

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE - EQUALITIES
18 DECEMBER 2013

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

Issues facing the gypsy and traveller community in Bridgend

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the issues facing the gypsy and traveller community in Bridgend.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The Strategic Equality Plan is a statutory plan and a cross cutting issue impacting on the whole of the council. It is linked to the Customer Care Programme and supports the community cohesion agenda.

2.2 This report also supports the following priorities in the Corporate Plan 2013 – 2017:

- **Priority 2:** Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement;
- **Priority 3:** Working with children and families to tackle problems early;
- **Priority 5:** Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles;

3. Background.

3.1 In July 2010, Cabinet Equalities Committee agreed to receive reports and presentations on topic areas relevant to their remit. This includes community representatives presenting on relevant topics for members to gain a broader understanding of issues faced in our communities.

3.2 An update on the issues facing the Gypsy and Traveler community in Bridgend County Borough was added to the committee's forward work programme.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 The Strategic Equality Plan is supported by an Action Plan. This was produced following an extensive consultation and engagement exercise involving local representative groups. The gypsy and traveller community was not accessible at that time.

4.2 Issues to be addressed by Bridgend Gypsy and Traveller Education Service include an overview of Bridgend's strategy for supporting children and young people of gypsy and traveller heritage including:

- Gypsy and traveller heritage;
- Culture and lifestyle;
- All Wales gypsy and traveller forum;
- Outreach support;
- Support to families and schools;

and a summary of Bridgend's end of year report for Welsh Government 2012/13 Including:

- Number of pupils and schools;
- Attendance at school;
- Service provision;
- Continuous professional development;
- Show Racism the Red Card Campaign;
- Celebrations;
- The way forward.

4.3 Information from Stats Wales (Welsh Government) confirms that in Bridgend in July 2013:

- There was 1 authorised gypsy and traveller site (54 in Wales)
- There were 4 caravans on the authorised site (710 in Wales)

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules but is required to effectively implement the council's statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

No equality impact assessment has been carried out as this report provides the committee with information that will positively assist in the delivery of the authority's equality duties.

7. Financial Implications.

None in this report.

8. Recommendation.

8.1 That the Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and considers this report.

Ness Young
Corporate Director – Resources
Date: 27 January 2013

- 9. Contact officers:**
Paul Williams
Equality and Engagement Officer

Email: Paul.williams2@bridgend.gov.uk

Telephone: 643606

Background papers: None.