



Improving outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities

Programme specification

1. What are we looking for?

We are looking for organisations or consortia with the vision, capability and credibility to run a pilot programme to improve the situation of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities by furthering outcomes in the areas of educational attainment and progress, health and social integration. We have a budget of up to £200,000, available to fund up to six pilot projects in the above-mentioned areas.

To be eligible to receive the grant, an organisation must be a registered charity or have a charitable purpose. If applying as a consortium, organisations must have agreed a lead partner to manage the programme and a system for dividing the work and funds between partners and managing performance. That lead partner (or whoever is receiving the money) must be a charity or have a charitable purpose.

The successful bidder will need to have a demonstrable record in delivering projects and working with Gypsy, Roma or Traveller communities, and have a credible community presence. Projects based outside England, including in the Devolved Administrations, will not be considered. The Department for Communities and Local Government reserves the right to only fund projects that meet the eligibility criteria; should fewer than six proposals meet the criteria, we reserve the right to only award part of the grant, or not award any funding.

2. Why do we want this?

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are amongst the most disadvantaged in British society: in education, they are consistently the lowest performing ethnic group at all key stages and have significantly above average rates of absence and exclusion. Approximately a quarter of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils did not continue into education, training or employment after key stage 4 in 2013/14-2014/15. They also stand out as having particularly low life expectancy and poor health.

The data recently published on the Ethnicity Facts and Figures website brought the longstanding inequalities experienced by these groups into fresh focus, and the Government accepts that more needs to be done to make sure we create an inclusive society, where nobody is excluded or left behind. The Department for Communities and Local Government is exploring potential cross-Government action to improve some of the outcomes of these communities. We are working closely with the Department for Education and the Department of Health to effect positive change in the areas of educational attainment, health and social integration. The overarching aim of this fund is to create harmonious communities that are great places for people to live and work, and we are keen to use education, health and leadership as vehicles to this purpose.

The Department for Communities and Local Government will only fund projects that are able to demonstrate the existence of a real need for targeted intervention, be it in the form of a national problem that needs remedying, or a regional or local concern that could be addressed by such an intervention.

3. What do we want the programme to do?

3.1 Aims

We are looking for organisations or consortia with the vision, capability and credibility to help further outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the areas of educational attainment, health and social integration, by piloting six projects that develop or expand current best practice. We are looking for innovative approaches, founded on active community engagement.

We will not specify what each project should entail; we encourage proposals that originate in the community, are designed to meet local need not otherwise met, and are developed by or in partnership with community members. While we strongly encourage projects that draw on existing best practice and employ methods that have been shown to work in the past, we will only fund new proposals, as opposed to proposals that seek to finance existing projects.

3.2 Selection criteria

The overall aim of each project should be to effect positive change in one of the three areas: educational attainment, social integration and health, with the purpose of improving community cohesion and relations between different groups, be they settled or nomadic. The merits of each project will be considered in relation to four sets of measures. The weighting criteria details how much weight will be attached to each measure in the assessment of proposals.

a) Value for money

Projects will need to demonstrate value for money, and we will be looking at how organisations would make most of the grant. Preference will be given to projects that can demonstrate innovative thinking and business acumen.

b) Impact

It is essential that projects have a positive impact, and that they clearly define how their proposed intervention would improve one of the three areas (social integration, educational attainment and healthcare access or health outcomes). Proposals will also need to include defined objectives that are measurable and specific. Projects will need to demonstrate:

- That there is a real need for the proposed intervention in the specified area. We want organisations to consider what approach would have the biggest impact, and as such will not automatically give preference to projects that have a wide geographical reach. Projects will also need to show evidence of need in their areas of choice, and may wish to draw on existing research, data, statistical evidence and case studies to do so.
- That the project will be monitored and evaluated adequately. Each proposal will need to include a section on monitoring mechanisms and evaluation methodology. We will give preference to proposals that are able to measure their impact and report where positive change occurred. We encourage proposals to explore a wide range of evaluation methods, including attitudinal surveys (to measure changes in attitude over a defined period of time in a controlled cohort of participants).

c) Sustainability

We want these projects to be vehicles for better social integration, and help build capacity within the community. For this reason, preference will be given to projects that have:

- **A strong community base.** We will prioritise projects that are born out of consultation with the community, and that meet a real need in the chosen area(s). It will be essential that organisations demonstrate that projects work with and are informed by the community, and reflect its diverse needs. As trust takes time to build, we will only be able to select proposals from organisations that are well regarded within their respective communities, and we will ask that bids provide examples of previous successful work in this sense.
- **A wide network of contacts.** We want organisations to strive to broaden their reach, and we will prioritise projects that have, or are looking to develop, networks of volunteers and contacts that can further their work, and projects that consider how to continue beyond the pilot phase without Government funding.
- **A collaborative approach.** We will give preference to projects that propose to work in partnership with other organisations. This may mean, for example, that projects with an education focus work in partnership with schools, health projects with healthcare organisations, and projects that seek to improve community cohesion work with charities and NGOs. We will also consider organisations that are able to, or seek to, match-fund.

It is important to stress that, although the six projects are to be carried out in three areas mentioned above, these are not to be regarded as distinct. Rather, the common aim of all projects will be to further the social integration of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups by means of improving community cohesion, health outcomes and educational attainment.

d) Relevance to international recommendations (desirable)

It is desirable that project proposals address one or more of the recommendations made to the United Kingdom by international bodies, such as the Council of Europe, the United Nations or the European Commission.

3.3 Project specifications

Each project should:

- Cost no more than £30,000
- Run for a period of 12 months starting April 2018
- Be based in England
- Meet all relevant criteria

Organisations are eligible if:

- They are registered charities or can produce articles of association
- Are community-based and/or community-led

Other considerations:

- The deadline for applications is **18 February 2018**.
- The grant will be paid in two instalments in the 2018/19 financial period (April/October)
- In order to be awarded the second instalment of the grant, projects will need to submit regular progress reports, outlining progress against agreed milestones.