Improving Health and Social Wellbeing

The Northamptonshire Countywide Traveller Unit (CTU)

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CTU

Northamptonshire Countywide Traveller Unit

What is the CTU?

- Operational since December 2003
- Multi agency team
- Represents and is funded by 6 District/Local Authorities
- Formal agreement to manage and co-ordinate work relating to the Gypsy and Traveller community across the county

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Working within the CTU

- Health Visitor is an integral part of the CTU team

Benefits

- Co-ordinate on a range of issues
- Access on up-to-date information
- Able to ensure health findings are understood by team
- Much less isolated

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Role of the Health Visitor

- Reducing inequalities
- Health care intervention
- Health assessment for CTU
- Facilitating role
- Identifying constraints and barriers
- Training
- Safeguarding issues for children and adults
- Having established Northamptonshire Traveller Action Group (NTAG), working to support and develop group

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Cultural attitudes to health and healthcare

- Misunderstandings
- Discrimination
- Working with healthcare system not designed to accommodate Gypsy and Traveller lifestyle
- Understanding and expectations of healthcare system

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Current health and access to services

- National research by Sheffield University (full report can be downloaded from http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/about/publications/travellers.html)
- Welsh Assembly report 2006 (**Cardiff University project ref IIH/2001/84500LHPW**)

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Current health and access to services

- Mental illness
- Greater needs
- Access requirement is in line with general population
- Published and unpublished work highlights problems in accessing primary health care
- Poor uptake = poor health

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Key Message

Every single PCT should have a specialist Health Visitor and supporting staff for Gypsies and Travellers in their county to enable: -

- Reduction in health equalities
- Continuity of care
- Immunisation uptake
- Access to mainstream healthcare
- Access to GP's to enable care to be given in long term chronic conditions.
- To give these vulnerable groups a better quality and longevity of life.

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Thank You

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Seconded to Countywide Traveller Unit

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