

Traveller Youth

Like all Travellers, young Travellers are not a homogenous group. They have different needs according to their living circumstances and lifestyles. Both formal and informal responses to their needs should take their cultural and varying needs into consideration.



Dublin Pride



Mikey Kelly from Galway holds four World Medals in Handball.

According to Census 2016:

Nearly 6 in 10 Travellers are under 25 years of age - nearly double the rate in the general population

ISSUES

Traveller youth face many issues, including:

- early school leaving
- lack of access to youth services
- discrimination when trying to access commercial recreational services
- discrimination in the workplace
- an increase in drug misuse in the community
- the need to reinforce cultural identity
- the need to increase participation in decisions that affect their lives

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has several important social rights for young people. This includes the right to participate in leisure, recreational and cultural activities.

The Government's National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS 2017-2021) states Traveller and Roma should have opportunities to participate in culturally appropriate youth programmes that meet their needs.

YOUTH WORK WITH TRAVELLERS

The Task Force Report on the Travelling Community (1995) said youth work with Travellers should:

“ Assist in the development of individual and collective self-esteem through services which are based on standards of excellence, are non-judgemental, accepting, culturally appropriate, encouraging and yet challenging”.

The Task Force Report further recommends the development of an equality mechanism, which would identify, track and monitor Traveller involvement in mainstream youth provision.