



Leeds GATE Annual Report 2025



CEO & Chair's welcome

We are extremely proud of the progress our organisation has made toward securing long term outcomes for our communities. We hope you enjoy reading about our impact in the last year across our four main areas of work – homes, health, education & young people and inclusion. We have supported families with planning applications to secure new homes and supported local authorities to plan for new homes. We have worked with a variety of health partners – providing insight, training and developing pathways. We have directly supported 45 young people with their education, whilst supporting initiatives like the Gypsy Traveller Roma Showmen Boater into higher education pledge to make institutions more inclusive.

We continue to provide welcoming and culturally informed support to individuals, families, children and young people across West Yorkshire. We have tried new approaches such as engaging men and boys and play boxes and carried on with popular events such as baby week. We were delighted to collaborate on the amazing RIDE show.

Thank you to all of our funders for your continued support. Thank you to our dedicated staff for the care you bring to your roles. Thank you to our volunteers and Exec Board who give their time for free to support our organisation and our members. Thank you to our members for all your support and contributions to our work.

Elizabeth and Ellie



Homes

Increasing access to culturally appropriate homes and improving living conditions.



Increased access to accommodation and recognition of unmet needs

9

9 new homes through supporting private planning applications

8

Significant progress towards **8 new homes** in Leeds

22

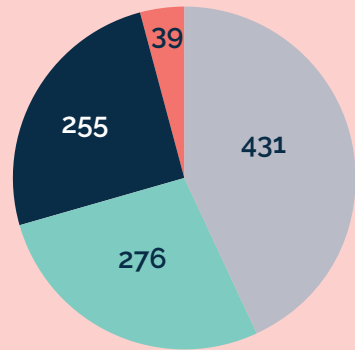
Progress towards **22 new homes** in Calderdale



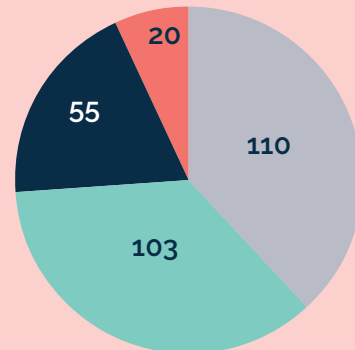
“

I don't know what I would do without Leeds GATE. I have had a lot of stress with universal credit changeover, but you have helped me all the way through.

Advocacy



Appointments by areas
(1001 in total)



Number of individuals receiving
advocacy support (288 in total)



100+

Leeds accommodation needs
assessment complete.

Over 100 surveys
completed, ensuring
members accommodation
needs are considered in
strategic planning in the city.



Promoted negotiated stopping as
a better **alternative to evictions**.



Established **multi-organisation
working groups** in local
authorities to advocate for
roadside families.

Planning and Policy

Involved in national level accommodation policy work to support improvements to planning and social housing regulator legislation.

We are co-supervising a PHD student with University of Sheffield on the impact of the planning system on Gypsies and Travellers. They completed a placement with us, using their expertise to support 11 families with private planning applications.

“

We cannot thank Leeds GATE enough for their help and support with our application for permanent permission. This has been a very long journey. With your help and knowledge we have successfully provided a private site for 6 families and the security of knowing they have a permanent home.”



“

I will die a Traveller
and be proud of it”

- BBC News

Long-time member,
community advocate and
our previous Chair Kim
Moloney MBE spoke to the
BBC about rights of Gypsies
and Travellers living roadside
and the need for more sites.



Find out
more

Improving living conditions

Improving the day-to-day and dedicated to longer-term change:

Our Leeds team worked with members to campaign for a budget for maintenance of a local authority site in Leeds and ensured residents could choose priorities for the year of how funds would be spent. We took action on the examples below:

.....



Site accessibility

Resurfacing of site roads and speed bumps to stop persistent damage to vehicles and create a more accessible site for those with disabilities and older residents.



Spaces for play

There's no green space or space for play on any of the four main sites in West Yorkshire, and no playgrounds.

To our members who live on Cottingley Springs site, making it a better place to grow up is vital. Our weeklong collaboration with Playful Anywhere brought a playbox scheme to site – a giant shipping container filled with every type of play and fun imaginable!

25 children a day for 4 days joined in, rain or shine.

Work is ongoing to discuss a permanent play and community container being installed on the site and how we can incorporate these community spaces on sites.



“ I love coming to Leeds GATE, I know that I will always be welcomed.”



Strengthening site standards and partnerships

Through long-term strategic advocacy and on the ground with residents on site in Wakefield we achieved:

- A comprehensive health and safety audit of sheds and the on-site community centre
- An ongoing business case for improved facilities
- Accountability on site repairs has also improved through regular audits and action planning



Health

Improving physical and mental health

Reducing health inequalities

First ever Health Needs Assessment done in Calderdale for Gypsies and Travellers, speaking with community members and wider stakeholders, to build a picture that will shape services for years to come that are more inclusive.

Making healthcare easier to access

200+

Outreach visits, welfare calls and health advocacy appointments

44

health drop ins at our Wakefield site – on average 5-6 visitors per drop in

We created space for people to share concerns:



NHS Health Checks delivered to more groups, including men at a boxing gym and on Bradford sites



Screening conversations and 6 confirmed health check uptakes



Training on blood pressure checks with staff and members



Opportunistic and on-site screening (e.g. liver screening clinics)



Women supported with cervical screening awareness



We ran sessions in community groups on topics chosen by members – like menopause, diabetes, and smoking

Tackling inequalities in maternity care

Having children and bringing them up is often at the centre of our members lives.

But we know they face extreme inequalities when giving birth and in maternal health, making this work so important. From our involvement in Baby Week for the third-year running has led to our increased engagement with partners and writing research and resources for pre and post-natal care providers to increase understanding when working with Gypsy and Traveller families. We made maternity packs for new families with information and service contacts and new baby essentials.

We are now engaging with two maternity inquiries ongoing in West Yorkshire, meeting with maternity voice partnerships for them to hear member voices and experiences.



The two calls with you are the best support I've had in ten years."

Increasing the reach of our mental health support

Our mental health team's reach increased to all four areas of West Yorkshire this year, supporting more members with mental health needs and empowering people to talk about mental health and well-being.



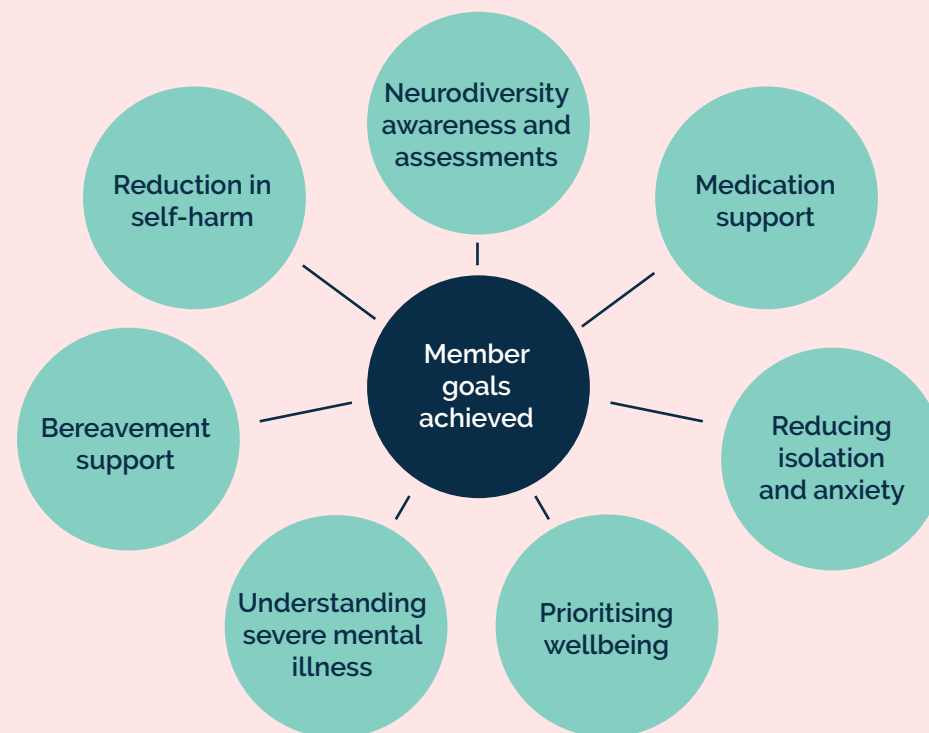
31 People supported



362 Appointments



121 Sessions delivered



Influencing systems

This year a particular strength was the reach of our training on health and inequalities - over two thirds of our sessions this year had this focus.

Over 1000 professionals reached across West Yorkshire across health, social care, and policy settings with training, strategic presentations and speaking engagements, including:

- King's Fund Health Inequalities Conference panel
- West Yorkshire ICB conference panel
- Over 300 Public Health registrars and GP's
- NHS Leeds Community Healthcare Trust
- Health professionals from across Calderdale with West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance

Influenced national health strategy

On-going participation in strategic meetings and working groups around inclusion health.

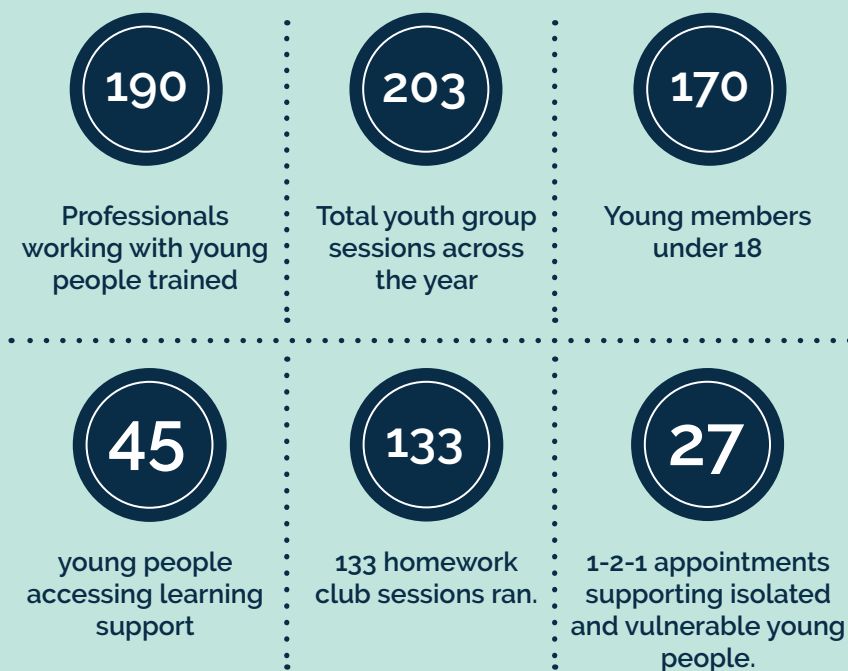
Worked in partnership with 30+ organisations in health, including a core group of strategic organisations across the NHS, local government and the voluntary sector, alongside a wider network of specialist and national partners and policy stakeholders to influence better health services for Gypsies and Travellers.



Education and young people

Support and safeguard families, provide opportunities to children and young people

Our youth work impact



Learning to write, it's been my dream to write. And drawing was exciting, you learnt me that I can do anything I want and it all makes sense.



Mental Health focused program

Our youth coordinator developed focused sessions across 12 months on wellbeing, self-regulation, understanding mental health and supporting opening up in a safe managed space, and introducing visiting services such as Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service to our young people.

Improving access to higher education

University of Leeds education outreach

Our work together continues to grow, as well as the offer to our young people. Throughout 2025, we ran hands-on sessions with the universities education outreach team, campus visit, taster day and an awareness raising stall held at the university with young people.



Healthy Holidays

The program provides free holiday clubs offering healthy meals and activities for children eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals across England.

2025 was our third year running a very popular and impactful program during school holidays in Leeds for Gypsy and Traveller youth. Last sentence stays the same.



60 attendances
across 6 weeks of
the year



22 different sessions
including arts,
cookery and outdoor
adventures



800 meals served
across the years
program



Partnership with Crofton Centre in Wakefield and taking young people off site for groups for the first time, doing activities during Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month like storytelling and creating family trees.

Therapeutic offer supporting women and children

Our project supporting members and their family relationships to alleviate the risk of harm continues to go from strength to strength; referrals have increased with high levels of trust built, and successful outcomes ensuring our families are safe and able to rebuild their lives with their children.

Further funding was secured in 2025 for the next three years, to develop a therapeutic offer focusing on children's wellbeing through a child & family support worker. With support being offered to children directly from November 2025, we are looking forward to seeing the inter-generational impact of this service.

19

families supported

31

Total members

58%

Growth in our service in one year

307

Sessions of 121 support provided



Support from Leeds GATE has meant the world to me, me and my children wouldn't be safe if we hadn't had their help to find somewhere to live and with the courts. They are now in school and doing well."

Inclusion

Providing opportunities, challenging racism, celebrating culture and heritage

Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month 2025

Our events, in our community spaces and in libraries, markets and town halls, brought different groups together and placed Gypsy and Traveller cultural celebration at the heart of public life.

Large-scale photography trail displays in 10 free to access public places around West Yorkshire including libraries, museums, a university gallery and community centres.

16

events engaging hundreds of community members and allies.



Move into Mixenden Activity Centre (MAC) in Calderdale

We now have a base in every area of West Yorkshire that we work in: our community centre in Cross Green, Leeds, Wakefield Heath Common, Holme Centre Bradford and MAC. After our extensive program in Calderdale for Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month 2025, connections were made with North Halifax Partnership and their newly reopened community centre. They were looking for partners to use the space and the building was perfect as our new home base for our work in the region. Since being able to make more connections, our membership is going from strength to strength with a thriving community group that helps lead our work.

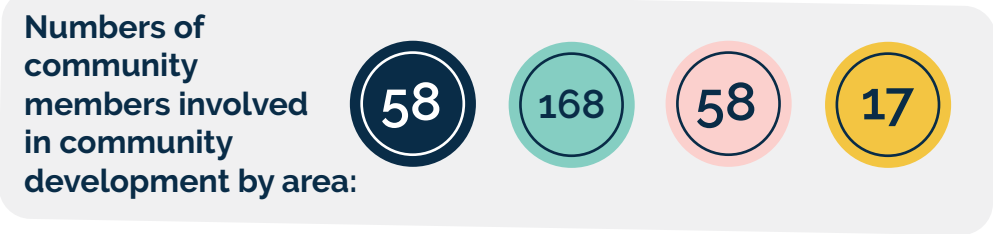
University of Leeds pledge support

During this year our partnership with the University of Leeds continued to strengthen, after their signing of the Higher Education Pledge, committing to pursuing equal higher education opportunities for Gypsy and Traveller students at their institution and an inclusive welcoming culture. We worked on creating a "hub" of information on their intranet for over 7000 staff, two staff training sessions and marking Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month.



We are really proud to say this is the third institution in Leeds to sign the pledge, alongside Leeds City College and University College Leeds.

Community action and groups



RIDE – Bradford City of Culture 2025

Gypsy and Traveller stories were centre stage as part of Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture, with our independent and original rap, dance and theatre show – RIDE! Developed with local production company Spin Arts, Southpaw Dance Company, and Romany Gypsy rapper Big Deli, RIDE was the culmination of 18 months of development work with Gypsies and Travellers across the district. This is by far the largest-scale cultural project we've worked on to date, with its impact already showing in our work across Bradford.



“

A dream is as big as you're going to make it.” – Big Deli, Romany Gypsy rapper and lyricist, writer of RIDE



Over one weekend in September:

360

People attended

100%

rated excellent or good. Moving, emotional, brilliant, amazing, inspiring were top words describing event.



Training and Development

1492

People reached through all training, presentations and speaking engagements across the year



Planning for the future

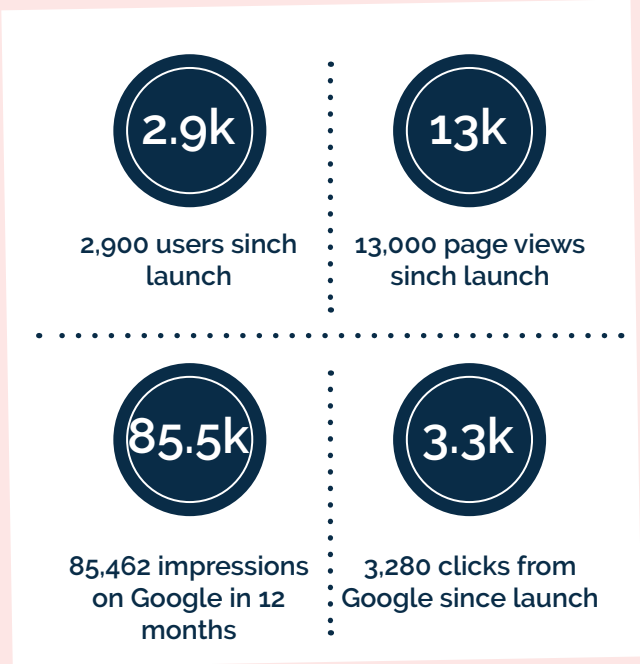
During this year we completed our business planning and strategy consultation process for Leeds GATE's direction over the next five years. We engaged members, staff and partners, identifying clear priorities including youth provision, inclusion, policy influence and strengthening member voice. This confirmed our strong reputation externally as an impactful and credible organisation.

Strong feedback from members, who rated Leeds GATE 9.5 out of 10 overall, highlighting trust, care and impact.

Members describing Leeds GATE as “a family”, a safe space and somewhere they feel valued and respected.

New website launch

Our redesigned website was launched this year, showcasing our work and our membership, now featuring a resource library, service pages, our history and training offer and much more.



Visit our website





www.leedsgate.co.uk

Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange (Leeds GATE)
Crown Point House
169 Cross Green Lane
Leeds
LS9 0BD

 LeedsGATE
 leeds_gate
 Leeds GATE

Charity No: 1123374