

In the April 2016 edition of the newsletter, we highlight:

- From Roma Support Group:
  - A new resource about education and Roma pupils, drafted for teachers and colleagues who work in schools, and drafted according to the testimony of Roma pupils, students and parents
  - The latest appearance of the Roma Bridging Sounds Youth Orchestra – playing at the Barbican, Monday 11 April
  - A briefing paper about how Roma, and Gypsy and Traveller, communities appear to be in serious danger of being denied access to European funding, which could help to achieve economic and social integration in England
  - Two submissions prepared: (a) to the recent Welsh Government consultation on a migrant Roma strategy for Wales, and (b) for a recent visit from the Council of Europe’s Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
  - Two forthcoming training events run by Roma Support Group for professionals working with Roma communities, particularly around the theme of ‘safeguarding’
- News from National Roma Network; about the recruitment of a Roma co-chair for the Network; the terms of reference for the Network; and information about the next meeting of the Network on Friday 22 April
- A discussion about the extent of Roma integration in Glasgow
- Two new publications; one from Show Racism the Red Card in Wales, and one from the Equality & Human Rights Commission
- Information about how to apply for permanent residence in the UK, for EU citizens who have lived in the UK for over five years – including many Roma
- And two issues concerning government policy in education; one, the present government consultation on funding for schools, which explicitly refers to the needs of Roma, and Gypsy and Traveller, pupils; and secondly, the latest government statement on consultation on Roma (and Gypsies and Travellers) educational matters
- The film ‘Papusza’

- Encourage you all to support national Roma day events in Glasgow, in Derby, in London, in Leicester, in Sheffield.....



April 2016 newsletter

## Welcome from Roma Support Group

We want to bring you information, reflections, arguments and discussion about the issues that face Roma communities in the UK. The Roma Support Group has developed over the last 18 years into a major service agency working for and with Roma communities, mainly in London. We run advice and advocacy sessions; education support programmes (including early years support) for children and families; a Roma Support and Engagement Programme (including tailored staff training); and an arts and culture programme. RSG has been able to develop work on Roma advocacy and mediation, community engagement, and also in policy and information provision. This e-bulletin is one manifestation of these developments.

For more information about Roma Support Group, go to our website here and look at the 'projects' pages.

Contact us via:

[andy@romasupportgroup.org.uk](mailto:andy@romasupportgroup.org.uk)

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## News from Roma Support Group

### EDUCATION: A ROMA PERSPECTIVE

So, another handbook and 'resource' *about* Roma children? Well – no! This short report (at 25 pages), imaginatively and attractively presented, is almost all based on how Roma students and ex-students and Roma teachers and

parents, think about and experience learning. It includes recollections from grandparents about what it was like for Roma children in Polish schools in the 1950s; from Roma parents who were students in London schools twenty years ago; and from Roma young women and men about what's important, and upsetting, for them in schools today. And from these experiences, the report is full of ideas about how schools and staff in schools can think about their existing practices, and whether they are supporting, or discouraging, Roma students and their families. Ascription is dealt with – the preparedness to declare to the school authorities that 'yes, we are Roma'....or 'I am white European'. Children's first arrival into a British school, after little or no formal education in the country of birth, is considered – and what's best for the child (and the family) in those difficult and stressful days. And how some Roma parents think British schools are so much better placed to support and help Roma children prosper, than schools in Eastern Europe. And finally, a page of the 'top ten tips' for teachers by Roma students.....

Arthur Ivatts, the highly respected and vastly experienced educationalist, has written a brief forward for the report. He says that he thinks the publication is important for two reasons; first, that schools are keen to respond to new pupils, especially those from different backgrounds and with a distinct heritage, and so are open to views and opinions of those students and their families. And secondly, the publication is built upon the strength of Roma voices – young and older, female and male, teacher and student. He commends it to be read and used.

As Arthur Ivatts says in his introduction:

*It must be sheer music for any school to hear a migrant child say "here education is much better. You are like a flower that is allowed to grow here. You are not contained." It would be so reassuring to the moral nature of our society if these beautiful words were whispered into the ears of tabloid journalists.*

Roma Support Group intends to add to the resource with new and additional pages; we'll keep you updated. Download the publication here:

[https://drive.google.com/a/romasupportgroup.org.uk/file/d/0B2lw1\\_Krq5gnVm9BTEZXRmlveUk/view](https://drive.google.com/a/romasupportgroup.org.uk/file/d/0B2lw1_Krq5gnVm9BTEZXRmlveUk/view)

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## **News from Roma Support Group**

### **Roma Bridging Sounds Youth Orchestra performs @ the Barbican**

'Our' youth orchestra continues to prosper. They are now playing at the Barbican! On Monday 11 April at 7pm. Tickets available: £2 for under 16s, £6 for concessions and £7.50 full price. The concert is part of the Barbican's contemporary music concerts and the Roma Bridging Sounds orchestra are performing alongside Play Dub Now; Lister Jazz Band; Newham Guitars and Newham Philharmonic – all local musical groups from Newham.

Tickets available here.

<http://www.barbican.org.uk/music/event-detail.asp?id=18964&pg=9019>

See the article about Roma Bridging Sounds from November 2015 here.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/nov/24/roma-music-youth-orchestra-promotes-acceptance-newham>

For more information about the orchestra, contact Tania Gessi at [tania@romasupportgroup.org.uk](mailto:tania@romasupportgroup.org.uk)

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## **News from Roma Support Group**

### **Briefing paper**

### **Non inclusion of Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities in local strategies developed to guide the allocation of European funding in England, 2014 – 2020**

The story of European funding that has been earmarked for Roma communities in Central & East European counties, but has ended up either in

personal bank accounts or being used for completely different beneficiaries, has been frequently told. The similar story in the UK, and in England, has been less researched. For the last two years, Roma Support Group – with other NGOs from the Gypsy and Traveller sector - has been trying to ensure that Roma are able to benefit from the estimated £6bn that will be spent in the UK under the 2014-2020 European Structural & Investment funding programmes – most notably, the European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding streams. This funding is not new to the UK; there is plenty of experience as to how to use European funding to support training initiatives, to be directed to those workers and ex-workers with the greatest difficulty of getting (back) into work, and to support local communities and groups trying to overcome exclusion and discrimination within the labour market.

The UK government took a decision that the European funding until 2020 be used according to priorities determined at a 'sub-regional' level by new agencies called Local Enterprise Partnerships (known as LEPs). These are new, private sector-led quangos, with a remit to draw up local priorities, and so develop programmes that are relevant to the industries and workers in these areas.

The briefing paper available here, has been the subject of research by Roma Support Group into the priorities of the 39 LEPs in England. We find that in only four areas is there any mention of Roma as potential beneficiaries. It is therefore highly unlikely that the UK will be able to rise to the challenge that Europe has for all member states to utilise this programme of European funding to take steps to further Roma integration.

The research was presented to a recent meeting of the DCLG Gypsy, Roma, Traveller liaison group, and we've now updated the original briefing paper; read the update here.

Briefing paper:

[https://drive.google.com/a/romasupportgroup.org.uk/file/d/0B2lw1\\_Krq5gnU\\_WJHLUQOS0REeIU/view](https://drive.google.com/a/romasupportgroup.org.uk/file/d/0B2lw1_Krq5gnU_WJHLUQOS0REeIU/view)

Update:

[https://drive.google.com/a/romasupportgroup.org.uk/file/d/0B2lw1\\_Krq5gnODdZamtoUFU3WGc/view](https://drive.google.com/a/romasupportgroup.org.uk/file/d/0B2lw1_Krq5gnODdZamtoUFU3WGc/view)

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## **News from Roma Support Group**

### **Consultation responses**

#### **Welsh Government: a call for proposals for a migrant Roma strategy in Wales**

We carried the news of the Welsh government consultation in our last issue. The minister, Lesley Griffiths AM, leading the consultation was clear about her initial thoughts; that despite being the first EU nation to respond to the challenge of developing national Roma integration strategies, she said:

*I have listened to stakeholders who have called for a dedicated strategy for migrant Roma, though I am not yet convinced such a strategy is necessary to improve the lives of the Roma community.*

In common with five other NGOs, Roma Support Group made a submission to the Welsh government. You can read it here.

[https://drive.google.com/a/romasupportgroup.org.uk/file/d/0B2lw1\\_Krq5gnb00zeklEM3JaaGs/view](https://drive.google.com/a/romasupportgroup.org.uk/file/d/0B2lw1_Krq5gnb00zeklEM3JaaGs/view)

The Welsh government responded to all the responses last month; it appears to be a very fair and comprehensive summary of what was said by the whole range of respondents. You can see the report here. Whatever the outcome, we believe that the Welsh government has shown itself to be much more open and responsive to the Roma presence in Wales, than the UK government is to Roma communities in England.

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## **News from Roma Support Group**

### **Consultation responses**

## **The Council of Europe: monitoring visit to the UK under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities**

The Roma Support Group was invited to meet the delegation visit in March 2016 who is responsible for the UK country report for the protection of national minorities. Unfortunately, we were not able to respond to this invitation, but instead, submitted the following statement and report. You can read it here.

[https://drive.google.com/a/romasupportgroup.org.uk/file/d/0B2lw1\\_Krq5gnU2xtb3dacVZ5aGs/view](https://drive.google.com/a/romasupportgroup.org.uk/file/d/0B2lw1_Krq5gnU2xtb3dacVZ5aGs/view)

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### **News from Roma Support Group**

#### **Forthcoming training events**

Two more training events organised by our support and engagement team. Both the training events will be focused on “*Working with Roma in the Safeguarding context*”. The first event is on Tuesday 19 April in Bristol at the Barton Hill Settlement; and the second event on Tuesday 5 July at Sheffield Hallam University (Cantor building, city centre campus). Both events run from 10am – 4pm.

For booking details and more information, click here.

<http://romasupportgroup.org.uk/?p=4011>

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### **News from National Roma Network (NRN)**

#### **Co-chair of the Network – nominations called for**

Migration Yorkshire is seeking nominations from members of the migrant Roma community for the position of Co-Chair of the National Roma Network (NRN). Nominations can be submitted by any member organisation, but each organisation can only submit one nomination. **PLEASE NOTE - All nominees must be members of the migrant Roma community.**

The role of the Network Co-Chair is:

- To co-chair Network Forum meetings and Working Group meetings alongside the Head of Migration Yorkshire;
- To represent the Network nationally;
- To increase Roma participation and meaningful involvement in the Network; and
- To help shape the direction of the Network including setting agendas for the Forum and advising on other elements of the Network as part of the Working Group.

The appointment is for the duration of the current NRN programme (until December 2018). The Network Forum normally meets three times per year. In addition, a small working group also meets a minimum of three times per year for agenda planning and to drive forward work between NRN meetings. Meetings take place around the UK. Please note there is no salary associated with this position, but Migration Yorkshire will cover reasonable travel costs to enable the Co-Chair to attend these meetings.

For more information, and the nomination form, see this link:

**If you/your organisation would like to put forward a nomination for this position, I would be grateful if you could complete the attached nomination form and return it to me, either by e-mail to**

**[Ewa.Jamroz@migrationyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:Ewa.Jamroz@migrationyorkshire.org.uk) by 12noon on Friday 15 April 2016.**

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## **National Roma Network – terms of reference**

### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of the National Roma Network Forum (NRNF) is to improve migrant Roma integration across the UK for the benefit of all communities.

### **Core objective**



2. The NRNF's core objective include:
  - To enable and support a national strategic approach to migrant Roma integration in the UK
  - To ensure a more joined-up approach to migrant Roma integration across sectors including Central Government, Local Government, other statutory organisation, voluntary sector, Roma groups and individuals
  - To increase Roma participation and involvement in policy across the UK
  - To ensure a strong united voice in influencing policy and practice affecting migrant Roma at national and local level
  - To enable exchange of information and share good practice

### **Accountability and Key Relationships**

3. The Metropolitan Migration Foundation provides funding for Migration Yorkshire to develop and support the National Roma Network as determined in the funding agreement.
4. The National Roma Network Work Group (NRNWG) acts as an advisory group to the National Roma Network project.

### **Working Arrangements: Chairing Arrangements**

5. The Chair will be the Head of Migration Yorkshire and the Co-Chair will be a member of the migrant Roma community.

### **Membership**

6. The core membership of NRNF will include:
  - Voluntary and community sector
  - Roma community groups and individuals
  - Local Authorities
  - National Government departments
  - Other statutory organisation (health, education, police)

- Universities and Researchers
- Gypsy and Traveller groups and individuals
- Funders

There is no limits to NRNF membership, however MY might need to restrict the number of people attending NRNF meetings due to venue capacity. This will be done in a way to ensure there is fair regional representation.

7. Further representation onto NRNF may be sought on an *ad hoc* basis. This will allow NRNF to respond flexibly to issues that arise.

### **Secretariat Support**

8. Secretariat and policy support will be provided by the Migration Yorkshire team.

### **Meeting Arrangements**

9. The NRN normally meets three times per year.

### **Travel Expenses**

10. Travel expenses are available for migrant Roma attendees described in the Travel Expenses Policy

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### **National Roma Network:**

**[Agenda for Network meeting, Friday 22 April @ Salford University \(Digital performance lab, MediaCity UK\)](#)**

**[Joint event with NATT+ \(National Association for Teachers of Travellers and other professionals\)](#)**

For free registration, please contact:

[Katie.Deighton@migrationyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:Katie.Deighton@migrationyorkshire.org.uk)

### **AGENDA**

10:00 Registration and refreshments

- 10:30 Welcome, overview and NRNF Co-Chair appointment - Dave Brown, Migration Yorkshire
- 10:45 NATT+ update - including current educational initiatives that impact on GRT children - Sue Mutter, NATT+ Exec and GRT Education and EMA Advisor, Redbridge
- 10:55 Issues with engagement of Roma organisations with LAs and schools - Assen Slavchev, Luton Roma Trust
- 11:05 Safeguarding in schools - Gaba Smolinska-Poffley, Roma Support Group & Dr Dan Allen, University of Salford
- 11:15 Roma pupils eligibility for Free School Meals, cuts in benefit entitlements and effects on Pupil Premium - Andy Shallice, Roma Support Group
- 11:25 Panel Q&A (morning speakers & Cllr John Warmisham, Salford City Council and Council of Europe)
- 11:55 Roundtable discussion – Challenges in education across the UK
- 12:30 Lunch and networking
- 13:15 The importance of high quality EAL and ESOL provision for Roma children and families - Jenny Patterson, NATT+ Exec and Safeguarding Lead for Education, Manchester City Council
- 13:25 Identifying and sharing good EAL practice in schools - Mark Sims, Ofsted
- 13:35 Addressing issues in education and work with schools and partners - Angela Greenwood, Sheffield City Council
- 13:45 Roma Saturday School - Petr Torak/Denisa Luptakova, COMPAS Peterborough
- 13:55 Role and work of Roma Education Support Trust (REST) - Denisa Gannon, President REST & Mark Penfold, Babbington College
- 14:05 Panel Q&A (afternoon speakers & Natalie Stables, President NATT+ and Head of Service, Salford EMTAS)

14:35	Roundtable discussion – Solutions to education issues 15:10 Summary and next steps
15:30	Close

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## Resources

### The extent of Roma integration in Glasgow – contrasting views

The Glasgow Evening Times carried an article in January about the arrival of a delegation of European cities to Glasgow, arranged by a trans-national aspect of the EU. You can read it [here](#). It might have been a well-intentioned piece of ‘civic boosterism’; but it raised issues that many Roma activists and non-Roma supporters have worried about. What do we mean by ‘Roma integration’? And what do we mean by ‘Roma leadership’? Do Roma NGOs, or voluntary groups, have to prioritise delivering services or promoting Roma self-organisation? What does the oft-used phrase ‘nothing about us without us’ mean in the context of Roma settlement and voice in the UK (or elsewhere in Europe) and the agenda of local municipal leaderships? We re-print Eva Kourova’s response to the Evening Times article. Eva is a paid worker for a Roma Youth Project in Glasgow who has been an active campaigner on Roma rights in Glasgow for ten years; she’s written this in her personal capacity. She thinks this is a vital issue; as she explained to us recently,

*Only this week I heard a phrase on Czech Radio that, “Roma parents need to get to understand that education for their children is the core.” Instead what should have been said, in my opinion, is that, “we need to make sure that our (Czech) education system is inclusive and focus our efforts on working with Roma parents to learn to trust the institution.”*

Here’s Eva’s response:

I have always been a great supporter of community development and I know that Roma people are as capable as any other migrant group to settle and integrate in the new society and live a prosperous life. But what really bugs me is the fact that we hold transnational conferences and meetings regarding Roma integration, we spent time on creating strategies to Roma integration

and we peer educate each other but in the same time we totally exclude the Roma people from this exercise. The parameters that determined Glasgow as a successful case study to me are therefore fake, because with true integration comes power, and with power come resources. To me if Glasgow was to be a lead expert on Roma integration, it would have to be prepared to give the power back to the Roma people themselves and have a strategy in place on how to support the Roma people to be able to use the power and resources in theirs and in others benefit. Just now Roma people don't have access to resources and have no powers over their general wellbeing which makes them more and more vulnerable and powerless. I don't think that Glasgow really needs specially designed projects targeting Roma people if the outcome of those will be ultimately Roma disadvantage on one side and power and resources on the other – even if the power and resources would be aimed at Roma communities. This I consider to be the biggest gap that needs to be addressed in order for Glasgow to be truly able to call itself a lead expert on Roma integration.

The people that use media as a tool to spread a message of Glasgow being successful in Roma integration couldn't therefore be further from the truth. Glasgow focuses the majority of its effort and resources on providing an integrated service to Roma families in Govanhill, a 16,000 resident area about a mile south of the city centre. Police, social work, health, education, employment service providers – they all work together to provide an integrated service to the supposedly 3,000 Roma residents living in the area. It is this number that brings additional resources to the area. Other localities are not as lucky as they never got this official 'number stamp' which truly determines where effort and energy will be spent. The Polish Roma community in Clydebank is a victim of this and they already start to feel the burden of Govanhill on their shoulders. Both these communities have been present in Scotland for over 10 years now, yet one is under constant surveillance of service providers, whilst the other is completely abandoned by the same people that claim to represent a city that is exceptional in Roma integration. If Glasgow was to be what it claims, then the Govanhill obsession would have to be addressed and all Roma communities supported. The current Glasgow Roma integration strategy therefore creates fraction amongst

the Roma people and reinforces conflict and jealousy within the Roma groups that are faced with a prospect of fighting for resources and power. This gap will have to be addressed by Glasgow, in order to become a true lead expert on Roma integration.

Coming from a not-for-profit organisation background, I would also like point to another significant gap that the current strategy is marginally overseeing, but acknowledging nevertheless. The power struggle is not just amongst Roma groups or between Roma and practitioners. The disintegration also exists between non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the city; the NGOs are widely referred to as a front line development rather than delivery service that works directly with Roma people and is largely concerned with the Roma leadership and active citizenship. Those topics are interesting for the city and the city recognises that the role of those organisations is crucial as it is understood that integrated service delivery will not resolve the real issue that Roma people in Glasgow have – lack of leadership figures. The current Roma integration strategy is largely represented by service delivery oriented individuals and the lack of Roma leadership won't be resolved by the current strategy unless lead NGOs are integrated into the movement. This disintegration makes the current strategy extremely vulnerable and this antagonises the two groups to work together as a team which doesn't look good on an international level. Those are the sore spots – the disintegration of the current integration strategy of Glasgow that in my opinion will have to be addressed sooner rather than later. An image without a core is ultimately prone to be discovered as a fake and ridiculed for being shallow.

(Re-produced with agreement from Govanhill Voice, February 2016)

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## Resources

**[Gypsy, Roma & Traveller children in the Welsh school system: promoting equality and tackling racism – a toolkit for teachers and practitioners \(Simbo, Bennett & Pidcock: Show Racism the Red Card in Wales; February 2016\)](#)**

This is a wonderful resource. The authors make clear its ambitions: to reduce racism against Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) pupils in schools; to support a curriculum which has relevant to all pupils, including GRT students; to provide a happy and relevant school experience for GRT young people; to build good relationships with GRT parents and the wider communities; and to support GRT students to feel greater confidence in the schools they attend. It has 56 pages packed with information, attractively presented and coded, and covering both Gypsies, and Travellers, and Roma communities and histories. It deals with the everyday (transition from primary to secondary), the essential (equality law and the framework of law) and the difficult (“be mindful of cultural dissonance”). The publication has loads of tips from professionals working in schools, and with children, as well as ideas for class based activities, and issues to reflect on. And it’s based upon the experience of Gypsy, Roma, Travellers in Wales – but obviously not limited to Wales.

Read it with our own recent publication; they fit together beautifully. To open it, click here.

<http://www.srtrc.org/uploaded/Promoting%20Equality%20%20Tackling%20Racism%20GRT%20Toolkit%20English%20Language.pdf>

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## Resources

### **[England’s most disadvantaged groups: Gypsies, Travellers and Roma \(Equality & Human Rights Commission; March 2016\)](#)**

The EHRC has produced what it calls four ‘spotlight reports’ on demographic groups who are the most disadvantaged in England. These reports look at the position of asylum seekers and refugees; people with learning disabilities, homeless people and Gypsies, Travellers and Roma. This is in marked contrast to the Commission’s five yearly report, produced last October, called *Is Britain Fairer?* This report managed to marginalise the experience of Gypsy, Roma, Travellers solely to experiencing stigma, bias and hostility. In over 120 pages, the only other point that the EHRC made, almost incidentally, was that the UK (government) had failed to make any progress on four of the steps aimed at

fighting discrimination set out in the 2011 framework for National Roma Integration Strategies.

This very short report – five pages of text, three pages of references – reviews the main issues of statistically observable disadvantage for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller. Readers of this newsletter won't be surprised by any of the material; you might be surprised how limited the material is. Educational disadvantage is reduced to the “attainment gap”, at reception stage and at 16; exclusion rates; GRT children being “subject to bullying”; and head teachers complaining about not being able to access resources. The huge issue of housing for Roma communities is not mentioned; and for Gypsy and Traveller populations, it is minimally dealt with under ‘work and standard of living’. There is nothing about language issues that underlay so much of the Roma access to services; and nothing about how migrant worker status has meant a denial of access to benefits and work through changes made by DWP.

It's available here.

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/uploads/IEF%20Gypsies%20Travellers%20and%20Roma.pdf>

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## **Resources**

### **[How to make a permanent residence application \(Colin Yeo, Free Movement blog\)](#)**

We have encouraged Roma who have been in the UK for over five years to consider confirming their presence to apply for permanent residence. Our friends at the AIRE Centre have run workshops about permanent residence throughout the country. And now one of the most attentive and informed lawyers, Colin Yeo, has written a blog which clearly and carefully explains how to make an application.

The contents are:

- What is permanent residence?
- How do I get permanent residence?
- Automatic nature of permanent residence



- Combining different qualifying activities for permanent residence
- Residence prior to the Citizens Directive
- Retained rights for EU citizens and family members
- Permanent residence not necessarily permanent
- Making a permanent residence application
  - Do I need to use the official EEA(PR) form to apply for permanent residence?
  - What evidence do I need to include in a permanent residence application?
- Naturalisation as a British citizen
- What should I do if my permanent residence application is refused?
  - EU free movement: guide to making an application in the UK

Read Colin's guidance and blog here.

<https://www.freemovement.org.uk/how-to-make-a-permanent-residence-application/>

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## Resources

### Recent news from and about the Department for Education

#### National Funding Formula – a consultation until 17 April 2016

The DfE has made proposals for a change in the way that schools will be funded. It is unclear what the impact that these changes will have, but the equality analysis of the consultation papers makes reference to the needs of Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils – and suggests that the changes would improve funding to support GRT pupils more effectively. We are unable to comment on these claims. But we think that it's important that as many people as possible look at the proposed changes in detail, and respond to the consultation.

The consultation papers are available here: The equality assessment is here; and the reference to GRT pupils is on page 9 (#15).

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula/>

[https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula/supporting\\_documents/Equality\\_analysis.pdf](https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula/supporting_documents/Equality_analysis.pdf)

The consultation response form is available here. The consultation closes on 17 April 2016.

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula/consultation/intro/view>

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### **GRT stakeholder group**

We make no apology for highlighting this again. In our last issue, we carried a three page statement arguing why the group should continue. We highlight above the possible changes to the way that schools are funded. This would be an item that could be considered by this stakeholder group. However, as it is not meeting, the DfE will not be able to discuss these proposed changes with representatives and stakeholders connected with Gypsy, Roma, Traveller students and families who might be affected by the changes. We are able to give you the response of a government minister to questions that Baroness Whitaker – as many will know, an active supporter of Gypsy, Roma, Traveller rights - has asked about the future of the stakeholder group. We are very concerned that this suggests that the government has every intention of closing this only consultative mechanism down. Read the minister's reply here:

Page 1 [https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2lw1\\_Krq5gndFpZU3pJdXVJM3M](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2lw1_Krq5gndFpZU3pJdXVJM3M)

Page 2

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2lw1\\_Krq5gnMmlNMjQ4LWWhSMlk](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2lw1_Krq5gnMmlNMjQ4LWWhSMlk)

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### **Other events**

**“Equalities in action: working with Gypsies, Roma, Travellers, Showpeople”**

**Cardiff, Friday 29 April, 9.30am – 4.30pm**

Romani Cultural & Arts Company have asked us to include this:

*“The Romani Cultural & Arts Company are pleased to welcome delegates on Friday 29 April 2016 to a stimulating training session focused on practical steps to working with the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller and Showpeople communities. The Romani Cultural & Arts Company is unique - a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller-led organisation that develops the community it serves from the inside-out. We provide a deep insight into everything ‘GRT’ in a way no other organisation can.*

*Who should attend this training?*

*This course is suitable for anyone interested in ensuring that their services are inclusive and accessible for the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities and Showpeople. It would be particularly useful for those who work in planning, housing and accommodation, equality, health, education, social services and the early years.*

*There will only be 50 places available so please book early to avoid disappointment. The cost for the day (to include light refreshments, lunch & VAT) is £130 per delegate, if you book before the Friday 8th April and £145 if you book between 8th April and 15th April. Places will only be secured with a confirmed payment”.*

Please email for a booking form to: [isaacblake@romaniarts.co.uk](mailto:isaacblake@romaniarts.co.uk)

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### **Film: Pampusza (Romani and Polish, English sub-titles, 2013)**

Just out on general release. A feature film which tells the story of Bronislawa Wajs’ life – known also by her given name as Pampusza (“Doll” – in English). She is the first and most acclaimed woman Roma/Gypsy poet, and the film traces her life from her birth in 2010 to her closing years in the 1980s. The music and the landscapes are mesmeric.

Watch the three minute trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/68443955>

Read the review from Culture PL here:

<http://culture.pl/en/work/papusza-krzysztof-krauze-joanna-kos-krauze>

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**Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily suggest that they are in accordance with the trustees of the Roma Support Group**