

2017

# ANNUAL REPORT



CHARITY No: 1123374  
COMPANY REG: 6386295



# CHAIR'S WELCOME ELIZABETH SPAVEN

“ Welcome to our annual report and accounts for 2017. The Board would like to thank everyone for the support given by our members, our fantastic staff team and our funders. The past year of Chairing the Board for me has been a new experience but something I am really enjoying. The organisation is growing and our reputation among our families and communities remains as welcoming and as a brave creative organisation that cares for the safety and inclusion of everyone. I for one am really proud to be a part of it, we are recognised by Gypsies and Travellers and other organisations all over the country and have a great reputation with both. Our young people are greatly involved and it's good to see them standing up for their rights and having a voice. Our values are very strong throughout and are always worked towards in all our work to improve quality of life for Gypsy and Traveller people.

We have had a great loss this last year losing former Chair and Lifetime President Eileen Lowther who was a massive part of GATE highly respected and thought very much of by everyone. She is sorely missed by us all.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members, the staff, the volunteers and our funders who keep GATE being able to do the great work we do. In particular this year Lankelly Chase and the Embassy of Ireland for their continued support. This is our 15th year and everyone should be very proud of how far GATE has come and the massive difference we are making to our members lives. I hope this continues for many more years to come.





# CEO INTRODUCTION HELEN JONES

“ I’m delighted to introduce you to this years’ annual report which covers the period from December 2016 to November 2017.

We continue to provide personal advocacy, community development support and strategic liaison across our four objectives to improve quality of life for Gypsy and Traveller people in West Yorkshire. You can find information about the work we have done under our four objectives around Accommodation (where we are seeking improvement in quality and choice); Health; Education Employment and Financial Inclusion; and in Citizenship and Social Inclusion. Our work under each objective involves aspects of one to one advocacy, community and leadership development, and strategic liaison. Below you can read examples of the impact we are having in each of our objective areas.

Our Exec Board members continue to offer excellent expertise and support to our organisation, as do our staff, volunteers and members. We are very proud of everything we have achieved this year. ”

# ACCOMMODATION



Our work to improve sustainability and choice in accommodation for our members, crosses our advocacy, community development and strategic work. We work to promote and embed asset based approaches to roadside stopping, to increase site provision, to ensure justice for our members in all matters relating to accommodation and to support people to live happy and healthy lives within their accommodation.

During 2016/17 our work to promote better management of so called 'unauthorised' encampment by Gypsy and Traveller people has continued with financial support from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. The project has also been deeply informed by our 'asset based community development' work funded by the Lankelly Chase Foundation.

We continued to work with Leeds City Council and local residents to improve both policy framework (including the Core Strategy and Site Allocation Plan, elements of the local development framework) and frontline practice.

Unusually for such a locally based membership organisation there is also a significant national (and even multi-national) focus to the work. Our belief is that in order to make the policy work in West Yorkshire we need to push back against generally negative narratives and responses to camps that we see from across the political spectrum and in many local areas in England, Scotland and Wales. This aspect of our work has gained significant national profile.



# ACCOMMODATION

The branding of a different approach to camps under the term 'negotiating stopping' has been taken up and used by many of our civil society partners including London Gypsies and Travellers, the Traveller Movement, Travelling Ahead in Wales and Article 12 in Scotland. Despite deepening concern that the issue will once again be used as a political football, with MPs and Councillors demanding yet 'more powers' to deal with the issue, we can derive some comfort in having contributed positively to the debate in providing a pragmatic alternative. When language developed here in Leeds is spoken in the House of Commons and by the London Mayor, we can be sure we have had an impact!

**"NEGOTIATED STOPPING IS JUST COMMON SENSE. WE AREN'T GOING TO DISAPPEAR FROM THE CAMPS, WE HAVE GOT A RIGHT TO LIVE THIS WAY IF WE WANT TO. THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE WANT TO CAUSE ANYONE A PROBLEM AND WE WANT TO WORK WITH PEOPLE NOT AGAINST THEM."**

**LEEDS GATE MEMBER, PATRICK**

# ACCOMMODATION

This year also saw planning permission granted for a new 9 pitch Gypsy Traveller site, ideally located on the edge of the city centre, the first new site in Leeds for over 30 years. The significant impact that Negotiated Stopping had on reducing negative media coverage around Gypsy Traveller accommodation should not be underplayed. We also supported 6 of our member families to apply for planning permission or certificate's of lawful use for their yard's.

Our advocacy service delivered 692, one to one appointments with 181 of our member families. Dealing with a variety of issues both for individuals and at a community level, these included: welfare benefits, utilities, rents, postal service, provision of skips and toilets on the roadside, challenging eviction, debt, discrimination and hate crime reporting.



**692**

ADVOCACY  
APPOINTMENTS



**181**

FAMILIES  
WORKED WITH



NEW PITCHES  
GRANTED

Our Health Advocacy pilot concluded in April and the evaluation was well received by funders and networks alike, we delivered a learning and sharing seminar to celebrate the work of the project. The evaluation found improved physical and mental wellbeing and increased connections to services for members involved.

An independent cost benefit evaluation showed the financial saving to NHS and Adult Social Care services to be more than ten times the cost of the health advocate's support, it would take just 143 hours of such work (i.e. just over four weeks) for cost of the health advocate role to be covered by the savings achieved.

**"I'VE GOT LOADS MORE CONFIDENCE AND MY LIFE IS GETTING SORTED."**

**"SHE ASKED ME ABOUT ME - NOT MY KIDS OR MY FAMILY - JUST ABOUT ME. THAT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT."**

**QUOTES FROM LEEDS GATE MEMBERS**





# HEALTH

We continued to provide groups, activities and health information for our members. Including providing a regular social group covering different health topics and activities throughout the year, producing a diabetes information leaflet and running a mental wellbeing course called Headspace.

Our annual marquee at Lee Gap horse fair provided information and signposting and 34 health checks.

We have been very pleased to support the work of Leeds CCG in establishing an out-reach to in-reach nursing project for Gypsies and Travellers in the city and to welcome Liz into her post. Our members were involved in research, service design, recruitment, selection and induction.

**"WE LEARNED HOW TO BREATHE AND RELEASE THE BREATH TO RELAX. IT TOOK STRESS OUT OF YOU, BECAUSE YOU WERE DOING SOMETHING."**

**MARGARET, GATE MEMBER**



# HEALTH

In July 2017 we delivered a conference, Health on the Margins, the conference aimed to showcase innovative practice in health and care for marginalised communities and sought to establish solidarity between different groups having similar experiences, from this has developed a strong network of support in Leeds with other local charities.

We continued to support research from Dundee University into the role of trust in healthful relationships between Gypsy Traveller communities and services, funded by the Department of Health, this research has seen us facilitate learning sites across the UK, including Leeds. We have also lead on a steering group of community stakeholders for the project and delivered two conferences exploring what Research, Rights, Respect and Results mean to our members, academics and other stakeholders.

**"GATE UNDERSTANDS  
GYPSY & TRAVELLER  
CULTURE. THEY RESPECT  
WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO  
US"**

**EDIE, GATE MEMBER**

50

HEALTH CHECKS/  
SCREENINGS



18

HEALTH  
REFERRAL  
PARTNERS



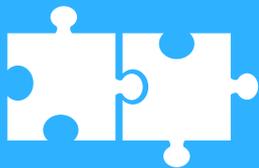
34

PRIMARY CARE  
REGISTRATIONS



73

ADVOCACY  
CLIENTS



299

HEALTH  
APPOINTMENTS



# LEEDS GATE HEALTH IN NUMBERS



# EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT FINANCIAL INCLUSION

WE HAVE  
WORKED WITH  
**125**  
YOUNG  
PEOPLE

We worked with 125 young people, including 38 young people attending a homework club and 17 young people supported to start training and learning opportunities with a variety of local providers. We supported families with schools liaison, elective home education, health, accommodation and advice & guidance.

We ran a young person's sewing group and continued to offer young people opportunities to engage with decisions about their lives, including attending local and national forum's and conferences and relaying their experiences in Travellers Times magazine. Our young people's voice continued to be central to our work, including working with young people to design an exciting new project and secure funding for this, ready to start in 2018.

We worked with the Children's Society to create a resource for Gypsy and Traveller young people about online safety called Stay Safe, Don't Send.

Our advocacy service continued to offer support and skills development around self-employment. We also supported members with information about their employment rights, in work benefits and worked with people to ensure they are accessing the correct entitlements We also supported members at an individual and community level to challenge disproportionate utility bills and rents.



*Aspects of  
Traveller  
life*

# SOCIAL INCLUSION

Our advocacy service supported hate crime reporting for our members and promoted the Report Racism GRT website. We also supported members to access ID, National Insurance numbers and other supporting documentation to enable work, travel, financial and social inclusion.

Our care of post service went from strength to strength this year, we now provide over 110 addresses and our members told us that the address and surrounding support they get when accessing their post (reading service, advocacy, use of email/telephone) has helped them to access bank accounts, welfare benefits, GP services, carers, mental health and family support. 100% of our care of post members wouldn't receive post without our service and 57% wouldn't be able to read their post without our service.

In July 2017 we published the report from our three year learning journey into Asset Based Community Development, this was independently delivered by Jo Richardson of De Montford University. The report found we had successfully adopted the methodology with many parts of it already being present in our work, based from our value Leeds GATE belongs to Gypsies and Travellers. We facilitated workshops at both the National UK ABCD festival the international ABCD festival in Goa, India.

We also began a new project, We Are Citizens, working with communities to increase confidence, skills and connections to decision makers to enable communities to tell their stories and effect change, more on this next year!



# SOCIAL INCLUSION

We have just finished our Heritage Lottery Funded work to explore, develop and embed an archive at Leeds GATE. This work has involved much learning for our organisation - staff and members - and we are happy to have had the opportunity to explore our heritage. Highlights from the project included heritage open days exploring activism with Gypsy & Traveller communities, the history of wagons and trailers, galleries at Lee Gap horse fair, family history workshops and an exhibition exploring the psycho-geography of Leeds from a Travellers perspective, co-hosted with East Street Arts. Our first experience of arts and heritage has left us committed to deliver more, finding this to be effective tool in countering negative narratives and helping people tell their stories.

17

VOLUNTEERS

7

EXHIBITIONS

46

MICRO  
VOLUNTEERS

30

PEOPLE TRAINED  
IN HERITAGE  
SKILLS

597

EXHIBITION  
ATTENDEES

# TREASURERS REPORT & ACCOUNTS

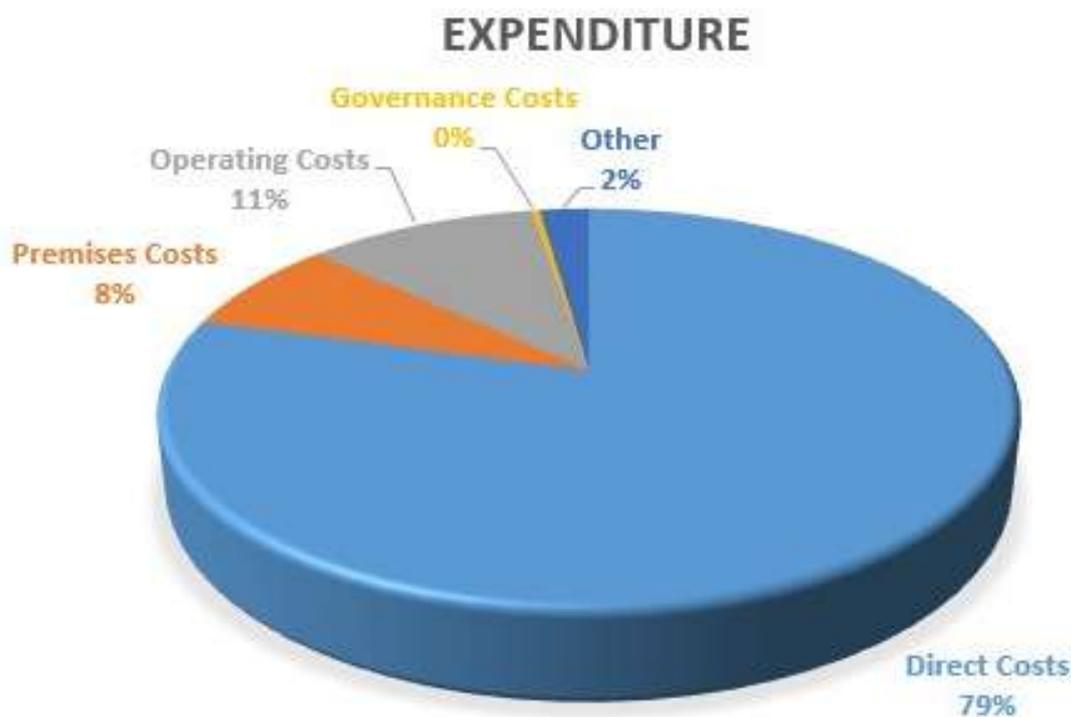
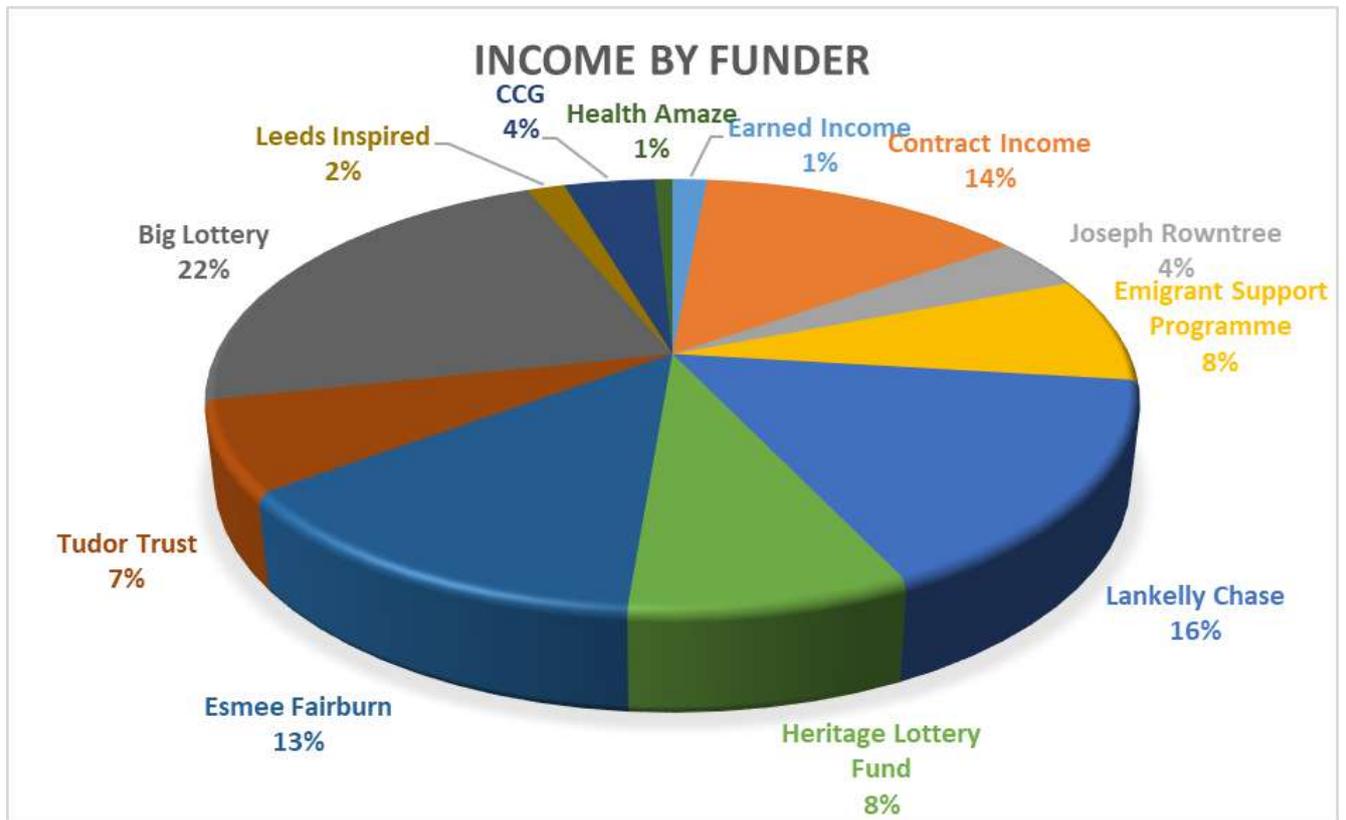
Leeds GATE continues to grow and thrive and should remain optimistic about its future sustainability and potential for further growth in line with its values and aims. Total income for Leeds GATE in 2017 was £475,126, increase of 52% from the previous year. This is a great achievement in spite of tightening statutory budgets and other cuts impacting the voluntary sector. The organisation has retained financial support from a number of longstanding funding relationships for which it is extremely grateful, it has also developed new ones with the Tudor Trust and Big Lottery.

Additionally, the organisation has increased its pot of unrestricted funds which has enabled it to be more agile and responsive to potential opportunities. Over the coming year Leeds GATE will focus on continuing to build up its reserves with an end goal of 6 months running costs to safeguard the organisation against any potential risks.

This success would not have been possible without continued robust financial management from Sharon, Administration and Operations Manager and the efforts by the CEO and Deputy CEO to secure new funding streams for the organisation for which the Executive Board and Gates members are extremely grateful. Full accounts are available on the charity commission website.

Laura North, Treasurer

# TREASURERS REPORT & ACCOUNTS





# THANKYOU!

FROM EVERYONE AT LEEDS GATE  
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

You can request this document in large print. You can contact us for more information about any of our work including project evaluations.

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# OUR FUNDERS



money raised by  
health**Amaze**  
through



**Lankelly  
Chase**

the  
**Tudor**trust



Ambasáid na hÉireann  
Embassy of Ireland



**NHS**  
*Leeds South and East  
Clinical Commissioning Group*

