



Annual Report

2018/2019

ROMA
SUPPORT GROUP



Introduction

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Deafened and dominated by Brexit - like everyone in Britain - Roma communities have been coping with a lot of confusion and uncertainty during the past 12 months. Determined that recent Roma immigration history (see below: our Timeline, April 2004) must not be repeated in post-Brexit Britain, the RSG have developed a strategy and action plan to voice concerns of Roma migrant communities and address difficulties they face when applying for the EU Settlement Scheme. The pages of this report will outline our policy and campaigning work done in collaboration with our colleagues from other NGOs, Roma activists, parliamentarians and legal experts to ensure that all Roma migrants can fully exercise their rights to Settled Status in Britain, “a country which we love and where our children can be properly educated.”

Simultaneously, our Staff and Volunteers were dedicated to supporting Roma families and individuals through a wide range of frontline projects including Advice & Advocacy related to poverty, homelessness and employability; Aspiration Project for young people; Mental Health Advocacy and Early Childhood Education Programme. All these projects offered one-to-one support alongside with group activities such as community workshops, parental training programme, peer-advocacy support sessions, Forum Theatre rehearsals– aiming to empower community members with the knowledge about their rights in Britain and confidence to exercise them.

Parallel to that aspect of our work, we continued to raise awareness amongst teachers, health professionals, social workers, and local authorities about our communities’ history, culture, needs and aspirations. Our Roma Support & Engagement Programme continued to share our experience through training for professionals and commissions thus helping to develop local capacity across Britain to support Roma communities. At the same time, the Roma Oral History Project utilised Roma knowledge and histories, which have been ‘passed down’ across generations to produce a digital Teachers’ Resource Pack, which will be used in the school curriculum for Year 5 and 6.

The following pages of this report will shed more light on the details of our work during the past year, none of which would be possible without

generous support from our Funders, Donors, Partners, and the dedication of our Trustees, Staff and Volunteers. We would like to thank you all for your support, encouragement, enthusiasm, commitment and hard work. Together, we can be more confident in looking into the future and contribute to building a less divided, equal and tolerant society.

Sylvia Ingmire, CEO & Roza Kotowicz, Chair

Our Mission

We aim to empower the Roma community with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to challenge any discrimination that might prevent them from integrating into UK society and fulfilling their potential.

In parallel, we aim to raise awareness and help build an understanding of Roma culture, heritage and the challenges which Roma refugees and migrants face in the UK today.

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.



RSG's 20th Anniversary: "Workshops on Brexit, gripping educational drama on child protection, lively democratic elections, amazing food, children drawing, foot-tapping Roma electronic music, dignified elders dancing with abandon: as ever, the AGM of the Roma Support Group is the best party in the Roma Civil Rights movement... See you all next year!"

(Prof. Thomas Acton, OBE, Patron of the RSG)



The RSG has been able to achieve much more than its resources would allow thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers.

During 2018-19, **25** volunteers helped with all our projects, e.g. Advice & Advocacy, Arts (forum theatre and visual art), Aspiration, Mental Health, Early Years, Oral History, Policy & Campaigning projects, as well as website, graphic design, interpreting and administration. Furthermore, the RSG has benefited from its partnership with the Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, which enables us to host volunteers from an EU country on a full-time basis for the duration of one year.

During the last year our volunteers have contributed an average **162** hours per week, which equals the manpower of 4.6 (Full Time Equivalent) members of staff.

Thank you!

"During the past year, I collected a 'baggage' of knowledge & skills, which I can use in the future to work towards making the world a more inclusive and just place...Last year, I had an opportunity to support clients in Advice & Advocacy project, help them with their applications for Settled Status, be engaged in the Oral History project, help with the very first edition of Roma News (exciting!), co-organise a Youth Club and much, much more! It was the best decision in my life to come here & become part of this big family and I'm grateful for everything I've learntFrom the bottom of my heart, I would like to say 'Thank You' to all members of the Roma community whom I had a chance to meet & all RSG staff for their trust and support..."

(Asia Matera, Volunteer)



Timelines

History of Roma Migration in the UK

and

History of the Roma Support Group

1989 - 1990


The collapse of communism in Europe marks the beginning of a new migration westwards as racially-motivated violence against Roma increases.


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.

Last year, we have offered this support to **1,616** Roma refugees and migrants from Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Lithuania and the Balkan region, achieving the following outcomes:

 **83%** of beneficiaries had reduced poverty through debt management and access to welfare system;

 **20%** of beneficiaries were prevented from homelessness;

 **6%** of beneficiaries had improved employability skills.

"Advice service has helped me to understand different issues and gave me information, so I can manage some difficult situations on my own."

(Roma Beneficiary)



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.

Roma Community Advocacy Project

Roma Community Advocacy Project's aim was 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. Last year, our achievements included:



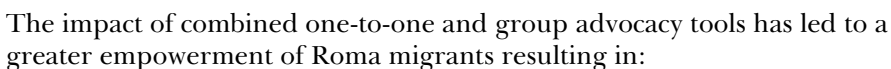
- ❁ **424** Roma community members benefited from one-to-one advocacy & floating support;
- ❁ **7** Roma Peer Advocates were supported and trained, which empowered them to participate in meetings with decision makers and professionals from education, social care, health and local/central authorities;
- ❁ **206** Roma community members participated in 9 peer advocacy training workshops, which enabled them to learn more about their rights and responsibilities within the British system;
- ❁ **20** Roma community members participated in **24** Forum Theatre sessions including **4** performances, with **190** beneficiaries in the audience, exploring safeguarding issues and difficulties in accessing health services.



1990s – 2004

Roma asylum-seekers from Eastern/Central Europe arriving in UK are met with hostile reaction of British media. Roma asylum claims are refused by the Home Office point-blank on the basis of

failing to demonstrate “a well-founded fear of persecution” within the terms of the 1951 United Nations’ Convention in their countries of origin.



- Increased confidence to manage their lives independently for **411** beneficiaries;
- Improved employability skills and learning opportunities for **145** beneficiaries;
- Improved health awareness, well-being and emotional resilience for **327** beneficiaries;
- Increased levels of social interaction and reduced levels of isolation for **353** beneficiaries.

"I felt relaxed, comfortable but most importantly, I felt delighted that I was given the opportunity to show other professionals what barriers Roma face, and also encourage other Roma not to be shy about using Romanes language in public places and to feel more pride in disclosing one's ethnic identity."

(Roma Beneficiary)

2000

An advice service starts at White City Community Centre and Froud Community Centre in Manor Park.

2001

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

Roma Mental Health Advocacy Project

Roma Mental Health Advocacy Project aims to:

- 🌻 Enhance Roma community members' understanding of mental health issues;
- 🌻 Improve access to mental health services for Roma beneficiaries;
- 🌻 Support mental health professionals in engaging with Roma patients and enhancing their understanding of the Roma community and culture.

Last year, the Project has supported **136** beneficiaries in securing referrals to mental health services and ensuring that they are satisfied with the quality of mental health care that they are receiving. Our casework included supporting beneficiaries, who were undergoing inpatient psychiatric treatment, family therapy, assisting young people accessing the mental health service, etc.

In addition to face-to-face advocacy, we have also organised **11** peer support and mental health awareness sessions, which have focused on equipping beneficiaries with mental health coping strategies, mindfulness and understanding about the methods of accessing mental health services. As many beneficiaries expressed increased fears and anxieties related to Brexit, we also organised a session on managing mental health issues in light of immigration insecurity.



2002

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

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

2003

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



As a result of the Project's activities,

🌸 **86%** of beneficiaries reported increased understanding of mental health issues/ services;

🌸 **71%** of beneficiaries reported that the Project has increased accessibility of mental health services;

🌸 **57%** reported increased satisfaction with mental health services and

🌸 **57%** reported increased self-empowerment when interacting with health professionals.

"Therapy helped me a lot. I have more faith in myself and I feel more confident. I had a good relationship with my psychologist and I feel safe because if something will happen again, I know where to seek help."

(Roma Beneficiary)

The Project has also supported **129** health professionals through Roma Culture Awareness training, direct consultations and leaflets for mental health professionals enhancing their understanding of Roma culture and health needs.

"I'm still talking about your training with my team, my husband and everyone I meet because I found it so valuable. Loads of tips regarding communication & really good balance between interactive and theory."

(Specialist Nurse)



5-14 April 2004

The Home Office informs 2,614 families, most of whom are Roma asylum seekers that their subsistence support will end and they must leave their accommodations on the 30th April or be evicted as they were due to become EU nationals on the 1st May. Three 'choices' were offered: 1) destitution; 2) finding employment; 3) 'voluntary' return to their countries of origin. The 2nd choice was impossible to undertake due to lack of necessary IDs and documents.

Education Support & Aspiration Projects:

Roma Aspiration Project supports Roma 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 improve their health and well-being.

Last year, **108** young Roma benefited from our one-to-one education advocacy and outreach work, which assisted them with school registrations/transitions, exclusion appeals, access to education welfare provisions, employment search and Child Protection conferences. The Project has helped young Roma to improve their school attendance and attainment; tackled bullying; and assisted beneficiaries with disabilities and health issues by establishing and coordinating multi-agency support networks. It also ensured that professionals are well informed about the aspirations and barriers Roma children and their families face.

The Project also supported young Roma to participate in our after-school activities, such as karate, visual art and dance sessions, homework tuitions, as well as outings to the Kids' Cookery School, Trampoline Park, Bowling Club, Tate Modern, Victoria and Albert Museum, and sport tournaments.

"Back in Romania you could dream - but as a Roma – you could never fulfil your dreams. Here, in the UK our dreams can become our reality."

(Roma Beneficiary)



2004

From mid-April until the end of May we supported over 500 Roma families to submit individual appeals to the Asylum Support Adjudicators and numerous Local Authorities across London. The capacity of the organisation was at breaking point as we manage the crisis. On the 25th May we received a notice to vacate the premises where our advice sessions were based, but soon moved to a new office in Canning Town, which enabled us to centralise our work in East London.



As a result of the Project's activities, young beneficiaries made significant progress by achieving the following outcomes:

- ❁ **52%** of beneficiaries increased their life aspirations and satisfaction with their educational attainment;
- ❁ **59%** enhanced their self-confidence in relation to their chosen areas of interest such as sport, music and arts;
- ❁ **48%** felt that their health and well-being have improved due to their participation in sporting activities and an increased level of health awareness.

"I am encouraging my sister to be proud of whom we are and prove wrong to people, who think ill about Roma."

(Roma Beneficiary)



26th April 2004

Pierce Glynn Solicitors applied for Judicial Review in the High Court appealing against the Home Office decision. On the 4th May 2004, permission is granted to challenge the Home Office, but before the final hearing, the Home Office decided to reinstate support to destitute Roma families until they find employment and readjust to the new situation.



Karate – Building Bridges & Breaking Barriers

Last year, **21** 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, i.e. movement fluency, motor-spatial skills, determination and well-being. By engaging local Roma and non-Roma young people, our karate sessions also played an important role in developing their social skills and community cohesion.

"I got a bronze medal today and it motivates me to work hard, so next time I can aim for gold."

(Roma Beneficiary)



2004

With the accession of their countries into the European Union on 1st May 2004, Roma from new EU Accession states, including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia are granted freedom of movement as their status within Western Europe changes from that of asylum-seeker to EU migrant.



Roma Early Childhood Education Programme

Roma Early Childhood Education Programme's (RECEP) aim was 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. The Programme was 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.



Last year, **31** families attended regularly our 'Stay & Play' sessions during school term times and participated in holiday activities. Roma Early Years Champions and the Project Coordinators have also attended weekly 'Stay and Play' sessions at Oliver Thomas Children's Centre, collaborating with their staff to outreach and support Roma families.

The Programme has also delivered regular Parental Support Training Programme based on 'Parenting with Confidence' modules. The adapted materials and linked activities have encouraged parents to discuss and share their childhood experiences, self-reflect and learn new parental practices.

Furthermore, the 'Parenting with Confidence' sessions and training on Child Protection, 'Roma in a Safeguarding Context', 'Health & Safety', 'A Survival Guide to Child Protection for Roma Parents' have developed Roma professional capacity in the field of Early Childhood Education.



2005

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

2006

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

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



Our weekly Advice & Advocacy sessions, delivered as part of the programme have made a real difference for Roma parents and their children, who have been assisted with access to school (e.g. nursery places, 2-year provision, online school applications) and matters related to their housing, health, welfare, and employability needs.

‘Stay and Play’ sessions delivered in two different Children Centres’ settings have provided high quality, play-based and child centred early learning for young Roma children. And with the inclusive group singing at the end of each session at the Altmore Children’s Centre, Roma children and parents have an increased confidence playing, having fun and learning together alongside non-Roma families.

2007




After Bulgaria and Romania join the EU on 1st January 2007, Roma from these countries can also travel freely within Member States.

2007

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

"Roma Stories" – Oral History Project

'Roma Stories' – Oral History Project works with Roma researchers, volunteers, community members, London Metropolitan Archives, museums and academic institutions to explore, archive and share unrecorded stories of Roma refugees and migrants in London. The main themes, which the Project explores, are:

-  Roma Holocaust during WWII, including individual memories of post-war experience of ethnocide and life in post-Communist Europe;
-  Migration and the changing of Roma identity;
-  'A Sense of Belonging' as understood and experienced by individual Roma refugees and migrants in London.

The Project gives the Roma community a rare opportunity to capture their knowledge and histories, which have been 'passed down' across generations, orally - rather than in a written form - before they are lost.

Last year, we have collected interviews from **37** people, which have been audio-recorded, filmed, transcribed, and translated to be stored at the London Metropolitan Archives. The collected interviews reflect the diversity within the Roma community and include oral recordings from Polish, Romanian, Slovakian, Hungarian, Belarus, Swedish and former Yugoslavian Roma.

We have also worked with Southern Road and Redbridge Primary Schools in East London to produce a digital Teachers' Resource Pack, which will include oral histories recorded by the Project and will be used in the school curriculum for Year 5 and 6.



2008

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

2009

Organising Young Roma Awareness Seminar, our models of good practice shared with over 100 professionals, launching of the Mentoring Project's evaluation report.



Project team has delivered **8** educational workshops in year 6 classes for **360** pupils and **24** teachers of these schools, which inspired the pupils to create and display posters, visual art and written work.

The Project team has also created a dedicated webpage, an Oral History blog, Twitter page and a closed Facebook Group for Roma Researchers and Volunteers, which act as a main repository of information and a tool for self-evaluation.



2010

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

The RSG's service users successfully challenge in court London Councils' decision to terminate their funding for frontline voluntary sector organisations in London.






Romani Rad are invited to take part in the Hyde Park Evening Vigil during Pope Benedict XVI visit to London.

Policy & Information


Our **Policy and Information** aims to ensure that the concerns and problems (and satisfactions) of Roma community members are recognised well beyond our office in Canning Town and outside East London. Roma people enjoy many freedoms in the UK that are denied in their countries of origin - but life in Britain is not without difficulties.

Last year, we worked with many community members and Roma-led NGOs to ensure that their voice is represented with regards to issues which matter to them. We have achieved this through focussing on:

BREXIT & EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME (EUSS):

-  Lobbying the Home Office's (HO) Safeguarding User Group regarding EUSS;
-  Participating in beta testing of EU Settled Status applications and providing feedback about the barriers our service users faced when accessing the scheme;
-  Delivering/ leading an APPG for Gypsy, Roma, Travellers (GRT)–hosted seminar on 'Brexit and Roma' in Parliament;
-  Publishing articles and presenting at conferences;
-  Networking with civil society groups, (e.g. The3million) to co-shape their strategy and practice regarding EU Roma migrants.

SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS:

-  Meeting with Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families to consider the implications of the Race Disparity Audit for BAME communities;



2011

Launch of Roma Support & Engagement Programme, our first national project RSG starts the campaign to 'Save Independent Advice in Newham' and one of our service users legally challenges Newham Council's decision to terminate independent advice provision in the borough.

- 🌸 Submissions to Department for Education (DfE), MPs, Ofsted and APPG on Bullying regarding school exclusions of Roma pupils and racist bullying.

ROUGH SLEEPING:

- 🌸 Raising awareness and influencing strategies of Greater London Authority (GLA), Camden Council and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) regarding rough sleeping EU Roma migrants, how statutory and non-statutory homelessness sectors fail to address their needs and our recommendations for the way forward.

CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT STAFF AND DEPARTMENTS:

- 🌸 The RSG attends quarterly meetings with two government departments (MHCLG and DfE) to raise with them any matters that affect both Roma families, who are clients of RSG, but also from wider intelligence about Roma elsewhere in the country.

We have also lobbied both the government (DWP) and The National Lottery Community Fund about trying to ensure that Roma communities benefit from EU funding to support the most marginalised communities/those furthest from the labour market. Throughout much of CEE member states, it is this EU funding that has been used to address Roma exclusion; it is also this funding that invariably does not find its way to Roma neighbourhoods and settlements. In the UK, we have been lobbying to try and make sure that some of the beneficiaries of these EU funded projects are Roma.

Since the demise of the National Roma Network, we have been informally and unofficially acting as a 'point of contact' for Roma NGOs around the country. It was this virtual network that worked with the Office of National Statistics which will make 'Roma' a new/additional category in the 2021 census.



2012

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

Roma FC becomes an officially recognised club affiliated to Essex FA and goes on to compete in Ilford & District Football League. They also win their 1st official football tournament, organised by the City of London.



Last year, we have also produced four newsletters, which were sent to over **600** subscribers; provided submission to the Women and Equalities Select Committee on the Race Disparity Audit; and contributed to the UK report for Roma Civil Monitor. We organised a meeting between Roma NGOs and MHCLG and hosted Director of MHCLG's Faith & Communities' Division during Hate Crime Awareness Week.



2013

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

The RSG, represented by two Roma Trustees, officially contribute during the Holocaust Memorial Day UK Commemorative Ceremony in London.

Roma-led Advocacy & Campaigning Project

Roma-led Advocacy & Campaigning Project's aim was to:

- ✿ Improve the social inclusion of Roma refugees and migrants;
- ✿ Increase the voice of Roma communities and their participation in the local/ regional decision-making processes;
- ✿ Influence policy-makers and service providers, while encouraging changes in practice so that it is more responsive to the needs of Roma migrants in London.

Last year, our key successes included:

EMPOWERING ROMA CHAMPIONS:

The Project has supported **40** Roma Champions in London to participate in our quarterly Roma Refugee and Migrant Forum, strategic meetings with decision-makers and engage with the media.

REPRESENTING INTERESTS OF ROMA COMMUNITIES:

In consultation with Roma Champions and other community members, the Project helped develop our campaigning strategy and working relationship with Newham Council, GLA and HO regarding Roma integration, rough sleeping and the EUSS. The Project represented Roma voice and contributed to the Migration and Refugee Advisory Panel at the GLA, GRT Liaison Group at the MHCLG and Safeguarding User Group at the HO.



2014

Citizens of Bulgaria and Romania can work without restrictions across the EU.

2014

Launch of The Roma Bridging Sounds Orchestra (RBSO) in partnership with Newham Music

Organising "From 'Extra' to 'Ordinary'" exhibition at Romanian Cultural Centre in London.

EU CITIZENS' RIGHTS:

The Project has organised three 'EU Citizens' Rights' sessions in partnership with New Europeans and The3million attended by **128** community members, who reported increased confidence regarding their post-Brexit rights.

EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME (EUSS):

Following our campaign regarding Roma rights as EU citizens – post-Brexit – the RSG has been invited to take part in the private beta 2 (PB2) EUSS testing trials. The Project has coordinated the process and supported **69** participants to successfully apply for Settled Status.

DISSEMINATING LESSONS LEARNT:

Following our implementation of the PB2 trials, we became the main representative of Roma communities in the UK regarding EUSS and were asked to provide feedback by local and national authorities in England and Northern Ireland. Many charities, funders and other agencies have asked us to provide similar feedback to support them in shaping their strategies regarding Brexit and EUSS. This led us to publishing a report analysing our community members' experience when applying for Settled Status and a guide – 'Top Tips' – to consider when working with Roma applying for Settled Status.

2021 CENSUS:

The Project collaborated with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to facilitate their communication with Roma communities, which led to their recommendation for introducing a Roma tick-box within the ethnic group questions in the 2021 Census and recognition of 'Roma' as an ethnic category to aid further work around social cohesion, equality assessment and language support across the country.



2016

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

Release of the CD 'The Roma Bridging Sounds Orchestra'

The Roma Bridging Sounds Orchestra plays at the Music for Youth Proms in the Royal Albert Hall.



The Project organised a group of **17** Roma Champions to meet ONS representatives in London and supported ONS in organising similar meetings across the UK.

MEDIA RELATIONS:

One of the main successes of the Project was contributing to a quality change in the way EU Roma migrants are portrayed by the media, some of which have historically been informed (and perpetrated) prejudice, stereotypes and negativity. The Project has developed a partnership with IMiX, a media communication charity, who currently supports us with our media engagement, which increased representation of Roma voice in local, regional and national media and was instrumental in developing content in media outlets, such as blogs, social media, newspaper (online and print) and TV.

Media interest regarding Brexit and EUSS has led Roma Champions, Project Worker and other RSG staff to be interviewed by media agencies such as: The Guardian, BBC London, Sky News, Bristol Cable, Al Jazeera, French Radio Europe 1, etc.

The Project has also increased RSG's social media activity through Twitter and Facebook, creating an average of over **3,000** impressions every month on our Twitter account, while our Facebook activity has increased with posts reaching **8,800** Facebook account holders, an increase of **1,102%**.



2017

The Home Office policy to detain and deport rough sleeping EU migrants is ruled as discriminatory and unlawful by the High Court.

2017

Publishing a report: 'Fulfilling their potential? Exclusion of Roma Pupils in the English Education System'.

Publishing 'Young Roma Calendar 2018'.

Roma Support & Engagement Programme

Roma Support & Engagement Programme (RSEP) aims to support statutory and voluntary agencies to respond effectively to the needs of Roma refugees and migrants across the UK.

In 2018-19, four members of our staff and 13 Roma professionals took part in the delivery of this programme, including:

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

Last year, we delivered:

- ☼ **18** training sessions and presentations;
- ☼ **18** commissioned interventions and consultations;
- ☼ Support for **432** professionals who work with over **2,621** Roma individuals;

Over **90%** of respondents rated our training as 'excellent' or 'good'.



2018

Addressing MPs at the Parliamentary Women and Equalities Select Committee (WESC) with regards to the Race Disparity Audit and the absence of Government policy to generally recognise and support migrant Roma communities in the UK.

Organising a 'Roma and Brexit' seminar hosted by All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Gypsy, Roma, Travellers and APPG for Migration in Parliament.



Some of the agencies and organisations supported by the RSEP include: East of England LGA – Parallel Lives Roma Project, Law for Life, Red Zebra Solutions, Sheffield Family Court Forum, Nottingham Together, Derby Children’s Services, Hackney Safeguarding Children Board, Birmingham Children’s Services, Hackney Children’s Services, Stoke-on-Trent Children’s Services, Westminster Adult Services, Birmingham University Eurochildren Research.

“I will be closing this family’s case to social services and wanted to thank you both for all your support and help in getting a good result for this family. It was a very complex and dynamic family case but through your support we were able to help with the reunification for this family. I am therefore very grateful to you and your organisation and I look forward to working with you in the near future to support Roma families.”

(Social Worker, L.B. Barking and Dagenham)

“Parents engagement was completely different when social worker had a session with your Roma colleague in comparison to sessions with regular interpreter.”

(Legal Executive, East Sussex County Council)

“I attended your safeguarding training on the 19th April. I thoroughly enjoyed it and hope to put into practice some of the advice you gave us. Thank you for this wonderful experience. I think the drama presentation gave it that extra edge and value for money. I’m sure none of us were expecting it but we all thoroughly enjoyed it.”

(Community Engagement Project Worker, Barnardo’s East Region)

Extract from the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 January 2019

	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Income from:				
Donations	16,473	289,658	306,131	367,898
Charitable activities	33,041	-	33,041	29,712
Investments*	51	-	51	19
Other*	-	-	-	-
Total income	49,565	289,658	339,223	397,629
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	520	32,906	33,426	33,743
Charitable activities:				
Advice, Advocacy & Campaigning	-	125,621	125,621	162,872
Art & Cultural Development	-	16,164	16,164	-
Early Years Education	-	38,081	38,081	26,632
Education Support	-	27,581	27,581	31,968
Mental Health Advocacy	-	43,071	43,071	41,661
Sport Inclusion	3,963	-	3,963	3,329
Support & Engagement Project	39,388	-	39,388	45,604
Total expenditure	43,871	283,424	327,295	345,809
Net income/(expenditure)	5,694	6,234	11,928	51,820
Transfer between funds	(3,809)	3,809	-	-
Net movement in funds	1,885	10,043	11,928	51,820
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	94,303	155,146	249,449	197,629
Total funds carried forward	96,188	165,189	261,377	249,449

	2019	2018
£	£	£
Fixed assets:		
Tangible assets	915	468
Current assets:		
Accounts receivable	4,645	4,513
Accrued commissioned income	-	-
Prepayments	1,265	1,099
Cash at bank and in hand	299,976	333,199
	<u>305,886</u>	<u>338,811</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(45,424)</u>	<u>(89,830)</u>
Net current assets	<u>260,462</u>	<u>248,981</u>
Net assets	<u>261,377</u>	<u>249,449</u>
Funds of the charity		
Restricted funds	165,189	155,146
Unrestricted funds:		
General funds	96,188	94,303
	<u>96,188</u>	<u>94,303</u>
	<u>261,377</u>	<u>249,449</u>

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 28 October 2018.

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 Maidment & Co.

Thanks to

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who supported the work of the Roma Support Group during 2018-19 through grants and the donation of their valuable time.

Management Committee

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Special Thanks to

Mr & Mrs Chris & Joyce Pountain for
their generous donations.







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