1. Healthcare contact with gypsy/travellers

1.1 Gypsy/traveller sites within the NHS Forth Valley area
Within the NHS Forth Valley area there are three Local Authority run gypsy/traveller sites. There is one site based in each Local Authority.

- Westhaugh, Clackmannanshire
- Bridgend, Stirling
- Redding Industrial Site, Falkirk

The Stirling and Clackmannanshire sites are coordinated by a worker from Stirling Council. The Falkirk site is coordinated by a worker from Falkirk Council.

1.2 Access to healthcare
All gypsy travellers have access to GPs, Dentists and Health Visitors. Health visitors regularly attend the gypsy sites to offer healthcare to women, children and young people. The main issue highlighted is of continued access for health assessments as the children get older.

Pregnant women usually attend the GP for booking and then have care via the midwifery team or combined with GP. Families are usually open to midwifery input. The midwifery department manager/senior midwife is not aware of any missed girls or late bookers. EQIA assessments of midwifery policies did not identify any gaps with regard to provision of services for gypsy travellers. Any particular issues would be picked up through vulnerability criteria if appropriate with pre-birth planning etc. If there are issues via social work then this would be passed on from the relevant area.

1.3 The Keep Well anticipatory care programme
The Keep Well anticipatory care programme targets the 15% most deprived areas within the Health Board area using data from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). NHS Forth Valley also employs Council Tax banding as a preferred indicator of deprivation to identify individuals likely to be at high risk of coronary vascular disease (CVD).

Within Forth Valley gypsy/traveller men and women are targeted through the Keep Well initiative. The three year extension of the Keep Well initiative 2012-15 will continue to build on existing links with travelling communities and the staff working with them. Keep Well largely targets men and women aged 40 to 64. However it is intended that within the gypsy traveller community men and women from aged 35 to 64 will receive health checks.

Keep Well will continue to develop awareness of cultural issues that impact on engagement with this group, such as the gender of the assessor.

1.4 Policies
There are no NHSFV policies or practice guidelines specific for gypsy/travellers. Importantly EQIA assessments of policies, services and functions within Forth Valley have not highlighted any discrimination.
1.5 Access to patient records
Access to patient records has been noted as a particular issue for gypsy traveller who may be moving around. Electronic records or patient hand held records may be used in the future although they are not currently in use in Forth Valley.

1.6 Contribution to National Parenting Strategy
NHS Forth Valley has contributed to the development of a Scottish Government led National Parenting Strategy. Working with Community Planning Partners, a Forth Valley Public Health Practitioner facilitated local discussions with a group of women from the gypsy traveller community at Redding. This was one out of 19 discussion groups held within the Falkirk area. Transcripts of the discussions have been submitted to the Scottish Government for collation and analysis. The output will inform the national parenting strategy.

2. Events held with gypsy travellers
There have been a number of events held with gypsy travellers.

2.1 Building Bridges
An event held on 6 December 2011 as part of a Growing Communities funded Connecting Communities Project examined issues of importance to Scottish Gypsy /Travellers living in the Falkirk area. A community worker and another member of staff from Falkirk Council along with an organisation called Building Bridges organised and hosted the event. (Building Bridges is a church based Scottish Gypsy/Travellers group based in Falkirk. Their aim is to represent this community throughout Scotland and give them a collective voice for their views and issues that affect them in their daily life.)

It was noted that the issues flagged were those that most groups raise rather than being specific to one minority group. Cross cutting concerns such as transport, waiting times and parking were raised as issues.

2.2 Open space event
The Central Scotland Regional Equality Council organised an ‘open space’ event in 2011 entitled ‘Keeping well in your community.’ This was attended by representatives from partner agencies - NHS, Local Authority, Police, voluntary organisations and individuals who support their aims. Members of the gypsy traveller community also attended the event.

2.3 Stirling Council group
Stirling Council has set up a new group to discuss issues relevant to the gypsy Traveller group. This has representation from partners including Health Promotion, Stirling Council Homelessness, Police and Adult Education.

3. Planned meetings/events
There are some meetings planned to discuss the issue of gypsy travellers.

3.1 Scoping meeting
The Equality and Diversity Project Manager will be holding a NHS Forth Valley scoping meeting in the beginning of September. This will initially be with NHS Forth Valley staff, who currently work with gypsy travellers, to collate actions completed to date and identify gaps. This will be followed up with community members to look at current issues with a view to developing a specific Equality Outcome as per the Equality Act 2010.
3.2 **Fostering good relations: Cultural event**
NHS Forth Valley and Central Scotland Police will be holding a Cultural event in September which will represent all equality communities within the Forth Valley area.

The purpose is to:
- build upon existing good relations between the Police, Health and local minority communities in an informal setting
- allow representatives from all equality groups to network and broaden the understanding of other equality groups
- promote cohesion by exposure to different groups and break down barriers or gaps
- promote understanding
- use the event to inform future planning within health and the local police about how to enhance current services for community members

Local gypsy travellers will be presenting on the night and are on the working group developing this event.

3.3 **Fair for All**
The NHS FV Fair for All Development Committee deals with equality and diversity issues and provides assurance to the NHS Board that these are being addressed and performance managed.

3.4 **Specific training or awareness-raising undertaken in relation to gypsy travellers**
Gypsies have recently been legally recognised as an ethnic minority group and as such share one of the nine protected characteristics. Training and awareness on Equality and Diversity and the Equality Act 2010 is carried out across Forth Valley and gypsy travellers are highlighted within staff induction and mandatory training.

3.5 **Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project**
Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project is a charity based in Edinburgh which provides a range of services to support minority ethnic carers in their caring role. In May 2011 the charity began a project working with gypsies in three localities in Scotland: Edinburgh & the Lothians, Perth & Kinross and North Argyll. The recently published report of this project, ‘Hidden Carers - Unheard Voices,’ was highlighted at the NHS FV Equality and Diversity leads meeting on 10th May 2012. The findings will also be discussed at the NHS FV Carers Strategy Group.

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NHS Forth Valley
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