



Calderdale & Kirklees Baseline Census

Gypsy & Traveller Communities

January – February 2015

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The report authors would like to say a special thank you to community enumerators who worked very hard to collect this information, you did a great job.

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1** Leeds GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Exchange) were asked to deliver a Baseline Census across the local authority areas of Calderdale and Kirklees. The aim was to explore the numbers of Gypsy and Traveller people living within the area, their ages, the types of accommodation they live in and begin to build some qualitative data about accommodation preferences.
- 1.2** Using best practice when working with hidden and marginalised communities, the project was delivered using Chain Referral Sampling technique, whereby community members conduct interviews and survey participants grow the sample by referring others in. A number of other methods were also employed to seek information such as visiting key locations and internet research. The conclusion details learning from the surveying process.
- 1.3** A total of 51 surveys were conducted over a 2 week period, counting 174 persons. Participants were found to live across a range of accommodation, more rural areas having more privately owned "yards". There were consistent messages about a historical lack of site provision and problems with planning systems leading many people to move into housing or move out of the area. The distribution of roadside camps over the surveying period (none in Calderdale, three in Kirklees) reflected anecdotal evidence that Calderdale council had a strict policy of moving camps on quickly.
- 1.4** The majority of people were under 25, with few over 65. This corroborates other national reports and data indicating a relatively low life expectancy and a young population.
- 1.5** A range of additional qualitative information was gathered through conversations with residents, professionals and community members. This is presented in the report. The key emergent themes are around the historical connection Gypsy and Traveller people have to both areas, the difficulties the community had faced in getting planning permission to live in both areas and the strict attitudes to Roadside encampments.
- 1.6** A range of recommendations are explored, including:
- a)** Services should work to build relationships with Gypsy and Traveller communities in order that future research and service delivery can be undertaken by local services. As a first step the results of this report should be shared with a variety of services such as Public Health, CCG's & Healthwatch, Housing Services and Education Services.
 - b)** Key areas have been highlighted in this report but further research is necessary to explore the accommodation needs and health needs of this community in order to deliver competent services. The needs of this community should be incorporated into the wider strategic plans of both authorities such as the Joint

Strategic Needs Assessment, increasing their visibility to policy makers and commissioners.

- c)** In considering what accommodation is needed, co-production and asset based models should be explored, utilising the skills and knowledge of community members to co-design solutions.
- d)** The local authorities should consider how some of their pitch allocations can be met by small private sites and review their planning policies accordingly, working with families applying for planning to co-produce community solutions and therefore removing barriers.
- e)** The local authorities should be mindful of the push and pull factors affecting the choices community members make about their accommodation. Many of those spoken to did not see their accommodation type or their location as a choice and felt that if choice had been available they may have opted to live differently.
- f)** The local authorities should be mindful of the current and emergent need identified through the age analysis and consider how it provides suitable accommodation for this emerging need.
- g)** The local authorities should consider best practice from neighbouring local authorities, in particular in its provision for Roadside Families learning from the example of Leeds City Council in its Negotiated Stopping policy. See Appendix 4&5

2 Project Brief

- 2.1** Calderdale and Kirklees Local Authorities contracted Leeds GATE to conduct independent research to establish the baseline position of Gypsies and Travellers within both local authority boundaries. The Baseline Census covers all types of accommodation existing within the boundary, including housing, sites and unauthorised encampments.
- 2.2** Leeds GATE are a community members organisation for Gypsies and Travellers based in Leeds with connections across West Yorkshire. Drawing on best practice in work we have delivered in Leeds we developed a project using community enumerators to deliver local survey work to establish the number of Gypsies and Travellers, how old they are, where they live and what type of accommodation they live in. This primary research is intended to complement the work currently being undertaken by both councils on their Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, strengthening its evidence base and providing comparative data.
- 2.3** The survey also seeks to establish relationships with Gypsies and Travellers across Calderdale and Kirklees, which can inform the development of future work. As far as we are aware no such outreach exercise has been attempted in the area previously and services who traditionally have strong engagement with Gypsies and Travellers (Voluntary Sector Projects and Travellers' Education Teams) are not delivering within the area.

3 Introduction & Background

- 3.1** Gypsies and Travellers (other than New Age or travelling Showpeople) were recognized as an ethnic group (Race Relations Act 1976) in 1989. The Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 extends the civil protection Gypsies and Irish Travellers should expect from local and national authorities and institutions. This legislation is now reinforced by the European Union Human Rights Act 1998 (UK Oct 2000). (See Section on Ethnic Identity)
- 3.2** For the first time the national census undertaken in 2011 included specific ethnic monitoring on Gypsies and Travellers. Although recognised as ethnic groups since 1989, 'Gypsy' or 'Traveller' were not separate categories in either the 1991 or 2001 national censuses conducted by the Office for National Statistics. This has meant that these populations have been largely invisible to policy makers and commissioners.
- 3.3** The assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs is now a statutory requirement under section 225 of the Housing Act 2004. Local Authorities use this information to inform a Gypsy and Traveller strategy within their Local Plan. Examination in Public by the Planning Inspectorate of Local Plans has indicated that Inspectors are keen to satisfy themselves that Local Authority Gypsy and Traveller strategies are robust and based on credible effort, including to identify people who are unknown to services.

- 3.4** The Gypsy and Traveller Strategy within the Local Plan will provide a guide figure for the development of appropriate accommodation for local Gypsy and Traveller populations, providing pitch calculations which will guide planning policy and decisions for the coming 15 years. The importance of getting this right for both local communities and local planners cannot be underestimated. Appropriate provision could save a significant amount to the public purse in evictions, planning applications and enforcement and deliver culturally appropriate accommodation for local Gypsy and Traveller populations.
- 3.5** Calderdale and Kirklees local authorities were mindful of the need to provide robust information to inform their accommodation needs assessment and other work within the local authorities. There is no obvious starting point for seeking to gather this information as neither local authority manages a site and there are no private sites of significant size, the absence of any local organisation with strong relationships with Gypsies and Travellers across the area compounds the need to gather basic information about the community in an accessible way that promotes trust and builds relationships.
- 3.6** Drawing from other examples of local best practice (Leeds Baseline Census, 2004, Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, Leeds City Council, 2014) a project was designed between Leeds GATE and Calderdale and Kirklees Local Authorities to deliver a Baseline Census across Calderdale and Kirklees; using snowball sampling methods and community connections, to establish comparative figures on population size and some qualitative information about accommodation preferences and experiences.
- 3.7** This survey method uses personal contacts between Gypsy and Traveller communities to identify and contact people who otherwise might be described as 'unknown'.

4 Ethnic Identity

- 4.1** The Baseline Census seeks to survey Gypsy and Traveller persons. There are different groups within the UK that live a travelling lifestyle but they don't always share the same heritage and cultural practices or identify as an ethnicity. Gypsies and Irish Travellers are protected as an ethnic minority under the Race Relations Act and the Equalities Act and it is this context that acts as a backdrop to local authorities responsibilities to make provision for culturally appropriate accommodation provision. Below is a brief overview of identities which will provide clarity for the scope of this piece of work which is to survey "Gypsies and Travellers" which covers Romany /English Gypsies, Irish Travellers and Scottish Travellers.
- 4.2** Included in surveying:
- a)** Gypsies, or more correctly, **Romany Gypsies** – Whilst the origins of Gypsy people are still open to some debate it is generally agreed that there is a group or groups of people who left India over a thousand years ago and dispersed across the globe. Along the way they were defined (usually by others) as being 'Egyptian' and this has become

shortened to Gypsy. Gypsy people began occurring in UK records in the 16th Century and have settled here ever since. Romany is the word that Gypsy people in England and Wales apply to themselves hence the term 'Romany Gypsy'. This term is not used to describe more recent incomers to the UK from Central and Eastern Europe, generally described as Roma. Romany Gypsies are recognised as an ethnic minority group in UK Law (Race Relations Act (amended) 2000 and Equalities Act 2010)

- b) **Irish Travellers** – Irish Travellers, whilst having much in common in terms of lifestyle and to some extent shared history with Romany Gypsy and Scottish Gypsy Traveller people, have a different ethnic route and do not come originally from India. The best evidence available suggests that Irish Travellers (or Pavee as they refer to themselves) have been a distinct ethnic group within Irish Society, possibly for millennium. Whilst the numbers of people living as Travellers in Ireland may have swelled during the so called 'potato famine', it is clear that this distinct group existed long before this time. Irish Travellers are recognised as a distinct group in UK law as above.
- c) **Scottish Gypsy Travellers** – Travelling people in Scotland, whilst sharing much in common with other Travelling groups have recently been recognised as a separate ethnic group in Scotland. The origins of Scottish Gypsy Travellers may be linked to Romany Gypsies *and* Irish Travellers as well as having some distinct routes of their own.

4.3 Not included in surveying:

- a) **Showmen** – Families with a tradition of living and working in travelling fairs are usually described as Showmen. This group has not campaigned to be recognised as an ethnic group, preferring to be regarded as a trade group – many are members of the 'Showmen's Guild'. Showmen are recognised in UK law, particularly planning law. **Circus People** can be regarded as similar to Showmen although the trades are often different.
- b) **New Travellers** – This term is used to describe people who live a travelling lifestyle but whom are not ethnically defined as Gypsies, Scottish Gypsy Travellers or Irish Travellers. The lifestyle choice may have routes as far back as the end of the Second World War but is more commonly connected to the rise of festival culture since the 1960s. Some New Traveller families have lived a travelling lifestyle for several generations and no longer regard themselves as part of the 'settled' population.

5 Gypsies and Travellers in Calderdale and Kirklees: What do we already know?

- 5.1 Having conducted snapshot surveys of Gypsies and Travellers in Leeds, evidence indicated that a number of families across Leeds had familial and historical connections to areas across Calderdale and Kirklees. The evidence from this canvassing was enough for Leeds GATE to be confident that there were families living across the area and that we had some in-roads into finding them.

5.2 Other evidence publically available in relation to population size includes National ONS Survey of 2011 and the West Yorkshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2008.

5.3 Both local authorities will have access to caravan counts as another data source although the accuracy of these figures are widely questioned by civil society groups.

6 ONS Survey Data

6.1 The category of Gypsy and Traveller was included in the National Census 2011 for the first time. The figures are provided here, however, we need to acknowledge various issues with this as a representative data set, some are listed below:

- a)** Fear of self ascription and unwillingness to self ascribe
Given histories of discrimination, many Gypsies and Travellers prefer to go "below the radar" and would not want to reveal their ethnic identity.
- b)** Literacy
There are high rates of illiteracy in the Gypsy and Traveller community meaning without significant investment from trusted organisations in helping people to understand and complete the census, it is unlikely people would complete or self ascribe if they did complete.
- c)** Introduction of a new category and a new concept
Drawing on the experiences of other ethnic communities we can learn that initial attempts to record ethnicity were problematic (1971 was the first census to include ethnic monitoring and it was a failure). Extensive consultation and engagement were undertaken with other communities before self ascription became a common practice.

National ONS Census Data

Table 1

Area	Gypsy and Traveller	Whole Population	%	
England	54895	53012456	0.103%	

<http://www.ons.gov.uk>

Local ONS Census Data

Table 2

Authority	Gypsy and Traveller	Whole Population	%
Calderdale	80	203826	0.04
Kirklees	158	422458	0.04

<http://observatory.kirklees.gov.uk>

<http://observatory.calderdale.gov.uk/>

The data is further broken down by accommodation type:

Table 3

Authority	Total: Accommodation type	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Calderdale	80	63	9	8
Kirklees	158	141	14	3

<http://observatory.kirklees.gov.uk>

<http://observatory.calderdale.gov.uk/>

The data is further broken down by household:

Table 4

Authority	Total: Accommodation type	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Calderdale	41	31	7	3
Kirklees	55	47	6	2

<http://observatory.kirklees.gov.uk>

<http://observatory.calderdale.gov.uk/>

7 West Yorkshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

7.1 In 2008, the then West Yorkshire Regional Housing Partnership commissioned Sheffield Hallam University to carry out a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment for the West Yorkshire region. This covered the five West Yorkshire authorities of Leeds, Bradford, Kirklees, Wakefield and Calderdale.

7.2 The survey gives an in depth analysis of the accommodation needs across the 5 local authorities and makes recommendations for site provision, the survey was delivered in conjunction with a wide range of organisations and representatives from various Travelling communities.

7.3 For the purpose of this report we will highlight the local insights offered into population size and accommodation preference. Provided below is a summary of key points from the Local Authority Survey and the Gypsy and Traveller Surveys conducted (please note, there are discrepancies in the survey results from each source as explained further in the WYGTA report).

8 Local Authority Survey:

- a) There are no socially rented sites across the two local authorities

- b) 4 authorised private sites (with a total of 12 pitches) are listed for Kirklees and 0 for Calderdale
- c) 0 unauthorised developments are listed across the two local authorities
- d) The number of roadside encampments is noticeably low across the two LA's (especially when compared to neighbouring local authorities) with Kirklees stating 14 and Calderdale 0 for the year 2006
- e) The WYGTA (para 3.3.6) estimated a Bricks and Mortar population of 40 households for both Kirklees and Calderdale

9 Gypsy and Traveller Survey, Interviews conducted with Gypsies and Traveller Households taken from West Yorkshire Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment:

Table 1

Accommodation Type	Calderdale	Kirklees
Bricks and Mortar	10	4
Socially Rented Site	0	0
Unauthorised Development	1	1
Unauthorised Encampment	1	0
Private Authorised Site	2	1
Other	2	0
Total	16	6

10 Methodology for 2015 Baseline Census

- 10.1** Building on past experience and best practice when working with Gypsies and Travellers a research method called snowball sampling (or chain-referral sampling) was used. This grows the number of participants, with existing participants recruiting future subjects so the sample group appears to grow like a rolling snowball. The method is often used to target hidden populations such as Gypsies & Travellers, drug users or sex workers, in particular populations who would have limited trust in a surveyor approaching them.
- 10.2** The issue of trust has been key to this project (see Learning from Project section for further information on how this affected surveying). The design was based around creating situations that were unobtrusive and generated trust. Histories of discrimination have made many people wary of talking to statutory authorities about the needs of their community. This can be particularly acute for issues of accommodation given broken promises regarding site provision and people's desire for anonymity, especially when their way of living is termed unauthorised (roadside encampments, developments without planning permission). This is why the use of community enumerators was vital to the project's success in generating trust.

- 10.3** Given low literacy rates in the community, the questionnaire was designed so that both community enumerators and participants would be able to understand the questions, graphical representations were added to aid understanding (See Appendix 1). The questionnaire was limited to 5 questions and 1 page in length, this was particularly important in engaging community members in completing the survey both in terms of the time it would take to complete and the invasiveness of the questionnaire.
- 10.4** It was decided that the only identifying feature recorded on the questionnaire would be the first three digits of a postcode. This anonymity was hugely influential in getting participants to complete surveys. Enumerators could begin with a statement such as "Your name won't go on this, all we need are the first three digits of your postcode." This encouraged a more open conversation as participants were less wary of where their information would go and how it might be used.
- 10.5** Attached to the surveys were two detachable slips which recorded contact information, the first was for a prize draw (an incentive to complete), the second for further contact from the local authorities regarding accommodation. These slips were physically removed from the questionnaire in front of participants. A flyer was left with participants to pass onto family or friends and a letter explaining their participation and what would then happen with the information (see Appendix 2)
- 10.6** One of the difficulties of snowball sampling is ensuring there is no duplication in interviewing. Enumerators were selected who had quite distinct family and social links and each enumerator assigned each questionnaire an individual code. Recorded against this code in a separate book is an identifying feature for that participant, enumerators are then able to cross reference as a project group before submitting surveys.
- 10.7** In addition to snowball sampling method we also identified locations to visit and gathered a range of qualitative information in the following ways:
- a) Site visits were conducted on neighbouring local authority sites to discuss what residents knew about the Calderdale and Kirklees population and find leads
 - b) Interviews were conducted with relevant services such as Education Inclusion teams, Community Centres, Health Services
 - c) Places where community members are known to gather were visited by community enumerators, such as Horse Sales and Church Services
 - d) Social Media was used to raise awareness of the project amongst community members
 - e) Flyers were left in a variety of key locations and with survey participants

- f) A search of planning applications for caravans was conducted and whittled down to a relevant list through community knowledge (names, locations, google earth searches), resulting in a list of locations to visit.

10.8 There were two weeks of direct surveying work delivered and the project had a life of 5 weeks with the additional weeks being used for project planning, training, analysing results and writing up the report.

See Appendix 6 for the full data analysis.

149 individuals were counted in Kirklees and 29 in Calderdale.

11 Additional Information

11.1 In addition to the surveys conducted, a range of qualitative information was gathered throughout the project. This was recorded through regular project meetings with Community Enumerators whereby experiences and local knowledge were shared with project co-ordinators; through notes taken at site visits; through telephone interviews with professionals; through conversations with members of the public and online research. We have brought together this additional information into themes below.

Table 2

Postcode	Note
HX3	Yard with large chalet. Visited with community enumerator but nobody home.
HX3	Yard with caravans and chalet. Visited with community enumerator but unable to complete a survey.
WF12	Yard. Visited with community enumerator but nobody home to fill in survey.
HX6	Yard with several trailers. Family known to GATE.
BD11	Yard known to community enumerator.
WF17	Yard known to community enumerator.
HX3	Yard known to community enumerator
HX3	An estate where community enumerator believes a lot of Travellers live in housing.

Table 6 above represents locations identified by community enumerators where they were unable to survey.

12 Historical Connection to Place

12.1 A key theme drawn out in our surveying and interviews was a historical connection which Gypsies and Travellers have to the area. It was stated by a number of sources that the physical presence of Gypsies and Travellers across Calderdale and Kirklees had been eroded over time through a lack of provision and the negative attitudes of authorities towards Gypsies and Travellers. There was a perception that they had been pushed out of the area around 30 years ago and subsequent policies had acted to keep them out.

Case Study 1

"A lot of people were born in Dewsbury hospital - 30 or 40 people I know, they wouldn't have taken them there unless they lived nearby. But they don't live there now because they all got put out."

Community Enumerator

- 12.2** Certain families were said to have particular historical connections to Calderdale and Kirklees.

Case Study 2

"<Family Name1> it's their home ground."

"<Family Name2> they lived there for years and years, they've gone now though"

Community Enumerators

- 12.3** We conducted a search of publically available birth, marriage and death registers for Calderdale dating back to 1832 and found some key family names (names we know to be Gypsy and Traveller names) present on records. Interestingly some of these names relate to families who are currently resident in the area. Although we recognise this is not conclusive it is an interesting addition to a body of evidence suggesting a long historical connection of Gypsies and Travellers to Calderdale and Kirklees.

Case Study 3

"The beast market fair in Huddersfield happened every Easter Monday, it was a Travelling people fair. It got done away with when everyone got shifted out of the towns about 30 year ago."

Community Member

13 Planning

- 13.1** Concurrent with the opinion that Gypsies and Travellers had been "pushed out" of Calderdale and Kirklees was the opinion that in large part this was because there had been either inadequate provision for those wishing to live in trailers or an openly hostile attitude to those seeking planning permission to live in a trailer.

Case Study 4

"We were promised a site 32 years ago on Leeds Rd in Huddersfield. If they'd made that site me and my family would have lived on it, now we're all scattered. We moved away to get on a site."

Community Enumerator

Case Study 5

"I've known lots of Gypsy people over the years but Gypsy people have been pushed out of this area due to planning."

Resident in Greetland

Case Study 6



Land in WF17. Owned by Travellers who have tried to get planning permission passed but failed.

There were several families (more than 20 people) that used to live at Northbridge and at Deanclough in trailers.

"Years ago we all used to stop in Halifax, near Dean Clough and North Bridge, we stayed at the top of Dean Stone Lane and also on the ground near to what is Eureka. We stopped in that area all year round, quite a few of the women from the camp used to work at the Rowntrees factory."

The council said they would build a site, around 25 years ago. They had the money and they bought the land but they didn't build a site.

Then the people had to get moved off up the road into houses. There are families round there living in houses, it's the Travellers that got moved up there into houses.

"It all changed about 35 years go around the time the mills all shut, the enforcement from the police and the council got heavier, a lot of the families either moved into houses or moved away."

Case Study from interviews with Community Members in Leeds and Bradford

Case Study 8

One survey participant said he would like to run a site, he already owns a few yards but would take on the running of a local authority site

Case Study 9

Mr T owns land in Kirklees. Mr T says he would apply for permission to live on the land he owns but he knows he will not get it due to that fact that a more simple application to replace the existing barn was really difficult.

The land next door to him has been developed for a riding stables with livery. The land is directly on the border so across the road is Bradford authority where there are a number of developments – chatting to his neighbours Mr T says that development permission has been easier to ascertain from Bradford CC.

Case Study Community Member

13.2 It did seem that planning had been a real barrier to people settling in an area in which they wanted to live and in many cases saw as their home place.

Case Study 10

"[I don't want to give first bit of postcode because] when we first put in for planning there was a petition against us with 1000 names on it, I get on with my neighbours now but want to keep my head down".

Survey Participant

14 Roadside Provision

- 14.1** People that we spoke to (community members, residents and professionals) were consistent in the message that both local authorities dealt with roadside encampments in a more regressive/stricter way than other local authorities and that this was evident in the statistics around roadside encampments.

Case Study 11

"In the 2008 report it says there aren't any encampments (Calderdale), that's because people get shifted in a couple of hours."

"We found the stopping place in Heckmondwike where we all used to stop but it's all shut off now"

"You see the newspaper reports on encampments all the time and then the caravan count comes in so low. It makes you think they clear the camps before it."

Community Enumerators

Case Study 12

We've got to be off for 8pm and we only want to stay until tomorrow morning. There's children not well on this camp.

We're not too bothered about skips and toilets because we only want to stop for the weekend but we're being moved on now.

We're just passing through, we've stopped in stopping places round here for years.

We got this letter from a Bailiff and it's really threatening.

Conversations at a Roadside Camp in Huddersfield

Case Study 13

Key points were recorded from a conversation with a member of staff at the Specialist Learning Support Team in Kirklees, these backed up information given by community members.

Over the years, most Gypsy and Traveller families they have worked with tend to live in North Kirklees in areas bordering Leeds and Bradford. Some of these families do not come on their books as they attend schools in the Leeds and Bradford areas.

People who are on the roadside tell them that the treatment they get from Kirklees council is not as positive as when they move to Leeds or Bradford; they are more likely to be evicted quickly.

An example was given of one large family a few years ago who were living roadside in the area. At the time the school admission process was taking quite a long time, the family were being evicted from place to place within the Kirklees boundaries and every time a new application had to be submitted to a nearer school. This meant the family were not able to secure school places.

Interview with Specialist Learning Support Team – Kirklees

Case Study 14

Two community enumerators found out about a camp at Batley from a family member. There were 7 trailers. The families were quite transient and this was the first time most had stopped in the Batley area. However, a few of the members of the group had stayed in the area before. They have previously stopped around Kirklees and in Bradford too.

Information from a Roadside Camp in Batley

- 14.2** Included at Appendix 4 and 5 is information and a case study about the Negotiated Stopping Policy developed by Leeds City Council and Leeds GATE. The Policy involves engaging roadside families in negotiation to find solutions that work for whole communities, the policy has been recommended to the Mayor of London by the London Housing Assembly and Leeds City Council identified savings of £100,000 (in eviction costs) over a year long pilot of Negotiated Stopping.

15 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 15.1** The above surveying work and gathering of additional qualitative information can be seen as a credible effort to further understand the position and needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community across Calderdale and Kirklees. We do not believe this to be an exhaustive count of Gypsies and Travellers (see exploration below) but we do believe it to be a promising start to identifying the size and needs of this community.

16 Learning from the Project

- 16.1** Following discussions with our community enumerators the following learning points were identified for inclusion in the report:
- a) The presence of a community member was vital in generating enough trust to engage participants
 - b) Anonymity of the surveys was also key
 - c) The length of the questionnaire was important and for those that wanted to talk further it effectively opened up conversations
 - d) Face to face interviewing led to much richer data
 - e) Two weeks of direct surveying work were delivered over a 5 week project, given more time we believe we could have found more people as the additional leads show
 - f) The time of year meant two things; you were less likely to find roadside families travelling through the area but conversely you were more likely to find families at home within the area who may travel in summer. Throughout summer there are

also larger gatherings of people at events (such as Holmfirth Horse Market). Covering both times would lead to more representative data

- g) Flyers returned few results although they may have helped to raise a general awareness
- h) Community enumerator use of social media was very fruitful, organisationally this was much less so
- i) Many participants were wary of passing on their details to be contacted again
- j) Many participants were wary of passing on details of family and friends
- k) Some people were not Gypsies and Travellers but knew Gypsies and Travellers but were wary of passing on information
- l) Some people who we knew to be Gypsy and Traveller did not want to identify as Gypsy and Traveller

Case Study 15

Even when I visited some people related to me they were OK to talk to me but suspicious of giving out other peoples details, the snowball effect did happen but it would take longer to get proper trust.

When we were driving round areas we didn't know too well it was really useful to ask a local postman, they directed us to quite a few families in housing.

Sometimes it just helped to knock on a door and ask some local person, but what happened quite often then is that we were sent on a wild goose chase to see a few trailers that were lived in but not by Gypsies or Irish Travellers, there were quite a few New Travellers or non-Travellers living in caravans.

Comments from Community Enumerators

Case Study 16

"The perception is that all Travellers live with each other but they don't and never have so it's hard to get in. Most of the people I know lived in Dewsbury because that's where the work was and worked in normal jobs like in hospitals. They just blended in."

Community Enumerator

17 Population Size

- 17.1** As described above we do not believe this to be an exhaustive count however it does show that there is a significant population, given the number of people located over a two week surveying period, in particular when considering the issues of trust and other limitations outlined above.

- 17.2** There were an additional 7 yards identified during the surveying process but not interviewed. Community Enumerators believed they would have continued to find people had the surveying continued and believed that the roadside population would have swelled greatly over the summer period.
- 17.3** Described earlier in this report are issues around the collection of data about Gypsies and Travellers (for the first time) in the 2011 census, leading many civil society groups to believe this to be a big under estimate of population size.
- 17.4** The census data shown above demonstrates that those ascribing as Gypsy and Traveller in Calderdale and Kirklees was much less than the national ascription, with 0.04% of the local population as oppose to 0.1% of the national population ascribing. One uplift we can apply to the data is to uplift local figures to the national rate. These figures are represented in the table below:

Table 3

Local Authority	Bricks and Mortar	None Bricks and Mortar	Baseline Census	Local ONS Census Data	Local ONS Census data as Percentage of general population	Population estimate at 0.1% uplift
Calderdale	11	18	29	80	0.04%	203
Kirklees	35	110	145	158	0.04%	422

*Please refer to section 16 and 17.7 for an explanation of limitations to the data gathering exercise for the baseline census.

- 17.5** A report was produced in August 2013 by The Irish Traveller Movement in England to analyse the various available data on population sizes in response to ONS Census 2011 results. The report uses all available data sets including census, caravan counts and Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessments from Regional Spatial Strategies and Council of Europe Statistics. The report offers data comparators showing that the GTAA figure for population total in 2011 was 119,193, equating to over twice the 2011 census figure of 54,895 and the 2011 DCLG caravan count figure of 49,634. The report goes on to analyse data regionally suggesting percentage undercount based on a comparison between census and GTAA figures. The suggested undercount for Yorkshire and Humber is one of the highest at 63%. The table below demonstrates the application of this uplift to our local ONS data:

Table 4

Local Authority	Baseline Census	Bricks and Mortar	None Bricks and Mortar	Local ONS Census Data	Local ONS Census data as Percentage of general population	Application of 63% uplift to census data	Uplift as % of population
Calderdale	29	11	18	80	0.04%	216	0.1
Kirklees	145	35	110	158	0.04%	426	0.1

17.6 The report goes on to say that it believes the true figures to be significantly higher than represented in their research, and would see these figures as a minimum estimate. As shown above, the two calculations applied offer some consistency in suggesting a population of 0.1%.

17.7 Whilst the above gives us some indication of a population estimate, it must be stressed that this is an estimate. Further work to encourage self ascription in the next ONS Census, the recording of Gypsy and Traveller as an ethnic identity by Local Authorities and across Health services and investing in work to develop trust with these communities in order to know more about them are the routes to establishing more concrete data sets.

18 Key Recommendations:

- a)** Services should work to build relationships with Gypsy and Traveller communities in order that future research and service delivery can be undertaken by local services. There will be some bridging work to do to build trust as it was clear that many people had had negative experiences with statutory services, this can only be done with time and investment and through genuine partnership with communities. As a first step the results of this report should be shared with a variety of services such as Public Health, CCG's & Healthwatch, Housing Services and Education Services.
- b)** Key areas have been highlighted in this report but further research is necessary to explore the accommodation needs and health needs of this community in order to deliver competent services. The needs of this community should be incorporated into the wider strategic plans of both authorities such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, increasing their visibility to policy makers and commissioners.
- c)** In considering what accommodation is needed, co-production and asset based models should be explored, utilising the skills and knowledge of community members to co-design solutions.
- d)** The local authorities should consider how some of their pitch allocations can be met by small private sites and review its planning policies accordingly, working with families applying for planning to co-produce community solutions and therefore removing barriers.
- e)** The local authorities should be mindful of the push and pull factors affecting the choices community members make about their accommodation. Many of those spoken to did not see their accommodation type or their location as a choice and felt that if choice had been available they may have opted to live differently.
- f)** The local authorities should be mindful of the current and emergent need identified through the age analysis and consider how it provides suitable accommodation to these residents.

- g)** The local authorities should consider best practice from neighbouring local authorities, in particular in its provision for Roadside Families learning from the example of Leeds City Council in its Negotiated Stopping policy. See Appendix 4

Bibliography

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ONS National Census 2011: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/>

Gypsy and Traveller population in England and the 2011 Census, Irish Traveller Movement, 2013 <http://www.travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Gypsy-and-Traveller-population-in-England-policy-report.pdf>

Calderdale / Kirklees

PC ____ / Ref ____

1. How many people live with you? (including yourself)



.....People (not dogs!)

2. What are the age ranges of the people that live with you? (including yourself)

Age range	How many?	Age range	How many?
0-4		20-24	
5-11		25-44	
12-15		45-64	
16-19		65+	

3. What type of accommodation do you live in?

House Private Rented



Site - Private Rented

House Local Authority



Site/Yard - Owned

House Owned



Roadside



4. How happy are you with the place you live?



1

2

3

4

5



5 Is there anything you'd like to tell us about the needs of the people who live with you? (e.g. overcrowding, future needs, repairs etc)

6. Would you be interested in talking to your local council about future plans and provision for Gypsy and Travellers? Can we pass on your details?

Contact info —recorded separately

7. Do you want to be entered in the prize draw?

Contact Info—recorded separately

Thank you

Hello thank you for your time today.

Here is a recap about the project you have taken part in. Calderdale and Kirklees Council are about to start a big piece of work to find out about the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller people who live in their area. Leeds GATE are doing this little questionnaire first so they can have an idea of how many people they need to work with.

This is a confidential questionnaire. No information which can be used to identify you or your family has been recorded on this form. On a separate piece of paper we have recorded your details to make sure we don't ask the same family twice, this is for GATE only and will not be shared with the council, we have also taken your details if you want to be entered into the prize draw, this again is separate from the questionnaire. Both pieces of paper will be destroyed after the work has finished.

The only information we will share with your questionnaire is the first three letters of your postcode (eg HX1).

If you would like to be involved more to help the council make accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller people better then we will pass on your details, but this will not be linked to your questionnaire.

Thank you again for your time today, if you can think of anybody else in the Calderdale and Kirklees area that we can contact please pass on our details or ring us on 01132402444.

Gypsies and Travellers Living in Calderdale and Kirklees



Help us count how many Gypsy and Travellers there are living in the Calderdale and Kirklees areas. We don't need peoples names or addresses, just if your living in a house or a trailer. Help your local council plan for future needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities. And a chance to be in our prize draw!

Call Leeds GATE (we are a charity who work with travelling people in Leeds)



01132402444

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01132402444

Raw Data Comments relating to Question 5 of the survey**Kirklees**

1. Would like to stay – Living Roadside
2. Would like to not be moved off with nowhere to go – Roadside
3. Would rather be in trailer than a house but no choice – Private Rented House
4. Would have loved family to stay together but because we are in house we have all split up and don't see each other as much - Private Rented House
5. If there had been a site in Huddersfield I'd live there with all my family. But the council never built a site and we are now all scattered everywhere. If there was a site we'd all pull on. I don't have family around here now – Local Authority House
6. I live with family but would like to have a site – Local Authority House
7. We are happy in a house because we have a disability and can't live in a trailer – Local Authority House
8. Live with extended family. Really happy here – Site/Yard owned
9. On own site as we have health problems. Happy with where we are and don't want to be bothered – Site/Yard owned
10. Don't like being this far away from family – Private Rented Accommodation
11. Been here a long time - over 20yrs. bought it off another Traveller family – Site/Yard owned
12. We were happy, but had lots of problems with planning permission. Like the location but struggled with planning – Site/Yard owned
13. Good facilities locally, I love Dewsbury, we come by here every few years. We know people round here and it is popular with other people. Could do with skips and a toilet. We need a doctor and a dentist. One person would rather be on a transit site for electricity and water and one would rather stay where they are – Roadside
14. People in houses would move on a site (that I know). Looking after elderly parents with bad health. Would like skips and toilets – Roadside
15. Would love to live on a small site with my family. Wouldn't like a big site with other Travellers as I would feel unsafe. I used to be in trailer but there was nowhere to stop – Private Rented Accommodation
16. I love my flat. Everyone's close by and can pop around – Local Authority House
17. I've been here a while and won't be going anywhere now - Local Authority House
18. Me and my son. But we are close to my mum and dad - Local Authority House
19. Shifting on, on Sunday – Roadside
20. Only here until Sunday – Roadside
21. Going on Sunday – Roadside
22. Very suspicious of providing postcode. Took a long time to get planning permission. My married children are all in houses, but would prefer to live on council run site – Site/Yard owned

Calderdale

1. Not enough sites. Planning is very difficult. We lack space and need another shed. I would rather live in a Chalet than a house, but there is not room to build one. If

there was another site that would be good. Where are all the people who've been around here for over 40 years to go – Site/Yard owned

2. Unhappy because my trailer is too small and I can't stand up inside it - – Site/Yard owned
3. Very Happy – Private Rented Accommodation
4. Don't like the landlord and would prefer to be in a trailer or LA housing - – Private Rented Accommodation
5. We have bought a yard and built a chalet on it - Site/Yard owned
6. Live here because my elderly mum lives around the corner and I need to look after her – Local Authority House
7. Planning was refused. Surveyor passed it and Pickles called it in.
School/GP/neighbours all in support of the application, they signed a petition for us to stay, so did all our neighbours down on the estate. All G&T are in houses now because you can't get planning permission. There aren't any Travellers in yards around here anymore, there is one other yard 5miles up the road. There are some other Traveller kids at school - Site/Yard owned

Negotiated stopping - November 2014 Report

Update since 2012

Since the Holbeck camp and second negotiated site at Lincoln Green there have been a number of further negotiated agreements at various locations, ultimately leading to the Kidacre Street site and more formal arrangements we see today.

Taking us up to that point, we first find a challenge, namely in the Council finding an alternative site for the Lincoln Green camp to move to. Despite many months of searching by Council Officers and various suggestions repeatedly put forward by Leeds GATE and its members, no meaningful options arose. Residents of the camp were largely willing and able to move and to negotiate a new site but the Council, largely due to political pressures, were unable to propose a site which had sufficient political support.

The situation progressed after the Lincoln Green camp had been in location for a number of months, when the Council began taking possession orders late 2013, despite by their own admission failing to locate an alternative. The proceedings were challenged by a number of the residents on the camp with the support of Leeds GATE and some legal representation. This did not cease the proceedings but did achieve the provision of respite over the Christmas holidays, particularly due to health needs on the part of some members who would have been unable to move.

In early 2014, partly due to the ongoing possession proceedings and partly a desire to move to a new more appropriate site, those resident at Lincoln Green moved to a new location in Cross Green. As for previous sites, skips and toilets were provided, though possession proceedings were almost immediately issued.

There then proceeded a few months of the camp being moved around to a number of different locations, including Armley and Meanwood, at the instigation of members though will pressure from Council. Throughout this period the Council had no site to suggest for negotiation and there was an apparent lack of progress on the policy, with a return to previous Council practices of enforcement. Whilst the makeup of these different camps varied, with some families joining and leaving at different times, a core group of Leeds based families remained part of the camp throughout.

Despite little progress on negotiating long term stopping for these particular camps, the Council remained open minded to the concept and continued searching. Whilst present on these camps, the Council proposed some sites to the residents, which were rejected as unsuitable, usually with respect to both location and quality of ground surface. However, a breakthrough was reached in Spring 2014 when the Council sourced a previously unconsidered site at Crown Point.

The site was found just off an edge of city centre shopping park, previously a waste storage site decades ago. Its location was desirable to our members, both because of its proximity to the shopping services and its close links the motorway network. It also had a large amount of good quality hard standing surface, which has represented a key challenge to find elsewhere. The Council were encouraged that despite its proximity to the centre there were few residential dwellings and the site was well shielded visually due to its topography; the privacy of which was also welcome by our members.

Members negotiated directly with Council officers, facilitated by GATE, whereby the principle of the location was accepted but improvements were requested, such as extension of the tarmacked surface. These requests were accepted, with these improvements carried out to those already mutually agreed, such as significant vegetation cutback and waste clean-up. The investment was approved internally within the Council, based upon the savings which would be obtained through avoiding costs associated with their conventional treatment of unauthorised encampments. By their own figures, the works would justify their investment even if the camp remained for the few months in 2013. It has of course now well surpassed that date.

Once the initial improvements were delivered, those resident on the previous roadside camp moved onto this new site at Kidacre in late April 2014. Agreements were signed up by those resident and basic toilet and skip provision was made. As the months progressed, the skip was replaced by an individual bin service for each family and a water supply was eventually installed. Throughout, some families came and went, their negotiated agreements being addressed on a case by case basis. A set group of families have remained throughout the history of the Kidacre site though.

After a number of months the Council, as the land owners, were legally obliged to apply for planning permission to continue the use of the site in its current form. In June 2014 the Council applied for 12 months temporary permission (application attached). As the report demonstrated, the Council had recognised many positives to the current arrangement and strongly desired for the current camp to continue. It was also notable that the level of opposition was incomparably small in comparison to any other Gypsy and Traveller related planning application in Leeds in recent years.

The application was finally heard in early November 2014 and was not only granted a one year temporary permission but actually three years by the Planning Panel. This approval was conditional on their being further development of services and a clearer site management plan as befitting a more permanent arrangements. These conditions are naturally both welcome to the residents on the site. GATE has arranged for a discussion to be held between them and the Council to negotiate in more detail the development of services and the negotiated agreements.

Long term there is a question mark over the possibility of the site being made fully permanent. It not only finds itself close to gas works, a point repeatedly raised in the recent planning application, but on the HS2 route. Regardless, the prospect of at least three years permission and site improvements to follow is a massive step forward. There is also an open question regarding future negotiation whereby as the formality of agreements increases on Kidacre it would become more difficult for new families to join. This for GATE is not a weakness but rather an argument for why negotiation should be applied elsewhere in addition as and when required.

Key Points

- Even on sites which the Council were unwilling to negotiated stopping, basic services of rubbish collection and toilet facilities were provided.
- There have been setbacks and political will has presented a key obstacle to either maintaining momentum or making progress
- The Council were willing and able to invest a not insignificant pot of money into a potential site for negotiated stopping, using savings by avoiding legal and clean-up costs associated with conventional treatment of unauthorised encampments.
- Throughout, the members have led the negotiations and discussions, with GATE playing only a facilitating role.
- The success of the negotiated agreement has become positively reinforcing, with money saved able to be reinvested and the evidence of its success facilitating its time extension and greater development of formality.

Negotiated Stopping – a Case Study from Leeds, West Yorkshire

Negotiated – ‘an agreement reached by discussion’

Stopping – ‘a cessation of movement’

February 2013

Background

The 2009 West Yorkshire Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment identified a need for 40 new pitches in Leeds before 2013 and for a further 8 pitches before 2015 to accommodate population growth. No new pitches have become available during this period although there are several private planning applications pending and the Local Authority has notified of its decision to apply for planning permission to increase the 41 pitch local authority site at Cottingley Springs to 53 pitches. The local authority estimates that up to 12 homeless Gypsy or Traveller families are already living on Cottingley Springs ‘doubled up’ on pitches leased by family members, and that up to 12 families living on unauthorised encampments in Leeds are in need and eligible for accommodation in the city. It is this last group of families that are the subject of this briefing.

Between 2003 and 2010 Leeds City Council spent £2 million on ‘eviction and clear up costs’ associated with unauthorised encampment. Contact between the Local Authority and the ‘roadside’ Gypsy and Traveller families was limited to enforcement action to remove the families – with no attempts to identify acceptable locations for the families to move to. Locations of unauthorised encampments were increasingly inappropriate, including leisure use and church land, as previous camps were bundled.

Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange, a community members association, provides advocacy and development support to members living on the roadside. The organisation raised concerns about the health and wellbeing costs to the families living on unauthorised encampments, as well as the identified financial costs to the local authority, and uncalculated costs to the police force and health and education providers (missed appointments, school absence).

Leeds City Council Scrutiny Enquiry

In January 2011 LCC published the findings of the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Panel into Gypsy and Traveller site provision. The panel had received submissions from a range of contributors including Leeds GATE and directly from Gypsy and Traveller people living on Leeds unauthorised encampments. In the first of 12 recommendations, the Scrutiny Panel suggested that the authority should conduct a pilot ‘negotiated stopping’ scheme.

The first pilot of Negotiated Stopping in Leeds

In May 2011 the 'Leeds families' returned to camp on a location in Holbeck from which they had previously been evicted. The Chief Housing Officer was tasked to lead a review of the location with a view to initiating negotiated stopping.

The desirable criteria for the authority were:

- That the land was a 'defensible space' in that land available was restricted and any encampment therefore would be restricted in size.
- That there was some 'buy-in' to the project among local business owners, the police and elected members.
- The location was safe for the families and that they were prepared to stay there.

Although the site was an industrial area close to an area regularly used by on street sex workers, it was agreed that the pilot should go ahead. Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange acted as a facilitator to assist with the drawing up and signing (by heads of families, on behalf of named individuals in their families) of an agreement between the families and the authority. The agreement was to last for three months. As their part of the agreement the city council would provide rubbish disposal and 'portaloo' toilets for each family. The agreements were signed at Leeds GATE office. Leeds GATE also assisted with communication to local communities by facilitating access to the families for an article on the pilot which appeared in the Yorkshire Evening Post and via blogs on the Leeds GATE website.

The second negotiated stopping site

The Chief Housing Officer was determined that the council would stick to its word and that the camp would not remain in the Holbeck location beyond the agreed period. Support was gathered among relevant elected members, local businesses and neighbourhood policing teams for the camp to move to another location at Lincoln Green. A successful move took place. The camp has remained in its present location for four months, with elected members expressing that they were content for it to remain beyond 3 months. A further location is now being sought.

Issues arising and learning

- The City Council has estimated that it has saved in excess of £100,000 so far by not having eviction or clean-up costs associated with unauthorised encampment to deal with.
- There have been difficulties in persuading some police officers to abandon previous methodology which involved shifting the whole camp (use of Sec 62 CJPO 1984). This methodology hampered any attempts to initiate individual enforcement for anti-social or criminal behaviour. This difficulty has been informally reported in other areas where negotiated stopping has been used.
- The available locations for negotiated stopping have so far been in relatively undesirable mixed use, derelict and commercial land. The CHO has formed the

opinion (and GATE are inclined to agree) that in these locations families on the camp get 'restless' and therefore three months is an appropriate period of time for the agreement to last.

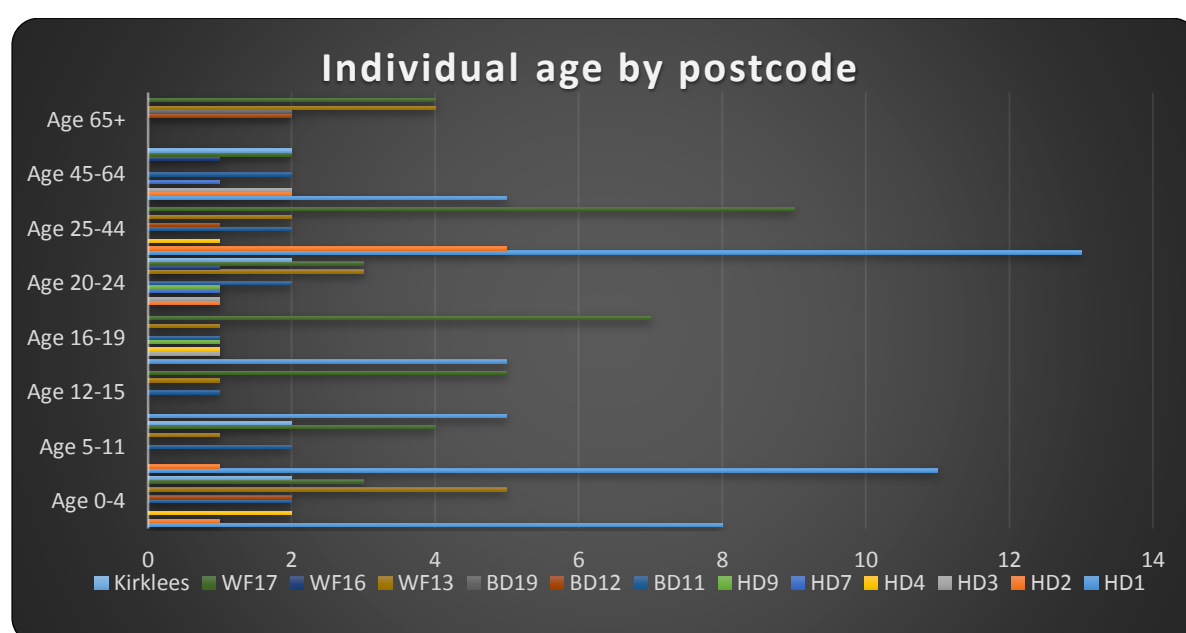
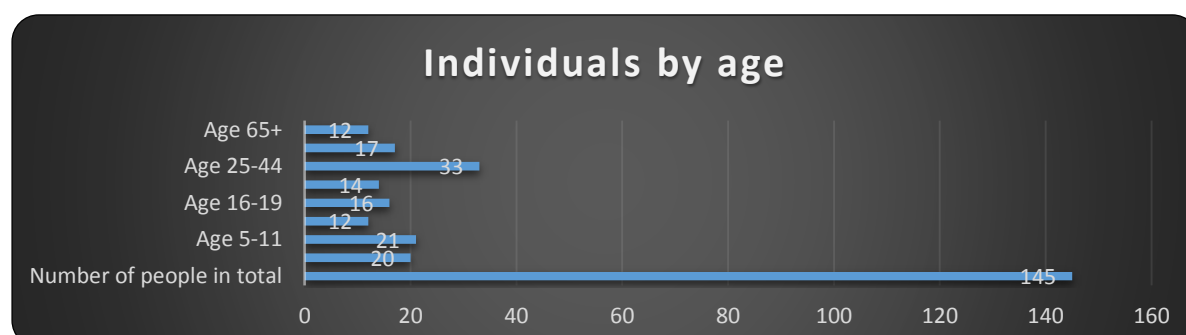
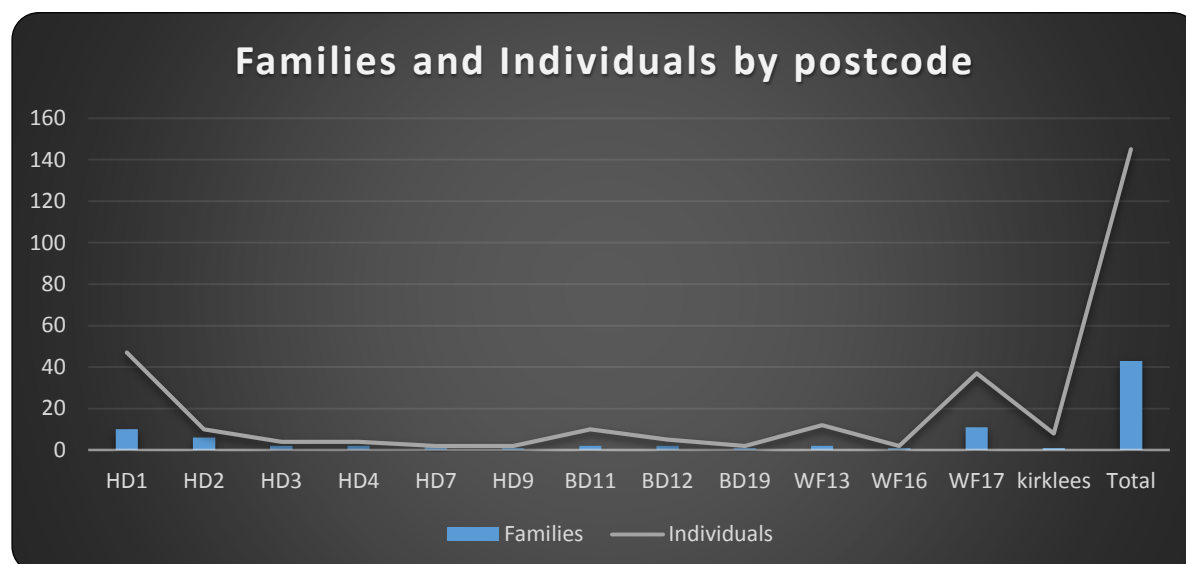
- The role of Leeds GATE as mediator has been helpful.
- Reducing difficulties associated with un-managed encampment has a beneficial effect on community cohesion and may reduce opposition to permanent site provision.
- Access to healthcare, education and training opportunities has significantly improved for the 'roadside' families as the pace of movement (eviction) has slowed.

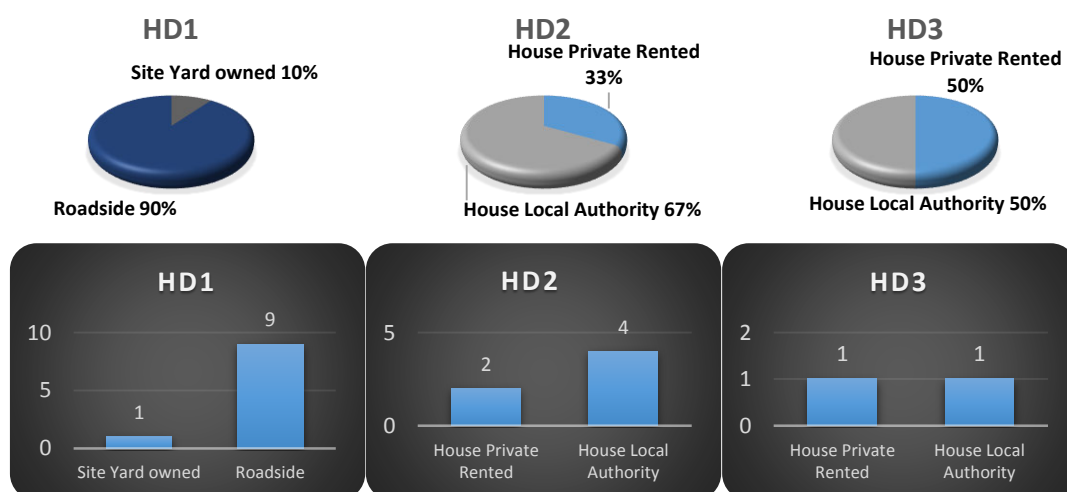
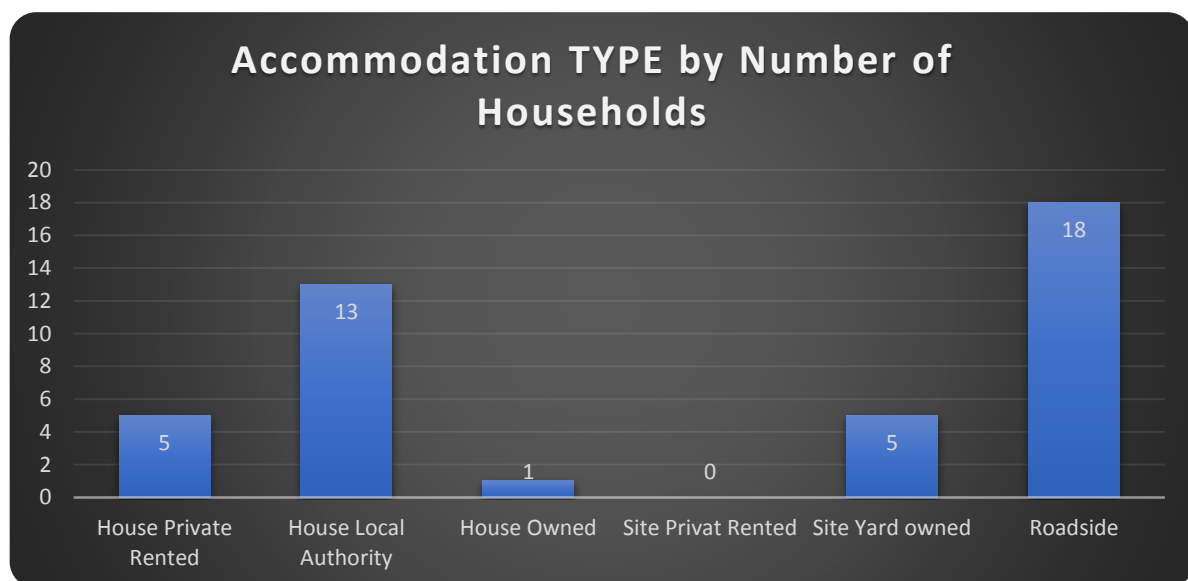
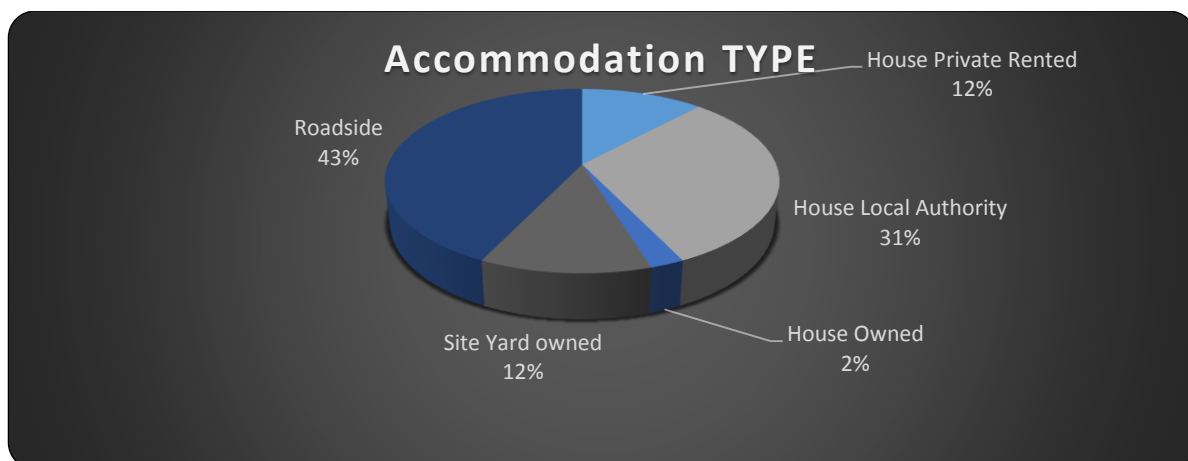
Evidence that an authority is engaging in negotiated stopping can be presented to court if, at any point, recourse to an application for a possession order becomes necessary. The police can also use Sec 62 of CJPOA, if the local authority has identified an area where residents of an unauthorised encampment can be directed to.

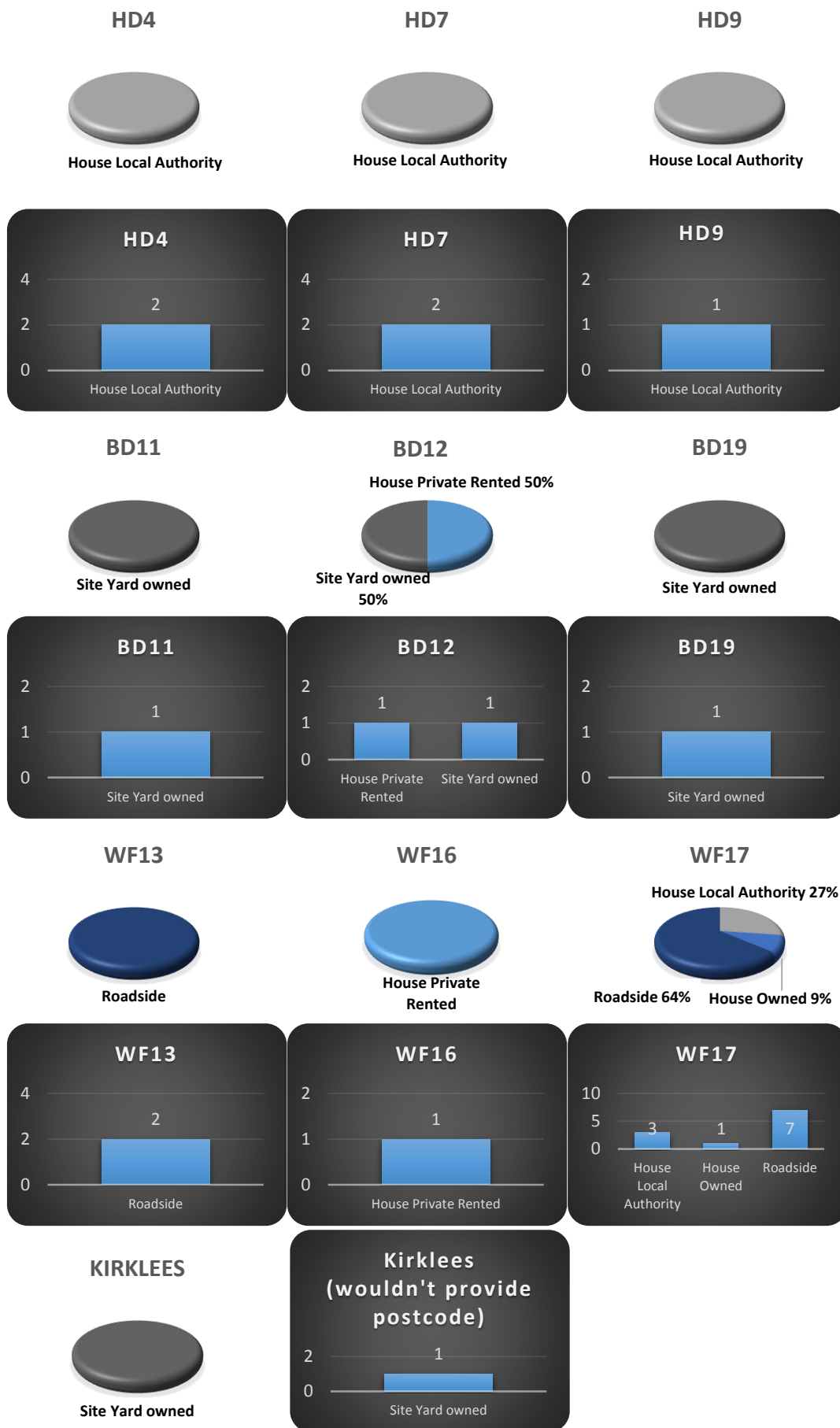
Survey Analysis

Kirklees Data

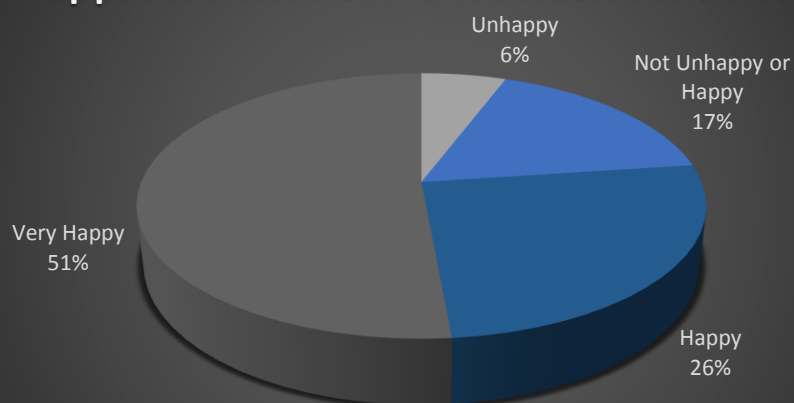
A total of 43 surveys were delivered and 145 individuals counted. The information is broken down below by key themes within the surveys.



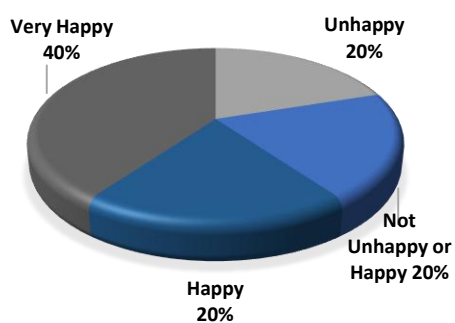




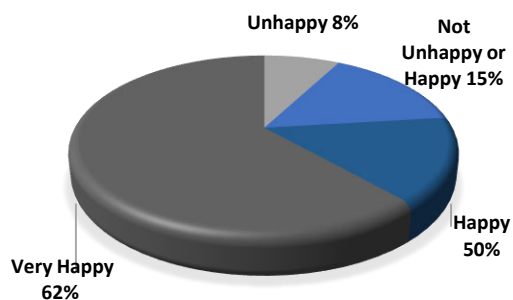
Happiness with current Accommodation



HOUSE PRIVATE RENTED



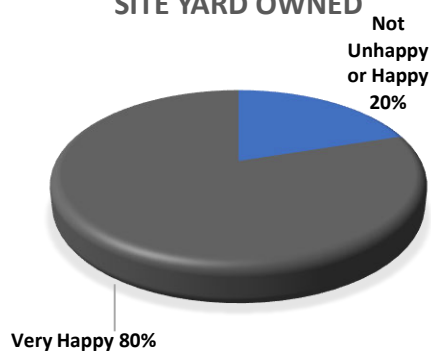
HOUSE LOCAL AUTHORITY



HOUSE OWNED



SITE YARD OWNED



ROADSIDE



Data - Emerging Themes

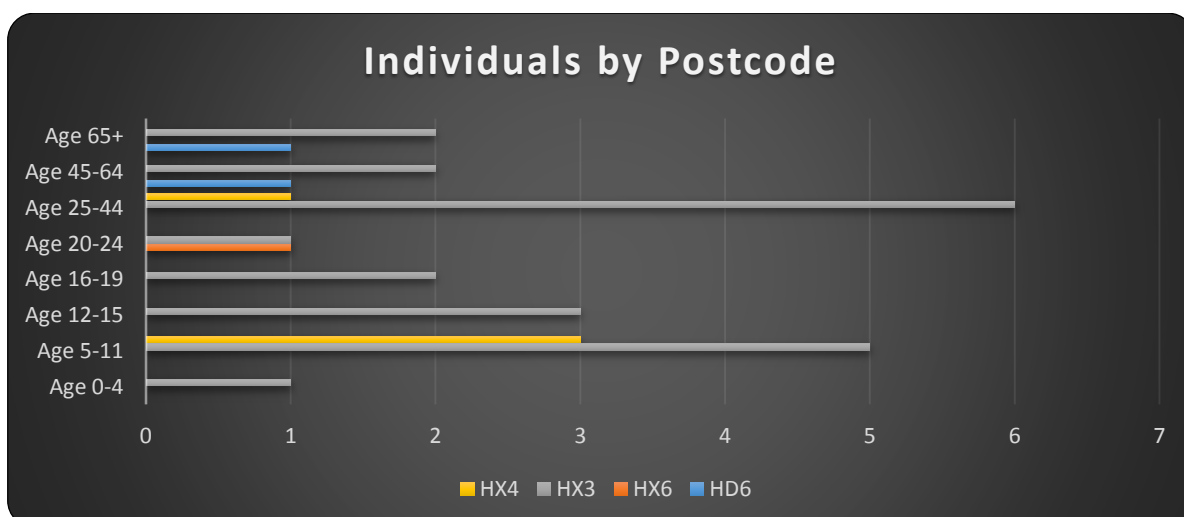
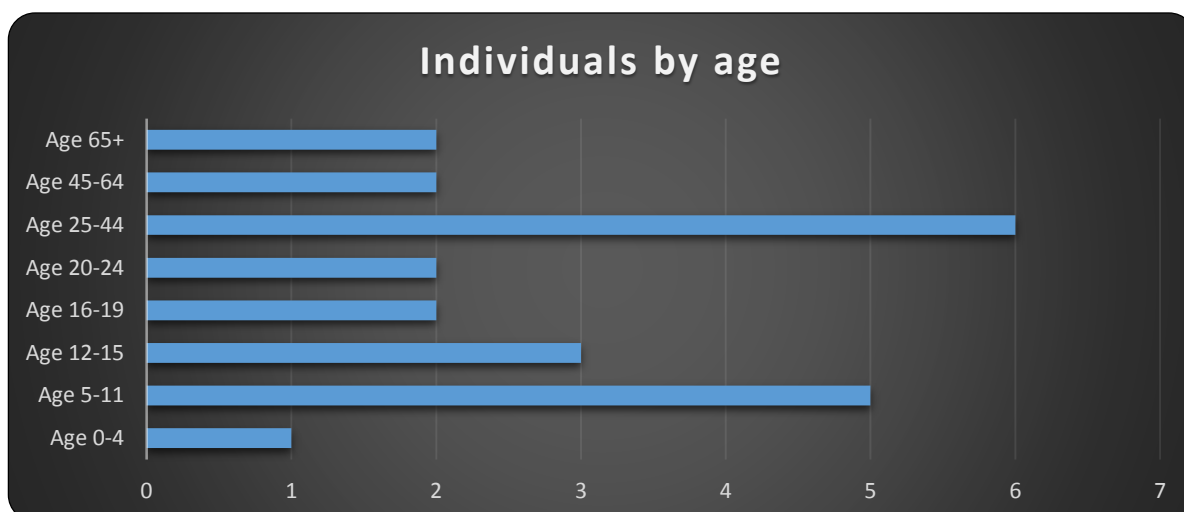
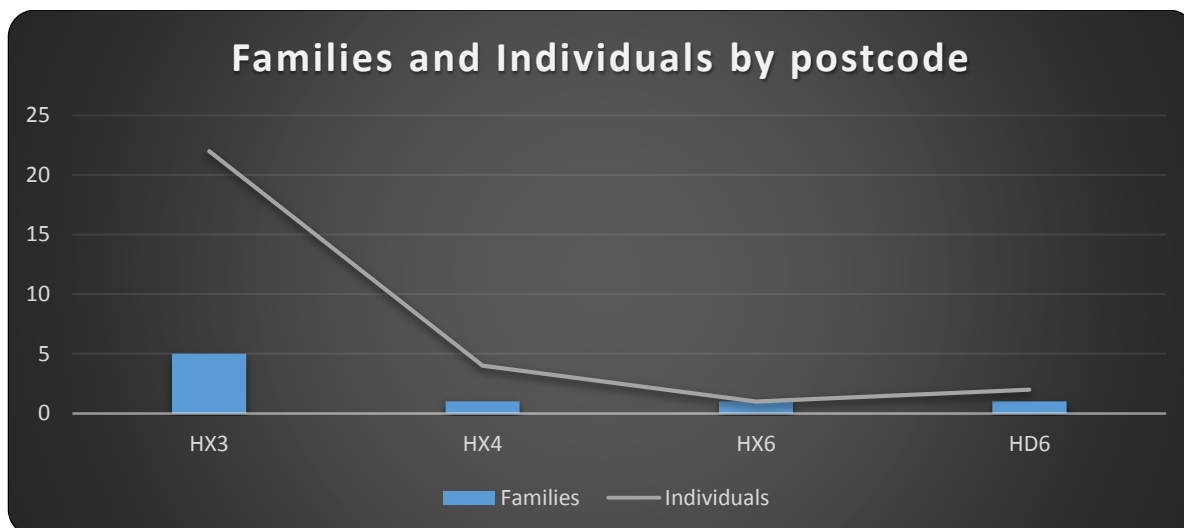
- The majority of persons were under 25, with few over 65. This corroborates other national reports and data indicating a relatively low life expectancy and a young population (Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers, 04). This has an implication for future provision of accommodation and services.
- Despite this being a time of year when people are less likely to be travelling there were a significant number of families living roadside, showing Kirklees to be a popular stopping place. It would be interesting to conduct a comparative count in the summer.
- Happiness scores are hard to draw conclusions from as enumerators commented people had different understandings of the question (e.g. - some people considered this to be in your accommodation, some people saw it to be in the area in which you live). People would comment they were very happy and then caveat this with further information, for example, "I'm very happy living roadside but I don't want to get shifted".
- The comments emerging themes section below further explores this and full comments on the data can be found at Appendix 3

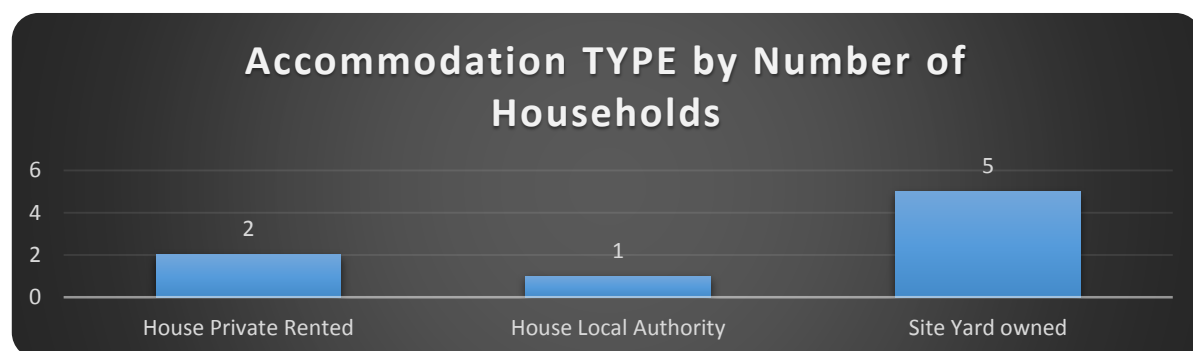
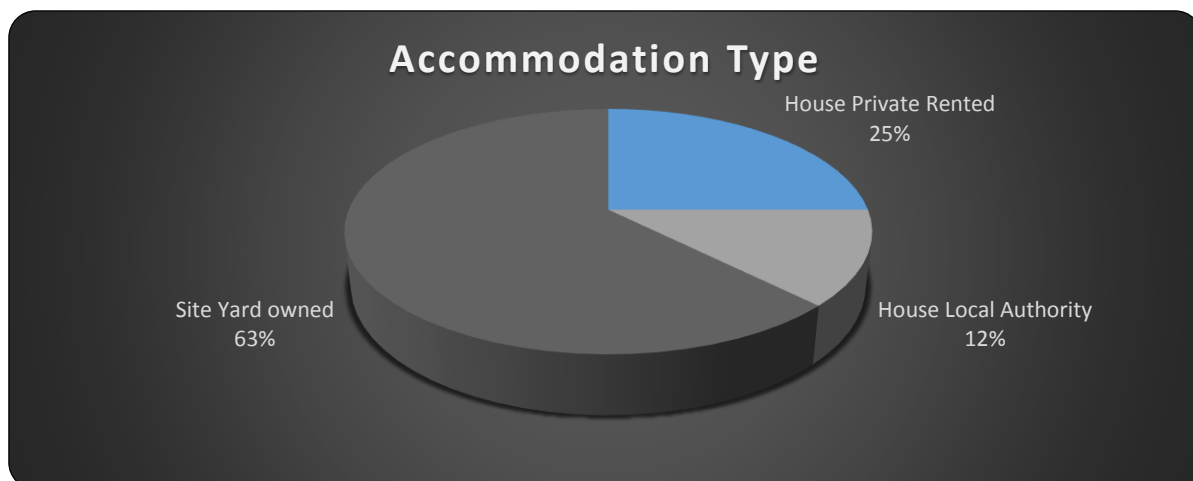
Comments - Emerging Themes

- Some participants living in housing stated if small local authority run sites were provided they would live on them, this would be their accommodation of preference. These families felt like they had no choice in their accommodation and this had also had an impact on family cohesiveness as families lived further apart.
- Some participants living in housing stated they lived in housing due to a disability which necessitated this move to bricks and mortar accommodation.
- Those living in their own yards stated how happy they were living there but that they did not want to be bothered. These families mentioned that they had great difficulty with the planning process, this had also lead to a wariness about divulging information, one family described wanting to keep their head down due to the negative attention their planning application had brought from other local residents.
- There was an identified need for sites for the children and grandchildren of those living in yards. Some of these had moved into housing as there was no room for them, some stated they would live on a local authority run site.
- Those living roadside commented that they didn't want to be moved off with nowhere to go and that they would like to stay for longer. Dewsbury was cited as a popular stopping place. Some roadside families said skips and toilets would be beneficial and some roadside families identified health problems and issues with accessing healthcare.

Calderdale Data

A total of 8 surveys delivered counting 29 individuals. The information is broken down below by key themes within the surveys.





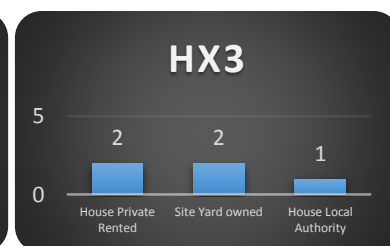
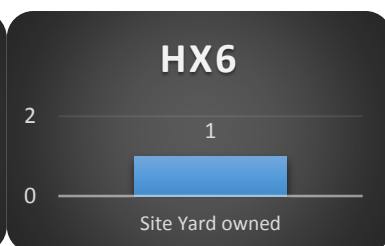
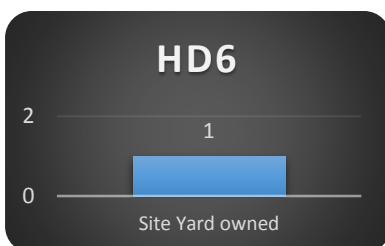
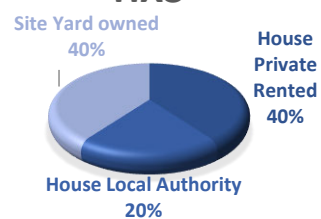
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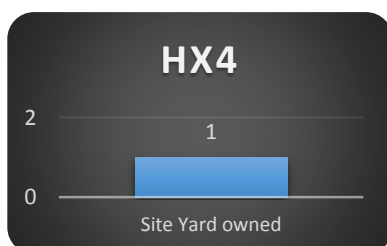
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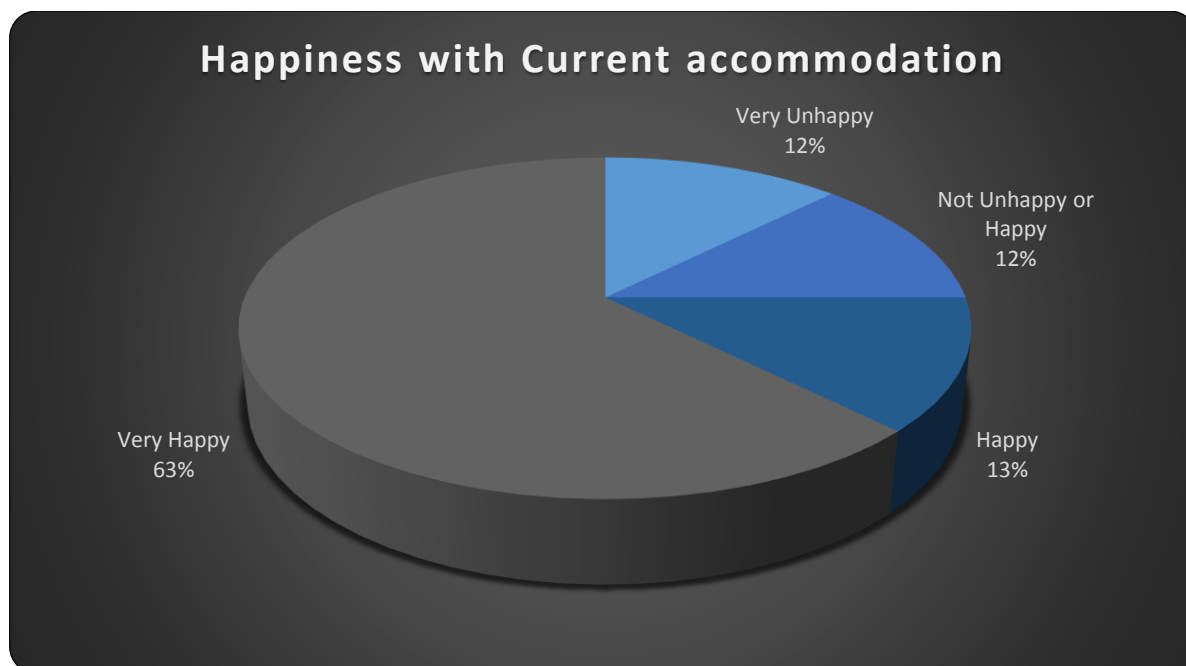


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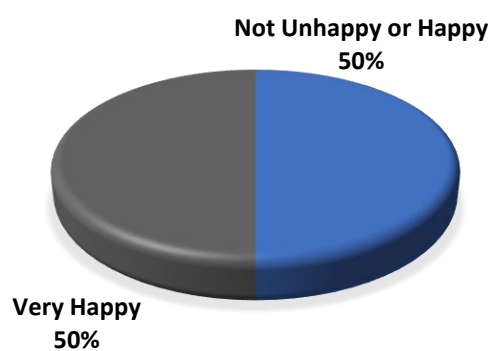


HX4





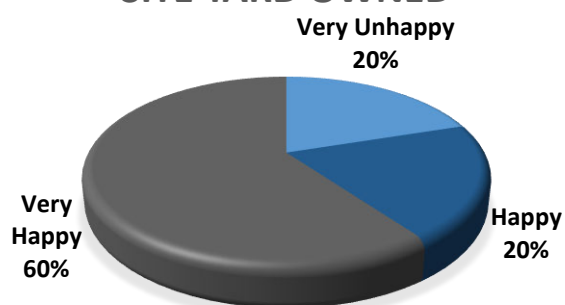
HOUSE PRIVATE RENTED



HOUSE LOCAL AUTHORITY



SITE YARD OWNED



Data - Emerging Themes

- The majority of persons were under 25, with few over 65. This corroborates other national reports and data indicating a relatively low life expectancy and a young population (Health Status of Gypsies and Travellers, 04). This has an implication for future provision of accommodation and services.
- The majority of people across the area live in owned sites or yards.
- Happiness scores are hard to draw conclusions from as enumerators commented people had different understandings of the question (e.g.- some people considered this to be in your accommodation, some people saw it to be in the area in which you live). People would comment they were very happy and then caveat this with further information, for example, "I'm very happy living roadside but I don't want to get shifted".
- The comments emerging themes section below further explores this and full comments data can be found at Appendix 4

Comments - Emerging Themes

- Respondents indicated a lack of sites has led people to move into bricks and mortar accommodation
- Respondents identified a need for more room on yards or sites to be provided so people could continue to live in trailers or chalets. This represents an emerging need for the children and grandchildren of those currently living in trailers.
- Respondents identified the planning process as the main barrier to people living as they wished. One family gave a case study whereby they had the support of the local community to stay there, petitions were signed by neighbours, GP's, teachers, parents at the school but they still did not have planning permission.