



ANNUAL
REPORT
2021/22





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History Month June 2022 - Our very first program for Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month, including community events, trips and engagement sessions for partners. Our community celebration had 60 members attend, with games, singing, lunch and a beautiful vardo.

WELCOME TO LEEDS GATE

Welcome to our annual report. You can read the highlights of our impact and delivery on our map & poster and more in-depth about our work, stories and people in this traditional annual report.



Our team work to improve the quality of life for Gypsies and Travellers across West Yorkshire.

We aim to improve health, homes, education & employment and social inclusion.

Everyone that accesses Leeds GATE becomes a member of our organisation, and our members lead our work. Our values guide us in all that we do.



[Read about Our Values here.](#)

This report presents highlights from our work across our four aims, a map of our activity across West Yorkshire and reports from our Chair, Treasurer and CEO.

We hope you enjoy reading about our work over 2021-2022.

Thank you to our members for your continued support.



OUR CEO'S STATEMENT

The organisation continues to grow both geographically, in the range of services it offers and in its learning. I am very proud of the hard work of our team, who always put our members first.

This year, our members have been impacted by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which criminalises nomadic life, the cost of living crisis, unsuitable living conditions on sites and discrimination.

Using our values, we continue to support our communities across West Yorkshire to push for change.

The last year has demonstrated the strength of our partnerships over time, with allies emerging across our systems to support our work and challenge harmful practices to Gypsies and Travellers.

Personally, I spent much of this year on leave as I welcomed my son into our family. I will forever thank Elizabeth, Sharon and Rachel for their hard work while I was off.

To our staff - you make me proud every day; your work changes lives.

ELLIE ROGERS



CHAIR'S REPORT

I am so proud of Leeds GATE, the organisation has grown massively and over the last year has seen great things happening. I would like to say a massive thank you to our funders and staff for their continued support and hard work. My thanks also go to all the board members who are also very supportive and involved with the running of Leeds GATE.

June 2022 saw our heritage day which had a great turnout and saw involvement from many members and funders it was a lovely day. In July we had a staff and board plus family members day trip to Whitby which I attended with members of my family.

It was very lovely to get together outside of work and meet family members the day was a great success and hopefully can be an annual event.

Leeds GATE continues to be a very highly regarded organisation and just keeps getting better.

Many thanks to everyone involved and here's to a very successful coming year.

ELIZABETH SPAVEN

ACCOMMODATION

Leeds GATE provides a range of advocacy support across West Yorkshire to help families secure and sustain accommodation.

We work strategically to influence the availability and quality of accommodation for our members. This is across stopping places, site accommodation, houses and planning.

We work with resident groups to improve sites through campaigning, running activities and community clear-ups.



JIMMY'S STORY

A LEEDS MEMBER



“There are not many places like GATE. It's good that people care about us Gypsies and Travellers.

We need GATE because years ago myself and the community had no support, but now we do.”

Jimmy lived in a care home during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. He shared that he feels “Leeds GATE have gone out of their way to support me on many occasions.”

When allowed, visits and contact with GATE team members Tom and Bernard meant Jimmy could say he wanted to return to his home. **“I felt I might never get out of the care home, but GATE never gave up on me and once I was back at my flat GATE helped set the flat up and make sure I had the support I needed.”**

Jimmy has some health issues that limit how much he can move around and how often he meets others, especially from his community. Jimmy has attended our Men's Group and has been able to form lasting friendships, listen to music together with other Traveller men and enjoy St. Patricks Day celebrations. He highlights, “These little things help take my mind off things. I am grateful that people care enough to listen and make changes for us.”

HEALTH

Leeds GATE provides advocacy support to access to healthcare for Gypsies and Travellers. We support people to live with dignity through navigating health-related benefits, adaptations and adult social care needs. We have a mental health and suicide prevention service which delivers intensive support.

We deliver community health development work to improve the information, assets and networks members have available to them. We work strategically to improve healthcare access, engaging in co-production and ensuring accessible pathways to support for our members.



“I suffer with anxiety and find it hard to mix, I worry a lot as well but now I've got to know you (Leeds GATE advocate) and I know you are about on site, I can just nip over.

I don't have to worry as much as you put my mind at ease when it comes to letters and things, plus you're so easy to talk to.”

A LEEDS MEMBER



HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Good health is fundamental to personal well-being and foundational to a strong community. To ensure we could represent members' health needs across West Yorkshire, we undertook community research with members across Kirklees, Bradford and Wakefield, as well as local councils, to produce health needs assessments - official documents that will help us improve things for Gypsies and Travellers.

These health needs assessments highlighted how much the community supports each other and survives in often difficult circumstances. Our members also told us that mental health issues - like depression, anxiety, bad nerves and suicide- were increasing, and people worried about loved ones and the wider community.

Experiences of prejudice and racism were impacting people's mental and physical health. Health conditions like heart and breathing issues and issues with mobility were also highlighted. Most participants listed the accommodation as an underlying cause of poor health.

We already see positive results for our membership - with strategy groups forming across Wakefield and Bradford, new partnerships and more Leeds GATE staff time dedicated to providing community groups and advocacy.

This work has also helped us get closer to addressing issues around the condition of sites, especially sheds. We still have a long way to go, but we are making progress through campaigning and lobbying.



EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Leeds GATE provides advocacy support around access to schools, colleges and further education. We support access to welfare rights and debt advice and assist members with CV's, job search and self-employment.

We run an adult learning programme including one-to-one reading and writing lessons, qualifications in functional skills, first aid, health and safety and health awareness.

We run weekly youth groups and homework clubs across West Yorkshire - we encourage our young people to dream big and support them in groups and individually to reach their goals.





WEST YORKSHIRE EDUCATION FORUM FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

Access to education and opportunities is a matter of social justice. Gypsies and Travellers have the right to a safe and nurturing learning environment and to go onto college and university if they choose to.

Sadly, we know from our members and from [research](#) that Gypsy and Traveller young people often experience bullying, racism and exclusion and that the numbers that go on to college and university are low.

We run a forum for educational organisations from primary schools and high schools to colleges and universities. We offer informal opportunities for them to learn more and have also delivered education-focused training. In return, we ask that the schools and colleges take action to improve things for Gypsy and Traveller pupils.



[Our work in Education](#)

“I had no idea that Gypsies and Travellers experienced such racism. I learn so much from your staff team.”

RIHANNA'S STORY

- JOURNEY TO APPLEBY

I am excited to go to Appleby with my family. We have our horse linked to our wagon while Dad is in control. Right now, we are heading to our next stopping place to settle for the night, then tomorrow we should finally reach Appleby.

As Dad was driving, I was looking around at the green field that had dashes of yellow flowers along them and the trees with their fresh green leaves. Just then Dad said. "When I was younger my mother and father would tell me what it was like when they used to shift." I said. "Could you tell us what it was like?". Dad agreed

"When they used to shift in groups, they would leave a bundle of grass tied together so the person behind didn't get lost and knew where to go and when they came to a crossroad, they would get sticks and point them in the direction they were going." Said dad.

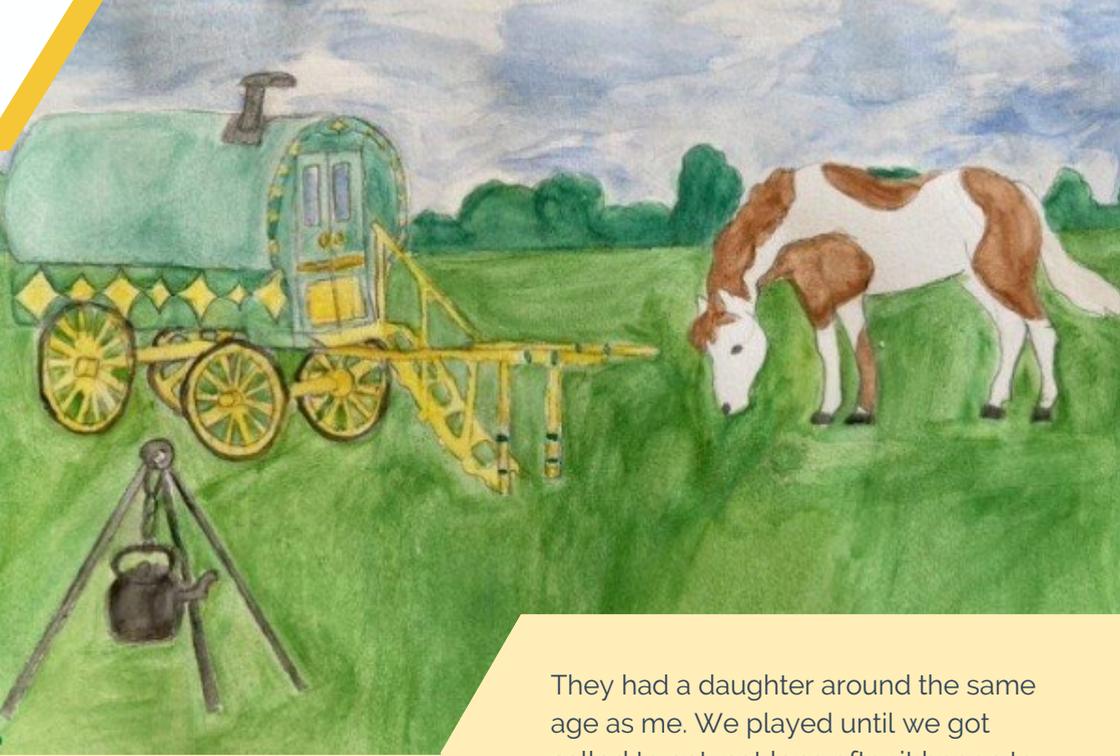
Then my Mam said, "when I was younger my farther would get a small twig from a tree and trim the ends of mine and my sisters hair and make his own paintbrush and paint wagons and flat carts."

We spent a little while talking and didn't notice my father had found a camp by the roadside where we could stay for the night.

When the horse came to a halt we started to unpack and tie the horse down and gave him some water and let him rest for tomorrow. I watched as some cars and trucks drove by as some gazed at amazement and some just glared at the site.

Just then a car pulled up with police written on the side and two tall men dressed all in black, who didn't seem too impressed, walked over to my father and brother. They told my father we had to leave and if we stayed, we could be fined, or our belongings confiscated.

The two men observed as we hurriedly packed away our belongings and got back onto the road to find a new camp before it got late, not long after we found a new camp but this one had trailers on too.



We pulled in and started to unpack and tie up our horse. My father and brother went to collect some wood for a fire while my mam put the food on the pan.

The food was cooking and me and my family sat around the fire as the red sparks flew up into the darkening sky.

Then the owners of one of the trailers came over and we talked about our journeys and where we had come from.

They had a daughter around the same age as me. We played until we got called to eat, not long after it began to get dark, and we headed to our bed until the sun peeked into the wagon early the next morning.

I walked outside to see my mam and dad cooking breakfast we then got dressed and brushed our teeth and waved goodbye to our new friends and headed on our way.

It wasn't long till we reached the little village of Appleby. My farther saw some of his old friends and cheered they had finally finished their journey.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

We provide advocacy support to report and challenge discrimination and hate crime. Our community centre provides a safe space for our members with a warm hub, access to food, access to water, a shower and a postal address for our roadside members.

We work through our partners and our community groups to improve services, challenge hate and celebrate Gypsy and Traveller history and culture.



'UNDERSTANDING THE EXPERIENCES OF GYPSY AND TRAVELLER PEOPLE IN PROBATION'



The services team worked with Yorkshire and Humber Probation Service to carry out research with **16 community members** to voice their experiences of probation, their aspirations and their solutions.

The report provided community recommendations to be taken forward from Gypsy and Traveller participants and made to Probation Services. This is the first time research like this has been carried out.



[Read the report here.](#)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Leeds GATE's total income in the year to 30th November 2022 increased to £828868. This reflects the organisation's continued growth in its services and the geographical areas it covers. Expenditure also increased to £687,532, giving net income for the year of £141336.

At 30th November 2022 GATE's total funds stood at £678001, of which £542430 were restricted (i.e. earmarked for specific projects).

Expenditure was below income partly because of a backlog of project work following the Covid pandemic, and partly because of difficulties in recruiting staff to some new posts. The surplus is being carried forward to enable catch-up; recruitment plans are also in place to fill vacancies.

Leeds GATE's reserves increased to £135571 on 30th November 2022, and are expected to increase further during 2022-23.

Leeds GATE remains in a strong financial position, helped by its good relationships with funders and various funding sources. Still, the organisation is not complacent and will continue to review its finances carefully. A full Statement of Financial Activities is included in GATE's accounts for 2021/22.

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME FROM				
Donations and legacies	3,691	--	3,691	--
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Grants Recieved	24,150	632,009	656,159	679,619
Supplying contracted services	--	153,980	153,980	96,343
Sale of goods and services	11,790	3,248	15,038	7,710
TOTAL	39,631	789,237	828,868	783,672
EXPENDITURE ON				
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Direct costs	786	574,573	575,359	461,769
Premises costs	60	23,291	23,351	41,639
Operating costs	--	68,349	68,349	56,278
Governance costs	--	857	857	781
Other	11,905	7,711	19,616	42,204
TOTAL	12,751	674,781	687,532	602,671
NET INCOME	26,880	114,456	141,336	181,001
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	115,102	421,563	536,665	355,664
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	135,571	542,430	678,001	536,665

OUR TEAM



Angela Allen
Community Tutor



Bernard Cunningham
MH Support Worker



Bethany Lally
Business Support Officer



Charlotte James
Community Health
Development Coordinator



Cindy-Lou Price
Admin Support Worker



Claire Ahmed
MH Support Worker



Ellie Rogers
CEO



Grace Cunningham
Youth Work Coordinator



Heather Binns
Criminal Justice Advocate



Jacopo Rancone
Leeds Advocate



Jane Standeven
Wakefield Advocate



Kari Griffiths
Moving for Change
Programme Manager



Thomas Gaffney
Services Manager



Kathleenne Boswell
Youth Worker



Kayleigh Bradshaw
Wellbeing Coordinator



Kirsty Rourke
Communities Coordinator



Lily Buxton
Communications Assistant



Linda Barker
Community Health
Development Coordinator



Mags Price
Community Outreach Worker



Mary Cunningham
Communities Manager



Nicola Bowles
Bradford & Wakefield Advocate



Rachel Cooper
Director of Development



Rachel Trafford
Communications Coordinator



Savana Lowther
Cleaner



Teresa Birtle
Community Centre Coordinator

OUR BOARD

Elizabeth Spaven Chair

Andy Bagley Treasurer

Kathleen Boswell

Sinead Price

Sinead Cregan Safeguarding Lead

Roxanne Nazir Fundraising Lead (stood down Nov 2022)

OUR FUNDERS

- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Irish Youth Foundation
- Wakefield CCG
- Embassy of Ireland
- JRCT
- NHSCT
- Lankelly Chase
- Leeds CCG
- Children In Need
- Nova Wakefield
- Lloyds Bank
- Moving for Change
- Wakefield and District Health and Community Support
- Touchstone
- Leeds City Council Public Health
- South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- The Bartlett Foundation
- Volition
- Flint Family Fund
- The Manjit Wolstenholme Fund
- Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire
- Ministry of Justice

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