

County Durham LINK Meeting/Event

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| Date: 13th May 2010 |
| Meeting with Scott McNally, DCC Social Inclusion Manager |
| Number/range of attendees: Clare Sandford and Scott McNally |
| Purpose of meeting/event: To discuss ways in which County Durham LINK can engage with the traveller/gypsy communities in County Durham |
| Record completed by: Clare Sandford |
| <p>The meeting was set up to discuss how the LINK could engage with the traveller/ gypsy communities in County Durham. There are 6 council run sites located at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tower Road, Greencroft, Stanley - 14 pitches • Drum Lane, Birtley - 14 pitches • Adventure Lane, West Rainton - 17 pitches • St Phillip's Park, Coundon Grange - 25 pitches • Green Lane, Bishop Auckland - 20 pitches • East Howle, Ferryhill - 23 pitches <p>The site at Coundon has recently had a community building built and the plan is to do the same at the other 5 sites; Ferryhill will be next.</p> <p>It was suggested that the LINK could work closely with the Traveller Liaison Service during the development of the site at Ferryhill to build up relations with the residents of the site. Scott did point out that if the LINK is serious about working with travellers then we will have to dedicate a lot of time to this.</p> <p>In addition, Renaissance, have been commissioned to do a survey of health needs for travellers throughout County Durham and Darlington. It would therefore seem pointless in the LINK doing a similar exercise. Alternatively, the LINK could see what the survey discovers and look for areas to try and improve – the survey</p> |

should be complete by Autumn 2010.

The other thing to bear in mind when working with travellers is a lot of their issues are similar to those living in rural areas so there might be some cross over with the Rural health work plan issue.

Actions:

- Scott McNally to get the Travellers Liaison Service Manager to contact the LINK to move this forward
- Clare Sandford to make contact with Renaissance to discuss the survey they are carrying out.