

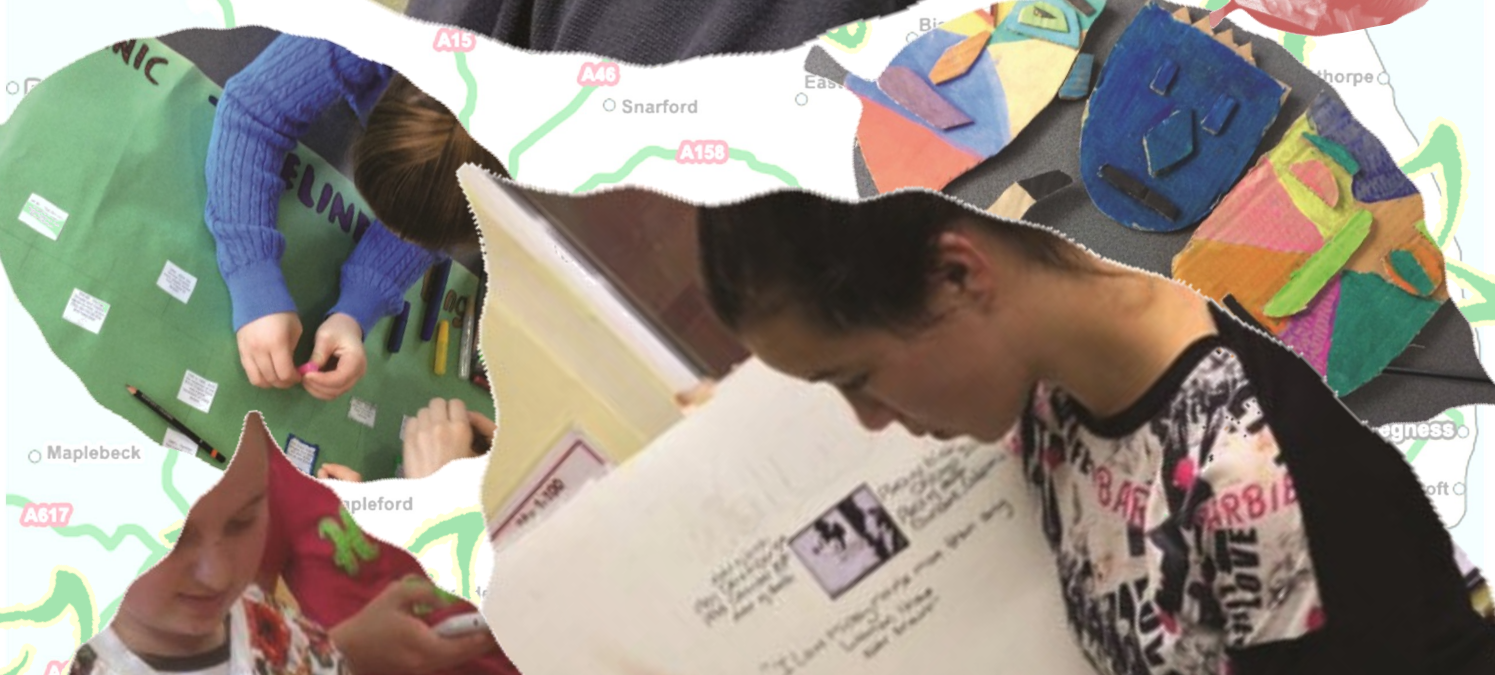


L T I

CONNECTING
TRAVELLERS &
SERVICES

NEW SHOOTS—NEW ROUTES

ANNUAL REPORT
2016–2017



NEW SHOOTS –NEW ROUTES

Our title for this year's Annual Report speaks of what has been happening, quite literally, on the ground! New shoots represent growth. In the last two years the number of young people, aged 11 to 17 years, working with us, has grown from 30 to 59, a 97% rise! Requests for our services have been popping up all over the county. The seeds for this new activity have been dispersed by word of mouth, social media and various reports; all carried on tides and winds of success. Likewise, numbers of adults requesting training courses have grown from one or two, a year ago, to fourteen at present! This growth is phenomenal and shows no sign of slowing. To meet the demands of this increased workload we are having to be rigorous with our time management and use of resources.

New routes are being explored to maximise our number of visits in a day as we cover more and more of the county. But new routes also means routes to new partners who can bring their own specialized knowledge to our increasingly diverse areas of activity. By introducing a wide range of professionals to the Traveller community we are ensuring that the services that are available to everyone are being accessed by these hard to reach groups. This is what we understand to be the true meaning of community cohesion – equal access and opportunity for all, building new relationships and opening doors.

I would like to thank the trustees, staff, volunteers and partner organisations who have worked so hard in what is a difficult but invigorating period of growth and transformation. The next phase of our development is without doubt the most challenging, but also the most important, for our future success.

Paul Boucher
May 2017



PLAYTIME

The seeds of LTI began way back in 1999 as a Parent & Toddler Group on Summergang's Lane Traveller site in Gainsborough. (It was GTI in those days) The toddlers on site were not accessing early years provision in the community and were therefore finding starting school to be a huge step as their first experience of being away from home. It was found that the toddlers made a much better transition into mainstream provision after being part of the LTI Toddler group for some time. Well, the toddlers grew up, and the group was no longer sustainable and LTI's main focus moved to young Travellers (aged 11 - 16) and adults.

In October 2016 one of the adults on site, who would have been about ten years old when the original toddler group started, and is now a dad with two toddlers of his own, asked us if we could provide a group for the little ones on site as there was quite a number of them and no provision. So, full circle, and the idea for our new Parent and Toddler Group was born. (Oh, how it ages us!)

In November 2016 LTI began discussions with Kirsty Mathers, Participation and Engagement Officer with Children's Links and the Preschool Learning Alliance about the possibility of jointly starting a new group to open in the New Year. Two residents on site were keen to get training and experience in a work setting and also volunteered to work in the group. They are being fully trained and supported by the PLA and are being taught how to plan sessions and how to track the children's progress.

The name decided communally for this group was quite simply 'Playtime' as it was thought that this said it all. The group has got off to a great start with four families initially engaging with around 9 toddlers. Other families on site have been assisted in completing school admission forms and accessing nursery funding. Feedback both from the little ones and their parents has been very good and the group is steadily growing with great plans afoot for its future growth!



OUT AND ABOUT

Both our staff and students alike have taken lots of different routes on a variety of trips and excursions this year, ranging from Number 10 Downing Street and The Houses of Parliament to a Parrot zoo!

Most visits arose out of the learning taking place on the bus. We feel that enhancement of the topics we are studying in this way is crucial to our student's engagement, feeding it and making it bloom! During our 'Zoo Tycoon' topic we visited Lincolnshire Wildlife Zoo (Parrot Zoo) and Woodside Wildlife Park. We also went to the Kinema in the Woods at Woodhall Spa to see Madagascar 3.

Our Art topic 'Art Evolution' took us to the Usher Art Gallery to see the BP Portrait Exhibition, billed as "The most prestigious portrait competition in the world." As part of the same topic we took a group of young people from Holbeach to the Wisbech and Fenland Museum to see a multimedia collage exhibition and they got to meet the actual artists who explained how they worked, which was fascinating.

The staff have also had many outings. Paul had to wear his best bib and tucker to attend a reception at Number 10 Downing Street where he was meant to be meeting with the Prime Minister. However, Brexit got in the way and she cancelled and was replaced by Rob Wilson, Minister for Culture. The reception was to showcase and celebrate the work done at grass-roots level in the Midlands. Paul also attended a reception at the Houses of Parliament held by The Lloyds Foundation to celebrate the work of their grantees whilst Lynne attended an event held by Esmee Fairbairn, once again to celebrate the work done by their grantees.

If you're out and about too and you visit the Museum of English Rural Life in Reading, look out for a short piece about Traveller Lifestyle taken from our own publication 'Our Big Real Gypsy Lives'.



ON THE BUS



This is my second year as Lead Teacher for LTI and it is certainly a role I have grown into! The year itself has brought with it many highlights. We completed a topic all about animals and the young people loved making their own zoos, complete with merchandise, cafes and leaflets. One of our young people had the idea that we do a topic about 'England' so we did just that – it's always wonderful to be led by the curiosity of the students themselves. We had a tasting session of traditional English Fayre with pork pies, cockles and mussels; not everyone was a fan of what we had on offer! The Bakewell tarts went down well though.

We've revamped the curriculum core subjects and continue to offer Prince's Trust courses that enable our young people to be accepted into college. Another main focus of this years' teaching has to be our Arts project which should see over thirty young people gaining the Trinity College London Arts' Award....watch this space!

We start the new year with fingers, toes, arms and even eyes crossed in the hope that our BIG Lottery Reaching Communities application is successful, which will not only secure our future for some time, but have us travelling the county in a brand new mobile classroom! Blooming marvellous! Wish us luck!

Lynne Walker

ROUTES TO EMPLOYMENT



In the last year providing a wide range of vocational training to adult Travellers has been a big growth area in our work. At the time of writing this report fourteen adult Travellers have gained accredited qualifications and six have been helped into volunteering (4) or employment (2). A similar number have been helped with cv writing and interview advice. There are expressions of interest coming in from several different sites and we expect others to gain employment in the next year.

How do you measure motivation? We've always said we will take our training to the Travellers' sites until they feel confident enough to venture into the wider community to access other providers. But how realistic is the expectation that they will have the motivation to take that further step?

Well, if the following examples are anything to go by, it is very realistic:

In March of this year (2017) four young adult Traveller ladies, from three different sites, travelled from Spalding, Gosberton and Beckingham to attend a training course at a Lincoln Children's Centre on Customer Care. Furthermore, the course started at 9.00am and didn't finish till 3.00pm, making it a 10 hour day with travelling. Deservedly, they all passed and are now planning to meet up again to take further courses. Now that's what I call motivation!

Three other adult Travellers are waiting to be given a date when they will travel to Stamford (a sixty mile round trip) to take a Health & Safety at Work course. Ditto the above.

We are finding that the interest in Adult Training is such that far from us seeking learners, they are seeking us!



HOW ARE YOU?

Health is important! How often have you heard it said - "All the money in the world is no good if you haven't got good health.", How do we greet each other? "Hello, how are you?", "Are you alright?" And what do we wish newlyweds? "Health, wealth and happiness." In that order!

We all live in a country with a health service that is the envy of the rest of the world. But do all people in the UK get the same benefits from this health service? It would appear not:

Gypsies and Travellers have a life expectancy of over 10% less than the general population, although another study has stated that the general population were living up to 50% longer than Gypsies and Travellers. Other health issues such as high infant mortality rates, high maternal mortality rates, low child immunisation levels, mental health issues, substance misuse issues and diabetes are also seen to be prevalent in the Gypsy and Traveller communities. Source: The Traveller Movement 2015.

LTI sends wishes of good health to all of the Traveller families we work with; furthermore, we want to do all we can to ensure the best possible health service for them. We have, already, in partnership with NHS Lincs. Community Health, held two 'health sessions' where health professionals were available for residents to seek help or advice and get babies weighed. The young people on the bus took part in sessions covering smoking, alcohol, drugs, nutrition and exercise. All of the young people who attended even had their eyesight tested!

We are currently doing a survey of all the families we meet to try to identify any problems they may have or any gaps in provision they might suffer. Healthwatch Lincolnshire is interested in finding out the same information; so it makes sense for us both to work together. When a clearer picture has emerged and detailed consultation with the communities has taken place plans will be put in place to identify how to meet their needs.

This could include:

- Introducing health professionals to sites
- Awareness Raising sessions
- Screening services
- Healthy lifestyle training sessions
- First aid training
- Establishing well woman groups
- Healthy eating training
- Healthy cooking
- Fitness groups
- Health information leaflets

Healthwatch Lincolnshire will be reporting our findings and our progress to the Commissioners who coordinate health services to see what improvements can be made.

OUR ACCOUNTS FOR 2016/2017

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Lincolnshire CC	17,500			17,500	
Esmee Fairburn		20,000		20,000	
TSB Foundation		17,668		17,668	
				0	
				0	
				0	
				0	
				0	
Others	2,039			2,039	
Sub total	19,539	37,668	0	57,207	0
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.	0	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	19,539	37,668	0	57,207	0
A3 Payments					
Wages & Salaries inc tax, pensions, etc	5,185	35,348		40,533	
Volunteers expenses		785		785	
Insurance	1,258			1,258	
Vehicle repairs and servicing	4,096			4,096	
Travel costs	2,969			2,969	
Postage and Telephone		504		504	
Resources	1,043			1,043	
Office Stationary		622		622	
Advertising		405		405	
Training	1,364			1,364	
Refreshments	94			94	
Trips, Outings and Travel	311			311	
Accountancy fees	933			933	
Subscriptions				0	
Misc inc Petty cash	1,269			1,269	
Sub total	18,522	37,664	0	56,186	0
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.	0	0	0	0	0
Total payments	18,522	37,664	0	56,186	0
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,016	4	0	1,020	0
A5 Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,270	13,357	0	26,627	0
Cash funds this year end	14,287	13,361	0	27,648	0

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds				
Bank balance		14,287	13,361	0
Petty cash		0	0	0
Total cash funds		14,287	13,361	0
	(agree balances with receipts)	OK	OK	OK

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR FUNDERS

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Working for a better future

West Lindsey
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Making a Difference

LLOYDS BANK FOUNDATION
England & Wales



Esmée
Fairbairn
FOUNDATION