

Outreach Report 2022

Updates on Outreach

Since the last report we gradually build up levels of outreach visits although still not at previous levels.

During covid- Families became more accustomed to using phones, whatsapp, email to some level, families have continued to engage in this way.

We continued to support with various range of services such as.

- School Applications
- Nursery Places
- Access to FSM Vouchers
- Tracing missing pupils
- GP registrations/ Dental services
- Referrals to housing support services
- Referrals to domestic violence services
- Applications to colleges
- Support with benefits/ Forms

We continue to make referrals to specialist agencies to ensure families get the best services e.g., Peabody, Compass, Counselling services, Families and focus, SENDIASS.

Once a referral is made families can struggle to continue access the service, so we often support with on-going engagement.

We work with other agencies such as.

Health and Wellbeing

For example: We carry out joint visits with Health-visitors.

- We feed into Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnerships inequality workshops, also Suffolk NHS inequality workshop.

- We also planning to work in collaboration with the Local Delivery Physical pilot project to improve activity level and health outcomes.
- We are also supporting with enabling young people and children voices to be heard regarding healthcare delivery and services. This a joint project run by the council and NHS. (Mid and South Essex Partnership).
- We have designed and are planning to distribute GP registration cards; basically, trying to facilitate families from the GRT Communities registering with GP.
- We have liaised with the West Essex CCG to deliver COVID vaccines to Travellers in Harlow and Nazeing.

Education

- We continue to support access to pre-school, school and further education.
- Education- joint visits regarding missing education and home education.
- We support regarding attendance issues, attending meeting to support parents, school-based meeting in regarding to the child's behaviour and engagement.
- We also carry out joint visit with regards to missing education and home education.
- We Also support with college application online and attend with the young person with enrolment.
- We work closely with SEND Teams to liase between them and parents to try and ensure effective communication channels.

Projects

Education project-

- The Project focuses on supporting pupils from the GRT communities in year 6 across Essex to raise transfer rates to year 7, by the provision of a dedicated

secondary development worker who will work with parents and schools and support with school applications.

- So far, all primary Schools on the data provided by ECC with Traveller pupils in year 6 have been emailed and parents who have given permission have been contacted. Secondaries have been contacted to help support the current traveller pupils they have, and we are currently working with more than 5 families.
- Slots for FFT Training and E- Learning that is helping raise cultural awareness in schools are being booked up.
- The Project also provides an NEET six-week programme in two areas, Basildon, and Braintree. That will provide career and education advice, alongside accredited courses that are in high demand within the GRT community such as Hair and Beauty and will be starting in June.
- We are working with the social media team to develop a Facebook page which will hopefully extend our reach and be a valuable source of information for Essex GRT residents.
- The Team Leader of the GRT division, alongside other teams of the council such as the evaluation and planning team and housing will be coming to visit our schools and sites to review project and see how it is progressing.
- A challenge we have experienced is engagement with the community which is why we changed the Drop ins in Wickford and Braintree to visiting sites so we could get that face-to-face contact and outreach.

Health Days

- We are continuing through the summer; this will be a multi-agency provision.
- We are conducting 10 Health Days where we will be having external agencies on sites to support the community with health and education.

E-learning

We have developed an e-learning package, which we hope to get feedback on from people in GRT Communities before sharing with education and other services.

Challenges with Outreach

With regards to education many Travellers were disproportionately impacted, a lot of children couldn't access distance learning and therefore the attainment gap is likely to have grown.

This can lead to challenges in behaviour and attendance issues.

Education process has changed, school application process has become more complex with some applications haven't to go schools while others go to county.

Travellers' families are more impacted as many families struggle with online application process, and people from Travellers communities are more likely to need frequent mid-year school applications.

In Addition, College application all online, which is often a barrier to the Traveller's communities.

There disproportionately amount of people in the Traveller's Community affected by poor mental health and they often struggle to talk about this and access support.

Trying to get people to access right service needed is a challenge due to vast amount of waiting list.

A lot of support is needed with regards to housing, People from GRT Community often forced to move into housing because lack of alternative accommodation. (there's not enough plots).