**Friends, Families and Travellers**

Some of the key pieces of information which it would be most useful to highlight to you:

·         The 2020 report ‘Including the Missing Voices of Disabled People in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities’ [https://www.shapingourlives.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Missing-Voices-Report.pdf](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.shapingourlives.org.uk%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2020%2f12%2fMissing-Voices-Report.pdf&c=E,1,2AeFX7O9FuySrVpKKbQS48vAY4BPeMZaPVQeLwkkx3wYM9PMiYUWkthKqPvVMV81kf1oWcOTa1c4I8ctBQPmnwZTkvDw6PVg4evZP6JbT0mMxLrV3IsMRLVdsLA,&typo=1)

·         The accompanying videos: [https://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/features/disabled-people-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-backgrounds-need-better-services-study-warns](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.travellerstimes.org.uk%2ffeatures%2fdisabled-people-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-backgrounds-need-better-services-study-warns&c=E,1,L1nTw6CrShSlflWj89dkhwrtTsKQDiBtb-GEL5fPU1hEa_hlHAELFpg1lljRDiIJHLl-xESF1nUyRndC0vyXAfGu_BFjyhFYgfKWq-iF8jwVEjibK3-G&typo=1)

·         In December 2020, Lisa Smith, a Romany woman from North West Leicestershire has lodged a legal case against the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to challenge the refusal of her planning application and the discriminatory planning definition of a Traveller. The current planning definition, as of 2015, states that Gypsies and Travellers who have permanently stopped travelling for work (even if this is due to a disability, long-term health condition or age) will not get planning permission to stop on their own land and will not have their accommodation needs assessed and met through this policy. In support of the case, Friends, Families and Travellers along with London Gypsies and Travellers and Southwark Travellers Action Group joined the challenge together as interveners, bringing evidence of the discriminatory effects of the Government’s definition on the wider Gypsy and Traveller community. Other interveners on the case were the National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups, Liberty and the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Sadly it was not successful, so this discrimination continues. You can find more here: [https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/event/government-in-court-over-planning-rules-for-travellers/](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.gypsy-traveller.org%2fevent%2fgovernment-in-court-over-planning-rules-for-travellers%2f&c=E,1,u17eS-PjVdpRTkF-2404qyoUB8VhqqyED5HbQwYaEJhiQQKSzW9Ai8Vyxx1emfJLGPm_9Jv4-0FLCm5gHzxtQwIc6x5TQc9B0sAw_DKWC-Os7qhdp-rCy54,&typo=1)

·         Our guide for tackling health inequalities in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities also sets out key statistics on the health demographics of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and some of the key barriers to services which people experience, which I am confident will disproportionately impact upon Disabled people: [https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/SS00-Health-inequalities\_FINAL.pdf](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.gypsy-traveller.org%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2020%2f11%2fSS00-Health-inequalities_FINAL.pdf&c=E,1,Hp7u1NJEFeVewpc7ZXV6pR3n8Lq1PuGCDJqPcyTsUvh3C214IKSnJhW-M593P-OjgvLHsbpvZCBo4taDwjHUe1Tk0HeY4AnDBMcO9BO8Z08,&typo=1)

·         Our recent report found that 74% of GPs refused registration to nomadic patients during COVID-19 Pandemic: [https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/news/locked-out-74-of-gps-refused-registration-to-nomadic-patients-during-covid-19-pandemic/](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.gypsy-traveller.org%2fnews%2flocked-out-74-of-gps-refused-registration-to-nomadic-patients-during-covid-19-pandemic%2f&c=E,1,uWtYzdpYJrsC7bEts-Et6jGFpgXfDiZnsrCdnbvZfh45_RJFrOvwRNT_c2upkUsS7nsOnquBHPexEepJiX2btW5scKR3l4L1TXO1CaAqyNII5vDAXAh9L5Lnzks,&typo=1)

·         Finally, I just wanted to highlight that nomadic patients often have to start from scratch when moving to a new area and many have been removed from waiting lists when travelling, which means that health needs are often not addressed until needs have reached an acute stage. We’ve spoken to many people who, even before the pandemic, had to undertake a large amount of self-advocacy to get access to relevant treatment and many people who were ready to or already had given up.