

DONEGAL TRAVELLERS PROJECT CLG



DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021





An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth







Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Organisation Name:	Donegal Travellers Pi	Donegal Travellers Project CLG			
Reporting Period:	January to December	January to December 2021			
Organisation Address (registered office) and contact details:	Donegal Travellers Pr Port House Port Road Letterkenny Co. Donegal	Port Road Letterkenny			
Company number:	258334	258334			
Charity number (CHY):	CHY 12244	CHY 12244			
Directors:	of the organisation and governance principle Charity Regulator; 1. Advancing its 2. Behaving with 3. Leading people 4. Exercising con 5. Working effect	rs are responsible for the g nd have ensured that the fo es have been applied in line charitable purpose n integrity le ntrol	ollowing		
Auditor:	Unit 3, <mark>1st Flo</mark> or	Glenview Business Park Letterkenny			
DTP Funded Projects:	National Traveller Partnership (NTP)DCDonegal Travellers Primary Healthcare Project (PHCP)HSRoma Community Development and Advocacy ProjectDC		FUNDERDCEDIYHSEDCEDIYTusla		

SECTION 1: CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

Community Development is a long-acknowledged approach within the company to addressing poverty, social exclusion and inequality, and Ireland has an internationally recognised community work infrastructure and vibrant sector for decades. Over the past number of years, community work and the community development infrastructure has been subject to significant resource cuts and policy changes and remains under-recognised, under-resourced and under-valued. However, Donegal Travellers Project continues its core work of Community Development and Human Rights framework to address the distinct needs of the Traveller and Roma communities on a local, regional and national scale.

At the beginning of 2021, COVID-19 continued to highlight the inequalities experienced by the Traveller and Roma communities. In the first half of the year DTP continued to provide a COVID-19 response plan and provided health and wellbeing support as well as crisis interventions to Travellers and Roma across Donegal and North Leitrim. This work included accommodation supports, education, health, employment and anti-poverty supports. As the risk of COVID-19 reduced towards the latter half of the year DTP returned to delivering in person as well as online actions and programmes as set out and agreed across all projects and funders (Tusla, HSE, DCEDIY, Pobal) in line with the Strategic Plan 2021-2026 and national policies including NTRIS 2017-2021. The programmes focused in the areas of health equality, cultural identity, Traveller pride, youth work, adult and community education, summer programmes and community events.

The organisation is well represented on local, regional and national committees and steering groups to represent the needs and interests of Traveller and Roma communities across Donegal which included the LTACC, National Roma Network, Traveller Health Unit, National Traveller Health Network and CYPSC.

DTP was established in 1996 and in 2021 we were twenty-five years in existence and while we didn't get the opportunity to celebrate due to COVID-19, however, this annual report recognises the achievements in 2021 of DTP and the continued struggle for social justice, equality and inclusion and shows the growth, expertise and commitment to human rights



of all st<mark>aff a</mark>nd board o<mark>f managem</mark>ent.

I want to acknowledge the work completed for Traveller Pride in 2021 which created the opportunity for DTP to celebrate the Traveller community in the county and produce a publication 'Still Here Still Proud' where over 100 Travellers across the county participated. This publication was dispersed widely to Travellers and non-Travellers which promoted and celebrated Traveller pride in the county.

I also want to acknowledge and congratulate David Friel on his graduation as a Masters Student and beginning his journey to achieve a PHD with Sligo ATU in 2021.

The death of Patrick McGinley in April 2021 was a significant blow to Donegal Travellers Project and to the whole Primary Healthcare Project Team. We remember him for his dedication to the advancement of human rights, equality and inclusion for Travellers across Donegal. Patrick will forever be in our thoughts as we continue to work for the advancement of human rights and equality.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all staff and the board of management for their hard work and commitment to the core values and principles of Donegal Travellers Project. I look forward to working with you all in 2022.

> Orla Callaghan Chairperson

SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF DONEGAL TRAVELLERS PROJECT'S PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Established in 1996, Donegal Travellers Project is an independent, locally based community development organisation working for and with the Traveller community in Donegal. From the early days, Donegal Travellers Project has recognized the complexity of the issues impacting on the Traveller community and the need for action at a variety of levels to address those issues. For almost twenty five years, the project has supported Travellers, and more recently the Roma Community, to articulate their identity, to organize collectively and to work towards the realization of their rights. Today, Donegal Travellers Project has a staff team of nineteen working in a range of areas. Donegal Travellers Project works across the county including North Leitrim and has offices both in the Letterkenny and Ballyshannon areas. Here you can see the map of Donegal where Traveller families are situated.

The grass roots work of the Donegal Travellers Project extends throughout the County of Donegal and works with Traveller families who are habitually nomadic on a cross border basis and also those living in rural areas close to the County border; particularly in north Leitrim. The organisation also has a policy and representational role at local, regional and national levels.



MAIN PURPOSE

To work collectively to address the issues which impact on Traveller and Roma communities in County Donegal and North Leitrim, by working for social justice, human rights and equality through community participation and empowerment. To promote the economic, social, cultural and human rights of Traveller and Roma communities. To work to bring about the significant social changes needed throughout Ireland to eradicate the racism, discrimination and inequality that is experienced by Traveller and Roma communities across Ireland.

SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF DONEGAL TRAVELLERS PROJECT'S PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

KEY OBJECTIVES

- » To plan and deliver accessible and appropriate services that respond to the self-identified community needs of Traveller and Roma communities in Donegal and North Leitrim i.e.; health, anti-poverty; education; adult and community education; youth work; preschool services; information and advice; housing and accommodation; cultural activities; employment supports; services for older members of the community.
- » To promote and celebrate the distinct 'Ethnic Identities' of Traveller and Roma communities in Donegal and North Leitrim; the unique culture, history and heritage of Traveller and Roma families and communities.
- » To promote human rights and the effective implementation of Public sector duty across all sectors in Donegal and North Leitrim, and to work to eradicate institutional racism and discrimination in all its forms.
- To achieve equality for Traveller and Roma communities across Donegal and North Leitrim by using a 'Community Development Approach'.

CORE VALUES

VISION

We have a vision where the Traveller and Roma Communities experience equality and the social, political, economic, cultural and human rights are realised across the country of Ireland.

MISSION STATEMENT

The overall mission of Donegal Travellers Project is to bring about significant social change which contributes to the eradication of racism, discrimination and inequalities as experienced by the Traveller and Roma communities in Ireland.

Donegal Travellers Project mission is informed in accordance with our **core principles and values**:

- » Collective Action
- » Solidarity
- » Empowerment
- » Social Justice
- » Equality and Anti-Discrimination
- » Participation
- » Partnership
- » Cultural diversity
- » Conflict resolution and peace building



SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF DONEGAL TRAVELLERS PROJECT'S PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

MAIN ACTIVITIES



In 2021 Donegal Travellers Project updated its strategic plan which continued to align with its main purpose and objects as mentioned above. The organisation has 9 high end goals to address the high levels of exclusion including the voice of Traveller and Roma children and young people, poverty, discrimination and racism, educational disadvantage, unemployment, housing and accommodation, health inequality, well-being inequality and lack of recognition of cultural identity that the Traveller and Roma community continues to experience in Ireland. The 9 main goals are as follows;

Coal 1: To promote and celebrate the distinct culture, identity, history and heritage of the Traveller and Roma communities in County Donegal.

Goal 2: To achieve an inclusive education system and gain equality of access, participation and outcomes for and with the Traveller and Roma communities across Donegal.

Coal 3: To work to address the under representation of the Traveller Community in employment settings both public and private.

Coal 4: To promote and protect Human Rights and address inequality as experienced by the Traveller and Roma Communities.

Goal 5: To work to influence Donegal County Council and Government Departments to provide accessible, culturally appropriate high standard Traveller accommodation/housing based on the needs of the Traveller community.

Coal 6: To create the conditions for the inclusion and the interests, rights, views and participation of Traveller and Roma children and young people to be represented in policy, planning and services across the county of Donegal.

Goal 7: To promote the effective implementation of the Public sector duty across all sectors in Donegal.

Coal 8: To achieve health equality for the Traveller community across the county and the region using a Primary Health Care Approach which takes into consider the broader social determinants of health.

Coal 9: To work to ensure the Roma Community are recognised, included and respected as a minority ethnic group in Donegal.







GOAL 1:

TO PROMOTE AND CELEBRATE THE DISTINCT CULTURE, IDENTITY, HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF THE TRAVELLER AND ROMA COMMUNITIES IN COUNTY DONEGAL.

Donegal Travellers Project worked on the following actions in 2021:

 Developed local initiatives such as the publication of 'Still Here Still Proud' which promoted and celebrated the distinct culture, identity and history of the Traveller Community across Donegal. DTP Roma project promoted and raised awareness of the Roma community in Donegal.



- Developed local initiatives and participated at national and regional events which promoted collective confidence in Traveller pride and identity in county Donegal including the distribution of 'Still Here Still Proud' to the Traveller community, community and voluntary sector and statutory agencies in the county.
- Promoted participatory processes and tools by which the Traveller and Roma communities were represented in democratic structures in county Donegal and nationally to achieve change and influence local decision making for example: CYPSC, LTACC, LCDC, Connecting for Life, SICAP committees and CWI.

- Donegal Travellers Project as a community development organisation practiced a democratic, accountable and as an effective local Traveller organisation with good governance which included the development of the following policies; Strategic Plan 2021-2026, Board of Directors Handbook, Staffing Handbook, Child Protection Safety Statement, maintaining updated policies, prepared and submitted reports to funders and other relevant policies and plans.
- Continued to build critical social consciousness within Donegal Travellers Project to further develop best practice as a community work organisation including Continuous Professional Development with Community Work Ireland, Interculturalism and Racism, Drugs and Alcohol Training.
- Delivered and managed a communications strategy that promotes and raises awareness of the Traveller and Roma Communities in Donegal and Ireland which included online social media work, TravTimes Newsletter and Diversity Aware Training.

GOAL 2:

TO ACHIEVE AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND GAIN EQUALITY OF ACCESS, PARTICIPATION AND OUTCOMES FOR AND WITH THE TRAVELLER AND ROMA COMMUNITIES ACROSS DONEGAL.

Donegal Travellers Project worked on the following actions in 2021:

- Continued to use a neighbourhood work approach to identify education and training interests of the Traveller community at a local level in county Donegal.
- Organised community events/forums looking at Travellers in Education and the impact of COVID-19.
- Promoted interculturalism with education providers and collaborated with education providers to develop effective anti-bullying, non-discriminatory practice.

SECTION 3: ACHIEVEMENT & PERFORMANCE

- Promoted access and participation in early years services in the county including ECCE. This included collaborated with Donegal County Childcare Committee to promote inclusion and diversity training for early years providers. St. Gabriel's provided the ECCE service for 44 children in the Letterkenny area.
- Promoted the inclusion, respect, and protection of the cultural identity of young Travellers and Roma within informal and formal education settings.
- Developed increased communications and linkages between the education providers (Preschool to Third Level) and the Traveller and Roma communities and in particular responding to challenges impacting negatively on participation in education.

This service was developed through the employment of the Education Development Worker and the establishment of a dedicated Children and Family Hub.

- Collaborated with LYIT & Sligo IT to increase access to Third Level education for members of the Traveller and Roma communities.
- Accessed resources and developed afterschool services to young Traveller and Roma children and young people in the Letterkenny area.
- Completed a successful application to MAEDF for computers to be provided to members of the Traveller community to participate in community and adult education initiatives/ programmes.



GOAL 3:

TO WORK TO ADDRESS THE UNDER REPRESENTATION OF THE TRAVELLER COMMUNITY IN EMPLOYMENT SETTINGS BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.

Donegal Travellers Project worked on the following actions in 2021:

- Provided information and support for members of the Traveller community on existing employment and training services locally including collaborated with the DLDC Traveller employment worker.
- Reflected and reviewed the supports available to members of the Traveller community to access services within INTREO services and explored relationships with INTREO, SICAP (LDCs) and Local Enterprise Offices for the inclusion of Travellers and Roma to access relevant support, training & opportunities.
- Worked and supported the SIT employment in the implementation of their work across Donegal.
- Supported and managed the Community Employment Workers and other programmes within the organisation.
- Continued to provide and support access to continual professional development opportunities for members of the Traveller community employed in Donegal Travellers Project.

GOAL 4:

TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADDRESS INEQUALITY AS EXPERIENCED BY THE TRAVELLER AND ROMA COMMUNITIES.

Donegal Travellers Project worked on the following actions in 2021:

- Worked to address individual and institutional racism and discrimination through advocacy, representation, legislation and Anti-Racism Training.
- Worked to eradicate racism and to seek the publication of the National Action Plan against racism through attendance at workshops and meeting.
- Promoted interculturalism, human rights, equality and inclusion through the provision of training to the following agencies and community and voluntary sector; Tusla, Western Trust, Letterkenny LYIT, Sligo IT, Maynooth University in solidarity with community and voluntary organisations and initiatives across Donegal.
- DTP staff team contributed and worked on the development of the consortium 'Think Equality' between DTP, DIP and DLDC. This project is mentored by the manager of DTP and also participates on the steering group and management committee.
- Practice of DTP was informed by an understanding of Gender inequality and sought to address the particular experience of Traveller and Roma women and girls to achieve full equality. This approach considered the intersectionality of racism and gender inequality.
- Delivered a number of programmes and initiatives which created the conditions for community leadership and participation within the organisation of the Traveller and Roma communities.
- Designed and participated workshops/ courses on human rights, discrimination and how to address and report racism in Irish society.

- Supported the development of the Donegal Intercultural Platform CDP in their establishment of a community development organisation to support the inclusion of BME communities in Donegal to address racism.
- Provided one to one supports for Traveller and Roma women who experienced domestic violence.

GOAL 5:

TO WORK TO INFLUENCE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE HIGH STANDARD TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION/HOUSING BASED ON THE NEEDS OF THE TRAVELLER COMMUNITY.

Donegal Travellers Project worked on the following actions in 2021:

- Delivered a human rights approach to meet the collective and individual needs of the Traveller and Roma community in Donegal.
- Advocated and supported self-advocacy for Traveller and Roma families in crisis and documented emerging issues that impact on the Traveller community.
- Worked with and participated on the LTACC to address Traveller accommodation issues and policy at a local level including addressing institutional racism and supporting nomadism.
- Supported Traveller and Roma families living in conditions which impact negatively on their health and wellbeing using a community work approach to address the accommodation issue(s).
- Provided one to one support for individual members of the Traveller and Roma communities experiencing homelessness.

GOAL 6:

TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR THE INCLUSION AND THE INTERESTS, RIGHTS, VIEWS AND PARTICIPATION OF TRAVELLER AND ROMA CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE REPRESENTED IN POLICY, PLANNING AND SERVICES ACROSS THE COUNTY OF DONEGAL.

Donegal Travellers Project worked on the following actions in 2021:

- Donegal Travellers Project staff team worked to achieve appropriate, culturally sensitive and early intervention supports to support Traveller and Roma families.
- Worked with TUSLA and other relevant organisations to inform and empower families to access relevant and appropriate programmes and initiatives to support families and children in Donegal. DTP was funded by Tusla and employed a Family Links Worker to deliver family parenting supports to Traveller families across the county.
- Worked with Traveller and Roma children and young people and their families to have the opportunity to participate in culturally appropriate youth work programmes,





summer programmes, one to one Family supports that meet their needs including Sports, Arts, Education and Culture.

- Continued to provide homework support, after-schools, early years, tuition, community awareness of drugs and youth work in collaboration with schools, north west drugs task force and youth service providers including Involve.
- The ten common basic principles on Roma Inclusion (that includes Travellers) underpinned work with children and young people and promoted with all agencies having responsibility for Traveller and Roma children and young people.
- Continued to maintain and update demographic data for the county to ensure planning is based on real need.
- Continued to provide family support and community links service in line with all child protection legislation and policies with agencies responsible for child protection.
- Provided a community liaison links support between Traveller and Roma families and family welfare/protection agencies.



GOAL 7:

TO PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR DUTY ACROSS ALL SECTORS IN DONEGAL.

Donegal Travellers Project worked on the following actions in 2021:

- Designed and delivered anti-racism, Traveller culture awareness and cultural competency training to public services in line with section 42 (Positive Duty) of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014.
- Developed the online Diversity Aware online training programme on Donegal Travellers Project Website.
- Promoted the use of an ethnic identifier across services to monitor and evaluate the access and participation of the Traveller and Roma communities to statutory agencies and services locally.

GOAL 8:

TO ACHIEVE HEALTH EQUALITY FOR THE TRAVELLER COMMUNITY ACROSS THE COUNTY AND THE REGION USING A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) APPROACH WHICH TAKES INTO CONSIDER THE BROADER SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH.

Donegal Travellers Project worked on the following actions in 2021:

- Continued to deliver a Primary Health Care project to the Traveller community in County Donegal and North Leitrim which included delivering on the Key Performance Indicators (HSE), the CHO1 Traveller Health Strategic Plan 2018 -22, the needs as identified through the Traveller community and any other Traveller health policy developments.
- Secured funding from Connecting for Life for research into Traveller men's experiences of well-being and life in Donegal.
- PHC Team worked with the Traveller community for increased access,

opportunities, participation rates and outcomes from the Health service and health related initiatives across the county.

- PHC team and other staff continued to design and deliver bespoke training on the history and struggle of the Traveller and Roma communities including an understanding of discrimination and racism to a diverse range of stakeholders and agencies.
- PHC team worked directly with individual members of the Traveller community providing health promotion, health support and one to one crisis interventions.
- Continued to work in collaboration at a local, regional and national level through networking and representation to achieve health equality for all in Irish Society.
- PHC team with others worked to address the social determinants and COVID challenges as they impacted on the physical and mental health of the Traveller community in Donegal and North Leitrim throughout 2021.
- Continued to work to address the impact of the misuse of drugs and alcohol in the Traveller community.
- Provided an outreach / neighbourhood work including family visits to the Traveller Community across Donegal.
- Continue to support and advocate for the needs and interests of adults, children and young people with additional needs including autism.



TO WORK TO ENSURE THE ROMA COMMUNITY ARE RECOGNISED, INCLUDED AND RESPECTED AS A MINORITY ETHNIC GROUP IN DONEGAL.

ACTIONS

Donegal Travellers Project worked on the following actions in 2021:

- Roma Team provided information and supports for individuals and families with applications for social welfare, child benefit, housing supports, employment supports and relevant others.
- Roma Team and education development worker continued to develop a community development approach to promote equality and human rights for the Roma Community in Donegal.
- Provided an outreach/neighbourhood work approach to maintain relationships and address challenges with the Roma Community across Donegal.
- Roma Team worked to ensure the Roma community will had increased access, opportunities, participation rates and outcomes from the Health service and health related initiatives across the county.
- Continued to advocate for the inclusion of the Roma community in services across Donegal.
- Continued to work in collaboration at a local, regional and national level through networking and representing the needs and interests of the Roma communities living in Donegal.
- Designed and produced a publication on 'How the Education system works' in Ireland for the Roma Community in a number of relevant languages.





The company was audited by SMC Chartered

SECTION 3: FINANCIAL REVIEW

Accountants. The audit was approved by the Board of Management and signed by the company chairperson and will be presented at the AGM on the 5^{th} of July 2022. These accounts

will also be provided to all our funders in line with service level agreements. We include here the combined income and expenditure for 2021 for the company.

SMC Chartered Accountants

Donegal Travellers Project CLG

Income and expenditure account Financial year ended 31 December 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	€	€
Income		718,716	717,513
Gross Income		718,716	717,513
Administrative expenses		(660,469)	(678,785)
Other operating income		3,662	1,050
Operating Surplus	5	61,909	39,778
Surplus before taxation		61,909	39,778
Tax on surplus	7	-	-
Surplus for the financial year		61,909	39,778

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

SECTION 5: STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Donegal Travellers Project Board and management team understand their role and responsibilities in respect of the overall governance and management of the organisation. DTP is in line with all legal obligations as well as the good governance standards as set in the Charities Governance Code. The Board of Donegal Travellers Project is committed to the principles of the Charities Governance Code and are as follows;





THE STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANISATION AND HOW IT IS GOVERNED AND MANAGED IS AS FOLLOWS;



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...



Donegal Travellers Project CLG Port House, Port Road, Letterkenny, Co.Donegal Contact Details: (074) 912 9281

Charity Registration Number: CHY 12244 Company Number: 258334





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