

Second Progress Report Of the Committee to Monitor and Co-Ordinate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community

December 2005

Contents

Chairperson's Statement.....	3
Chapter 1	
Terms of Reference.....	4
Membership of the Monitoring Committee.....	5
Introduction.....	6
Chapter 2	
<i>Section A</i> General Issues.....	8
<i>Section B</i> Culture.....	12
<i>Section C</i> Relationship with Settled Community.....	15
<i>Section D</i> Discrimination.....	17
<i>Section E</i> Accommodation.....	19
<i>Section F</i> Health.....	23
<i>Section G</i> Education and Training.....	28
<i>Section H</i> Traveller Economy.....	35
<i>Section I</i> Traveller Women.....	39
<i>Section J</i> Traveller Children.....	42
<i>Section K</i> Travellers with a Disability.....	44
<i>Section L</i> Initiatives for Travellers funded by the Department of Social & Family Affairs.....	48
Chapter 3	
Conclusion.....	56
Recommendations and Key Issues.....	58
Mapping Exercise.....	62
Glossary of Terms.....	133

Chairperson's Statement

We are pleased to present the second Progress Report of the Committee which co-ordinates and monitors progress on the recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community.

The Committee was established by John O'Donoghue, TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in June 1998. Since then the Committee has met on thirty nine occasions.

The Committee found that the monitoring of progress was difficult due to the lack of good quality data on the numbers of Travellers availing of services such as, education and health services and mainstream employment. Reliable information is needed on an annual basis, on the number of Travellers at schools and colleges, in employment, accessing health services, or taking up accommodation in houses, if progress is to be measured. The Monitoring Committee sees the development of baseline data as a priority and will continue in its efforts to promote the establishment of reliable data collection systems.

The Report shows that considerable financial and staff resources have been allocated and progress has accelerated in several sectors over the past five years. Yet approximately one quarter of all Travellers continue to live out their daily lives in difficult conditions. However, the Monitoring Committee welcomes the many important developments which have taken place in the same period in establishing the administrative and legislative measures necessary to implement the Task Force recommendations. The Monitoring Committee is confident that when these measures take effect and begin to produce results, the quality of life of Travellers will progressively improve.

The Committee is hopeful that Travellers will also be encouraged to participate in economic development both through the growth of the Traveller economy and by greater participation in the mainstream labour force. Travellers are generally self-reliant and resourceful and these attributes have not been fully supported up till now.

Looking to the future, we feel that it is important to maintain the momentum for change and improvement now that the resources and structures are in place in most Departments. We cannot continue to have the Travelling community treated as an underclass and have them deprived of the rights enjoyed by other Irish people. There is a continuing need for a strong policy commitment to Traveller issues if outcomes are to be achieved for the Traveller community.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of the members of the Monitoring Committee both past and present and to the secretariat for their hard work and dedication over the past few years.

Niall McCutcheon\ Garrett Byrne
Chairpersons

Chapter 1

Terms of Reference of the Monitoring Committee

The Terms of Reference of the Monitoring Committee on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Task Force on the Travelling Community are:

- 1.** To co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the recommendations on the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community which have been accepted by the Government or by Ministers.
- 2.** To draw up and submit to the Government from time to time, starting in 1999, a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations including proposals for acceleration or prioritisation of implementation of recommendations.
- 3.** To re-examine recommendations where necessary in the light of changes in Government policy and practice and of legislative, demographic, social and economic change.
- 4.** To serve as a forum for consultation on current issues of national importance affecting the Travelling Community.

Chapter 1**Membership of the Monitoring Committee**

Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform	Niall McCutcheon/ Garrett Byrne, Chair
Secretary	Kathleen Bonar
Secretariat	Mary Mulvanerty Ryana McGovern
Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government	Danny McElhinney
Department of Education & Science	Catriona O'Brien Breda Naughton*
Department of Health & Children	Mary O'Reilly
Department of Social & Family Affairs	Deirdre Hogan
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment	Anne Gale
Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs	David Brennan
Minister's Representative	John O'Leary
Tánaiste's Representative	Patricia Collins
Pavee Point Travellers' Centre	Ronnie Fay Martin Collins
National Traveller Women's Forum:	Cathryn Mannion
Irish Traveller Movement:	David Joyce Thomas McCann
Trade Union Pillar	Pat Richardson (ICTU)
Community & Voluntary Pillar	John-Mark McCafferty, (Society of St. Vincent de Paul)

*Indicates change in representation

Chapter 1

Introduction

This Report represents a composite process in reporting on the implementation of the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community (1995). It includes a summary of the main issues by chapter together with a detailed mapping exercise, analysing progress on each of the recommendations of the original Task Force Report.

The report is significantly shorter than the First Progress Report of the Committee to Monitor and Co-Ordinate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Task force on the Travelling Community (2000), which ran to well over 200 pages, because the Monitoring Committee felt that a shorter report would be more accessible, more outcome-focused and have more impact.

The report represents a consensus view of all the representatives on the Monitoring Committee (which the Task Force recommended should be set up to monitor progress). This consensus was achieved through a series of bilaterals between Departments and Traveller organisations chaired by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The effectiveness of the bilateral approach was welcomed by all involved and it was felt this represented a positive step in the working relationship between Traveller organisations and Departments. The process of bilaterals was also used during the drafting of the detailed mapping exercise.

The mapping exercise played an important part in focusing in on the 'facts' of Traveller policy. The role of the Summary report is to look at the wider policy issues. Each chapter has been organised into a short introduction, a summary of the main issues, a summary of progress and key recommendations to rectify areas where progress has been slow or non-existent.

The bottom line is that despite the allocation of considerable financial and staff resources and some progress being achieved, Travellers continue to have lower life expectancy, lower education qualifications and, in many cases, unacceptable accommodation. Traveller culture is under threat, both from lack of recognition by the settled community, but also from internal changes within the community. Issues around self-employment, unemployment and employment within the wider community also still need to be resolved. In all these areas, one needs to be sensitive to the differences, and similarities, between the Traveller and settled communities, particularly to the complexity of having an education or accommodation policy that meets the needs of Travellers and takes account of nomadism and standards of best practice. Also the Traveller community itself is dynamic and patterns of settlement within the Traveller community are subject to the same pressures of urbanisation as the wider community, the experiences of Traveller women differ to the experience of Traveller men and individual priorities vary according to experience.

However complexity should not be confused with impossibility or act as a defence for inactivity. The outcome has to be to identify improvements that can be made in education, health, accommodation, focusing on existing best practice which can be transferred to other areas and targeted allocation of resources. To target resources,

of course, we need data. The effective allocation of limited resources is a key challenge for Government across all policy areas. This is no different for Travellers; even if unlimited resources were available, the questions of how those resources should be spent and the impact on Traveller culture would still remain.

In achieving improvements the Government and Traveller organisations need to work together. It is a joint challenge to which both sides need to demonstrate equal commitment to making progress. However while the commitment should be equal, there are clear differences between the levels of power and resources that each side has to offer.

In some areas this progress has been notable for example; the Traveller Health Strategy and the commitment to a Traveller Education Strategy represent crucial developments. However, there are other areas where long-standing problems still need further progress, in implementing existing strategies for example, accommodation or discrimination in the labour market. It should be noted that many Travellers genuinely feel that the Traveller Community has suffered a number of high profile reversals such as the amendment of the public order legislation through the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002 and the change of forum for hearing of discrimination cases, involving licensed premises, from the Equality Tribunal to the District Court. Although the Government considers that each of the legislative provisions referred to is justified in itself, this perception among Travellers only makes it more important to deliver real improvements on the ground.

Of course the Task Force Report is not the only policy document in this area. Specific policy objectives in relation to Travellers are outlined in the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2003-2005, and the revised National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) document, "Building an Inclusive Society". Progress on these and other documents will be examined in the context of the mapping exercise but their comprehensive commitment "to improve the life experience of Travellers through the provision of appropriate education, health and housing services and to remove any remaining barriers to the full participation of members of the Traveller community in the work and social life of the country" is just as relevant here.

The Foreword to the First Progress Report published four years ago states that: "Five years after the publication of the Task Force Report, there is a lack of real improvement on the ground." This Report tells us that while improvement has taken place since 2000, particularly in the provision of accommodation, much remains to be done. The mapping exercise will provide this in more detail. However the main objective of this report is to identify a practical way forward to ensure that by 2007/8, when the next report will be due, Ireland is a better place for Travellers.

Since the first Report in 1995, there is evidence that particular sectors of Government activity, notably accommodation and the Health and Education Sectors are working in a more strategic way and consulting more with the Traveller community. This positive development will have implications for the role of the Traveller Monitoring Committee in the future.

Chapter 2

Section A – General Issues

1.1 This chapter provides background and analysis of cross-cutting issues.

The status of the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community

1.2 The Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community represented an agreement between Traveller organisations, political parties, local authority and Departmental representatives over what, in 1995, should be done to improve the position of Travellers in Irish society. The wide-ranging report, which contains over 300 recommendations, was submitted to Government. A Monitoring Committee was set up to “co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the recommendations on the Report of the Task Force on the Travelling Community which have been accepted by the Government or by Ministers”.¹

1.3 As this part of the Terms of Reference makes clear, all the recommendations do not have the same status. First, only those recommendations which have been accepted by the Government or by Ministers, rather than the Report as a whole, represent Government policy. Secondly, remaining recommendations have acted as an ‘aid to policy making’ for different Governments. Furthermore, a number of recommendations have been implemented or surpassed by other policy initiatives. Elsewhere, new recommendations are needed to reflect a change in the wider policy context since 1995. The exact status of recommendations will be clearer from the Mapping exercise but overall the Report should be viewed as the major source document for policy pertaining to Travellers. This summary report should be read in conjunction with the mapping exercise.

Political and Administrative Leadership

1.4 One of the key challenges facing Travellers is the absence of their participation in civil society and leadership within the wider community. There is also a lack of identification with Traveller issues which manifests itself at political and administrative levels. Political leadership, particularly at local level is needed to convey a more positive attitude towards the Traveller community and improve relationships between the Traveller and settled communities.

1.5 While the past few years have seen very significant advances in the Irish anti-discrimination code, perhaps administrative responsibility for Traveller issues needs to be more focused. The Monitoring Committee needs to be properly resourced and greater effort should be made to ensure that Departmental representatives on the Committee have the authority to make decisions and to drive through recommendations. The Monitoring Committee should also publish a short annual report outlining progress on Traveller issues. Alternatively, as reports on Travellers are already made to the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion on an ad-hoc basis, then this reporting process could be formalised. Either of these mechanisms will support the work of the progress reports,

¹Terms of Reference (see Chapter 1)

lessening the burden of producing a detailed report covering 2-3 years of progress.

- 1.6 The relationship between the Monitoring Committee and the High Level Working Group set up in December 2003 needs to be considered.
- 1.7 Officials involved in developing Traveller policy in the context of Sustaining Progress need to be aware that the Community Platform did not sign up to the agreement and Traveller organisations were part of this and so are not represented in the current partnership process which needs to be addressed.
- 1.8 Finally, In the light of changes and developments since the publication of the original report the role and composition of the Traveller Monitoring Committee needs to be reviewed.

Demographics and Data

- 1.9 The implementation of a number of recommendations or policies cannot be measured because of the lack of disaggregated data for Travellers. In addition, without data it is difficult to make policies which accurately target the disadvantage that Travellers face. This is not only a problem for Travellers; it represents a wider problem in terms of value for money. The Government needs to know where money is needed most.
- 1.10 A question relating to membership of the Irish Traveller community was included for the first time in the 2002 census form. Efforts to distinguish Irish Travellers in previous census had relied on enumerators identifying Travellers on the cover sheet during the fieldwork phase of the relevant census. The earlier coverage was only partial, as it focused on Travellers who lived mainly in halting sites, encampments, mobile homes and caravans. By way of contrast the question used in the 2002 census was asked of the entire population and, significantly, was based on self-identification. The census provides general information on numbers, age and gender profiles. A detailed analysis of the results was published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in January 2004. The main results are:
 - Close to 24,000 Irish Travellers, representing 0.6 per cent of the total population, were enumerated in the 2002 census.
 - Just over 3 per cent were enumerated in communal establishments. Of the remaining 22,942, 58.6 per cent lived in permanent accommodation (including permanent accommodation in Traveller encampments), 33.9 per cent lived in caravans or mobile homes while 7.5 per cent did not answer the relevant question.
 - There were 97.8 males per 100 females among the Traveller Community - only slightly lower than the sex ratio of 98.8 recorded for the population as a whole.

- There is a higher birth rate among Travellers - the young population aged 0-14 years accounted for 21.1 per cent of the general population, the corresponding proportion was 42.2 per cent for Travellers.
- Older Travellers (i.e. those aged 65 years and over) accounted for just 3.3 per cent of the total Traveller population compared with 11.1 per cent for the general population.

1.11 In addition to the 2002 Census, a Steering Group on Social and Equality Statistics was established under the aegis of the Cabinet Committee and the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion published its report in April 2003. In the context of recommendations made by the Group, Government approved the development of a Framework for Social and Equality Statistics to capture a comprehensive set of indicators of trends across the main dimensions of life. This framework is being developed by the Central Statistics Office under the guidance of the National Statistics Board and the Senior Officials Group on Social Inclusion. There is a need to ensure Travellers are included appropriately in this exercise.

1.12 The revised National Anti-Poverty Strategy also proposes the establishment of a Data Strategy which will aim to develop the collection and analysis of data in relation to poverty. As stated in the revised National Anti-Poverty Strategy (page 26): "... the successful implementation of the Strategy will require a broader data collection effort to gather data on those not in households, such as Travellers and homeless people, and data on specific population groups, such as people with disabilities."

1.13 The Office for Social Inclusion has, as one of its key roles, the task of developing and implementing a data strategy which will address such data deficiencies. The data collected will be disaggregated so that information on the vulnerable groups that have been identified in the Strategy, including women and children, will be identified.

1.14 Other areas of progress include the National Longitudinal Study of Children which will be jointly funded by the National Children's Office (NCO) and by the Department of Social and Family Affairs. The study will be the most significant of its kind to be undertaken in the Republic of Ireland, particularly in terms of the cost, scope and length of study period. A Steering Group has been established to progress the study, which is expected to commence in early 2006. The National Children's Office has included a cohort of Traveller children in the study.

In addition a pilot programme on establishing ethnic identifiers has been set up by the Department of Health and Children on the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry/ Perinatal systems in the Tallaght and Rotunda Hospitals. The objective is to seek ethnicity information on all patients covered by the pilot project, however the foundation of the project lies in the Traveller Health Strategy, and the potential benefits include being able to compare statistics on the uptake by Travellers of services with the general population and also to make comparisons with Northern Ireland. Once the results of this pilot are known,

consideration will be given to rolling out the recommendations to all health information systems and, subject to further work by the Central Statistics Office, potentially across Departments.

As the Department of Social and Family Affairs does not capture details on ethnicity when a Personal Public Service (PPS) record is created, there is no means to interrogate and disaggregate existing data for ethnic background, nor are there any plans to do so.

With regard to the pilot programme on establishing ethnic identifiers in the Department of Health and Children and the National Longitudinal Study of Children referred to in the preceding paragraphs, there is no reference to whether or not the PPS Number is to be used as an identifier. If it is, there could be privacy concerns with linking a sensitive data item such as ethnicity to the PPS Number. If this is likely to be considered, the Department of Social and Family Affairs needs to ensure, with its responsibility for the PPS Number and its legal Data Controller responsibility, that early consultation takes place with the Data Controller and with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

- 1.15** However these initiatives are only part of the answer. More detailed information is needed from Departments, for example how Traveller children compare with their peer group in terms of education attainment or specific health indicators. Data collection is also an issue in regard to how many Traveller women are using services such as refuges or rape crisis centres.
- 1.16** In other cases, having the figures is not enough. For example information is available on spending on Travellers in the health and education sectors (see Chapters 6 and 7). Without further information and assessment it is difficult to assess the value of these figures, and to quantify, what improvement, if any, the investment has generated, or how much of the allocated funding was actually spent on Travellers.
- 1.17** It should also be noted that even the provision of data represents specific concerns in regard to Travellers. In regard to training, more disaggregated data on Travellers means that anti-discrimination training and codes of practice will be needed to ensure that the data is not misused. It is recommended that anti-racism modules should be an obligatory component of pre-service training and in-service training at all levels (including senior management levels) for service providers. Codes of practice should also be drawn up in partnership with Traveller organisations and public service organisations should keep their training programmes under review to ensure that staff are appropriately supported and equipped in the delivery of services.

Chapter 2

Section B – Culture

Introduction

- 2.1** One of the key recommendations of the Task Force report was that the distinct culture and identity of the Traveller community should be recognised and taken into account. Culture is one of the two or three most complicated words in the English language. Traveller culture in Ireland is no exception.
- 2.2** Even at its narrowest it is possible to argue that Traveller culture and identity is important not only to the Traveller community but also to the settled community. Traveller culture has played and continues to play a crucial role in the development of traditional music, of the oral tradition of poetry and storytelling and crafts such as tin-smithing. The strengths of Traveller culture are also its weaknesses. Traveller's nomadic tradition and lack of formal institutions means that their cultural identity and heritage can be particularly fragile. This situation is further compounded by the fact that there is a strong emphasis on the oral tradition. As a result Travellers may require additional safeguards to protect and preserve their identity and heritage. In any case, the wider 'Irish' culture would be impoverished without the input made by Travellers.
- 2.3** However Traveller culture is broader than music and craft. Denial of Travellers' cultural identity exacerbates Travellers' daily experience of exclusion. Travellers' nomadic tradition is equated with vagrancy by some settled people; Traveller crafts and Traveller language is not recognised; Travellers' values, beliefs and customs are dismissed or ignored; the Traveller economy and work patterns are not acknowledged and, if they are, are denigrated. Accordingly, without respect for Traveller culture, progress in areas such as health, accommodation or education could be undermined. Respect for Traveller culture is also essential to nurture the development of Traveller children.
- 2.4** Traveller culture needs to be recognised as the foundation for the other sections of the Report.

Summary of Main Issues

- 2.5** Recognising the input made by Travellers into Irish culture is a key starting point. Protecting the cultural identity and heritage of Travellers has intrinsic value in itself in helping to ensure diversity and respect and to enrich our own shared cultural experience.
- 2.6** However, recognition is only the start. The challenge is to take Traveller culture into account in policy development. A response is needed that not only recognises but revitalises and promotes Traveller culture. This response needs to be two pronged. In the narrowest sense of culture there needs to be direct provision from the State to support Traveller participation in the arts. Traveller organisations have taken initiatives in this area but formal recognition and support from the State is required. At the same time, a wider education campaign needs to be undertaken to ensure that officials involved with Travellers issues appreciate the positive aspects of their culture.

Progress Since 2000

- 2.7** Culture is such a complex area that it is difficult to ascertain what progress has been made in this area. One of the key steps, the recognition of Travellers as a distinct group within the equality legislation was made prior to the First Progress Report. Since then, some very positive work was carried out in the area of culture under the auspices of the Citizen Traveller campaign. A search to find an effective successor to this campaign will commence in earnest after the publication of this Report with the organisation of a seminar to consider the way forward.
- 2.8** In September 2000 the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform established a Working Group on Equality Proofing to commence a learning period on how to incorporate an equality perspective to all policies. The aim is to devise a comprehensive impact assessment method for public policy making across all nine discriminatory grounds in the anti-discrimination legislation, including the Traveller ground. In addition, statutory bodies are actively developing awareness raising programmes, training for staff and bringing in anti-racism commitments as part of a broader approach to equality. In both these areas the outcome will include greater awareness of Traveller issues among policy makers and those who implement those policies.

Outstanding Issues and Recommendations

- 2.9** As 'culture' is a cross-cutting issue it is the responsibility of all Departments. However, a possible disadvantage is that no single Department is responsible for driving the recommendation of the Task Force forward. This can present difficulties in presenting the matter to the public as the issue becomes fragmented because there is no one figure who the public can associate with Travellers issues. There may be some merit in having a high profile figure, who is well respected in both the Traveller and the settled communities, to champion Traveller issues and provide leadership to the Traveller community. However, unless the individual had legal powers it is difficult to see how they could achieve anything tangible. This figure could be responsible for increasing greater understanding of the Traveller community amongst the settled community through the promotion of their culture and rights through education and the media. In line with this aim, a replacement programme for Citizen Traveller should be put in place as soon as possible and this is something the Monitoring Committee will consider further in 2005.
- 2.10** The tradition of nomadism is a key aspect of Traveller culture. While the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 recognises the need to provide transient sites and guidelines have also been produced and disseminated, little further development has taken place to date. This was looked at in the context of the review of the 1998 Act which was recently published. However many Travellers feel that transient site provision has become even more urgent now as a result of the introduction of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002 which is putting increased pressures on nomadic Travellers not to travel. Another aspect of Traveller culture is the ownership and trading of horses. This practice is affected by the Control of Horses Act 1998 and it is

recommended that the implementation of this Act should be reviewed insofar as it impacts on Travellers.

- 2.11** The Government should ensure that Traveller issues are a designated part of the responsibility of Arts Officers in order to support increased Traveller participation in their traditional arts as well as within the broader (mainstream) arts.
- 2.12** Statutory and non-statutory bodies with responsibility for social policy and local development should take into account the culture and identity of Travellers in the design and implementation of policies. This should also be reflected in staff training and development measures.

Chapter 2

Section C – Relationship with the Settled Community

Introduction

- 3.1** Issues connected to Traveller culture and identity overlap with the relationship between Travellers and the settled community. Respect for equality and diversity is one of the hallmarks of a modern society. The recommendations in Chapter 2 focus on how to foster a confident Traveller culture which can take its place alongside the culture of the majority settled population. A key part of this aim is finding a voice for Traveller issues within the wider community. The next step, the objective of this chapter, is to ensure that a positive relationship is developed between the wider community and the Traveller community. This requires both communities to respect the other community's culture and this relationship must be based on equality as well as respect for diversity. Forging such a relationship involves acknowledging that there have been some high profile failures as well as some less high profile but equally important successes where Travellers and settled communities live side by side without difficulty.
- 3.2** In this regard 'relationships with the settled community', like culture, also impact across the provision of all the services covered by this report, for example, the relationship between Traveller children and other school children is a key element in terms of a successful education policy. Any improvement in the relationship of the two communities is dependent on the successful implementation of the recommendations contained in other sections of the Task Force report.

Summary of Main Issues

- 3.3** In section A of the Task Force report (Relationships with the Settled Community) there are 12 recommendations relating to developing relationships, mutual understanding and respect between the Travellers and the settled community. Factors influencing the relationship, such as the role of the media, are also covered.

Progress since 2000

- 3.4** As noted above, there is a degree of overlap with Chapter 2 on Culture. For example, the importance of developing a successor to Citizen Traveller. Another area which is particularly important in this area is the resourcing of a mediation service. The Task Force Report recommended that conflict resolution and mediation in particular form part of a two-way reconciliation strategy (AR5). Pavee Point Traveller Centre has taken a lead role in developing conflict transformation and reconciliation initiatives and has been supported in its efforts by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

Outstanding issues and recommendations

- 3.5** Developing a positive relationship between Travellers and the settled community is challenging for a number of reasons. At present, most contact between the two communities is confined to formal relationships such as economic transactions, statutory service provision or interactions with community based groups or policy forums. Within these relationships the statutory sector has a key role to play in encouraging more positive contacts.
- 3.6** Given the limited communication between the two communities the role of the media is particularly important in shaping perceptions and can play a key role in promoting interculturalism and anti-racism. These recommendations should be considered together with other media related Government policies such as the development of a successor to Citizen Traveller. The Committee notes that the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform is developing a Defamation Bill and is also considering the issue of a Press Council and Code of Conduct.
- 3.7** A seminar involving all stake holders has been organised to address and explore all proposals to improve the relationship between Travellers and the settled community, the purpose of which would be to find an agreed replacement for the Citizen Traveller campaign. There are a number of proposals being suggested as a possible replacement for Citizen Traveller, both from Traveller organisations and others. One or more of such proposals could be selected as a possible replacement for Citizen Traveller, following consultation among stakeholders.

Chapter 2

Section D – Discrimination

Introduction

- 4.1** In spite of the progress that has been made in this area through the implementation of the Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004, and the Equal Status Acts 2000 and 2004, discrimination continues to be a significant issue for Travellers.
- 4.2** The table below sets out the number of cases taken to the Equality Tribunal under the Traveller ground in 'employment' and 'non-employment' situations. Travellers are reported to be reluctant to use the employment route for fear of making discrimination worse. This contrasts with Traveller experience of the equal status area. With regard to complaints received under the Equal Status legislation, although there has been some progress, cases of discrimination against Travellers pre-dominated. The substantial drop in Traveller cases under the Equal Status Act reflects a fall in the number of cases taken against licensed premises in 2003 and 2004. The impact of the transfer of jurisdiction to the District Court from the Equality Tribunal of new cases involving licensed premises must also be factored in.

Cases to Office of Director of Equality Investigations (ODEI) on Traveller Ground	2001	2002	2003	2004
<i>Employment Equality Act</i>	3(3)	3 (4)	3(3)	5 (5)
<i>Equal Status Act</i>	(641)	(741)	154(354)	26 (395)

Figures in brackets are the no. of individuals involved in the cases

2001 & 2002 Equal Status figure only shows no. of individuals. Number of cases is not available.

Summary of Main Issues

- 4.3** In Section C there are 18 recommendations, mainly implemented, relating to reporting on including Travellers in international reports, introduction of the Equal Status Act and some progress in relation to voting rights for Travellers.

Progress since 2000

- 4.4** The Government is committed to applying the additional protections in the EU Race Directive to the Traveller ground by amending the equality legislation. The Equality Act 2004 transposed the necessary directives and became law on 18 July 2004.
- 4.5** The interest and support shown by the judiciary in regard to equality seminars and training held by the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) was also strongly welcomed.

Outstanding Issues and Recommendations

- 4.6** A key area of concern to Travellers in regard to discrimination is the transfer of the jurisdiction for discrimination relating to licensed premises from the Equality Tribunal to the District Court. Traveller representatives feel that this different jurisdiction discriminates against Travellers and others in terms of costs, representation issues and procedural issues. It is also perceived as a backward step in terms of the loss of mediation, which was a popular and non-confrontational option for Travellers. On the other hand, the Government's decision to transfer jurisdiction from the Equality Tribunal (ODEI) to the District Court was based on a view that licensees should in principle be answerable for all their actions in a single forum.
- 4.7** It is recommended that the operation of community advocacy programmes should be reviewed to allow representation at the District Court or to provide an alternative. If this is not implemented then the provision for legal aid should be reviewed to reflect the increased cost of taking cases before the District Court
- 4.8** Finally, in cases where discrimination by a licensed premises is alleged, the mediation service previously offered by the Equality Tribunal should continue to be made available to disputants as an alternative to taking cases to the District Court.

Chapter 2

Section E – Accommodation

Introduction

- 5.1** The provision of good quality appropriate Traveller accommodation continues to be a challenge. The availability of such accommodation impacts on how other Government services are provided, ranging from education to welfare interventions.
- 5.2** The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee completed a Report on the operation of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 in 2004. The Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government published this in 2005. The report examines progress on the provision of accommodation and the improvements which need to be made to improve the rate of accommodation provision.
- 5.3** The Minister for Housing and Urban renewal accepted all of the recommendations contained in the report and has undertaken the steps necessary to have them implemented.
- 5.4** In light of this and as the Report mentioned above was completed before the final figures for 2004 were available, this Chapter brings the figures for Traveller accommodation up-to-date and comments briefly on the major issues which continue to be faced in providing sufficient appropriate accommodation for Travellers.

Traveller Accommodation position at end of 2004

- 5.5** The Table on page 20 sets out the accommodation position of Travellers at the end of 2004. At that time 64.77% of all Traveller families had accommodation as tenants in permanent accommodation provided by or with the assistance of local authorities. A further 6.95% are tenants in private rented accommodation and 6.64% of families have provided accommodation from their own resources.

Number of Families in:		2004	% of Families
(a)	Standard Houses (including Voluntary Housing)	2,827	40.44%
(b)	Unauthorised sites	601	8.60%
(c)	Permanent Halting Site Bays	743	10.63%
(d)	Group Housing	582	8.32%
(e)	Own Resources	464	6.64%
(f)	Basic Service Bays/Transient Halting Site Bays	363	5.19%
(g)	Private Houses assisted by LA's	376	5.38%
(h)	Sharing Housing (categories a, d, e, g, l)	334	4.78%
(i)	Private rented accommodation	486	6.95%
(j)	Sharing Permanent Halting Site Bays	128	1.83%
(k)	Sharing Basic Service Bays/Transient Halting Site Bays	87	1.24%
TOTAL		6,991	

- 5.6** As against that the number of families on unauthorised sites represents 8.6% of all Traveller families in the State and there are a further 13% in basic service bays or sharing accommodation. It is accepted that not all families consist of parent(s) and children and indeed, due to the way the figures are compiled, may be single individuals. It is understood the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government intends that this should be reviewed at an early date.

Changes to accommodation position 1996 to 2004

- 5.7** The Table on page 21 shows the changes to the accommodation position of Travellers accommodated by local authorities between 1996 and 2004. As mentioned above the first Traveller accommodation programmes covered the five-year period 2000 to 2004. While previously figures for accommodation provision had included temporary halting site accommodation when calculating the total accommodation provided, the monitoring committee agrees that the most acceptable measure of accommodation provision is permanent accommodation provided.
- 5.8** Under the programmes 1,371 additional Traveller families have been accommodated in permanent accommodation by or with the assistance of local authorities compared to 516 families in the preceding four years - since the publication of the Task Force Report.

	1996 – 1999	2000 – 2004
Standard including voluntary housing	296	828
Group Housing	55	226
Halting sites	37	69
Private Houses assisted by la	128	248
Total	516	1,371

- 5.9** The number of families on unauthorised sites, which had increased in the two years prior to the commencement of the programmes, has reduced under the programmes from 1,207 when they started to 601 at the end of 2004.

Accommodation Need

- 5.10** Local authorities as part of the preparation for adopting new Traveller accommodation programmes to cover the period 2005 to 2008 estimated the accommodation needs of Travellers. In addition local authorities undertook, in March of this year, the statutory triennial assessment of accommodation needs for the population generally, including Travellers. The accommodation needs of Travellers are identified from those exercises.

- 5.11** The figures used in this Monitoring Committee report are taken from the Annual Count of Traveller families, undertaken by local authorities in November of each year, and published by the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government. These figures are used as a mechanism to measure such aspects of Traveller accommodation as accommodation provided by local authorities or with local authority assistance, an estimate of accommodation provided by Travellers from their own resources, and the number of families on unauthorised sites. These figures are therefore not an estimate of accommodation need among Travellers.

Review of operation of Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998

- 5.12** Central to the provision of accommodation for Travellers is the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998. A review of the operation of this Act was completed by the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and submitted to the Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal in 2004.
- 5.13** The Minister has accepted all of the recommendations contained in the report. Some of these recommendations e.g. relating to targets in the new Traveller accommodation programmes which were due to be adopted by 30 April 2005, have already been implemented. It is envisaged that others will have been implemented by the time this report has gone to press. The NTACC has been asked to take the necessary steps to implement the remaining recommendations or to advise on their implementation.

Summary of Main Issues

- 5.14** While acknowledging that improvements are taking place in the provision of

accommodation for Travellers, this committee is conscious that there is still much work to be done in meeting their accommodation needs.

5.15 The issues which continue to need attention in relation to the provision of accommodation are:

- ▲ Improving the rate of accommodation provision,
- ▲ Implementing decisions on review of 1998 Act,
- ▲ Adoption, and implementation, by local authorities of new Traveller accommodation programmes to cover 2005 - 2008,
- ▲ Transient halting sites

Chapter 2

Section F – Health

Introduction

- 6.1** The Task Force made 33 recommendations relating to Health (recommendations ER1 to ER 33). Progress in this area has been mixed. On one hand there has been progress in the launch of 'Traveller Health - a National Strategy 2002-2005', which was recommended by the Report of the Task Force (ER3) and which supersedes many of the recommendations of the Task Force. The Traveller Health Strategy was adopted by Government and launched in February 2002. It provides a clear statement of policy which focuses on the underlying problems associated with the poor health status of Travellers and sets out a clear and practical plan, extending to over 100 actions proposed, for specific improvements in that status.
- 6.2** On the other hand there is a danger that the implementation of the Strategy could be undermined by insufficient additional funding. It is also clear that there is still insufficient data in the area of health but the data we do have from the Census indicates that there is a higher mortality rate for the Traveller Community at younger ages compared with the population as a whole.
- 6.3** More recent data indicates that the differential in sudden infant deaths between Traveller families and the settled community has increased to twelve times the national figure².
- 6.4** Alongside the health strategy and the Task Force report, targets relating to Traveller health have been set under the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) and the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2003-2005, drug abuse is also an increasing factor for Travellers as well as the rest of Irish society. The Traveller Specific Drugs Initiative in Pavee Point, Exchange House and local Traveller organisations have been developing responses to this issue in the last three years.

Summary of Main Issues

- 6.5** The main issues arising out of the Report of the Task Force, the Traveller Health Strategy, the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2003-2005 and drug abuse issues are:

Report of the Task Force

- 6.6** Covers the provision of increased funding; health and safety issues; institutional structures; improved medical records system.

Traveller Health Strategy

- 6.7** Covers partnership with Travellers; cultural awareness training; strengthening of Traveller Health Units; a Traveller Needs Assessment and Health Status Study; replication of the successful "Primary Health Care for Travellers Project"; and more effective liaison arrangements between the Department of

²Sudden Infant Death Association Report 1999

Health and Children and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to issues of common concern.

National Anti-Poverty Strategy

- 6.8** Reduce the gap in life expectancy between the Traveller Community and the general population by at least 10% by 2007.
- 6.9** The Traveller Health Strategy is currently being implemented and sets out a clear and practical plan for specific improvements in Traveller health status. In particular, the Primary Health Care for Travellers Projects, which involve the delivery of appropriate health services to Travellers by Traveller women, who have been trained as Community Health Workers, is being replicated in all Health Service Executive areas where there is a significant Traveller population. In addition, a Travellers' All-Ireland Health Study is expected to commence in 2006. This study will develop and extend the indicators collected in the last study of Travellers' health in 1987 and will inform the identification of appropriate actions, including the monitoring and setting of targets in relation to life expectancy.

Drugs Strategies

- 6.10** 2001 saw the launch of the Government's National Drug Strategy 2001-2008, *Building on Experience*. This strategy names Travellers as one of the groups at risk and identifies the need to carry out more work with such groups to ensure that actions are underpinned by relevant information. One of the remits of the recently established Regional Drug Task Forces is a focus on areas and communities that were not linked into existing Local Drugs Task Forces, such as Travellers.
- 6.11** Chapter 13 of the National Traveller Health Strategy also looks at issues of alcohol and drug use and identifies the need to ensure Traveller inclusion. The role and importance of the Traveller Specific Drugs Initiative is noted, with the assurance that the National Drugs Strategy Team will examine proposals from the Initiative to respond to the issue of problem drug use among the Traveller community.

Progress since 2000

- 6.12** Since 1997, additional funding of over €9m has been allocated to Health Service Executive areas for the development of Traveller health services.

Report of the Task Force

- 6.13** As stated above, much of the Report of the Task Force has been superseded by the Traveller Health Strategy, the implementation of which was one of the Task Force recommendations. The Traveller Health Advisory Committee (THAC) was established in 1998 and its work was crucial to the preparation of the Traveller Health Strategy. Traveller Health Advisory Committee advises the Minister for Health and Children on policy in relation to Traveller health and monitors the implementation of the Traveller Health Strategy. Traveller Health Units have been set up in each of the former health board areas (now Health Service Executive areas) to monitor the delivery of health services to

Travellers and set regional targets against which performance can be measured.

The Traveller Health Strategy

6.14 Implementation of the following key actions proposed in the Strategy has commenced:

- Health Service Executive staff and especially those in functional areas who come into contact with Travellers are developing appropriate in-service training in consultation with representative Traveller organisations, on matters concerning Traveller culture and discrimination.
- The Traveller Ethics, Research and Information Working Group has been set up. The Group has commenced drawing up ethical guidelines for research into Traveller Health and has examined research proposals for ethical approval. A subgroup of the Traveller Ethics, Research and Information Working Group has started work on a pilot to collect information on ethnicity from the Hospital Inpatient Enquiry/Perinatal systems in two Dublin hospitals.
- The Department of Health and Children and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland, are jointly committed to carrying out a Travellers' All-Ireland Health Study. This Study will develop and extend the indicators collected in the last survey of Traveller health in 1987 and will inform appropriate actions required in the area of Traveller health. The Study will commence in 2006.
- The former Eastern Regional Health Authority and former Health Boards (now Health Service Executive areas) have drawn up regional plans for the implementation of the Strategy in their areas.
- The Department of Health and Children, in conjunction with the Traveller Health Advisory Committee, has conducted a review of the operation of Traveller Health Units, with a view to establishing best practice. The findings of this review were discussed at a workshop of the Traveller health conference held in June 2004.
- The Traveller Consanguinity Working Group has produced a position paper entitled 'A Community Genetics Approach to Health and Consanguineous Marriage in the Irish Traveller Community'. An action plan for the implementation of the recommendations in the position paper is being drawn up by the Traveller Consanguinity Working Group.
- A joint committee of members of the Traveller Health Advisory Committee and the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee was established in 2004 to discuss issues of common concern such as the environmental health of halting sites and the

respective roles of the social work services of the health boards and local authorities.

- The Department of Health and Children, in conjunction with the Traveller Health Advisory Committee, is in the process of reviewing the implementation of the Traveller Health Strategy.

Health Data

- 6.15** A pilot project is currently underway to introduce an ethnic identifier on the Hospital Inpatient Enquiry and Perinatal systems in two Dublin hospitals. The results of this pilot will be analysed, with a view to extending identification of ethnicity to other relevant health information systems.

Drug Abuse

- 6.16** The Traveller Specific Drugs Initiative, the National Drug Strategy and the Traveller Health Strategy, have lead to increased awareness of the issue of drug use within the Traveller community. There is a need to ensure Traveller inclusion within the local and national responses. It is also important that these structures and services are sensitised to the distinct needs of the Traveller community in relation to drug issues and that they act in a positive and proactive way to respond to the diverse needs of Travellers. The continuance of resources for this work is paramount to ensure that the response makes a real difference in the long term.
- 6.17** The National Advisory Committee on Drugs has commissioned a Rapid Assessment Research project on drug issues in the Traveller community. Traveller organisations were represented in this project and the report of this research is currently being finalised.

Outstanding issues and recommendations

- 6.18** The Task Force Report, the Traveller Health Strategy and the National Anti-Poverty Strategy taken together reflect the fact that for many years and for a variety of reasons, the Traveller population has experienced a level of health which falls far short of that enjoyed by the general population. This fact is central to any discussion on Travellers.

Transparency and Accountability

- 6.19** Transparency and accountability are important to ensure that when money is allocated to Traveller projects it is not reallocated to other needs which are considered more pressing (e.g. acute hospitals) or to meet the Health Service Executive's statutory requirement to stay within budget. This is not to deny the importance of other services but the message needs to be sent out that Traveller health is a priority and that funding should be allocated accordingly.

Travellers' All-Ireland Health Study

- 6.20** It is impossible to allocate money effectively or measure value for money unless the Travellers' All-Ireland Health Study goes ahead and is properly resourced. It is inefficient for Government and Traveller groups alike to assess need on the basis of 1987 figures.

Institutional Arrangements

6.21 While Traveller Health Units are in place in each Health Service Executive area, more work needs to be done on their operation, in particular the involvement of Travellers in these units. Further training is needed on both sides to ensure Travellers can participate effectively. Finally, it is important that the expertise and efficient consultative arrangements which have been built up at former Health Board level through the involvement of Travellers in Traveller Health Units are not lost in the reorganisation of the health services, which may result in fewer Traveller Health Units with a possible dilution of the influence of Travellers in policy making. Although the Health Service Executive is in operation since 1 January 2005, structures have remained the same for 2005 and the future number of Traveller Health Units is unknown.

Funding for Traveller Health

6.22 The Department of Health and Children allocates funding for Traveller health to the Health Service Executive, which is the statutory provider of health services to Travellers. Specific funding is allocated to Traveller Health Units in each Health Service Executive area, to enable them to implement the actions proposed in the Traveller Health Strategy and to progress new health initiatives, in accordance with agreed action plans.

6.23 The following funding has been allocated since 1997:-

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
Former Health Boards – now HSE areas	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
ERHA	44,441	69,836	344,099	308,546	342,829	513,000	221,000	420,000	298,000	2,561,751
MHB	8,888	67,296	115,546	125,704	139,671	209,000	77,000	94,000	104,000	941,106
MWHB	8,888	67,296	125,704	137,132	152,369	228,000	83,000	102,000	112,000	1,016,389
NEHB	25,395	50,790	102,849	102,849	114,276	171,000	70,000	86,000	94,000	817,158
NWHB	12,697	50,790	59,678	45,711	50,790	76,000	54,000	166,000	73,000	588,665
SEHB	8,888	67,296	102,849	102,849	114,276	171,000	94,000	115,000	127,000	903,158
SHB	8,888	67,296	135,862	148,559	165,066	247,000	95,000	117,000	129,000	1,113,672
WHB	8,888	67,296	156,178	171,415	190,461	285,000	121,000	0	163,000	1,163,237
Pavee Point							200,000*	100,000**		
	126,974	507,895	1,142,764	1,142,764	1,269,738	1,900,000	1,015,000	1,200,000	1,000,000	9,105,136

* Once off funding to Pavee Point in respect of training and capacity building

** Once off funding to Pavee Point in respect of Travellers' All Ireland Health Study

Chapter 2

Section G – Education and Training

Introduction

- 7.1** The 1995 Task Force on the Traveller Community made 167 recommendations in relation to Traveller Education - more than half of the total number in the report. This is a reflection of the importance of the education service provision. This importance is particularly marked given the tradition in the Traveller community of preferring paid work over educational qualifications. The nomadic tradition also poses particular challenges for continuity of education.
- 7.2** The number of recommendations is also a measure of the challenge facing those responsible for, or with an interest in, the promotion of Traveller education. Once again, measuring the size of this challenge is not made easier by the limited availability of data. To take one measure for which figures are available, the most recent report on school retention indicates that the national retention rate to completion of Junior Certificate is 94.3%. Available figures for Traveller pupils indicate that the retention rate to 3rd year was only 51%.
- 7.3** Only a small percentage of Travellers transfer to Senior Cycle.
- 7.4** If the Department of Education and Science is to meet its aim of “full participation of Traveller children in an intercultural education system” then considerable work is needed. As can be seen from the progress listed below considerable progress has been made. One clear example of the impact education initiatives can have is the School Completion Programme (SCP). The SCP targets individual ‘at risk’ young people of school going age, both in and out of school, and arranges supports to address inequalities in education access, participation and outcomes. Figures indicate that approximately 1,300 Traveller children are currently targeted by this initiative. The Navan and Ennis School Completion Projects (SCP) are examples of good practice where up to half the young people targeted by the projects are Travellers.
- 7.5** However undoubtedly the key development in this area, alongside the recommendations of the Task Force, has to be the development of a 5-year Traveller Education Strategy which is in the process of being drawn up.

Proposed Traveller Education Strategy

- 7.6** The Traveller Education Strategy will review developments since the publication of the Task Force report, including the implementation or partial implementation of some of the recommendations. It will identify challenges for the future, identify solutions and will seek to ensure equality of outcomes for Travellers from the Irish education system. This is particularly significant given the high levels of spending on Traveller education (see table at the end of this chapter). Any baseline data required to support implementation of the Strategy will be identified and arrangements to benchmark performance against this baseline data during the five-year implementation period will be outlined. An external expert has been appointed to lead the process and he is

working closely with a Joint Working Group drawn from statutory Educational Disadvantage Committee (EDC) and the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education (ACTE). The following are among the specific issues which are receiving priority:

- Teacher training – pre-service and in-service
- Curricular change, including interculturalism
- Traveller parental role and involvement (including in boards of management, parents' associations etc.)
- Review and overhaul, as appropriate, of allocation and use of extra resources and supports
- Ethnic identifiers and data collection regarding access at all levels of education
- School enrolment policies and Traveller-proofing system for the Department of Education and Science, school policies generally and transport issues
- Post-primary transfer and retention and progression from post-primary
- Second-chance/adult education initiatives for Travellers
- Role of community development/community-based education initiatives

The Joint Working Group will submit a report with its recommendations for a Traveller Education Strategy, to the Department's Advisory Committee on Traveller Education and to the Educational Disadvantage Committee which is responsible for advising on broader issues of educational disadvantage many or which are relevant to Travellers. Subject to approval, the report will be presented to the Minister as a submission of the Educational Disadvantage Committee.

Summary of the Main Issues

7.7 The main issues arising out of the Report of the Task Force, the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and the proposed Traveller Education strategy are summarized below.

Report of the Task Force

7.8 The main issues include, School Attendance/ Nomadism; Traveller parental role and involvement; Curricular change and interculturalism in curriculum; Traveller Achievement and attainment; Post-primary transfer and retention; and review of current support / data collection (at all levels of education).

Programme for Prosperity and Fairness

7.9 A High Level Official responsible for Traveller Education was appointed in February 2003.

National Anti-Poverty Strategy

7.10 Age appropriate placement of all Travellers in Primary School will be achieved by 2003

The best information available, collected by the Visiting Teacher Service in October/November each year, indicates that the vast majority of Traveller children are already in age appropriate classes.

- 7.11** The Transfer rate of Travellers to post-primary schools will be increased to 95% by 2004

Significant progress has been made in achieving this target. The retention of Travellers in Post-primary initially to complete Junior Cycle and to increase the numbers staying in school to complete Senior Cycle will be facilitated and supported. There are approximately 1850 Traveller children in mainstream post-primary schools at present out of a possible 4,850 (current CSO census figures for 15 to 25 year olds) i.e. 46% of all Traveller children of post-primary school age. In addition, there are 1084 Traveller Trainees in Senior Traveller Training Centres in 2005 of which approximately 250 are aged between 15 and under 18 years. Over 300 Travellers are attending Youthreach programmes (2004/2005). However, the majority of Traveller children leave mainstream schooling prior to completing Junior Cycle.

- 7.12** Under the Review of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy – Building an Inclusive Society, one of the key targets in relation to Travellers and Third Level access is that each third-level institution will double the participation by mature disadvantaged students, including Travellers and Refugees by 2006 (within the 15 per cent quota)

Estimation from the Visiting Teacher Service found that in Oct/Nov 2004 there were 10 male and 18 female Travellers at third level. The National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education recently published "Achieving Equity of Access to Higher Education in Ireland - Action Plan 2005 - 2007". Travellers are a target audience of this plan. In April 2005 the National Office published a report "Achieving Equity of Access to Higher Education in Ireland: The Case of Travellers".

Progress since 2000

- 7.13** Apart from the Department's commitment to developing a 5-year Traveller Education Strategy, progress in other areas has been made.
- 7.14** **Legislation.** The Education Welfare Act, 2000 was fully commenced on 5 July 2002. The Act raises the minimum school leaving age to 16 or the completion of 3 years of the Junior Cycle, whichever is the later. The Act provides a comprehensive framework for promoting regular school attendance and tackling the problems of absenteeism and early school leaving.
- 7.15** **School attendance:** The National Education Welfare Board (NEWB) was established on 29 May 2001 as the single national agency with responsibility for school attendance. The Board includes representatives from the education partners and State Agencies. The Education Welfare Officers of the Board act as advocates for and support all children and their parents as they promote regular school attendance.

- 7.16 Administrative changes** have been made in the Department with a view to improving co-ordination of service delivery by various sections in the Department. The Social Inclusion Division within its extensive remit is responsible for the co-ordination of all Traveller education provision within the Department.
- 7.17 Guidelines on Traveller education** in Primary Schools and Guidelines on Traveller Education in second-level schools were issued to all primary and post primary schools in March 2002.
- 7.18 Interculturalism:** Guidelines on Intercultural Education in Primary Schools prepared by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment were published in May 2005 and distributed to Teachers in primary schools. Guidelines for post-primary schools are also being prepared.
- 7.19 School Plans:** In designing and revising School Plans in line with the Education Act 1998, minority groups such as Travellers must be affirmed. Policies such as anti-bullying, anti-discriminatory and equality statements must reflect the diversity of pupil intake in a sensitive way and help protect all children.
- 7.20 Pre-schools for Travellers a National Evaluation Report** was published in 2003. The report makes very significant recommendations in relation to many aspects of pre-school education including management issues, quality of provision, attendance levels, accommodation, teacher qualifications and in-service supports.
- 7.21 Primary and Post primary Evaluation:** The Department's Inspectorate has carried out a survey of Traveller education provision in both primary and post-primary schools, as part of the Traveller Education Strategy process. The results of this survey will be published in autumn 2005.
- 7.22 Junior Education Centres and Special Schools for Travellers:** In the context of stated policy of integration of Travellers into mainstream provision, the Department is currently considering a course of action for the phasing out of these schools. The Department will provide the relevant resources, where necessary, to the schools accommodating these students. Since June 2004 there are no special classes for Travellers in primary schools.
- 7.23** In October 2003, the Department published an information booklet – **Schools and the Equal Status Act.** This outlines the main features of equality legislation as they affect primary and post primary schools and identifies ways in which equality legislation together with the Education Acts can be used as building blocks for the creation of the inclusive school. A revised booklet was published in 2005.
- 7.24 Adult Education** Of the 33 Vocational Education Committees, 19 have specific adult literacy programmes for Travellers as part of their overall suite of literacy options.

- 7.25 Transport:** Traveller children have the same entitlements to school transport as other students. Some Traveller children are provided with transport as applications for special consideration are received. Every effort is made to facilitate Travellers with transport to their designated schools, subject to the availability of resources. Sometimes charitable organisations provide transport and 98% grant-aid is payable by the Department with the balance of the cost borne by the charity.
- 7.26** There is a **National Education Officer for Travellers** who identifies the educational needs of the Travellers and advises on appropriate responses in areas of school practice and in planning education provision.
- 7.27** There are now **40 visiting teacher posts for Traveller Education**. The visiting teachers work throughout the country. When the 1995 report was published there were eleven such posts. The visiting teachers service seeks to provide opportunities for Traveller parents, their children and schools to engage in a process of development that maximises participation and attainment levels and promotes an intercultural education for all.
- 7.28 Pre-Schools:** 45 pre-schools catering for approximately 500 Traveller children are supported through 98% funding of tuition and transport costs. In addition there are Early Start Classes in 40 disadvantaged primary schools and a small number of pre-school classes for autistic children, funded by the Department. Traveller children can attend these classes.
- 7.29** There are **540 Resource Teachers for Travellers** in primary schools to provide learning support to Traveller students. In addition a school with a resource teacher for Travellers receives an enhanced capitation for each Traveller student enrolled.
- 7.30 At post primary level, an ex-quota allocation of 1.5 teaching hours per week** is allowed per Traveller child enrolled and additional full time equivalent teachers are appointed as a result. In 2003/2004 there were 138 such whole time equivalent posts. A supplementary capitation grant continues to be paid to support Traveller children and families to successfully participate in the life of the school.
- 7.31 Senior Traveller Training Centres (STTCs)**. There are thirty three centres located throughout the country and also 3 outreach centres. They cater for Travellers from 15 years and older. The majority of trainees are aged between 18 and 45 years. The centres provide a programme of general education, vocational training, work experience, guidance/counseling/psychological services. A national co-ordinator for the STTCs promotes and monitors the development of the network of centres.
- 7.32 National Action Plan against Racism.** The Department of Education & Science contributed to the National Action Plan which was published in January, 2005.

Outstanding issues and recommendations

7.33 The single most important priority is the development of a comprehensive Traveller Education Strategy based on (i) a root and branch review and evaluation of all the existing schemes and measures targeted at Travellers and (ii) the Traveller equality-proofing of all other education policies, measures and schemes. There are six specific recommendations

- *Interculturalism*

There is a need to continue to build interculturalism into the curriculum, approaches, services, practices and ethos of educational institutions

- *Training of educators*

There is a need to continue to address the challenges to the teaching profession posed by an acknowledgement of the multi-ethnic nature of the society and of the classroom and other locations of learning.

- *Equality of Access, Participation and Outcomes*

There is a need for a better balance of emphasis between access, enrolment and retention on the one hand and generation of equality of outcomes from educational provision on the other. An important tool in this regard is the development of data collection and analysis systems.

- *Review of Use of Additional Resources*

A root and branch review and revamp of the use of all Traveller-targeted additional resources/services is required, including: capitation, extra teaching hours, Resource Teachers for Travellers, Visiting Teacher Service, National Education Officer for Travellers, Traveller Training Centres, special schools.

- *Traveller Parental and Community Involvement*

Investment is required to build the capacity of Traveller parents and Traveller community organisations to support their participation in the development of the education service.

- *Traveller-proofing All Schemes and Policies*

There is a need for full and appropriate integration of Travellers' needs into all areas of education schemes and policies through Traveller-proofing/equality mechanisms.

Table – Estimated expenditure on specific additional supports for Traveller Education (FR 34 to 49, 55 to 60, 88 to 102, 103 to 105, 106 to 116 and 145 to 164)

	1999/00	2000/01	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	Number of Travellers 2003/2004
Pre schools for Travellers	€1.0m	€1.0m	€1.0m	€1.0m	€1.0m	500
Resource Teachers for Travellers (RTTs) - €40k (notional) per post	€18.4m (460 RTTs)	€19.00m (480 RTTs)	€ 20.8m (520 RTTs)	€21.6m (540 RTTs)	€21.6m (540 RTTs)	
Teaching hours second level (whole time equivalent posts)	€3.6 m 80 wte posts	€4m 90 wte posts	€4.9m 120 wte posts	**€ 6.5m	€6.9m 138 wte posts	
Enhanced Capitation primary	€1.4m 5,500 pupils	€ 1.5m 5,700 pupils	€1.5m 5,700 pupils	€1.55m 5,700 pupils	€1.6m 5,900 pupils	5,900
Extra capitation post primary	€0.5m 1,200 students	€0.55m 1300 students	€0.756m 1600 students	€0.87m 1700 students	€0.87 m 1700 students	1,700
Visiting Teachers for Travellers (40 posts) and the National Education Officer for Travellers)	€1.9m	€1.9m	€1.9m	€1.9m	€1.9m	
Junior Education Centres (VECs) - Capitation	€0.04m (4 Centres –175 pupils)	€0.03m**	€0.03m (3 Centres –100 pupils)	€0.03m (3 Centres –100 pupils)	€0.03m (3 Centres –80 pupils)	100
Teaching hours for Junior Education Centres (through VECs)	N/A		N/A			
*Senior Traveller Training Centres	€12.2m	€12.5m **	€12.9m	€13m	€13m	950
Youthreach						220
*Transport	€0.5m	€0.6m	€0.6m	€0.6m	€0.6m	
Total	€39.51m	€ 41.02m	€ 44.24m	€47m	€47.5m	9370

* Expenditure figures are based on calendar year rather than school year
** Estimate –
Based on an estimate of 9000 Traveller young people in the above services, approximately €4,900 is spent per capita per annum on specific additional supports for Traveller Education.

Chapter 2

Section H – Traveller Economy

Introduction

- 8.1** The objective of this area of policy is to ensure Travellers are equipped to participate in the work environment regardless of whether that means self-employment, employment in the public sector, the private sector or the community sector. This requires the provision of effective training opportunities and change within the Traveller community. However, it is equally important that the full range of employment and training options are open to Travellers and that institutional or discriminatory obstacles are removed. This requires work by the State and employers.
- 8.2** Achieving this aim requires a concerted effort across a range of Departments. Although the main departmental responsibility lies with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment other departments are also involved, including the Department of Environment and Local Government, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. In addition local authorities are involved through implementation of legislation such as the Control of Horses Act, the Casual Trading Act and waste management regulations.

Summary of the Main Issues

Report of the Task Force

- 8.3** There are 41 recommendations in the Traveller economy section of the Task Force. The main issues included effective organisation of trading activities, the development of recycling and waste management strategies, improved involvement of Travellers in local development activities and the development of strategies to increase participation by Travellers in mainstream employment and training /employment schemes.

National Anti Poverty Strategy

- 8.4** One of the primary aims contained in the Government's revised National Anti Poverty Strategy is to remove any remaining barriers to the full participation of members of the Travelling Community in the work and social life of the country. The revised National Anti-Poverty Strategy also contains an objective to provide maximum opportunity for the most vulnerable members of society to gain employment and to progress to better paid and more fulfilling employment.

Progress since 2000

- 8.5** In April 2002 the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment reappointed a Liaison Officer for the purpose of direct contact with the Traveller organisations.
- 8.6** FÁS has accepted the Task Force recommendations and Travellers are now included on a range of FÁS programmes. In addition there are a number of special initiatives which have been developed in response to approaches from

Traveller Support groups locally. Trainees from Senior Traveller Training Centres (STTC) are entitled to progress to FÁS Mainstream and it is open to Senior Traveller Training Centres to approach FÁS Training Centres, FÁS Placement Services and FÁS Community Services to avail of services as required. In addition FÁS is a partner with IBEC, ICTU, four Traveller organisations and the Finglas Cabra Partnership on an EQUAL Project exploring aspects of the Traveller economy. This pilot project will run for 3 years supporting the Traveller economy and providing Travellers with training in specific skills. There are currently 3 pilot programmes running in Pavee Point, Clondalkin and Galway.

- 8.7** The Competition Authority has completed a review of the Casual Trading Act, 1995 under the Competition Act, 2002. The Irish Organisation of Market and Street Traders, twelve casual traders, and nine Local Authorities, among other interest groups (though not Traveller organisations), were consulted in the course of in depth research carried out by the MRBI on behalf of the Authority. The report was published on 16 May 2003. While Pavee Point welcomed a number of the recommendations, more progress is still needed. This will be dealt with in the mapping exercise.
- 8.8** The Review of the Active Labour Market Programmes (ALMPs) has been concluded. Active Labour Market Programmes include Community Employment (CE), Jobs Initiative, Education, Training and Back to Work Programmes. One of the objectives of the Review was to ensure a greater focus on marginalised or disadvantaged groups, including Travellers. The main issues are the future of Community Employment and support for community services.
- 8.9** Schemes such as the Local Training Initiative, the FAS external training budget and Community Employment have been effective. For example a number of Travellers have been trained as primary health care workers through these schemes and are now employed in the health care sector. Building on this success it is recommended that FAS fund a coherent and national accredited programme for the training of Travellers in primary health care.

Outstanding issues and recommendations

Self-employment

- 8.10** Despite the progress noted above there is a disparity between the objectives of the Task Force and the opportunities offered by a range of State sectors. The Task Force report had a broader understanding of the potential of social economy to support the development of the Traveller economy than is captured within the current FAS programme. Furthermore, the current programme is not funded to the level originally envisaged, undermining its effectiveness. These issues need to be resolved, incorporating lessons from the EQUAL project and other initiatives about how enterprise supports should be designed and delivered.

- 8.11** The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment should also work alongside Traveller organisations and other relevant agencies to ensure the provision of appropriate supports for economic activities initiated by Travellers themselves.

Training and Active Labour Market Programmes

- 8.12** The question of support for Travellers through Active Labour Market Programmes such as Community Employment, Jobs Initiative, Social Economy Initiative, Local Training Units and FAS programmes is central to the development of the Traveller economy in the broadest sense. However, there have been cutbacks in labour market programmes, in particular Community Employment Schemes.
- 8.13** The interface between these schemes and the Traveller community needs further study. The problem is that community employment schemes are principally intended as labour market schemes, effectively a stepping stone into mainstream employment. However, for some Travellers the schemes have become an end in themselves. While this is not the intention of the policy, the indirect impact on Travellers, in terms of fostering a positive attitude to mainstream employment and training, appears to be significant enough to warrant further consideration. This indirect policy objective should be acknowledged and schemes involving Travellers should be prioritised and continue until alternative schemes can be put in place.

Access to employment

- 8.14** Training programmes are only one side of the coin. The other side is the lack of employment opportunities following training. Currently the main avenue of accessible employment for Travellers is through the community sector, particularly Traveller organisations themselves. As the funding for this employment comes through ALMPs, ALMPs are effectively funding Traveller employment as there is little else to progress to.
- 8.15** The State needs to play a *proactive* role in tackling access to mainstream employment, including the private sector, the public sector and the community sector. As part of the recruitment campaign to the civil service in 2003 the Department of Finance specifically targeted Traveller applicants. No Travellers were successful but the scheme was significant in terms of the interest generated within the Traveller community. However, in 2004, the Department of Communications, Marine and National Resources operated a successful work placement scheme for three Travellers, during the summer months. It is recommended that consideration be given extending this sort of approach to the wider public sector.
- 8.16** With regard to the private sector, discrimination remains a real problem and there is a need to engage with employers to break down any prejudice against Travellers. A more direct solution is the Employment Equality Act 1998, which specifically names Travellers as a group against whom discrimination is prohibited. However, while Travellers have been willing to use the Equal Status Act 2000 to seek redress for discrimination in the provision of goods and services they are reluctant to use the Employment Equality Act as an

option because access to employment is relatively new and there is concern that challenging discrimination will make the situation worse. While this concern is understandable it is also unfortunate and unwelcome. The Equality Authority has a role to play in working with employers and Travellers to ensure discrimination is tackled, if necessary through recourse to the Employment Equality Act.

Emerging Issues

- 8.17** The proposed EU Directive on the end of vehicle life will have implications for the Traveller economy. Research launched, in March 2004, by Pavee Point highlighted the issue. The research - 'Dismantling the Traveller Economy? - A Case Study of the impact of increasing regulation on the Traveller economy' points out that self employment has been one of the ways Travellers have sought to address their own economic needs but that increasing regulation would act as a barrier to Traveller entrepreneurship. It is acknowledged that Travellers face many barriers in setting up their own businesses such as accessing credit, barriers getting recognition for the skills they have and discrimination encountered when applying for trading licenses.
- 8.18** South Dublin County Council is currently examining the feasibility of establishing a recycling initiative involving the Traveller Community in their area.

Chapter 2

Section I – Traveller Women

Introduction

- 9.1** As noted by the First Progress Report, Traveller women are particularly vulnerable to discrimination. In addition, the inequalities experienced by women generally are also experienced by Traveller women. This interface of sexism and racism within the Traveller Community presents specific challenges.
- 9.2** In October 2002, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform published a report to the United Nations on the National Plan for Women 2002 which describes in detail Ireland's existing commitments to advancing the status of women in Irish society. The Department also published a report of the consultation process on the National Plan for Women 2002, including views from The National Traveller Women's Forum and Pavee Point.
- 9.3** While these documents are relevant to Traveller women in general, Traveller women also have specific issues which need to be addressed in terms of developing leadership skills, childcare issues and issues around violence. In this regard Traveller organisations drew attention to the impact on women of legislation which can lead to Traveller families being evicted without alternative accommodation. In this sense, Traveller representatives consider Traveller women to be placed in a difficult position and be in conflict with the settled community and the State.
- 9.4** However, as can be seen below, good progress has been made, particularly in terms of the leadership and representational role adopted by Traveller women on national committees and steering groups. Representation is only a means to an end; real progress in this area will only be measured when policies developed nationally and locally begin to have a positive impact on Traveller women's lives.

Summary of Main Issues

- 9.5** There are 7 recommendations on Traveller Women in the Report of the Task Force (HR1 to HR7). The recommendations refer to gender proofing, the collection of data on the needs of Traveller women, childcare, violence, training/economy issues and co-operation with Traveller women's organisations. A number of recommendations also correspond to Recommendations of the Second Commission on the Status of Women and recommendations contained in the National Traveller Health Strategy.

Progress since 2000

Representation

- 9.6** Traveller women are represented, through the National Traveller Women's Forum, on the Task Force Monitoring Committee; the National Traveller Health Advisory Committee; the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee; the steering committees for the consultation process of the National Plan against Racism and the consultation process for the

National Plan for Women and the Advisory Committee on Traveller Education. The National Traveller Women's Forum provide support and networking to representatives at a local and national level. Pavee Point is represented on the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women. Traveller women are also represented on all 8 Regional Planning Committees (RPCs) on violence against women.

- 9.7** At a national and local level Traveller women are increasingly taking on leadership roles. The National Traveller Women's Forum are coming to the end of a project delivered through the Equality for Women Measure (under the aegis of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform). It was designed to support Traveller women engaging in local social partnership or interested in taking up leadership roles within their work or community. The project had a strong training focus and Pavee Point produced a video on older Traveller women as part of it. The National Traveller Women's Forum is also supporting the emergence and development of Traveller women's groups in areas of the country where there is little or no Traveller community activity.

Violence (Recommendations HR.5, H9)

- 9.8** Traveller women are represented on both the National Steering Committee and the Regional Planning Committees on Violence Against Women (VAW). These committees bring together a combination of statutory agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations and other support services, which have a key role in the areas of policy, good practice and monitoring in relation to the development of effective and appropriate responses for women experiencing violence.
- 9.9** Pavee Point, through the Violence Against Women Programme, has delivered Anti-racist training to a number of refuges and support services throughout Ireland resulting in refuges beginning to acknowledge the gaps within their own service provision on Traveller women's issues. Pavee Point's Violence Against Women Programme has fostered many positive links with violence against women agencies. Work with Women's Aid, Dublin has been instrumental in developing a joint framework to support and progress the issue of violence against Traveller women in the Eastern Regional Health Authority area. In terms of Traveller women's experiences of violence, research through Pavee Point's 'Pavee Beoirs, Breaking the Silence', has provided a base line to work from. It is crucial that any future research carried out in relation to violence against women includes a Traveller dimension and is developed in partnership with Traveller organisations.

Resourcing: (Recommendations HR.2, H3)

- 9.10** Traveller organisations have received funding through the Community Development Support Programme under the aegis of the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. This funding allows organisations to target Traveller women through training, equality work or other projects. The NTWF project 'Pavee Beoirs: Progress in Partnership' is funded under the Equality for Women measure (under the aegis of the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform) to develop and deliver a culturally appropriate

package to build the capacity of Traveller women to participate in local social partnership.

Outstanding issues and recommendations

- 9.11** In light of the concerns about the impact of policies on Traveller women the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform is prepared to sponsor research on gender proofing policy on Travellers in partnership with the National Traveller Women's Forum. The development of the National Women's Strategy has begun. Traveller women should be represented at all levels of this process.
- 9.12** Although Traveller women are already represented on a number of committees Government departments should consider the benefits of including Traveller representatives on other monitoring mechanisms, for example, in relation to the National Women's Strategy. Such inclusion will play an important role in the monitoring of future initiatives to ensure that all policies have a direct positive impact on equality for Traveller women.
- 9.13** Training and education have played a key role in developing the skills needed by Traveller women to fulfil their representational role. In line with this, the government should establish a funded training programme alongside existing FAS courses specifically targeted at disadvantaged women. Within this programme an element should be ring fenced for Traveller women.
- 9.14** The Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform and the Department of Health and Children need to continue to prioritise the area of Violence against Women while setting specific targets in relation to Traveller women. It is recommended that a short-term advisory group should be set up under the National Steering Committee on Violence Against Women which would work to develop and further progress recommendations relating to Traveller women. The piloting of culturally appropriate counselling services for Travellers should be resourced
- 9.15** In regard to childcare, childcare provision that is of good quality and culturally appropriate is a basic requirement for creating the conditions for the advancement of Traveller women. A recent negative development in this area has been the withdrawal of childcare payments to Primary Health Care for Travellers projects by FAS. The issue of the withdrawal of childcare payments needs to be addressed urgently in consultation with Traveller organisations. In addition each County Childcare committee should target specific resources for the Traveller community when establishing annual targets and supporting the development of childcare services. Learning from the special initiative under the national agreement 'Sustaining Progress' focusing on care (including childcare) should also be considered.

Chapter 2

Section J – Traveller Children

Introduction

10.1 Traveller children suffer all the ill effects of the inadequate provision that the community as a whole experiences. This can lead to restricted opportunities in society and can have a detrimental effect on self-esteem and on pride in Traveller culture. In addition, children are especially vulnerable to ill health and poor physical and cognitive development.

10.2 The Task Force dealt with Traveller children only in the context of Traveller women. There was no specific chapter or recommendations relating solely to Traveller children. Progress in the area of children's rights in general since 1995 highlights the inadequacy of this position. As a result this chapter sets out some of the areas relating to children that need to be progressed. These will be expanded in more detail in the context of the mapping exercise.

Culture

10.3 All children derive meaning, strength and values from their culture. Respect for Traveller culture is particularly important as a foundation for the development of Traveller children. Culture is a source of identity, connection, security, providing tools for interacting with people and acting in the world. Traveller children's home culture cannot, nor should not, be ignored or erased in order for Traveller children to succeed in mainstream society. As part of this process learning materials depicting the life of the Traveller child need to be developed.

Data

10.4 There is an almost total lack of information about Traveller children. Research on the impact of service provision on Traveller children's needs and development is needed. Any research undertaken on children should have the Traveller children incorporated into the terms of reference, for example, the need of the Traveller child should be an integral part of the research on the well being of the child being carried out by the Children's Office. (See par 1.14 for details of the National Longitudinal Study of Children).

Representation and Inclusion

10.5 Traveller children's issues need to be consistently represented at policy level to support good practice and the development of effective and quality responses for Traveller children accessing early childhood/childcare services. No Traveller organisation is currently resourced to represent the need and rights of the Traveller child and this needs to be looked at in the context of the National Children's Strategy 2000. The specific needs of Traveller children also need to be represented in the development of policies such as the National Play Policy, Children First Guidelines or policies on child poverty.

Traveller Children-specific Training and Service Provision

10.6 To ensure quality provision for Traveller children accessing early childhood/childcare services, which directly or indirectly have an impact on their lives, diversity and equality training for all service providers working with children is necessary. Pavee Point have developed diversity and equality training specific to the need of early childhood/ childcare workers which should be mainstreamed.

Chapter 2

Section K – Travellers with a Disability

Introduction

11.1 The original Task Force acknowledged that Travellers with a disability share the concerns of the broader community of people with a disability, as well as concerns specific to their experience as Travellers, such as isolation from and within their own community, a lack of recognition of Traveller identity, inappropriate and inadequate service provision and inappropriate and inadequate accommodation. Disability remains an area of concern and the Disability Act 2005 will clearly also impact on this area.

11.2 The recent publication of data by the Central Statistics Office provides an insight to the extent of disability within the traveller community. Two tables at the end of this chapter summarise the position.

Summary of Main Issues

11.3 In Section J there are 4 recommendations relating to Travellers with a disability, dealing primarily with the development of initiatives, particularly by the statutory sector, to support Travellers with a disability, and the improvement of access to premises

Progress since 2000

Equality legislation

11.4 As noted in the first progress report, the central areas of progress in relation to recommendations are in the legislative arena, specifically the development of Equality legislation, which includes disability as one of the nine grounds, along with membership of the Traveller community. This legislation, which provides Travellers with a disability the capacity to challenge acts of discrimination, is a major and welcome development.

Traveller Health Strategy

11.5 The publication and implementation of the National Traveller Health Strategy will impact on the health specific issues of Travellers with a disability. Chapter 13 of the Traveller Health Strategy outlines specific actions in relation to Travellers with a disability. This report again notes the scant information available on issues for Travellers with a disability as well as the invisibility of Travellers with a disability within their community and in general.

11.6 In relation to the specific actions, progress has been made in two main areas:

- The proposal to carry out research into health needs of Travellers, which will be inclusive of information on Travellers with a disability, is being progressed, with research due to commence in 2006.
- A position paper on consanguinity, 'Community Genetic Approach to Health and Consanguineous Marriage in the Irish Traveller Community,' includes specific recommendations that will assist in developing responses to the needs of Traveller families in relation

to genetic counselling and information. An action plan for the implementation of the recommendations in the position paper is being drawn up by the Traveller Consanguinity Working Group.

Carers Allowance

11.7 The Department of Social and Family Affairs has addressed the difficulties that arise in respect of access to the Carer's Allowance that arise from Traveller families in multiple dwellings by introducing greater flexibility into the scheme. Work is continuing on publicising the benefits of all payments to carers including the Carer's Allowance as part of the on-going information function of the Department.

Outstanding issues and recommendations

Disability Act 2005

11.8 The Disability Act 2005 will become a powerful catalyst for change. It is framed to support and underpin the participation of people with disabilities in society. It recognises the very considerable barriers which people with disabilities face on a daily basis and puts on a statutory footing a wide variety of positive action measures to improve fundamentally their position in Irish society. The Act exists because equal access for people with disabilities is not only about changing attitudes and behaviour but is also a question of providing ongoing support services into the future. The most important Parts of the Act deal with individual health, education and personal social services, infrastructural barriers to access to public services, genetic testing, public service employment and universal design.

Accommodation

11.9 There is a need to ensure that there is adequate provision for Travellers with a disability within the implementation of Traveller accommodation programmes. A specific number of bays should be built which are suitable for Travellers with a disability and older Travellers. Issues such as the location of sites and the availability of services and facilities should also be taken into consideration. In addition, consideration should be given to providing fully resourced adaptation services, with appropriately trained staff, such as Occupational Therapists. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government points out that currently all units provided for Travellers (group houses and halting site bays with day units/services units) must comply with the standards set out in the Building Regulations 2000, Technical Guidance Document M "Access for People with Disabilities".

Research

11.10 There continues to be a need for a specific piece of research into needs assessment of Travellers with a disability, which would look at the demographic profile, needs assessment in particular in relation to health, education, accommodation, and employment needs.

Parents

11.11 There continues to be a need to fund parental supports to improve and ensure their capacity to provide care and support to their children. This includes

training/teaching for parents in sign language, cognitive learning methods and skills and particularly with new or innovative methods of communication, teaching/training learning, and physical therapy. (JR 2 and JR4)

Irish Travellers with a disability classified by age group, sex and percentage disabled						
Age Group	Persons	Males	Females	% of Irish Travellers in relevant age group		
				Persons	Males	Females
0-4 years	52	32	20	1.5	1.8	1.2
5-9 "	104	59	45	3.1	3.4	2.7
10-14 "	131	70	61	4.1	4.4	3.7
15-19 "	155	83	72	5.7	6	5.3
20-24 "	156	84	72	7.3	8.4	6.4
25-29 "	144	78	66	8.2	9.3	7.2
30-34 "	190	98	92	11.6	12.6	10.7
35-39 "	175	95	80	13.4	15.3	11.6
40-44 "	153	83	70	14.9	17	13
45-49 "	158	87	71	19.5	21.7	17.4
50-54 "	128	71	57	19.8	21.4	18
55-59 "	142	74	68	29.8	31	28.6
60-64 "	108	60	48	26.9	30.2	23.8
65-69 "	91	41	50	31.8	29.7	33.8
70-74 "	77	33	44	38.3	35.1	41.1
75-79 "	67	32	35	45.6	54.2	39.8
80-84 "	46	21	25	50	47.7	52.1
85 years +	28	11	17	56	57.9	54.8
Total	2,105	1,112	993	8.9	9.5	8.3

Irish Travellers with a disability, classified by type of disability, broad age group and sex											
Disability	Total	Age Group							65 yrs & over		
		0-14 years	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years			
		Persons									
Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment	532	115	46	37	66	63	53	56	96		
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities	1058	121	49	58	133	167	161	147	222		
Difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating	1003	150	89	84	165	123	150	107	135		
Difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home	573	78	33	42	74	69	70	65	142		
Difficulty in going outside the home alone	675	0	49	56	107	99	96	86	182		
Difficulty in working at a job or business	968	0	61	81	173	167	165	145	176		
Total disabilities	4809	464	327	358	718	688	695	606	953		
Total persons	2105	287	155	156	334	328	286	250	309		
Males											
Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment	280	59	27	18	32	32	34	33	45		
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities	538	63	25	24	78	86	88	78	96		
Difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating	529	81	48	46	92	59	83	58	62		
Difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home	281	36	15	22	49	32	35	34	58		
Difficulty in going outside the home alone	322	0	21	27	56	43	54	41	80		
Difficulty in working at a job or business	517	0	24	46	110	89	91	82	75		
Total disabilities	2467	239	160	183	417	341	385	326	416		
Total persons	1112	161	83	84	176	178	158	134	138		
Females											
Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment	252	56	19	19	34	31	19	23	51		
A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities	520	58	24	34	55	81	73	69	126		
Difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating	474	69	41	38	73	64	67	49	73		
Difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home	292	42	18	20	25	37	35	31	84		
Difficulty in going outside the home alone	353	0	28	29	51	56	42	45	102		
Difficulty in working at a job or business	451	0	37	35	63	78	74	63	101		
Total disabilities	2342	225	167	175	301	347	310	280	537		
Total persons	993	126	72	72	158	150	128	116	171		

Source: Central Statistics Office

Chapter 2

Section L – Initiatives for Travellers funded by the Department of Social and Family Affairs

Employment Support Services (ESS) Special Projects Fund and the Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) Fund

- 12.1** Projects for members of the Travelling community are catered for under the Department's Employment Support Services (ESS) Special Projects fund and the Technical Assistance and Training (TAT) fund.
- 12.2** ESS has begun to develop some specialisation in providing supports to the Travelling community and will build on this over the coming years. It is hoped to monitor the overall impact of Special Projects and Technical Assistance Training spend as well as the effectiveness of projects involving the Travelling community.
- 12.3** Although there has been no ring-fencing of funds specifically for Travellers, some projects have catered only for Travellers. Funding from the Special Projects fund was sanctioned for the following projects in 2003 and 2004, for members of the Travelling community: (Dates below indicate the date funding was sanctioned)

2003 Funding

- 1.** 21/1/03: Waterford Area Partnership received sanction for € 35,000 to run a programme involving 10 young male Travellers. The programme was a multi-agency model and the training involved personal development, literacy, numeracy, job skills, computer training, woodwork etc. The course ran for 12 months.
- 2.** 13/2/03: Mohill Community Development Association, County Leitrim received sanction for €30,000 to run a programme for Travellers, lone parents, the disabled and the long-term unemployed. The course was in computer skills. FAS, VEC and the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation also supported the initiative.
- 3.** 24/2/03: Parthas Ltd. Tallaght, Dublin were approved for funding of €20,000 to provide 20 young female Travellers with literacy training.
- 4.** 15/4/03: CTA Ltd. (Consultant Training Auditors Ltd.) received €1,287 to provide 13 Travellers in the Dublin West Region with Safe-Pass training. This training is a health and safety requirement for anyone working on construction sites.
- 5.** 22/5/03: Athy Travellers Club, County Kildare received sanction for funding of €1,728 to provide a personal development course to male Travellers.
- 6.** 10/6/03: Dungarvan Community Development Project, County Waterford received sanction for €5,000 for training for Travellers in job skills, literacy,

numeracy and computer skills. Other agencies who supported the programme included the South Eastern Health Board, FAS, the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the VEC and Waterford County Council.

7. 24/6/03: New Ross Primary Health Care, County Wexford were approved for funding of €25,000 for a primary health care programme for Travellers which also involved training in literacy/numeracy skills and some computer skills. This was a similar programme to the Clonmel Health Care initiative which received funding from Employment Support Services in 2001 and 2002 totalling €40,000.
8. 3/7/03: Trasna 'Equal' Partnership in the Mid-West Region received funding of €24,500 for a van conversion enterprise project for 12 Travellers.
9. 10/9/03: Athy Travellers Club, County Kildare was approved for €11,180 to provide pre-employment and life skills training for 11 Travellers.
10. 1/10/03: Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Dublin was approved for funding of €6,000 to provide training for 5 Traveller men in developing a recycling plant.
11. 1/12/03: Longford Education Development and Information Centre was approved for funding of €30,000 for a programme involving personal development, DIY, furniture re-cycling and pre-enterprise training for 12 Travellers.
12. 2/12/03: Wexford Area Partnership was approved for funding of €30,000 for the second year of an inter-agency programme involving personal development/ voice building for the Travelling community and establishing liaison with the education system through pre-school clubs, homework clubs etc. and examining training options.
13. 9/12/03: Clonmel Traveller Action, County Tipperary was approved for funding of €10,000 for a primary health care programme for Traveller women.

2004 Funding

1. 14/1/04: Ballyfermot Travellers Action Project, Dublin was approved for funding of €15,000 to fund learning and pre-employment skills training programme for Traveller women.
2. 19/1/04: Athy Travellers Club, County Kildare was approved for funding of €17,969 for a personal development and literacy training programme for Traveller men.
3. 4/2/04: Gorey Youth Response Back To Education Initiative, County Wexford was approved for funding of €16,000 to fund Back To Education supports for various social welfare customers including Travellers.
4. 14/7/04: Waterford Area Partnership was approved for funding of €30,000 for

- a life skills and personal development training programme, including health awareness, for male Travellers.
5. 14/7/04: St Catherine's Community Services Centre, Carlow, was approved for funding of €10,000 for a women Travellers primary Health Care programme.
 6. 17/8/04: Longford Employment Development and Information Centre was approved for funding of €7,000 for pre-employment training for 12-15 Traveller men of between 18 and 22 years of age.
 7. 26/8/04: Clondalkin Travellers Training Enterprise Development Company Ltd., Dublin was approved for funding of €5,400 for a hair and beauty training course for Traveller women.
 8. 2/9/04: Athy Travellers Club, County Kildare was approved for funding of €6,000 for a personal development and life skills training programme including wood work and D.I.Y. for Traveller men.
 9. 9/11/04: Kilkenny Community Action Network was approved for funding of €11,440 for a programme for 15 Traveller men including literacy, health awareness and horse management.
 10. 22/11/04: Wexford Area Partnership was approved for funding of €40,000 for the Wexford Traveller Development Programme, including education, training, health issues, enterprise and accommodation.
 11. 25/11/04: Bray Area Partnership, County Wicklow, was approved for funding of €13,625 for a programme for 20 Traveller men for a course including carpentry, photography and health awareness.
 12. 6/12/04: Longford Employment Development and Information Centre was approved for funding of €12,000 for a pre-employment training programme for 12-14 Travellers in the Longford area.
 13. 9/12/04: Wexford Area Partnership was approved for funding of €10,000 for a pre-development programme in preparation for a primary health care programme for 15 Traveller women.
 14. 14/12/04: Wexford Area Partnership was approved for funding of €26,510 for the 2005 strand of the New Ross primary Health Care Programme.
 15. 15/12/04: Tipperary Rural Traveller Project Ltd. was approved for funding of €8,500 for a rural health Care Programme.

National Traveller Money Advice and Budgeting Services (MABS)

- 12.4** Exchange House Money Advice and Budgeting Service (Exchange House MABS) was set up in November 1998 as a part of TRIBLI Ltd. whose aim is to provide a range of support services for Travellers. An independent management committee has now formed a company limited by guarantee to

manage the service. This company, National Traveller MABS, was incorporated in late 2004 and has moved to a new premises in Finglas.

- 12.5** Exchange House MABS aims to address the problem of debt and access to affordable credit among members of the Traveller Community by, for example, supporting their clients in joining their local Credit Union or Bank and by educating Traveller clients and groups in relation to budgeting and money management.
- 12.6** Exchange House MABS has a Money Advice Co-ordinator, two full time Money Advisors and two part time Administrators. Exchange House MABS current contract with the Department of Social and Family Affairs covers the years 2004 -2006. A post of Education Worker has been sanctioned and it has plans to extend the service by bringing its experiences to MABS throughout the country.

The funding allocated to Exchange House MABS is as follows:

1998-1999	€66,026 (IR£52,000)
1999-2000	€63,487 (IR£50,000)
2001	€116,407 (IR£91,678)
2002	€131,700 (IR£103,722)
2003	€129,570 (IR£102,045)
2004	€200,042 (IR£157,546)

Exchange House MABS - Example of good practice

- 12.7** Since its inception, Exchange House MABS has built up a reliable reputation within the Traveller Community and service providers within the Greater Dublin Area. As the majority of clientele are women, (reflective of the MABS sector in general), the service acknowledges the general trend within society at large to allow women to carry the burden of financial debt. This may be further proofed by the fact that most of the male clientele are in fact single or without dependents.
- 12.8** There has been an increase in the use of the MABS by the Traveller community. The work of Exchange House MABS has enabled the process of empowerment to begin among clients availing of the service, which is envisaged should ultimately lead to an awareness and greater use within the Traveller community of MABS in Ireland and other service providers linked into the MABS. Exchange House MABS has also promoted a greater understanding of Traveller issues among service providers and through its support role has ensured that all clients have received equitable treatment which is deemed will have a long term impact for future users from the Traveller community.
- 12.9** The service has striven to achieve this by;
- **Client Work:** The service works closely with individuals and groups within the Traveller Community experiencing money related problems. It highlights budgeting and planning as a means to

prevent the build up of unmanageable debt and supports clients in accessing their local MABS office, credit union and other services within their locality. In addition, the role of the credit union in Ireland and the positive effect it has had on families over the last 50 years is promoted within the community.

- **Education:** Its education work helps the empowerment process within the Traveller community by facilitating the debate of issues that most affect people such as family debt through, for example, a crisis in accommodation or funeral costs and encouraging the exploration of possible solutions exclusive of illegal moneylending.
- **Networking:** Exchange House MABS supports service providers such as local credit unions, MABS, Citizens Information Centres, Job centres, the HSE, and the Local Authority, in their work with clients by acting as a link between the two, by promoting Traveller specific issues within services, and detailing the role of such services to the client where a lack of understanding may exist. In this way it has helped to tackle fear and prejudice that may have been present.
- **Policy and Research:** By gathering statistics and documenting issues that arise in the course of its work, Exchange House MABS has built up a solid foundation in research and policy work which to date has highlighted, for example, the problems and possible solutions surrounding the inability of many within the Traveller community to access basic bank accounts.

12.9 A Research Report "Creditable Alternatives" by Paul Quinn in association with Money Advice Co-ordinator Nuala Ni Ghabhann draws on the MABS experience and highlights many of the obstacles still remaining for the Traveller Community in this area. It explores the alternative forms of savings and credit models and the possibility of social lending from countries worldwide and recommends a number of strategies for the future. These include that the report be disseminated within the wider Traveller Community and to other interested parties such as the MABS structures, credit institutions and other marginalised groups experiencing exclusion.

Lobbying for Change: Current issues include customer identification requirements to open an account in a financial institution.

Family Services Project– Interaction With Travellers

12.10 The overall objective of the Family Services Project is to provide a high quality information service on the range of supports available to families from State agencies and from the community and voluntary sector with a particular emphasis on the services available locally. The project also provides information and referrals to the recently established Family Support Agency, which offers such services as marriage counselling and marriage preparation programmes, bereavement counselling and the State Family Mediation

Service.

12.11 Traveller Initiatives have been funded under the Family Services Project from 2002 to 2004 as follows:

2002

Funding of € 3,000 was provided to St Margaret's Traveller Women's Group, Ballymun, Dublin to set up a training programme on Child Development for Traveller women living in the Ballymun area. This course aimed to offer participants the basic knowledge and skills to understand more fully the various components of Child Care and Development. One of the course objectives was to encourage and support those participants who demonstrate a particular flair for the course content to consider taking up employment in the area of childcare.

Funding of €32,600 was provided to Ennis West Partners, County Clare, to provide professional and voluntary support to children from the Traveller Community in the area of homework support whilst simultaneously providing development and training supports to parents/volunteers which would enable them to participate and assist the tutors in the homework support club. The primary focus of the project is to encourage parents to become more proactive in their children's education.

2003

Funding of €8,000 was provided to Roscommon Partnership Company Ltd. with the aim of building the capacity of Traveller parents so that they, in turn, can support their children. The project provided a parenting programme in addition to supporting Traveller parents to help their children with homework and assisted Traveller parents to support their children with literacy. Basic skills training in areas of need e.g. home management, cooking for health and managing money were also incorporated into the project.

Funding of €30,000 was provided to Waterford Traveller Community Development Project (WTDCP) to facilitate the administration of a Health Care Project aiming to promote the growth of self-awareness, self-esteem and confidence of the participants. It also aimed to enhance the skills of participants through the provision of training in literacy, communication and presentation skills.

Funding of €12,000 was provided to St. Catherine's Community Services Centre Ltd., Carlow, for an Interagency Traveller Primary Healthcare programme. The overall aim of the project was to establish a model of Traveller participation in the promotion of health and to develop the skills of Traveller women in providing a community based care resource. It also aimed to provide participants with a positive experience of education and learning by building on and recognising their own knowledge and life experience.

Funding of €8,060 was provided to Mayo Travellers Support Group to deliver a community development course for Travellers from all parts of County

Mayo. The project was a first step in the building of Traveller capacity to discuss, analyse and voice their needs and improve the life experiences of members of Traveller families.

Funding of €4,750 was provided to ACORN (Affording Children Opportunities Right Now). This programme was designed to support the Traveller Community in the Castlebar, County Mayo area. Travellers were encouraged and supported to reach their full potential in all areas of their lives which will lead to equal participation in the wider community.

2004

Funding of €19,600 was provided to Dungarvan Community Project, County Waterford for a 15 week Development Programme for Travellers and settled women. The aim of the course was to provide participants with the skills and knowledge to enable them to progress to further training/educational opportunities and build self-esteem and confidence.

Funding of €6,120 was provided to Arklow Traveller Group, County Wicklow, for a programme of homework classes for Traveller Children and the design of a development programme for the parents involved.

Funding of €6,300 was provided to St Brigid's Family Resource Centre, Waterford for a co-funded development programme aimed at a number of NAPS target groups including Traveller women.

Funding of €25,000 was provided to Roscommon Partnership Company Ltd. to develop a dynamic training and support programme focusing on fuller participation and access for Traveller women to a broad range of opportunities such as further education, employment and self-employment.

Funding of €30,000 was provided to Waterford Traveller Community Development Project with the aim of improving the health of the local Traveller community by increasing access to health and well-being information and building stronger links between health care providers and services and the Traveller Community.

Funding of €33,000 was provided to Blanchardstown Traveller Support Group, Dublin, for a Traveller Family Health and Social Project aiming to heighten awareness of local agencies and the services they provide and to educate Traveller women on health and social issues so that they can deliver this information on sites in a more easily understood manner.

Total funding provided to Traveller initiatives under the Family Services Project in 2002 – 2004 is as follows:

2002	€35,600
2003	€62,810
2004	<u>€120,020</u>
TOTAL	€ 218,430

The Family Support Agency

12.12 The Family Support Agency provides funding to Pavee Point Travellers Centre as a Specialist Support Agency to provide training and support in Traveller issues to all projects funded under the Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme.

The overall aim of Pavee Point's work as a Specialist Support Agency and as a Traveller development agency is the appropriate inclusion of Travellers and the Traveller agenda in the focus and work of community projects and other initiatives. This work is carried out using a community development approach.

The Family Support Agency provided Pavee Point with funding amounting to €85,680 in 2004.

12.13 Some €15,400 was allocated to two Traveller specific counselling services in 2004 by the Family Support Agency.

Chapter 3

Conclusion

- 13.1** It is clear from the resources and energy that has been pumped into Traveller issues since 1995, both by the Government and Traveller representatives, that the challenge of making Ireland a fairer place for Travellers is not an easy one. As Travellers represent only 0.06% of the population this lack of progress can be frustrating. The blockages that prevent those resources from resolving a relatively small but complex problem need to be identified and removed.
- 13.2** Identifying the blockages is straightforward. This report notes repeatedly that there is insufficient data to design policy effectively. The range and quality of statistics needs to be improved. Progress could be benchmarked through the Strategic Management Initiative.
- 13.3** Lack of consultation with Travellers is another regular problem. Acceptance that Traveller representatives should be involved in issues which effect them needs to be put on a more formal footing. More involvement of Travellers will stretch the capacity of Traveller organisations and consideration also needs to be given to ensure that the contribution of those bodies is recognised through effective funding. As part of the process of improved consultation consideration should be give to appointing independent chairpersons to committees where possible. This will become less necessary as awareness of Traveller issues is mainstreamed into the public service through equality proofing.
- 13.4** Alongside the design of policy, there are obstacles in terms of implementation. Allocation of resources, ring fenced funding, greater financial accountability and improved evaluation are vital for all the main policy areas. In terms of health, both the All Ireland Traveller Health Survey and the National Traveller Health Strategy are welcomed by Travellers and have the potential to deliver results. However this will only be achieved if they are properly funded. In terms of Education, very considerable resources are devoted to Traveller children, young adults and adults. Both the Government and Travellers agree that this should be evaluated as part of the proposed Traveller Education Strategy to examine why it is not delivering better results.
- 13.5** With regard to accommodation, the recent National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee report, published in January 2005 should be consulted for a full treatment of the issues.
- 13.6** However, the Government's willingness to review existing policies is a reminder of the positive developments that have taken place. The Traveller Health Strategy stands out as a powerful example of what can be done. Equally the review of the accommodation strategy and the proposed Education Strategy are welcome developments, both in terms of their comprehensiveness and because of the inherent 'joined up' approach they represent. There are good working relationships between officials and Traveller representatives and there is a growing awareness of the importance

of taking into account the Traveller perspective in developing 'mainstream' policies relating to women, children, employment and other areas. On the ground there are examples of Travellers and settled communities living side by side without complaint

- 13.7** This brings us to the issues of culture and the relationship between the Traveller community and the settled community. The Task Force made only one recommendation about culture but arguably it underpins all the others. The relationship between Traveller culture and settled culture is fraught and respect for both cultures needs to be developed in both communities. In terms of bridging this gap maintenance of political leadership is needed.

Chapter 3

Recommendations and Key Issues

General

1. This report should be read in conjunction with the mapping exercise.
2. Monitoring Committee administrative arrangements should be reviewed including resourcing, membership, reporting processes. This review should take account of the improved implementation arrangements to be recommended by the High Level Group on Traveller Issues.
3. Further consideration needs to be given to the collection of data on Travellers to aid policy development. This includes involving Travellers, as appropriate, in studies such as the National Longitudinal Study of Children.
4. Anti-racism modules should be an obligatory component of pre-service training and in-service training at all levels (including senior management levels) for service providers. Codes of practice should also be drawn up in partnership with Traveller organisations.

Culture

5. Consideration should be given to appointing a high profile figure who is well respected in both the Traveller and the settled community to champion Traveller issues and act as an 'honest-broker' between the two communities.
6. Implementation of the Control of Horses Act 1998, insofar as it impacts on travellers, should be reviewed.
7. Consideration should be given to ensuring Arts Officers have responsibility for promoting Traveller participation in the arts.
8. Statutory and non-statutory bodies with responsibility for social policy and local development should take into account the culture and identity of Travellers in the design and implementation of policies. This should also be reflected in training.

Relationship with Settled Community

9. The statutory sector should continue to play a key role in encouraging a broader relationship and more positive contacts between the Traveller and settled communities.
10. In relation to the replacement to the citizen traveller campaign a workshop should be organised to consider ways forward.

Discrimination

11. The role of the Equality Authority in terms of giving information and providing support on cases relating to the District Court should be clarified as soon as possible and the procedures for taking a case to the District Court need to be explained and publicised.

12. The operation of community advocacy programmes should be reviewed to allow representation at the District Court or provide an alternative. If this is not implemented then the provision for legal aid should be reviewed to reflect the increased cost of taking cases before the District Court
13. In cases where discrimination by a licensed premises is alleged, the mediation service previously offered by the Equality Tribunal should continue to be made available to disputants as an alternative to taking cases to the District Court.

Accommodation

14. The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Review of the Housing Act 1998 and these are being implemented.

Health

15. The piloting of culturally appropriate counselling services for all Travellers should be resourced
16. Greater transparency and accountability in the allocation of funding is needed.
17. The Travellers' All-Ireland Health Study needs to be properly resourced.
18. Work is needed to ensure the institutional arrangements in the Health area operate effectively, including resources, training for Traveller participants and consultation arrangements.

Education and Training

19. Interculturalism should be built into the curriculum, approaches, services, practices and ethos of educational institutions
20. Training is needed for teachers to ensure awareness of the multi-ethnic nature of society, the classroom and other locations of learning.
21. Development of data collection and analysis systems is needed to ensure equality of Access, Participation and Outcomes.
22. A root and branch review of the use of all Traveller-targeted additional resources/services is required
23. Investment is required in the capacity of Traveller parents and Traveller community organisations in supporting and participating in the development of the education service.
24. There is a need for full and appropriate integration of Travellers' needs into all areas of education schemes and policies through Traveller-proofing/equality mechanisms

Traveller Economy

25. Issues relating to funding and targeting need to be resolved

26. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment should also work alongside Traveller organisations and other relevant agencies to ensure the provision of appropriate supports for economic activities initiated by Travellers themselves.
27. The importance of Active Labour Market Schemes for Travellers needs to be acknowledged and schemes involving Travellers should be prioritised and continue until alternative schemes can be put in place.
28. The State needs to play a *proactive* role in tackling access to mainstream employment, (the private sector, the public sector and the community sector). Consideration be given extending the Department of Finance targeted recruitment model to the wider public sector.
29. The Equality Authority should continue its work with employers and Travellers to ensure discrimination is tackled, if necessary through recourse to the Employment Equality Act.

Traveller Women

30. The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform is prepared to sponsor research on gender proofing policy on Travellers.
31. Government departments should consider the benefits of including Traveller representatives on relevant monitoring mechanisms such as the National Women's Strategy.
32. The Government should establish a training programme alongside existing FAS courses specifically targeted at disadvantaged women, including Travellers
33. The Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform and the Department of Health and Children should continue to prioritise the area of Violence against Women while setting specific targets in relation to Traveller women.
34. The issue of the withdrawal of childcare payments to Primary Health Care for Travellers projects needs to be addressed urgently in consultation with Traveller organisations.
35. The piloting of culturally appropriate counselling services for Traveller women and children should be resourced.

Traveller Children

36. Among the issues for further consideration are Culture; Data; Representation and Inclusion and Traveller Children-specific Training and Service Provision

Travellers with a Disability

37. As part of Traveller accommodation programmes, a specific number of bays should be built which are suitable for Travellers with a disability and older

Travellers. Issues such as site location and the availability of services and facilities should also be considered. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government points out that currently all units provided for Travellers (group houses and halting site bays with day units/service units) must comply with the standards set out in the Building Regulations 2000, Technical Guidance Document M "Access for People with Disabilities".

- 38.** Research into the specific needs of Travellers with a disability should be undertaken.
- 39.** Parental supports should be funded to improve and ensure their capacity to provide care and support to their children.

Mapping Exercise

AR.1 Improved Relationship

The Task Force recommends that every opportunity must be taken to increase levels of contact between the Traveller and 'Settled' communities at national level and more particularly at local community level.

Status:	Accepted
Lead Agency:	All Departments, Government agencies and Traveller organisations
Target:	Ongoing; progress dependent on AR 3
Text:	Progress has been made in this area at the level of improved consultation with Traveller organisations at national and local committee level. More work is needed in terms of improving contact between the two communities at local community level.

AR.2 Resources for Traveller organisations

Traveller organisations should have access to additional resources.

Status:	Implemented
Lead Agency:	All funding Departments (particularly Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs)
Target:	Ongoing
Text:	Additional resources have been made available. Levels of resourcing are reviewed in line with other priorities.

AR.3 Conveying a positive attitude, including media campaign

Statutory sector to convey more positive attitude towards Travellers and to Traveller issues through institutional support and resources. A sustained and committed media campaign should be put in place.

Status:	Implemented in part
Lead Agency:	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
Target:	Successor to Citizen Traveller to be put in place.
Text:	The Government has provided institutional and financial support to various initiatives. A replacement to Citizen Traveller will be developed in partnership with Traveller bodies in 2005.

Draft

AR.4 National Agreements

Traveller organisations and Traveller issues to be included in National Agreements

Status:	Subject to Community Platform acceptance of National Agreements
Lead Agency:	Department of an Taoiseach and Traveller organisations
Target:	Ongoing
Text:	Traveller organisations were involved in the negotiations for Sustaining Progress, the current national agreement. The Community Platform, of which Travellers Organisations are a part, did not sign up to the agreement.

AR.5 Devising a Mediation Framework

The Department of Equality and Law Reform, plus other relevant Departments and Non-Governmental Organisations, should be involved in devising a framework for mediation.

Status:	Implemented
Lead Agency:	Pavee Point (funded by Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform)

AR.6 Media coverage

The media should be more pro-active on Traveller issues, including more TV/radio programming and articles on Traveller culture, lifestyles and achievements.

Status:	Accepted
Lead Agency:	Radio Telefis Éireann (RTÉ), media organisations
Target:	Ongoing
Text:	The importance of balanced media coverage is recognised by all members of the Monitoring Committee.

AR.7 NUJ guidelines/code of practice

The National Union of Journalists' "Guidelines on Race Reporting" to be developed into a Code of Practice to be adopted by the various media institutions.

Status:	Not implemented
Lead Agency:	RTÉ, media organisations
Target:	Ongoing

Text: A code of practice has not yet been developed. However, as noted in the First Progress Report, more progress is needed in this area. A working group set up by the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform to consider defamation/press council issues reported on 31 January 2004. At time of going to press many of these issues were still under review and no firm decisions had yet been taken.

AR.8 Broadcasting policy

Traveller/intercultural issues to be included in the proposed White Paper on Broadcasting Policy

Status: Superseded

Lead Agency: RTÉ/Independent Radio and Television Commission (IRTC)

Target: Ongoing

Text: Traveller organisations should keep the media informed of issues relevant to Travellers/intercultural issues.

AR.9, 10, 12 Training on Traveller issues

Anti-racist modules should be an obligatory component of all courses in professional training where contact with Travellers is likely. Where possible this should include courses run by the IPA for public servants. Modules dealing with Traveller issues should be extended, as far as is practicable, to other areas such as Political Science and Business Studies. Traveller groups should be involved in the design and delivery of such modules.

Status: Implemented in part

Lead Agency: Institute of Public Administration (IPA), professional bodies, academic institutions

Target: Ongoing

Text: The IPA is aware of this recommendation and has made some progress. There has been significant growth in equality specific training, in the past five years, in both the public and private sector.

AR.11 Guidelines for Traveller research

Guidelines should be developed on academic research relating to Travellers by education institutions. These guidelines could be modelled on the code of ethics for Aboriginal health research in the Australian National Aboriginal Health Strategy.

Status: Reliant on educational establishments

Lead Agency: Educational establishments

Target: Ongoing

Text: The chair of the monitoring committee will write to educational institutions reminding them of this recommendation.

BR.1 Culture

Distinct culture and identity of the Traveller community be taken into account

Status: Accepted in principle.

B1. Statutory and non-statutory bodies with responsibility for social policy and local development should develop a clear and collective understanding of the importance of taking into account the recognition of the distinct culture and identity of Travellers in the design and implementation of policies.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform, Department of Finance, the Equality Authority

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Public Service Strategic Management Initiative Quality Custom Service guidelines addresses this issue within the established anti-discrimination framework.

B2. The development of a clear focus and strategy for inter-cultural education should become a priority concern. The Department of Education and Science should identify the role inter-cultural education has to play in a multicultural society.

Status: Accepted in principle

Lead Agency: The Department of Education and Science

Target: Ongoing

Text: Implementation of this recommendation will be considered in light of the development of the Traveller Education Strategy and the National Action Plan Against Racism.

B3. The implementation of the Control of Horses Act 1996 should be reviewed so as to assist Travellers to comply with the conditions laid down in the legislation in a way that recognises the role of horses in Traveller culture.

Status: Not accepted (see DR 42)

CR.1 Equal Status Act to define Travellers

Status: Implemented through Equal Status Act, 2000

CR.2.1 and 2.2 Equal Status Act to define indirect discrimination to incorporate not only terms and conditions set for the provision of goods, services and facilities but also policies or practices governing or relevant to these. Equal Status Act to identify a 20% differential between communities in their access to goods, services and facilities as the point beyond which indirect discrimination requires to be investigated.

Status: Superseded by EU Race Directive

Text: Indirect discrimination was defined in the Equal Status Act 2000. This definition was superseded by the EU definition of indirect discrimination provided for by the Race Directive and incorporated through the Equality Act 2004. The 2004 Act also allows for the use of statistics for the purpose of determining whether indirect discrimination has occurred. Further data on indirect discrimination experienced by Travellers and the Government's commitment to tackling it is outlined in the Conclusions and Recommendations.

CR.3.1 Equal Status Act to prohibit discrimination against Traveller culture and identity, the exclusion of Travellers from access to goods, services and facilities and segregation of Travellers in the provision of goods facilities and services unless for reasons of positive action

Status: The Equal Status Act, 2000, prohibits discrimination, exclusion and segregation of Travellers in the provision of goods, services and facilities. It also permits positive action.

CR.3.2 Equal Status Act to include statutory sector; any exemptions to be reviewed by Equality Authority

Status: Partially accepted/implemented.

Text: Case Law has established that the State insofar as it is a supplier of goods, services and facilities is bound by the Equal Status Act, subject to the specific exemptions provided for in that Act.

CR.3.3 Equal Status Act to include equality in law enforcement and judicial process

Status: Not accepted.

Text: It would be unconstitutional to subject the judicial process to the Equal Status Act in this way. However the Government is aware of the potentially complex interface between the criminal justice system and minority groups. In line with this, the Judicial Studies Institute organised anti-racism training in 2003 and a Garda Racial and Intercultural Unit has been established. The prevention of discrimination in the exercise of the controlling functions of the State will be kept under review.

CR.3.4 and CR.3.6 Equal Status Act to protect against victimisation for those making a complaint, those supporting a complaint, giving evidence in relation to a complaint or intending to do any of these things. Those who work with the Traveller Community also to be protected.

Status: Accepted/Implemented

Text: The Equal Status Act, 2000, provides protection against victimisation. The Equality Act 2004 extends this protection into the Employment Equality Act 1998. It also prohibits discrimination by imputation and association.

CR.3.5 Equal Status Act to allow affirmative action

Status: Implemented through Equal Status Act, 2000

CR.3.7 Equal Status Act to provide legislative basis for Authority's Codes of Practice

Status: Implemented through Equal Status Act, 2000

CR.4.1 Equal Status Act to specifically protect cultural identity

Status: Partially accepted/Implemented

Text: The Equal Status Act, 2000, defines membership of the Traveller community as a specific ground which it is unlawful to discriminate against. This provides a high degree of cultural protection. See also AR3.

CR.4.2 Equal Status Act to protect Travellers from indirect discrimination on basis of their culture

Status: Implemented through Equal Status Act, 2000

CR.5.1 Equal Status Act to disallow discrimination based on potential financial disadvantage to the provider

Status: Implemented through Equal Status Act, 2000

CR.6.1 to C.R.9.4 Role and remit of the Equality Authority (including C1 from the First Progress Report) These technical recommendations deal with the creation and functions of the Equality Authority, for example, the power to initiate and pursue investigations (CR7.1), the power to develop an information service (CR7.9) and the power to Traveller proof legislation (CR7.8). Key recommendations include:

CR 7.8 which gives the power to equality proof legislation to the Authority
 CR 9.1 which recommended the creation of the Office of Director of Equality Investigations (ODEI)
 CR9.3 which recommends that legal aid should be made available in the District Court

C1 requires that the operation of the Equal Status Act, 2000 will need to be monitored by the Equality Authority

Status: Partially accepted/implemented.

Text: The Equality Authority has been set up along the lines of these recommendations. Some elements were not implemented, others have been superseded (for example by the Race Directive or changes to the Liquor Licensing legislation). For example CR7.8 is not accepted. CR 9.1 is implemented through the Equal Status Act and in regard to CR9.3 the Equality Authority is empowered to assist complainants in District Court cases under the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2003. This latter power will be clarified in the Intoxicating Liquor (Codification) Bill. The Equality Authority is legally empowered to advise on the operation of the Equal Status Act.

CR.10.1 – 11.1 Equal Status Policies (including C2 First Progress Report) That each Government Department, semi-state body, State agency, local authority, private sector and voluntary sector organisation would adopt, implement and monitor an Equal Status policy. The Equal Status policy would include consultation with Travellers, ensure that goods, facilities and services are provided in a manner that respects and is appropriate to the distinct culture and identity of Travellers and be led by senior management. Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to promote and support introduction of Equal Status policies

Status: Accepted in principle

Text: Government Departments, semi-state bodies, State agencies, local authorities, the private sector and voluntary sector organisations are bound by the Equal Status Act. However in line with the recommendation a Support Pack on the Equality/Diversity Aspects of Quality Customer Service for the Civil and Public Service was circulated in July 2001. This support pack sets out the principles of quality customer service for customers and clients of the public service and includes sections on definitions, redress, accessibility and how to develop

an equal status policy. Pilot projects on equality proofing are also under way.

CR.12.1 Government to report under International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Art 27 on Travellers

Status: Implemented

CR.13.1 and 13.2 Ratify Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), including the right of petition under Art 14

Status: Implemented

CR14.1 and 15.1 In reporting to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and other international instruments the Government should pay due regard to the involvement of Traveller organisations. Traveller organisations should also be assisted appropriately by Government

Status: Implemented

CR.15.2 The Government should develop appropriate actions in response to the requirements of this declaration to 'encourage conditions for the promotion' of the Traveller identity

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Government Departments

Text: The issue of Traveller identity, its recognition and protection is an ongoing challenge which impacts on policy and practical developments. The Equal Status Act, 2000, defines membership of the Traveller community as a specific ground which it is unlawful to discriminate against. The Government's response to encourage conditions for the promotion of the Traveller identity is covered in more detail. See also AR3.

CR.16.1 Government to press for inclusion of Irish Travellers within Protocol on Minority Cultural Rights under EU Convention on Human Rights

Status: No plans by Council of Europe to draft new protocol as of now

Lead Agency: Department of Foreign Affairs

Target: n/a

Text: n/a

CR.17.1

Government to participate in Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Human Dimension conferences and involve Traveller organisations

Status: Ongoing

Lead Agency: Department of Foreign Affairs and Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Target:

Text: Department of Foreign Affairs and Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform will continue to liaise as appropriate when issues relevant to Irish Travellers arise.

CR.18 Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government should amend residence within a constituency requirement for registration at elections

Status: Ongoing

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Target: Ongoing

Text: The Electoral Act, 1992 makes residency within a constituency a pre-requisite for registration and as such, nomadism can disenfranchise Travellers. However, the Electoral Act, 1992 also recognises that a person may be ordinarily resident in more than one place and thus have a prima facie claim for registration in respect of more than one premises (in law "premises" does not necessarily imply a structure of any kind). The law provides that, in such circumstances, a person may only be registered once and the decision on where the person is to be registered is "subject to any expression of choice by such person". These provisions enable Travellers to be registered as electors, even where they have a nomadic lifestyle.

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government has advised local authorities, in preparing the register of electors, to contact those sections of the local authorities and urban district councils in their areas having responsibility for Traveller accommodation or any other matter concerning Traveller affairs with a view to maximising the number of Travellers registered as electors, whilst ensuring that each elector is registered once only and, in appropriate cases, in the registration area of his/her choice.

C3. The Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act, 1989 should be reviewed in order to address its shortcomings

Status: Accepted

Lead agency: Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Timescale Ongoing

Text: The announcement of a review of the incitement to hatred legislation was made at a time when few if any successful prosecutions had been taken under the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989. One of the aims of the review was to ascertain whether problems with the Act itself were contributing to this lack of prosecutions and, if so, whether any reasonable changes to it could remedy that situation. Since the review was announced, a number of successful prosecutions have been taken under the 1989 Act and, where appropriate, under public order legislation or Coras Iompair Éireann Bye-Laws. These trends are being monitored as part of the ongoing review and if maintained could have a significant influence on the outcome of the review and any subsequent proposals for legislation.

Two international Instruments, the Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime dealing with criminalising acts of a racist or xenophobic nature committed through computer networks and a European Commission proposal for a Council Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia, which has not yet been finalised, will also be considered to fully assess their implications in the context of the review.

C4. A representative of the Equality Authority should be appointed to the Monitoring Committee.

Status: Not accepted

C5. Travellers are currently represented on the board of the Equality Authority. It is important that Traveller interests continue to be represented within the structures put in place by the Equality Authority.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Equality Authority

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Travellers continue to be represented on the Board of the Equality Authority. Travellers groups participate in the quarterly consultative meetings hosted by the Equality Authority with the

community and voluntary sector. Bilateral meetings between the Equality Authority and Traveller groups have also taken place.

C6. Travellers should be represented on the proposed Human Rights Commission.

Status: Implemented

DR.1 3,100 units of additional accommodation should be resourced/provided to meet the Government target of accommodating all Travellers

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Local authorities

Timescale: Local authorities are carrying out new assessments of needs and preparing plans to meet accommodation needs of Travellers over 4 years.

Text: 1,887 additional Traveller families have been accommodated in permanent accommodation between 1996 and the end of 2004. There has been little progress in providing transient halting sites and it is estimated that an additional 34 bays are available for use by transient families. The figures for additional families are those that have been accommodated by or with the assistance of the local authorities. These figures are taken from the Annual Count of Traveller families undertaken by local authorities in November each year.

DR.2-DR.5 and DR6.2-6.4 - Location and Design of Traveller Accommodation
Location of Traveller accommodation should reflect Traveller needs and the availability of services. Design will vary but should take into account a number of factors listed in recommendation DR3 and 6.2-6.4, including the needs and identity of Travellers, security, flexibility for changing family structures, site sizes and disability. To facilitate this Traveller tenants and organisations should be involved at an early stage in design

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Design guidelines, developed with the assistance of the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee have issued to local authorities. The focus is now on ensuring greater consistency in their implementation.

DR.6.1 A network of permanent sites approved by the Traveller Accommodation Agency³ is required across the country

Status: Not accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: There is no 'network' of permanent sites as units are allocated as the permanent accommodation of specific Traveller families on the basis of individual need.

DR.7

- (a) A network of transient halting sites should be provided across the country at the same time as other types of accommodation as an integral part of a National Programme
- (b) Bays on transient sites should provide access to electricity, running water, sewage disposal and refuse collection. A suitable hard surface should be provided
- (c) Guidelines should be developed for the design of transient sites and electricity, water and other amenities should be included.

Status: 7(a) is accepted but not implemented
7(b) and (c) are implemented

Lead Agency: Local authorities in relation to Transient site provision. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to design guidelines.

Timescale: Targets for accommodation provision to be included in new programmes 2005 to 2008.

Text: The Government accepts that there should be a network of transient halting sites. In regard to recommendations 7(b) and (c) guidelines have been issued on the design of transient sites, including the need for electricity, running water, sewage disposal and refuse collection. The focus is now on ensuring greater consistency in their implementation.

D7 An initiative should be taken by the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to ensure that there is an improvement in the design of Caravans to make them suitable for long term living.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

³ See Recommendation DR22. At the present time, the Government has not accepted the recommendation to create a Traveller Accommodation Agency.

Text: The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee examined the issue and found that improved caravan design to make them suitable for full time living would be expensive. The Monitoring Committee understands that many families have mobile homes for permanent living and caravans for travel purposes.

DR.9 A specific, and separate, capital allocation should continue to be provided annually for the construction of Traveller specific accommodation.

Status: Implemented

DR.10 Local authorities to receive 75% funding from central govt for maintenance of new Traveller specific accommodation, including caretaking services

Status: Implemented

DR.11 Traveller Accommodation Agency⁴ to investigate direct provision of accommodation by Travellers themselves

Status: Implemented

DR.12 Local authorities to be flexible over numbers of Travellers to be included within particular areas

Status: Superseded by Traveller Accommodation Act 1998

DR.13 It is recognised that local authorities must be allowed to exercise control over unauthorised Traveller encampments and this is provided for in sub-section 7. However, in the absence of adequate provision local authorities should be required to deal sensitively with such cases and use the option of eviction as a last resort

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of the Environment, Heritage Local Government and Local Authorities

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Implementation of these provisions have been examined as part of review of operation of 1998 Act.

DR.14 Travellers should not expect duplicate accommodation in different local authorities.

⁴ See Recommendation DR22. At the present time, the Government has not accepted the recommendation to create a Traveller Accommodation Agency.

Status: **Implemented**

DR.15 Private firms acting as caretakers should operate to clear guidelines and not be used in evictions

Status: Accepted in principle

Lead Agency: Local Authorities

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The Monitoring Committee understands that private firms are rarely used as caretakers and the Committee's position is that wherever possible they should not be used.

DR.16 and 21 Existing temporary sites should be replaced with permanent or transient sites. Temporary sites should be phased out

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Local Authorities

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Future traveller accommodation programmes will contain annual targets for the provision of permanent accommodation which will result in the replacement of temporary accommodation as the programmes are implemented.

DR.17 Dublin Corporation to identify infill sites for accommodation

Status: Accepted and extended to all local authorities

DR.18 and D4 The four Dublin local authorities to coordinate accommodation through a Strategic Planning Unit. This should include representatives of Traveller interests

Status: This Unit has not been established.

Lead Agency: Dublin local authorities

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 contains provisions which require all local authorities to inform adjoining authorities of the preparation of accommodation programmes at the stage when Traveller accommodation programmes are being prepared.

DR.19, 20 and 22 Structure, Functions and Powers of a Traveller Accommodation Agency An independent statutory body known as Traveller Accommodation Agency should be created and draw up a national programme for accommodation. DR22 also sets out the structure, function and powers are also set out, including Traveller representation on the board alongside appointments by the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and monitoring and reviewing Traveller accommodation. Powers include the power to direct local authorities to fulfil agreed provision

Status: Not accepted in the form recommended in the report.

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The issue of a Traveller accommodation agency was discussed as part of the review of the operation of the 1998 Act, but agreement was not reached by National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

DR.23-25 In relation to Statements of Policy on Housing Management Traveller tenants should be involved in the development of a participation programme and the statements should include an anti-discrimination commitment. Each local authority to establish a Traveller Tenant Accommodation Committee. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Memorandum on Tenant involvement should apply to Traveller specific accommodation

Status: Accepted in principle

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and local authorities

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The Department in conjunction with the Housing Unit has published a series of guidelines on tenant participation in estate management. These apply to all local authority estates and contain recommendations on practical steps to achieve tenant participation.

DR.26 Letting agreements with Traveller tenants should show flexibility

Status: Accepted in principle

Lead Agency: Local Authorities

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The main focus of this recommendation was based on the

length of time that Travellers could leave their accommodation without losing possession of said accommodation. The majority of tenancy agreements make provision to allow for a vacation of six weeks with some councils allowing a further extension by arrangement. However these extensions are discretionary and as such can vary from county to county. It should also be noted that not all agreements with regard to halting sites are tenancy agreements, some are license agreements which may not afford the same options and/or protections available through tenancy agreements.

We recommend that all agreements should be in the form of tenancy agreements.

DR.27 superseded by E20 The delivery of social work services to Travellers should be examined and clarified by the Departments of Health and Children and Environment and Local Government in conjunction with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and the Traveller Health Advisory Committee

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children and Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Timescale: 2005

Text: This issue will be addressed by the liaison committee set up by Department of Health and Children and Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in July 2004.

DR.28-32
Amend various pieces of legislation regarding the Housing Code to strengthen Traveller's housing rights. For example Section 2(9) of the City and County Management (Amendment) Act 1955 which refers to the power of managers to call for immediate action should be amended by inserting at end "or in the case of the provision of Traveller specific accommodation, where the members fail to agree with the Manager's proposals or with amended proposals within six months of being first presented by the Manager." Other amendments include requiring local authorities to give 1 month's notice of its intention to carry out a housing assessment

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Local Authorities

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Recommendations 28-31 are implemented. Recommendation 32 relates to the provision of a network of Transient sites being provided (please see Recommendation DR 7) and amendment

to Section 10 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 and Section 69 of the Roads Act 1993 to provide that Travellers who have their caravans seized under these provisions cannot be deemed to be deliberately homeless. It is not considered that these amendments are necessary as Travellers who have their caravans seized under these provisions are in practice not considered to have rendered themselves deliberately homeless. DR.32. This has still to be implemented.

DR.33 Requiring public bodies either to use lands in their possession which are not clearly identified as being required for statutory purposes within 5 years or else release the land to local authority for Traveller accommodation

Status: Not accepted (for further information see First Progress Report)

DR.34 Legislation to be amended to ensure Traveller specific accommodation is included within the definition of "necessary work of public utility" as used in the Irish Constitution

Status: Not accepted

DR.35, 36 and 39 Amend Local Government Act 1963 to refer to Traveller specific accommodation as an objective. Planning authorities to review/amend Development plans to allow Traveller specific accommodation.

Status: Implemented

DR.37
Temporary provision pending DR.36 to allow that Traveller Specific Accommodation would not be a material contravention of the Development Plan

Status: Implemented

DR.38 Traveller specific accommodation to be allowed in all land, zoned or unzoned

Status: Accepted in relation to all but unzoned land

DR.40 and D5 Legislative provision should be made for the acquisition of land for Travellers on same model as Roads Act. This model represents the most expeditious procedures for compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes. The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee should re-examine the recommendations in the Task Force Report in relation to land acquisition and compulsory purchase orders with a view to expediting the local Traveller Accommodation Programmes.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative

Committee

Text: Effective procedures are in place for the compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes, including for Travellers.

DR.41 Freedom of Information Act should apply to queries relating to Traveller accommodation

Status: Implemented

DR.42 Legislation should be introduced to control wandering horses

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Agriculture and Food

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The Control of Horses Act, 1996 was introduced to control wandering horses mainly in urban areas. The protection of the public, especially motorists, young children and those living in built up areas from the dangers presented by stray horses was the motivation for its introduction.

The Act provides for the designation by local authority bye-laws, of control areas in which horses cannot be kept without licences. The Act also contains provisions on the licensing procedures and the identification of horses; a ban on the sale of horses to minors; the seizure and detention of stray horses; the confiscation of horses which stray repeatedly; the disposal of horses seized by local authorities; the maintenance of registers of horses licensed and seized; and criminal liability for permitting or causing a horse to pose a danger to persons or property.

DR.43 Legislation should be enacted to prevent parking of caravans etc within 1 mile of Traveller specific accommodation. Local Authorities should be given powers to keep these areas clear of such parking. This legislation should not apply to existing families on long-term unofficial sites

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Ongoing

Text: Operation of provision being examined as part of review of 1998 Act

DR.44 Local authorities to be given powers of immediate access to High Court to remove those who break into Traveller specific accommodation or who park adjacent to such facilities or who come to use these facilities continually, without the permission of the local authority

Status: Not accepted

DR.45 Implement effective process for punishing existing tenants who interfere with other tenants/residents etc, including a process of warning, interview, rehabilitation and, as a last resort, eviction

Status: Partially Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Guidelines are being developed to assist with implementation

DR.46 Local authorities to develop responses to tackle intimidation against Travellers moving into standard housing

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Local authorities

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Although Anti-Social Behaviour Orders can be used to tackle intimidation against Travellers there is evidence that these are not being applied. Other responses such as mediation need to be implemented.

DR.47 and 48 Traveller Accommodation Agency⁵ to review need for Annual Count and if found to be necessary should take responsibility for its compilation and publication. The 1995 count to be held in partnership between local authorities and local Traveller groups

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Text: The Annual Count was reviewed in 2002 and still found to be a useful tool for gathering data. The Count will be reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government in conjunction with the National Traveller Accommodation.

⁵ See Recommendation DR22. At the present time, the Government has not accepted the recommendation to create a Traveller Accommodation Agency.

DR.49 Central Statistics Office to include Travellers as a separate heading in its classifications of households in the census

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Central Statistics Office

D1. The operation of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 should be reviewed in 2002, i.e. two years into the delivery of the Traveller Accommodation Programmes.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government with assistance from National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Timescale: Published in January 2005

Text: The terms of reference covered the operation of all sections of the 1998 Act. The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government accepted all the recommendations of the review.

D2. The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee should prepare a report on the functioning of Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committees, and be proactive in promoting good practice in relation to the local committees.

Status: Implemented

D3. The National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee should prepare a report on the implementation of the pilot scheme of assistance to Local Authorities for the management of halting sites.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Timescale: Timescale for review to be discussed by National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

.D6. Local Authorities in conducting their annual counts and in making their accommodation assessments of need should do so in consultation with the local Traveller organisations.

Status: Implemented

ER.1 Increased funding needs to be allocated to tackle the unacceptable health status of the Traveller community and the widespread obstacles to Traveller access to health services

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children and Health Service Executive

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The allocation of funding to tackle obstacles to Traveller health is not only central to the delivery of improved services it highlights a number of issues. First, there is a concern that there is not enough money allocated to deliver the health strategy. Given the disparity between Traveller and settled health status this needs to be reviewed. Second, there is a concern that even the money that is allocated may not reach Travellers. Funding allocated to Traveller health needs to be ring fenced. In line with this, funding needs to be monitored and fully accounted for to ensure it is reaching its intended targets. Finally, a key delivery mechanism for health services to Travellers is the Traveller Health Unit. The valuable role played by these units needs to be considered as part of the reform of the health services.

ER.2 Health Boards to inspect halting sites to report publicly on health and safety matters.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children and Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The National Traveller Health Strategy recommended that a liaison committee consisting of the two lead Departments should be set up to progress issues of common concern to both Departments including inspections of halting sites. This committee had its first meeting in July 2004 and will continue to meet on a regular basis. This issue will be addressed by the liaison committee.

ER.3 Recommendations for the role and remit of the Traveller Health Advisory Committee outlined, including drawing up a national policy for a health strategy and ensuring Traveller health is a priority. Membership to be drawn from the Department of Health, representatives from Traveller community, from Health Boards and from Traveller organisations

ER.4 Each Health Board should establish a Traveller Health Unit (THU). Brief of these units to include monitoring the delivery of health services. Membership of health units also set out in line with ER3

Status: Implemented, but continued existence of THUs is essential in light of health service reform

ER.5 An improved health record keeping system should be introduced by Department of Health and Children, and Health Boards. A code of practice should be designed to govern this.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: Pilot to introduce an ethnic identifier on the Hospital Inpatient Enquiry/Perinatal systems commenced in July 2004

Text: A working group has been set up to progress this issue and a pilot project commenced in July 2004. Following the results of the pilot consideration will be given to rolling the system out to other health information systems.

ER.6 A voluntary system of patient held records should be introduced nationwide.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: By end of 2005

Text: The Traveller Health Strategy states that a working group will be set up to agree the design of a durable user friendly patient and family held record. Detailed consideration should also be given to results of a pilot scheme by CAWT (Co-Operation and Working Together) which covers Southern Health & Social Services Board, Northern Ireland, and North Eastern Health Board & North Western Health Service Executive areas in the Republic of Ireland.

ER.7 An improved system of transferring records between and within regions should be introduced.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: Dependent on establishment of new Health Service Executive and Health Information and Quality Authority

Text: From 2005 health boards have ceased to exist and have been replaced by a national Health Service Executive which will develop uniform recording systems in consultation with the Health Information and Quality Authority.

ER.8 A system whereby correspondence from health services is provided through personal communications should be offered to Traveller patients. Where requested, an appropriate channel should be identified in consultation with the patient

Status: Superseded by National Traveller Health Strategy

ER.9 Travellers should have the option to choose Traveller specific or mainstream services.

Status: Implemented

ER.10 Traveller participation in health service delivery at all levels should be supported.

Status: Implemented through replication of Primary Health Care for Travellers Projects

Lead Agency: All bodies involved in health service delivery plus FAS

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Considerable progress has been made in this area. However, momentum, including FAS funding for training of primary health care workers, needs to be maintained

ER.11 Primary health care services for the Traveller community should be delivered on out-reach basis. These out-reach initiatives should complement, improve and encourage access to mainstream provision and not replace such provision

Status: Some progress has been made

Lead Agency: Health Service Executive and Local Authorities

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Liaison Group recommended by ER2 should progress this issue as a priority as resources need to be allocated to it.

ER.12 Provision should be made for out-reach paediatric and obstetric clinics for Travellers.

Status: Superseded by National Traveller Health Strategy (Action 29)

ER.13 Provision should be made community psychiatric out-reach services to deal with the issues of mental health in the Traveller community.

Status: Implemented

ER.14 There should be independent analysis of consanguinity and provision of genetic counselling service to Travellers

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: A position paper was launched in February 2003 by the Traveller Consanguinity Working Group (TCWG)

Text: The TCWG is drawing up an action plan to progress this issue.

ER.15 Ongoing evaluation of preceding recommendations is needed to assess impact and to ensure they are complementary to mainstream services

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: Dependent on data from Health Status Study and Ethnic Identifier pilot

Text: Will be implemented when data is available

ER.16 There should be regular conferences of service providers and Traveller organisations organised by the Department of Health to facilitate the transfer of experiences of Traveller specific services between health boards.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: The first of these conferences took place on 29 June 2004

Text: Regular National Conferences will take place.

ER.17 Health boards to liaise with/fund Traveller Support Groups to enhance targeting and delivery of services

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Health Service Executive

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Traveller Support Groups are members of the Traveller Health Units

ER.18-20 GMS GMS for General Practitioners terms should prohibit refusal to accept Traveller patients. The drugs bill of practices with a large number of Travellers on their lists should be evaluated with a view to a special allowance provision. Provision should also be made for community psychiatric out-reach services

Status: ER 18 Responsibility for ensuring that all eligible persons have access to general practitioners rests with the Health Service Executive. The GMS contract allows for the assignment of a person to a GMS doctor in cases where a patient may have a difficulty in finding a GP.

ER 19 Each person holding a medical card is entitled to a range of approved prescribed drugs and medicines free of charge. Any person who is not a medical card holder may hold a Drugs Payment Scheme card which entitles the person or family unit to have to pay a total of €78 per month for approved prescribed medicines

ER20 Capitation rates paid to doctors are based on the age, sex and location of the patient. They form part of an agreement on the terms of the GMS Contract with the Irish Medical Organisation.

ER.21 The procedure for renewing and amending Traveller Medical Card should be simplified. The validity of the Traveller Medical Card should be extended to a minimum of a 3 year period. Simplified procedures should be put in place for GPs to receive payment for Traveller patients who move into their area

Status: Partially Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children and Health Service Executive

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Arrangements in respect of reviewing and monitoring medical card lists, including the issue and withdrawal of cards are the responsibility of the Health Service Executive. Periodic checks to verify continued eligibility of persons occur. The frequency of these checks is decided by each health board. There has been no change in payment mechanisms for doctors in respect of temporary residents.

ER.22 and 23 The Health Promotion Unit in partnership with Traveller organisations to draw up policy for health promotion and education of Travellers. This should be provided in all health board regions. Health promotion work, with the general public, should inform people of the impact which the living circumstances and discrimination against Travellers have on Traveller health status.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children and Health Service Executive

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The Health Promotion Strategy 2000 – 2005 highlights as a strategic aim *“to promote the physical, mental and social well-being of individuals from other groups including Travellers within the population”*. Its objectives are *to initiate research into the health and lifestyle behaviour of other groups within the population to prioritise health promotion programmes, to work in partnership with other groups within the population to develop and adapt health promotion programmes to meet their individual needs, to support the implementation of the recommendations in the Policy on Traveller Health*. Progress continues to be made on the implementation of these aims and objectives at national, regional and local level including the introduction of a Travellers’ Being-Well health promotion programme.

The National Health Promotion Strategy 2000 – 2005 also highlighted the difficulties low literacy adults have in accessing health services and products. In response the Health Promotion Unit supported a proposal on health promotion and education among low literacy Irish populations by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). The objective of the project is to develop a strategic health policy and document specifically for low literacy Irish publics and to develop a health pack for professionals working directly with these publics.

The Health Promotion Departments in each Health Service Executive area work in partnership with the Traveller Health Units to ensure that health promotion programmes and initiatives are targeted in an effective and productive way towards Travellers. There are ongoing health promotion initiatives targeting Travellers across all of the Health Service Executive areas, particularly in the area of nutrition and physical activity. Programmes such as *Healthy Food Made Easy* and the *Cooking for Health Programme* have been adapted to meet the needs of Travellers. Lifestyle Programmes for Travellers have been developed to raise awareness of identified health issues among Travellers and are being run with Travellers groups in each region. Health Promotion Departments work closely with

the Primary Healthcare project for Travellers. There is also ongoing work in the Health Service Executive to Traveller proof all health promotion programmes.

ER.24 Training should be provided for health providers on discrimination against Travellers. Traveller organisations should be resourced to play an active role in this training and education

Status: Partially implemented

Lead Agency: Health Service Executive

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Some progress has been made in this area. However, implementation is patchy. Performance indicators have been set for the Health Service Executive areas in regard to the provision of cultural awareness training to the Health Service Executive personnel in order to measure implementation. Anti-racist codes of practice should be developed.

ER.25 The Department of Social and Family Affairs should address difficulties in respect of access to carer's allowance that arise from Traveller families in multiple dwellings

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Social and Family Affairs

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The residency and full-time care and attention requirements for Carer's Allowance have been eased to introduce greater flexibility into the scheme, while safeguarding the needs and interests of the care recipients. The residency requirements have been relaxed to allow for each non-resident case to be assessed and decided upon on a case-by-case basis. Any person who is dissatisfied with the decision of a Deciding Officer can appeal the decision to the independent Social Welfare Appeals Office.

ER.26 – 29 Child Begging Support facilities for children involved in begging should be provided by the relevant statutory authorities. An outreach worker should be appointed for major urban centres where the problem of child begging exists. Section 14 of the Children's Act 1908 should be updated to effectively penalise parents who cause or procure their children to beg or to be involved in petty theft

Status: Partially Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Garda Síochana and Health Service Executive.

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: ER26- Social workers from the area health boards respond as appropriate to referrals received from the Leanbh service. Leanbh was set up specifically by the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC) to work with children begging and their families. The Leanbh service liaises with the Health Service Executive, the Gardai, schools and training centres. The Leanbh service comprises an outreach and street service and operates on a 24 hour 7 day a week basis. Leanbh outreach workers monitor the presence of begging children and link these children with appropriate statutory services. The Leanbh service also carries out a broad-based assessment of the child's needs through contact with the child, the parent and the child and parent together.

ER27 - A social work post funded by the Health Service Executive Eastern Region and attached to the Exchange House Family Support Team (Dublin) responds to the needs of Traveller children and their families who are involved in begging. This work which has an outreach aspect includes identifying and working directly with children who beg and their families to address the underlying reasons for begging, networking with relevant service providers, educating Traveller families and their children about the consequences of begging, referring older children to the youth service activities.

ER28 - The Children Act, 2001 updates the law in relation to child begging. The provisions of the Act (section 247 introduced on 1 May 2002) make it an offence for a child to be allowed, or induced, by an adult to beg in any street or public place or to make house to house calls for the purpose of begging or receiving alms. The Act puts the onus on the parents or guardians of the child to prove that they did not send the child out to beg. Under the Act, the penalty for allowing a child to beg has been increased from a maximum of €31.74 to a maximum of €317.43 for a first offence and €634.87 for any subsequent offence.

ER29 - Relevant provisions of the Child Care Act, 1991 were brought into effect from 31 October 1995.

ER.30 to ER.33 Social Workers in health boards who may have responsibility for Traveller children should receive in-service training on Traveller culture. Effective formal co-ordination should be put in place within and between health boards to protect children at risk. Social workers should be obliged to trace the whereabouts of families who have moved and inform the health board social worker in the new area/jurisdiction. Open cases should remain open until social worker in new area notified.

Status: Not yet Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children and Health Service Executive

Timescale: Before end 2006

Text: Action 96 of the Traveller Health Strategy states that Department of Health and Children will examine the implications of providing a designated Social Work Service for Travellers in each Health Service Executive area with a significant Traveller population. Social workers will be involved in a multidisciplinary team to provide early identification, support and intervention for Traveller families 'at risk'.

E1. Procedures should be put in place by the Department of Health and Children to target and monitor funding allocated to health boards for Traveller health, i.e. regular reports including a breakdown of expenditure.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Procedures have now been put in place to monitor funding allocated to Traveller health including regular reports on the breakdown of expenditure.

E2. In view of variations in the operation of Traveller Health Units between health boards it is recommended that the Department of Health and Children carry out a review of their operation and hold a national conference to discuss the findings of the review. It is also recommended that adequate funding be provided to enable Travellers to participate in these units.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Traveller Health Advisory Committee

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: A review of the Traveller Health Units was conducted in 2003 by the Traveller Health Advisory Committee. The findings of this review and best practice for a Traveller Health Unit were discussed at a workshop of the Traveller Health Conference held on 29 June 2004.

E3. The necessary arrangements should be made by the Department of Health and Children to identify Travellers, in the context of ethnicity and self-identification, on all data collection systems to enable data on Traveller morbidity to be collected and published.

Status: Partially implemented

Lead Agency: Traveller Ethics, Research and Information Working Group

Timescale: By end of 2005

Text: A pilot project to collect ethnicity data on the Hospital Inpatient Enquiry/Perinatal Systems commenced in July 2004. Following the results of the pilot, consideration will be given to rolling the system out to other health information systems.

E4. The Departments of Health and Children and Environment, Heritage and Local Government should set up a joint committee of officials and Travellers to explore the possibility of developing initiatives to improve the environmental health of halting sites.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children and Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Timescale: By end of 2005

Text: The National Traveller Health Strategy recommended that a liaison committee consisting of the two lead Departments should be set up to progress issues of common concern to both Departments including inspections of halting sites. This committee had its first meeting in July 2004 and will continue to meet on a regular basis.

E5 A working group should be set up to evaluate the patient held medical record pilot projects carried out in two health board areas and to design a suitable card for the patient held record, which will operate pending development of the "smart card".

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: By end of 2005

Text: The Traveller Health Strategy states that a working group will be set up to agree the design of a durable user friendly patient & family held record. Detailed consideration should also be given to results of a pilot scheme by CAWT (Co-operation & working together) which covers Southern Health & Social Services Board Northern Ireland & Health Service Executive North Eastern & North Western areas in the Republic of Ireland.

E6. A national compatible IT system should be developed to facilitate exchange of information within and between health boards.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: Dependent on establishment of new Health Service Executive and Health Information and Quality Authority

Text: Since 2005 health boards no longer exist and have been replaced by a national Health Service Executive which will develop a national IT system in consultation with the Health Information and Quality Authority.

E7 The Primary Health Care for Travellers Project initiative is only reaching a relatively small number of Travellers and it is recommended that it be supplemented by other initiatives such as the nomination by Traveller patients of a person or organisation to which correspondence could be sent.

Status: Superseded by National Traveller Health Strategy

E8.
The Department of Health and Children should identify or create suitable posts in health boards for Travellers.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Health Service Executive

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Following the completion of Primary health care training courses, Traveller women are being employed by the Health Service Executive as primary health care workers.

E9 The Department of Health and Children should explore the possibilities of outreach clinics in relation to hospital services and review the operation of existing outreach services as to their impact on the Traveller Community.

Status: Superseded by Action 29 of the Traveller Health Strategy.

E10. The Departments of Health and Children and Environment, Heritage and Local Government should explore the possibility of including structures on halting sites suitable, inter alia, for the holding of outreach clinics.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Health Service Executive/Local Authorities

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Liaison committee of Department of Health and Children and Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will address this issue.

E11 A national committee, to include Traveller representatives, should be established by the Department of Health and Children to develop guidelines on genetic counselling for Travellers.

Status: Partly implemented.

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: Position paper on genetic counselling launched February 2003 by Traveller Consanguinity Working Group (TCWG)

Text: TCWG is drawing up an action plan to progress this issue.

E12 The Traveller community should be resourced for capacity building so that Travellers can participate effectively in health service structures.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children and Health Service Executive

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Travellers participate effectively in the Traveller Health Advisory

Committee and the Traveller Health Units in each Health Service Executive area. Pavee Point Travellers' Centre has received funding for national training and capacity building of Travellers.

E13 Present procedures regarding access to General Practitioner services should be reviewed

E14 The Department of Health and Children should consider whether other models of remuneration or grant assistance for GP services, such as those which are based on consumer satisfaction or grants for practice nurses, might be beneficial.

E15 A more simplified system of medical card issue and renewal should be developed which takes account of the special needs of Travellers.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: 2005

Text: These recommendations are included in the actions proposed in Chapter 10 of the National Traveller Health Strategy

E16 The Department of Health and Children should acknowledge the impact which poor living conditions and discrimination have on Travellers' health.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children

Timescale: 2006

Text: The Department of Health and Children acknowledges the impact which poor living conditions have on Travellers' health and this will be explored as part of the Travellers' All-Ireland Health Study which will commence in 2006.

E17 The Department of Health and Children should examine the issue of including a module on cultural awareness in the training courses of all health professionals.

Status: Partly implemented

Lead Agency: Health Service Executive

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Some progress has been made in this area. However, implementation is patchy. Performance indicators have been set for the Health Service Executive in regard to the provision of

cultural awareness training to Health Service Executive personnel in order to measure implementation.

E18 Culturally appropriate alternatives to institutional care for Travellers should be explored and resourced.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children/Health Service Executive

Timescale: 2006

Text: The recommendations of the Working Group on Foster Care are being examined by the Health Service Executive

E19 Specialist Traveller social workers should be appointed as part of a multidisciplinary specialist team to respond to the special needs of Travellers.

Status: Not yet implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children and Health Service Executive

Timescale: Before end 2006

Text: Action 96 of the Traveller Health Strategy states that Department of Health and Children will examine the implications of providing a designated Social Work Service for Travellers in each health board area with a significant Traveller population. Social workers will be involved in a multidisciplinary team to provide early identification, support and intervention for Traveller families 'at risk'.

E20 The delivery of social work services to Travellers should be examined and clarified by the Departments of Health and Children and Environment, Heritage and Local Government in conjunction with the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee and the Traveller Health Advisory Committee.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Health and Children and Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Timescale: 2006

Text: This issue will be addressed by the liaison committee set up by Department of Health and Children and Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in July 2004.

FR.1, 106 - 116 Support of Visiting Teacher Role Visiting Teacher Service should be supported and adequately resourced by the relevant statutory authorities.

Status: Accepted in Principle/Under review as part of Traveller Education Strategy

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Since the publication of the Task Force Report, the number of posts for Visiting Teacher for Travellers has increased from 11 to 40. The Department will continue to review the visiting teacher service for Travellers, in the context of available resources and taking account of the need to ensure optimum co-ordination between the Visiting Teacher Service and other schemes aimed at addressing Educational Disadvantage such as the Home School Community Liaison Scheme, School Completion Programme and the services of the National Education Welfare Board.

FR.2 Endorsement of School Attendance/Truancy Report The Task Force endorses the recommendations of the School Attendance/Truancy Report

Status: Superseded by Education Welfare Act, 2000

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 established the National Educational Welfare Board as the single national body with responsibility for school attendance. The Act provides a comprehensive framework promoting regular school attendance and tackling the problems of absenteeism and early school leaving. The general functions of the Board are to ensure that each child attends a recognised school or otherwise receives a certain minimum education.

To date, the Board has focused the resources available to it on providing a service to the most disadvantaged areas and most at-risk groups. Five regional teams have now been established with bases in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford. Total staffing complement is currently 94, comprising 16 HQ and support staff, 5 regional managers, 11 senior educational welfare officers and 62 educational welfare officers. Staff have been deployed in areas of greatest disadvantage and in areas designated under the Government's RAPID programme. 13 towns with significant school going populations, 12 of which are

designated under the Government's RAPID programme, also now have an Educational Welfare Officer allocated to them.

FR.3, 4 Support of Galway model of encouraging attendance Support for integrated effort between visiting teacher, Gardaí and others at community level to encourage school attendance. Legislation needs reinforcement to support this integrated approach.

Status: Superseded by Education Welfare Act, 2000

FR.5, 14 & 15 Traveller parents should be facilitated to enrol their own children When this enrolment is done by the Visiting Teacher it can set the scene for poor future involvement by parents.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science, Schools

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Traveller children are not enrolled by the Visiting Teacher Service. The Visiting Teacher Service actively encourages and supports Traveller parents to enrol their children and facilitates contact between Traveller parents and schools.

FR.6,7 and 8 Traveller parents and teachers Attention needs to be given to broaden the ways of facilitating ongoing contact between teachers and Traveller parents. Levels of literacy and lack of experience in some school subjects on the part of Traveller parents can be a barrier to communication with teachers.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The Visiting Teacher Service actively promotes the facilitation of contact between teachers and Traveller parents as outlined in the Guidelines on Traveller Education for Primary and Post Primary issued by Department of Education and Science in 2002

Significant investment has been made over the lifetime of the National Development Plan to promote literacy/numeracy among adults. All adult literacy programmes are open to Travellers and in addition, of the 33 Vocational Education Committees, 19 have specific adult literacy programmes for Travellers as part of their overall suite of literacy options.

FR.9 & FR.87 All Travellers to have access to homework projects. Homework programmes should be tailored to Traveller culture The Department of Education and Science should grant aid the provision of teachers to these projects. Supervisors of homework programmes should encourage parents to become involved and adequate training provided to those delivering the programme.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: After school/homework support is available through a number of Department initiatives aimed at tackling educational disadvantage such as:

The School Completion Programme targets individual “at risk” young people of school going age, both in and out of school and arranges supports to address inequalities in education access, participation and outcomes. Approximately 2000 Traveller children are currently targeted by this initiative in primary and post-primary schools. After school/homework support is an integral part of this programme. The School Completion Programme published a booklet of Best Practice in May 2005.

‘Giving Children an Even Break’ targets individual children at risk of experiencing educational disadvantage in primary schools. 2345 primary schools participate in this programme and supports involve additional teachers and resources. Other supports may involve areas such as after school activities and homework support.

The Department has funded a number of after school support projects specifically for Traveller children under the Fund for the Development of Educational Responses to Certain Children at Risk.

FR.10, 11 and 12 Parental Involvement There is a lack of information among Traveller parents on how schools are administered and lack of parents with role within school. Boards of management should consult with Traveller interests before formulating policies on issues related to Traveller children. Creative ways of involving Travellers in the education system should be explored. Manner of entry to new schools should support direct contact between Traveller parents and school teachers.

Status: Accepted in Principle/Under review as part of Traveller Education Strategy

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The Guidelines on Traveller Education for Primary and Post Primary were issued by Department of Education and Science in 2002 address some of these issues.

The role of Traveller Parents is one of the priorities being highlighted in the Traveller Education Strategy. Traveller Parents and Learners were consulted as part of the Traveller Education Strategy process.

FR.13 and 16 Nomadism Book exchange system needs to be put in place to ease the financial burden on parents who change schools. Flexible date should be introduced, resourced and supported by the Department of Education. Proposed Traveller Education Service could undertake to investigate how Traveller children could benefit from distance learning.

Status: Accepted in Principle/Under review as part of Traveller Education Strategy

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Education Strategy

Text: This recommendation reflects the challenges associated with providing an effective education service to nomadic Travellers. This issue will be considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy.

FR.17, 28-33 Traveller Education Service Recommendation relating to the role and remit of the Traveller Education Service

Status: Not accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Education Strategy

Text: The Government did not accept the need for a Traveller Education Service on the grounds that a unit dedicated to Traveller education could have a segregating and isolating effect rather than enhancing the co-ordinated delivery of services by various sections within the Department.

Some elements of the role envisaged for the Service by the Task Force have been accepted such as the role of the National Education Officer for Travellers. Also in 2002, a High Level

Official for Traveller Education was appointed and responsibility for the co-ordination of Traveller Education was transferred under the remit of the Social Inclusion Unit, which has responsibility for the co-ordination of all issues in relation to educational disadvantage.

FR.18-23 Intercultural Curriculum Recommendations relating to developing an intercultural curriculum, including teaching resources and materials

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Guidelines for primary schools on intercultural education were published in May 2005 by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. Guidelines for post-primary schools are also being prepared and are expected to be published by the end of 2005.

In October 2003, the Department published an information booklet – *Schools and the Equal Status Act*. This outlines the main features of equality legislation as they affect primary and post primary schools and identifies ways in which equality legislation together with the Education Acts can be used as building blocks for the creation of the inclusive school. A revised booklet was published in 2005.

FR.24-27 Teacher training Recommendation relating to more culturally aware teacher training, including consultation with Traveller organisations.

Status: Accepted in Principle/Under review as part of Traveller Education Strategy

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: This will be facilitated by the publication of the intercultural guidelines for primary and post-primary schools and also by the availability of the Guidelines on Traveller Education that are available for both primary and second level.

FR.34-49 Traveller Pre-schools A group of recommendations relating to the importance of a comprehensive, effective and fit for purpose Traveller pre-school service, including cross-cutting issues such as culture, parental involvement and transport as well as core education issues such as links with primary schools

Status: Accepted/Partially Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science, Centre for Early Childhood Development & Education

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The provision of Traveller pre-schools is being examined as part of the Traveller Education Strategy.

Early Childhood Education and Care is a horizontal policy issue involving several Departments and agencies. Policy options in this area are under active consideration within the Department and by the Inter-Departmental High Level Group on Childcare and Early Education, which is chaired by the National Children's Office.

The Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education was launched in 2002 and its objectives are:

- To develop a quality framework for Early Childhood Care and Education, including a Quality in Education Mark for providers in the sector
- To develop targeted interventions on a pilot basis for children who are educationally disadvantaged and children with special needs

The findings of the Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education research will inform the Traveller Education Strategy.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Thematic Review Of Early Childhood Education And Care In Ireland (2004) concluded that, in disadvantaged areas, early childhood services need to be intensive, multi-functional and co-ordinated across services and agencies. The policy implications of the recommendations arising from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development review are under active consideration within the Department, by the Inter-Departmental High Level Group on Childcare and Early Education and for the Traveller Education Strategy.

The Evaluation of the Traveller pre-school provision by the Department (2003) makes significant recommendations in relation to many aspects of pre-school education including management issues, quality of provision, attendance levels,

accommodation, teacher qualifications and in-service supports. These recommendations will contribute to policy formation and will help to inform the Traveller Education Strategy.

FR.50 Research on failure of current primary education system to effectively serve Traveller children In-depth analysis to be carried out on reasons for failure of present system for many Traveller children, despite the level of resources invested.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: On completion of the Traveller Education Strategy

Text: In order to inform the Traveller Education Strategy, the Evaluation, Support and Research Unit of the Department carried out a survey of Traveller Education Provision, in spring 2004, in 30 primary and 6 post primary schools. The Survey Report is due to be published in Autumn 2005

FR.51-FR.53 Access and Opportunities Procedures needed to ensure Traveller children have equal access to education provision best suited to their needs. School plans should include statement on equal opportunity policy for Traveller children. Enrolment dates should not be restricted to a particular date, where Travellers are present in a particular location. Following enrolment, Traveller children should have access to support services including resource teachers, Visiting Teacher Service, social services and ancillary staff such as childcare workers.

Status: Accepted/Under review as part of Traveller Education Strategy

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Education Strategy

Text: In designing and revising School Plans in line with the Education Act 1998, minority groups such as Travellers must be affirmed. Policies such as anti-bullying, anti-discriminatory and equality statements must reflect the diversity of pupil intake in a sensitive way and help protect all children.

In October 2003, the Department published a pamphlet – Schools and the Equal Status Act. This outlines the main features of equality legislation as they affect primary and post primary schools and identifies ways in which equality legislation together with the Education Acts can be used as building blocks for the creation of the inclusive school.

Traveller students are entitled to learning support and resource support in the same manner as other students in response to identified educational needs. In addition, 540 Resource Teachers for Travellers have been appointed to primary schools together with an enhanced capitation grant allocated per Traveller pupil. 40 Visiting Teachers for Travellers have also been appointed.

FR.54-FR.60 Resources "As an essential pre-requisite for successful integrated education, realistic grants should be made towards cost of transport, books, uniforms, and material expenses."

Status: Implemented but under review as part of the Traveller Education Strategy

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science, Department of Social and Family Affairs, Department of Health and Children

Timescale: On going

Text: Substantial investment has been made in the provision of resources to Travellers

Where a primary school has been allocated the support of a resource Teacher for Travellers, an enhanced level of capitation grant (currently €283 - €154 on top of the standard capitation of €129 for children under 12 years and €483 - €354 on top of the standard capitation grant of €129 for children over 12 years) is payable in respect of each Traveller child enrolled.

In the case of post primary, additional capitation grants of €436 is payable in respect of each Traveller student enrolled.

The total cost in 2004 in relation to capitation grants in respect of Traveller children was €2.5 million

In relation to transport, Traveller children benefit from the normal school transport service provided through Bus Eireann and additionally, in special circumstances, 98% of the running costs of approved special transport schemes for Traveller children are paid by the Department at a cost of €0.6 million per annum.

The Department of Education and Science operates a grant scheme towards the cost of providing school textbooks for pupils from low-income families in primary schools. Principal teachers administer the book grant schemes in schools in a flexible way under the terms of the schemes based on their knowledge of particular circumstances in individual cases.

With regard to the provision of school uniforms, the Health

Service Executive (HSE) administers a Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme on behalf of the Department of Social and Family Affairs. The purpose of this scheme is to assist qualifying recipients (e.g. persons in receipt of certain social welfare or HSE payments) with the cost of school clothing and footwear.

The scheme is available to all families, including Traveller families, who are recipients of a qualifying payment which contains an increase in respect of the child, and who satisfy the means test. The allowance is payable in respect of each qualified child.

In addition, the Health Service Executive may, under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance scheme, in any case where the Executive considers it reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, assist people with once-off expenditure which they could not reasonably be expected to meet out of their weekly income.

Following on from a commitment in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme was reviewed as part of the Department's series of Programme Evaluations.

The review examined all aspects of the scheme including the income limits, the means test, the cost of sending a child to school and the adequacy of the rates in payment. The Review Group consulted with the Voluntary and Community sector.

The report of the review of the Back to School Clothing Allowance Overall, the working group concluded that the groups supported currently under the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme were consistent with the effectiveness objective of targeting low-income families. The Department is at present examining the findings and recommendations contained in the report.

FR.61 Circular to all teachers on equality for Travellers Circular should be issued by Department of Education and Science in relation to the implementation of "The Education of Travellers in National Schools – Guidelines" document.

Status: The Guidelines on Traveller Education at both primary and second level (2002) provide teachers with comprehensive information.

FR.62 School timetable should be same for all The arrival and departure times should be the same for all children attending a school, including Traveller children.

Status: Accepted

FR.63 Pupil-teacher ratio for special schools should be set at that applying to special classes Except where additional special needs justify a lower ratio.

Status: By July 2005 there will be only one special school for Travellers at primary.

FR.64 Integration of Traveller children should be mandatory at primary level Except in special circumstances, integration would enhance participation and educational achievement and would contribute to greater access to second-level education.

Status: Implemented/Under review as part of Traveller Education Strategy

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Education Strategy

Text: Integration of Travellers in mainstream schooling is stated policy of the Department of Education and Science. As and from 30th June 2004 all special classes for Travellers in primary schools have been phased out. By July 2005 there will be only one special school for Travellers at primary.

FR.65 Regular review of Traveller children in special classes. A regular review would ensure educational needs were being met and ensure that they moved to mainstream classes when ready to do so.

Status: No longer relevant

FR.66 Where problems are identified, solutions should take account of pre-school reports. Initial education provision should take reports of pre-school, psychological assessments and recommendations of visiting teachers or parents into account where problems arise with Traveller children.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science, National Educational Psychological Service

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Current good practice should inform this approach.

FR.67 and 68 Special classes should only be used where special needs exist and should be seen as transitional
Only when need is identified in consultation with visiting teachers and parents, should there be a requirement for special classes. They should only be seen as transitional resource in process towards integration.

Status: Special classes specifically for Travellers have been phased out.

Text: See FR 64 above

FR.69 Assessment based on tests which are clear of cultural bias. Assessment of a child's attainment level, particularly in relation to language competency, should be based on tests which are clear of cultural bias.

Status: Accepted

Text: The Department of Education and Science and the National Educational Psychological Service are currently considering this issue

FR.70 Traveller children should be in classes closest to their chronological age. On enrolment Traveller children should be assigned to classes related to their age. Traveller children should be fully integrated for school activities such as sport.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The best information available, collected by the Visiting Teacher Service in October/November each year, indicates that the vast majority of Traveller children are already in age appropriate classes.

FR.71 Traveller children should not be in primary school beyond the age of 12/13 years. Only in exceptional circumstances should Traveller children be kept in primary school beyond this age group.

Status: Recent statistics indicate that this is the case

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: There are no fifteen year olds and only 10 fourteen year olds in primary as of Visiting Teacher Service survey of October 2004.

FR.72 Special class pupil-teacher ratio should be reduced to 10:1. Pupil teacher ratio should be reduced from current level of 15:1 to 10:1 for special classes and for appointment of Traveller resource teachers.

Status: Special Classes have been phased out

FR.73 Special additional Assistants should be designated Traveller Resource Teachers. Additional Assistants appointed to work with Travellers should be designated Traveller Resource Teachers.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Special Additional Assistants/ Teachers are now known as Resource Teachers for Travellers.

FR.74 All schools should have integration programmes. Schools should plan programme of action designed to ensure integration of settled and Traveller children.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Schools

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: There is renewed emphasis on school planning and school self-review and minority groups such as Travellers are recognised in this process. In designing and revising School Plans in line with the Education Act 1998, minority groups such as Travellers must be affirmed. Policies such as anti-bullying, anti-discriminatory and equality statements must reflect the diversity of pupil intake in a sensitive way and help protect all children. For example, offering a restricted curriculum to Travellers especially in relation to Irish is actively discouraged.

FR.75 Schools should adopt inclusive approach to curriculum development
Recommendation of Special Education Review Committee supported.

FR.76 Flexible structures and curriculum options

Flexible structures should be explored in the curriculum for all pupils. Travellers should be included as a group with a distinct culture within and integral to Irish society.

FR.77 National Council for Curriculum and Assessment should be commissioned to ensure Travellers are targeted in primary curriculum

Department of Education and Science should commission National Council for Curriculum and Assessment to ensure Travellers are targeted in developing the primary curriculum, particularly in design of "Education for Life" and equality measures.

FR.79 Comprehensive in-service programme on Traveller education

Department of Education and Science should provide comprehensive teacher in-service training programme on Traveller education for all teachers.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science, (Department of Health and Children involved in FR 78)

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Strategy

Text: The revised primary curriculum supports an inclusive approach. The Primary Curriculum Support Programme promotes this. In addition the Guidelines on Traveller Education in Primary Schools (2002) along with the guidelines for primary schools on Intercultural Education (2005) will assist teachers deliver an inclusive approach.

Pre-service and in-service training for teachers in this area is being considered under the Traveller Education Strategy.

FR.78 Interculturalism should inform all training of primary teachers

Training for primary level teachers and allied professionals, such as speech therapists, psychologists and welfare staff should be informed by and transmit intercultural and anti-racist principles and practice and should present Travellers as a group with a distinct culture

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Strategy

Text: This is being facilitated by the publication of the Intercultural Guidelines for primary schools (2005) and the Guidelines on Traveller Education in primary schools (2002). It is also being considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy

FR.80 and 81 Traveller children to have access to psychological services and speech therapy at primary level. Traveller children experiencing learning difficulties should have access to a psychological test, appropriate to Traveller children and designed and used for them. Traveller children should have access to speech therapists.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The issue of psychological tests appropriate to Traveller children is currently being considered in conjunction with National Educational Psychological Service.
Traveller children have the same entitlement to psychological services and speech therapy, where there is an identified need.

FR.82 and 83 'Family Record Card' and 'School Record Card' welcomed. A comprehensive school record system needs to be developed in recognition of the nomadic lifestyle of Travellers. This would ensure the speedy transfer of information on individual pupil attainment between schools. Network should be established with Northern Ireland.

Status: Accepted in principle for pilot

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The visiting teacher service is currently piloting a school record system in Rathkeale, Co Limerick. This issue was brought to the attention of Advisory Committee on Traveller Education and is being considered under the Traveller Education Strategy.

FR.84 and 85 Department of Education and Science should pay full cost of special transport systems. The Department currently pays ninety-eight percent of the cost of special transport systems. All Traveller children should have access to special transport systems.

Status: This issue is under consideration as part of the Traveller Education Strategy

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Strategy

Text: The Department funds transport costs for Traveller children and children with special needs. In addition in special circumstances payment of 98% running costs of transport for Traveller Children

either by way of approved special transport systems or Traveller specific provision is made. The issue of transport for Traveller pupils is being considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy.

FR.86 and 99 General recommendations also apply to Travellers in Special Education Centres. In relation to primary education provision for Travellers in Special Education Centres the recommendations of the report also apply to access, equipment, teacher training, intercultural education and literacy.

Status: Implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale:

Text: Travellers in Education Centres have the same entitlements as all others

FR.88-102 Post Primary Education. Recommendations relating to post primary education, including curriculum development, links with primary schools, resourcing and interculturalism

Status: Accepted in Principle with FR 89, 90, 92, 93, 94, 95, 98, 99, 100 implemented

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Post Primary Education of Travellers is one of the main areas being considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy. Progress in relation to FR 88, 90, 96, 101, 102

- The Survey of Traveller Education Provision was carried out in 30 primary and 6 post primary schools in Spring 2004 and the report is due to be published in Autumn 2005
- The Visiting Teacher Service works across the education system from pre school to third level
- The Visiting Teacher Service actively facilitates the transfer of Traveller pupils to post primary. The School Completion Programme which targets approximately 2000 Travellers has Transfer Programmes.
- The issue of standardised tests appropriate to Travellers is under consideration in the Department and National Educational Psychological Service.
- Intercultural Guidelines for post primary are expected to be published by the end of 2005.
- Resource teaching hours of 1.5 hour per week per Traveller child is allocated to post primary schools. The cost is 2005 is approximately €7 million

- Additional capitation grants of € 436 is payable in respect of each Traveller student enrolled.
- The National Education Officer for Travellers and the Visiting Teacher Service have established links with the UK. The North/South Traveller Education Forum meet to share and exchange information and experiences in relation to Traveller education.
- In 2002, Social Inclusion Unit assumed responsibility for the co-ordination of Traveller Education.
- Most segregated provision has been phased out. Only three junior education centres remain.

Child Benefit

Child Benefit is a non-means tested, employment neutral payment, made in respect of children up to the age of 16 years and continues to be paid in respect of children up to age 19 who are in full time education or who are, by reason of physical or mental infirmity, incapable of self support and likely to remain so incapable for a prolonged period. Child Benefit was extended to children over 16 and in full time education in order to contribute towards the creation of a more pro school environment for this age group, including those in marginalised families. It is not subject to taxation and is paid regardless of the employment status of the parents.

The policy direction followed by successive Governments has been to concentrate resources for child income support on Child Benefit, in order to reduce work disincentives by making child income support more neutral vis á vis the employment status of the parent.

The value of the Child Benefit scheme as an effective mechanism for the provision of child income support is reflected in the substantial investment which the Government makes in the scheme.

Child Benefit, cannot by its nature, respond to specific instances of financial difficulty or episodes in school life. However, in recognition of the increased expense encountered by larger families, rates have been structured towards payment of the higher rate in respect of third and subsequent children. This policy provides a consistent level of support to parents with younger and older children.

To introduce an element of targeting or discretion would change fundamentally the nature of the Child Benefit scheme.

See also FR.56 in relation to the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme.

FR.103-105 Junior Training Centres. No further Junior Training Centres should be established. VECs should be given responsibility for phasing out of these Training Centres at the most appropriate speed. All Travellers must have equality of access to all mainstream second level schools. The resourcing of the Task Force policy for improvement of second level education provision must be urgently addressed.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: In the context of stated policy of integration of Travellers into mainstream provision, the majority of Junior Education Centres have been phased out. The Department is currently considering how to progress the phasing out of the remaining three Centres.

FR.117-120 Third level education. It is essential that more Travellers gain access to third level education. In the short term universities and other third level bodies should be encouraged to take positive action in this regard. Department of Education and Science should encourage Traveller participation at third level through Higher Education Grants Scheme. Grants must be adequate to cover costs.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science and Colleges of Education

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: This issue is being considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy.

The National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education has published its first Action Plan 2005-2007. Access officers have been appointed to all universities and access programmes are currently targeting Travellers. The Visiting Teacher Service is also pro-active in this area.

FR.121 Traveller Education Service to examine adult education. TES should examine provision for adult education to ensure it addresses equality issues and can cater for the needs of Travellers.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Education Strategy

Text: This area is being considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy. To assist, the recommendations in the White Paper on Adult Education – Learning for Life (2000) are being examined.

FR.122 Need for better long term planning in adult education. Progressive forms of adult education should be cultivated. There is a need for better long term planning between statutory and voluntary sectors to arrive at a more coherent policy on adult education. Such a policy should draw on experience of Traveller organisations involved in adult education.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Education Strategy

Text: Being considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy

FR.123 Need to tackle barriers to adult education. A pro-active approach is needed. Entry requirements and structures should be flexible to facilitate access. There is a need for resources to cover materials, expenses and child care.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Education Strategy

Text: Being considered under the Traveller Education Strategy

FR.124 - 125 Adult education courses should be targeted at Travellers. There is a need for courses designed for and specifically targeted at adult Travellers. Resourcing of Traveller specific courses should be transparent so as to clearly

benefit adult Travellers. Educational credentials should not be allowed to be an obstacle to Travellers. Accreditation of adult education courses should be given careful consideration to ensure they do not become another obstacle for Traveller participation.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Adult education is being considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy. Significant investment is provided under the National Development Plan to increase investment in the area, with a view to providing services over the lifetime of the Plan for some 110,000 adults.

The Back to Education Initiative provides a major expansion of part-time options under Post Leaving Certificate, Youthreach and Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme programmes, principally aimed at young people and adults in the population with less than upper secondary education. This will also provide for an increase in Foundation, Level 1, Leaving Certificate or equivalent options.

Community Education

Community education, particularly in the form of community-based women's groups, has been one of the most dynamic and distinctive elements of Adult Education sector in recent years.

Adult Literacy

Within adult literacy, of the 33 VECs, 19 have specific adult literacy programmes for Travellers as part of their overall suite of literacy options. National Adult Literacy Agency also provide resources and training in adult literacy

FR.126 More resources needed to tackle illiteracy. Department of Education and Science should allocate more resources to tackle illiteracy among Travellers. Special literacy programmes should be designed by the VECs.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Education Strategy

Text: This issue is being considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy
Significant investment has been made over the lifetime of the National Development Plan for adult literacy. Within adult

literacy, all adult literacy programmes are available to Travellers and of the 33 VECs, 19 have specific adult literacy programmes for Travellers as part of their overall suite of literacy options.

FR.127 Specific education for parents to help with their children's education
Specific education should be available for Traveller parents so they can participate and help with their children's education. VECs should give top priority to courses aimed at Traveller parents in this regard.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: Being considered under the Traveller Education Strategy

FR.128-140 Youth Work. The importance of youth work is endorsed through a number of recommendations relating to grants, training, integrated approaches and meeting Traveller needs

Status: Some implemented/some accepted in principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Ongoing

Text: The National Youth Work Development Plan was launched in 2003 following extensive consultation with various youth work interests and provides a blueprint with various youth work interests in Ireland. The Plan recognises that "Youth work's primary concern is with the education of young people in non-formal settings". One of the areas highlighted in the Plan is the further development and enhancement of work carried out, with, among others, young Travellers.

The Special Projects for Youth Scheme operates several youth work initiatives that are specifically aimed at young Travellers, such as the initiatives operated by the National Association of Traveller centres, Traveller Youth Service and Pavee Point. In general, these youth work initiatives entail consultation with the local Traveller community, the involvement of members of that community in the management of the project and liaison with other voluntary and statutory agencies operating in the youth service sphere.

Out of a total of 167 projects funded under the Scheme some twelve (12) projects are specifically aimed at young Travellers, while other projects have Travellers enrolled in the various activities and programmes. In 2004 a total of €1,129,648 was

allocated to these twelve projects.

In 2004, one of the areas identified as a priority area of action under the National Youth Work Development Plan 2003 -2007, was the upgrading of single worker projects. The Ballybane Traveller Project in Galway was one of the projects up-graded to two workers under this Action.

FR. 141-164 Senior Traveller Training Centres. Recommendations relating to the role, remit and resources of the Senior Traveller Training Centres

Status: Accepted in Principle/Some recommendations implemented.

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Text: Detailed responses on this area are available in the 2000 report. Since 2000 FETAC modules on interculturalism and anti-racism are now available. In addition the future of Senior Training Centres is being considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy

FR.165 – 166 Statistician to examine Traveller participation in education at all levels. Detailed examination should be carried out of current systems at all education levels on Traveller participation rates. This should be undertaken by an expert statistician who should make recommendations for changes in statistical collection in Department of Education and Science. When statistician makes report the necessary resources should be allocated to ensure that any changes to statistical collection arrangements are implemented.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Timescale: Completion of Traveller Education Strategy

Text: The Department is currently developing a primary pupil's database and extending the post primary pupils database. Data collection is also being considered as part of the Traveller Education Strategy.

FR.167 Vocational Education Committees should be included within Ombudsman Act. The Second schedule of the Ombudsman Act 1980 should be amended to remove the exemptions to Vocational Education Committees.

Status: Not implemented to date.

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

GR.1 Local authorities should provide casual trading spaces based on a full assessment of requirements and impact on existing consumer services.

Status: Not accepted

Lead agency: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Text: Local authorities have sole responsibility for the operation of casual trading. It is a reserved function for the members of a local authority. The recommendation contains an internal conflict. Who assesses “requirements” and “impact on existing services”? The introduction of concepts such as “impact on existing services” creates an excuse not to promote casual trading due to the fact that “impact on existing services” will invariably turn out to be negative.

GR 2 Where Transient Trading groups require living accommodation, local authorities should allow them to park on transient sites where available for an agreed period.

Status: Ongoing

In relation to GR 2: Existing transient sites allow this. See recommendation DR 7 in relation to the provision of Transient sites. Issues relating to the use and management of Transient sites need further examination so that an appropriate policy and management framework can be developed.

GR.3 Larger groups, beyond the capacity of a transient site, should be required to secure adequate space to accommodate their own needs, and deemed to have adequate resources. It is envisaged that the local authority would advise on orderly movement and parking.

GR.4 Transient traders should be required to maintain contact with local authorities so that orderly movement and parking can be achieved through co-operation.

Status: Not accepted

Text: Accepted that groups with adequate resources should be responsible for securing their own needs. As all sectors of society are bound by the traffic laws etc it is not envisaged that the local authorities have a role as suggested.

GR.5 Travellers should be identified as one target group in the licensing of casual trading. Licences and pitches should be available in a manner accessible to Travellers.

Status: Not Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment

Text: It is unclear how pitches could be made accessible to Travellers. If it means that they should get first call on pitches this would be difficult to implement. The criteria for allocation of pitches seems to be done on an historic basis. In other words people who were trading traditionally in a specific pitch got that pitch when bye laws were made. After that the same person renewed that pitch each year. It would be difficult to implement an allocation system whereby all pitches came up for renewal each year and there was no guarantee that traders would get pitches. This would place a major question mark over the continuation of casual trading because traders could not and would not plan for the future if they were not assured of continuity. Basically it is for local authorities to determine the criteria for pitch allocation. The Department is unaware of any local authorities who have a published set of criteria for pitch allocation.

GR.6 The design and construction of Traveller specific accommodation should include limited storage/workspace.

Status: Accepted

Text: This is provided for in guidelines issued, to local authorities, by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the design of Traveller specific accommodation.

GR.7 D/ETE to develop strategies to support Travellers and others in market trading

Status: Ongoing

Lead Agency: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Text: A review of the Social Economy Programme was undertaken and is being considered by FAS and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. A consultation paper has issued to the Social Partners regarding the future of Active Labour Market Programmes, including the SEP with an invitation formally seeking their views. A decision in relation to the future direction of the Programme will be made in due course.

GR.8 – GR. 19 Waste management, policy, legislation and strategies should recognise and support Traveller involvement on recycling.

Status: Not accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Text: While there is an existing commitment to ensure that Travellers are represented on a proposed recycling forum this forum has not as yet been established. The Department does not at present provide grants to non statutory bodies in relation to waste management activities. In recent years the management and recycling of waste have become increasingly regulated and controlled with systems, such as waste removal licenses, being put in place. Such controls apply to all sectors of society.

DR.18 and D4 The four Dublin local authorities to coordinate accommodation through a Strategic Planning Unit. This should include representatives of Traveller interests.

Status: This Unit has not been established.

Lead Agency: Dublin local authorities

Text: The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 contains provisions which require all local authorities to inform adjoining authorities of the preparation of accommodation programmes at the stage when Traveller accommodation programmes are being prepared.

GR.20 There should be support for the development of breeding and caring for horses in order to create employment for young Travellers

Status: No progress made in relation to this recommendation

Text: Any initiatives in this area would have to take account of Control of Horses Act.

GR.21 Special access measures for Travellers to third-level education and mainstream training should be developed

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science and Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Text: FAS has included a special section on its general registration form inviting Travellers to identify themselves as a minority group so that they may be fast tracked.
See recently published Higher Education Authority Action Plan on Achieving Equity of Access to Higher Education in Ireland (2005 to 2007) for more details.

GR.22 A new long term funding strategy should be developed to support community enterprise. During discussion around this recommendation the question was asked if there is a section within FÁS that could help Travellers with Business Plans and how to set them up?

Status: See recommendations GR 33 to 41

Lead Agency: Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Target: Ongoing

Text: FÁS, through the Social Economy Programme provides all the support it can to Travellers who plan on setting up their own business. FÁS Community Services works with Pavee Point on an EQUAL Project to explore ways in which the Traveller Economy can be supported and developed.

GR.23 – 25 In relation to Statements of Policy on Housing Management Traveller tenants should be involved in the development of a participation programme and the statements should include an anti-discrimination commitment. Each local authority to establish a Traveller Tenant Accommodation Committee. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Memorandum on Tenant involvement should apply to Traveller specific accommodation.

Status: Accepted in principle

Lead Agency: Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Local Authorities

Target: Ongoing

Text: The Department in conjunction with the Housing Unit has published a series of guidelines on tenant participation in estate management. These apply to all local authority estates and contain recommendations on practical steps to achieve tenant participation.

GR.25 Department should develop a Traveller apprenticeship scheme.

Status: Accepted in principle

Lead Agency: FÁS

Target: Ongoing

Text: FÁS has explored a number of approaches but to date have not been able to identify viable options. FÁS has also explored Traineeships and has not closed the door on it as yet.

GR.26 The Department of Education and Science should develop funding supports to further employment of Travellers as youth workers

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Department of Education and Science

Target: Ongoing

GR.27 Equality Authority should have role in reviewing and making recommendations to these and future affirmative action measures in Travellers accessing mainstream labour force.

Status: Accepted in Principle

Lead Agency: Equality Authority

Target: Ongoing

Text: The Equality Authority is responsible for an Equality Studies Unit funded under the EHRDOP of the National Development Plan. This Unit supports a focus on four different groups within the Operational Programme, one of which is the Traveller community. The Unit has promoted and supported data gathering in relation to Travellers and Labour market programmes. It has commissioned and published research on issues for Travellers in relation to participation in the labour market. Current research work is exploring Central Statistics Office data on this issue. It is conducting a rolling review of measures under the Operational Programme for their capacity to accommodate diversity which includes a focus on Travellers.

The Equality Authority is not a lead organisation in relation to any of the recommendations referred to in GR27. The Equality Authority has not been afforded a role in relation to the implementation of the recommendations referred to in GR27. The role suggested for the Equality Authority depends on progress made by those responsible for implementing the recommendations referred to in GR27.

GR.28-32 Amend various pieces of legislation regarding the Housing Code to strengthen Traveller's housing rights. For example Section 2(9) of the City and County Management (Amendment) Act 1955 which refers to the power of managers

to call for immediate action should be amended by inserting at end “or in the case of the provision of Traveller specific accommodation, where the members fail to agree with the Manager’s proposals or with amended proposals within six months of being first presented by the Manager.” Other amendments include requiring local authorities to give 1 month’s notice of its intention to carry out a housing assessment

Status: See recent Report of Advisory Committee on Traveller Accommodation for fuller treatment of current accommodation issues

Lead Agency: Department of Environment and Local Government

Target: Ongoing

Text: Recommendations 28-31 are implemented. Recommendation 32 relates to the provision of a network of Transient sites being provided (please see Recommendation DR 7) and amendment to Section 10 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 and Section 69 of the Roads Act 1993 to provide that Travellers who have their caravans seized under these provisions cannot be deemed to be deliberately homeless. It is not considered that these amendments are necessary as Travellers who have their caravans seized under these provisions are in practice not considered to have rendered themselves deliberately homeless.

GR.28 Schemes such as the Community Employment programme should be implemented to enhance access for Travellers.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

Timescale Ongoing

Text: FÁS provides special access for Travellers to all CE programmes. FÁS responds, subject to Budget, to requests for Traveller specific programmes.

GR.30 The level of allowances should increase to cover full costs associated with participation and to ensure an appropriate increase in comparison with social welfare payments.

Status: Partially accepted

Lead Agency: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Target: Ongoing

Text: FÁS Training Allowances are relative to and above social

welfare payments and are increased pro-rata when social welfare allowances are increased.

GR.31 Women's Training Programme places and programmes should be increased. Comment from Traveller Organisation - "Local Training/External Budget accessed but cutbacks are having an effect. Would like to see places ring fenced."

Status: Accepted in principle, consistent with gender proofing policies

Lead Agency: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Target: Ongoing

Text: There are in excess of 300 Traveller Women on FAS programmes at present and this has been the average for a few years. (It is more difficult to attract Traveller men to FÁS training). FÁS has responded with priority access to requests that it support the Primary Health Care initiative by committing to basic and progression training for Traveller women over a 4 to 5 year programme span.

GR.32 Traveller groups should have access to schemes on multi-annual basis, with guaranteed funding for core staff and facilities.

European Social Fund Policy Unit in Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment provided this response in November '03 - "Pavee Point are funded under the EQUAL EU Initiative in Round 1 of the programme so the funding will end in 2004/2005. It is multi annual in a sense that the funding was/is over a 3 to 4 year period, there is no guarantee however, that there will be a call for proposals for EQUAL round 2 in mid 2004, with funding and activity starting in 2005. Pavee like any other organisation will have to submit proposals which will then be considered by a selection committee. EQUAL will not directly provide "funding for core staff and facilities" as mentioned in the document. EQUAL funds innovative projects administered by these organisations, only the resources used in administering the project would be funded."

Status: Accepted in principle

Lead Agency: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Target: Ongoing

Text: Round 2 of EQUAL started in January 2005 and runs until the end of 2007

Project ID:
Name of Development Partnership
Name of Designate Partner
Contact Person

IE 26
Legal Education for All LEAP
Irish Traveller Movement
David Joyce

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6796577
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Lifelong Educational Access Programme aims to develop access routes into legal training that will result in more representation of non-typical communities in the legal profession and to create diversity in the legal profession and empower the target communities. The objectives of Lifelong Educational Access Programme include: ensuring equity of access to legal training for under represented communities; To change the perception of the relevance of the law in the targeted communities; To ensure quality legal advice and representation is available within the targeted communities that meet the particular needs of the community; To ensure that legal developments are influenced by the diverse interests within Irish Society particularly those that are presently most excluded. To develop an innovative approach to equity of access to higher education which, if successful, could provide a new model that can be replicated alongside existing access programmes.

Other Round 2 projects that have included travellers as one of their target groups are:

DP9

The aim of DP9 is to design and pilot a frontline referral and guidance system including tailor made psychometric testing. The DP9 objectives include: the provision of expert advice and training as part of an integrated approach to the development of frontline referral and guidance systems. To incorporate these tools and practices within the working practices of member organisations of the DP and so improving access to employment guidance and counselling services. To develop an integrated psychometric test package and to develop within the inter-related psychometric package a specific section for use in first line guidance with customers of the Department of Social & Family Affairs and other associated agencies.

Tallaght Equal Assists

Tallaght EQUAL Assists aims to raise the status of “caring” as a career option by providing access to accredited training, with progression opportunities. The project aims to raise awareness of the career opportunities available to young people, men, members of ethnic groups, volunteers and those involved in non-formal caring arrangements.

Point2Enterprise

Point 2 Enterprise aims to bring groups most excluded from the mainstream economy into economic activity via self-employment, micro-enterprise creation and / or social enterprise development, and in the process, to develop innovative policies and practices that can be mainstreamed. The objectives of the project include; mapping routes to enterprise for individuals/groups of clients and the provision of supports to pursue enterprise and reduce risks of failure post start-up; to build networks and inter-generational links to create a supportive environment and promote sustainability of enterprise; to experiment with new methods of enterprise support and access to enterprise for a difficult target group with a view to identifying and mainstreaming best practice. Amongst other groups, they target members of the Travelling Community (older and younger) experiencing difficulty in adapting their traditional enterprise activities to a changing regulatory and social environment.

Clare Lifelong Learning Network

Clare Life long Learning Network aims to develop an innovative lifelong learning system through the establishment of a formal structure of promoter collaboration and the use of Information and Communications Technology to develop alternative modes of programme delivery. The objectives of this project include: Establishing 5 Area Learning Networks as well as a Representative County Wide Lifelong Learning Forum; to develop an appropriate Curriculum for Lifelong Learning relevant to the needs of the target groups; to develop and deliver a County Wide Information and Communications Technology Strategy which supports the Lifelong Learning Network while providing alternate modes of access for learners.

Equal at Work 2 – A Dublin Employment Pact Initiative

Equal at Work aims to support labour market adaptability through the development of inclusive employment and open human resource practices. This will be achieved by piloting new tools for culture change in equality and diversity management, promoting life long learning and encouraging inclusive recruitment, retention and progression of those suffering discrimination and inequality in connection to the labour market. The objectives of this project include; supporting the recruitment, progression and promotion of a diverse workforce in the Dublin region Health sector by the development of identified tools and approaches which promote equality of opportunity for all; To further support the adaptability of the Community and Voluntary sector by developing sectoral and organisational systems and structures; To improve the adaptability of 6 Dublin based large private sector companies by introducing active diversity management policies and practices, consistent with corporate social responsibility, To support the Public Sector to create a more equal workplace and to provide quality public services to better meet the needs of all service users. Travellers will be one of this DP's (Development Plan/ Partnerships?) target groups both in their context in the workplace and as recipients of public services.

GR.33 Traveller groups should input into the development of policy and procedures in training and employment schemes at national level

GR.34 Pilot programmes for Travellers using YOUTHREACH and Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme should be designed and implemented in partnership with Traveller organisations. This would facilitate greater Traveller participation on these programmes

GR.35 People involved in providing training and employment scheme opportunities for Travellers should receive training on anti-discrimination practices and Travellers' culture

GR.36 Links with private sector should be developed to enhance opportunities for progression into mainstream labour force

GR.37 Within the Local Development Programme for non-designated areas, particular attention should be given to the inclusion of Travellers

GR.38 In drawing up the Local Action Plan, Travellers and Traveller groups should be consulted

GR.39 Local Development Partnership Companies should be encouraged to develop strategies in support of the social economy in their areas

GR.40 Supports appropriate to different forms of economic activity, including Traveller economy, should be developed

GR.41 County Enterprise Boards should provide resources for job creation in social economy serving local market.

Status:: No progress in relation to these issues

Lead Agency: Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, FÁS, Area Development Management and Development Boards

Target: Ongoing

Text: Following the completion of the Traveller Education Strategy it is considered that the 'work and training areas' are in need of strategic consideration.

At a micro level, CEBs have approved aid in the form of a Feasibility Study grant to a Travellers project and have also facilitated the involvement of Travellers in one of our craft training programmes and also the exhibition of craft products by Travellers at the Donegal Craft Fair some years ago.

HR.1 In implementing each of the recommendations addressed in the Task Force report the gender dimension should be examined in order to ascertain how policies and practices in each area contribute to or block progress for Traveller women. Proposals for future initiatives in each area must be monitored in terms of their impact on equality for Traveller women. Each must outline its objectives, targets and likely outcomes for Traveller women

Status: Little has been done to date to evaluate the impact of Traveller Initiatives on Traveller Women.

Lead Agency: Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Target: Ongoing

Text: An analysis of the impact of Traveller Specific Policies on Traveller Women policies should be carried out as soon as possible and a gender proofing process should be installed in 2005 in consultation and partnership with the National Traveller Women's Forum and other key agencies.

HR.2 and H3 The Government should make resources available for the collection and collation of data on Traveller women

Status: The 2002 Census gave a detailed breakdown, by sex, of the Traveller Community

Lead Agency: Central Statistics Office Other departments have a supporting role here – Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Department of Education and Science, Department of Health and Children, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Target: Ongoing

HR3, H1, H2, H10 Traveller women should be represented on monitoring mechanisms established to review progress for women. It should be recognised that progress for Traveller women is a priority towards equality for all women. This should be reflected in any body set up as a consequence of the Task Force report and in all Government Departments concerned with implementation. New policies should be monitored for their impact on Traveller women

Status: The National Traveller Women's Forum is represented on the Monitoring Committee and other major implementation Committees

Lead Agency: All Departments

Text: Traveller women are represented on the Task Force monitoring

committee; Health, Accommodation and Education committees through the National Traveller Women's Forum with a remit to monitor the impact that policies have on Traveller women's lives.

During this review period the National Traveller Women's Forum also represented Traveller women on the steering committee to oversee the consultation process of the National Action Plan against Racism and the steering committee to oversee the consultation process for the National Plan for Women.

HR.4 The special needs of different groups of Traveller women should be looked at separately

Status: Ongoing

Lead Agency: All Departments

Target: 2005

Text: This should be examined in the context of gender proofing initiatives

HR.5, H7 and H9 Particular issues which affect the human rights of Traveller women must be urgently addressed. These issues include; institutionalised violence, the need for the Department of Health to provide resources for pilot refuges etc; resources for expanding existing facilities; childcare needs. The development of strategies and actions which address the issue of institutionalised violence against women should be supported Intercultural services for Traveller women should be included in violence against women services.

Status: Accepted in principle

Lead Agency: Several Departments

Target: Ongoing

Text: Traveller women are represented on both the National Steering Committee (NSC) and the majority of Regional Planning Committees (RPC) on Violence Against Women (VAW). These committees bring together a combination of statutory agencies, NGO's and other support services that have a key role in the areas of policy, good practice and monitoring in relation to the development of effective and appropriate responses for women experiencing violence.

Pavee Point Travellers Centre, through the VAW (Violence against Women) Programme, has delivered Anti-racist training to a number of refuges and support services throughout Ireland resulting in refuges beginning to acknowledge the gaps within their own service provision on Traveller women's issues. Pavee

Point have also produced research on Traveller women and their experience of violence.

HR.6 Traveller women's economic roles in their community should be supported

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: All Departments

Text: Research required in this area before the matter could be progressed.

HR7 and H4 There should be targeted responses to Traveller women's needs in health, education, training etc. These should be designed and delivered in partnership with Traveller women's organisations. A co-ordinated national programme of adult education for Traveller women should be developed.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: All Departments

Text: Mainstream Government funding targeted at disadvantaged women needs an element of it ring fenced to address the specific needs of Traveller women that are disadvantaged on many levels, namely, to acknowledge the gap of educational opportunities that Traveller women may have missed due to racism and discrimination. Specific funding needs to be used to empower Traveller women to look at issues pertaining to their own cultural values and norms that may not be addressed in mainstream projects for women from the settled community. At present the National Traveller Women's Forum in partnership with Pavee Point Traveller's Centre is delivering an Equality for Women Measure (under the aegis of Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform). It is designed to support Traveller women engaging in local social partnership or interested in taking up leadership roles within their work or their community. This will be carried out through delivery of training and the development of training resources, policy position papers and a video

H3 Resources should be allocated for research on the needs and current position of Traveller women

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: Depends on focus of study

Target: Ongoing

H5 Maternity leave, childcare and sick leave should be provided for Traveller women on Community Employment schemes.

Status: Accepted

Lead Agency: FÁS

Target: Ongoing

H6 The National Traveller Women's Forum should be supported in its efforts in seeking funding as a National Anti Poverty Network from the Combat Poverty Agency.

Text: While the National Traveller Women's Forum hasn't secured funding as a National Anti-Poverty Network it did receive funding for three years for a policy worker from the Networks and Federations grants scheme.

Note: Responsibility has changed since the original recommendation was drafted from the Combat Poverty Agency to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

H8 Childcare provision should be culturally appropriate and target children from disadvantaged communities

Status:

Lead Agency: Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Target:

Text: Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000 - 2006 (EOCP) support for Travellers.

To date over 2,400 grant applications under the EOCP have been approved, making €347 million in capital, staffing and quality improvement grants for Childcare nationwide. A total of €292.2 million has been approved for a wide range of capital and staffing projects across the country and, on completion of the EOCP, this funding is projected to create some 36,000 new centre based childcare places and will support 30,277 existing places.

Of the grants approved, thirty one (approx 1.3%) are from Groups with the term "Traveller" in their title and they have received over €3.3 million in grant assistance from the EOCP. However, this would not show the entire effect of the EOCP as parents from the travelling community may be availing of other childcare services supported by the EOCP such as in

community and voluntary childcare facilities.

Based on responses to the Annual Beneficiary Survey (approximately 1,000 respondents per year) between 2002 and 2004 (preliminary results), the Programme has had the following impact:

- The number of services which reported that there was at least one Traveller child among the children attending their services rose from 84 services in 2002 to 160 services in 2004.
- Community and voluntary groups make up the bulk of grant beneficiaries under the Programme, with preliminary results for 2004 suggesting that approximately 60% of respondents to the 2004 survey were community and voluntary groups.
- In excess of 20% of beneficiaries under the Programme are from designated RAPID areas and approximately 11% are from CLAR designated areas.

Many of the community based not-for-profit groups seeking staffing grant assistance state that they are already catering for or plan to care for children from the Travelling community. The 2003 Annual Beneficiary Survey noted that a total of 144 childcare facilities (or 15.7% of the total respondents of 915) replied that there is at least one member of the Travelling Community among the children attending. Of the 144, 12 were private providers and 132 were community based. This translates in terms of percentages as 3.8% of private facilities and 23.6% of community based facilities reporting Travellers among their number.

In the 2003 survey it was also reported that 903 members of the Travelling Community were attending all facilities. Only 2.1% (19) of this number were in attendance at private facilities, with the remaining 97.9% (884) attending community based facilities.

JR.1 Govt to make resources available for disabled access to Traveller groups; develop a programme for care service providers and Traveller advocates; research experience of Travellers with disability.

JR.2 Those responsible for care services should ensure Travellers with disability are supported.

JR.3 Support and resource care service providers to develop intercultural in-service training

JR.4

Specific needs of Travellers with disability to be addressed in strategies etc

Comment: No specific progress to report. With the publication of the Disability Act 2005 and the collection of Data by CSO the foundation to progress this issue in 2006 now exists

KR.1 Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to monitor progress, supported by Traveller Unit in Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and annual progress report/forum for discussion

Status: Accepted in principle

Lead Agency: Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform

Target: Ongoing

Text: Departmental officials support and participate in a number of Committees focusing on Traveller issues. Yearly frequency for reporting not a target under current structures.

LR.1 Tackling discrimination in access to venues

Status Addressed by Equal Status Act

LR.2 to LR 8 Encouraging Travellers in sports

Status: No real progress made in relation to these issues

Glossary of Terms used in Report

<u>Term</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
Accepted	The Government has accepted the Recommendation but it has not yet been fully implemented.
Accepted in Principle	The Government accepts the general thrust of the Recommendation but is implementing it differently to the Task Force intended.
Implemented	The Recommendation has been implemented and is no longer an issue.
Superseded by	The Recommendation has been superseded by policy, societal or other changes since 1995. Where there is a specific reason why the recommendation has been superseded this is included (e.g. Traveller Health Strategy).
Not accepted by the Government	The recommendation is not accepted by the Government at the current time. As the Task Force report is intended as an aid to Government, recommendations which are not currently accepted may change in status