Contact with Gypsy/Travellers

We have limited contact with groups of Gypsy / Travellers although we do have links with Council staff who work closely with Gypsy / Travellers, for example Brian Kane at South Ayrshire Council. In this way an awareness of the needs of this group can be shared through our Involving People Groups locally.

The Scottish Health Council also provide the Service with contacts in local areas where there are groups living in a particular area. This ensures there are links through our Patient Focus and Public Involvement work.

Policies / guidelines relating to Gypsy / Travellers

We do not have policy relating specifically to Gypsy / Travellers but do ensure staff are aware that there might be specific needs around literacy, access to general practitioner services and medical records which individuals may carry with them.

Specific training / awareness raising undertaken

Through our ‘Foundations in Clinical Practice’ programme discussion with students centres’ around Gypsy / Travellers and social exclusion, isolation, health, culture and identity in order to raise awareness of the needs of this community.

What difficulties do Gypsy / Travellers have accessing the Service / support

Gypsy / Travellers access the Service through 999 and are referred through primary care / GP. In our experience the majority of Gypsy / Travellers self present through Accident & Emergency departments rather than through the Ambulance Service. We do not have any record of Gypsy / Travellers being provided with transport to / from clinics by Patient Transport Service.

The Ambulance Service visits established Gypsy / Traveller sites locally to ensure access provision is clear and there are no issues should there be a requirement for an Ambulance.

Ann Tobin
Equalities Manager
Scottish Ambulance Service
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