



LEEDS GATE
Gypsy & Traveller Exchange

2018/19
ANNUAL
REPORT

CHARITY No: 1123374
COMPANY REG: 6386295

REPORT GUIDE

This report sets out all you need to know about Leeds GATE's work as a charity in the year 2018-2019.

INTRODUCTIONS

Updates from Leeds GATE Executive Board & CEO

P 1-7

1/ CHANGES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Updates from our advocacy, mental health support and youth work

P 8-13

2/ COMMUNITY ASSETS

Updates from our community groups and spaces

P 14-18

3/ COMMUNITY VOICE

Campaigns, Voice and Participation

P 19-25

4/ SYSTEMS CHANGE

Updates from strategic, policy and partnerships work

P 26-31

WELCOME TO LEEDS GATE!

Leeds Gypsy & Traveller Exchange, known more commonly as Leeds GATE, is a vibrant and brave grassroots organisation led by Gypsy and Traveller people in partnership with others in and across West Yorkshire.



CHAIR'S WELCOME



Leeds Gate has had another wonderful year, celebrating some marvellous achievements. Our previous chair Kim Moloney was awarded an MBE for services to her community making all who know Kim and have had the pleasure of working with her extremely proud - congratulations Kim!

We had the opportunity to welcome the Lord Lieutenant, the Queen's representative in West Yorkshire, to visit Leeds GATE and at the same time we also welcomed Cork Traveller Women's Network who we spent the day learning from and building good connections with, we thank them all for their visit and welcome them back anytime.

We launched our first ever Mental Health Support Service here at GATE called Live Well Leeds that is run in partnership with Touchstone, funded through Leeds City Council. We have also worked on suicide prevention through the Safetalk training and providing 1-2-1 support. Massive well done to all involved with these very important subjects, thank you all.

Did you spot our new branding? We love it, we have a new website too. Thanks to the team at Learnest for their hard work.

Myself, Helen our CEO, and Charlotte our Advocacy worker had the privilege of representing Leeds GATE at the 75th memorial of the Roma Holocaust at Auschwitz. This was a very emotional and moving ceremony that I will never forget. We also met many other Gypsies from all over the world all there for the same reason.

I would like to thank all our staff, funders, volunteers and especially our members in this fantastic community led organisation for all your work, enthusiasm and dedication to a wonderful organisation that as chair of the board I am very proud to be a part of, as are all our board members. Thank you all and here's to another rewarding year for everyone.



ELIZABETH SPAVEN
LEEDS GATE CHAIR

CEO'S INTRODUCTION



Looking back on a year of 'big moments' there is a somber highlight which stands out for me. Leeds GATE were privileged to be represented at a ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Roma Holocaust at Auschwitz in Poland on August 2nd. I thought that I knew about the Holocaust but nothing could prepare me for what I saw and heard in the testimony of survivors during the visit.

Later in the year we attended a poignant service held at St Pauls Cathedral in memory of those affected by hate crime. A candle was lit for Johnny Delaney, a 16-year-old Irish Traveller, who was murdered in a hate attack in Ellesmere Port in 2003.

Despite these sad reflections I am constantly amazed at how much within the work is joyful and celebratory. Leeds GATE enables change in people's lives, in our communities, and across society. We build skills, create opportunities, connect people and break down barriers.

The need for our work could not be greater but neither is the potential for progress and hope.



HELEN JONES
LEEDS GATE CEO

A HUGE THANKYOU TO OUR FUNDERS!



Community
Partnering
Fund



Ambasáid na hÉireann
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LLOYDS BANK
FOUNDATION
England & Wales



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL



Leeds
Clinical Commissioning Group

Lankelly
Chase



Esmée
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FOUNDATION

the
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Police & Crime Commissioner
West Yorkshire

A woman with long brown hair, a pink flower in her hair, and a grey top is smiling. She is in front of a brick building with arched windows. The background is slightly blurred.

CHANGES FOR INDIVIDUALS

We work with individuals and families to address issues affecting their lives and make positive choices. We build confidence and ensure members have access to the services and support they need. We encourage members to participate in personal development and learn new skills. We help to improve physical and mental health.

CARE OF POST SERVICE

114

ACTIVE CARE OF POST
ADDRESSES

"Leeds GATE is a life saver; I don't know where I would get my post without you as I move to different camps all the time."
Leeds GATE Member

This service provides a safe and secure address to those without secure accommodation. We offer a reading service and advocacy support alongside this. People continue to value this service as a vital link to healthcare, welfare benefits and family support services.

LEEDS GATE SERVICES TEAM



**796
APPOINTMENTS
DELIVERED**

**185 INDIVIDUALS
SUPPORTED
THROUGH
ADVOCACY**

**47 PEOPLE
SUPPORTED WITH
THEIR MENTAL
HEALTH**

Over the past year, our small advocacy team has grown and developed into specialist areas to meet the needs of our members. Our targeted services now cover mental health and suicide intervention support, criminal justice and hate crime advocacy, health and wellbeing groups, accommodation and welfare rights advocacy. Our dedicated team work really hard and deliver life changing work with our members.

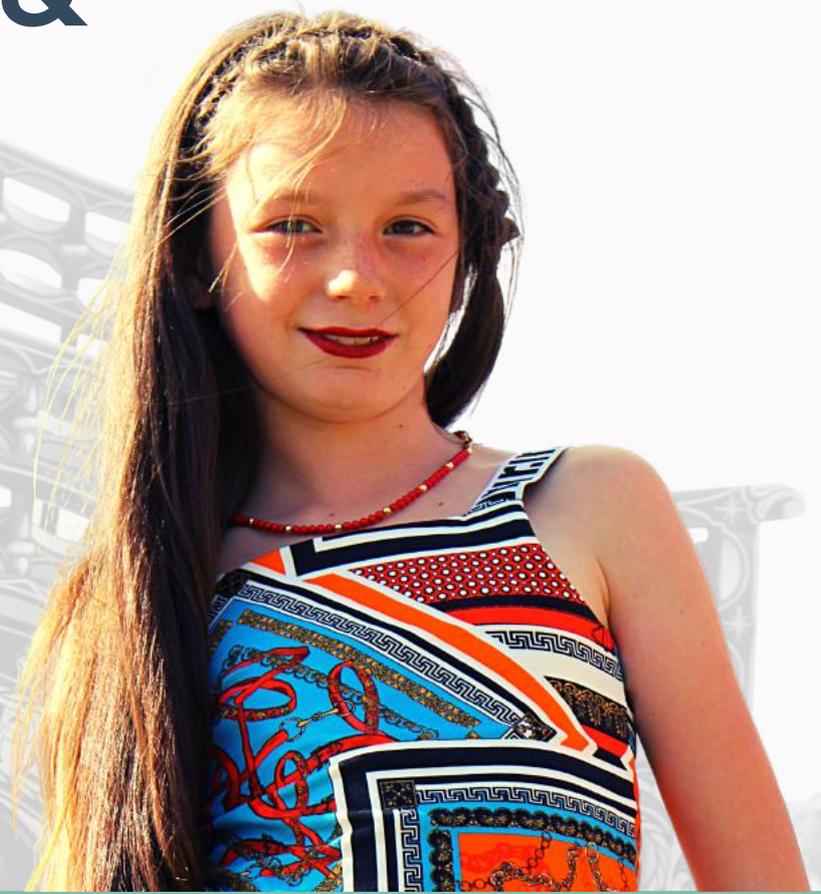
SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

A photograph of two elderly men in conversation. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a dark jacket over a blue sweater. The man on the right is wearing a flat cap and a blue plaid shirt. They are standing in front of a large, ornate stone archway, possibly a gate to a park or estate. The background is slightly blurred, showing trees and a bright sky.

Using Income Maximisation checks our advocates reclaimed **£112,000** in over payments, back payments and unclaimed benefits.

“I really do feel that you have helped my family a lot. You have helped my daughter who has been suffering and I don't like to see her struggling with mental health and accommodation. I feel a lot better and I have seen a big change in her.” Leeds GATE Member

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



"I am usually really shy around new people and I have been working hard on making friends at youth group, I am most proud of all the challenges I have overcome."

YOUNG LEEDS GATE MEMBER

The Youth Work team work with Young People individually and in groups to help them gain confidence and reach their full potential. We run a weekly Girls Group; Boys Group; a Homework Club; and we do outreach to our young people. This year we also ran a residential in the Yorkshire Dales for our Girls Group. We took our young people to visit two universities and two colleges. Young People are at the heart of everything we do, deciding what they want to do and having their voice heard.



**In 2018-2019
Leeds GATE worked with
66 young people**

**15 YOUNG PEOPLE
ATTENDED
HOMEWORK CLUB**

**20 YOUNG PEOPLE
ATTENDED GIRLS
GROUP**

**5 YOUNG PEOPLE
ATTENDED BOYS
GROUP**



"Since attending weekly groups at Leeds GATE young people have made friends and gained confidence and now trust staff members to talk about their lives. Some of our young people are now planning for their future by wanting to apply for college courses."

GRACE
YOUTH WORK CO-ORDINATOR



COMMUNITY ASSETS

We provide groups and activities for our members to come together. We help people to work together to make changes to their health, homes, education and inclusion. We run a community centre in Leeds and provide resources for our members.

LEEDS GATE COMMUNITY CENTRE

We continue to be a community hub for West Yorkshire's Gypsy and Traveller communities – providing spaces to meet, office services and equipment to borrow. In partnership with Hyde Park Source and a grant from Awards for All we were able to develop our rear yard into a space for all ages to use for social purposes. It includes a fire/bbq area, seating and planting area and an outside tap to enable access to water for our members who are living roadside. Our Boys Group worked with Hyde Park Source to develop skills and learnt bricklaying cementing.



“Leeds GATE is the closest thing you can get in this world to a safe space.”
Leeds GATE Member

We have an annual footfall of **1550** people accessing services within the building including groups, advocacy appointments and those collecting post.

LEEDS GATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Communities Team work really hard to involve our members. We do outreach across Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield – to sites and roadsides. We encourage people to get involved, find out what's happening and help them to change things.

We run groups at Leeds GATE and in Wakefield where our members share their skills and volunteer. We do fun activities that our members haven't done before, this helps them mentally and physically. Some of our members are very vulnerable and quite isolated and don't come out much so they really look forward to attending our groups, where they feel safe.

We run adult literacy classes and put on courses - this year we did health and safety, food hygiene and first aid.

With members we put on Easter Activities, Summer Activities, a sponsored run for MacMillan, St Patrick's Day celebrations and treat weeks including a trip to the spa.

- 
- Bradford
 - **Leeds**
 - Wakefield

LEEDS GATE A MEMBER'S STORY



A member came to our Thursday Group and told me she was worried about a lump that she had found.

She was frightened and hadn't told no-one else. I convinced her to go to the doctors, which she did. She had treatment and the next time I saw her she cuddled me and said. "thank you, you're a little gift from God. If it wasn't for me coming to your Thursday Groups and talking to you, I'm not sure I would still be here today."

TERESA
COMMUNITIES TEAM



72 people
attended our
community
groups

“I love coming to Thursday Groups! It's special here (at Leeds GATE), the staff listen to you. All my family come to Leeds GATE so it's a home from home!”

**LEEDS GATE
MEMBER**

9 people
learnt to read
and write!



COMMUNITY VOICE

We work with people to speak about their lives, ideas and concerns with confidence. We work to promote community leadership, collaboration, better media representation and challenge hate crime.

LEEDS GATE CAMPAIGNS



In the autumn we ran an accommodation campaign – working with families to understand and access their rights. We supported 5 families to secure permanent plots on sites and facilitated 3 successful negotiated stopping agreements. Targeted work can deliver more impact and positive outcomes in a short space of time.

RESEARCH AUTUMN 2019

Members participated in research with universities, Race Equality Foundation and Leeds City Council about living with disabilities, women's experiences and Musculoskeletal Health.

RESIDENTIAL SUMMER 2019

22 Leeds GATE members and staff spent 2 days glamping in North Yorkshire. We were joined by facilitators from Jeder Institute in Australia who helped us to think through our concerns, our dreams and our skills. We decided on 5 areas for action which have informed Leeds GATE's business planning. The two days spent together were full of energy, relaxation, action and laughs.

Thank you to all involved!

"I come across as confident but I'm not. My confidence was shook being in a new environment but I learnt so much about getting my point across and working together."

LEEDS GATE MEMBER

COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS

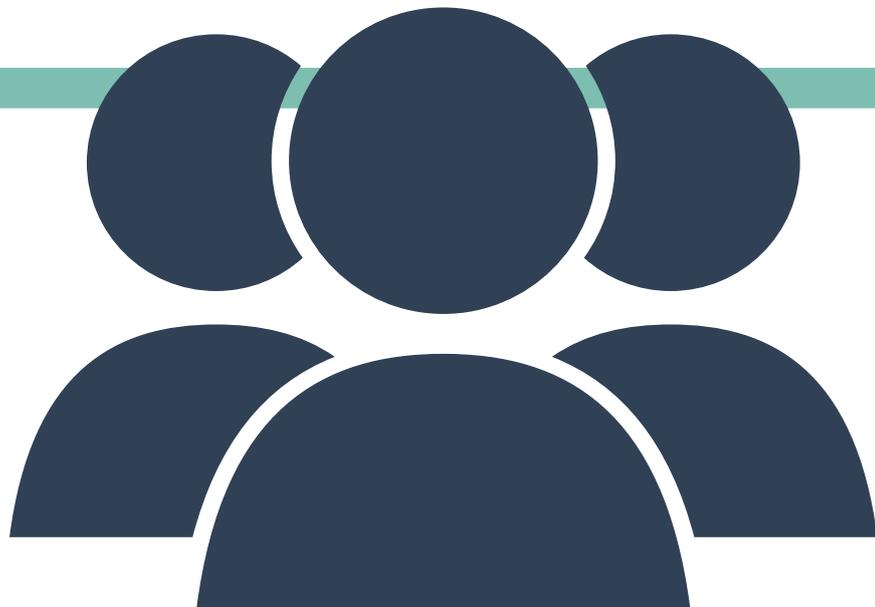
At Leeds GATE we work with members on issues they care about, bringing people together to make positive change in their communities. We call this model community action groups.

Bradford Accommodation Action Group

of participants felt they had made a positive We worked with members in Bradford to form a resident association on their site and secure £150,000 worth of investment.change.

Mental Health Action Group

52 people were trained in Safetalk and led community conversations about suicide, members then referred friends and family into our Mental Health Advocacy Project for vital support. We safeguarded 11 members with suicidal thoughts as a direct result.





“Don't accept suicide and bad nerves as a way of Traveller life. Do not pass this acceptance down to your children and let it stay in generations”

LEEDS GATE
MEMBER

“Men should talk more and recognise that having poor mental health does not make you less of a man “

LEEDS GATE
MEMBER



MEMBER PROFILE

NAME: KIM MOLONEY MBE

Kim is Honorary President and previous Chair of Leeds GATE executive board. Kim grew up and has raised her family in Leeds. When the organisation began 17 years ago Kim and her extended family were living 'roadside' on different camps around the city. She took a significant court case against the local authority for continuing to evict the family despite their clear local connection and lack of authorised places to live.

Although the case was lost in the UK house of lords it was later mentioned favourably in a European Court of Human Rights judgement. Kim is a leading architect of the negotiated stopping programme which is viewed as national best practice.

Sadly Kim's father was affected by Alzheimers and Dementia. Once the family had secure accommodation on the local authority site in Leeds Kim continued to campaign for recognition of the impact of memory loss in Gypsy and Traveller families.

In 2019 Kim was awarded an MBE for her services to the Gypsy and Traveller communities.



Systems Change

We don't just want to be a sticking plaster, we want to create a fairer, richer society that values the contributions of Gypsies and Travellers. We know this is ambitious, but it's also the right thing to do.

Here we report on our strategic work through policy work, co-production and service design, challenging exclusion and promoting our members contributions.



Planning New Sites

Historically, many Traveller sites have been designed by non-Travellers who have no lived experience of sites and how the space is utilised. We have worked closely with the planning department and our members to ensure new sites in Leeds are co-designed. Watch this space!



LEEDS GATE PARTNERSHIPS

We know that we are most powerful when we are working in partnership with others!

Leeds GATE has led work to initiate a new national body called Moving for Change which will campaign for a fairer deal for Gypsy and Traveller families living nomadic lives in the UK. Moving for Change is a collaboration between most of the leading Gypsy Traveller civil society organisations, as well as smaller groups and individual activists.



We launched our flagship Mental Health Service for Gypsies and Travellers as a part of citywide partnership, Live Well Leeds, commissioned by Leeds City Council and led by Touchstone. This work is vital and lifesaving and we are incredibly proud to be part of this unique and positive way of working.

LEEDS GATE PARTNERSHIPS

“More Travellers should be supportive to LGBT community members and understand the impact that isolation, hate crime and fear has on mental health and suicide rates” **Leeds GATE Member**

Leeds GATE attended Leeds Pride for the first time in 2019 and joined in the parade. We had a clear message, “LGBT+ Travellers – loved by Leeds GATE”.

We continue to support and welcome all members of the Travelling community - if you are LGBT+ Gypsy or Traveller please get in touch!



We have continued to work with our solidarity partners at BASIS, LASSN and MESMAC who support sex workers, asylum seekers & refugees and LGBT+ communities. This work has been inspiring and influential in brokering change for marginalised communities in Leeds.

LEEDS GATE TRAINING



"We delivered training to a GP surgery, it must have really hit home because they now register all our roadside families, no questions asked. When a camp is near to the surgery they just go over and visit too, those families are getting much better care"

Leeds GATE is the closest thing you can get in this world to a safe space.



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