

WELCOME GROUP

The Welcome Group is now running weekly at Reginald centre. It is a popular session providing support and information for GRT and Central and Eastern European families new to Leeds. Working in partnership with the community hub encourages GRT families to access the centre more regularly.

Families feeding back they particularly enjoy the movie nights and other activities the centre offers.



Sports & Crafts on Roadside Encampments : Snap Shots



Herd Farm Open Day

Community Events : Snap Shots



GRT LEEDS—FACEBOOK PAGE.

Don't forget to follow the GRT Outreach & Inclusion team Facebook page where we regularly post events or information for public about things happening in their community. We posts information in three languages [English, Slovak and Romanian].

To follow us, search 'GRTLeeds' and then click on 'Like' and 'Save' on that Facebook page so our posts pop up on your Facebook wall and you can see what is happening around you.

The link for the Facebook page is:
<https://www.facebook.com/GRTLeeds1575991182709532/>



Newsletter

GRT Leeds

Gypsy Roma Traveller Outreach & Inclusion Team



GRT Leeds
 GRT Outreach & Inclusion team
 Children & Families service



The GRT Outreach and Inclusion Team provides direct work, support and guidance to Gypsy Roma and Traveller (GRT) families in order to ensure their children are ready for learning and to raise standards of educational attainment of children and young people living within these communities. If you wish to refer to the team please contact: grt.outreach.inclusion@leeds.gov.uk

A brief roll back over 2017

2017 has been another busy year for the GRT Outreach & Inclusion Team as we continue to see an increase in families from our Gypsy Roma Traveller communities choosing to settle in Leeds.

We are proud to be in a compassionate city where culture and diversity is both important and celebrated.

Our work is often about hearing the stories and experiences of children, young people and their families and its fantastic hearing those positive stories as well as supporting those facing challenges.

The infographics highlights some of the teams achievements in relation to how much we have done this year.

WELCOME GROUP

3072 attendees at drop in sessions

FRESH START

92 children attended sessions.

MINI FRESH START

New programme started for young people aged 5 to 8 years

ROADSIDE CAMPS

Sessions delivered to 44 encampments.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

412 young people supported applying for school

FAMILY SUPPORT

Over 780 families from our GRT Communities in Leeds worked with

REFERRALS

226 Referrals for support

Romanian Ambassador visits Leeds

The new Romanian Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency Dan Mihalache and the new Consul General based in Manchester, Mrs Andreea Berechet recently visited Leeds.

Young people from our FreshStart and Mini FreshStart groups were very excited by their visit and attendance at their group.

The young people planned music and a photo presentation on some of the activities they have been involved in through our groups. The young people enjoyed this VIP visit and welcomed other guests supporting the work including Sue Rumbold from Children and Families and Cllr Salma Arif, a ward councillor for Gipton & Harehills.



Young People accessing local community events and activities



Inner East Youth Summit

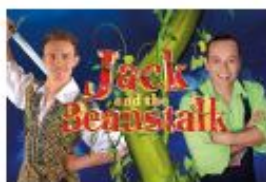
At the beginning of December we took our GRT young people to Chapel FM building where the Youth Summit 2017 was taking place. It was a nice evening full of fun activities, performances where young people had their say on local issues. Young people shared their views on how money should be spent on activities for young people in their area.

They have met the local councillors and the Lord Mayor and valued their voice being heard.

Christmas trip to town

Just before Christmas, we took families known to our team to town to show them what Leeds City Centre has got to offer. For many this was their first trip into Leeds City Centre. We visited local museums, galleries, the Christmas Market and other venues in the city centre.

Children really liked the museums, which were for free, and they especially loved they could get on the Leeds Canal Taxi, free of charge as well, and get to town on a boat!



Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk

As part of Leeds City Council Christmas Present Appeal our team were gifted tickets to a pantomime show in Leeds.

We organised a trip to see Jack and the Beanstalk and it was a really lovely show. Children enjoyed it a lot although it wasn't easy for them to understand everything. They said they knew the story and it was lovely to see it as a panto. They really liked the fact they could have ice-cream in the theatre!



Music session with West Yorkshire Playhouse

Music is extremely popular with young people from the GRT and Romanian communities. A big thank you to Fiona from West Yorkshire Playhouse for the musical taster session at FreshStart recently and for the children and young people to experience some of the activities available at First Floor.

Fiona brought in a local artist-musician Stela and many instruments and so we have a lovely music session full of tones and vibes.



Oliver - A School Production

In March I was lucky enough to go to Bruntcliffe Academy to see their production of Oliver. This was made all the more exciting because a year 7 pupil from the Gypsy Traveller community had a part in the production. The young person lives on Cottingley Springs, where most of the high school aged children are home educated. His parents and sister came to see the show, which was performed outside with complimentary hot water bottles and rugs. They were very impressed and proud of their son. The young person enjoyed the whole event and had made new friends during rehearsals. It was an encouraging experience for

myself to see someone in high school and participating in extra curricular activities.



Last year to celebrate Gypsy Roma Traveller history month we organised two events set up to provide opportunities for people to reflect on their own journeys to Leeds, and what their life is like now.

The first event was a wall of their thoughts and wishes showing the communities' aspirations. This

event was inspired by a project called 'Before I die I want to' by an artist Candy Chang. We used the same title for a wall where we asked the community to write down what they want to achieve or do in their life before it is over. People walking along the Compton centre spotted the wall and immediately joined in by completing the sentence which was translated into

few languages used by our GRT community in Harehills. Not only the GRT community, who was just passing the place, took part in the event but also a wide public did not hesitate to join in.

The second event was organised for Roma children in Harehills where we wanted them to reflect on their past life in their home country and current life here in Leeds. The session was attended by several Romanian

children who were creating a common painting where they all decided to put down on that big piece of paper their memories of their homes in Romania.

This year we hope to build on the success of these events that help to raise awareness and celebrate the diverse cultures of Gypsy, Roma Traveller communities and we would love to hear from any artists that would like to help.

