindsay, Skills Development
Coordinator

Amber Scott, Youth Support Worker (until March
2022)

Ivana Golianova, Youth Support Worker (from
May 2022)

Belle Tidswell, Youth Development Worker (until
March 2022)

Warren Lee, Accommodation Advice and
Advocacy Worker

Olli Wells, Accommodation Advice
Triage Worker (from Feb 2022)

With great appreciation for the
vital freelance support from:
Rich Lush (operations),
Eunice Onyema (finance),
Fran Ferris-Ockwell (fundraising),
Simon Crompton (media and
communications)

Board of Trustees

Helena Kiely-Savin,
Chair

Richard Bennett,
Treasurer

Marian Mahoney,
Vice Chair

Sarah Taylor
(until July 2022)

Tunji Makanju

Claire Cooper
Tessa Buchanan
(until Feb 2022)

Sarah Edwards

Mark Penfold
Holly-Gale Millette
(until March 2022)

Giorgio Mariani



Accounts

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31st March 2022.

LONDON GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations	2	26,156	195,587	221,743	272,699
Investment income	3	82	-	82	155
Other income	4	2,250	-	2,250	6,055
Total		28,488	195,587	224,075	278,909
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Policy/ Strategic Development		12,024	72,515	84,539	99,173
Youth		7,453	41,021	48,474	47,427
Community Development		21,380	104,235	125,615	129,374
Total		40,857	217,771	258,628	275,974
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(12,369)	(22,184)	(34,553)	2,935
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		170,772	36,678	207,450	204,515
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		158,403	14,494	172,897	207,450

Funders during 2022

Irish Government Emigrant Support Programme

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

London Borough of Hackney

Lloyds Bank Foundation

BBC Children in Need

The Henry Smith Charity

London Community Response Fund

Trust for London

The Oak Foundation (in partnership with FFT)

Moving for Change

Kickstart Scheme

Civil Society Roots Fund (National Lottery

Community Fund)



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs





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Charity No. 1072111
Company No 3585698
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