

Mapping the Roma Community in Scotland

Final Report

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1. Introduction

Roma are the largest trans-national minority in Europe. Many of the estimated 10-12 million Roma population in Europe face prejudice, intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion in their daily lives. Increasingly, the situation of Roma has become the subject of political attention, particularly from the European Commission.

This mapping exercise provides an evidence base to build an understanding of the numbers, the localities and the needs of the Roma population living in Scotland. The aim is to ensure that the European Commission's Roma inclusion objectives are applied in Scotland and that the Scottish Government has a robust evidence base.

It will also provide in-depth insight and understanding of the issues to support any Roma inclusion priorities that will feature in the Operational Programmes for Scotland's European Structural and Investment funds for the period 2014-2020.

Although frequently referred to as a community, Roma are not one homogenous group but rather a collection of different peoples, with divisions in language, ethnicity, religion and family loyalty. The growth in political attention has brought the term 'Roma' into general use and it is now widely accepted and understood in the following context:

The term "Roma" is used by the European Commission, as well as by a number of international organisations and representatives of Roma groups in Europe, to refer to a number of different groups (such as Roma, Sinti, Kale, Gypsies, Romanichels, Boyash, Ashkali, Egyptians, Yenish, Dom, Lom) and also includes Travellers, without denying the specificities and varieties of lifestyles and situations of these groups (European Commission, 2011).

Roma inclusion is a priority for the period 2014 – 2020, and has been agreed by all institutions of the European Union (EU). The Europe 2020 Strategy has given new impetus to the fight against poverty and social exclusion by setting a common European target to:

- reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion;
- reduce the rate of pupils leaving school early; and
- increase school attainment and employment levels.

Roma inclusion is an essential part of the convergent EU and Member States' efforts in this respect.

Recently the European Commission made a proposal that: *"The Member States should allocate sufficient funding to their national and local strategies and action plans from any available sources of funding (local, national, EU and international) in view of achieving the objectives of Roma inclusion... The Member States should ensure that appropriate measures are taken to include Roma integration as a priority in the Partnership Agreements on the use of European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds for the period 2014–2020, taking into account the size and poverty rates of the Roma communities and the gap between Roma and non-Roma"*¹

The most recent EU guidance on ex-ante conditionalities² for European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds sets out the thematic ex-ante conditionalities that apply, including a condition referring to Roma Inclusion (A10-2). It allows for ESF and ERDF investment in

¹ European Commission (2013) *Proposal for a Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States*, COM(2013) 460

² European Commission, *Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy 2014-2020 Policy and Legislation Inter-institutional relations DRAFT Guidance on Ex Ante Conditionalities*. http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/pdf/preparation/part2_guidance_ex-ante_conditionalities_guidance.pdf

'integration of marginalised Roma communities' and the ex-ante conditionality is that "a national Roma inclusion strategic policy framework is in place that:

- (i) sets achievable national goals for Roma integration to bridge the gap with the general population. These targets should address the four EU Roma integration goals relating to access to education, employment, healthcare and housing;
- (ii) identifies, where relevant, those disadvantaged micro-regions or segregated neighbourhoods, where communities are most deprived, using already available socio-economic and territorial indicators (i.e. very low educational level, long-term unemployment, etc.);
- (iii) includes strong monitoring methods to evaluate the impact of Roma integration actions and a review mechanism for the adaptation of the strategy.
- (iv) is designed, implemented and monitored in close cooperation and continuous dialogue with Roma civil society, regional and local authorities".

The most recent information about EU Structural Funds implies that every Member State should have Roma Inclusion priorities in their Partnership Agreement. Member States developed and submitted national Roma strategies specifying how they will contribute to achieving the overall EU level integration goals, including setting national targets and allowing for sufficient funding (national, EU and other) to deliver them.

In the case of the UK (including Scotland), the National Roma Integration Strategy submitted by the UK has been accepted by the European Commission. However, it does not highlight the emerging challenges of concentrations of new arrival Roma living in poverty, focusing more on Gypsy Traveller education policies. Nor does it adequately reflect the situation of Roma in Scotland, for example stating that employment policies and interventions only refer to England.³

There remains an underlying risk that the UK will not include Roma Inclusion as a UK priority, and it is unclear how the absence of ex-ante compliance with condition A10-2 will affect approval of the UK Partnership Agreement. The fact that Scotland has not approved its own National Roma Integration Strategy is a weakness in terms of meeting the necessary ex-ante conditionality for ESI funds.

Scotland will have its own chapter in the Partnership Agreement to set out why Scotland needs to use the Structural Funds to address both long-term challenges of dealing with new arrival Roma and consider the implications of this on Scotland's own policies and interventions. This research should underpin any Roma inclusion priorities that Scotland may present in their section of the Partnership Agreement and it will ensure that the Roma inclusion priorities and interventions that feature in their Operational Programme are based on clearly identified need and relevant to the operational environment in Scotland.

The aims of this mapping exercise are to:

- Ensure that Scotland is recognised at European levels for playing an active part in meeting the European Commission's Roma inclusion objectives.
- Build an understanding of the Roma population living in Scotland.
- Increase knowledge about the individual and institutional capacity that exists in Scotland to apply EU funds for the social and economic inclusion/integration of the Roma populations.

The reader should note that a similar mapping exercise was conducted by The University of Salford⁴ by looking at the UK as a whole (a note on this work is appended).

³ Country Factsheet analysing the elements and Gaps of the UK's National Roma Integration Strategy http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/country_factsheets_2012/united-kingdom_en.pdf

⁴ Brown, P., Scullion, L and Martin, P (2013) *Migrant Roma in the United Kingdom: population size and experiences of local authorities and partners*. Salford: University of Salford.

2. Methodology

Information was collected through a mix of methods, i.e.: a national online consultation that sought to gather information on Roma from all 32 Council areas in Scotland; interviews with key stakeholder organisations; workshops and focus groups. In addition, a number of literature sources were used. A list of these is appended. Direct engagement with Roma, via a series of focus groups, was separately commissioned by Glasgow City Council (and carried out by WSREC) and can be read in conjunction with this mapping report to give a fully rounded picture of Roma in Scotland. Further detail on the methodology of the national mapping exercise is provided below.

National Online Consultation

The consultation was based on a semi-structured questionnaire. An invitation to complete, along with background information on the aims of the project and a web-link to the survey, was emailed to 209 stakeholders. These stakeholders comprised of academics, public and third sector organisations. An email was sent from the Chief Executive of Glasgow City Council to the Chief Executives of all other 31 Scottish Local Councils.

The consultation also aimed to reach a wider audience by using a snowballing technique, whereby email recipients were encouraged to forward the web link on to other bodies with some contact with/knowledge of the Roma community.

Also, the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations' (SCVO) e-newsletter, Third Force News online, promoted the consultation by carrying a short feature article including the web link.

The consultation ran from 28th June until 30th August 2013.

In total, the online consultation received 123 completed responses (for list of organisations/bodies that participated, see Appendix 1). Some feedback was obtained from 31 of the 32 Council areas, with Argyll and Bute being the only Council area not to respond. Table 1 shows the breakdown of complete responses by Council area:

Table 1: Breakdown of responses by Council area

| Council area | Number of responses | Council area | Number of responses |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Aberdeen City | 5 | Highland | 1 |
| Aberdeenshire | 4 | Inverclyde | 2 |
| Angus | 1 | Midlothian | 2 |
| Argyll and Bute | 0 | Moray | 1 |
| Comairie nan Ellean Siar | 2 | North Ayrshire | 4 |
| Clackmannanshire | 1 | North Lanarkshire | 4 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 5 | Orkney | 1 |
| Dundee | 2 | Perth and Kinross | 3 |
| East Ayrshire | 2 | Renfrewshire | 2 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 2 | Scottish Borders | 1 |
| Edinburgh | 16 | Shetland Islands | 2 |
| East Lothian | 1 | South Ayrshire | 4 |
| East Renfrewshire | 4 | South Lanarkshire | 4 |
| Falkirk | 1 | Stirling | 6 |
| Fife | 7 | West Dunbartonshire | 2 |
| Glasgow | 30 | West Lothian | 1 |
| | | Total Responses | 123 |

Respondents were asked to:

- Estimate the number of Roma living in their Council area/number of family groups, including their nationalities
- List locations where Roma are living
- Provide information on migration movement
- Estimate number of Roma pupils enrolled in schools
- Provide information on types of employment for Roma
- Provide information on Roma groups and initiatives in the area
- Outline the main issues and challenges facing Roma.

Overall, Glasgow generated the most responses, with the majority of respondents having direct contact with the Roma community in Govanhill (the area where most of the Roma community are concentrated).

For the other Council areas, it became evident that some respondents work primarily with Gypsy Travellers, and, therefore, may have misinterpreted some questions and provided responses for the travelling community as well as/instead of for migrant Roma.

The majority of Council areas (see Appendix 3) provided little data input, with many respondents saying 'don't know' or 'can't say' in response to a number of questions. This is partially attributed to these areas having a small (or even a non-existent) Roma community.

Interviews

During the online consultation, the completed questionnaires were regularly checked to ascertain where additional information was required. Further contact was made with individual participants of the survey via one-to-one interviews (either by telephone or face-to-face).

The interviews were undertaken with a range of local authority service providers and third sector organisations. The contact period was during the summer break, which posed something of a challenge to gathering the information. Nevertheless, sufficient interviews were conducted with a wide range of relevant individuals and organisations.

These interviews helped to inform the content of the workshops (below) and highlighted a need to conduct additional focus groups with Holyrood High School and Community Safety Glasgow.

Workshops

Following the interviews, two workshop sessions were organised: one in Glasgow and the other in Kirkcaldy. Both workshops created a lively forum for discussion and debate, as well as allowing many individuals working in similar areas to meet and compare their practice.

The workshop attendees included a broad mix of academics, grassroots practitioners and local authority services representatives. The discussions covered housing, education, employment and health and enabled a deeper understanding of the issues affecting Roma in participants communities to be developed.

Focus groups

During interviews with Community Safety Glasgow and Holyrood High School, it became apparent that further discussions with other members of staff within these organisations would be useful. Hence, a further three focus groups with the Community Response Team and one with Holyrood High School were arranged.

These focus groups allowed participants to share their understanding about their work with Roma 'on the ground'. It also gave The Social Marketing Gateway team the opportunity to add to the participants' cultural awareness and political knowledge of the situation of Roma across the EU.

Hearing stories of how teachers at Holyrood High School work with Roma families, the challenges they face and the welcome and very effective addition of a Campus Police Officer, showed how much willingness there is to create bridges to existing services - even with very limited resources available.

Understanding the way in which the Community Response Team works with Roma who are begging on the streets or who are working as vendors for The Big Issue, as well as the different role these teams play compared to police officers, revealed a new way of gathering information about Roma families and the problems they face.

Scope of the data collection

The above approach provided:

- 123 responses to the online consultation from 31 Council areas;
- one-to-one interviews with 18 individuals from 14 organisations;
- workshops in Glasgow and Kirkcaldy with 33 key respondents from 26 organisations;
- three focus groups with 34 employees from Glasgow City Council's Community Response Team; and
- a focus group with 19 staff from Holyrood High School, Govanhill.

Organisations participating in interviews, workshops and focus groups came from Aberdeenshire, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fife, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire and Stirling/Clackmannanshire.

The full list of organisations that contributed to the mapping work is included in Appendix 2.

3. Roma – the international perspective

Roma are Europe's largest minority with an estimated 10 to 12 million population. In many EU countries, they are marginalised and live in very poor socio-economic conditions.

Situation of Roma

Roma face racism, discrimination and social exclusion and live in deep poverty, often lacking access to decent housing and healthcare. Their living conditions are often well below acceptable standards and fail to meet basic human rights. Many Roma are living in substandard, segregated and overcrowded conditions, often without access to sanitation and basic utilities like heat and light.

Both poor education and labour market discrimination have led to high unemployment and inactivity rates, and low quality, low skilled and low paid jobs for Roma. Roma women and children are regularly found to be victims of violence, exploitation and trafficking⁵, including within their own communities.

The Roma population already represents a sizeable share of the working age population in many European countries: a share that will continue to rise given the relatively young profile of Roma populations. It is now widely accepted that integration of Roma is both a moral and economic imperative, requiring a change of mind-set from the majority of people, as well as from Roma themselves.

Policy response

A World Bank study into the economic costs of Roma exclusion concludes that the cost of investment in Roma is much smaller than the government revenue it generates. The social and economic argument against inaction is too strong to be overlooked.⁶

Roma policies, programmes and interventions have been in existence for a long time. The first EU Roma Summit in September 2008 was important because, for the first time, top level European politicians and decision-makers gathered with Roma organisations and activists to discuss how to overcome the exclusion, racism and deprivation that oppressed the Roma people.

The main outcome was a set of 10 Common Basic Principles to effectively address the inclusion of Roma.⁷ These 10 Common Basic Principles on Roma Inclusion aim to guide the EU institutions and Member States, candidate and potential candidate countries when they design and implement new policies or activities. They remain highly relevant in the current Roma inclusion policy environment.

Since EU enlargement in 2004 the picture has changed significantly. Now a range of EU policy frameworks, new institutional mechanisms and key EU documents – including European Council Conclusions, European Parliament Resolutions and European Commission Communications - specifically address the issue of the Roma. However, getting to a position where social exclusion and segregation of Roma communities are widely acknowledged by the main policy makers in the EU and international organisations has been an onerous process, demanding much effort from NGOs and community organisations in those countries with disadvantaged Roma communities.

⁵ Europol Organised Crime Threat Assessment 2011, p. 26.

⁶The World Bank, *Economic costs of Roma exclusion*, April 2010

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTROMA/Resources/Economic_Costs_Roma_Exclusion_Note_Final.pdf

⁷ The European Council, *Council's Conclusions on Inclusion of the Roma* 8 June 2009.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=761&langId=en>

Much of the effort from Roma activists and civil society has been to motivate policy-makers to better understand the situation and the heterogeneous nature of the Roma community. At the same time, this effort has worked to highlight the complexity, inter-connectedness and often inter-generational characteristics of the problems that Roma individuals and communities have to confront.

While this has been demanding attention from civil society organisations in countries with significant disadvantaged Roma communities, very little has changed on the ground. Living conditions and the economic situation for most Roma in Europe have not improved. In fact they continue to decline.

Discrimination and racism

Despite extensive policy efforts, a stronger human rights framework within the EU and a considerable number of large scale and local initiatives, a number of interrelated factors continue to negatively influence the situation of Roma. Factors such as high levels of racism and discrimination, the political and economic climate, the lack of a positive visibility of Roma in wider society, and the lack of engagement with and between the majority population, all have a negative effect and contribute to the continuing decline in conditions.

Roma have consistently had bad experiences of aggressive, zero-tolerance policing in countries where the concept of 'community engagement' is not well understood. There is a significant rise in hate crime and negative anti-Roma sentiment in the new Member States. The economic crisis has generated a public backlash that has resulted in an increasing number of anti-Roma demonstrations in Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Many of the exclusionary factors are evident regardless of whether the Roma peoples have been in the country for decades (even centuries), or are relatively new arrivals, such as asylum seekers or more recent economic migrants from other EU countries.

Migrating Roma are often not in a position to leave behind the impact that years of exclusion, discrimination and poverty have had on their lives and their attitudes. This often manifests as a lack of trust and a general reticence towards the wider society and in particular towards public service providers. In most cases these burdens travel with Roma and have a very real influence on the living conditions and life choices they make in a new country.

Role of Member States

The EU has repeatedly called upon Member States to improve their efforts to promote the social inclusion of their Roma populations. In the context of the Europe 2020 strategy, the Commission and the Parliament have forcefully argued that there is a compelling economic case to be made for giving priority to the issue. However, there has been a general and widespread inability to transfer policy intentions into clear, operational and sustainable practices for the benefit of Roma communities. Despite significant numbers of initiatives, the scope and sustainability of the interventions do not match the scale of the problem. Too often, the implementation process suffers from a lack of political will at the national level, and from a failure to implement policies at the local level.

Funding levels are often insufficient to support large-scale multi-action projects and programmes. Consequently, the many strategies in place are often implemented in an ad-hoc, symbolic manner, and they have little hope of long-term sustainability.

Monitoring reports indicate that governments and other stakeholders have not co-operated effectively or efficiently to carry out their commitment. Moreover, major sources of funding have yet to 'trickle down' to have an impact on individuals' life circumstances and make a discernible difference at local level.

The search for a quick-fix 'solution' has distorted the scale and complexity of the problem and the common practice of creating short-term single-issue projects aimed at one specific problem has failed to generate much visible change at grassroots level. Much of the past criticism of Roma targeted interventions has not been about the relevance or quality of the services, but rather at the lack of strategic direction, the absence of a common goal, the disjointed and fragmented nature of the projects and the short-term life and general lack of sustainability of the projects.

Now, more than ever, the EU is calling upon Member States to invest more serious efforts in Roma inclusion. The EU's call for National Roma Integration Strategies and now an ex-ante conditionality that Member States must have Roma Inclusion priorities and interventions in their Partnership Agreements are big steps forward.

The EU believes Member States have the primary responsibility and the competences to change the situation of marginalised populations, so action to support Roma lies first and foremost in their hands. By placing Roma integration firmly on the European and national agendas, and by asking for specific measures in the areas of education, health, housing and employment, it believes that this will improve the daily lives of Roma people in the EU.

Throughout all of the relevant policy documents there is a recognition that local actions are required and that it is at local level that the competencies and partnership-working exist to translate the priorities into effective practice. Roma exclusion has many roots, each interconnected with the others resulting in a multi-dimensional, intergenerational and cumulative collection of issues that are impossible to disaggregate and impossible to consider on a single-issue basis.

Many municipalities, especially those in the New Member States where the bulk of the Roma population live, have ignored or taken a generally passive view of Roma inclusion. Often they take a view simply that the Roma population has access to the same services as the majority population. But as the attention on Roma inclusion intensifies, this passive approach is sometimes taking a more negative and discriminatory position.

According to Eva Sobotka of the Fundamental Rights Agency, *"Many domestic and local politicians have continued to try to frame the issue of the Roma as a 'security problem' or a 'problem of criminality' and some have evaded national or local responsibility by calling it a 'European issue'."* She argues that *"the EU mechanisms are a real catalyst for local social change, yet they need to be picked up by responsible politicians who will address the problems facing the local community as a whole"*.

Without such support, even promising initiatives may not lead to lasting positive results on the ground. Initiatives that target Roma inclusion narrowly - without consideration for the wider environment - fall short of their objective of enhancing the position of Roma and may in fact raise tensions between Roma and other sections of the local population.

For some time now it has been widely acknowledged that Local Authorities have the competences, local partnerships and a key role to play in leading Roma Inclusion actions. Essentially, it is Local Authorities that have the skills and connections to create and lead a collective set of local actions from a range of public sector, NGO and community service providers.

The European Commission expects each Member State to play its part to improve the living conditions of Roma. Each Member State is required to create and implement a National Roma Integration Strategy and to reflect this in the new Partnership Agreements and National Reform Programmes for the period 2014-2020. The EU resources that are now

being attached to the social inclusion priority for the 2014–2020 period of EU funding could be the catalyst with the added lever of additional money to motivate local actions.

Local Authorities working in local partnership can achieve much if they work across all of their services and sectors towards a common aim, at the same time as working with Roma communities.

All Roma inclusion strategy documents ask for an integrated, meaningful, cross-sectoral approach. This has begun to happen in various places in Europe because of projects such as the URBACT funded ROMA-NeT, the actions of the EURO CITIES Roma Task force and the EU Roma network which have been supporting local authorities to lead a step-by-step approach.

4. Roma on the move

In the twenty plus years since the fall of Communism, Western European Member States have viewed the declining situation of Roma with disdain. However, although it was considered unacceptable, it remained firmly an Eastern and Southern European problem. For almost ten years, this situation has been gradually changing as Roma from new EU Member States have exercised their right to move and in growing numbers they are opting to live in old EU Member States.

Moving a whole family to a new country is a significant challenge, and it is fair to say that those who do make the choice to move tend not to be the poorest and most marginalised within the EU Roma community. Push and pull factors combine to bring Roma to the old EU member states, including the UK. Evidence shows that poverty and deplorable living conditions⁸ are the push factors that motivate Roma people to leave, whilst the 'promise' of a better life is the major pull factor.

The Fundamental Rights Agency research⁷ recognises that pull factors are often connected to individual or other family members' prior connections with an area. Sometimes the pull factor can be as tenuous as having heard of an area through someone else that has travelled there and been perceived to be successful.

Roma in Scotland

In recent years, these factors have brought growing numbers of Roma to Scotland to settle. The largest numbers arrived from Eastern Europe after the enlargement of the EU in 2004 and 2006.⁹ Some have been in Scotland longer, having fled from discrimination and persecution, mostly from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and arrived in the UK as asylum seekers from 1989 onwards.

The EU accession countries of 2004 and 2006 did cause a larger flow of economic migrants into the UK than expected, and some of these migrants were Roma. There are no longer restrictions on A8 nationals, so people from Czech Republic and Slovakia have the right to work and access welfare benefits if they can prove their entitlement.

The A2 legislation allows entry to UK, but with 'no recourse to public funds'. This means that people from Bulgaria and Romania cannot take up employment and have no entitlement to welfare benefits. They can enter the UK, but remaining here demands that they can prove that they are 'self-supporting'. This self-supporting clause is not consistently applied across the various agencies.

Overall, the conditions that many Eastern European Roma people find themselves living in within Scotland are unacceptable. Mostly, Roma live in large family groups in overcrowded housing, often without adequate sanitation and with only limited capacity and connections to access local health, education and other services. Although less than perfect, these conditions are tolerated because they are an improvement on the living conditions that many Roma people left behind in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.

Key challenges facing Roma, and the municipalities within which they settle, usually fall into the areas of education, employment, housing and healthcare. These areas are complex, interconnected and they impact extensively and usually negatively on media coverage, which as a result can taint public opinion of Roma.

⁸ *The Situation of Roma in 11 EY Member State, Survey Results at a Glance* by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2011.

⁹ *Country Profiles, 2011-2012* by European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC).

The result is a vicious circle of poverty within the Roma community that leads to cultural clashes with the wider community, and further discrimination that ensures a lack of access to public services, education and employment opportunities and continues the poverty within families over many generations.

In circumstances such as these, and often with little recourse to public funding or assistance, some Roma individuals may be forced to turn to off-the-record or even criminal behaviour to provide for their families. This creates a negative stereotype of the whole community, as the media regularly picks up on negative rather than positive stories connected to Roma populations.

5. The situation of Roma in Scotland

Findings from the online consultation, interviews and workshops will now be presented.

The overall picture

Respondents to the online consultation were asked to estimate the number of Roma living in their Council area. As seen in Table 2 below, it can be assumed that there are approximately between 4,000 and 5,000 Roma living in Scotland. Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fife, North Lanarkshire, Aberdeen City and Falkirk are the most heavily Roma-populated Council areas.

Table 2: Overview of number of Roma in Scotland

| Council Area | Min. number of Roma | Max. number of Roma | Mid-point |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Glasgow | 3,000 | 4,000 | 3,500 |
| Edinburgh | 105 | 210 | 158 |
| Fife | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| North Lanarkshire | 30 | 60 | 45 |
| Aberdeen City | 50 | 50+ | 50 |
| Falkirk | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Other 26 council areas | 539 | 546 | 543 |
| Total | 3,804 | 4,946 | 4,376 |

(NOTE: When respondents estimated the number of Roma families, we have assumed 7 members pre family as a rough estimate (e.g. 1 pre-school age, 1 primary school age, 1 senior school age, and 4 others).

It has been made clear from this mapping exercise that a significant influx of Roma to Scotland has already happened. Amongst those who are working closely with Roma people at local levels, there is a sense that in recent months the Roma populations have been increasing.

In some areas, the majority seem settled, specifically in Glasgow (Govanhill), but also in parts of Lothian, Falkirk and Fife. However, there are other groups of Roma who are not settled at all and are continually move between localities. There is evidence of a daily travel pattern, whereby Roma travel from Glasgow to areas in East Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, but also as far afield as East and South Ayrshire and West Dunbartonshire.

The mapping has revealed that the settled population in Govanhill are mainly Slovakian and those on the move are predominantly Romanian. Many of those who are less settled have an address and somewhere to sleep in Govanhill or Cumbernauld, but they travel extensively to work or go back 'home' to their origin country or go to other parts of the UK to visit family or attend family gatherings.

Most Slovakian Roma and some Romanian Roma arrived in Scotland as part of a very large extended family group. Some Romanians have left young children with other family members in Romania. The older family members tend to stay at home to care for the children while the other adults go out selling. According to The Big Issue, very few sell the magazine on a Sunday for religious reasons.

Roma in smaller communities

Many Councils appear to support the principles of equal opportunities and accessibility to services for all. In truth though, many Councillors, particularly where smaller Roma communities are settling, will not support the cost of 'additional services' - particularly where the new migrant Roma (or Gypsy Traveller) communities are small.

Councillors do not perceive that providing additional support for say, 30 children or 10 families, offers value for money. So a lack of political will to deal with this difficult area and additional resource requirement means that Roma, and other minorities, may not be properly served by their Council area.

In this way, minorities appear to be further discriminated against because they are too small to merit the additional support that would allow them to access existing services in their area. One Local Authority interviewee commented: *"because the numbers (of Roma) are so small, Councillors won't agree additional resources"*.

Because processes and systems have become more rigid, staff in service areas and NGOs believe that they are more tied into bureaucracy than previously and less able to help directly or even refer Roma to someone who can.

There is often a difference in the attitude towards service provision between a city like Glasgow or Edinburgh, with a significant population of Roma, and in towns and cities with smaller pockets of Roma.

For example, because there is a higher population of new migrant Roma and other ethnicities in Govanhill, there is a growing demand to create service provision that is accessible to all communities. This may even be creating its own 'pull' factor in bigger cities as services are seen to be more accessible and generous.

In smaller communities, and particularly where fewer Roma are settling, service provision is often limited due to a lack of resource as well as perhaps a lack of information around new migrant Roma. Some Councils' employees report 'seeing' people they 'assume' to be Roma, but knowing little about them.

This lack of information may mean that Roma are not self-identifying or that they are happy to stay 'under the radar'. But it does mean that Councils are unaware of at least some families' needs and in smaller, under-resourced rural localities it may be almost preferable not to know rather than have to spend resources from other areas identifying and helping new migrant Roma.

Fife may, however, be one exception. Here the Council reports that the small numbers of Roma in the area are almost fully integrated, although Roma families are generally still working in low-skilled jobs and likely to be living in relatively poor private rented accommodation.

Nevertheless, the issues facing Roma living in smaller areas are generally the same. If not dealt with, they may lead to bigger problems later, or an inability for Local Authorities to cope should numbers start to increase rapidly. A more proactive vision and strategy is required if these areas are to be in a better position to respond to Roma needs should the situation arise.

Findings in relation to the specific issues of housing; healthcare; education; employment and policing will now be discussed, as will the specific issue of street begging.

Housing

Many people interviewed said that Roma live at the same few addresses. This means that there is either extreme overcrowding, or the address may be a location that individuals or families stay only for short periods of time while they search for work or an alternative home.

Some landlords in Scotland charge exorbitant rent for small properties that are not in prime locations. Often these properties are in localities where people are living in poverty, and where other migrants already live. This high-density living applies when one family group cannot afford the rent, so two or three families move in to the same property, which is too small to accommodate such large numbers.

Roma families tend to socialise outdoors, which is all the more understandable given overcrowded living conditions. These outside gatherings can be seen as threatening by others in the majority community. This can cause problems with neighbours, and tensions can rise especially if the police are called. The reality, however, is that these actions are not about criminality, but are motivated by the poor living conditions, poverty and differing cultural norms.

Healthcare

In areas where Roma families are located, healthcare and social service providers are feeling a strain and practitioners are struggling to find ways to help Roma to access essential health care.

The health and social care issues may only present themselves when the families are in crisis, for example, when an extreme situation involving child protection or vulnerable adults demands immediate attention. There are reports of people returning to Romania because of health problems and being unable to access health care services here. Service providers report that some Roma patients may present themselves with an illness or health care need and then 'disappear' - only to reappear several months later when things have worsened.

There are emerging health inequalities in the Roma population that are similar to those identified amongst Gypsy Travellers in the UK. For example, life-threatening conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease, often go untreated. Obesity and alcohol use also appear to be significant issues across the Roma population.

Women's health is an area of particular concern as lots of Roma women do not feel comfortable, or even permitted, to discuss sexual health, contraception or maternity care with a GP or a Midwife.

In Glasgow, there is a growing confidence among the settled Slovak Roma to access health services in GP practices. In Govanhill, for example, Slovak Roma make up around 10% of the local population and are, on a daily basis, taking up some 40-50% of all GP consultations. This suggests that people are beginning to gain confidence and that the practitioners are starting to build up trust among the local Roma population.

In fact, emerging health needs are complex and require more consultation time. Experience shows that improving access to health care services is the first step towards improving the health services for Roma people. This does not, however, guarantee full accessibility and openness as a range of personal, family and internal community factors act as major obstacles.

NHS Lanarkshire has recently set up a one-stop health clinic specifically aimed at the Roma community in Cumbernauld. This service aims to increase Roma's understanding of health issues and the importance of preventative care. The service also provides the opportunity for workers from Education Services to promote the importance of education.

Education

According to the information gathered by the online consultation there are an estimated 376 - 405 Roma pupils in primary schools and 152 - 193 Roma in secondary schools in Scotland. Table 3 below shows the breakdown of children enrolled in either primary or secondary schools in the given Council areas

Table 3: Number of Roma pupils enrolled in school

| Council Area | Primary School | Secondary School |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Glasgow | 300 - 350 | 150-190 |
| Edinburgh | 30 – 60 in school | |
| Perth and Kinross | 16 | Unknown |
| Fife | 10-12 | Unknown |
| East Ayrshire | 15 | 1 |
| North Lanarkshire | 4 - 6 | 1 (but does not attend) |
| North Ayrshire | 0 - 5 | 0 or 1 |
| Stirling | 1 | Unknown |
| South Ayrshire | 72 children of Eastern European origin | |
| Shetland Islands | 0 | 0 |
| Inverclyde | 0 | 0 |
| East Renfrewshire | 0 | 0 |
| Other Council Areas | Unknown | Unknown |

Educational resources are undoubtedly severely stretched in areas where there are significant numbers of Roma families. In the case of Govanhill, this pressure is not only due to the arrival of Roma in the area, but is also because of the wide diversity and language demands of the local population. In this area, some schools have large numbers of pupils with specific language needs - for example, Holyrood High School has pupils speaking over 30 different languages. This school also accommodates pupils who regularly have an interrupted education.

Schools keep records disaggregated by ethnicity and language needs, but it is not always easy or possible to identify which families are Roma as there is often a reluctance to self-identify as Roma. When Roma families enrol at schools, they do not always tick the Roma box (and not all schools have this box to tick); this can be the same for Gypsy/Travellers. Consequently, this makes it difficult to be sure about Roma numbers in schools and to give appropriate extra assistance.

The bilingual support service and the complexity of the language needs of the child can help identify Roma children. The schools have anecdotal evidence about the numbers of Roma, if not exact numbers, but it is also worth noting that numbers change quickly as many families are transient and are regularly on the move. This should probably give some cause for concern as support for 'interrupted learning' is diminishing as pressure on all public services increases.

Interrupted learning is also used to describe the situation with some Gypsy/Traveller families in Scotland, as it helps to avoid some stigmatisation that pupils may experience. Increasingly, and especially in areas where there are only a small number of Roma families, it is the Traveller Education Service that is expected to respond when a Roma family brings children to a school.

There is significant pressure from Gypsy/Traveller organisations to retain interrupted learning places in schools. However, the financial pressure on education services means

the system is becoming more rigid and less flexible to provide places at short notice or for short periods of time.

Accommodating children and young people who have had an interrupted education is particularly challenging when they first arrive at school. This is because once pupils are known to the system they have to be tracked: this then creates a duty of care to ensure places are available for children where and when required. Families are not always aware of this requirement and the potential benefits of stating that their children are likely to have an interrupted education for cultural reasons and will need additional support as a result.

In relation to Roma families there is a need to increase their knowledge about how the education system operates in Scotland, and to improve understanding about the legal requirements of partners and the education system within the framework of the law.

Hearing stories of how teachers at Holyrood High School work with Roma families, the challenges they face and the welcome, and very effective addition, of a Campus Police Officer showed how much willingness there is to create bridges to existing services - even with very limited resources available to do so.

Active learning (such as physical education and arts) and creativity from teachers was apparent through interviews and focus groups, and is often the best way to engage with children whose literacy or language skills are lacking. However, tight resources may mean that this cannot always be accommodated.

At Holyrood High School, teachers have worked closely with Roma children on a very successful national arts and photography project. This took some of the children to London and gave them an opportunity to exhibit their work in Brixton. The school is now considering how to do similar projects with other minorities in the school.

They have also found that physical sports allow a different energy to take place even when the understanding of English is limited. Whilst arts, sports and culture should not be the only aspirations on offer, they do present a good hook for other learning and most importantly a general engagement with other subjects and with school life.

Many Roma children in schools 'stand out' due to their lack of appropriate uniform and levels of poverty. Some schools ensure that all children have access to suitable uniform and that this is provided discreetly. One teacher commented, however, that most Scottish children have not encountered 'real' poverty in their lifetime and so the economic differences are particularly obvious to the majority community. This serves to stigmatise Roma (and some other new migrants or asylum seekers) further, leading to discrimination among their peers.

Additionally, focus group participants highlighted that engaging with parents is a challenge and is critical to a child's success. Working with parents to increase their own aspirations for their children takes as much time and tenacity as working with the children in school. Educating parents to encourage children to stay at school longer will lead to better opportunities in the future, but is proving to be a long and difficult process.

Employment

Like Roma populations everywhere, gaining access to the labour market and securing employment is a huge challenge. Also, like most other Roma populations, there is a significant concentration of working age people among the Roma population in Scotland.

The low literacy levels and language barriers are obvious challenges to employment. Others include lack of access to the internet and telephones, making job applications difficult. But focusing energy and investing in young people to develop their employment prospects could

be a critical factor in changing lives and attitudes. Many young Roma are creative, intuitive and want to be part of their community. In fact, several interviewees commented that there are many aspects of the Roma family model that should be prized by the wider community.

Within the Roma family structure the eldest son has a highly influential role, often more so than the father. The eldest son has a responsibility to provide for the family or to organise the family to make sure they can survive, eat and have a place to sleep. An adult male drives the women and older men out to The Big Issue selling pitches. These pitches include areas surrounding Glasgow, such as Newton Mearns, Clarkston, but can also include Stirling, Falkirk, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Hamilton and Motherwell.

The mapping has revealed that the Roma who do not have the right to take employment in the UK, because of the A2 restrictions, are mainly surviving at a subsistence level in what is ad hoc self-employment, such as selling The Big Issue, finding and selling scrap, selling used clothing and refurbishing cars to take back and sell in Romania.

Employment for Roma generally means low-skilled, low-paid employment. The evidence from the mapping exercise suggests that many Roma in Scotland who are working are engaged in jobs that many British people no longer want to do, e.g. either on zero-hour contracts or as casual labour teams in chicken factories, food processing plants, supermarket warehouses, or agricultural labour.

More than 50% of The Big Issue vendors in Scotland are from Romania and are Roma. There are approximately 150 Roma individuals selling the magazine across Scotland. Usually these Roma vendors are vulnerable, homeless or living in a multiple occupancy property with several generations of one family. They aim to sell 10 copies of The Big Issue magazines per day, but the actual number fluctuates and could be 5 one day and 15 the next. Selling success comes down to the personal attributes of the seller and attitudes of the customer. In 2012 in the lead up to Christmas, there was a 55% increase in the numbers of Roma selling The Big Issue and the organisation anticipates a similar rise this year.

Glasgow has successfully implemented a programme of employment and training activities in the Govanhill area, attracting members of the Slovakian Roma population. The programmes were funded by the European Social Fund and have been successful in improving the quality of lives of the participants. The projects provided a pathway towards employment by providing pre-employment training to improve understanding of the labour market, followed by on-the-job training and employment to develop horticultural and landscaping skills.

These employment and training projects were delivered by Jobs and Business Glasgow and Govanhill Housing Association: both experienced providers. The major challenge for successful project delivery was overcoming the language and illiteracy barriers of the Roma participants. Although ESOL learning was included in the programmes, the standard format was not realistic for many Roma participants as they are not literate in any language. Future language training programmes will be tailored and focused on work and daily living.

Their lack of literacy meant that the ESOL programmes were not bespoke enough to accommodate the level of difficulty involved in their learning, nor were they tailored enough to meet everyday needs in conversational/survival English language. In the delivery organisations this learning will influence the activities that will be included in future employment and training programmes through the provision of much more bespoke language training.

The Big Issue has made it compulsory that people attend English language classes if their English is not adequate to be an effective vendor. This directive has meant that up to 100 Roma may have participated in some form of language education specifically tailored for magazine vendors and new arrivals in the country. The action has already reduced language barriers and contributed to social inclusion by making the Roma who participated better able to engage with service providers like schools and primary health care.

The Big Issue also has an open door policy to build trust and offer outreach support and signposting. This includes regular visits from Police and Community Response teams to support relationship building across these areas.

Policing

Scotland has strong community policing policies and approaches that have proven to be effective for policing areas with large communities of new migrants, including Roma. However, there are still areas of Police Services that are not fully aware of the nuances of different Roma groups and the cultural issues they are dealing with.

The addition of a Campus Police Officer at Holyrood High School, for example, has been praised as it is felt that this regular, approachable presence at the school has had a positive effect on all pupils and on both atmosphere and inclusion in the school. Truancy and irregular school attendance and other similar issues have decreased significantly since her arrival.

Working in partnership with other services in some areas is beginning to break down some of the fear that many Roma have of authority figures and particularly of Police Officers. For example in Govanhill, The Hub crosses over a range of services such as education, social work, police, housing, health etc. on a daily basis. The purpose of this is to share information and understanding across the community, including within the Roma population. Where a complaint against a Roma family may have escalated to police action in the past, the information shared can now refer a family to a different service for help and support or help foster a comprehension of wider issues at play that may affect how different members of the community are dealt with.

It also helps Police Officers to understand the cultural issues as well as the difficulties that many new and established migrant communities (Roma and others) feel strongly about. The community policing approach is an alien concept to most Roma, whose previous experience of Police would have been 'contain, control and enforce' from Police Forces who believe that a 'zero tolerance' approach to policing Roma is the only option. This has caused a huge fear amongst Roma towards any authority figure and will take a long-term approach to break down.

Although not the Police, the City Centre Task Force in Community Services has ongoing regular contact with Roma who are begging on the streets of Glasgow. The front line officers are an essential component of the public service contact that is established with those Roma that come to Scotland for a short period of time for the purpose of begging or selling The Big Issue.

Understanding the way in which the Community Response Team works with Roma who are begging on the streets or who are working as vendors for The Big Issue, as well as the different role these teams play compared to police officers, revealed a new way of gathering information about Roma families and the problems they face.

Street begging and selling

Anecdotal evidence indicates that some 100 people from Romania, most likely Roma, are regularly begging in Scotland. This is most prevalent in Glasgow and Edinburgh but also

occurs in other Scottish towns and cities. If asked by the Community Enforcement Officers, they show Romanian Identity Cards and the addresses they supply are often in the Govanhill area of Glasgow. The same street or even the same house occurs many times, reinforcing the evidence to support a serious overcrowding problem.

The begging that is occurring in Glasgow and Edinburgh by Romanian Roma is organised, which appears to mean organised within the families, rather than through force or organised crime. Previous comments around how Roma families are organised support this. The regular beggars know each other and they look out for each other. Some of the day-time beggars are also night-time sellers of flowers around the cities.

On occasions, there is hostility between different begging groups: the local and non-locals. Usually the disagreement is about begging spots or what is perceived to be stealing of food. The beggars regularly look for food in the bins behind local shops and this has been a source of friction.

The connection and relationship between the Community Enforcement Officers and the regular beggars is improving. Some officers are using telephone translation tools on their mobile phones to facilitate and improve communication. Many of the officers would like to build their language skills to improve communication so they could offer additional support or helpful information.

Begging is a reality for many Roma, especially in Bulgaria and Romania where begging is widespread and can be described as organised. Both countries have a history of exporting people to other cities to beg - often Roma people. However, contrary to what is probably a widespread public perception, this activity (begging) is not widely accepted by other Roma people, nor is it legal in some European countries.

For those that have front-line contact with people involved in begging activities, the key is to be alert to any evidence of organised crime, exploitation of vulnerable individuals, people trafficking and child protection issues.

For cities and towns with a growing incidence of begging, the challenge is to make a proportionate and relevant response to people who are most likely here for a short period of time, but who have no long-term commitment to remain in Scotland.

Roma culture and family

Jean Pierre Leigois, a renowned academic on the subject of Roma and Gypsies in Europe, has recently prepared a report for the City of Marseilles. He explains a number of characteristics that are also relevant to the situation of Roma in Scotland today. These characteristics include, for example, the importance of community and family, as opposed to the growing individualism of our societies; the respect for elders; and the importance of freedom. He also observes that even in those European countries that celebrate cultural diversity, the traditional Roma dress can still cause uneasiness. This view was corroborated during the mapping exercise when discussing Roma women seen in traditional dress in Scotland.

Roma mapping by Council area

The great majority of Roma in Scotland are in six Council areas. We can now look at each in turn by combining the information collected from the online consultation, workshops and telephone/face to face conversations.

Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fife, North Lanarkshire, Aberdeen City and Falkirk are the Council areas for which we received most information from the online consultation. As such, each has an individual 'data record' which provides (as far as is available) an overview of number

of Roma, key issues, employment information, number of children enrolled in education, Roma groups/initiatives and migration movement into the area.

The following data records are arranged by size of the local Roma population, starting with Glasgow which has the largest number of Roma in Scotland, concentrated in the multi-ethnic area of Govanhill just to the south of the City Centre.

Additional information not contained in the six data records, plus information on the remaining 26 council areas, is summarised in Appendix 3.

Glasgow
(Online responses: 30)

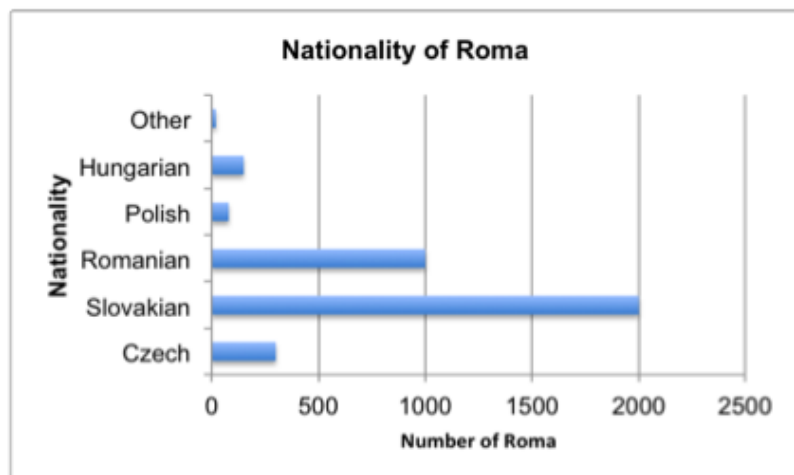
Respondents' involvement/ contact with Roma

Wide range with direct and indirect contact with Roma: research, education, The Big Issue, employability projects and services including advice on welfare, provision of health service, policing, project management of local Roma projects, information/ advice and integration services, dedicated Roma Social Work team, Community Enforcement Officers

Number of Roma

Number of Roma: 3,000 - 4,000

Nationality of Roma : As seen below, Roma are mainly Slovakian and Romanian, ('other' includes Latvian, Lithuanian or Estonian)



Education

Roma in primary school: 300 - 350

Roma in secondary school: 150 - 190

Origin/ location

Where moved from: Slovakia (e.g. Michalovce), Romania (e.g. Bihor, Arad, Timisoara, Cluj, Hunedoara), Belfast, Manchester

Many Roma are arriving in family groups and they are living in a highly concentrated area (Govanhill)

Number of separate family groups: range between 28 and 200

Localities where living: Govanhill, Knightswood, Kennistead, Ibrox, Pollockshields, Castlemilk, Cumbernauld, Cessnock, Townhead, Shawbridge, Crosshill, Queenspark, Govan, Pollock, Springburn

Migration movement

Estimated number of Roma families moving in from past two years:

- Czech Republic - either small number of families (under 50) moving in or there is no change
- Slovakia - no change or over 100 families moving in
- Romania - probably 50 - 100 families
- Poland - either 50-100 families moving or no change
- Other EU (including Hungary) - under 50 families moving in

Additional info: It is believed that the number moving to Govanhill is increasing. There is some suggestion of labour migration whereby men travel seasonally for work to Romania, Slovakia or Ireland. When some Roma return home for summer months, others would take up their tenancy in Glasgow. Additionally Czech and Slovak are considered to be more settled in terms of their migration movement than in the past. Further insight suggests that Govanhill is the most popular area for Roma to live in - there is a neighbourhood development group which has been set up with Jobs and Business Glasgow supporting this. There is also believed to be movement between Glasgow and other UK cities for both push and pull reasons.

Key issues and challenges

Under educated/ parents' negative attitude towards education; poor school attendance; language barriers; low literacy levels; hopelessness and low sense of self-worth; employment and quality of life aspirations are low; Roma are not involved in planning/ implementing local services; migration cycle i.e. never static; overcrowding/ poor housing; lack of employment opportunities; language barriers; social exclusion; lack of knowledge of their human rights; poverty; discrimination from wider society; unemployment; some hostility towards Roma; illiteracy

Employment

Are Roma working? Some Roma are known to be employed

Location: Greater Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Hamilton (potato factory) and Cambuslang (chicken factory)

Types of work: Chicken and potato factories, cleaning, agricultural, environmental work, Cadder Housing Association, production, self employed, undocumented labour, plastering, car washing, The Big Issue, recycling metal and reselling, fast food, kitchens, self employed (Romanians)

If unemployed, source of income is: Begging

Roma groups/ organisations

Roma Lav (represents mainly Slovakian Roma in Govanhill), 2 Romanian Roma pentecostal churches (large selection of Roma), Positive Action in Housing (some Roma)

Roma projects/ initiatives

Roma Net; Roma Youth Project; EU Health Visiting team (bespoke service to Roma community); Range of Govanhill initiatives; Blackcourts Initiative (places allocated to Roma); Jobs & Business Glasgow's Roma Employability Initiative

Edinburgh
(Online responses: 16)

Respondents' involvement/ contact with Roma

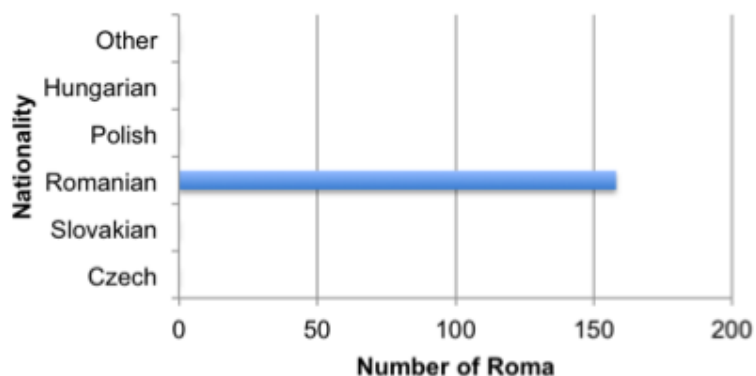
Includes responses from mainly statutory organisations: health, education, social work, housing services, and also from The Big Issue. Also some have involvement with roadside British travelers but are still knowledgeable of Roma

Number of Roma

Number of Roma: 105 - 210

Nationality of Roma: Estimates are based on Roma being Romanian

Nationality of Roma



Education

Number of children in school:
30-60

Origin/ Location

From: Arad, Spain and France

Many Roma are arriving in family groups and it is believed that most Roma are concentrated in a small number of local authorities

Number of separate family groups:
Up to 30

Localities where living: Portobello, Pilton, Leith, Meadowbank, Wester Hailes, Sighthill, Northfield, Muirhouse

Migration movement

Estimated number of Roma families moving in from past two years:

- Czech Republic - N/A
- Slovakia - N/A
- Romania - Under 50 families moving in or decline in number of families
- Poland - likely to be under 50 families moving in
- Hungary - likely to be under 50 families moving in
- Other EU - N/A

Additional info: Families travel home but return to the area where they had previously settled. In particular, families would leave Edinburgh in May/ June and return in September. Furthermore, it has been explained that Roma tend to arrive to Edinburgh in large family groups, but stagger their approach i.e. they move in batches. It is suggested that families move into a flat and then disperse into separate flats, enabling more families to move into the original.

Key issues

Difficulties in ensuring Roma maintain engagement with the health service; access to health care; developing relationships with them; overcrowded housing; short term housing lets; employment; education - in particular Roma do not enrol children in nursery; poor school attendance; illiteracy; language barriers - Roma fail to get access to English classes in a supportive environment; isolated from local community; general public and beggars are seen to be abusive to Roma selling The Big Issue; marginalised and disadvantaged through racism; children aged 9+ take on too much adult responsibility; discrimination and stereotyping from wider society; difficulties in public services locating Roma and making contact.

Employment

Are Roma working? Some are known to be in employment

Location: Edinburgh city centre and Portobello. Some travel to Musselburgh, Haddington or Gallashiels to sell The Big Issue

Types of work: The Big Issue, scrap metal dealers, buying and doing up cars to sell/ renovating cars and driving them back to Romania, selling flowers at night time in the city centre, construction, cleaning, collecting clothes for money

If unemployed, source of income is: Begging

Roma groups/organisations

Article 12 (all of Roma)

Roma projects/ initiatives

NR

Fife
(Online responses: 7)

Respondents' involvement/ contact with Roma

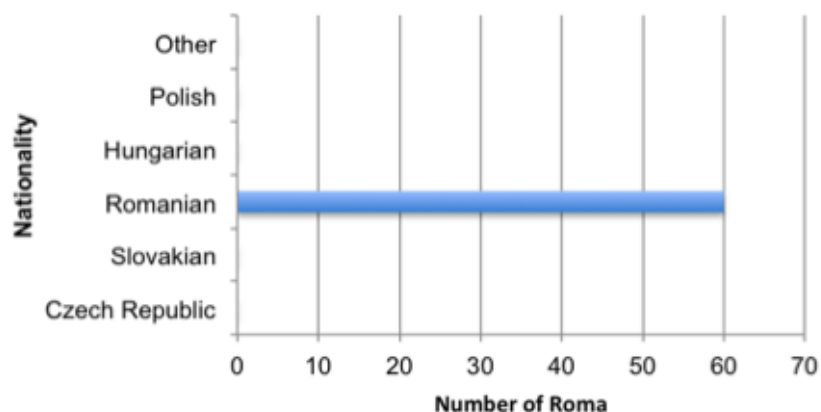
Includes: the Equalities Unit within Fife Council, education who have some contact with Roma, and those who mainly have contact with Gypsy Travellers rather than specifically Roma

Number of Roma

Number of Roma: 60

Nationality of Roma : As seen below, all are from Romania

Naitonality of Roma



Education

Roma in primary school: 10-12

Roma in secondary school:
Unknown

Origin/ location

Where moved from: Romania (Timisoara), Portugal, France

Many Roma are arriving in family groups and they are either concentrated in a small number of localities or are dispersed across Fife

Number of separate family groups:
10 families

Localities where living: Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes, Dunfermline and Cupar

Migration movement

Estimated number of Roma families moving in from past two years:

- Czech Republic - N/A
- Slovakia - N/A
- Romania - There is no change
- Poland - N/A
- Hungary - N/A
- Other EU - N/A

Additional info: Rivalry between family groups used to be more common than it is now. A Roma family from Portugal recently did not stay because of pressure from other families causing them to leave. It seems that there is a heirarchy in different towns amongst different families, with each town having a 'head' family.

Key issues

Discrimination from wider society; lack of cultural understanding between both Roma and Scottish communities; poverty; lack of employment opportunities, youth lack job aspirations whilst older generations struggle to view employment the same way as how British society does.

Employment

Are Roma working? Some are known to be working

Location: Unknown

Types of work: Selling The Big Issue, selling balloons/toys, collecting scrap metal

If unemployed, source of income is: Begging, busking, some have 'slipt through the net' and are claiming benefits

Roma groups/ organisations

None

Roma projects/ initiatives

None

North Lanarkshire
(Online responses: 4)

Respondents' involvement/ contact with Roma

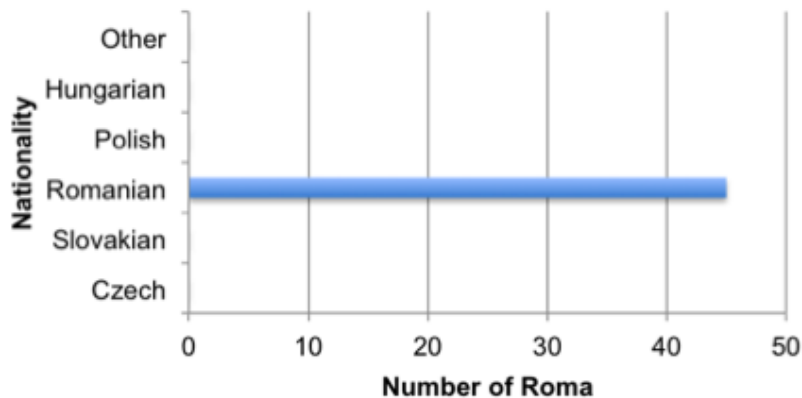
Narrow range: religious group which provides befriending services, and housing and Social Work

Number of Roma

Number of Roma: 30-60

Nationality of Roma : As seen below, all are from Romania

Nationality of Roma



Education

Roma in primary school: 4-6

Roma in secondary school: 1 (but does not attend)

Origin/ location

Where moved from: Romania/
Hungary boarder

Many Roma are arriving in family groups and they are living in a highly concentrated area

Number of separate family groups:
approx 5

Localities where living: Almost exclusively in Cumbernauld area but 1 small family group is in the Airdrie area.

Migration movement

Estimated number of Roma families moving in from past two years:

- Czech Republic - N/A
- Slovakia - N/A
- Romania - Either no change or under 50 families moving in
- Poland - N/A
- Other EU - N/A

Additional info: Women tend to be more settled whilst men tend to travel between UK and France on a regular basis.

Key issues

Language barriers; health inequalities; access to health care; not approaching health services for preventative care; Roma lack the understanding of maternity services and the associated benefits and therefore uptake is low.

Employment

Are Roma working? Some are known to be in work

Location: North Lanarkshire, Stirling, Falkirk and Dunfermline

Types of work: Selling The Big Issue (mostly women) casual labour work (men)

If unemployed, source of income is: Stealing used to be common, buy and do up cars to sell in Romania, selling items in Romania

Roma groups/ organisations

None

Roma projects/ initiatives

None

Aberdeen City
(Online responses: 5)

Respondents' involvement/ contact with Roma

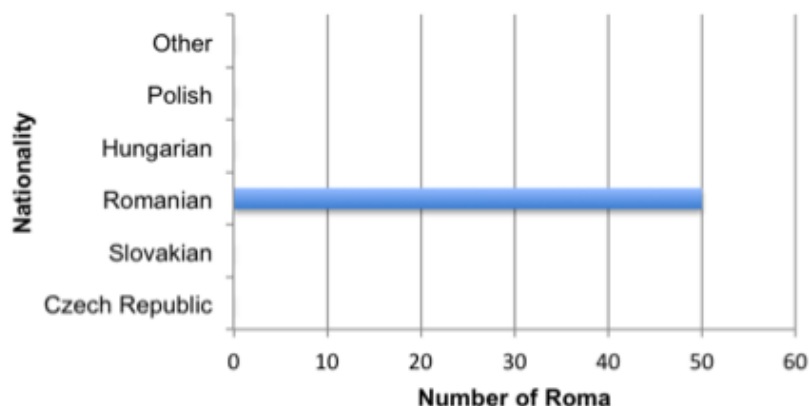
Key responses were from The Big Issue and individuals who have an awareness of Roma

Number of Roma

Number of Roma: At least 50

Nationality of Roma : As seen below, all are Romanian

Nationality of Roma



Education

Roma in primary school: Unknown

Roma in secondary school: Unknown

Origin/ location

Where moved from: Unknown

Many Roma are arriving in family groups and they are a concentrated in a small number of localities

Number of separate family groups: 5

Localities where living: Torry, Woodside, Gilcomston Park, South Esplanade East

Migration movement

Estimated number of Roma families moving in from past two years:

- Czech Republic - N/A
- Slovakia - N/A
- Romania - Unknown
- Poland - N/A
- Hungary - N/A
- Other EU - N/A

Additional info: Some of those who sell The Big Issue bring along other family members to the area as time progresses

Key issues

NR

Employment

Are Roma working? Some are in employment

Location: Unknown

Types of work: Self employed or sell The Big Issue

If unemployed, source of income is: Begging

Roma groups/ organisations

None

Roma projects/ initiatives

None

Falkirk
(Online responses: 1)

Respondents' involvement/ contact with Roma

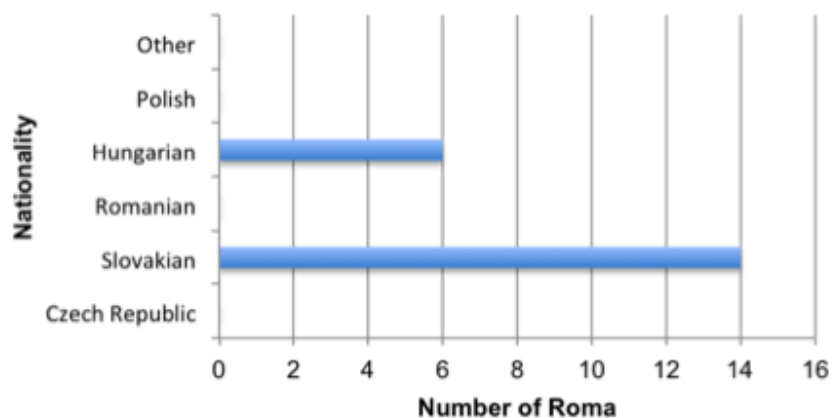
The only respondent was from education (ESOL)

Number of Roma

Number of Roma: 20

Nationality of Roma : As seen below, Roma are from Slovakia and Hungary

Nationality of Roma



Education

Roma in primary school: Unknown

Roma in secondary school:
Unknown

Origin/ location

Where moved from: Glasgow

Roma arrived in family groups and the population is relatively dispersed across the council area

Number of separate family groups:
4

Localities where living: FK1
postcode

Migration movement

Estimated number of Roma families moving in from past two years:

- Czech Republic - N/A
- Slovakia - Under 50 families moving in
- Romania - N/A
- Hungary: Under 50 families moving in
- Poland - N/A
- Other EU - N/A

Additional info: The family groups have come into the Falkirk area through agency work, mainly at the Tesco superstore in the town centre.

Key issues

None since population is small

Employment

Are Roma working? Yes

Location: NR

Types of work: Stacking shelves/ cleaning/ catering all in Tesco

If unemployed, source of income is: N/A

Roma groups/ organisations

None

Roma projects/ initiatives

None

Roma and Gypsy Travellers

It is impossible to report about Roma in Scotland without making reference to Scottish Gypsies and Travellers. In Scotland today we have Scottish Gypsies, Travellers and the Scottish Showpeople who, like Roma, are not one homogenous group but a collection of people with different cultural and historical identities. Within these groups there are differing views about the connections to the wider Roma Diaspora.

These groups would generally refute any connections to the group of migrants commonly referred to as Roma; most do not consider that the umbrella term Roma is relevant to them. There are also some strong opinions about whether the term Roma should be seen as an accepted, overarching and all-encompassing umbrella term that policies and programmes relating to Scottish Gypsy/Travellers could sit under.

Gypsy/Travellers have fought long and hard to be considered an official minority in Scotland. Having won this status, they are unlikely to want to be referred to as Roma. So, there is a disconnect between the political term used by the EU and that used by individual minority groups themselves.

This discussion is important and should continue. If Scotland develops a Strategy for Roma Integration it must not be to the exclusion of Gypsy/Travellers and other groups who face similar issues, have some cultural commonalities and have a very similar experience of discrimination in Scotland.

6. Conclusion

The definition of Roma is complex and it creates many questions when discussing Roma in Scotland. For the purposes of this mapping we have referred to Roma who have most likely originated from other EU Member states. These are the countries in Europe where most Roma live, such as Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.

In European Commission terms this means Roma from Eastern and Southern Europe, but also the overarching term in the EU's terminology is intended to mean Gypsy and Travellers. This context needs to be further explored and discussed in detail with other relevant groups here in Scotland that could potentially come under the umbrella term 'Roma'.

The number of Roma in Scotland is still relatively small. This mapping reveals that the numbers are estimated to be between 4,000 and 5,000, which is less than 0.1% of the total population. Spatial concentrations in areas such as Govanhill in Glasgow, where the percentage of population is higher at some 23% of the local population (15,000 local population with around 3,500 resident Roma), makes the extent of the problem feel significantly greater.

The mapping has revealed that the living conditions for most Roma in Scotland are well below an acceptable standard. The poverty is acute and subsistence living for large family groups is the reality for most families. The overcrowded living conditions are insanitary and mostly unacceptable for family life. Many of the issues are not about ethnicity or nationality – they are primarily about vulnerability.

Family structure and work

For many Roma living in Scotland the main concerns of their lives are about day-to-day survival. This survival follows the Roma ethos of concerns for the survival of the whole family including extended family members. The eldest son has a highly influential role within the family structure, often more so than the father. The eldest son has a responsibility to provide for the family or to organise the family to make sure they can survive, eat and have a place to sleep.

Employment for Roma who are able and willing to work is very limited and low paid, the benefit system is difficult to manoeuvre and for the others, living means getting by through methods such as selling The Big Issue or begging. However, despite these findings, the working environment in Scotland for Roma, and indeed the rest of the UK, is of a higher standard than in their countries of origin.

Service Provision

Local services are struggling to make their services relevant for the Roma population.

In Glasgow, much more policy attention has been applied than anywhere else in the country. The practice in Glasgow has been to create projects to support Roma to access existing service provision, rather than building a new or Roma-specific set of services. This means that internal discretion has to be applied on a daily basis to make the system and services more relevant to overcome the many obstacles that exist.

In many ways, the service provision in Govanhill has been demand-led, driven by the scale and visibility of the local problem and the severity of some problems that have emerged in local families. Contact with service providers tends to happen when there is a crisis in the family.

It is not uncommon for Slovakian families - even in Govanhill where there is possibly a better level of provision - to get lost in the maze of services. Their language and literacy barriers

make everything more difficult to access. Internally, the lack of trust and the general reticence of Roma to seek assistance from public sector or other service providers is another factor that hampers their access to services. The lack of cohesion across services makes the journey especially challenging even for those who are building connections and improving their language skills.

In most other local authority areas, the scale of the problem does not trigger a specific, tailored or additional public policy response. In rural areas the small numbers do not encourage a wider system response. This does not mean that there are no serious exclusionary issues for the Roma families living there. Instead, it means that the NGOs and existing services are trying to simply absorb what is a severe and multi-layered problem.

This is creating genuine pressure on the available resource for organisations like The Big Issue, the Community Safety Glasgow Community Response teams, healthcare services and the Traveller Education Service and schools and education services. There is a notion amongst officials that Roma are 'only here for a while so why bother?'; the focus is, therefore, on the short term. This means that there is a real need to influence public policy.

Regulations and restrictions

Rigid rules restrict agency and public sector workers' creativity in finding solutions to the challenges facing Roma. This is leading to a lack of flexibility in working around the system to find ways to help human beings in an increasingly difficult situation. These responses are also dictated by finances and systems.

Systems are becoming more regulated and more discriminatory, particularly the benefits system. There are genuine concerns over how much harder this might become once the Universal Credit comes into force. Benefit changes will possibly increase the chance of discrimination: No access to telephone or internet makes job applications difficult. Roma - who have both a poor grasp of English and of literacy – will not be able to read letters from Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), and DWP will not speak to support workers without the individual's consent. The culture that Roma often come from means that they might not understand the appointment process and how not attending an appointment may mean that they lose all chance of claiming benefits.

Push and pull factors

Govanhill is acting like a magnet for the Roma population in Scotland, and it appears that Roma living outside the Govanhill area tend to be 'ignored' by local services. The Slovakian Roma population have become quite settled and the Romanians, whose income generation activities take them far afield, still retain an address in Govanhill.

There is daily movement to other parts of Scotland, moves to other parts of the UK in search of work or better accommodation, and there is a summer departure back to Slovakia and Romania for many Roma families, with many seemingly returning to Scotland at a later date.

The push and pull that exists at international level provide some insight that suggests that this pattern will begin to change as local families gain confidence and as they forge connections and create opportunities in other areas. Over time there is also an expectation that we will begin to see some dispersal amongst the Roma population to other parts of Scotland, not by individuals, but in family groups.

Currently, access to housing (not acceptable housing but affordable accommodation) is a big pull factor to Govanhill. Other factors include the education, health, employment and local recreation projects that are being developed in the area and the building up of local knowledge and understanding about Roma.

More than 50% of The Big Issue vendors in Scotland are from Romania and are Roma. The vast majority provide an address in the Govanhill area of Glasgow. There are some 150 magazine vendors who are organised in large groups from a very extended family.

Change in A2 legislation

Practitioners with experience of working with Roma at a local level expressed a belief that the Roma influx has already occurred. An assumption amongst these practitioners is that the numbers may increase, but that there will not be a large influx of Roma into Scotland as predicted by the press and some Government sources.

There is a fear in the UK, played up by the media, that the removal of the restrictions on A2 nationals in December 2013 will result in a huge influx of people from those countries looking for work in the UK. Informed practitioners, however, believe that the changes to the A2 legislation will not make much of a difference. The difficulties that currently exist for Roma to manoeuvre through the public sector services and the benefit system will be intensified, and the benefits system will continue to discriminate and make access difficult for Roma.

There are inconsistencies in the system amongst DWP staff as to what constitutes 'self-supporting'. These inconsistencies make it even more difficult for Roma people to negotiate their way through the benefits system and other public services.

The push and pull factors that have already been described will continue to be relevant following the removal of restrictions on A2 nationals. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that the Romanian Roma that are already here could be a pull factor for others to come.

Begging and The Big Issue

UK society takes a very dim view of begging and it is seen as socially unacceptable. This view has now been transmitted across to The Big Issue vendors that appear not to be of local origin. There is evidence of customers having stopped purchasing the magazine from people who appear to be non-local, i.e. Roma. Although The Big Issue vendors are technically working (in fact they are self-employed), this view is no longer holding up across general society. The Big Issue receives regular complaints about the fact that "*Eastern Europeans are now the sellers*".

Role of the media

The likelihood of new Roma coming from the A2 countries could also be influenced by the media climate. Negative public perceptions are being exacerbated as a result of Roma selling The Big Issue, and there is a negative response to Roma women in traditional dress. It remains to be seen whether or not this serves as a disincentive to new Roma migrants. Of course, it may be difficult to tell, and we also have to bear in mind that media attitudes towards Roma in the countries they are moving from are probably much worse than those in Scotland.

We can see that the media are already starting to report on the numbers of The Big Issue vendors who are Roma and this is causing discrimination. The tone of voice used to discuss this in the media often goes against guidance that Amnesty International have written about Scottish media coverage of Scottish Gypsy Travellers and could be applied to Roma. It serves to perpetuate a number of myths about new migrant Roma in Scotland.¹⁰

Summing up

The mapping exercise revealed that there is a genuine interest and willingness for people working in public service provision to make services better and more accessible for the

¹⁰ *Caught in the Headlines: Scottish Media Coverage of Scottish Gypsy Travellers*. Amnesty International. 2011

Roma population in Scotland. There seems to be a real empathy with the situation of Roma in Scotland and an understanding that current services are falling short.

There is an appetite to help and to provide the necessary support that will enable Roma people to improve their own living conditions. According to one health worker in Glasgow, *“The more we increase our knowledge and understanding of the ghettoised and segregated living conditions for Roma in the Eastern European cities and rural towns and villages; the more it consolidates opinions that we cannot afford to allow such a situation to happen in Scotland. Public investment is not a choice it is a necessity to prevent the development of new Roma Ghettos in our back yard”*.

7. Recommendations

This mapping exercise provides a baseline against which future trends can be compared. The methodology lends itself to ongoing data and information collection that can update an iterative picture of a changing situation in each Scottish local authority and across Scotland as a whole.

In light of the mapping and additional consultation work, there are a number of specific areas where we feel recommendations can be made.

i. Terminology and other minority groups

The term Roma can be divisive in Scotland. Many groups for whom the term is intended at EU level (such as Gypsy/Travellers) are not comfortable with this terminology. Even in some responses to this mapping exercise it is clear that the information was about people living on Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland, not about Eastern European Roma. This suggests that there is not total clarity about the term Roma in Scotland.

Calling for a National Roma Integration Strategy is easy, but it does not necessarily match the local needs and conditions.

Scotland must find a pragmatic approach. More discussion and more collaboration is required to determine whether there is a Framework that could allow future actions to happen without challenging the position of current groups in Scotland, whilst ensuring that any integration strategy is fully inclusive of all appropriate groups.

ii. Building bridges to existing services

It is unrealistic to develop new Roma-specific services. The objective should be to create bridges and pathways that can link Roma people into existing mainstream provisions.

Flexibility and cohesion in service provision is needed to reflect the movement patterns and needs of Roma groups. One-stop shops and advice centres have worked in the past and could work again to ensure accessibility and inclusion in existing service provision.

iii. 'Floating Local Authority'

Practitioners felt that an overarching strategic service could offer consistency of services across all local authorities – a sort of 'floating bridge to local authorities'. Lessons can be drawn from the current situation. For example, we heard about a support worker receiving calls from a family who had moved, because there was no support worker or they did not know how to access support in their new location. An overarching service providing strategic direction and consistency of local services would prevent such situations arising.

iv. Community engagement

Where new services are developed, innovation and alternative methods must be applied. The "*they need to integrate into our society*" attitude is a difficult and unacceptable starting point.

Community engagement and involvement can be difficult to achieve in practice. Much more needs to be done to try out new methods, and to build up a street-level engagement model that will guarantee that information and know-how filters down to street level and reaches Roma in ways that they can digest, understand and respond to.

When considering undertaking community engagement activities, project leaders should take account of what is already successful and who is already reaching and engaging with Roma: local youth projects; The Big Issue; and the City Centre Response Teams. It will be

more effective to use those connections to piggy-back and introduce other service connections.

v. Interrupted Learning Resources

Interrupted learning is a very inclusive term, usually (although not exclusively) used for Gypsy/Traveller families to avoid stigmatisation. Many Roma do not identify themselves as Roma, so bilingual support services can help to connect with Roma and to understand the needs of children in education. But such services are under pressure and support for interrupted learning is diminishing. There is a need to retain such essential services and to ensure they are connected with and accessible to Roma families.

vi. Relevant English Language training

Traditional ESOL provision is not proving to be sufficiently flexible or relevant to deliver results. A different approach should be applied, providing a better fit to the lifestyle needs of Roma. Lessons can be drawn from the actions of The Big Issue which applied tailored language training successfully for a number of their vendors, working outside traditional methods. This used visually-based language, teaching about aspects of life that Roma people really wanted to know about. The language training was especially successful for Roma women.

vii. Roma Youth Strategy

Not enough is being done to invest in Roma young people: the adults of the future. This is a real gap in policy and in service provision. Currently, the work that is achieved in this regard is usually through local NGO-run projects which are starved of funding and working on a short-term delivery approach due to limited project-based funding. There is a need for a clear focus and the potential development of a Roma Youth Strategy to consider innovative ways to engage with Roma Young People.

Many projects which carry out Youth Work within Roma communities say that engagement is high, but it takes time and resources to build trust. However, many younger generation Roma in Scotland are keen to engage in a wide variety of activities and this is helping to build aspirations. To be able to build on these aspirations, additional support with language, literacy and so on is required. The experience and lessons of the Roma Youth Project in Glasgow, which has been delivered by WSREC, is likely to be of interest to practitioners in other areas.¹¹

viii. Employment

Most Roma's aspirations of how they will earn a living are very low. Roma in Scotland expect to work in low-skilled jobs for minimum wage. Building young people's aspirations is an effective way to make this change, but it will take time to see the benefits.

Helping young people make the connection between education and better employment should start in school. For those young people that are already of working age the focus should be on building labour market understanding and increasing relevant skills

Equally, there is a need to equip Roma for 'real' jobs in the labour market. Finding ways to do this will help to diminish a dependency culture and create resilience to perform. We need to look closely at the recent experience of Roma employability, training and employment projects in Govanhill, Glasgow, as this is the area where most activity has taken place.

Many working age Roma living in Scotland are very detached from the labour market. Bridging that gap will take time, commitment and a degree of innovation and alternative

¹¹ The Roma Youth Project was evaluated in 2012-13 by The Social Marketing Gateway for the West of Scotland Regional Equality Council (WSREC).

ways of working from existing service providers. The activities that have started are beginning to show signs of good practice, but they will require ongoing support to deliver sustainable success.

Too often in other EU Member States such programmes receive short term funding and the initiatives end before the results emerge. Scotland should not make the same mistake, but should guarantee long-term resourcing and commitment to labour market engagement and employment and training services for working age Roma. This can be achieved if Roma employability is seen as a priority in the 2014 – 2020 EU programming period.

ix. Public sector awareness training

There is a gap in knowledge and understanding of Roma in many areas of public sector service. A programme of awareness-raising to educate public sector employees, improve understanding and challenge stereotypes would be beneficial and may help to change both individual and institutional views and stigma.

There is some work on this due to take place as part of the EU-funded Roma MATRIX project that Glasgow City Council and The Social Marketing Gateway are both partners in. Also, Glasgow City Council Social Work Department has already developed and delivered training to front-line staff. Other Councils may be able to link into these activities to support Roma awareness training in their areas.

x. Roma mediators

More mediators from Roma populations should be employed to connect the communities to public services. Through training and capacity-building of those Roma with the right potential, significant change can be delivered with different segments of the community. Again, this is an area that will be being progressed as part of the Roma MATRIX project mentioned above.

xi. Information sharing

Public sector policy-makers and service practitioners need better understanding of street bureaucrats. Community development is needed to facilitate people beginning to do things for themselves. These practices need significantly more investment to make a tangible difference.

Additionally, those working across Roma in Gypsy/Traveller communities need to find ways to share information more cohesively across Scotland and outside of Scotland. This will increase good practice and avoid resources being used to redesign existing practices that are working and can have good effect across Scotland.

xii. Media campaigning

The increase in negative media coverage about new migrants, Roma, Gypsy/Travellers, those living in poverty and other marginalised groups in the UK and in Scotland has the potential to have a catastrophic effect on the everyday lives of human beings living in those 'categories'.

Government needs to consider some of the existing messaging that is regurgitated at regular intervals and how this is building an unacceptable level of community stereotyping which is often not only negative, but also offensive and pulls against efforts to build community cohesion.

Government and the third sector should work together to deliver a national media campaign that counteracts some of these stereotypes and creates positive role-models from within the community, as well as working towards changing racist and discriminatory behaviour towards minorities and the poor.

xiii. Programming for EU funds in the 2014 – 2020 period

Scotland will have an Operational Programme for EU funds in the programming period 2014 – 2020. This mapping provides an evidence base which shows that there is a clear, and sometimes unmet, need for continuing Roma inclusion objectives in Scotland. The need is most evident in Glasgow because the highest numbers of Roma people are spatially concentrated in the south of the city. But exclusionary patterns also exist in other areas of Scotland, although they are not yet large enough or sufficiently concentrated to trigger a significant public sector response. Without some form of intervention and support, the problems are likely to intensify. It is, therefore, important that Roma inclusion is seen as a priority in the 2014 – 2020 Operational Programme for EU funds to Scotland.

The European Commission are suggesting that Community Led Local Development (CLLD) initiatives would be an appropriate approach for Roma inclusion measures.¹² A CLLD approach could be very relevant for the implementation of Roma inclusion measures on a Scotland-wide basis.

¹² http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/community_en.pdf

Appendix 1: List of bodies responding to the online consultation

| Organisation/body | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| NHS | Community Safety Glasgow |
| Aberdeen City Council | CoSLA |
| Aberdeenshire Council | Edinburgh City Council |
| Child Action Poverty Group | Falkirk Council |
| Community Renewal | Family Solutions, Edinburgh |
| Community Safety Glasgow | Fife Council |
| CPSS | Fife Migrants Forum |
| Dumfries and Galloway Council | Glasgow City Community Healthcare |
| Dundee City Council | Glasgow City Council |
| EAL | Glasgow Housing Association |
| EAST | Grampian Regional Equalities Council |
| East Dunbartonshire Council | Holyrood High School |
| East Lothian Council | Jobs & Business Glasgow |
| East Renfrewshire Council | MECOPP |
| Edinburgh City Council | NHS |
| Falkirk Council | North Lanarkshire Council |
| Fife Council | Positive Action in Housing |
| GCSS | School of Education, Edinburgh University |
| Glasgow City Council | Scottish Traveller Education Programme |
| Glasgow Housing Association | Shelter, Edinburgh |
| GREC | Stirling/Clackmannanshire Councils |
| Highland Council | Strathclyde Police |
| Jobs and Business Glasgow | Strathclyde University |
| MECOPP | The Big Issue |
| Midlothian Council | The Muslim Women's Resource Centre |
| Moray Council | West of Scotland Regional Equality Council |
| New Migrants Action Project | The Big Issue |
| North Ayrshire Council | The University of Strathclyde |
| North Ayrshire Council | West Dunbartonshire Council |
| North Lanarkshire Council | West Lothian Council |
| Oxfam | WSREC |
| People Directorate | Article 12 |
| Perth and Kinross Council | |
| Police (Safer Communities) | |
| Renfrewshire Council | |
| Renfrewshire Council | |
| Scottish Borders Council | |
| SEN Support | |
| Shetland Council | |
| South Ayrshire Council | |
| South Lanarkshire Council | |
| Stirling Council | |

Appendix 2: List of stakeholder organisations interviewed, and attending workshops and focus groups

| Organisation/body |
|--|
| Aberdeenshire Council |
| Article 12 |
| Community Safety Glasgow |
| CoSLA |
| Edinburgh City Council |
| Falkirk Council |
| Family Solutions, Edinburgh |
| Fife Council |
| Fife Migrants Forum |
| Glasgow City Community Healthcare |
| Glasgow City Council |
| Glasgow Housing Association |
| Grampian Regional Equalities Council |
| Holyrood High School |
| Jobs & Business Glasgow |
| MECOPP |
| NHS |
| North Lanarkshire Council |
| Positive Action in Housing |
| School of Education, Edinburgh University |
| Scottish Traveller Education Programme |
| Shelter, Edinburgh |
| Stirling/Clackmannanshire Councils |
| Strathclyde Police |
| Strathclyde University |
| The Big Issue |
| The Muslim Women's Resource Centre |
| West of Scotland Regional Equality Council |

Appendix 3: Additional information by Council area

Table A shows the additional comments gathered through the online consultation and workshops for the six main Council areas.

Table A: Additional Information for Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow and North Lanarkshire

| Council Area | Additional Comment |
|----------------------|--|
| Aberdeen City | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of Roma selling The Big Issue is diminishing because increasing numbers are successfully obtaining National Insurance number and are in a position to apply for tax credits |
| Glasgow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is an increasing Romanian population in Govanhill who are either surviving by selling The Big Issue or from the proceeds of begging activities. As a consequence many of the Romanian Roma are known either to the Big Issue or to the Community Safety Glasgow. - There are additional initiatives which include Roma through inclusion projects aimed at disadvantaged groups: Crossroads inclusion project, Great Gardens, Govanhill Free Church - There are also services in Govanhill (for other communities, not just Roma) such as Positive Action in Housing, Law Centre, Youth Community Support Agency (YCSA) provides support with literacy, English and employability - There is no education group which works specifically with the Roma community - An employment project for Roma mediators in is preparation |
| Edinburgh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of Roma, including those of school age, is based upon estimates provided by The Big Issue, and thus are more likely to concern Romanian Roma - 23 Roma children are known to be enrolled in school (16 in primary and 7 in secondary school), but there is likely to be more due to the number of families living in Edinburgh and this estimate as stated on the Data Record - Health inequalities are apparent, and some long-term conditions go untreated such as diabetes. Obesity and alcohol use also appears to be an issue within the Roma community. Roma appear to be unfamiliar with how to access primary care services and some are denied registration to GP services because they don't have photographic ID. - The Big Issue have made it compulsory for Roma to attend English classes if their English is not up to par. Otherwise, they risk losing their badge. This has already reduced language barriers and also serves to reduce their risk of social exclusion. For example, parents are more able to engage within the school community and attend parent's evenings. - It is clear amongst some respondents that the distinction between families can be difficult to decipher as Roma tend to use relational terms loosely i.e. X, Y and Z are 'my brother'. - Older generations are more difficult to engage with due to language barriers. |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Fife | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respondents from education are aware of Roma, however they are not classifying themselves as Roma when enrolling in schools. - Emerging issues tend to be dealt with quickly, because there is a small number of Roma living in Fife and enough experience and understanding of the wider context. - There is an unofficial Roma leader who is in his 40s, and he takes the role of community mediator by helping other families make contact with public services - Families have contacts across Europe e.g. an Uncle in England, a cousin in France |
| Falkirk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A small established group of Roma live in the area. They attended ESOL classes and BME Community Development Work has made links between Roma and local Scottish Gypsy/Traveller communities. Most recently they participated together in a project about the Roma experience during the Holocaust "The Porajmos" a resource for learning about tolerance and humanity. |
| North Lanarkshire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports suggest that there are Roma in Bellshill and Coatbridge. The Big Issue confirmed that a large family group of Roma living in Cumbernauld cover the pitches across North Lanarkshire. They may also cover other pitches in East Dunbartonshire, Dunfermline, Stirling and Falkirk but Govanhill based Roma also travel this distance. - Recent radio coverage confirmed that all Big Issue vendors in North Lanarkshire are Roma. - The Roma families in Cumbernauld have been in Cumbernauld for at least four year they are Romanian, from Timisoara. The group includes several large extended families, including children who attend local schools. The younger men and women are Big Issue vendors and the older women remain at home to cook and be available for the children. The English language skills of the Roma group are steadily improving. - Recently one of the women had her gold teeth removed because she had toothache and could not afford the dentist bills and also to raise some money from the gold. - NHS Lanarkshire has recently set up a health one stop clinic specifically aimed at the Roma community. This aim is to increase Roma's understanding of health issues and the importance of preventative care. This service also provides the opportunity for workers from Education Services to promote the importance of education to the community. - In an attempt to engage and understand Roma culture, a small sub-group of multi-agency practitioners (including a church which also offers a befriending service) has been created, called the "Roma Families Multi Agency Group". It meets on a regular basis to raise awareness of local services. The initial meeting provided good practice on Roma inclusion as some local Roma were present to provide their views of their experiences of life within North Lanarkshire. |

Information on the ‘other’ 26 Council areas

Table B shows information collected through the online consultation for the remaining 26 Council areas, as there was insufficient information from the online consultation to merit individual data records.

Table B: information on Roma for the remaining 26 Council areas

| Council Area | Total number of Roma | Comment(s) |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Aberdeenshire | Can't say | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respondents have used the term ‘Roma’ its widest interpretation to also mean Gypsy / Travellers - Respondents, many of whom work on Gypsy Traveller sites or unauthorized encampments, have limited contact with Roma - Some respondents work for the Council but do not specify their involvement with eastern European Roma. - The Roma population is concentrated in a small number of localities which include: Stonehaven, Old Deer, Banff and Laurencekirk, but since there is only one ‘settled site’ for this client group, they do not tend to stay very long - The issues/challenges reported are: lack of legal camps, negative image which facilitates discrimination, they have a lack of understanding and of information regarding local services, health and education inequalities exist due to access issues. - One respondent could confirm that some Roma arrived in family groups and that some moved from Aberdeen |
| Angus | Can't say | - Respondent has links with Gypsy Travellers and therefore unable to answer questions sufficiently |
| Argyle and Bute | NR | |
| Comhairle nan Eilean Siar | 0 | - Council reports no contact with Roma |
| Clackmannanshire | Can't say | No sufficient information due to Roma not being recorded in systems, as they would fall under the ‘any other ethnic group’ and depends on the individual to ‘specify’ |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Dumfries and Galloway | Can't say, possibly 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respondents have no contact with Roma: they manage Gypsy Traveller sites or are responsive for illegal settlement on private land, and therefore the information gathered may be liable to some misinterpretation of Roma - It is suggested by only one respondent that Roma are 'travelling through' the Council area and therefore are not settled with in the community. All other respondents report no Roma within Dumfries and Galloway - It is believed that some Roma arrived in family groups with 50-100 families moving in (who are from Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Poland). If there is a Roma population, it is dispersed across a number of localities, but these are not provided within the consultation |
| Dundee | Can't say | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some respondents from Glasgow are aware of Roma in Dundee, however Dundee respondents (from both employability and the Council) don't know of any Roma living there |
| East Ayrshire | 63 - 70 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The respondent helps Roma families in camps contact schools and act as a go between if need be, in addition to providing learning resources if requested - Roma are transient – they only stay in East Ayrshire for very short period of time - There are 18 Roma children (15 are in primary school, 1 is in secondary school) - 10 family groups are living in Kilmarnock, Stewarton, Darvel, Mauchline, Drongan |
| East Dunbartonshire | Not aware | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respondent from Corporate Planning and Performance Department in the Council |
| East Lothian | Can't say | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Don't know/can't say if there are Roma – respondent is from Policy and Partnerships department in the Council |
| East Renfrewshire | 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One family (5 members including children) is living in Newton Mearns (respondent is from health service) - However, two respondents from education believes there are no Roma currently living in East Renfrewshire - The management information system in schools does not include Roma as an ethnic minority group, although Roma as a language can be recorded – and there are no current records showing Roma as a language spoken by pupils - Education services have had little contact with Roma over the years - One member of a Roma family sells The Big Issue outside Tesco in Clarkston |
| Highlands | Can't say | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is believed that there is a small number of Roma living in the Highlands, however no information is given due to data protection issues |
| Inverclyde | 0 | Respondent from Educational Psychology Service in Inverclyde Council |
| Midlothian | Can't say | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respondent is from ESOL and have had little contact with Roma - There is believed to be a few Roma who are Romanian and who came from Newcastle |
| Moray | Don't know/ can't say | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is likely that Roma visit from time to time but is unclear if any Roma currently live there (respondents have not specified their involvement with Roma) |

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|---|
| North Ayrshire | 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is 1 known Slovakian family to EAL, which is split into 3 family groupings - 5 children are enrolled in primary school and 1 is in secondary school - Over the last 2 years there has been no change in Slovakian families moving into North Ayrshire - The main issue reported is interrupted learning which is seen to have detrimental affects on education and social skills |
| Orkney | At least 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The overall number is likely to be small – there is 1 known Roma who has sought financial assistance - Evidence suggests that Roma didn't arrive to Orkney in family groups, rather individually |
| Perth and Kinross | 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respondents are from EAL services and the Council - 4 Roma families are known to the Council: 2 families are from Slovakia, 1 from Romania, 1 from Poland. Under 50 families from these 3 areas have moved in in the last 2 years, and they live in either Auchterarder or Perth City - A family which was previously known to EAL (unclear if they still live in Perth and Kinross) came from Islington. However, at that time they did not attend school - According to the Council, there is approximately 16 children enrolled in primary school - Some Roma are employed working in the hospitality sector in Auchterarder - The main issues/challenges is access and awareness of local services - Issues are dealt with in partnership with the local MEAD Project (Minority Ethnic Access Development) and will be treated consistently with issues for other BME groups |
| Renfrewshire | Can't say | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is likely that under 50 families from Slovakia, Poland and other EU countries have been moving in to Renfrewshire over the past 2 years - Roma are relatively dispersed across the Council area and are believed to live in Paisley, Johnstone, Renfrew - Some Roma are considered to be in employment, but respondents are not sure where they work/what they do - Roma group/organisations in the area are: Renfrewshire Polish Association (represent Polish) and Czech and Slovak Association (represents Czech and Slovaks) (both groups are members of the Diversity and Equality Alliance in Renfrewshire Group - Roma are members of the Diversity and Equality Alliance in Renfrewshire whose remit is to promote equality and diversity and help shape and inform local priorities as part of the community planning process and equality outcomes) - Issues and challenges affecting Roma are: language barriers because parents want to ensure that their children retain their first language e.g. Polish, lack of employment opportunities |

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Scottish Borders | A few are only passing through | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respondent from the Council is unaware of Roma living in the area. However, another respondent who has involvement with Gypsy Travellers, comes into contact with some Roma and was able to provide some insight - 2 Romanian Roma families arrived in family groups. However, they are only believed to 'passing through' the Coldingham area |
| Shetland Islands | Possibly 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At some point in the past year there has been approximately 6 Roma from Hungary living in the Shetland Islands It is unclear if the family has moved on as there is discrepancy amongst respondents in education and children's service - They arrived as a family |
| South Ayrshire | Possibly 252 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three out of four of respondents from statutory organisation believe there to be no Roma in South Ayrshire - However, one respondent suggests that there are 72 children enrolled in schools that may be Roma according to their first language being Polish, Czech, Slovakian, Hungarian, Latvian or Lithuanian. Based on other responses, they may not be Roma and could be some misinterpretation |
| South Lanarkshire | At least 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only respondents from Social Care and EAL have direct contact with Roma, other respondents do not have any - Respondents are unable to say the total number of Roma, but there is believed to be at least 16 Roma are from Poland, 3 other EU and 2 are Romanian (social care services only have Polish as a Roma category when collecting personal data and EAL know of Romanian Roma) - Under 50 Polish families and under 50 other EU families have moved in the past 2 years - Roma population is relatively dispersed and they live in: Rutherglen (Polish), Hamilton (Polish), Lanark (Polish), East Kilbride (other European) - Issues and challenges affecting Roma: can't find either stable employment or long term letting - Interpreting services from Social Care were provided to 11 Roma in 2012/13 and so far this year, the service has been provided to 5 Roma |
| Stirling | At least 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Roma (from Czech Republic) are known to EAL services and 1 is enrolled in primary school - They came from other parts of the UK and are now concentrated in one locality in Stirling (which is unknown) - Those who are employed work in catering |

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| West Dunbartonshire | 140 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A respondent from health, social care and education services suggests that there are Roma from Poland living here (and under 50 families from Poland have moved in the past 2 years) whilst another respondent from the Council suggests there are none - However, some Roma are believed to be from Romania and Poland - According to respondent who is involved with health and social care provision to the static Traveller community, and therefore may have misinterpreted the definition of Roma to include Gypsy Travellers, suggests that there are 20 Roma families (from Poland) who came from the North of England - The key issues for these Roma families involve poor housing, immunisation uptake and lack of education |
| West Lothian | 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respondent from Corporate Services Department of the Council is not aware of any Roma |

(NOTE: When respondents estimated the number of Roma families, we have assumed 7 members pre family as a rough estimate (e.g. 1 pre-school age, 1 primary school age, 1 senior school age, and 4 others).

Appendix 4: Literature review

This literature review documents a range of recent and critical documents pertaining to ethnic minorities, and specifically Roma, in the EU and in Scotland.

This is not a comprehensive review but has aided the mapping survey in terms of building a context and background knowledge of areas of interest and associated data to inform the research and its findings.

| Publication name | Publication author | Year | Content |
|---|--|----------------------------|---|
| Accommodation Needs Assessment of Gypsies/Travellers in Grampian | Craigforth Consultancy and Research for Aberdeen shire and Aberdeen City and Moray Council | 2008-2009 | Accommodation needs assessment of Gypsies/Travellers in Grampian to assist three local authorities to update and develop their local housing strategies. |
| Advance Summary: Migrant Roma in the United Kingdom: An Estimation of the Population Size and the Experiences of Local Authorities and Partners | Phillip Brown, Lisa Scullion & Phillip Martin. University of Salford Manchester | 2013 | To provide an evidence-base to help inform a more comprehensive and accurate development of measures to support the inclusion of migrant Roma in the UK. |
| An Assessment of the Human Capital Levels and Economic Performance of A8 Romani Migrants in Govanhill | Peter Crkon, Glasgow City Council | 2012 | Report examines the economic performance and human capital levels of Slovak and Czech Romani migrants who live in the neighbourhood of Govanhill, Glasgow. |
| An EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 | EU Brussels | 2011 | Framework to encourage EU Member States to adopt and implement National Roma Integration Strategies. |
| Briefing Paper: Roma and the UK use of European Structural Funds | Migration Yorkshire | 31 st July 2013 | Summary of UK's stance and information about European Structural Funds in the UK from the perspective of how allocations may be spent on Roma. |
| Caught in the Headlines: Scottish Media Coverage of Scottish Gypsy Travellers | Amnesty International | 2011 | Analysis of media coverage and advice to Editors and Journalists about reporting balanced coverage on Scottish Gypsy /Travellers. |
| Community Led Local Development COHESION POLICY 2014-2020 | European Commission | 2013 | This factsheet is one in a series highlighting key elements of the future approach for the EU 2014 – 2020 programming period. |
| Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Good Practice Guide | Dept for Communities and Local Government | 2008 | Guidance for local authorities, social landlords, private developers, those living on sites to work with Gypsy/Travellers to design sustainable, high-standard, |

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| | | | appropriate living accommodation on sites for Gypsy/Travellers. |
| Draft Guidance on Ex-Ante Conditionality part II | European Commission - DG | April 2013 | Guidance on conditionalities for Ex-Ante evaluation of EU strategy 2014-2020. |
| Economic Costs of Roma Exclusion | World Bank | 2010 | Summary of findings on ongoing study and dialogue by the World Bank on the cost of Roma Exclusion. |
| Final Report on Govanhill Roma Action Project | Marcela Adamova Oxfam | 2011-2012 | Synopsis of the work and key findings of all aspects of the Govanhill Roma Action Project |
| Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities – further information | Dept for Children, Schools and Families | 2010 | Informative document outlining the heritage and traditions of different groups from the community for use by educators. |
| Housing Conditions of Roma and Travellers in the EU. | FRA | 2009 | Comparative Report looking at housing conditions of Roma across the EU. |
| Insight into the Use of the Hand-Held Record and other methods of NHS engagement with Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland | Debbie Sigerson & Arma Sayed, NHS Scotland | 2013 | Evaluation of the effectiveness of hand-held records (HHR) and other methods of engagement with the Gypsy/Traveller community across Scotland and recommendations. |
| Migrants in the Recession: Scottish Migrants Network Conference | Scottish Migrants Network | | Report and recommendations of the Scottish Migrants Network Conference, 2010. |
| Positive Action In Housing, Annual Report, 2011 | Positive Action In Housing | 2011 | Annual report including information on new migrant projects taking place in areas of Scotland. |
| Public Perception of A8 Migrants: the discourse of the media and its impact | Jan Semotam, BEMIS | 2011 | Outline review of main findings of about the discourse of media and its impact on A8 Migrants and to interpret them into material appropriate for the third sector to use. |
| Recent Migration Into Scotland: The Evidence Base | Heather Rolfe & Hilary Metcalf, National Institute of Economic and Social Research, Glasgow University | 2009 | Review of evidence on impact of migration into Scotland since 2004. |
| Report on the Situation of the Roma Community in Govanhill, Glasgow | Lynne Poole & Keith Adamson, School of Social Sciences, UWS | 2011/2012? | Evaluation of the work of service providers working with the Roma community in Govanhill. |
| Roma and Gypsies, A European Culture | Jean-Pierre Liegeois | 2013 | Study of a project in Marseille connected to Roma and Gypsies and during Marseille-Provence's European Capital of Culture year. |

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| Romanian Roma in Edinburgh – challenges and suggested solutions - draft | Roxana Sabou, Scottish Traveller's Education Programme (STEP) | 2011 | Response to Scottish service providers' need for more information on how to develop good practice and support the inclusion of Roma in Scotland. |
| Room for Manoeuvre – The options for addressing immigration policy divergence between Holyrood and Westminster | Equality and Human Rights Commission, Scotland | ? | Consideration of options for Scotland to have more control over its migration systems. |
| Scottish Equal Opportunities Committee: 1 st report 2013 (Session 4): Where Gypsy/Travellers Live. | Scottish Parliament | 2013 | Report on findings of where Gypsy/Travellers live and in which conditions. Reports on failings of local authorities and other service providers. |
| The Situation of Roma EU Citizens moving to and settling in other EU Member States | Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) | 2009 | Investigation into discrimination experienced by Roma exercising their right of movement across the EU. |
| Unequal and Unlawful Treatment: Barriers faced by the Roma Community in Govanhill when accessing welfare benefits and the implications of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 | Lindsay Paterson, Laura Simpson, Lorraine Barrie & Jitka Perinova. Oxfam Law into Practice Project & Govanhill Law Centre | 2011 | Looking at the impact of the change to rules around A8 Migrants ability to access welfare benefits and public funds. |

Appendix 5: Note on The University of Salford's Roma Mapping study

The University of Salford has recently published an Advance Summary of its research into 'Migrant Roma in the United Kingdom: An estimation of the population size and experiences of Local Authorities and Partners'. The full report was published at the time of writing this report, but it is clear from the Advance Summary that there are many common findings with this research. These are as follows:

One of the key findings is that whilst Roma are accessing health and education services, they are in fact not accessing welfare support to the degree reported in the media or assumed by the general public. Migrant Roma are not approaching the authorities with a sense of entitlement of obtaining socially provided resources (housing, welfare, support etc.).

Roma of a nationality other than Romanian are mainly undertaking low-skilled, low-paid employment; whilst Romanian Roma are working for The Big Issue and running small, self-sustaining businesses.

It can be concluded from both pieces of research that the main issues and barriers preventing Roma from integrating within society begin with poverty, poor literacy and a lack of trust in authorities. When such barriers are combined, it makes it increasingly difficult for policy planning and implementation. As shown in both research studies, when the estimated numbers of Roma are properly considered, it makes for a significant population across the country – comparable to other significant minorities and to the Roma minorities living in other Member States.

Furthermore, the findings reveal that services are struggling to deal with the complex needs of many Roma individuals and families and that there are a range of push and pull factors bringing families to the UK. It is also evident that gathering data is difficult because, whilst the Roma communities known about are certainly not nomadic and are looking to settle, there is also a lot of mobility – perhaps to find better and less overcrowded accommodation, to live with other family members, to find work or for occasional journeys 'home'.

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