

## Including Minorities – Including Everybody East Renfrewshire Roadshow June 2003



June 2003

### ORGANISATION

**Scottish Traveller Education Project (STEP)**

### FOCUS

**Inclusive educational approaches within the context of interrupted learning.**

#### *Can you briefly describe any initiatives or projects in place that illustrate the focus of an "Inclusive School"?*

The Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP) has been funded since 1990 by the SEED to promote more inclusive practices in education services to support Gypsies and Travellers throughout Scotland. As part of its approach, generic work is carried out through the maintenance of networks, conferences and seminars, field and literature research, information gathering and dissemination through articles, national guidance and the STEP website. More specific work, agreed with SEED, covers research and development of forms of distance education including ICT, parent held school records, anti-bullying information for families and children, FE provision to encourage family aspirations and post school continuance in formal education. Quality Indicators to help schools and local authorities monitor and develop their practice with respect to Gypsies and Travellers and other interrupted learners. A new development has been the promotion of a network of Health Visitors with Gypsy/Traveller families.

#### *How is this initiative being monitored and evaluated?*

Regular contact with practitioners in the field including Gypsy and Traveller organisations, HMIE and the SEED ensures that work is focused, relevant and is a proper representation of the situation and needs of several different providers and client groups.

#### *What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and young people or members of your organisation, in implementing the initiatives or projects?*

Gypsy/Travellers may have generally significant periods of interrupted learning. Gypsy/Travellers experience racism and racist bullying and most do not persevere with attendance at secondary school. Many Gypsy/Traveller families are reluctant, and many refuse, to let their children attend secondary school at all.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Scottish Traveller Education Project  
University of Edinburgh  
Educational Studies  
Charteris land  
Holyrood Road  
Edinburgh EH8 8AQ**

**Contact:  
Dr Betty Jordan – Director  
Tel: 0131 651 6444/6371  
Email: [Betty.Jordan@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Betty.Jordan@ed.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.education.ed.ac.uk/step](http://www.education.ed.ac.uk/step)**

For education providers there are 3 key issues:

- ✓ how to ensure access to schools for all Gypsy/ Travellers
- ✓ Working with 'disaffected' Gypsy/Traveller families to raise aspirations and support their expectations
- ✓ Provision of flexible forms of educational support for mobile families

***Any materials the school/institution is willing to share or relevant publications that are for sale?***

Please contact STEP for full list of publications available.

### ***What has worked well?***

This is best achieved through:

- 1) Raising awareness of Gypsy and Traveller diversity in life-styles and life-chances
- 2) Anti-racist and anti-bullying approaches
- 3) Addressing the needs of interrupted learners through flexible provision, in and outwith schools

### ***What did not work & lessons learned?***

- 1) Gypsy /Travellers who are reluctant to engage in schooling cannot be forced to attend – they simply move and **all** their children lose out on education.
- 2) Attendance at school does not ensure success in achievement or attainments. Flexibility in curriculum content, methods and strategies, relevance in expected LOs, pacing etc are more critical than for most pupils.

### ***Future plans?***

SEED will decide. Funding is available to 31/03/04.

Thereafter hope is for research, linked to policy and practice, website information source, and CPD.



0131 651 6100  
[www.antibullying.net](http://www.antibullying.net)

University of Edinburgh  
Holyrood Road  
Edinburgh  
EH8 8AQ



0131 651 6551  
[www.ethosnet.co.uk](http://www.ethosnet.co.uk)