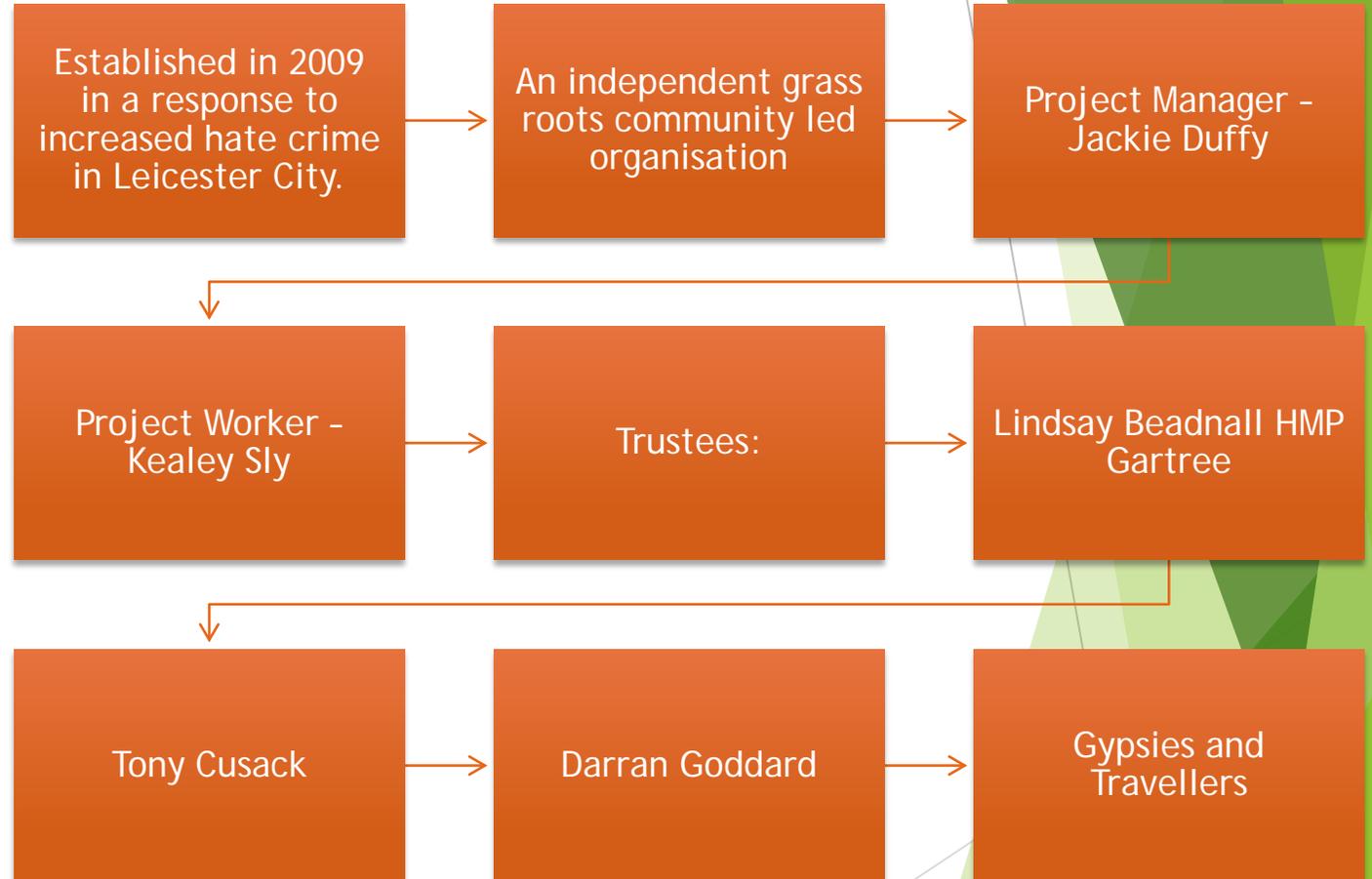




## EDUCATION of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma

**Leicestershire** Gypsy & Traveller Equalities  
Gypsy & Traveller Equalities

# Leicestershire Gypsy and Traveller Equality G.A.T.E



# A LOOK BACK – Plowden report 1967

- ▶ *“Gypsies are probably the most severely deprived children in the country. Most of them do not even go to school, and the potential abilities of those who do are stunted.....”*
- ▶ *“Thus, unless action is taken to arrest the cycle, their children will in turn suffer educational deprivations which will become increasingly severe in their effects as general standards of education rise” (Vol. 1, page 59)*
- ▶ Shared by Arthur Ivatts at ACERT 2017 Mini Conference.

# Skip forward to 2012 - -the coalition

- ▶ 28 Government commitment to improve outcomes for Gypsies and Travellers.
- ▶ The Promises:
- ▶ Increased attainment and achievement in education.
- ▶ Less Hate crime, improved health, better site provision,
- ▶ Improved service engagement and better support in the criminal justice system.
- ▶ sharing of good practice and working with Gypsies and Travellers.



# Commitment 1: improving educational outcomes.

- ▶ 2011. Gypsy and Roma pupils, along with pupils of Irish Traveller heritage, were amongst the lowest-achieving groups at every Key Stage of education.
- ▶ 25% of GRT pupils achieved expected outcomes in Mathematics and English at the end of primary compared to 74% of all pupils.
- ▶ At the end of their secondary education (those who got there) 12% of GRT achieved "good " GCSE's compared to 58.2% of all pupils.
- ▶ The report said: "*The Government is clear that schools and local authorities are best placed to respond to local needs and priorities*" and "*should take a lead in tackling the underperformance of disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils*"
- ▶ Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils are specifically highlighted as a vulnerable group in the revised Ofsted framework, ensuring that school inspections will pay particular attention to their progress, attainment and attendance.
- ▶ This was also extended to Local authorities to safeguard this group.

So, 7 years later.....  
what were the outcomes  
to all those commitments?



2017

House of Commons briefing paper "Gypsies and Travellers"

2017:

► *Children from Gypsy and Traveller communities attain and progress significantly below the national average throughout compulsory education. In 2016, 18% of pupils from Irish Traveller backgrounds and 9% from Gypsy and Roma backgrounds attained 5 GCSEs (or equivalents) at grades A\* to C, compared to 57% of pupils in England. Gypsy and Traveller pupils also have a high rate of school exclusions and report high levels of bullying and racial abuse.*

# Why are outcomes so poor?

- ▶ Continued reduction and eradication of the Traveller Education Service.
- ▶ Many schools asking for clearer and more supportive guidance.
- ▶ Schools being given the option to spend their budgets to “buy in” support - leading to many pupils not being given the additional support they need.
- ▶ A decline in registering to attend secondary school.
- ▶ Parents feeling pressured by schools to remove their children because it will look bad on school figures.
- ▶ Some schools still actively encouraging parents to home educate.
- ▶ Little or no alternative to mainstream education leaving parents with 2 options - continued sanctions or home education.

# IF I HAD A PENNY FOR EVERY TIME I HAVE HEARD.....

- ▶ I didn't think Gypsies went to school?
- ▶ Aren't all girls raised to stay at home?
- ▶ But they live in a house so they are not Gypsies or Travellers.
- ▶ This is "Typical Traveller Behaviour"
- ▶ Well, they got further than we expected.
- ▶ At least they got to year 6.
- ▶ Saying Pikey and Gypo isn't racist, is it?
- ▶ They're not all bad
- ▶ There's nothing you can tell me about working with Gypsies and Travellers.

# finishing on a positive note.....

We know what to do to make things better.....

Every report since 1967 has said the same thing.....

These young people need extra support.....

We are all responsible for effecting change.....

Let's not forget.....

**EVERY**  
**CHILD MATTERS!!**



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