



Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Introduction



Welcome to our Annual Report 2016-17.

Although we now often talk about the 'uncertain', 'challenging' and 'difficult' times, NGOs, charities, voluntary and 'third' sector organisations have always been defined by the difficulties they aim to address.

It has always been our 'role' to recognise injustice and social inequalities and open up a possibility for change. Our organisational visions, missions, strategies and actions are set up to enable us to gradually shape the reality around us despite or perhaps because of 'challenging' times...

Each page of this report tells how we went about making this change, highlighting not only our achievements but also showing the tireless work of our Staff and Volunteers and the impact of their work on Roma communities in London and UK-wide.

Our frontline projects have offered vital support to those vulnerable Roma refugees and migrants, who would otherwise have struggled to exercise their rights. Our advice workers and advocates have assisted beneficiaries with issues related to poverty, homelessness and employability supporting higher numbers of people than in previous years with increasingly complex cases. The Aspiration Project offered education advocacy to young Roma to improve their experience in schools and in-depth support for those with multiple and complex needs. In all this work, we often deal with systems which have become more distant, impersonalised and hostile. I would like to thank our Staff and Volunteers for their dedication and fortitude employed in the service for those who need our support the most.

The experience of our frontline work enables us to recognise systemic problems and barriers. Last year, our Mental Health Project's approach went beyond facilitation of access to health services, opened discussions about mental health and increased beneficiaries' understanding about what to expect from mental health services. The Roma Community Advocacy Project explored ways to enhance community empowerment by turning 'weakness' into 'strength' through community training and a Forum Theatre which shares individual stories in search for solutions to problems faced.

Supporting Roma children and young people to fulfil their potential has continued to be a vital part of our services. The Roma Early Childhood Education Programme has made a real difference to children under 5 in terms of their confidence, while our Aspiration Project has continued its programme of mentoring and after school activities, which has inspired many young people to aim and dream high!

Our work on 'building bridges and breaking barriers' through karate and music has inspired and shaped young talent while attracting wider attention.

While karate classes have produced many medallists, young Roma and non-Roma musicians from the Roma Bridging Sounds Orchestra shared their enthusiasm and passion for Roma music with audiences including playing for the Music for Youth Proms 2016 at the Royal Albert Hall!

The Policy and Campaigning Project has continued to address disadvantages experienced by Roma refugees and migrants with Roma Champions as a driving force behind this work. Consultations with Roma communities in London and UK-wide as well as our frontline experience have informed our influencing work with decision makers and the debate about the Roma situation in the UK. It has also helped us to ensure that Roma communities have a strong voice on matters important to them through local/ regional campaigns.

Finally, we have continued to share our experience through training for professionals and commissioned interventions thus supporting Roma communities and building local capacity across Britain.

The following pages of this report will shed more light on the details of our work over the past year, none of which would be possible without the support from our Funders, Donors, Partners and the dedication of our Trustees, Staff and Volunteers. I would like to thank you all for your support, encouragement, enthusiasm, hard work and commitment. Together we need to be looking into the future, seek hope for Roma communities in Britain and build a confident society that is less afraid, less angry, more secure and more tolerant.

Roza Kotowicz
Chairperson

Our Mission

To improve the quality of life for Roma refugees and migrants by helping them to overcome prejudice, isolation and vulnerability.

To make the public aware of Roma culture, heritage and the current situation of Roma refugees and migrants in the UK.

Our Vision

Roma communities are empowered through the realisation that their strength lies within every individual and his/ her fulfilment as a member of society.

Roma Support Group History

1998

RSG is established at a meeting attended by over 80 Roma people at the Holy Cross Church in Kings Cross.

1999

An advice service and social activities are launched at our first base at St Stephens Church in Royal Oak.

2007

The First London Roma Talent Show is organised. The grand finale takes place at Stratford Circus.

2000

Advice services start at White City Community Centre and Froud Community Centre in Manor Park.

2008

Organising the first national celebration of the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month in London and Leeds

2001

A grant from the Association of London Government enables us to develop our Advice & Advocacy Project.

2010

Organising 'The Big Issue for Roma: Exclusion or Engagement?' conference Old Town Hall, Stratford

2002

Our new venue in Harold Road Centre in Upton Park is opened.

2011

Launch of Roma Support & Engagement Programme, our first national project

An expansion of our services and the establishment of an art and sport project takes place thanks to funding from the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

2012

Organising an exhibition, 'From India to Islington: a 1,000 Year Roma Journey', in partnership with Islington Museum.

2003

The production of our first publication - 'Colours of Hope: A Little Book by Roma Refugee Children for Everybody'

2013

Release of CD, 'Roma Youth Music', recorded by young Roma and their teachers.

2004

We move to a new office in Canning Town and centralise our work in east London.

2014

Launch of The Roma Bridging Sounds Orchestra in partnership with Newham Music.

2005

Release of CD 'Journey' by our cultural project Romani Rad.

2016

Publishing reports: 'Education - a Roma Perspective' and 'Rough Sleeping Roma in the City of Westminster'.

2006

Launch of the DVD, 'Be Roma or Die Tryin'

Release of CD 'Roma Bridging Sounds Orchestra'

Participation in oral history project 'Belonging: Voices of London's Refugees' at the Museum of London.

Staff Profiles

Advice and Advocacy Casework Supervisor (P/T)

Supervising and supporting Community Advice and Advocacy Workers, overseeing their training needs and ensuring that our advice service adheres to the Advice Quality Standard (AQS)

Art Development Co-ordinator (P/T)

Developing art programmes for Roma children and young people; coordinating Bridging Sounds Roma Orchestra; organising and participating in cultural and art events

Aspiration Project Worker (P/T)

Providing educational advocacy and empowering young Roma to achieve and aspire through organising sport activities, mentoring, homework support and other after-school activities

Chief Executive (F/T)

Overall coordination/ management of the organisation and its activities; staff recruitment and supervision; policy planning and development; fundraising and financial management; publicity and promotion; office management

Community Advice and Advocacy Worker (P/T)

Addressing the needs of Roma service users and providing advice, information, advocacy and language support with particular emphasis on Roma families and vulnerable people

Deputy Manager (P/T)

Supporting overall co-ordination and management of the organisation and office management

Early Years Project Coordinator (P/T)

Coordinating a programme of Early Years activities in collaboration with the Altmere Children Centre and parenting sessions

Mental Health Advocacy Project Coordinator (P/T)

Coordinating a programme of mental health advocacy and raising awareness of health professionals about Roma

Mental Health Advocates (P/T)

Providing 1-2-1 mental health advocacy service for Roma refugees and migrants in order to facilitate their access to statutory mental health services

Office Maintenance (P/T)

Keeping our working environment safe and clean



Policy & Information Workers (P/T)

Influencing policies which affect Roma refugees and migrants, ensuring that Roma voice is effectively communicated to policy makers, the media and other key stakeholders

Roma Advocacy & Campaigning Project Workers (F/T – job share)

Developing a Roma-led advocacy and campaign programme to enhance empowerment, civic participation and social inclusion of Roma refugees and migrants in London

Roma Community Advocacy Project Co-ordinators (F/T – job share)

Coordinating a programme of 1-2-1 and peer advocacy, including training sessions and Forum Theatre workshops

Roma Support & Engagement Programme Leaders (P/T)

Providing support to statutory and non-statutory organisations working with Roma communities across the UK through training and consultancy work

Roma Early Years Champions (Sessional Staff)

Outreach work and facilitating Early Years sessions in collaboration with the Altmere Children's Centre in East London

Roma Karate Tutor (Sessional Staff)

Delivering karate sessions for Roma and non-Roma children in East London

Roma Music Tutors (Sessional Staff)

Teaching Roma music and facilitating rehearsals of the Roma Bridging Sounds Orchestra

Roma Support & Engagement Programme (Sessional Staff)

Co-delivering training for professionals and commissioned services

Volunteers

The Roma Support Group has been able to achieve much more than its resources would allow thanks to the hard work, enthusiasm and dedication of our Volunteers. They are involved in and help with all projects, e.g.: Advice & Advocacy, Arts (music, forum theatre), Aspiration, Policy & Campaigning projects, as well as website, graphic design, interpreting and administration.

The Roma Support Group has also benefited from its partnership with the Erasmus + Programme and Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP), which enabled us to host Volunteers from an EU country on a full time basis for the duration of one year.

During the last year 26 Volunteers have contributed an average of 113 hours per week! Thank you!



"... I would never imagine that at my age (19) I could become a member of the staff team. I truly felt like that thanks to my RSG colleagues. They are all in their own way amazing, creative, extra-skilled and what's not obvious... soft hearted. I couldn't imagine a better team to work with and to learn from. They became my new 'teachers', giving me the opportunity to progress and develop. In this way, step by step I became more confident in what I have been doing.

It has been demanding sometimes but I realise that if something is challenging and you overcome that, that's the only way you can actually learn and feel satisfaction afterwards...

The experiences I've had at the RSG made me a more mature person and will stay with me forever....

I did not have any contact with Roma people before I came to London, so their 'world' was something new for me. [During my placement at the RSG] I could listen to their stories, hopes and fears. I tried to understand them and help as much as I could. They became part of my 'story'... That's how I understand volunteering now, that you have to become part of someone's life, so someone could become part of yours."

Karolina Piecuch, EVS/ARSP Volunteer

"Volunteering at the RSG offers an opportunity to be part of a friendly, hard-working team of Roma and non-Roma staff in a busy and interesting office. I worked with the Mental Health Advocacy's team, helping to build a directory of contacts to enable training to be undertaken with staff of local healthcare services.

Raising awareness about the needs of Roma community members is the first step to improving access to appropriate services... I was able to see the positive outcomes of this ground-breaking project and to feel that I had contributed in a small way to its success. I am looking forward to returning as a volunteer with the RSG later this year."

Felicity Bonel, RSG Volunteer

"When I do my volunteering as an advice worker I never know what issues my clients will bring me: it is always interesting and often sheds a new light on the convoluted workings of the system...I really feel grateful to be allowed to help and receive the (rather undeserved) gratitude of clients.

And a big thanks to all the community language speakers at the RSG, who interpret for me and all the colleagues who help me when I am stuck on the computer."

Pauline Rowe, RSG Volunteer

Highlights of achievements & activities

Advice & Advocacy

Our Advice and Advocacy support enables Roma beneficiaries to overcome some of the problems, which they face every day, i.e.: poverty, homelessness, housing issues, health inequalities and employability problems. This support is delivered from our two centres in East and West London (Canning Town and White City) through appointments and a drop-in system.

Among our beneficiaries are some of the most vulnerable and excluded members of the Roma community, including: older people, single parents, people with mental health issues and physical disabilities. They are mainly residents of the London Boroughs of Newham, Hammersmith & Fulham, Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham, Brent, Ealing, Enfield and Waltham Forest.

During the last year we have offered this support to 2,890 Roma refugees and migrants from Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Czech Republic, Lithuania and the Balkan region, achieving the following outcomes:

- **75%** of beneficiaries had reduced poverty through debt management and access to welfare system;
- **29%** of beneficiaries were prevented from homelessness;
- **19%** of beneficiaries had improved employability skills.

Roma Housing Advocacy Project

The aim of this Project is to enhance integration of Roma migrants by addressing their housing needs and homelessness issues in London through a combination of one-to-one advocacy, community training and policy initiatives.

During the last year, the Project supported 172 beneficiaries with their homelessness and housing related issues, including homeless applications, evictions, housing benefit, housing register, disrepair and deposit dispute.

55% of beneficiaries reported an improvement in their housing situation as a result of the Project's one-to-one advocacy.

In partnership with Deighton Pierce Glynn Solicitors, the Project also organised two community training sessions (i.e. eviction proceedings and access to social housing). As a result, 73% of beneficiaries reported an increased knowledge in their housing rights and 93% of beneficiaries reported an increased confidence to share their views.

"Your support is vital especially for those of us who are vulnerable and have language barriers. We are very happy that we are not on our own and that Roma Support Group is here to help us." (Roma beneficiary, L. B. Hammersmith and Fulham)

"I'm very glad because without this office I would not manage... thank you for everything." (Roma beneficiary, L. B. Waltham Forest)

"Without RSG's help I would have been lost. They have been like a family to me and have helped me with my housing and mental health problems. I feel confident thanks to their support..." (Roma beneficiary, L. B. Newham)

Roma Community Advocacy Project



The aim of this Project is to reduce the social exclusion of Roma refugees and migrants in London by empowering them to bring about change in their communities through one-to-one advocacy, community training sessions, consultations with service providers and decision makers, focus group meetings, and the Forum Theatre.

During the last year, our achievements included:

470 Roma community members benefited from one-to-one advocacy & floating support;

5 Roma Peer Advocates were supported and trained, which empowered them to participate in meetings with decision makers and professionals from education, social care, health and local/ central authorities;

136 Roma community members participated in 6 peer advocacy training workshops, which enabled them to learn more about their rights;

45 Roma community members participated in 24 Forum Theatre sessions and 4 performances, with 174 beneficiaries in the audience. The themes explored barriers to health services, issues faced by Roma women (e.g. barriers to employment, childcare, school attendance, DV and housing issues), and mental health problems.

The impact of combined one-to-one and group advocacy tools has led to a greater empowerment of Roma migrants resulting in:

- Increased confidence to manage their lives independently for 400 beneficiaries;
- Improved employability skills and learning opportunities for 406 beneficiaries;
- Improved health awareness, well-being and emotional resilience for 479 beneficiaries;
- Increased levels of social interaction and reduced levels of isolation for 571 beneficiaries.

"I attended training on the migrants' rights and it was very useful. I told other Roma about our rights as well." (Roma beneficiary, 59 years old)

"I've been coming here for 10 years and I learned a lot. I can deal with many things undoubtedly now and only come to you when I'm not confident I can do it myself." (Roma woman, 43 years old)

"The Forum helped me to feel more confident to stand up when dealing with someone from authorities. Now I am not afraid if I have to speak with someone from the council - I wouldn't let them just to dismiss me." (Roma beneficiary, 47 years old)

"I liked the training. I just need to act now." (Roma beneficiary, 28 years old)

Mental Health Advocacy Project

The Roma Mental Health Advocacy Project aims to:

- Improve access to mental health services;
- Enhance Roma beneficiaries' confidence in using mental health services;
- Support health professionals in engaging with Roma patients.

Mental health can be a highly sensitive subject for many members of the Roma community, as stigmatisation of mental health issues creates fear of disclosure and reluctance to engage with services. The Project's approach thus goes beyond facilitation of access to services, and seeks to stimulate open discussion of mental health. With this in mind, the Project has hosted a series of community meetings between Roma beneficiaries and mental health professionals, in which community members can gain first-hand experience of mental health communication and better understand what to expect from mental health services.

In addition to supporting discussions of mental health, the Project has achieved the following key outcomes:

141 Roma beneficiaries received support through one-to-one mental health advocacy sessions and/ or peer support group meetings – double our annual target – with 71% reporting increased understanding of mental health issues and services and 43% reporting increased ease of access to mental health services;

164 professionals received support from the Project through cultural awareness training seminars or direct consultation with members of the Project team. 76% reported improved knowledge of Roma health.

"I was referred to talking therapies and I am also supported by mental health team worker. They provide floating support, so I do not have to attend office appointments, which is very difficult due to my complex health problems." (Roma beneficiary)

"Before I didn't want to use mental health services but with support from RSG team I've started to use them." (Roma beneficiary)

"This has changed my perception and boosted my confidence to work effectively with this community." (Health professional)

"I feel more knowledgeable and less likely to stereotype as a result of your training." (Health professional)

Aspiration Project



Bloomsbury Festival, Dance Workshop, 2016

During last year, 118 young Roma benefited from our one-to-one education advocacy and outreach support which assisted them with school registrations/ transitions, exclusion appeals, access to education welfare provisions, CV writing, disability, bullying and Child Protection conferences.

The Project also supported young Roma to participate in after-school activities, such as karate club, dance sessions and the Roma Bridging Sounds Orchestra as well as taking part in sport tournaments, concerts, dance performances and outings.

As a result of the Project's activities:

- **55%** of beneficiaries increased their life aspirations and satisfaction with their educational attainment;
- **53%** of beneficiaries enhanced their self-confidence in relation to their areas of interest such as sport, music and arts;
- **49%** of beneficiaries felt that their health and well-being have improved due to their participation in sporting activities and an increased level of health awareness.

The Roma Aspiration Project supports Roma migrant and refugee children and young people through a combination of one-to-one education advocacy, in-depth outreach work and a programme of after-school activities and outings. These activities shape our holistic approach to working with young Roma people aiming to enhance their self-confidence, life aspirations and to improve their health and well-being.

Karate - Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers:

"I have realised that our culture is beautiful. We need to share it with other people. Showing our culture through dance and music is the best possible way for [non-Roma] people to know us."

(Young Roma)

"Being a volunteer has helped me a lot. I had to learn new tasks and become a responsible adult. This gave me confidence to look for a job and now I work as a teaching assistant."

(Young Roma)

"I'm in full support with what you are doing because I would like my child to have a different life than I had, be educated and have a good job."

(Roma parent)

20 Medals



During last year, 15 young Roma and non-Roma people took part in our karate sessions in East London, which focus on building self-confidence and strengthening mental and physical development.

By engaging local Roma and non-Roma young people, karate also plays an important role in developing their social skills and community cohesion.

Last year, our Roma Karate Club has impressed the judges during FSKA London Cup, English Championships and International Karate Tournament, winning **20** gold, silver and bronze medals in kata and kumite categories.



"Usually when new students come, they do not have much confidence in their abilities. After several sessions, they gain confidence, make friends and are excited to learn."

(Karate Tutor)

"Now I know that if you work hard, no matter where you come from and what colour is your skin, you can be whoever you want. I have won several gold medals in tournaments. I am proud of being Roma and I always say it...I want to become a professional karate teacher - sky is the limit..."

(Young Roma)

Arts Development Project



RBSO, Youth Proms, 2016

**"It is cool having Roma and non-Roma musicians sharing traditional music."
(Young musician)**

The Roma Bridging Sounds Orchestra (RBSO) is a pioneering music initiative aiming to promote tolerance and combat anti-Roma prejudice by enhancing awareness of Roma music heritage in East London and beyond. The Project builds bridges between Roma and non-Roma young people, musicians and audiences and is delivered in partnership with Newham Music.

The Project also focuses on training young Roma to develop music skills, team work and confidence in an environment that is culturally diverse and celebratory of their rich musical tradition.

Last year, the Project engaged Roma and non-Roma young people in regular orchestra rehearsals and performances at music events, including playing for the Music for Youth Proms 2016 at the Royal Albert Hall.

As a result of the Project, young Roma and non-Roma musicians increased their knowledge and understanding of progression routes by having opportunities to progress to the Advance String Group, Newham Music Youth Orchestra, Arts Awards Bronze Scheme, and the London Symphony Orchestra "On-Track" Scheme. As winners of a Music Youth Partnership Award, they also received mentoring from students at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

The RBSO has become an important vehicle to enhance tolerance and cultural understanding:

100% of non-Roma young musicians reported having better understanding of Roma arts, culture and their musical heritage;

70% of non-Roma young musicians want to know more about Roma culture and history.

For more information about the RBSO, please see the evaluation report by Sounds Connections (2016) on our website:

https://drive.google.com/files/d/0B2lw1_Krq5gnek1uU0NCTnNyWTg/view



RBSO, Rehearsal, 2016



Roma Early Childhood Education Programme (RECEP)

The RECEP aims to tackle the multiple disadvantages faced by Roma refugee and migrant children in London by:

- enhancing social inclusion of Roma children 0-5 years old;
- developing partnerships with Roma parents as the first educators of their children during the early years and empower them to participate in the UK education system thereby preparing their children for entry to mainstream education in the UK;
- creating a high quality, child-centred, play-based early learning and care environment for young Roma children;
- developing Roma professional capacity in the field of Early Childhood Education.



The Project is delivered in partnership with the Altmore Children's Centre to run weekly 'Stay and Play' sessions for Roma children under 5 years old and their parents.

The Project has also delivered a Roma Parent Support Programme for parents and carers based on 'Parenting with Confidence' modules adapted to suit Roma in the UK context, which enabled them to gain greater awareness of their child's development as well as giving them more confidence as users of the Early Years' education system.

Furthermore, parents have benefitted from our weekly advice sessions delivered by the Roma Early Years Advice Worker, who has assisted families with their housing needs, employability, welfare, as well as helping them to access education and health services.

The Project has made a real difference for Roma children who have attended the Centre regularly. They have learned to better interact with other children and staff members, and have become more confident and self-assured.



"Stay & Play" Sessions at Altmore Children's Centre 2016-2017



The Roma Early Education Champions have attended training in Early Years Education and Child Protection, worked alongside Early Years professionals, coordinated focus groups for parents, co-delivered training sessions for professionals, thus increasing their confidence and professional capacity in the field of Early Childhood Education.

"...It's good that families are now registered and can access services in other Children's centres as well." (Altmore Early Years Outreach Lead)

"At the beginning I wanted my daughter to be more independent. She is talking in English now and it is good to see my daughter playing, talking and learning like this, she loves coming here."

(Roma parent)

Roma Support & Engagement Programme (RSEP)

The RSEP aims to support statutory and voluntary agencies to respond effectively to the needs of Roma refugees and migrants across the UK.

Our services include:

- ◆ A specialist intervention service for professionals working with Roma families and individuals in crisis;
- ◆ Training for professionals and the community;
- ◆ Specialist support for research and consultation.

Last year, we delivered:

36 training sessions and presentations including: 14 training sessions, 7 presentations at conferences, 3 presentations at the WHAT training and 12 presentations for the Roma Culture Awareness programme (NHS Locality Fund/Newham Clinical Commissioning Group/CCG)

10 commissioned interventions to support Children's Services, court proceedings in relation to child protection cases, NGOs, Newham CCG/NHS services as well as other services and research across the country.

Through the training sessions and commissions we have supported 1,049 professionals who work with over 2,817 Roma individuals (i.e. 598 families and 126 individuals).

Roma Policy & Campaigning Project

Roma Policy & Campaigning Project aims to promote social justice and address disadvantage experienced by Roma refugees and migrants in the UK through:

- ◆ Enhancing social inclusion and civic partnership of Roma refugees and migrants by developing Roma-led campaigning work;
- ◆ Increasing Roma participation in local decision making processes;
- ◆ Encouraging practice that is more responsive to the needs of Roma migrants;

Over 97% of respondents rated our training as 'excellent' or 'good'. Six Roma professionals took part in the delivery of this programme acting as consultants, interpreters and trainers.

For more information about our training and commissions, please see:

http://romasupportgroup.org.uk/?page_id=62 or contact us on rsep@romasupportgroup.org.uk

"Thank you very much for presenting a very informative and valuable training course last week. This has been one of the most interesting courses I have attended on behalf of my organisation. I have also found the reports on your website to be of great value, in particular the report on Roma Rough Sleeping in the City of Westminster."

(Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association)

"I attended some excellent safeguarding training with your organisation last year that has made a real positive impact with my contact with the Roma community. I work as an advocate for children in Rotherham going through the Child Protection Conference process."

(Bernardo's Priory Family Campus)

"Everyone who has contact with Roma people in their work should do your training! It still surprises me how ignorant some people are in their attitudes..., people who've been working with Roma for a long time and really should have some understanding...! Thanks."

(Community Learning Champion Sheffield)

- ◆ Influencing and co-shaping national and European policies which affect Roma refugees and migrants, ensuring that their voice/perspectives are effectively communicated to the UK Government, European Union, statutory sector, the media and other key stakeholders.

"This project gave me the chance to talk face to face with people who make important decisions; it helped me understand better my rights and gave me more confidence to speak to others."

(Roma beneficiary)

Last year's work included:

Policy:

- Publishing our statement on the Outcome of the Referendum on EU Membership;
- Creation of a Brexit advice page on our website;
- Submission to Lammy Review regarding treatment of Roma by criminal justice system.

Relationship with senior civil servants:

- Engaging with the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) staff about use of EU funds to support Roma training and employment opportunities;
- Submission to select committee inquiry about UK Government policy towards Roma (and Gypsies and Travellers)

Lobbying Parliamentarians:

- Contributions to meetings of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers, including briefing on Roma & Brexit;
- Migration APPG: made submission to their call for evidence "Beyond the Highly Skilled: the needs of other economic migration stakeholders."

Representing UK Roma to EU:

- Commissioned by the Fundamental Rights Agency to complete research study on Roma (and Gypsies and Travellers) in the UK (including population distribution, local council contacts, voluntary agencies, research studies);
- Commentary on the progress of Roma integration for the European Commission assessment under the Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in Member States.

Networking:

- Participating in the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) Roundtable: Roma Communities and Brexit to launch their new report on supporting the integration of Roma communities in the UK for which we were research participants;
- Participating in the panel facilitated by the National Roma Network, "Brexit - what does it mean for Roma?"

Newsletter:

- Publishing 5 issues of our e-newsletters



Roma-led Advocacy & Campaigning:

- Supporting 14 Roma Champions to enhance their knowledge regarding their rights in the UK and campaigning skills;
- Community consultations meetings regarding: collaboration with Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and the Holocaust Commission, Brexit concerns and UK residence rights, hate crime, accessing public services, homelessness and housing rights, employment rights;
- Strategic meetings with decision makers, including Newham Council, MET police, etc;
- Organising quarterly meetings of the Roma Refugee and Migrant Forum in East London;
- Delivering workshops for primary and secondary school children in Newham, Redbridge and Barking & Dagenham;
- Co-facilitating "Roma Culture Awareness Training" for professionals across the UK to improve their knowledge and understanding of the Roma history and culture and increase their confidence in working with or on behalf of the Roma community.



Looking Ahead:

- ◆ Continuing to develop all our existing frontline projects;
- ◆ Developing our local and national policy and campaigning work in order to empower Roma communities and strengthen our effectiveness to influence policy and decision makers;
- ◆ Further developing the Roma Support and Engagement Programme, which enables us to share our expertise and models of good practice with statutory and non-statutory agencies and develop our enterprising skills;
- ◆ Promoting an understanding of Roma culture and history through the delivery of the Oral History Project;
- ◆ Implementing our fundraising strategy in order to ensure the continuity of frontline services in areas of advice & advocacy, education support, health-related projects, as well as art, policy and campaigning work.

Financial Statement

Extracts from the audited financial statement for the year ended 31 January 2017

Extracts from the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 January 2017

	Unrestricted Funds 2017	Restricted Funds 2017	Total Funds 2017	Total Funds 2016
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations	13,644	261,648	275,292	268,123
Charitable activities	40,434	-	40,434	35,516
Investments*	31	-	31	41
Other**	131	-	131	168
Total income	54,240	261,648	315,888	303,848
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	487	32,549	33,036	29,659
Charitable activities:				
Advice, Advocacy & Campaigning	-	145,874	145,874	134,383
Art & Music Development	-	44,636	44,636	36,671
Early Years Education	-	18,469	18,469	10,304
Education Support	-	24,506	24,506	33,827
Mental Health Advocacy	-	41,570	41,570	7,207
Sport Inclusion	4,112	-	4,112	3,904
Support & Engagement Project	39,880	-	39,880	52,035
Total expenditure	44,479	307,604	352,083	308,792
Net income/(expenditure)	9,761	(45,956)	(36,195)	(4,942)
Transfer between funds	(25,736)	25,736	-	-
Net movement in funds	(15,975)	(20,220)	(36,195)	(4,942)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	123,400	110,424	233,824	238,766
Total funds carried forward	107,425	90,204	197,629	233,824

Extracts from the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 January 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	-	-
Current assets		
Accounts receivable	3,735	5,098
Accrued grant income	480	-
Prepayments	1,402	1,639
Cash at bank and in hand	319,533	281,521
	<u>325,120</u>	<u>288,258</u>
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	(127,491)	(54,434)
Net current assets	197,629	233,824
Net assets	197,629	233,824
Funds of the charity		
Restricted funds	90,204	110,424
Unrestricted funds:		
Designated funds	38,200	-
General funds	85,200	-
	<u>107,425</u>	<u>123,400</u>
Net assets	197,629	233,824

The full audited financial statements were prepared in accordance with section 415A of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and FRS 102 Section 1A.

They were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 27 October 2017.

A full set of audited financial statements is available on request from the charity's registered office. The accounts were audited by Vivek Kapoor, Senior Statutory Auditor, for and on behalf of Ferguson Maldred & Co.

Thanks to...

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who supported the work of the Roma Support Group during 2016-17 through grants and the donation of their valuable time.

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Trip to Natural History Museum 2016

Volunteers:

Blanka Búza, Felicity Bonel, Andrew Copeland, Aneta Dolinska, Sean French, Rebekka Hölzle, Adam Jack, Klarysa Głowacka, Andy Ingmire, Sara Kwiatkowska, Ana Safia Munro, Maria Loredana Oane, Anna Lowenstein, Jeremy O'Callaghan, Ewa Paczkowska, Karolina Piecuch, Joanna Pienkowska, Priyanka Raval, Cate Rickards, Pauline Rowe, Barda Sanford, Jack Sharp, Hugh Smith, Marysia Szapszowicz, Iga Szczodrowska, Anita Wesółowska, Peter Williams, Kimberly Zawacki

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Odin Charitable Trust
Open Society Foundation
The National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund
The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund
The Rayne Foundation
Trust for London
University of Salford

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Front cover clockwise from top left: Dada's leaving party, 2016; Roma Culture Awareness Training, 2017; Early Years activities at the Almore Children's Centre, 2017; RSG staff, 2017; Roma Dance Workshop, Bloomsbury Festival, 2016

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