

Enquire preparation 9th March 2010 Hamilton South Lanarkshire

Argument -There cannot be involvement without good basic communication – two-way – to parents and by enabling parents to communicate their views.

Introduction

Who we are and where we are from.

Our different levels of involvement with parents – National - advice / Local Authority – enabling – practical info

Diverse communities - differences

Within the cultural groups themselves

Between cultural backgrounds of schools and travelling families

Mobility Game (7 Copies)

Aim - Identify a range of parental groupings / individuals who are linked through experience of mobility

Discussion / Reflection

Images - identify main groups

Gypsy/Traveller

Showmen circus

Roma

New Travellers

Continuity

Here today and gone tomorrow – and even the mainstream perception of it – with the attitude of ‘why bother – they’ll be gone soon and at another school’

Different levels of predictability of movement

Gypsy/Travellers - historic patterns have been eroded – influences now employment / education / family

Showmen - high but predictable levels of mobility – season of mobility extending due to financial pressures

Circus – highly predictable

Roma – Very unsettled background – move to Scotland may have taken extended period of time – generally settled within an area

New Travellers – no general pattern – individual family decisions

Literacy

The challenge it poses to effective communications

Gypsy/Travellers – historic low level literacy – becoming less of an issue in new generation Mums and Dads – confidence in it varies

Showmen – generally good levels of literacy

Circus - EAL issues – but many speak fluently in languages of other circus families – generally identified parents able to speak for group

Roma - EAL issues – range of languages which are individually different but mainly understood across nationalities

New Travellers - making lifestyle choices frequently involves home education and

Strategies - What kinds of communications can a school provide?

Key issue – There is a need for privacy governing communications –beware of embarrassing family members

- Key Named Person in school
- Family members - extended family may arrive for a meeting
- Interpreters/translators – awareness that family members may give ‘interpretations’ of important info
- Home visits
- Leaflets – in different languages
- Audio/video/verbal – face-to-face – telephone calls - voice mails to mobiles – texting school’s - website – articles prepared containing images
- Participation in eLATES (EAs’ are Highland, West Dunbartonshire, Perth & Kinross & South Lanarkshire)

Parental concerns about involvement in schools & curriculum

Gypsy/Traveller

- loss of culture,
- personal safety of young people
- young people will be deskilled (no learning in the family & school curriculum viewed as irrelevant)
- concerns about being tracked (historical memories of unpleasant experiences)
- lack of flexibility (restricts capacity to follow employment opportunities)

Showmen

- children and young people will not access education and all its opportunities for the future
- will experience discrimination from people who confuse them with Gypsy/Traveller communities ,
- financial concerns (e.g. cost of diesel) leading to greater interruptions to learning (in past child would be returned to school for a couple of days – now less journeys made to base in Glasgow/Edinburgh)

Circus

- access to schools/support in times where school less flexible around temporary placements
- no placements available – numbers are capped

Roma

- Fears of racism (won’t identify as Roma but will appear as European Nationals)
- impact of low incomes on capacity to participate

New Travellers

- concerns’ that choices for home education may be constrained.

Examples of good practice demonstrating family involvement (parental)

Gypsy/Traveller

- Nursery / Primary transition (Craigrothie)
- Storytelling skills

Showmen

- Enterprise / Running a business
- Maintain regular links

Circus

- Maintain links as they move around
- Visit the circus

Roma

- Invitations into school to share culture – food / music

New Travellers

- Recommending resources
- Suggesting ways of recording achievements

Discussion and question