

## **Gypsy/Traveller Support Group**

The original SECC project involved members of the Gypsy/Traveller group working with Canterbury Christ Church University ('CCCU') to improve the overall health and wellbeing of their community. This involved undertaking an initial needs analysis, the group receiving interview skills training from academics and undertaking fieldwork with guidance from the CCCU project team. Outcomes have included the formation of a Swale Gypsy/Traveller Support group (named 'The Sylvia Dunn Centre'), the delivery of a comprehensive training programme tailored to the needs of the group and the production of video diaries which will be circulated to the local Gypsy/Traveller community.

The project resulted in the Project Managers obtaining formal skills and qualifications as NHS Health Trainers, enabling them to have a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of their community. The Sylvia Dunn Centre used the additional dissemination funding to ensure the continuation of that work through training further members of the community in health awareness and related issues.

The learning, knowledge and experience obtained through the project was also disseminated to interested parties and organisations that the group had worked with and those who they wished to forge new working relationships with through an end of project conference held in Swale in May 2011.

Finally, the group has continued to work together with academics from CCCU in order to sustain the existing partnership and look at how additional funding might be leveraged to conduct further health and wellbeing related projects.

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