

LINK CONSULTATION 4TH DECEMBER 2008 **GYPSY & TRAVELLER SUPPORT GROUP.**

PARTICIPANTS: 6 Women aged between 14 and 49 years of age.

QUESTION 1:

What do you see as the main health care issues affecting you in Doncaster?

- Women in this group shared their experiences regarding their health. One woman described how the fear of having cancer was frightening her. She believed cancer to be hereditary in her family. Since six members of her family recently died from various types of cancer such as Hodgkinsons Disease, Leukaemia, and Lung Cancer. She described a real need for her family to be screened for cancer rather than be left in suspension asking “is it me next?”.
- The women spoke of an increase in diabetics within their community.
- Kidney diseases are also on the increase.
- One woman reported that every person in her family has an allergy.
- A woman said that because anaesthetic makes her ill she would not have an operation even if it was life threatening.
- The women find that registering with a Dentist or a Doctor is impossible because they live on site and are regarded as having no permanent abode.
- The women stated that they do not believe in immunisation.
- They were all of the opinion that breast feeding is simply a money saving exercise by Health Professionals.
- Women explained that many travelling children are developing behavioural problems.

QUESTION 2:

What do you see as the main social care issues affecting you in Doncaster?

- The women from the travelling community stated that they do not believe in Social care.
- These Travelling women stated that they do not feel comfortable having professional visitors to their homes.
- The policy is to care for their own elderly relatives but the opinion of the women is that there should be more financial assistance for carers.
- Generally the view of the women was that travelling families organise their own care for families through family conference and appropriate decision-making.

- The women stated that their families would not appreciate what could be seen as “outside interference” with family matters.

QUESTION 3:

How do you think these issues can be realistically tackled?

- Everyone to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Equality for the travelling community.
- Health Staff to receive training on the culture of the travelling community, to equip them to deal with issues relating to them.
- Mobile Dentists on sites.
- Mobile Health Screening on sites.
- Mobile Doctors and clinics on sites.
- Train and employ Health Care staff from the Travelling Community.
- More easily accessible information, simple and easy to read taking into account limited education.

QUESTION 4:

What are the three issues that you would ideally like Doncaster LINK to take forward?

- Mobiles Dentists on sites.
- Mobile Doctors and Clinics on sites.
- Staff employed from the Travelling Community.
- Women only services made available.
- Keep the Travelling Community involved and listen to their views when planning services.