

Gypsies and Travellers

Group discussion led by Mary Tilki

From Seldom Heard to Seen and Heard

Issues	Solutions
<p>Low life expectancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rarely think of G&T as having dementia • High levels of self-reported poor health cardiovascular disease, chronic illness • High levels of suicide which impact on mental health of family • Highest level of informal care in England 	<p>Public Health interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better JSNA information on G&T communities • Targeted campaigns via trusted organisations • Information which does not require literacy • Train Gypsy/Travellers as lay health trainers
<p>Help seeking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not know about dementia • Only recently families making themselves known • Family carers unaware of where to seek help • Rarely ask for help until a crisis occurs 	<p>Reach out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not assume G&T will come for help, open doors will not work • Culturally sensitive dementia awareness by trusted professional/ G&T organisation • Information about services available
<p>GP/Health Care Professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registering with a GP is difficult • G&T will come back from travelling to see trusted GP, midwife, health visitor • Professionals reluctant to visit Traveller sites 	<p>Duty of care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge discrimination by GPs • Patient held records if travelling • Cultural competence training for GPs, receptionists, practice staff • Seek help to access sites via trusted professional or G&T organisation
<p>Social exclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still experience hostility and hate crime • Dementia makes travelling difficult, may be forced to settle • Settling leads to exclusion from Traveller ways as well as wider family and community • Housing stressful for Travellers 	<p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out what matters to G&T • Remember why they are suspicious • Use the term “memory loss” not Alzheimer’s or dementia • Remember travelling is in their blood and housing is rarely the answer • Support families to care in ways that work for them