CONSULTATION WITH TRAVELLERS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE PSI WORKING GROUP ON TRAVELLERS

Dr Paul Connolly and Dr Michaela Keenan
University of Ulster

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) is a specific initiative within the Government's policy of New TSN (Targeting Social Need). It aims to bring together different Government departments, agencies and voluntary organisations in an effort to tackle the problems faced by those most at risk of social exclusion.

1.1.2 Travellers were one of the first groups identified under this initiative and last year the Government established an inter-agency Working Group to examine the specific issues facing Travellers and to make recommendations about how their lives might best be improved. The Working Group's report was published in December 2000 and included 33 detailed recommendations on a range of issues including accommodation, health, education, training and policing. These recommendations are reproduced in full in Appendix Two.

1.1.3 Ministers needed to decide how to respond to the recommendations in the report. To assist in this a formal consultation exercise has since taken place where individuals and organisations have been invited to read the report and give their views on the recommendations contained within it. In particular, Ministers agreed that it was important to hear from Travellers themselves what they thought of the recommendations. Traveller representatives advised the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) how best to consult Travellers. Following from their advice, OFMDFM commissioned independent researchers from the University of Ulster to conduct a detailed consultation exercise directly with Travellers. Representatives from Traveller organisations and Travellers sat on the Steering Group for this consultation exercise and provided helpful advice. Travellers Movement (NI) also assisted in the
process by facilitating researchers’ contact with Travellers. This report presents the findings of that exercise.

1.1.4 Ministers will consider the recommendations in the PSI Working Group Report, and all the views which people have expressed in the consultation. They will then publish a short report explaining what they are going to do over the following three years. The *Programme for Government* shows that this report will be published by March 2002.

1.2 **Methodology**

1.2.1 The consultation process itself was carefully designed to reflect the experiences and needs of Travellers. A full outline and explanation of the methodology employed is provided in Appendix One. 178 Travellers were interviewed in total from a range of locations and backgrounds across Northern Ireland.

1.2.2 All of those in this sample answered a series of core questions that lasted about 15 minutes. In addition, 111 interviewees agreed to be interviewed in more detail. Alongside the core questions asked, they were also asked their views and opinions on a range of more detailed issues. These indepth interviews typically lasted between 45 – 60 minutes each. Interviews were either conducted individually or in small (usually family) groups in the Travellers’ homes. Copies of both questionnaires can be found in Appendix Three.

1.2.3 In discussing the findings below, all percentage figures unless otherwise stated relate to the full sample of 178 respondents. When the findings are discussed from questions asked only in the more detailed interviews with 111 respondents, this will be made clear.
1.3 **The Report**

1.3.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the attitudes and opinions of Travellers themselves to the 33 recommendations contained in the final report of the Working Group. As such, the report is organised under the general headings of the final report and discusses each recommendation in turn. This present report should therefore be read in conjunction with the Working Group's final report.

1.3.2 The discussion that follows is limited simply to outlining the levels of support found among Travellers for each of the recommendations together with any concerns they may have had and/or any additional comments they wished to make of relevance to a particular recommendation. Additional commentary and analysis has therefore been kept to a minimum. It has only been provided in cases where some further contextual detail is required in order to fully understand the specific responses of Travellers.

1.3.3 Part of the brief for the consultation exercise was to also ascertain whether Travellers had suggestions for amendments to the existing recommendations and/or proposals for additional recommendations. As will be seen from the findings below, while Travellers offered specific suggestions in relation to the focus and implementation of some of the recommendations, there appeared to be a generally high level of satisfaction that the 33 Recommendations covered the key issues involved. No further, additional recommendations were proposed by the Travellers surveyed.

1.3.4 Finally, for each recommendation a brief heading is provided summarising the essence of the recommendation for ease of reference. It needs to be stressed, however, that this is only a brief and necessarily incomplete summary. The reader is
therefore advised to consult Appendix Two for full details of the content of each recommendation.
2. Inter-Departmental Recommendations

2.1 Recommendation 1: Establishment of an Inter-Agency Forum

2.1.1 A considerable degree of support existed among Travellers both for the establishment of an Inter-Agency Forum and for the specific responsibilities set out in this recommendation for the Forum. Overall, 88% agreed or strongly agreed with the view that Government departments, agencies and organisations should 'work together more to make sure they properly meet the needs of Travellers'.

2.1.2 More specifically, 85% agreed that such inter-agency co-operation should include working with appropriate bodies in Britain and Ireland to 'make sure there are better facilities for Travellers when they travel between these places'. Of the remaining respondents, 13% replied ‘maybe’ or ‘don’t know’ and just 3% disagreed.

2.1.3 As regards the Forum establishing a longitudinal study of Travellers to generate objective indicators of need and statistical evidence of outcomes, this also appears to have the strong support of Travellers. 76% felt that it was either important or very important that organisations 'should be made to provide evidence that they are meeting the needs of Travellers and treating them fairly'. 21% felt that this was 'not very important' and less than 2% that it was 'not at all important'.

2.2 Recommendation 2: Funding for Voluntary Organisations

2.2.1 This recommendation proposes that the funding of voluntary organisations dealing with minority ethnic people, including Travellers, should be considered by the PSI Working Group on Ethnic Minorities. As this is a rather technical recommendation that would mean little to most Travellers, it was agreed that it would be
inappropriate to ask Travellers their views on this specifically.

2.3 Recommendation 3: The Establishment of Traveller Support Workers

2.3.1 Significant support was found among Travellers for the establishment of Traveller Support Workers. This is particularly evident when considering the key responsibilities set out in the recommendation for these workers. As already stated in relation to Recommendation 1, there is overwhelming support among Travellers for the need for effective inter-agency co-operation and it could be taken that this also applies to the inter-agency co-ordinating role of the Traveller Support Worker at a local level as well.

*Figure 1: How well Travellers felt they knew what the following organisations did and what services they were entitled to from them (n=111)*

The Local School

The Local Doctors

The Local Benefits Office

The Local District Council

The Police

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Well</th>
<th>Well</th>
<th>Not Very Well</th>
<th>Not At All</th>
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2.3.2 In addition, one of the key responsibilities of the Traveller Support Worker would be to increase awareness among Travellers of existing services. This appeared to meet a key concern for Travellers. When asked generally how well they knew what services were available and what they were entitled to, 56% answered 'not very well' and a further 24% stated 'not at all'.

2.3.3 For those interviewed indepth (n=111) they were asked about their awareness of the services provided by particular organisations. The findings are illustrated in Figure 1. As can be seen, some variation in awareness existed with Travellers feeling a little more knowledgeable of the services offered by their local school and doctor compared to other areas. However, significant limitations in awareness existed across all of the service areas listed and tends, therefore, to support the general inter-agency remit of the proposed Traveller Support Worker.

2.3.4 Another key responsibility for the Traveller Support Worker is to advocate on behalf of Travellers and to work closely with the proposed Traveller Liaison Officers (see Recommendation 4) to ensure that services offered meet the needs of Travellers. Those who agreed to be interviewed indepth were asked to rate the services that were currently offered in a range of areas. The findings are illustrated in Figure 2.

2.3.5 As can be seen, a high level of satisfaction was expressed in relation to the services offered by local hospitals and, to a slightly lesser extent, by local schools. As regards the latter, a minority of Travellers (14%) felt that their local school did a 'bad' or a 'very bad' job for them. Of these, all but one of the respondents lived in Belfast. The reasons given for this dissatisfaction tended to be confined to and reflect the particular problems that have been associated in the past with St Paul's (now St Mary's), the Traveller-only school in the city. These included: low expectations of
children; no contact with settled children; and the fact that children were not being taught the full Northern Ireland Curriculum.

2.3.6 The highest levels of dissatisfaction were associated with the local district councils and to a lesser extent the police. As regards district councils, 58% of Travellers felt that they were doing a 'bad' or 'very bad' job. Reasons given were overwhelmingly related to their maintenance and repair of sites. Many Travellers felt that they had little interest or commitment in their sites. Common complaints were having to wait years for the provision of basic facilities (i.e. water and sanitation) and having to wait long periods of time for repairs to be made. A number of respondents felt that the attitudes of council officials were often negative.

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and patronising and that council representatives rarely visited or consulted them.

2.3.7 As regards the police, 47% of Travellers felt that they did a 'bad' or 'very bad' job. A number of reasons were given for this. Most commonly it was that: the police did not trust them and labeled them all as criminals; that they harassed them through name-calling and conducting unnecessary searches; and that when incidents were reported to the police they were not taken seriously.

2.3.8 Overall, these findings suggest that there are specific areas of concern that Traveller Support Workers could possibly prioritise initially with regard to their advocacy role.

2.3.9 Finally, the recommendation includes a provision for the establishment of Traveller trainee posts to be attached to each Traveller Support Worker. This would also appear to have strong support from Travellers. 93% agreed or strongly agreed with the view that it was a good thing to have courses just for Travellers. Moreover, in relation to the specific advocacy skills associated with these proposed Traveller trainee positions, it was found that 91% felt that it was either a good or very good idea to 'have specific courses aimed at giving Travellers the skills to be able to campaign for issues effecting the Traveller community with the Government'.
3. General Recommendations to all Government Departments

3.1 Recommendation 4: Establishment of Traveller Units, Liaison Officers and Staff Training Programmes

3.1.1 Recommendation 4 comprises three main elements. The first relates to the establishment of a Unit in each Government department, agency and non-departmental public bodies to deal with Traveller issues. There appears to be considerable support for such an initiative among the Travellers interviewed.

3.1.2 For example, the proposal that these Units set targets and timescales in relation to meeting the needs of Travellers is something that Travellers themselves strongly agree with. 87% of those asked stated that it was 'very important' for the Government to 'set itself deadlines when it promises to do something for Travellers'. The remaining 13% stated that this was 'important'.

3.1.3 In addition, the proposal that these Units should monitor service provision to assess the extent to which targets relating to Travellers are being met is also something that would have considerable support among Travellers. As stated earlier (see 2.1.3), the majority of those interviewed (76%) felt that it was either important or very important that organisations 'should be made to provide evidence that they are meeting the needs of Travellers and treating them fairly'.

3.1.4 Finally, there was also strong support for the proposal that these Units include Traveller representatives and consult effectively with them. As regards the former, 59% of Travellers felt it was 'very important' and a further 37% that it was 'important' that organisations should 'encourage Travellers to have their say in how
they are run'. As regards the latter 74% felt that it was 'very important' and a further 24% that it was 'important' that the Government should 'spend more time talking to Travellers to find out what [they] need'.

3.1.5 The second of the three elements that comprise Recommendation 4 is the proposal that all Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies should establish a Traveller Liaison Officer. This proposal also attracted strong support among Travellers. A clear majority (78%) felt that it was 'very important' that each organisation has a 'special person who comes out and talks to you about what services they offer and how you can get them'. A further 16% stated that this was 'important'.

3.1.6 From the indepth interviews, it was clear that the establishment of liaison officers in certain areas was especially important for Travellers. The three most frequently requested areas for liaison officers to be established were, in order of demand: district councils, local benefits offices and the police.

3.1.7 Where liaison officers were already established, the feedback from Travellers was overwhelmingly positive. However, a number of Travellers complained about the lack of continuity in that just as they felt they were 'getting to know' the particular liaison officer, he or she was often found to move post. For some Travellers this led to a degree of cynicism in that they wondered whether some people simply chose to work with Travellers for a short period of time to enhance their employment experience.

3.1.8 The final element comprising Recommendation 4 is the proposal that all Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies should provide anti-racist training for their staff in relation to Travellers. This is also a proposal that would appear to attract significant support from Travellers. Those
interviewed were certainly concerned about what they felt to be the lack of awareness among the general population. When asked how well they thought ‘people generally understand Travellers and their way of life?’, 70% answered ‘not very well’ or ‘not at all’.

3.1.9 Those who were interviewed indepth, were also asked about the levels of awareness among practitioners within particular service areas. Their responses are illustrated in Figure 3. As can be seen, Travellers tended to hold quite positive views about those working in the local schools and hospitals. 69% felt that their local schools understood Travellers ‘well’ or ‘very well’ while 65% felt the same for the local hospital.

**Figure 3: How well Travellers felt that those working in the following organisations understood them and their way of life (n=111)**

- The Local School
- The Local Hospital
- The Local Benefits Office
- The Local District Council
- The Police

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3. General Recommendations to all Government Departments

3.1.10 It is interesting to note that of those who expressed more negative attitudes about their local schools, just under half lived in Belfast. As before, this may well reflect a particular problem that Travellers there have experienced in relation to the former Traveller-only primary school St Paul's.

3.1.11 In contrast, those interviewed tended to be most concerned about the levels of understanding of staff working in local benefits offices, for the local council and also the police. This was particularly the case for the latter two where over half of respondents felt that council staff (57%) and the police (58%) understood Travellers either 'not very well' or 'not at all'.

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4. Recommendations on Accommodation

4.1 Recommendation 5: The Housing Executive to Undertake a Comprehensive Strategic Needs Assessment in Relation to Accommodation for Travellers

4.1.1 This recommendation proposes that the Housing Executive assess current and projected need among Travellers in relation to accommodation. This would certainly appear to address what is considered overwhelmingly by Travellers as the most important issue. Overall, when asked what they felt was the 'single, most important thing that the Government should sort out for Travellers?', 86% stated accommodation. Moreover, only 6% failed to list the issue of accommodation among the top three things that the Government should sort out for them as illustrated in Figure 4.

**Figure 4: Most frequent issues listed by Travellers when asked to name the three most important things that the Government should 'sort out' for them (%)**

- Accommodation: 94%
- Education: 39%
- Employment: 21%
- Social Security Benefits: 17%
- Health: 16%
- Prejudice and Discrimination among Settled Population: 9%

Consultation with Travellers
4. Recommendations on Accommodation

4.1.2 As previously discussed, the proposals contained in this recommendation for widespread consultation with Travellers and also for a consideration of how relevant authorities in Northern Ireland might work more closely with those in Britain and Ireland to ensure continuity of provision were both strongly supported by Travellers (see above, paragraphs 3.1.4 and 2.1.2 respectively).

4.1.3 Finally, the recommendation also proposes that the needs assessment should reflect the accommodation requirements of those Travellers who wish to travel. This would appear to also attract significant support from Travellers. More specifically, the findings of this present survey would suggest that a significant number of Travellers would like to travel more if they had the opportunity. At present, a substantial majority (82%) stated that they do not travel much. However, when asked whether they would like to travel more if they had the opportunity, just under two thirds (62%) said that they would.

4.1.4 As regards this latter statistic, it is important to note that the wording of the question was extremely important. In asking whether they would like to travel more, a scenario was emphasised where it could be guaranteed that they would have a 'secure base to come back to' and that there would be 'stopping places around the country for them to pitch a trailer'.

4.1.5 From the indepth interviews, the significance of these two factors became clear. More specifically, a high level of anxiety existed among many Travellers that should they choose to travel more, they would risk loosing their current base either because it would be vandalised or closed down. In addition, a number of Travellers cited the lack of 'stopping places' (i.e. transit sites) as a reason why they felt it was just not possible nor realistic to be able to travel more.

4.1.6 It would seem therefore that both of these factors are significant in severely limiting the ability of many.
4. Recommendations on Accommodation

Travellers to travel more. They would certainly appear to play a key role in helping to explain why so few Travellers travel much at the moment even when a substantial majority expressed a desire to travel more.

4.2 Recommendation 6: Determine Which Body Should be Responsible for the Provision of Transit Sites

4.2.1 This recommendation suggested that through this current consultation process on the Working Group’s report, the opinions of Travellers, specifically, should be sought on who they would prefer to take responsibility for the provision of transit sites. As can be seen from Figure 5, Travellers clearly tended to prefer that the Housing Executive (71%) rather than District Councils (10%) are given this responsibility.

4.2.2 From the in-depth interviews, it was clear that this preference related overwhelmingly to the high level of dissatisfaction with the way that district councils had managed the Travellers’ existing sites. This was also borne out by the statistics more broadly. For example, 78% of those who felt that their local district council was doing a ‘good’ or ‘very good job’ stated that they would prefer the council to continue with its responsibilities for transit sites. In contrast, 96% of those who felt that their local district council was doing a ‘bad’ or ‘very bad job’ stated that they would prefer the Housing Executive to take over the responsibility.

Figure 5: Travellers’ preferences for who should take responsibility for the provision of transit sites (%)
4.3 **Recommendation 7: Provision of Funding to Take Forward a Comprehensive Programme to Meet all of the Accommodation Needs of Travellers**

4.3.1 Alongside Recommendation 5, the responses from Travellers would suggest that this recommendation is one of the most significant and important for them. As stated earlier, the vast majority (86%) stated that accommodation was 'the single most important thing that the Government should sort out for Travellers'.

4.3.2 As a way of gaining some measure of current need among Travellers, they were asked what type of accommodation they would like to live in if they had a choice. Their answers to this question are illustrated in Figure 6. As can be seen, a little under one in six (15%) would like to live in a trailer/caravan. While just over one in four would like to live in settled housing (27%), the largest demand appeared to be for group housing (58%) with over half of all respondents stating this as their preference.

![Figure 6: Travellers' preferences for types of accommodation to live in (%)](image)

4.3.3 A degree of caution needs to be taken when interpreting these findings, however. While they certainly indicate significant support for group housing, it would be rather premature to interpret the findings simply as reflecting a rejection, among Travellers, for living in trailers. Given their extremely high levels of
dissatisfaction with existing services and arrangements for sites, it is not surprising that most Travellers would currently choose not to continue to live on sites if they were given the option.

4.3.4 However, such preferences are based on current levels of provision rather than what could be provided in relation to greater availability of sites generally and significantly improved services on those that exist. It is quite possible that a larger proportion of Travellers would opt to live in trailers given this latter scenario. This possibility is certainly borne out by the Travellers' answer, as discussion earlier, to the question of whether they would like to travel more (see paragraphs 4.1.3 - 4.1.6). While 62% said they would, this was only when a scenario was put to them where they would have a secure base to return to and where a network of transit sites existed. From the indepth interviews, it was clear that much smaller numbers would have said they would like to travel more if they were simply asked to decide in the light of existing provision.

4.4 Recommendation 8: The Planning Service to Undertake a Review of the Planning Process to Ensure that Applications are not Subject to Unnecessary Delay and are not Discriminatory

4.4.1 The need for a review of existing policies and procedures with regard to how planning applications are dealt with would certainly have the support of Travellers. More specifically, the findings from this present survey would suggest that two thirds of Travellers were dissatisfied with the time it takes to deal with such applications. When asked whether they felt that 'enough is currently being done to make it [the planning process] as quick as possible?' only 13% said 'yes' while 52% said 'no'.
4.5 Recommendation 9: The Design and Management of Accommodation Schemes for Travellers

4.5.1 The proposals contained in this recommendation in relation to the design and management of accommodation schemes for Travellers would appear to attract considerable support from those interviewed. As already discussed, Travellers strongly agree with the proposals for them to be properly consulted and also to participate in the management of their accommodation (see paragraph 3.1.4).

4.5.2 In addition, 97% of those asked in the indepth interviews felt that the provision of play facilities for children on sites was 'very important'. Moreover, 89% felt it was 'very important' that sites incorporated space for economic activity and 74% felt equally strongly that community buildings should also be provided.

4.5.3 From the indepth interviews it was found that, alongside the provision of basic services (such as toilets, electricity and running water), three key additional preferences were expressed:

- the need for a caretaker;
- greater security on sites; and
- the provision of smaller sites to accommodate single extended families.

4.5.4 Finally, the recommendation proposes that tender documents for the construction and maintenance of Traveller accommodation should encourage the recruitment of long-term unemployed. This proposal received strong support from Travellers with 95% of those interviewed indepth feeling that it was either a 'very good' or 'good' idea to encourage employers to 'make an effort where possible to take on people who have been unemployed for a long time'.
5. Recommendations on Health and Social Services

5.1 Recommendation 10: The DHSSPS to Produce a Good Practice Guide for Staff Working with Travellers

5.1.1 The good practice guide proposed in this recommendation would aim to offer advice on how relevant practitioners could help to improve Travellers' access to services and also to generally increase practitioners' awareness of Travellers' needs. The findings of this present survey would suggest that significant support among Travellers would exist for both of these aims.

5.1.2 Of particular concern for Travellers would be the need for measures to improve their access to existing services. This is illustrated, for example, in Figure 1 which shows that many Travellers do not feel they have an adequate awareness of what services are currently available. For example, when Travellers were asked how well they knew what their local doctor did and what services they were entitled to from them, exactly half (50%) of those interviewed indepth answered either 'not very well' or 'not at all'.

5.1.3 Alongside this aim of improving access to services, Travellers would also appear to support the need to increase practitioners' awareness of Travellers' needs. In the case of hospitals, while Travellers were generally very satisfied with the job that they did for them with 79% feeling that it was 'good' or 'very good' (see Figure 2), a substantial minority of Travellers (25%) felt that hospital staff's understanding of Travellers was limited.
5.2 Recommendation 11: DHSSPS to Prioritise GP Registration and Services for Travellers and also to Monitor Service Agreements with Boards and Trusts

5.2.1 This recommendation essentially comprises two elements. The first focuses on the central role of GPs in relation to the provision of health care services to Travellers. This is evident both in the proposal to enhance GP registration among Travellers and also to encourage GPs to devote more of their practice time and resources to Travellers through Local Development Schemes.

5.2.2 From the findings of this survey, it would seem that GP registration is not a significant problem for Travellers. 91% reported that they were currently registered with a GP and of these, the vast majority (90%) found the process of registration 'easy' or 'very easy'. Only 6% reported that it was either 'not very easy' or 'difficult'.

5.2.3 It is important to note, however, that 7% of Travellers did state that they were not currently registered with a doctor. All but one of these were living on unauthorised sites. Moreover, 69% of those who were currently not registered stated that they had tried to register previously but were unsuccessful. This would suggest that the main problem with regard to GP registration tends to lie with Travellers on unauthorised sites and that this, in turn, may reflect the fact that they do not have a fixed and/or official address.

5.2.4 As regards encouraging GPs to devote more practice time and resources to Travellers, this would seem to be something that is particularly significant to and welcomed by Travellers. This is evident, for example, in the fact that a majority of Travellers felt that they had limited awareness of the services currently offered by their local doctor (see paragraph 5.1.2).
5. Recommendations on Health and Social Services

5.2.5 As regards the second element of this recommendation – the monitoring of service agreements with Boards and Trusts to see how well targets have been met and to ensure that services provided are appropriate to Travellers – significant support would appear to exist for this among Travellers. As discussed earlier (see 2.1.3), a clear majority of those interviewed (76%) felt that it was either 'important' or 'very important' that organisations 'should be made to provide evidence that they are meeting the needs of Travellers and treating them fairly'.

5.3 Recommendation 12: DHSSPS to Commission Regional Health Promotion and Educational Initiatives Targeted at Travellers

5.3.1 The focus on health promotion proposed in this recommendation would appear to have significant support from those Travellers interviewed. As illustrated in Figure 4, 16% listed health as one of the three most important issues that the Government should 'sort out' for Travellers. In addition, the emphasis in this recommendation on increasing Travellers' awareness of and access to health and social services would also seem to meet a clear need expressed by those interviewed (see Figure 1).

5.3.2 Moreover, the proposal that one or more pilot projects be set up with the aim of establishing a model of Traveller participation in health promotion within their communities would also seem to reflect their own desire to be more involved in the provision of services. As discussed earlier (see paragraph 3.1.4), the vast majority of Travellers felt that it was either 'important' or 'very important' to be consulted more about what they need (98%) and also to have their say in how services are delivered (96%).
5.4 Recommendation 13: DHSSPS to Conduct an Equality Impact Assessment on the Sure-Start Initiative

5.4.1 This recommendation was made following a concern that Travellers as a distinct community may be disadvantaged by the initiative’s current criteria.

5.4.2 DHSSPS’s Equality Scheme, which has been agreed by the Equality Commission and published in April 2001 shows that the Sure-Start initiative will be subject to equality impact assessment in Year one 2001/2002.
6. Recommendations on Education

6.1 Recommendation 14: Promotion of Use of Integrated (Off-Site) Nursery and Pre-School Provision Among Travellers

6.1.1 This recommendation would appear to have the support of a significant majority of Travellers. When asked during the indepth interviews, 72% of Travellers felt that it was either 'important' or 'very important' that more Travellers 'send their young children to existing local preschool playgroups or nurseries'.

6.1.2 However, when then asked whether preschool provision should be established on site, just for Traveller children, opinions seemed to be fairly split. As can be seen from Figure 7, 46% agreed or strongly agreed with the idea compared to 36% who disagreed or strongly disagreed.

![Figure 7: The extent to which Travellers agreed or disagreed with the idea of setting up specific preschool provision on site for Traveller children (%)](chart.png)

6.1.3 For those that stated it was a good idea, they did so because they felt it would mean their children would be safer and thus less likely to be exposed to name-
calling and bullying. Moreover, it was felt that at this young age it was important that the children would be near to their parents so that they can gain confidence.

6.1.4 For those who felt it was a bad idea, they tended to argue that it would simply reinforce the segregation that existed between Travellers and settled people and that they needed to mix more to get to know and understand each other from an early age. However, it was argued that transport would need to be provided to enable them to get their children to a local playgroup if it were off site.

6.2 Recommendation 15: Establishment of Comprehensive Pupil Transfer Records for Traveller Children

6.2.1 This recommendation has been made in a bid to ensure the smooth transition between schools of Traveller children from families that tend to travel quite frequently. This proposal would certainly appear to meet a significant need among those Travellers who do tend to travel. Only 18% of those asked in the indepth interviews stated that they currently travel much. When they were asked how well they thought schools dealt with their children when they did travel, the majority were dissatisfied with 29% replying 'not very well' and a further 26% stating 'not at all'. None felt that schools dealt with their children 'well' or 'very well', with the remaining 45% simply stating that they 'don't know'.

6.3 Recommendation 16: Establishment of Pilot Programme Investigating and Developing Educational Strategies and Materials for Children of Nomadic Families

6.3.1 Given the views of nomadic Travellers discussed in relation to the previous recommendation (Recommendation 15), it would be reasonable to conclude that this recommendation would also meet a
significant need among Travellers and thus have their support.

6.4 Recommendation 17: Department of Education to Conduct Fundamental Review of Existing Funding Arrangements for Supporting Traveller Education

6.4.1 Overall, and as discussed earlier, there certainly appeared to be a significant degree of satisfaction with the job that schools were currently doing for Traveller children with 72% of those interviewed stating that they felt their local school was doing a 'good' or a 'very good' job.

6.4.2 However, in contrast to this, education was still the second most frequently cited issue (after accommodation) that Travellers felt that the Government should prioritise (see Figure 4). It was clear from the indepth interviews that this reflected a deep concern among Travellers for the lack of educational achievement among the adults in the community and the continuing lack of progress being made by the children.

6.4.2 While Travellers may be quite satisfied with the job that schools are doing at the moment, therefore, they still feel that much more needs to be done and thus it can be concluded that this would lead to significant support for this current recommendation.

6.5 Recommendation 18: Department of Education to Provide Specific Advice to Schools on Dealing with Racist Bullying and Intimidation and Oblige Schools to Develop Strategies to Deal with This

6.5.1 This recommendation would appear to have significant support among those interviewed. As illustrated in Figure 8, 28% of those questioned in the indepth interviews were dissatisfied with the way that schools currently dealt with the bullying of Traveller children. Moreover, and as will be discussed in relation to
Recommendation 20, one of the key reasons why parents of children at St Mary's, the Traveller-only school in Belfast, do not wish to send their children elsewhere is because of fear for the safety of their children.

6.6 Recommendation 19: Department of Education to Consider Developing a More Flexible Post-14 Curriculum for Travellers

6.6.1 The proposal to develop a more flexible post-14 curriculum including a greater mix of academic and vocational subjects would appear to have the overwhelming support of Travellers. 74% felt it was 'very important' and a further 25% that it was 'important' that schools should be more flexible in what they teach older children including 'teaching children practical skills and possibly a trade that can help them get a settled job'.

6.6.2 In the indepth interviews, Travellers were asked what type of subjects they would like to see taught. A wide range of trades and skills were mentioned with computing being the most popular followed by
carpentry, plumbing, mechanics, hairdressing and childcare. A small number also mentioned traditional Traveller-trades such as working with horses and scrap metal.

6.6.3 Three more general points tended to be raised by some of the respondents. The first was that these courses should be open to everyone and not become Traveller-only. Second, that there should be a fair amount of choice to allow children to pursue their own interests and, third, that they would need good careers advice.

6.7 Recommendation 20: Develop a Strategy to Phase Out St Mary’s Primary School Over a Five Year Period

6.7.1 At present the findings of the survey of Travellers in Belfast suggests that there is not sufficient support for this recommendation. As illustrated in Figure 9, 48% would like St Mary’s to be kept as it is whereas only 33% supported the recommendation that it be phased out. However, it should be noted that the fairly high proportion of ‘don’t knows’ (19%) means that currently there is not majority support for either of these options.

Figure 9: The Views of Travellers in Belfast (n=64) Regarding Whether to Phase Out St Mary’s Primary School or Keep It As It Is (%)
6.7.2 This division of opinion was also reflected among the children who were interviewed. 17 respondents were under 18 years of age and were thus either currently attending the school or had attended it until relatively recently. For these children, 35% felt that the school should be kept as it is compared to 24% who wanted it phased out. These lower percentages reflect the fact that a higher proportion of the children (41%) stated that they ‘don’t know’.

6.7.3 This greater tendency for the children to be undecided may well reflect the fact that they would have very little knowledge or experience of other schools in order to make a balanced and informed decision about St Mary’s. While any differences between the attitudes of adults and children are mentioned below, this limitation to the children’s attitudes should therefore be borne in mind.

6.7.4 In the indepth interviews, Travellers were asked why they chose the option they did. Of those who wanted the school phased out, two key factors seemed to be involved in their choice. The first, and overwhelming one for adults and children, was the desire to avoid segregation and for their children to mix with settled children from as young an age as possible. This seems to reflect the views discussed earlier with regard to Recommendation 14.

6.7.5 The second factor tended to be the continuing impact of the reputation of the former school, St Paul’s. This was a particular factor for the adults. Many of those interviewed had attended St Paul’s when they were children. Their experiences of not covering the full curriculum and of low expectations and not being stretched academically tended to influence their current thinking with regard to St Mary’s. There remained a suspicion that while the school had changed names, adopted the full curriculum and had gained a new Principal, its old ethos remains.
6.7.6 For those who wanted the school to stay as it is, four key reasons were given. The first was simply that the children themselves liked it at St Mary’s, this was reflected in the children’s and the adults’ responses. The second related to the fear for the safety of the children should they be sent to 'settled' primary schools. In this respect, there was significant concern that their children may experience bullying and name-calling. This was a concern expressed equally by the adults and the children. The third reason, held mainly by the adults, was a feeling that St Mary’s was a good school, especially now that it has changed, and that Travellers had fought hard to get it and set it up in the first place.

6.7.7 Finally, for many of those that wanted St Mary’s to stay as it is, they still appreciated the need for children to mix. This was mainly the case for the adults. However, they felt that Traveller children were much more likely to be anxious and to find attending school difficult in the early years. This, therefore, underpinned the fourth reason given that the school performed a good role in helping to prepare the children for when they should mix at secondary level.
6.8 Recommendation 21: The Development of a Family/Community Based Learning Culture Among Travellers

6.8.1 There would appear to be significant support for the principles underlying this recommendation. As discussed earlier (see Figure 4), a significant proportion of those interviewed (39%) listed education as one of their top three most important issues that the Government should sort out for Travellers.

6.8.2 In terms, more specifically, of fostering a 'learning culture' among Travellers, this also appeared to reflect their own preferences. 70% strongly agreed with the need for courses aimed just at Travellers and a further 23% agreed with this. Moreover, when asked whether there should be more courses, 92% said 'yes' and the remaining 8% said 'maybe' or 'don't know'.

6.8.3 For those interviewed in depth, they were asked what type of courses they would like to see. By far the most frequently cited were courses in basic numeracy and literacy skills. This was followed by courses in computing and then in childcare and parenting skills. All of these suggest a receptiveness among Travellers for strategies aimed at fostering a 'family/community based learning culture'.

6.9 Recommendation 22: Department of Education to Closely Monitor Traveller Children's Progress and Use the Data Collected to Set and Measure Achievement Against Targets Set

6.9.1 As discussed previously, there would be strong support among Travellers for the principles underlying this recommendation. 76% felt it was 'important' or 'very important' that organisations 'provide evidence that they are meeting the needs of Travellers and treating them fairly'.
6.9.2 Moreover, in relation to the setting of targets and timescales, 87% of Travellers felt that it was 'very important' that the 'Government should set itself deadlines when it promises to do something for Travellers' and the remaining 13% felt it was 'important'.

6.10 Recommendation 23: Department of Education to Commission Research into the Educational Needs and Experiences of Traveller Parents and Children

6.10.1 There would certainly be broad agreement among Travellers for the principles underpinning this recommendation. As discussed previously, there is overwhelming support among Travellers for the Government to 'spend more time talking to Travellers to find out what [they] need'. 74% felt this was 'very important' while a further 24% felt it was 'important'.

6.10.2 Moreover, the participatory methodology proposed and the general opportunity that such research can give to allow Travellers an input over the nature of the services they are provided with would also attract their strong support. As also discussed earlier, 59% felt it was 'very important' that organisations 'encourage Travellers to have their say in how they are run' while a further 37% felt this was 'important'.

6.10.3 However, while there is generally strong support for greater consultation and participation, a note of caution needs to be sounded. The experience of conducting the present survey for this research showed that there is growing scepticism and frustration among many Travellers towards further research on them.

6.10.4 There was a feeling, particularly among some of the Travellers in Belfast, that they had been visited by researchers on a number of occasions and yet they had witnessed very little change and/or improvement to their own lives as a consequence. While baseline
research will continue to be necessary at times, a significant degree of sensitivity will be required in order to explain the reasons for and benefits of any future research to Travellers. Moreover, the greater use of an action research approach may be more appropriate and effective where possible. This would involve a focus on piloting and evaluating particular initiatives and would thus allow those Travellers participating in it to actually see some tangible effects and outcomes from the research.
7. Recommendations on Training and Employment

7.1 Recommendation 24: DHFETE to Collect Baseline Information on the Training and Employment Needs of Travellers to Enable Them to Set Short- and Medium-Term Goals

7.1.1 There would certainly be strong support for the principles underlying this recommendation. As discussed in relation to Recommendation 21, there is considerable support among Travellers for greater education and training, especially with regard to basic skills (literacy, numeracy and IT) as well as specific trades (see also the discussion in relation to Recommendations 24 and 25 below). There is also overwhelming support for the setting of targets and deadlines and for monitoring the effectiveness of service provision.

7.1.2 However, the same note of caution needs to be sounded in relation to this recommendation as that discussed with regard to the previous one (Recommendation 23). Any further baseline research of this type would need to be sensitive to the growing frustration that was found among Travellers in relation to the significant amount of research they have already been exposed to while seeing little tangible results as a consequence.
7.2 Recommendation 25: DHFETE to Explore and Assess Existing Training and Employment Projects for Travellers with Aim of Identifying Models for Further Traveller-Specific Projects

Recommendation 26: DHFETE Along with Other Government Departments to Consider Providing Resources to Support Traveller-Specific Training Projects

7.2.1 It is sensible to consider both these recommendations together given their considerable overlap. There would certainly appear to be strong support among Travellers for these two recommendations. As already discussed in relation to Recommendation 21, 70% strongly agreed with the need for courses aimed just at Travellers and a further 23% agreed with this. Moreover, when asked whether there should be more courses, 92% said 'yes' and the remaining 8% said 'maybe' or 'don't know'.

7.2.2 However, in contrast to what would appear to be an extremely high level of demand for Traveller-specific courses, the findings of this survey suggest that the majority of Travellers (64%) are currently not aware that any currently exist.

7.2.3 In terms of the types of courses that they would like to see developed, by far the most frequently cited were courses in basic numeracy and literacy skills. This was followed by courses in computing and then in childcare and parenting skills. Following this a wide range of other courses were suggested covering a range of practical skills and trades including plumbing, carpentry, mechanics and some traditional Traveller-trades such as tarmacing, scarp metal and horse-wifery.

7.2.4 Finally, given the comments already made in relation to Recommendations 23 and 24 regarding further research on Travellers, it would also seem that this
more evaluative, action research approach to developing and assessing pilot projects would be more appropriate given Travellers' current experiences.

7.3 Recommendation 27: DHFETE to Encourage Employers to Recruit More Staff From the Long-Term Unemployed and to Seek Legislative Changes to Allow Long-Term Unemployed Travellers to be Targeted In Particular

7.3.1 This recommendation would appear to have the overwhelming support of Travellers. As illustrated in Figure 10, 95% of those interviewed indepth felt that it was either a 'good' or 'very good idea' for employers to be 'encouraged to make an effort where possible to take on people who have been unemployed for a long time'.

Figure 10: The extent to which Travellers felt that it was a good or a bad idea to Encourage Employers to Recruit People From the Long-Term Unemployed (%)
8. Recommendations on Policing

8.1 Recommendation 28: NIO to Fund Pilot Scheme in West Belfast Involving the Appointment of a Full-Time Travellers' Legal Rights Worker

8.1.1 This recommendation for a Travellers' Legal Rights Worker comprises four main elements. It would appear that there is strong support among Travellers in relation to each of these.

8.1.2 First, it is suggested that the proposed Legal Rights Worker would have the responsibility of helping to raise Travellers' awareness of their legal rights and also the procedures and practices of the police and criminal justice system. This would certainly appear to meet a clear need among Travellers.

8.1.3 For example, as Figure 1 shows, when asked how well they understand what the police do and what they are entitled to from them, 30% replied 'not very well' and a further 48% stated 'not at all'. Similarly, when asked how well they understood what their rights were when having to deal with the police, 27% stated 'not very well' and a further 43% replied 'not at all'.

8.1.4 Second, the Legal Rights Worker would be expected to liaise between Travellers and the police over specific incidents and to try to encourage greater relations between them. This would also certainly appear to meet a specific need among Travellers. At present, as illustrated in Figure 2, there is a significant degree of dissatisfaction with the job that the police currently do among sections of the Traveller community. For example, significantly more Travellers (39%) felt that the police did a 'bad' or 'very bad' job for them compared to those who felt they did a 'good' or 'very good' job (25%).

8.1.5 Third, the role that the Legal Rights Worker would have in advocating on behalf of Travellers to ensure
that the police and other agencies in the criminal justice system fully understood their needs and concerns would also appear to have the strong support of Travellers. Currently, when asked how well they felt the police understood Travellers and their way of life, the majority of those interviewed (60%) replied either 'not very well' or 'not at all'.

8.1.6 Finally, the establishment of a trainee post for a Traveller to shadow the Legal Rights Worker would also appear to have the strong support of Travellers. As discussed earlier (see paragraph 2.3.9), 93% agreed or strongly agreed with the view that it was a good thing to have courses just for Travellers. Moreover, in relation to the specific advocacy skills associated with this proposed Traveller trainee post, it was found that 91% felt that it was either a good or very good idea to 'have specific courses aimed at giving Travellers the skills to be able to campaign for issues effecting the Traveller community with the Government'.

8.2 Recommendation 29: The Police Should Establish Effective Procedures for Monitoring Relations Between Themselves and Travellers

8.2.1 This recommendation would also certainly appear to have the strong support of those interviewed. As already discussed above in relation to the previous recommendation (Recommendation 28), a significant section of the Traveller community are dissatisfied with the current job that the police do for them.

8.2.2 Moreover, and as also discussed in relation to previous recommendations, the need for effective monitoring of services certainly has the overwhelming support of Travellers. 76% felt it was 'important' or 'very important' that organisations 'provide evidence that they are meeting the needs of Travellers and treating them fairly'.

Consultation with Travellers
8. Recommendations on Policing

8.3 Recommendation 30: The Police to Develop a Written Code of Practice Offering Guidance to Officers Dealing with the Traveller Community

8.3.1 The discussion in relation to the previous two recommendations regarding the police (Recommendations 28 and 29) would suggest that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that there is considerable support among Travellers for this recommendation also.

8.3.2 As shown, the majority of Travellers (60%) felt that the police do not currently understand them well and/or at all. Also, a significant proportion (39%) felt that the police currently do a 'bad' or 'very bad' job when dealing with them. The potential that such a Code of Practice would have in beginning to address these two concerns is therefore quite apparent.
9. Recommendations on Promoting Good Relations Between Travellers and the Settled Community

9.1 Recommendation 31: The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland to Facilitate, Co-ordinate and Monitor a Broader Educational Strategy Aimed at reducing Racial Prejudice and Promoting Good Race Relations in the Region

9.1.1 This recommendation would certainly appear to address a particular concern held among Travellers. As illustrated in Figure 11, when asked how well they think settled people understand Travellers and their way of life generally, 70% replied either 'not very well' or 'not at all'.

9.1.2 This concern is also reflected in how Travellers described settled people's attitudes and behaviour towards them overall. As illustrated in Figure 12, experiences tended to vary with just over a third of Travellers (36%) feeling that attitudes and behaviour were generally either 'good' or 'very good'. However,
9. Recommendations on Promoting Good Community Relations

slightly less (27%) felt that they were either 'bad' or 'very bad'.

![Figure 12: How Travellers Described Settled People’s Attitudes and Behaviour Towards Them Overall (%)](image)

9.2 Recommendation 32: Department of Education to Develop a Multicultural/Anti-Racist Dimension to the Northern Ireland Curriculum

9.2.1 The evidence discussed in relation to the previous recommendation (Recommendation 31) would also equally apply to this one and would, again, suggest that it addresses a key concern among Travellers.

9.2.2 Moreover, the emphasis that Travellers would place upon education and schools as a means to increase awareness and promote good relations can be seen in their attitudes towards Recommendations 14 and 20 discussed earlier. As was seen, a significant proportion of Travellers felt that greater contact and integration between Traveller and settled children was needed in playgroups, nurseries and schools.

9.2.3 Ironically, one of the reasons why some Travellers preferred their children not to mix was because of the fear of racist bullying and harassment. This, in itself, provides further evidence that Travellers would see the
introduction of a multicultural/anti-racist dimension to the curriculum as a positive step in attempting to address this.

9.3 **Recommendation 33: Northern Ireland Housing Executive to Facilitate and Co-ordinate Community Relations Initiatives Between Travellers and Their Settled Neighbours**

9.3.1 The findings illustrated in Figures 11 and 12 indicate that, generally, Travellers would see the need for this more direct approach to enhancing good relations between themselves and local settled people. From the indepth interviews, however, the feedback from Travellers would suggest that no clear generalisation can be made about the state of local relations.

9.3.2 Overall, the picture locally appears to be extremely varied. Some Travellers reported extremely good relationships with local settled people, mentioning friendships that had been struck up and also a welcoming attitude from people working in local shops. However, for others, relationships locally were much more negative. For these Travellers, they felt that they had been labeled as dirty and criminals. They cited regular name-calling, receiving threatening letters and, in one case, having a car burnt out the previous evening.

9.3.3 The findings from the survey would therefore suggest that Travellers, especially those in areas experiencing poor community relations, would certainly welcome the initiative proposed in this recommendation.
10. Conclusions

10.1 This report has presented the findings of a detailed and comprehensive consultation exercise with Travellers on the final report of the PSI Working Group on Travellers. Each of the 33 recommendations have been assessed in turn in light of the comments and feedback received from those interviewed.

10.2 There is no doubt from the evidence presented here that Travellers in Northern Ireland would strongly welcome the Working Group's report and would overwhelmingly support the recommendations contained within it.

10.3 The only recommendation where support was currently not evident among Travellers was for the phasing out of St Mary's Primary School in Belfast (Recommendation 20). However, and as discussed in the main body of the report, the issues in this case appear to be quite complex and there was a lack of majority support for any option – whether keeping the school as it is or phasing it out.

10.4 Overall, the 33 recommendations cover a range of issues and, as stated in the report, they need to be seen as an inter-related package of measures rather than viewing each individually and in isolation. However, it is important to note that it is clear from the evidence presented here that accommodation is by far the single most important issue that Travellers wish the Government to sort out.

10.5 Finally, it is important to acknowledge the increasing levels of frustration and cynicism being expressed by a number of Travellers with regard to research on them. For many, their experience appears to be one punctuated by visits from researchers yet resulting in very little tangible benefits. It is hoped that this current report can provide the necessary momentum for real change to occur in their lives.
Appendix One: Methodology of the Consultation Exercise

11.1 Background

11.1.1 The current position of Travellers, as pointed out in the Working Group's final report, is one characterised by multiple disadvantage. As a group, they tend to suffer from the highest levels of long-term unemployment, appalling living conditions and the worst records of health in comparison with any other social group in Northern Ireland. Not surprisingly, levels of educational achievement are also extremely poor, with high levels of illiteracy among the adult population.

11.1.2 One of the reasons why this specific consultation exercise was commissioned was that Ministers were convinced of the need to seek the views of Travellers themselves and to do this in a culturally appropriate way. OFMDFM sought the advice of Traveller Support Groups to identify an appropriate method of obtaining the views of the Travellers. They knew that it was unrealistic to assume that most Travellers would have access to the report, let alone be able to read it and then have the confidence and skills to prepare a written submission. Moreover, most of the recommendations rely upon a quite detailed and technical understanding of Government policies and existing Government structures – knowledge that most Travellers would simply not have because of their marginalised position.

11.1.3 The purpose of this present consultation exercise, therefore, was to gain the views and opinions of Travellers on the 33 recommendations contained in the final report of the Working Group in an appropriate and meaningful way. This has meant adopting a specially-designed methodology that is able to present the key ideas contained in the report to Travellers in a
way that they understand and feel able to comment on.

11.1.4 Rather than attempting to gain the specific views of Travellers on the detail of each particular recommendation, it was decided instead that it would be more appropriate to gauge their attitudes to the core principles underlying each recommendation. From this, a judgement could then be made regarding the extent to which each recommendation reflects the needs and concerns of Travellers.

11.1.5 Because of the limited knowledge that Travellers have of Government policies, structures and current provision, they were generally not in a position to make an informed judgement about some of the more technical details regarding each recommendation (i.e. whether another Department or agency would be better placed to take responsibility for specific elements of a recommendation etc.). While a particular recommendation may be shown to meet the needs and concerns of Travellers, therefore, it is not possible to conclude from the findings contained in this current report that Travellers necessarily support the precise mechanisms suggested in the recommendation for tackling the issue(s) concerned.

11.2 Methodology

11.2.1 It was decided to base the consultation exercise on interviews with a representative sample of Travellers. Interviews took place individually and/or in small (usually family) groups. The nature of the final sample and its key characteristics are described below. These more personal interviews were chosen over the use of more formal, public meetings for three main reasons.

11.2.2 First, the interviews provided a more informal and relaxed environment within which the purpose of the consultation exercise could be explained more fully and any of the specific questions asked properly
Appendix One: Methodology of the Consultation Exercise

clarified. Second, these smaller interviews allowed a larger number of Travellers to talk and offer their opinions rather than leaving it to a few more confident and articulate individuals as often happens in larger meetings. Third, large, public meetings would simply not have been appropriate given the tensions and conflict that currently exist between some Traveller families.

11.2.3 The interviews were structured around two different questionnaires that the interviewer administered and completed on behalf of the Travellers. Copies of both questionnaires are included in Appendix Three. The questions asked tended not to mention any of the recommendations and/or their details directly. Rather, they were more general and straight-forward questions asking Travellers about their views on the key principles underpinning the recommendations. A range of questions were asked to ensure that all of the issues addressed by the 33 recommendations were covered.

11.2.4 Of the two questionnaires, one was relatively short and comprised a series of general questions that tended to cover the key issues underpinning some of the core recommendations. All of these questions were closed and the whole questionnaire took about 15 minutes to complete.

11.2.5 The second questionnaire represented a more detailed and elaborated version of the first questionnaire. While including all of the key questions asked in the first questionnaire, it also asked much more detailed questions as well as asking a number of open-ended questions to allow Travellers to raised whatever issues they felt were appropriate. This questionnaire took around 45-60 minutes to complete. Copies of both questionnaires are available on request.

11.2.6 The purpose of using these two questionnaires was to gain data from a larger sample of Travellers who have
all answered the core questions while also being able to explore their answers to these questions in much more detail with a smaller sample. The result would be a series of statistics that would constitute a reliable reflection of the general attitudes of Travellers together with much more detailed, indepth information that would help to 'get behind' these broader statistics to understand why Travellers had the opinions they had.

11.2.7 Given the nature of Travellers' lifestyles and the importance of the family, it was not appropriate to conduct all of the interviews individually. While some individual interviews took place, many more took place in small (often family) groups. Most of the interviews took place in the interviewees' homes. A separate questionnaire was completed for each person present in the group and differences in attitudes between them were noted and recorded.

11.3 The Sample

11.3.1 Overall, 178 Travellers were interviewed and answered all of the questions contained in the short survey. Within this, 111 of these were interviewed indepth and answered a series of much more detailed questions.

11.3.2 There was an over-representation of women in the sample (69% compared to 31% men), reflecting the greater reluctance of Traveller men to be interviewed and also their lack of availability. Beyond this, there was a fairly representative spread in terms of age, type of accommodation and area in which the interviewees lived. This is illustrated in Figures 13, 14 and 15.

11.3.3 Finally, with a view to ensuring as wide a range of interviewees were chosen as possible, efforts were made to include indepth interviews with Travellers who were currently nomadic (n=7) and also those who were currently working in community development posts (n=4).
Appendix One: Methodology of the Consultation Exercise

Figure 13: Age Distribution of the Sample (n)

- Under 18
- 18 - 30
- 31 - 45
- 46 - 60
- Over 60

Figure 14: Type of Accommodation Lived in by the Sample (n)

- Authorised Sites
- Unauthorised Sites
- Public Rented Housing
- Private Housing
- Privately-Owned Sites
- Group Housing
- Hostel

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Appendix One: Methodology of the Consultation Exercise

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Figure 15: District Council Area Lived in by the Sample (%)
Appendix Two: The Recommendations of the PSI Working Group

12.1 Background

11.1.1 This appendix outlines all 33 recommendations contained in the final report of the PSI Working Group on Travellers. Each recommendation is reproduced in full. The reader is advised to consult the report itself, however, for background discussion and explanation relating to each of the recommendations.

12.2 Recommendation 1

An Inter-Agency Forum should be established by the Office of the First and Deputy First Ministers with the responsibility of monitoring, co-ordinating and facilitating services for Travellers. The Forum should report to the First and Deputy First Ministers and also prepare progress reports for inclusion in the New TSN Annual Report demonstrating and evaluating the impact which Departmental policies have made in reducing the inequalities experienced by Travellers.

The Forum should comprise representatives from relevant Government departments and agencies, non-departmental public bodies, voluntary agencies, Traveller organisations and the Traveller community. Representatives from Government departments and agencies should be of senior officer level.

The primary purpose of the Forum should be to drive forward a co-ordinated strategy aimed at tackling the legacy of inequality and disadvantage faced by Travellers and ensuring a 'level playing field' upon which all Travellers can participate fully in the social, political and economic life of the region. Within this, the specific responsibilities of the Forum should include:
• To monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in this report;
• To facilitate joint working and the co-ordination of policies and strategies for Travellers with the aim of maximising efforts and resources within Northern Ireland and, where possible, with similar bodies in Britain and Ireland;
• To keep the effectiveness of current provision for Travellers under review and to make recommendations for the further development of policies and strategies as appropriate;
• Within the responsibilities recommended above, to give specific consideration to the promotion and co-ordination of services with regard to: children; employment; and promoting good relations between Travellers and the settled community;
• To establish a longitudinal study of Travellers with the aim of generating objective indicators of social need and monitoring the effectiveness of existing policies and strategies. A particular focus of this objective should be to provide statistical evidence of outcomes for Travellers from such policies and strategies. Part of the study should include a focus on the long-term health of Traveller children and their mothers and also infant mortality rates and morbidity rates generally, the incidence of preventable diseases and accidents rates. It should also include a focus on relations between Travellers and the Police. The data from the study should be used as the basis to set targets for particular policy initiatives aimed at reducing levels of inequalities;
• To promote research, more generally, into the specific needs and experiences of Travellers.

12.3 Recommendation 2

Funding for voluntary organisations catering specifically for the needs of ethnic minority people, including Travellers, should be considered in the context of the PSI Working Group on Ethnic Minorities.
12.4 Recommendation 3

The Department for Social Development should provide funding to an appropriate voluntary organisation or organisations for the establishment of Traveller Support Workers. There should be at least one post created per local area where there is an established Traveller community or communities.

The Department should also provide funding for the creation of one or more Traveller trainee positions attached to each post. Such positions should be open to those Travellers who wish to gain the relevant skills and expertise required for them to subsequently apply for Traveller Support Worker posts when they become available.

Overall, the aim of the Traveller Support Worker posts should not be to replace or supersede existing provision and support given to Travellers but to complement such work by:

- Helping to co-ordinate and maximise efforts and resources in relation to existing services and support offered to Travellers in the local area;
- To advocate on behalf of Travellers with Government departments and agencies and other relevant bodies and organisations to ensure the adequate and appropriate provision of services for Travellers.

Within this, the key responsibilities of the Traveller Support Workers should include:

- To facilitate inter-agency working within the local area in order to maximise efforts and resources;
- To work directly with local Traveller communities and Traveller support organisations to increase their knowledge and awareness of services that are available;
- To work closely with the proposed Traveller Liaison Officers within differing Government departments and agencies (Recommendation 4) to ensure that the
services they offer are adequate and appropriate to the needs of Travellers in the local area and to develop strategies to ensure greater access to and take-up of such services among Travellers;

- To support and facilitate Traveller organisations in their provision of broader community development initiatives aimed at increasing the knowledge, skills and experiences of the local Traveller community and their vision and capacity for change;

- To guide and supervise the work of the Traveller trainee(s) attached to the post.

12.5 Recommendation 4

All Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies should:

- Establish and/or identify an existing Unit, headed by a senior officer, to oversee the provision of services for Travellers within its particular area of responsibility. The unit should:

  - Ensure that the needs of Travellers are named and addressed in a culturally appropriate manner in all aspects of the organisation’s work;
  - Set clearly defined priorities, targets and timescales in relation to plans to address the identified needs of Travellers;
  - Establish comprehensive monitoring systems to provide data on the take-up and use of the organisation’s services by Travellers and on the extent to which targets and priorities set have been met;
  - Include representatives from Traveller and voluntary organisations and also establish effective systems of consultation and participation with the Traveller community more generally.

  - Establish a Traveller Liaison Officer to deal with each locality where there is an established Traveller
community or communities. Their responsibilities should include:

- Overseeing the day-to-day provision of services for Travellers in their local community and ensuring the implementation of policies and strategies decided by the proposed unit established within the organisation;
- Liaising closely with the proposed local Traveller Support Workers (Recommendation 2) and Traveller Liaison Officers from other departments, agencies and bodies to ensure that local Traveller communities gain full access to and make use of the range of services that are offered.

- Ensure that all of their staff receive anti-racist training with regard to working with and meeting the needs of Travellers. Each organisation should consult with the Equality Commission on the nature and evaluation of such training and bear in mind any relevant guidelines for training it or other organisations such as the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities have produced. The outcome of this should be reported to the Inter-Agency Forum. Such training should aim to:

  - Increase awareness of the cultures and lifestyles of Travellers;
  - Develop an appreciation of the concepts of racism, institutional racism and sedentarism and their effects upon Travellers;
  - Increase awareness of the particular needs of Travellers within the specific organisation’s area of responsibility and how staff should most appropriately address these needs;
  - With regard to education and schools, anti-racist training should be included within initial teacher training and also provided to allied professionals such as Advisers, Education Welfare Officers and Educational Psychologists.
12.6 Recommendation 5

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) should undertake a comprehensive strategic needs assessment of current and projected accommodation requirements of all Travellers in consultation with Traveller organisations, members of the Traveller communities and district councils.

The assessment should:

- Include options to allow Travellers a choice of accommodation i.e. accommodation within the settled community, group housing, serviced or transit sites;
- Reflect the accommodation needs of those Travellers who wish to travel;
- Identify the responsible statutory agency for meeting the accommodation needs of Travellers where this is not the NIHE; and
- Recommend how relationships with relevant authorities in Ireland and Britain can be established to ensure continuity of policy and service provision.

12.7 Recommendation 6

Government should, through the consultation exercise on this Report, review the New Policy on Accommodation for Travellers in relation to responsibility for provision of transit sites to determine if this should remain with District Councils or be transferred to the NIHE. The views of Travellers themselves should be particularly sought. The legislation should if necessary incorporate a mandatory requirement on the responsible agency to meet transit site needs identified by the needs assessment in Recommendation 5.

12.8 Recommendation 7

Funding should be made available to take forward, within a defined timescale, a comprehensive programme to meet all the accommodation needs of Travellers and that responsibility for co-ordinating the funding arrangements
Consultation with Travellers

for this should lie with the Department for Social Development.

12.9 Recommendation 8

The Planning Service undertakes a detailed review of the planning process as part of its Equality Scheme with regard to Traveller planning applications with the aim of identifying what practical measures can be taken to ensure that such applications are not subject to unnecessary delay and are not discriminatory.

12.10 Recommendation 9

With regard to the design and management of specific accommodation schemes for Travellers, it is recommended that:

- The preferences of extended family groups should be taken into account in planning who is to be accommodated in which schemes;
- Close consultation with and participation of Traveller families is needed in terms of the specific design and layout of proposed accommodation, group housing and other accommodation schemes;
- Accommodation should contain play and community facilities where needed;
- Designs should incorporate space for economic activity where required alongside living areas;
- Costs should be affordable to Travellers;
- Traveller families should be encouraged to participate in the management of their accommodation;
- The tender documents for construction and maintenance of Travellers' accommodation should include information on the possibilities for maximising job opportunities through local labour training and employment schemes. This would enable recruitment from the long-term unemployed of people with appropriate skills that can potentially be utilised in the construction and maintenance process.
12.11 **Recommendation 10**

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety should publish a guide which offers advice and examples of good practice to those concerned with the commissioning and provision of health and social care for Travellers. The guide should cover, among other things, the principles and broad objectives to which service providers should work:

- Improve access to services for Travellers and develop any new services in a way that meets the needs of Travellers;
- Ensure that health and social care staff are aware of, and sensitive to, the needs of Travellers.

12.12 **Recommendation 11**

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety should:

- Encourage, monitor and evaluate the introduction of GMS (General Medical Services) Local Development Schemes for Travellers;
- Collect data on and evaluate the processes of GP registration among Travellers. The data should be such that it provides a basis for analysing the nature and scope of the difficulties experienced and for devising strategies that can encourage the registration of Travellers;
- Monitor service agreements it has made with Boards and Trusts to see how well targets are being met and whether services provided are appropriate, acceptable and sensitive to Travellers.

12.13 **Recommendation 12**

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety should commission regional health promotion and educational initiatives targeted at Travellers which:
Explicitly address the specific health needs of Travellers including a particular focus on: accident prevention; women’s health; child development screening; primary immunisation; and breast feeding;

Place an emphasis on building up the confidence of Travellers in the personal and confidential nature of health and social care services;

Offer information, advice and support aimed at facilitating Travellers’ access to health and social care services;

Include a pilot project(s) with the aim of establishing a model of Traveller participation in the promotion of health within the Traveller community.

12.14 Recommendation 13

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety carries out an Equality Impact Assessment on the Sure Start initiative as required by the Northern Ireland Act 1998, section 75. The aim would be to determine whether Travellers, as a distinct community, are being disadvantaged by the initiative's current criteria and whether there is scope for widening that criteria to benefit Traveller parents and children.

12.15 Recommendation 14

The Department of Education should establish a targeted initiative aimed at promoting use of integrated (off-site) nursery and pre-school provision by Travellers. In addition, and where necessary, the Department of Education should also facilitate good quality on-site preschool provision by consideration of core funding, staff training and service support. Moreover, Education and Library Boards and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools should establish linkages between on-site provision and mainstream nursery and primary schools to help facilitate the subsequent transfer of Traveller children from these pre-school groups.
12.16 Recommendation 15

The Department of Education, in association with Education and Library Boards, should establish comprehensive pupil transfer records for Traveller children to facilitate a smooth transition between schools within Northern Ireland. In addition, the Department of Education should also invite educational representatives from Britain and Ireland to work together to co-ordinate school transitions for Traveller children moving between Northern Ireland and Britain and/or Ireland.

12.17 Recommendation 16

The Department of Education should establish a pilot programme aimed at investigating and developing educational strategies and support materials for children of nomadic Traveller families. This should include detailed investigation of distance learning using ICT, 'smartcards' and outreach teaching support.

12.18 Recommendation 17

The Department of Education should conduct a fundamental review of existing funding arrangements for supporting Traveller education and explore good practice in other areas such as the work of the Task Force in Ireland. This review should include the funding of education support teachers, school capitation grants, transport provision and school uniforms. In line with Recommendation 15, it should also include a consideration of the costs of funding educational support programmes for children of nomadic families.

12.19 Recommendation 18

The forthcoming Department of Education practical guidance for schools on promoting good behaviour, which will include a section on bullying, should contain specific and detailed advice on dealing with racist bullying and intimidation. Within this the Department of Education
should also place an obligation on schools, as part of their school discipline responsibilities, to develop and implement anti-bullying strategies which include the monitoring of racist incidents.

12.20 Recommendation 19

While ensuring that Traveller children gain access to the core elements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, the Department of Education should consider developing a more flexible post-primary curriculum in consultation with Traveller organisations, particularly for children aged 14 and above, for whom a mix of education and vocational training may be more appropriate. Within this the Department of Education should:

- Explore existing examples of good practice in and outside of Northern Ireland (including models currently used by the Youth Service);
- Commission research aimed at identifying post-primary school needs;
- On the basis of the research, establish and resource pilot projects for young Traveller children aged 14 and over which should be developed in consultation with Travellers and Traveller Support Groups and managed in partnership with the same.

12.21 Recommendation 20

The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools in conjunction with the Belfast Education and Library Board and the Department of Education should develop a clear strategy and action plan to phase out St Mary’s (formerly St Paul’s) – the Traveller-only primary school in Belfast – over a five year period. This should include thorough consultation and practical actions with Traveller parents which address their concerns about integration, their own experiences of educational provision and their expectations for their children.
12.22 Recommendation 21

The Department of Education, in association with Education and Library Boards and in collaboration with Traveller Organisations, should help facilitate the development of a family/community based learning culture among Travellers. More specifically, this should include working in partnership with Traveller organisations and the Traveller community, the proposed Traveller Support Workers (Recommendation 3) and Traveller Liaison Officers from other relevant Departments and Agencies, particularly DHSSPS and DHFETE (Recommendation 4) to:

- Ensure the fullest access of Travellers to programmes such as DHSSPS's Sure Start, potentially through a Northern Ireland wide approach, as well as Out of School hours learning and childcare initiatives through the New Opportunities Fund;
- Establish family literacy centres with access to adult education within existing Traveller communities where appropriate;
- Develop broader programmes of intervention aimed at linking such educational initiatives with training and employment programmes (e.g. Traveller education workers, classroom assistants and youth workers) and capacity-building measures more broadly within the Traveller community.

12.22 Recommendation 22

Within its overall ethnic monitoring procedures, the Department of Education should collect systematic data on applications for admission and selection, school suspensions and exclusions, school attendance and educational achievement (including levels of attainment at formal Key Stages) for Traveller children. Such data should be collected and presented in a form suitable to allow the measurement of progress in relation to targets and priorities set.
12.24 **Recommendation 23**

The Department of Education should commission research into the educational needs and experiences of Traveller parents and children. Within this, the research should focus specifically on exploring all of the factors that tend to inhibit their access to education, including the admissions criteria used by schools, and the effectiveness of actions taken to date to address these. It should also adopt a fully participatory methodology to ensure meaningful input from both Traveller parents and children.

12.25 **Recommendation 24**

The Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment should collect baseline information on the employment and training needs and aspirations of Travellers to enable the setting of short and medium term goals. This research should be co-ordinated with the research referred to in Recommendation 22.

12.26 **Recommendation 25**

The Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment should explore and assess existing training and employment projects for Travellers within Northern Ireland and in Ireland and Britain with the aim of identifying models for the development of further Traveller-specific interventions. Travellers and Traveller organisations should be invited to participate in the design, planning and management of any such assessment.

12.27 **Recommendation 26**

The Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment along with other relevant Government Departments should consider providing resources to support existing Traveller-specific training projects within their areas of responsibility.
12.28 Recommendation 27

The Department of Higher and Further Education, Training and Employment should encourage employers to recruit more staff from the long-term unemployed, including Travellers, where possible and appropriate. In addition, the Department should also review the possibility of seeking changes to the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 to enable employers to target long-term unemployed Travellers in particular.

12.29 Recommendation 28

The Northern Ireland Office should fund a pilot scheme in the West Belfast area involving the appointment of a full-time Travellers’ Legal Rights Worker. The Worker should be placed with and managed by an appropriate voluntary organisation. The key responsibilities of the Worker should include:

- To work alongside the proposed Traveller Support Workers (Recommendation 4) to raise awareness of legal rights among Travellers and to explain the procedures and the practices of the Police and the criminal justice system;
- To liaise between the Traveller community and the Police over specific incidents or matters of concern and to encourage greater co-operation between both in attempting to resolves such issues;
- To advocate on behalf of local Travellers with the Police and other agencies within the criminal justice system to ensure that the particular issues and problems faced by the local Traveller communities are represented to them and addressed in an appropriate manner.

In addition, it is accepted that the person appointed to such a post would need to have gained specific training and expertise in respect of the law, police procedures and the criminal justice system. Initially, therefore, it is unlikely that many Travellers would be able to apply for such a post. It is therefore recommended that funding is also provided to
create a trainee position for a Traveller to shadow the appointed Traveller Legal Rights Worker to gain the appropriate expertise and skills.

12.30 **Recommendation 29**

The RUC should establish procedures for monitoring relations between themselves and the Traveller community. Such procedures should be agreed with the Police Ombudsman and should include:

- Monitoring and developing a more rigorous accounting procedure for the activities of Police Officers to ensure that Travellers and Traveller communities are not routinely ‘over-policed’ and that where Travellers wish to make complaints concerning the conduct of individual Officers, they can be easily identified;
- Monitoring complaints against the Police in respect of ethnicity and, in particular, publishing figures showing the number of complaints made, the number of informal resolutions and the outcome of formally investigated complaints by ethnic origin.

12.31 **Recommendation 30**

The RUC develop a written Code of Practice in consultation with the Police Ombudsman to be provided to all Police Officers regarding dealing with the Traveller community. Such a Code of Practice should include:

- Guidance for Officers on their use in the eviction of Travellers from traditional stopping areas;
- Dealing with Travellers who are victims of crime;
- Dealing with racial crime and racist incidents against Travellers.

12.32 **Recommendation 31**

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland should take responsibility for facilitating, co-ordinating and monitoring a broader educational strategy in conjunction with Traveller
organisations aimed at reducing racial prejudice and promoting good race relations in the region. While including a focus on the diverse range of minority ethnic groups that exist, a particular emphasis should be placed on Travellers. With this in mind the Commission should give due regard to the current *Citizen Traveller* campaign launched in October 1999 and funded by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform in the Republic of Ireland.

The Commission should consider including the following within such a strategy:

- a specific media campaign (including television and radio adverts, posters and leaflets); and
- the production of training resources for use by youth and community groups.

12.33 **Recommendation 32**

As a matter of priority, the Department of Education should begin to develop a multicultural/anti-racist dimension to the Northern Ireland Curriculum to be added as part of a cross-curricular theme and to be taught through all Key Stages and including a specific focus on Travellers. This should be done in consultation with Travellers and Traveller organisations. Initially, it should include:

- An extensive review of existing multicultural and anti-racist initiatives in Britain and elsewhere and the debates surrounding these;
- On the basis of this review, the development and piloting of specific resources and material for use in schools.

12.34 **Recommendation 33**

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive should facilitate and co-ordinate specific initiatives with the objective of improving community relations between Travellers and 'settled' people in those local areas where there are Traveller communities. Such initiatives could involve the
organisation and facilitation of regular meetings between Traveller representatives and local residents groups from the ‘settled’ community. These meetings could provide the context within which:

- the experiences and perspectives of both communities are shared;
- specific issues and problems are discussed and resolved; and
- trust and mutual respect are developed.

Within this, the Executive should consider the use of mediation as a particular strategy and should draw upon the experience of other relevant organisations in this area such as the Community Relations Council.
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

13.1 Background

This appendix includes copies of the two questionnaires used as the basis of the consultation exercise.
CONSULTATION WITH TRAVELLERS
ON THE PSI WORKING GROUP REPORT

SHORT SURVEY

1. Introduction

The Government are currently looking at what the problems are that Travellers face and how it can best try to sort these out. To help the Government work out what it needs to focus on, it wants to know what Travellers themselves think.

We’ve therefore been asked to talk to Travellers from a range of areas across Northern Ireland to get your views on a number of things such as education, health, accommodation and the police.

The Government has promised to listen very carefully to what you have to say. However, it can’t promise to do everything that you may ask it to do.

I would be really grateful if you could answer some questions I have here. It won’t take more than about five minutes of your time and your answers will be very important in helping the Government plan what it should be doing for Travellers in the future.

We don’t want your name or any personal details and thus all of your answers will be completely anonymous.

2. Awareness of Traveller Issues and Provision of Appropriate Services

a. Generally, how well do you think people really understand Travellers and their way of life?

- Very Well 1
- Well 2
- Not Very Well 3
- Not At All 4
- Don’t Know 5

b. Overall, how would you describe settled people’s attitudes and behaviour towards Travellers in Northern Ireland?

- Very Good 1
- Good 2
- Neither Good Nor Bad 3
- Bad 4
- Very Bad 5
- Don’t Know 6
3. Community Development and Capacity Building

a. There are some training courses that have been designed specifically for Travellers. They cover all sorts of things including general things like reading and writing as well as using computers and training for particular jobs.

   i. Are you aware of any of these courses?

      Yes 1 □
      No 2 □
      Don’t Know 3 □

ii. Do you agree or disagree that it's a good thing to have courses like these just for Travellers?

      Strongly Agree 1 □
      Agree 2 □
      Neither Agree Nor Disagree 3 □
      Disagree 4 □
      Strongly Disagree 5 □
      Don’t Know 6 □

4. Monitoring Service Provision

a. How important would you say it is that places like schools, hospitals and the council should be made to provide evidence that they are meeting the needs of Travellers and treating them fairly?

   Very important 1 □
   Important 2 □
   Not Very Important 3 □
   Not At all Important 4 □
   Don’t Know 5 □

b. If you think about it, there’s lots of organisations that can provide help to Travellers. These include places like schools, hospitals, benefits offices and the council. Some people say that they should work together more to make sure they properly meet the needs of Travellers. Do you agree or disagree with this?

   Strongly Agree 1 □
   Agree 2 □
   Neither Agree nor Disagree 3 □
   Disagree 4 □
   Strongly Disagree 5 □
   Don’t Know 6 □
5. Raise Awareness Among Travellers of, and Facilitating their Access to, Services

a. Thinking about all of the services and facilities that are available, how well do you think you know what is actually there and what you’re entitled to?

   - Very Well 1
   - Well 2
   - Not Very Well 3
   - Not At All 4
   - Don’t Know 5

b. How important do you think it is that organisations like these spend more time letting you know what they do and what things you can get from them?

   - Very Important 1
   - Important 2
   - Not Very Important 3
   - Not At All Important 4
   - Don’t Know 5

6. Consult Travellers & Encourage their Participation in Service Planning/Delivery

a. How important do you think it is for the Government to spend more time talking to Travellers to find out what you need?

   - Very Important 1
   - Important 2
   - Not Very Important 3
   - Not At All Important 4
   - Don’t Know 5

b. Where it’s possible, how important do you think it is for organisations like schools, hospitals and the Council to encourage Travellers to have their say in how they are run?

   - Very Important 1
   - Important 2
   - Not Very Important 3
   - Not At All Important 4
   - Don’t Know 5
7. Accommodation

a. If you had the choice, what type of accommodation would you like to live in?

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<td>Group Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Own your own house</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House on a housing executive estate</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private rented house</td>
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<tr>
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</table>

Other: _____________________________________________

b. If you had a secure base that you could come back to and if there were stopping places around the country for you to pitch a trailer, would you like to travel more?

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>No</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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Trvlmore

c. [For those on sites] How good a job do you think the Council does at the moment in managing this site?

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>6</td>
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counjob

d. Some people think that Councils should provide and run stopping places (transit sites) while other people think that the Housing Executive should take over this job. Who do you think should do it?

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<td>District Councils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't Know</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Whorun
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

8. Education

a. Some people think that schools should be much more flexible in what they teach for older Traveller children. This could include teaching children practical skills and possibly also a trade that can help them get a settled job. How important do you think this idea would be?

- Very Important 1
- Important 2
- Not Very Important 3
- Not At All Important 4
- Don’t Know 5

b. [For those living in Belfast] There’s currently some debate about St Mary’s school – the Traveller-only school here in Belfast. Some people think it’s doing a good job now and should continue as it is. Others think that Traveller children should be integrated more with settled children. They think that plans should be developed to help Traveller children get into settled schools and eventually phase out St Mary’s. What do you think?

- Keep St Mary’s as it is 1
- Phase Out St Mary’s 2
- Don’t Know 3

9. Health

a. Are you currently registered with a doctor?

- Yes 1 Go to 9b.
- No 2 Go to 9c.
- Don’t Know 3 Go to 10.

b. If yes, how easy was it for you to register?

- Very Easy 1
- Easy 2
- Not Very Easy 3
- Difficult 4
- Don’t Know 5
c. If no, have you tried registering with a doctor?

- Yes 1
- No 2
- Don’t Know 3
10. General Questions

a. Thinking more generally, what do you think is the single, most important thing that the Government should sort out for Travellers?

____________________________________________________ mstimprt

b. Alongside that, can you name just two other things that you think are also important that the Government should prioritise?

1. __________________________________________ eximprt1
2. __________________________________________ eximprt2

11. Personal Details

a. Interviewee’s gender

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gender

b. Interviewee’s age

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age

c. Type of accommodation interviewee currently living in

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Other: __________________________________________ accmdtn

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d. In what District Council area is the interviewee currently living?

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**distarea**

END.
CONSULTATION WITH TRAVELLERS
ON THE PSI WORKING GROUP REPORT

INDEPTH INTERVIEW

1. Introduction

The Government are currently looking at what the problems are that Travellers face and how it can best try to sort these out. To help the Government work out what it needs to focus on, it wants to know what Travellers themselves think.

We’ve therefore been asked to talk to Travellers from a range of areas across Northern Ireland to get your views on a number of things such as education, health, accommodation and the police.

The Government has promised to listen very carefully to what you have to say. However, it can’t promise to do everything that you may ask it to do.

I would be really grateful if you could answer some questions I have here. It won’t take more than about twenty minutes of your time and your answers will be very important in helping the Government plan what it should be doing for Travellers in the future.

We don’t want your name or any personal details and thus all of your answers will be completely anonymous.

2. Awareness of Traveller Issues and Provision of Appropriate Services

a. Generally, how well do you think people really understand Travellers and their way of life?

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b. Thinking about your local school …

i. how well do you think the people working there understand Travellers and their way of life?

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Consultation with Travellers
ii. How good or bad a job do you think the school does for Travellers?

Very Good Job 1
Good Job 2
Neither Good Nor Bad 3
Bad Job 4
Very Bad Job 5
Don’t Know 6 

jobschol

iii. Why do you think this?

---

c. Thinking about your local hospital ...

i. how well do you think the people working there understand Travellers and their way of life?

Very Well 1
Well 2
Not Very Well 3
Not At All 4
Don’t Know 5 

undhosp

ii. How good or bad a job do you think the hospital does for Travellers?

Very Good Job 1
Good Job 2
Neither Good Nor Bad 3
Bad Job 4
Very Bad Job 5
Don’t Know 6 

jobhosp

iii. Why do you think this?
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

d. Thinking about your local benefits office …

i. how well do you think the people working there understand Travellers and their way of life?

- Very Well: 1
- Well: 2
- Not Very Well: 3
- Not At All: 4
- Don't Know: 5

ii. How good or bad a job do you think the benefits office does for Travellers?

- Very Good Job: 1
- Good Job: 2
- Neither Good Nor Bad: 3
- Bad Job: 4
- Very Bad Job: 5
- Don't Know: 6

iii. Why do you think this?

[Blank space]

e. Thinking about the local Council …

i. how well do you think the people working there understand Travellers and their way of life?

- Very Well: 1
- Well: 2
- Not Very Well: 3
- Not At All: 4
- Don't Know: 5

Consultation with Travellers
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

ii. How good or bad a job do you think the Council does for Travellers?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Option</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Good Job</td>
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<td>Very Bad Job</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't Know</td>
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iii. Why do you think this?

f. Thinking about the police …

i. How well do you think the police understand Travellers and their way of life?

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ii. How good or bad a job do you think the police do for Travellers?

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iii. Why do you think this?

Consultation with Travellers
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

iv. How well would you say you know what your rights are in situations where you have to deal with the police?

Very Well  1 □
Well        2 □
Not Very Well 3 □
Not At All  4 □
Don't Know  5 □

rghtspo

g. Overall, how would you describe settled people’s attitudes and behaviour towards Travellers in Northern Ireland?

Very Good  1 □
Good        2 □
Neither Good Nor Bad  3 □
Bad         4 □
Very Bad    5 □
Don’t Know  6 □

gnlattt

h. Why do you think this is the case?


3. Community Development and Capacity Building

b. There are some training courses that have been designed specifically for Travellers. They cover all sorts of things including general things like reading and writing as well as using computers and training for particular jobs.

i. Are you aware of any of these courses?

Yes    1 □
No     2 □
Don't Know  3 □

awarcrse
ii. Do you agree or disagree that it's a good thing to have courses like these just for Travellers?

| Strongly Agree | 1 |
| Agree          | 2 |
| Neither Agree Nor Disagree | 3 |
| Disagree       | 4 |
| Strongly Disagree | 5 |
| Don't Know     | 6 |

iii. Why do you say that?

iv. Do you think they should develop more of these courses?

| Yes | 1 |
| Maybe | 2 |
| No | 3 |
| Don't Know | 4 |

v. If yes, what courses would you like to see offered?

vi. How important do you think it is that courses like these should be developed for young Travellers who might have left school early?

| Very Important | 1 |
| Important      | 2 |
| Not Very Important | 3 |
| Not At All Important | 4 |
| Don't Know     | 5 |

vii. Do you think it’s a good or bad idea to have specific courses aimed at giving Travellers the skills to be able to campaign for issues effecting the Traveller community with the Government and settled people more generally?

- Very Good 1 □
- Good 2 □
- Neither Good Nor Bad 3 □
- Bad 4 □
- Very Bad 5 □
- Don’t Know 6 □

viii. Do you think it’s a good or bad idea for employers to be encouraged to make an effort where possible to take on people who have been unemployed for a long time?

- Very Good 1 □
- Good 2 □
- Neither Good Nor Bad 3 □
- Bad 4 □
- Very Bad 5 □
- Don’t Know 6 □

4. Monitoring Service Provision

c. How important would you say it is that places like schools, hospitals and the council should be made to provide evidence that they are meeting the needs of Travellers and treating them fairly?

- Very important 1 □
- Important 2 □
- Not Very Important 3 □
- Not At all Important 4 □
- Don’t Know 5 □


d. Why do you think that?
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

e. If you think about it, there’s lots of organisations that can provide help to Travellers. These include places like schools, hospitals, benefits offices and the council. Some people say that they should work together more to make sure they properly meet the needs of Travellers. Do you agree or disagree with this?

| Strongly Agree | 1 | ✓ |
| Agree          | 2 | ✓ |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree | 3 | ✓ |
| Disagree       | 4 | ✓ |
| Strongly Disagree | 5 | ✓ |
| Don’t Know     | 6 | ✓ |

f. Are there any reasons why you think this?

5. Raise Awareness Among Travellers of, and Facilitating their Access to, Services

c. Thinking about all of the services and facilities that are available, how well do you think you know what is actually there and what you’re entitled to?

| Very Well   | 1 | ✓ |
| Well        | 2 | ✓ |
| Not Very Well | 3 | ✓ |
| Not At All  | 4 | ✓ |
| Don’t Know  | 5 | ✓ |


d. More specifically, thinking about your local school, how well do you think you know what they actually do and what you are entitled to from them?

| Very Well   | 1 | ✓ |
| Well        | 2 | ✓ |
| Not Very Well | 3 | ✓ |
| Not At All  | 4 | ✓ |
| Don’t Know  | 5 | ✓ |
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

e. And your local doctors, how well do you think you know what they actually do and what you are entitled to from them?

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f. What about your local benefits office, how well do you think you know what they actually do and what you are entitled to from them?

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g. And the local Council, how well do you think you know what they actually do and what you are entitled to from them?

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h. And finally the police, how well do you think you know what they actually do and what you are entitled to from them?

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i. How important do you think it is that organisations like these spend more time letting you know what they do and what things you can get from them?

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<td>Not Very Important</td>
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Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

j. How do you think they could do this the best?

k. How important do you think it is that these places have a special person who comes out and talks to you about what services they offer and how you can get them?

Very Important 1
Important 2
Not Very Important 3
Not At All Important 4
Don't Know 5

l. Do you think this would be useful for any area in particular? Is so, which?

6. Consult Travellers & Encourage their Participation in Service Planning/Delivery

c. How important do you think it is for the Government to spend more time talking to Travellers to find out what you need?

Very Important 1
Important 2
Not Very Important 3
Not At All Important 4
Don't Know 5

d. Are there any areas where you think this definitely needs to be done?
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

e. Where it's possible, how important do you think it is for organisations like schools, hospitals and the Council to encourage Travellers to have their say in how they are run?

   Very Important 1 □
   Important 2 □
   Not Very Important 3 □
   Not At All Important 4 □
   Don't Know 5 □ havesay

f. Have you any ideas about how this can happen?

7. Accommodation

e. If you had the choice, what type of accommodation would you like to live in?

   A Trailer 1 □ Go to 7b.
   Group Housing 2 □ Go to 7d.
   Own your own house 3 □ Go to 7d.
   House on a housing executive estate 4 □ Go to 7d.
   Private rented house 5 □ Go to 7d.
   Other (please specify) 6 □ Go to 7d.

   accmtype

   Other: __________________________________________ accmothr

   ____________________________________________________________

f. [If stated Trailer] How happy would you be renting a Trailer?

   Very Happy 1 □
   Happy 2 □
   Unhappy 3 □
   Very Unhappy 4 □
   Don’t Know 5 □ rentrail

Consultation with Travellers
g. [If stated Trailer] How important do you think it is for the following services to be provided on sites?

i. Play areas for children

- Very Important 1 
- Important 2 
- Not Very Important 3 
- Not At All Important 4 
- Don't Know 5  

ii. Space to work from and to store your tools and materials

- Very Important 1 
- Important 2 
- Not Very Important 3 
- Not At All Important 4 
- Don't Know 5  

iii. Buildings for the community to meet up in

- Very Important 1 
- Important 2 
- Not Very Important 3 
- Not At All Important 4 
- Don't Know 5  

iv. Any other services that you feel would be important to have provided?

h. If you had a secure base that you could come back to and if there were stopping places around the country for you to pitch a trailer, would you like to travel more?

- Yes 1  Go to 7e.  
- Maybe 2  Go to 7e.  
- No 3  Go to 7f.  
- Don't Know 4  Go to 7e.  

Consultation with Travellers
i. If yes, do you think there are things the Government could do to help people like yourself travel more? If so, what?

j. Do you think the Government here should work more closely with the Governments in Britain and Ireland to make sure that there are better facilities for Travellers when they travel between these places?

   Yes 1  
   Maybe 2  
   No 3  
   Don't Know 4  

   trvlgovt

k. Why do you say this?

l. [For those on sites] How good a job do you think the Council does at the moment in managing this site?

   Very Good 1  
   Good 2  
   Neither Good Nor Bad 3  
   Bad 4  
   Very Bad 5  
   Don't Know 6  

   counjob

m. The Housing Executive is likely to take over the building and management of permanent sites next year. However, did you know that the Council currently has the power to build a new site if it felt there was a need for one?

   Yes 1  
   No 2  
   Don't Know 3  

   knowcncl
n. Some people think that Councils should provide and run stopping places (transit sites) while other people think that the Housing Executive should take over this job. Who do you think should do it?

- Housing Executive (1)
- District Councils (2)
- Don't Know (3) *whorun*

o. Why do you think this?

p. If it’s decided that there is a need for a stopping place for Travellers in a particular area, do you think the Government should force whoever’s responsible to provide one?

- Yes (1) *govtforc*
- Maybe (2)
- No (3)
- Don’t Know (4) *govtforc*

q. Why do you say this?

r. In terms of getting planning permission to build new sites and accommodation for Travellers, do you think enough is currently being done to make it as quick as possible?

- Yes (1)
- Maybe (2)
- No (3)
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

Don’t Know 4 ⬜  siteplan

s. Why do you say this?

---

8. Education

c. How important do you think it is to get more Travellers to send their young children to existing local preschool playgroups or nurseries?

Very Important 1 ⬜
Important 2 ⬜
Not Very Important 3 ⬜
Not At All Important 4 ⬜
Don’t Know 5 ⬜  playgrps

d. Why do you think this?

---

e. Do you agree or disagree with the idea of setting up special preschool playgroups on site just for Traveller children?

Strongly Agree 1 ⬜
Agree 2 ⬜
Neither Agree nor Disagree 3 ⬜
Disagree 4 ⬜
Strongly Disagree 5 ⬜
Don’t Know 6 ⬜  plyonste

f. Why do you say this?
g. Do you agree or disagree with the view that schools are doing what they can in cases where Traveller children are being bullied?

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h. Why do you think this?

i. What do you think schools should do about bullying?

j. Some people think that schools should be much more flexible in what they teach for older Traveller children. This could include teaching children practical skills and possibly also a trade that can help them get a settled job. How important do you think this idea would be?

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k. What things do you think schools should teach Traveller children at this age?
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

I. Do you currently travel much and/or have you travelled much in the past?

Yes 1 □ Go to 8k.
No 2 □ Go to 8m
Don’t Know 3 □ Go to 8k trvlmuch

m. If yes, how well do you think schools deal with the education of your children when you do travel?

Very Well 1 □
Well 2 □
Not Very Well 3 □
Not At All 4 □
Don’t Know 5 □ schltrvl

n. Why do you say this?

o. [For those living in Belfast] There’s currently some debate about St Mary’s school – the Traveller-only school here in Belfast. Some people think it’s doing a good job now and should continue as it is. Others think that Traveller children should be integrated more with settled children. They think that plans should be developed to help Traveller children get into settled schools and eventually phase out St Mary’s. What do you think?

Keep St Mary’s as it is 1 □
Phase Out St Mary’s 2 □
Don’t Know 3 □ stmarys

p. Why do you think this?
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

9. Health

d. Are you currently registered with a doctor?

Yes 1 Go to 9b.
No 2 Go to 9d.
Don’t Know 3 Go to 10. gpregist

e. If yes, how easy was it for you to register?

Very Easy 1
Easy 2
Not Very Easy 3
Difficult 4
Don’t Know 5 easyreg

f. Can you say a little bit more about this?

Go to Q. 10

g. If no, have you tried registering with a doctor?

Yes 1 Go to 9e.
No 2 Go to 9f
Don’t Know 3 Go to 10. triedreg

h. If yes, what happened?
i. If no, why not?

10. General Questions

c. Thinking more generally, what do you think is the single, most important thing that the Government should sort out for Travellers?

______________________________  mstimprt

d. Why do you say this?

______________________________

e. Alongside that, can you name just two other things that you think are also important that the Government should prioritise?

3. ________________________________  eximprt1

4. ________________________________  eximprt2

f. Why have you chosen these two things?

______________________________
Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

g. How important do you think it is that the Government should set itself deadlines when it promises to do something for Travellers?

   Very Important  1 □
   Important       2 □
   Not Very Important  3 □
   Not At All Important  4 □
   Don't Know        5 □ deadlines

11. Personal Details

g. Interviewee’s gender

   Male         1 □
   Female       2 □ gender

h. Interviewee’s age

   Under 18  1 □
   18 – 30    2 □
   31 – 45    3 □
   46 – 60    4 □
   Over 60    5 □ age

i. Type of accommodation interviewee currently living in

   Permanent Serviced Site 1 □
   Serviced Transit Site    2 □
   Informal Site by the Road 3 □
   Privately Owned Site     4 □
   Public Rented (Housing Executive) 5 □
   Private Rented           6 □
   Owner Occupied           7 □
   Group Housing            8 □
   Other (please specify)   9 □ accmdtn

   Other: ___________________________________________ accmdtn2

Consultation with Travellers

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Appendix Three: The Questionnaires

d. In what District Council area is the interviewee currently living?

1. Antrim (U)
2. Ards (U)
3. Armagh (R)
4. Ballymena (R)
5. Ballymoney (R)
6. Banbridge (R)
7. Belfast (U)
8. Carrickfergus (U)
9. Castlereagh (U)
10. Coleraine (R)
11. Cookstown (R)
12. Craigavon (R)
13. DOWN (R)
14. Dungannon (R)
15. Fermanagh (R)
16. Larne (R)
17. Limavady (R)
18. Lisburn (U)
19. Derry/Londonderry (U)
20. Magharafelt (R)
21. Moyle (R)
22. Newry & Mourne (R)
23. Newtownabbey (U)
24. North Down (U)
25. Omagh (R)
26. Strabane (R)

distarea

END.