

Erasmus GRIET exchange programme

On 16th October a GRT team member together with a young Romanian person we have supported, organised a guided tour in Leeds City centre for international guests from France and Romania who arrived to Leeds as part of the Erasmus GRIET exchange programme.

The following quote is what the young person thought of that whole experience:

Petra from GRT team asked me to join her on a trip to show some buildings from Leeds to visitors from Romania and France. We had a group of people and we walked the streets in Leeds. The group really enjoyed the questions we prepared before. The questions were about Leeds and its history. It was really good and a lot of fun. I hope they enjoyed the trip as much as I enjoyed that trip. :]
Rahela!



Safer Communities Fund

The team recently gained Safer Communities funding to deliver Harmony:Armonie:Harmónia project highlighting awareness and the barriers surrounding HATE crime reporting and employment exploitation.

The aim of the project was to engage and empower participants in conversations exploring community tensions and discrimination, whilst building confidence around emotive areas for families often new to Leeds and unsure of their rights and responsibilities.

We had expert speakers from the police attend some of the workshops followed by positive community activities through arts and crafts and trips to Leeds City Museum, Tropical World and Roundhay Park. Feedback from participants has been really positive and for a number of them the first time they had attended a group.



Calendar 2019

GRT Outreach and Inclusion team would like to introduce you to our new GRT calendar 2019.

Often referrals highlight that some families struggle to keep track of all the appointments, forgetting dates and losing their appointments cards. The original idea was a sheet of paper printed and fixed on a piece of cardboard. Following the feedback from families, we decided to produce a calendar which includes the most important messages regarding school application and dates of holidays in both languages.

The artwork in the calendar has been drawn by young people from our GRT communities in Leeds.

The calendar is available in three languages: English-Czech, English-Slovak, English-Romanian.

Please contact the team directly if you would like a copy to support your work with families



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 post information in three languages [English, Slovak and Romanian].

To follow us, search 'GRTLeeds' and then click on 'Like' 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/GRTLeeds>
1575991182709532/



Newsletter

GRT Leeds

Gypsy Roma Traveller Outreach & Inclusion Team



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

New Year Greetings—Bachtolo Nevo Berš

Leeds is proud to be a compassionate and child friendly city where culture and diversity is both important and celebrated. 2018 has been another busy year for the GRT Outreach & Inclusion Team as we continue to see more families from our Gypsy Roma Traveller communities choosing to settle in Leeds.

As a council we continue to welcome people to our city and this year in particular we have welcomed a number of new and emerging communities; international guests and residents at the Kidacre Park, Leeds second dedicated Traveller site.

When working restoratively with families, we often hear the stories and experiences of children, young people and their families. It is fantastic to hear some positive stories as well as supporting those facing challenges, discrimination and oppression. We continue to work closely with our wider partners in schools, police, voluntary sector organisations and LCC departments to ensure these stories are embedded in our work and training.

We have worked closely with colleagues in developing the Leeds Migration Strategy and in particularly highlighting the cross cutting challenges in accessing services often experienced by migrants arriving in Leeds

Safeguarding has featured prominently in our work, notably around Roma inclusion. This year much of our time has been spent working with colleagues in other children and families services to ensure consideration is given to children's culture and identity in our approaches to support families. We have run a variety of events with colleagues in Yorkshire & Humberside – West Yorkshire Vulnerability Symposium; Eurocities Roma Inclusion event held in Leeds and GRIET exchange sharing key messages around early help; building restorative relationships, understanding and respecting culture and ensuring the right response and the right time.



Returning to formal education



Our experience of working with young people from our Romany Gypsy and Irish Traveller communities living on Cottingley Springs Site is that a high percentage of those of secondary school age choose elective home education.

With the support of the GRT Outreach & Inclusion Team we have supported some young people to raise their aspirations and return to formal education from previously being elective home educated

Four young women have successfully enrolled and started courses at Leeds City College and we wish them every success.

Meanwhile, Sindy Joyce graduated earlier this month as the first Traveller to graduate with a PhD in Ireland. Saying "Today is a day of mixed emotions for me. On one hand, I'm really proud to be first in the Minceir (Traveller) community to receive a doctorate, but on the other, It's kind of sad it's taken until 2019 for it to happen".



Focus on Family Support

A considerable amount of time is spent supporting schools around Early Help / Family Support work; many of which contains concerns around poor or no school attendance; impacts of poverty; difficulties in communication between school and family

Some examples of recent cases include:

- We have provided Eden Park with an intensive programme of support to enable the school to meet the challenging needs of 2 young people from the Roma community who were also identified as particularly vulnerable and children looked after. Support took place over a number of terms.

- EHP at Bracken Edge primary to improve attendance and improve communications between a family with a 9yr old, 7yr old and nursery age child. Attendance is improving slowly as is communication, as Mum and Dads confidence is growing to work with the school and encouraging the nursery aged child to start in March 19.



Eurocities Roma Inclusion



In September Leeds hosted Eurocities Roma Inclusion meeting to share and learn about the city's strategic approach to Roma inclusion and migrant integration. Below is some feedback from a Leeds delegate:

"Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the Eurocities event. I think the presentation you gave provided a great insight into the volume of inclusive work which is undertaken to support our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. It made me think about the lengths which your team and wider partners go to in which to support often highly vulnerable families. It's the partnership work with schools which is essential to making the jigsaw pieces fit together! Speaking with colleagues from Italy and hearing how segregated their systems are was a stark reminder of actually how welcomed the GRT communities are in the UK compared to many other European countries!"

Phillip Painter
Head of Family Team Hovingham Primary School



- Close work with John Jameson school to improve communication and support with a family who has a child with physical and mental disabilities to improve attendance, understand the importance of all the support that is given in school and how it benefits the child long term. We also supported mum to improve how she communicates with school when issues arise both in school and at home in the family.

- Support to a child who attended an alternative provision due to behavioural issues, attendance, and refusing to engage with professionals. We supported him on a weekly basis at home and at the alternative provision, raising his aspirations and motivating both him and his family to raise their standard of living. We have worked with the child around education, skills, trainings and their future. We have managed to encourage him to access youth activities in their area and create positive relationships at home. As a result the child has now been able to return to school.

Culture Corner—Romani Music



In the life of many groups of Roma, music plays an important and living role: on the one hand within the family or group, during celebrations, spontaneous get-togethers or other occasions, on the other as a means of earning money.

For the Roma, music as a profession is an exclusively male domain; if women make music, it is solely as singers.

The different kinds of Roma music are mainly interpreted by Roma (or *Sinti*), but it is also taken over by Non-Roma.

What Is Romani Music?

The very divergent styles performed, historically shaped and constantly reshaped by Romanies include flamenco,



jazz Manouche, Russian "romances," Balkan (not to mention Middle Eastern) music, Hungarian czardas, as well as fusions with jazz, hip hop.

Roma are perhaps best known for their musical contributions. There are numerous historical references to Roma musicians holding royalty in thrall with their virtuosic renditions of local music, and among the common people of Eastern Europe the Roma has been the player of choice for most traditional celebrations.

The Romani do not have a common musical language and common melodic treasury. Romani folk music does exist but it is generally different in each country, and displays many features in common with local folk music

Perhaps the most important and influential of all Roma musicians in this century was **Django Reinhardt**, a Sinto. (In France these are also known as "Manouche.")



Music is a fantastic tool for engaging with communities, celebrating the richness and diversity of cultures. Our GRT Outreach & Inclusion Team has been working in partnership with The Co-operative Academy of Leeds to deliver a music project. During the weekly sessions students learn about Roma music and culture. The sessions encourage improved school attendance and support the integration of students from CEE and Roma backgrounds.

Please get in touch with the team if you would like us to offer a similar programme of support in your school or community based setting.

Contact: Julius Budo,
Inclusion Support Worker

