



PAVEE POINT TRAVELLER & ROMA CENTRE

# Annual Report 2018





Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre



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## COMPANY INFORMATION

### PAVEE POINT TRAVELLER & ROMA CENTRE

A company limited by guarantee  
as 'Dublin Travellers Education  
and Development Group'

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**Charities Regulator Number:** 20023935

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**PAVEE POINT**  
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

# Foreword

**This report reflects the work of Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre from January to December 2018. This year was both a creative and challenging year for Pavee Point as reflected in the content of this report.**

A key focus of our work throughout 2018 was the promotion of Traveller cultural identity. In 2018 this work was particularly reflected in the celebration of Traveller ethnicity as well as various initiatives we undertook with mainstream arts institutions.

It was great to see the visibility of Travellers in the National Museum of Ireland with our Beady Pocket project as well our work with Hugh Lane, Dublin City Gallery. These are not institutions Travellers would normally engage with.

The recent government announcement which added Traveller Tinsmithing and the Traveller language Cant/Gammon to the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage is a welcome result of our advocacy work in this regard.

2018 was also a challenging year for the organisation, and the Traveller community more generally, with the cynical contesting of Traveller ethnicity by a presidential candidate. This resulted in much hate speech on social media and on mainstream media comment pages as well as direct racism towards Travellers.

Hate speech needs to stop and we need more proactive work undertaken in Ireland to address racism. To this end, in 2018, we continued to advocate for a new government Action Plan Against Racism and strengthened hate speech/crime legislation.

The year was also challenging from the perspective of addressing Traveller health inequalities. The Department of Health Committee tasked with Traveller health has not been convened since 2012. This shows a lack of prioritisation of Traveller health at a time when major health reforms are taking place and we see evidence of a growing gap in life expectancy between the Traveller community and the majority population.

For this reason, the forthcoming National Traveller Health Action Plan has to be ambitious, and has to be resourced, if Traveller health inequalities are to be reduced.

The National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS), which raised expectations within both the Traveller and Roma communities in Ireland to deliver progress on their human rights, has largely failed to deliver as documented in our Roma Civil Monitor Report for the European Commission.

We do acknowledge the personal commitment of Minister for Equality, David Stanton, TD to progressing the implementation of the NTRIS Strategy. While there have been some positive developments through NTRIS it remains the case of 'much done, more to do!' We shall continue to support the implementation of NTRIS and to monitor its outcomes.

While raising some of the challenges faced in 2018, it is important to acknowledge the progress being made in working for the attainment of Traveller and Roma human rights in Ireland.

## FOREWORD CTD.,

Our work in progressing ethnic equality monitoring through the collection of ethnic data provides key information to inform evidenced based policy making. Key initiatives in this area in 2018 included working with the Central Statistics Office in a pilot for the Census and we are delighted to report that Roma will now be a named category in the Census 2021.

We are also hopeful that the information documented in the National Roma Needs Assessment, which gives a picture of the dire poverty and discrimination experienced by Roma in Ireland, and was published by Pavee Point and the Department of Justice and Equality in 2018, will result in positive actions to address Roma exclusion in Ireland.

We welcome the State commitment to support a dedicated Primary Health Care Programme for the Roma community and are optimistic that it will have positive health outcomes for Roma, similar to those achieved for Irish Travellers.

As always we thank our Board members for the expertise and guidance they provide to us as well as our hard working and passionate staff team.

**Ronnie Fay, Co Director**  
**Martin Collins, Co Director**

# Purpose and Activities

**Pavee Point is a national non-governmental organisation comprised of Travellers, Roma and members of the majority population working in partnership at national, regional, local and international levels.**

Over the past thirty four years Pavee Point has an established track record in innovative and ground-breaking work using a collective community development approach to addressing Traveller issues and promoting Traveller rights. Our direct work with Roma in Ireland commenced in 1998.

## VISION

Travellers & Roma are fully recognised and respected as minority ethnic groups who are proud and confident in their cultural identity and exercising their human rights.

## MISSION

Pavee Point's mission is to contribute to improvement in the quality of life, living circumstances, status and participation of Travellers & Roma through working innovatively for social justice, greater solidarity, development, equality and human rights.

# Values and Guiding Principles

**The values that inform our work focus on the causes and symptoms of poverty, racism and exclusion and are based on principles of equality, human rights, social justice, participation, empowerment and collective decision making in a structured and co-ordinated way.**

We believe a community development approach and its associated principles provide an appropriate and effective way of working with Travellers and Roma. It means working with, rather than for Travellers and Roma. It supports empowerment, participation and collective action and gives priority to prevention and early intervention.

## **1. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

Community empowerment involves increasing knowledge, skills and the confidence of Travellers and Roma to lead their communities to be resilient, organised, and influential in building an inclusive and inter-cultural society.

## **2. PARTICIPATION**

Participation is rooted in the self-identification of needs and interests by Travellers and Roma themselves and is central to their ability to continue to influence outcomes from policies, programmes and services.

## **3. COLLECTIVE ACTION**

Collective action focuses on potential benefits and outcomes for Traveller and Roma communities - not just individuals - in the pursuit of a just and equal society.

## **4. HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY**

Human rights and equality are core to enabling Travellers and Roma to live with dignity and reach their full potential in society. We believe that Traveller and Roma rights should be respected, protected and fulfilled. An equality perspective looks to the achievement of substantive equality for Traveller and Roma communities in Irish society so that Travellers and Roma of all ages, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, religion and civil status can enjoy equality of opportunity, access, participation and outcome. Gender equality is a key priority for Pavee Point.

## **5. SOCIAL JUSTICE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERSECTIONALITY**

A just and sustainable society involves promoting environmental, social, cultural and economic policies and practices which value diversity and inter-culturalism, challenge injustice, poverty, discrimination and social exclusion. Single factor explanations of the situation of Travellers and Roma are simplistic, inaccurate and ineffective. Ethnic discrimination is often intertwined with discrimination on other grounds such as gender and socio-economic status. The problems experienced by Travellers and Roma are multiple and complex and require a holistic, intersectional approach.

## STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following four goals with associated objectives were identified for the five year period of our Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

1. To promote Traveller and Roma cultural identity and ethnicity
2. To support direct Traveller and Roma participation and empowerment
3. To address current issues and inequalities for Travellers and Roma
4. To strengthen Pavee Point as an organisation

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

Pavee Point currently operates in the following programme areas at a local, regional, national and international level:

- Primary Health Care for Travellers
- Traveller Men's Health
- Traveller Mental Health
- Traveller Health Unit
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Roma
- Violence Against Women

Each of these programmes operates with reference our Strategic Goals and the work of each programme is directed by a Programme Co-Ordinator.

### IN EACH PROGRAMME AREA WE HAVE A TWO-PRONGED STRATEGY USING A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Promote Traveller inclusion

Address Traveller exclusion

### WE DO THIS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS:

Research

Policy  
Development

Project  
Work

Delivering  
Training

Communication  
Work

Representation

Networking



# Goal No.1



“A key way Pavee Point has achieved this goal in 2018 was the promotion of Traveller cultural identity within arts institutions”

To promote Traveller and Roma cultural identity and ethnicity



# Promoting Traveller Identity Within Arts Institutions

A number of initiatives with a variety of arts institutions were successful. The work involved input from across different programme areas – continuing a tradition of culture and heritage being a powerful aspect of the work at Pavee Point.

In March 2018, the first anniversary of the recognition of Traveller ethnicity was celebrated at Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin.



*Ethnicity Celebration, Royal Hospital Kilmainham*

This proved a great opportunity to showcase Traveller culture and identity in a mainstream setting. It offered a chance for the general public to access Traveller culture and for Travellers to access this institution for the first time.

President Michael D. Higgins visited the event which brought widespread publicity. The event was organised by a steering committee of Traveller organisations, including Pavee Point, and funded by the Department of Justice and Equality.

A collaboration also took place between Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre, Dublin City Gallery the Hugh Lane, CREATE, the national development agency for collaborative arts and CAPP, collaborative arts partnership programme.

Artist Seamus Nolan was commissioned to undertake a project looking at the idea of Traveller History as part of a 'National Project'.

The project was a process that resulted in a variety of outcomes. Part of the project was to create a sense of parity between a Traveller organisation, Pavee Point, and an art institution - the Hugh Lane Gallery. Pavee Point exhibited the sculpture 'Singer' by Jerome Connor borrowed from the Hugh Lane, while the Hugh Lane Gallery borrowed a selection of paintings by artist Mick O'Dea from Pavee Point. These were displayed in the Gallery as part of artist Seamus Nolan's exhibition there during the summer of 2018.

The entrance to the Gallery, a focal point for Dubliners and tourists, was decorated with hand-made paper flowers – a symbol of Traveller culture.



*Traveller Collection at the Hugh Lane, Dublin City Gallery*

A website was also created which aims to give Travellers access to their own culture and history while also enabling Travellers to contribute to this collection.



**The Traveller 'Beady Pocket' was the inspiration for another collaboration between Pavee Point, TravAct and the National Museum of Ireland.**

The beady pocket is a unique cultural garment worn by Traveller women and this project involved Traveller and settled women looking at ways of exploring contemporary responses to this object.

The project was facilitated by artist in residence at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, Róisín de Buitléar who worked with 22 women, Travellers and settled over the period of a week in November 2018.



Information exchange at National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks

**In April 2018, Pavee Point's Primary Health Care workers spent a week at the Abbey Theatre documenting the inspiring story of their work through drama, story and song.**

This was part of the Abbey's 5x5 project aimed at giving under-represented groups a chance to develop theatre work.



Above: Abbey 5x5  
Right: Abbey Singing



The project demanded significant input from Pavee Point's PHC workers but was empowering and resulted in a powerful communication of an important story in recent Traveller history. Pavee Point also filmed the project in a half-hour documentary.

## Promoting Roma Culture and Identity

To commemorate Roma Genocide Remembrance Day 2018, Pavee Point brought together a group of 10 Irish Roma and Travellers to travel to Poland to participate in the Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative.



Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative 2018.



The Roma Genocide Remembrance commemorates the 3,000 Roma, including children, who were murdered in the gas chamber of Auschwitz-Birkenau on the 2nd August 1944. We also remember the Roma who were shot or died as a result of poor conditions in internment camps across Europe. In the Roma community this genocide is remembered as the Porajmos – the devouring.

This Initiative was a major undertaking which involved an open call for participants, selection of participants, preparation and planning and 3 of our full time staff also participated in the initiative and one helped facilitate other European groups who participated. The group heard from Holocaust survivors, attended sessions exploring racism and discrimination and visited Auschwitz concentration camp.

This experience had a significant impact on the participants who, in turn, helped to disseminate information on the Roma Genocide – keeping the memory alive and raising awareness on racism.

**To celebrate International Roma Day and European Roma Week in April 2018, Pavée Point hosted a human rights conference entitled Bringing Human Rights Home.**

The conference situated equality for Roma and Travellers within the existing international human rights framework and called for the implementation and enforcement of this framework.



*Dr Ethel Brooks, Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies, Rutgers University, USA speaking at 'Bringing Human Rights Home'*

Dr Ethel Brooks, a US Romani university professor and chairperson of the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) spoke. Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and Bernard Rorke also from the ERRC spoke too.

Traveller and Roma activists described their lived experiences and their fears for the future. They highlighted the need for the EU and for the Irish Government to show greater political will in implementing Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategies.



*Celebrating Roma Day*

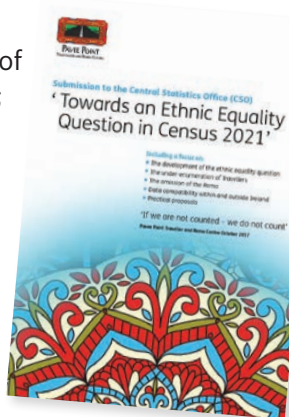
# Advocating For Ethnic Equality Data Collection

Since 1993, Pavee Point has advocated for the collection of disaggregated data on the basis of ethnicity, inclusive of Travellers and Roma, within a human rights framework. We believe that the interests of Travellers or Roma cannot be well served if we do not have evidenced based policymaking and therefore accurate data and ethnic monitoring is required to protect human rights, to promote equality and counter discrimination.

In 2018 we continued our longstanding work with Central Statistics Office (CSO) in its preparation for Census 2021. A key achievement of this work is the inclusion of Roma as a named ethnic group in the revised ethnic question for the next census. In preparation for the 2021 Census, Pavee Point supported the CSO in the national Census Pilot Survey to ensure proportionate participation of Travellers and Roma. The following Traveller-specific actions were implemented by Pavee Point with the support of CSO:

- Consultation with Pavee Point in the development of the census questionnaires;
- Information and knowledge share;
- Development and dissemination of information to Traveller organisations;
- Dedicated website on census pilots;
- Liaising and mobilisation of support for census pilots among local Traveller organisations through the provision of awareness raising; and
- Operation of troubleshooting telephone hotline

The Census 2021 questionnaire will be finalised in 2019 following government approval and the publication of the results of the Census Pilot Survey.



In 2018, we continued this work by supporting the Irish Prison Service (IPS), in partnership with the Traveller Prison Initiative in the implementation of a revised ethnic identifier on the Prisoner Information Management System (PIMS) to align with the national census.

Pavee Point provided training and technical expertise to the IPS. This included delivering training to prison staff and prisoners to support an initial census of all prisoners in two pilot sites to capture an accurate count, the ethnicity of prisoners and in order to update the PIMS.

The census yielded an exceptionally high response rate, with 98% of prisoners voluntarily disclosing their ethnicity. Learning from the pilot informed a national census of all prisons. Data from the national prison census reflects a 50% increase of Travellers in prison self-identifying their ethnicity.

Data will assist IPS and prison staff to better serve the Irish prison population as well as fulfil its statutory obligations ('positive duty') as per Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act [IHREC] 2014.

Reliable and robust disaggregated data on the basis of ethnicity will also assist prison staff in addressing prisoner's individual needs. It will also support the IPS in meeting its key objective of 'reducing re-offending to create safer communities.'

In 2018, we provided further training and technical assistance to a range of other services in implementing an ethnic identifier including addiction services, Solas, the Further Education and Training Authority and the money advice budgeting service.



## Goal No. 2



*“A strong Traveller infrastructure ensures that Traveller organisations can operate at a variety of levels but with a strong united aim,”*

To support direct Traveller and Roma participation and empowerment





# Supporting a Strong Traveller Infrastructure

A strong Traveller infrastructure ensures that Traveller organisations can operate at a variety of levels but with a strong united aim. Crucial to this is the underpinning principle of community development and the understanding that Travellers are a minority ethnic group that experiences racism and discrimination.



*Traveller and Roma Graduates at Maynooth University*

**In May 2018, 24 Traveller and Roma men and women leaders were conferred as graduates of the Maynooth University Community Work in a Changing Ireland Level 7 Certificate Programme.**

Pavee Point was a key contributor to this Programme and instrumental in the development and delivery of the programme.

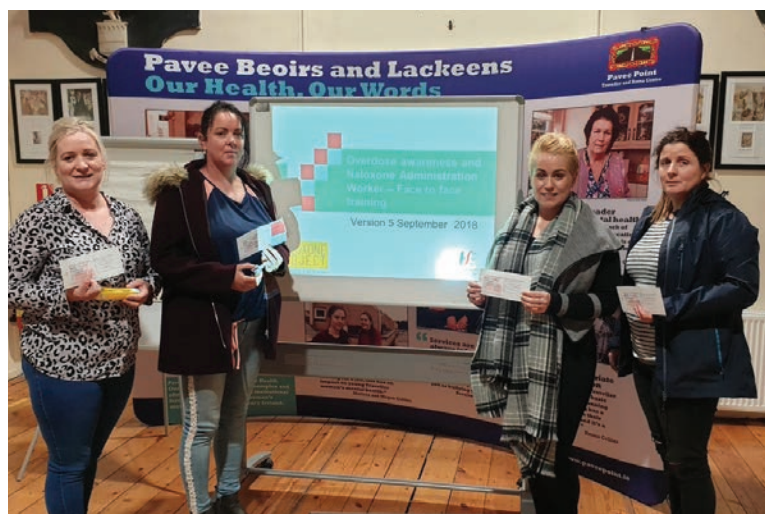
The aim of the course was to promote effective intercultural community development to improve the communication and co-operation between Travellers & Roma and public institutions.

The course also aimed to ensure the integration of a rights-based approach in community development work between Traveller & Roma communities and public institutions.

A third aim was to support the work of community development workers and activists by providing analysis and tools for planning and implementation of their activities which encourage community participation, empowerment and positive collective outcomes for Traveller & Roma communities, and increased accountability of public institutions.

**In 2018 Pavee Point continued to support a strong Traveller infrastructure through providing technical support, training and convening the following networks:**

- National Traveller Health Network
- National Traveller Drug Network
- Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit
- Eastern Region Traveller Health Network
- Traveller Health Training Network



*The National Traveller Drug Network*



*National Traveller Health Network*

The National Traveller Health Network was instrumental in feeding into consultations on the National Traveller Health Action Plan and met four times through the year. Meetings were organised on a thematic basis allowing for discussion on topics impacting on work in the area of Traveller health.

The Eastern Region Traveller Health Network met over 8 times through the year and provided important technical support to the 9 Traveller Primary Health Care Projects in the Region.

The Traveller Health Training Network was established in 2018 and provided training in a variety of areas impacting on Traveller Primary Health Care Projects.

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**Pavee Point continued to be an active member of Minceirs Whiden (MW), the Irish Traveller Movement (ITM) and The National Traveller Women's Forum (NTWF), attending the Annual General Meetings and other events.**

In 2018, a National Traveller and Roma LGBTQ Action Group was established, of which Pavee Point is a member.

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**The National Traveller Drug Network, co-ordinated by Pavee Point, met four times in 2018. Key note speakers presented on various topics including the dangers of tanning injections, diet pills and performance enhancing drugs.**

The new National Drugs Strategy was also discussed as well as looking at the benefits of drug rehabilitation CE schemes and the links they have with Travellers. The Network also heard from the Traveller Women Prison Initiative.





# Sharing Traveller and Roma Expertise

Sharing information on the lived experience of Travellers and Roma is a powerful tool to tackle racism and discrimination. It is vital that Travellers and Roma are empowered to create awareness of issues impacting on Travellers and Roma in a way that can benefit the community as a whole. Pavee Point supports Travellers and Roma in this work and strives to be strategic in determining our target audiences.

## **Pavee Point's Violence Against Women Programme attended the Brussels Delegation on Domestic Violence in January 2018.**

The delegation discussed domestic violence as a stand-alone crime, best practice and data collection on domestic violence, and the ratification of the Istanbul Convention thereby raising awareness of Traveller issues in an international context.



*Tessa Collins and Lynsey Kavanagh*

Pavee Point convened a workshop on health and equality and the right to health. Martin Collins also spoke at the conference.

Staff also took part in workshops where the themes were 'Participation, Power and Progress'. Pavee Point also hosted a practice exchange with international delegates who visited Pavee Point and learned about the work of the organisation.

The event attracted over 400 practitioners, academics, policy makers, funders and participants from all around the world and was organised by Community Work Ireland, the Department of Applied Social Studies Studies, Maynooth University and the International Association for Community Development.

## **Traveller and Roma staff of Pavee Point attended this year's World Community Development Conference which took place in Ireland at Maynooth University in June.**



*World Community Development Conference*



**Pavee Point hosted the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and organised a visit to Traveller sites in preparation for its fifth country report on Ireland.**



*Mr Thomas Büchel (ECRI member in respect of Liechtenstein), Mr Volodymyr Kulyk (ECRI member in respect of Ukraine), Ms Sophie Kurt and Camilla Tessenyi from the Secretariat speak to Travellers in North Dublin.*

During its visit we highlighted important issues to ECRI that were reflected in a strongly worded country report in 2019.

In its report ECRI expressed concern that the majority of local authorities have consistently failed to provide adequate and culturally-appropriate accommodation for Travellers. The report urges Ireland to impose dissuasive sanctions on local authorities for failure to spend funding allocated for Traveller accommodation or, alternatively, to remove this responsibility from local authorities and to place it under the remit of a central housing commission.

ECRI also reported that there is an undercurrent of low-level racist violence which is not adequately recorded or addressed. At the same time, ECRI highlighted there are no provisions in Irish criminal law defining common offences of a racist or homo/transphobic nature as specific offences, nor is racist or other hateful motivation considered to be an aggravating circumstance.

Furthermore, the report stated that the existing Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act is seldom used and is particularly ineffectual in combating online hate speech.

**An informal roundtable took place with Deputy UN Higher Commissioner for Human Rights, Kate Gilmore at Pavee Point in January 2018.**

Commissioner Gilmore heard from a Pavee Point's Primary Health Care for Travellers Project about their work in the area of women and children's rights as well as anti-racism. Commissioner Gilmore has a long history of commitment to and work on women's issues both in the UN and various NGOs.

**In June 2018, Pavee Point hosted a delegation from the Council of Europe Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.**

The delegation visited Traveller accommodation first hand to see the challenges Traveller families are faced with while living in sub-standard accommodation or in unauthorised sites.



*Council of Europe Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities meet John McDonnell.*

This visit was part of the FCNM country visit with a view to preparing its Fourth Opinion on Ireland, which it did in June 2019.

**Pavee Point's Violence Against Women Programme took to social media during the 16 Days of Action 2018 to share statistics and other awareness raising materials to increase awareness of domestic and sexual violence.**



*16 Days of Action 2018 at Pavee Point*

As a member of the Irish Observatory on Violence against Women, we held a joint 16 Days of Action event, 'Creating a Safer Ireland for Women: Ratifying the Istanbul Convention'.

**Three bilateral meetings were held in 2018 with representatives from An Garda Síochána National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) to progress relevant actions in the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence.**

These meetings consisted of discussing the experiences and barriers faced by Traveller and Roma women and looking at potential action/collaboration to address some of the issues.

Tessa Collins, senior community development worker, spoke as part of the panel to highlight the barriers and challenges for Traveller and Roma women who face DSGBV. The Istanbul Convention, after a number of years of lobbying, was ratified by the Irish Government in March 2019 and obliges the Government to protect women against all forms of violence.

**Pavee Point hosted Bus Eireann and Dublin Bus to inform Travellers about apprenticeship opportunities for bus mechanics in February. This resulted in a number of applications from Travellers.**

In December, Pavee Point also hosted a representative from the Public Appointments Service who worked with Travellers who applied for the position of Clerical Officer with the Civil Service & Public Service.

**Pavee Point welcomed, in September 2018, a delegation of Scottish Government personnel who came on an information exchange in relation to working with Travellers. The delegation also included members of civil society and human rights organisations.**

Scottish Ministers across different Departments recently joined forces to tackle inequalities in Scotland – including Traveller and Gypsy inequalities.

The delegation was particularly interested in models of engagement with Travellers and heard from the highly successful Traveller Primary Health Care Project. This project sees Traveller Community Health Workers providing community based health services and acting as liaison between Travellers and health service providers.



*Scottish Delegation L-R: Callum Ogden, Mecopp, Edinburgh; Bernadette Williamson, Article 12 Scotland; Emma Doyle, National Health Service, Scotland; Hilary Third, Scottish Government Equality Unit; Mary Collins, Biddy Collins and Bridgie Collins.*

## MEMBERSHIP OF MAINSTREAM NETWORKS

- ENAR Ireland (European Network Against Racism)
  - National Adult Literacy Association
  - Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
  - National Women's Council of Ireland
  - Men's Development Network
  - Men's Health Forum of Ireland
  - Healthy Ireland Network
  - Irish Observatory on Violence Against Women
  - Children's Rights Alliance
  - Community Platform
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## NATIONAL STATUTORY COMMITTEES

- National Steering Committee of National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy, Department of Justice and Equality
  - National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
  - 'Core Member' Steering Committee of the National Drugs Strategy, Department of Health.
  - Cosc's Monitoring Committee of the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, Department of Justice and Equality.
  - Traveller Health Advisory Forum, Health Service Executive.
  - Cross Sectoral Group on Local and Community Development, Department of Rural and Community Development.
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# Goal No. 3



“Pavee Point supports Traveller and Roma inclusion in mainstream service provision – but with a targeted approach”

To address current issues and inequalities for Travellers and Roma



# Developing Innovative Approaches to Traveller Health

Pavee Point supports Traveller and Roma inclusion in mainstream service provision – but with a targeted approach. Experience has shown that mainstream measures by themselves do not reach the majority of excluded groups. On the other hand, opting for measures exclusively targeting marginalised groups can lead to segregation.

The combined use of mainstream and targeted actions, we believe, to be the option most likely to succeed when addressing the socio-economic inclusion of Travellers and Roma. This balance is reached by combining social policies inclusive of Travellers and Roma population with targeted measures to compensate for existing inequalities. This approach is one that is supported by the EU across member nations.

In 2018 we worked in partnership with the Department of Health to support the development of Traveller specific positive ageing indicators. We hosted consultations both regionally and nationally to inform the development of the indicators. A key outcome from the consultations is the redefining of Traveller 'ageing' as 40+, recognising the short lifespan and early ageing of Travellers. The report was published in 2019.



*We ran a postcard campaign to TDs to support our advocacy work for the publication of the Traveller Health Action Plan.*

*"As mothers we have enough to be worried about. As Traveller mothers, we don't know if our children will see their first birthdays."*

Positive ageing for Travellers remains a key challenge as a disproportionate number of Travellers continue to die younger and at a faster rate than the majority population. In 2013, the first National Positive Ageing Strategy was published in Ireland and as a result, key indicators were developed to monitor progress in positive ageing.

However, the indicators were not fit for purpose for all groups, as acknowledged in the report, and therefore there was a clear need to develop a distinct set of positive ageing indicators for Travellers.

In 2018 Pavee Point welcomed the development of detailed action Traveller Health Action Plan, as per Action 73 in the National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS).

We supported the comprehensive regional consultation process in Dublin, Sligo, Cork and Limerick, which had representation from Travellers, Traveller organisations and service providers from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies.

A clear mandate from the consultation process was the urgent need for a new institutional mechanism, resourced and with dedicated staff, under the aegis of the Department of Health and Health Service Executive (HSE).

This new institutional mechanism is needed to drive the implementation of the Plan, as the principal statutory structure to develop and drive measures to improve Traveller health outcomes (the Traveller Health Advisory Committee) has been dormant since 2012. We advocated for this renewed institutional mechanism to have political accountability.

The Department of Health and the Health Service Executive have committed to publishing the plan in 2019. We look forward to implementation of the Traveller Health Action Plan including the recommendation from the regional consultations to establish a Planning Advisory Body for Traveller Health, with dedicated staff and budgets to drive its delivery and implementation.





**Pavee Mothers was developed and launched in 2018 and is the first national Traveller perinatal health initiative which aims to support and equip Traveller women during the perinatal period.**

Working in partnership with the three Dublin maternity services, this innovative project uses a three pronged-approach to provide peer-led support to Traveller women through:

1. a comprehensive perinatal information pack that is not contingent on literacy;
2. an online mobile digital resource ([www.paveemothers.ie](http://www.paveemothers.ie)); and
3. text-message reminder service to support information resources and engagement with mainstream maternity services

This initiative was developed by Traveller women for Traveller women. It has received an overwhelming response from the Travellers, Traveller organisations, mainstream maternity services and has been endorsed by the Minister for Health.

Since its launch, Pavee Point has received increasing requests from Travellers, Traveller organisations, mainstream maternity services and schools of midwifery for training, support and access to resources and promotional materials. In the absence of dedicated resources or a lead to effectively support implementation across the region, the initiative has been unable to respond strategically to these requests.

A recent evaluation reflects substantial engagement with each dimension of the initiative, with approximately 1,000 copies of the hard resource disseminated to Traveller organisations, maternity services and other allied health/social services.

This is complemented by a significant online engagement with the website, circa 200 visitors each month. This indicates a clear appetite by both Traveller service users and health providers and is particularly timely in the context of the newly established National Women and Infants' Health Programme which seeks to align and strengthen services currently delivered across primary, community and acute care settings.

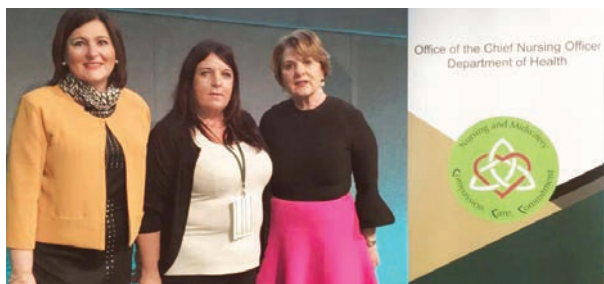
**In 2018, Pavee Point delivered regional KPI training to Traveller projects to streamline national revised KPIs in partnership with the HSE and the Traveller Health Advisory Forum.**

For over two decades Pavee Point has worked with the Health Service Executive (HSE) to develop a strong evidence base for Traveller health inequalities, this includes the establishment of national Traveller Health Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to support the Health Service Executive and Traveller Primary Health Care Projects in measuring Traveller engagement with health services.

Aligning the KPIs nationally ensures that Traveller health is consistently collected, recorded and interpreted supporting a clear evidence base which is required to proactively address Traveller health inequalities.



Geraldine McConnell, Tessa Collins, Kelly Nevin, Winnie Reilly and Christine McDonnell at the launch of Pavee Mothers.



**Mary Brigid Collins addressed the All Ireland Chief Nursing Officers Conference at Dublin Castle in December 2018, promoting a community development approach to addressing health issues.**

**In May 2018, we invited Mental Health Minister Jim Daly, TD to Pavee Point. This was a good opportunity to highlight the mental health crisis within the Traveller community.**



*Minister for Mental Health Jim Daly, TD Speaks to Nancy Collins at Pavee Point.*

- The suicide rate among Traveller men is 7 times the national average
- The suicide rate among Traveller women is 5 times the national average
- Suicide accounts for 11% of all Traveller deaths

Our message to Minister Daly was that Travellers need a voice at a high level in the Department of Health to ensure that a collaborative approach can be adopted to ensure an effective service for Travellers within the mainstream.

**In February 2018, Pavee Point made a presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care.**

We concluded that an urgent response and positive action is needed to address the lack of engagement of Travellers and Roma with Primary Care mental health services. We reiterated these and other points in our written submission.

In its final report in October 2018, the Committee acknowledged that poverty, poor housing and socio economic factors as well as prejudice and discrimination contribute to a mental health crisis in the Traveller community.



*L-R: Catherine Martin TD, Patrick Reilly, Pavee Point and Senator Collette Kelleher*

The report also made specific recommendations in relation to Travellers including a study on the causes of the poor mental health in the community and said that more resources should be targeted at the areas of highest need.

**In 2018, Pavee Point made a submission in support of the decriminalisation of drugs for personal possession.**

Following on from an online consultation and focus groups organised and completed by the Health Service Executive, Pavee Point was invited to take part in an open policy debate on the issue.

During this Pavee Point lobbied for a health led rather than justice led approach to substance misuse. The results of the consultation are to be discussed at a future Standing Sub Committee meeting. The Department of Health committed to adopting this approach in August 2019.



**Pavee Point, alongside several other organisations, came together to raise awareness of Naloxone and overdose as part of the National Overdose Awareness Day.**

In August three national training events were held encouraging people who use opioids to get trained and link in with an onsite GP for access to the product.





In partnership with the Transgender Equality Network Ireland, Pavee Point produced an information leaflet for Travellers and Roma about what it means to be transgender.

Using colour and images, as well as easy to understand text, this leaflet talks about gender identity, gender expression and gender roles. In addition to training, Pavee Point are working with the HSE to identify Naloxone prescribing GP's in all areas covered under the Eastern Region Traveller Health Unit.



*Nutrition as part of Community Heart Project*

### **The Irish Heart/Pavee Point Community Heart Project developed and grew in 2018.**

The project creates the conditions for Traveller men to improve their health through experiential learning which in 2018 included gardening and growing food, cooking skills and nutrition, networking days and focus groups.

The project featured on RTE One Television's Nationwide in autumn 2018.

**To coincide with Dublin Pride 2018, Pavee Point commissioned and launched the video 'Traveller Pride – Johnny's Story'.**



This 7 minute documentary celebrates LGBTQI Traveller identity. It features Traveller man Johnny Maughan and was an online hit with over 14,000 views on Vimeo. The film was produced by Invisible Thread films and funded by the Community Foundation of Ireland. The film also toured a variety of film festivals from Galway to Russia and the UK and was screened on RTE Two television in 2019.

### **Pavee Point hosted an event to mark Men's Health Week and promote the health of Traveller men.**

Men's Health Week is celebrated in most European countries, as well as in the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and a number of other places worldwide.

The overall aims of MHW are to:

1. Heighten awareness of preventable health problems for males of all ages
2. Support men and boys to engage in healthier lifestyle choices
3. Encourage the early detection and treatment of health difficulties in males



*Traveller Men's Health Day, 2018 with boxer Joe Ward.*

Pavee Point's Men's Health Day aimed to:

1. Promote the value of Traveller led initiatives
2. Encourage Traveller men to take positive steps to improve their health
3. Create opportunities for Traveller men to be leaders on promoting healthy lifestyles

Events on the day included a presentation from champion boxer Joe Ward on 'What Travellers can Do for their Health', games and healthchecks.

Pavee Point continued to build strong relationships with the Men's Development Network (MDN) and Men's Health Forum of Ireland (MHFI). This has strengthened our ability to have Traveller representation on national research, policy and actions concerning men's health. It also increases capacity to promote the development and implementation of culturally appropriate strategies.

### **Eight Traveller men took part in HIV Ireland 'Let's Talk About Safer Sex' Training of Trainers facilitated by the Eastern Region Traveller Health Network (ERTHN), co-ordinated by Pavee Point.**

Traveller men from ERTHN worked in partnership with HIV Ireland to make the existing resource more Traveller appropriate.



*Pavee Gloke Health Procect*

**Pavee Point Men's Health Team, with three other Traveller organisations in North Dublin, identified a group of 25 Traveller men from 5 different areas to participate in Pavee Gloke Health to promote health and well-being among Traveller men.**

This programme ran for six-weeks and consisted of workshops with a focus on issues Traveller men feel are having an impact on their health. These were coupled with outdoor activities such as coasteering, rock Climbing, bushcraft and survival skills, kayaking and cave challenge.

**Pavee Point men's health team collaborated to redevelop Engage Training with Traveller men as a specific target group.**

This involved focus groups with Traveller men who identified topics of particular relevance for Traveller men. Videos featuring Traveller men were also included in the training.

Engage Training is part of Healthy Ireland strategy to engage men in promoting better health outcomes and involves the Men's Development Network and Men's Health Forum of Ireland.

## Establishing an Evidence Base

Having evidence to support our policies of inclusion for Travellers and Roma is central to the work of Pavee Point. Providing reliable data gives added credence and gravitas to many of these issues.

**Promoting the collection of ethnic data, within a human rights framework, continues to be an important part of our work.**

In 2018 Pavee Point helped ensure that a new census questionnaire was piloted with Traveller and Roma families. Pavee Point worked with the central statistics office on this pilot which was carried out on the 23rd September in 36 locations. In each of the locations, Traveller organisations worked to ensure there was proportionate participation of Travellers and Roma.



As part of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) the government has committed to collecting ethnic data in all its data collection systems. Pavee Point sees this as an essential step in identifying the needs of minority groups and identifying the gaps that exist in service provision.

Pavee Point continued its important work in this area with a submission to the CSO lobbying for a better developed question on ethnic group in census 2020.

Pavee Point also carried out ethnic identifier training with addiction services, Solas, the Further Education and Training Authority and the money advice budgeting service.



**In March 2018, our Roma Civil Monitor mid-term review of the implementation of NTRIS was published by the European Commission. This report looked at overall policy framework, anti-discrimination and anti-gypsyism.**

Pavee Point is part of a Roma Civil Monitor Project with 90 NGOs across Europe. This project works to monitor the implementation of National Traveller and Roma Strategies. This is being led by the Central European University.

Pavee Point's report highlighted the lack of progress in developing indicators and timelines to monitor the implementation of NTRIS.

The report states that a range of strong Traveller policy frameworks have been developed by the Irish State in thematic areas, however, implementation of policy has been weak with little accountability. It goes on to highlight gaps in equality legislation as well as focusing on the issues of evictions and reduced school timetables for Traveller children. It also states that institutional settings for fighting discrimination and addressing antigypsyism are inadequate and that a National Action Plan Against Racism is needed.



*Roma Civil Monitor Report focuses on issue of Traveller evictions. Photo from Nick Bradshaw, Irish Times*

Throughout 2018 Pavee Point continued its work in a monitoring capacity and prepared a report on the thematic areas of employment, accommodation, health and education which were submitted to the European Commission in the latter part of the year and published in early 2019.

**In 2018, Pavee Point was commissioned to conduct a local Traveller Health Needs Assessment in County Clare by the Traveller Health Unit (THU) in the Midwest.**

The key objective of the Needs Assessment was to support the THU in developing a strong and sustainable Traveller infrastructure in Clare and enable a broad base of projects and initiatives to improve Traveller health and wellbeing.



*Launch of Traveller Needs Assessment of Co. Clare*

Pavee Point recruited and trained seven Traveller women as peer researchers to undertake fieldwork. The Needs Assessment has yielded an exceptionally high response rate, with 76% of Travellers in Clare participating in the research.

The findings were launched in 2019. It is envisaged that the Needs Assessment will inform the establishment of a Traveller Primary Health Care Project which is vitally needed, particularly given the decimation of Traveller Primary Health Care projects nationally under the guise of austerity.

**In 2018, Pavee Point attended the Fundamental Rights Agency closed joint stakeholder meeting on the Local Engagement for Traveller Roma Inclusion.**

At the meeting Ireland was identified as one of only six Member States (Belgium, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom) to participate in the European Roma and Travellers Survey.

The Fundamental Rights Agency nominated Pavee Point as the national contact point for Ireland and we began to work in partnership with the Agency in developing a robust peer-led approach to data collection. Training and fieldwork will commence in 2019 and the results of the survey will be launched thereafter.

Findings of the survey will support policymakers at the European Union and national level in developing measures to tackle the discrimination and exclusion of Roma and Travellers. The data that will be collected in 2018-2019 through the Roma and Travellers Survey will complement FRA's existing data from Member States, namely the 2011 Roma Survey and the 2016 Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS II).

The Assessment highlighted the gaps in Traveller health and provided a road map to bridging these gaps.

This approach is central to the Mid-West THU Strategic Plan (2018-2022) and the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021.

**The publication of the first Roma Needs Assessment in January 2018 was a major step forward in combating discrimination against Roma in Ireland.**

For the first time we got a comprehensive picture of life in Ireland for Roma. A significant proportion of the Roma community live in severe poverty without access to any supports whatsoever. Discrimination in the areas of accommodation and employment are high.

The publication, which was jointly published by Pavee Point and the Department of Justice & Equality, gives direction on where and how equality measures can be introduced.



Thematic briefing papers were prepared in the areas of Roma health, children's rights, education, women's rights and accommodation. Pavee Point lobbied in 2018 for an action on Roma accommodation to be included in the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy and for better resources for service providers to support and assist Roma with accommodation issues.



**Pavee Point, in 2018, lobbied strongly for a complete review of the 1998 Traveller Accommodation Act, through our representation on National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.**



*Pavee Point participating in marching against homelessness*

Pavee Point argued the review should be undertaken by an independent expert group so it is not just Travellers and Traveller organisations analysing these issues. This review was commissioned by Minister for State, Damien English, TD in 2018.

In a written submission to this expert group we identified key barriers and made recommendations. The report was published in August 2019 and a timeframe has been developed to discuss the document and to look at implementing its recommendations.





**Pavee Point Primary Health Care Workers participated in focus groups as part of the development of the National Women's Council of Ireland's (NWCi) Women's Mental Health report 'Out of Silence: Women's Mental Health in their own words'.**

Missie Collins, was invited to speak at a panel discussion for the report launch on the 6th of November - where she highlighted key issues impacting on Traveller women's mental health. This report will be used to influence a review of National Mental Health Policy currently underway.

#### **Pavee Point's Men's Health Team was a partner on the research 'Middle Aged Men and Suicide'.**

This resulted in strong Traveller representation in the report, funded by the National Organisation for Suicide Prevention. This report will be a strong lobbying tool for the mental health sector.

This study's findings make the issue of suicide among middle-aged men more visible, and gives a voice to vulnerable and 'at risk' groups to have their say about the issues and challenges that impact on their lives.

Travellers were identified as one of the 'at-risk' groups due to a suicide rate among Traveller men that is 6.6 times greater than the general population. A group of middle aged Traveller men took part in a focus group and Traveller men are named in the report recommendations.



# Goal No. 4

“Following a mid-year review of work in 2018, organisational priorities were drawn up for 2019. The process of using key priorities has been useful in keeping work focused”

To strengthen Pavee Point as an organisation





## ORGANISATIONAL PRIORITIES

Following a mid-year review of work, organisational priorities were drawn up for 2019.

The process of using key priorities has been useful in keeping work focused. The overarching frame for developing and implementing selected priorities to guide Pavee Point's work is the Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

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## GOOD GOVERNANCE

### Programme Compliance

Each of our programmes is required to provide annual reports to funders and to comply with strict funding criteria – which can involve monthly or quarterly reports depending on the programme.

A Steering Committee with representatives of funders and external expertise support the operation of programmes. All programmes have an agreed Service Level Agreement with the funder and our Community Employment Scheme operates on an application basis.

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### Organisational Compliance

Pavee Point registered in 2017 as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

We comply with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 and we are working towards the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) which requires greater level of information, disclosure and analysis but which will ensure that we comply with best practice procedures.

We are registered with the Charities Regulator and comply with Section 848A of the Taxes Consolidation Act.

We also registered on the Lobbying Register and provide regular reports via [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie).

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### Internal Policies

Pavee Point embarked, in 2018, on updating of internal policies.

Preparations were made for the implementation of GDPR in May, 2018. Policies were also drawn up in relation to child protection, communications and social media, confidentiality, drugs and alcohol, complaints, domestic violence and Garda vetting.

## MANAGEMENT

### Management Committee

There were seven meetings of the Pavee Point Management Committee during the year - 15 February, 19 April, 31 May, 24 July, 13 September, 1 November and 13 December.

Each programme produces a progress report for Management Committee meetings highlighting issues or challenges.

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### Internal Management Team

The Internal Management Team met once a month throughout the year. It deals with operational issues and presents relevant information to the Co-Ordinators Meeting.

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### Co-Ordinators Meeting

Programme Co-Ordinators met once a month to share information, organise scheduling of work and liaise on various dates and events. The minutes from these meetings are distributed to all staff.

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## FUNDING LEVELS

### 3 Year Pilot Project on Domestic Violence

In 2018, Pavee Point was successful in securing Tusla funding for a 3-year pilot project on domestic sexual and gender based violence (DSGBV).

The Traveller DSGBV Pilot Project is a national project aiming to address barriers to information, safety and protection from DSGBV faced by Traveller women.

The project stems from the findings of a National Needs Assessment commissioned by the DSGBV team of Tusla in 2017. The Needs Assessment was undertaken in six regional areas, highlighting significant gaps for Traveller women to access and engage with DSGBV services.

To this end, Tusla commissioned Pavee Point to coordinate a national pilot project to address the issues. The project's geographical scope focuses on Dublin, Wicklow, Carlow and Cork as the project employs one Traveller DSGBV worker in each location. These DSGBV workers will be placed in local Traveller Primary Health Care Programmes. The Project objectives are:

1. Support Traveller knowledge and analysis of, and response to, issues of DSGBV
2. Improve Traveller women's access to and uptake of mainstream DSGBV services
3. Improve the delivery of DSGBV services to Traveller women
4. Identify and explore barriers to DSGBV services

### Roma Primary Health Care Project

**Pavee Point secured funding in 2018 to establish a Roma Primary Health Care Project. This project is currently in development and negotiations are underway with the DEASP on how trainees can be supported.**

Many Roma in Ireland are living in poverty which has a negative impact on their health. The Roma in Ireland: National Needs Assessment reveals that over 50% of respondents are experiencing poverty. Many have had extremely poor experiences of health services and authorities in their country of origin.

This, combined with some negative experiences in Ireland, impacts the level of trust and confidence in engaging with health services. The Roma in Ireland: A National Needs Assessment shows that Roma face particular barriers to accessing services in Ireland, including not knowing how or where to access services, lack of documentation, lack of eligibility and literacy, and language barriers.

This project is aimed at empowering Roma leaders to work to improve Roma health outcomes in their communities.

## MEDIA PROFILE

**Communications work is an important part of the work of Pavee Point and supports the goals in our Strategic Plan.**

In 2018, Pavee Point helped ensure coverage of Traveller and Roma events on some of Ireland's most listened to and watched programmes such as RTE News, RTE Radio One Morning Ireland, Drivetime and Today with Sean O' Rourke.



*Mary Collins, recording for Arena, RTÉ Radio One Arts Programme*

Traveller culture also featured for the first time on Arena, RTE's Arts Programme as a result of our Traveller Collection project.

### Pope's Visit

In Summer 2018, Travellers and equality for Travellers were a focus in the Festival of Families at Croke Park during the visit of Pope Francis to Dublin. Singer Bridgie Collins who sang during this festival was identified by Tryone Productions through her work in Pavee Point. Missie Collins, also a longtime member of Pavee Point staff, spoke to the audience about Traveller exclusion and discrimination.



*Bridgie Collins (L) sings at the Festival of Families during the visit of Pope Francis in August 2018 with Moya Brennan*



**Presidential Elections**  
In Autumn 2018 Pavee Point, Travellers and Traveller ethnicity were the focus of intense media coverage during the presidential elections.



*Martin Collins*

This put intense pressure on Pavee Point resources but staff rallied to help deal with the demand for responses, comments and information from both the public and media.

Martin Collins, Pavee Point Co Director spoke out on national and international media, in an equality and human rights context, on these issues.

He defended diversity and equality in difficult circumstances, including intense hate speech on social media. His was a strong, clear and important voice, not only for the Traveller community, but for anti-racism across the whole of society.

### Increased following on Social Media

Our Facebook following increased in 2018 by over 35% from 4,500 to 6,100 page followers. Our Twitter following increased by 27% from 5,000 approximately to 6361. The main social media activity occurred at the launch of our video Traveller Pride – Johnny’s Story in June and the Presidential election campaign in October.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

**Pavee Point pursues a programme of staff development. In 2018, a staff member submitted research for a PhD supported by Pavee Point in partnership with the Irish Research Council through its employment-based post graduate programme.**

Management received management training and co-ordinators received training in staff supervision and support.

Staff members also completed training in Child Protection and General Data Protection Regulation.

In 2018 the Traveller Health Training Network was set up, funded by The Wheel, and aimed at Traveller Primary Health Care Workers in the Eastern Region. Pavee Point Primary Health Care Workers have been able to avail of this training.

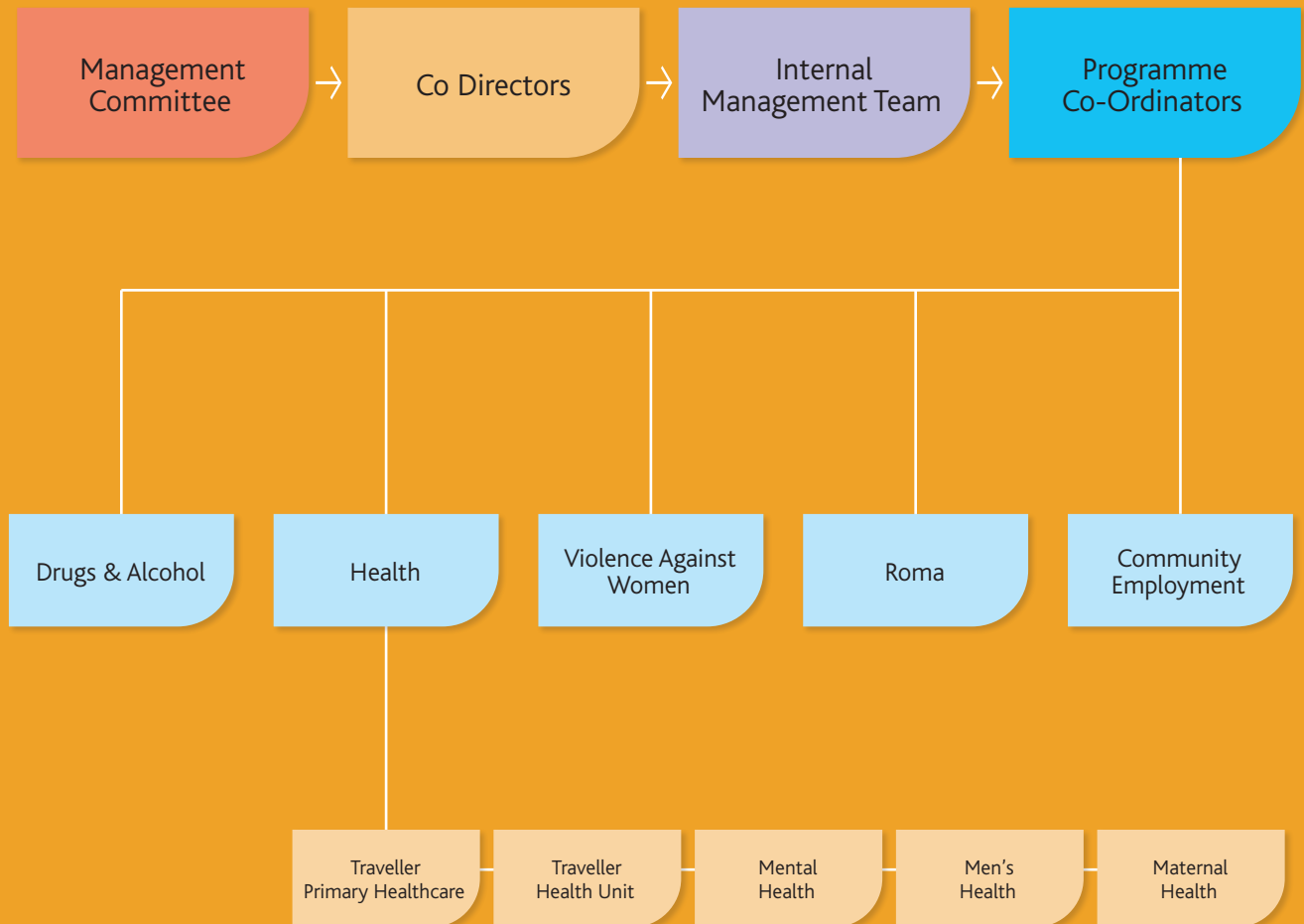
### SUBMISSIONS 2018

- Submission to Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care, February 2018
- Submission to Review of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Standard Operating Procedure, February 2018
- Submission to the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland, February 2018
- Submission’ Towards an Ethnic Question in Census 2021
- National Traveller Health Action Plan, Summary Report of Regional Consultative Meetings Dublin, Sligo, Limerick and Cork, June 2018
- Submission to the Expert group in relation to review of the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998, January 2019
- Submission to Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) on Political Participation of Roma and Sinti, 2018
- Submission to Local Authorities on the Preparation of Traveller Accommodation Programmes, 2018
- Civil society monitoring report on implementation of the national Roma integration strategies in Ireland, European Commission, March 2018
- Points for consideration regarding the review of the Local and Regional Drug Alcohol Task Force Handbook, June 2018
- Submission to the Working Group Regarding the Public Consultation on Personal Possession of Illegal Drugs, July 2018

### PUBLICATIONS 2018

- Pavee Mothers Booklet
- Roma Needs Assessment
- Roma Needs Briefing Booklets
- Traveller Pride – Johnny’s Story
- What does the T in LGBTQI mean?

# Pavee Point Structures







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