



**PAVEE POINT**  
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

# Pre-budget Submission 2018

July 2017

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**Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre**

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Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre is a non-governmental organisation committed to the attainment of human rights for Travellers and Roma. The organisation comprises Travellers, Roma and members of the majority population working in partnership to address the needs of Travellers and Roma, who as minority ethnic groups experience exclusion and marginalisation.

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## Summary of Recommendations

### 1. Equality and Human Rights Proofing Budget Decisions

- Assess the impact of budgetary decisions on Travellers, Roma and other minority ethnic groups in a systematic and transparent way to ensure their human rights are prioritised and safeguarded
- Invest in systems to collect and analyse disaggregated data by ethnicity, gender and other equality grounds across all administrative systems in order to increase evidence base for equality, human rights and gender proofing of budgets
- Ensure that ethnic data collection, analysis, aggregation and disaggregation adhere to human rights standards and principles

### 2. Social Inclusion and Investment in Public Services

#### 2.1 Lifting Historically Marginalised Communities Out of Poverty

- Prioritise investment in public services to reduce poverty in communities that have historically been marginalised and excluded in public services

#### 2.2 Post-austerity: Restoring and Introducing Supports towards Traveller and Roma Programming

- Reinstatement of investment to Traveller specific programming to pre-recession levels to support Traveller inclusion, particularly in areas of accommodation and health
- Increase the budget allocation towards the implementation of National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy in Budget 2018 and ensure a sufficient investment towards the promotion of Roma inclusion within this allocation

#### 2.3 Social Inclusion and Traveller and Roma Participation

- Resource independent national and local Traveller and Roma organisations to ensure Travellers and Roma are mainstreamed into a range of social inclusion initiatives at local and national levels, including in emerging NTRIS implementation structures, PPNs and LCDCs
- Resource Special Initiatives for Traveller and Roma training and employment
- Ensure that social inclusion measures and programmes are structured to complement one another and enhance outcomes for the inclusion of Travellers and Roma
- Re-allocate underspent amounts from relevant social inclusion and local development budgets to actions to promote Traveller and Roma engagement and inclusion

#### 2.4 Prioritising Traveller and Roma Women and Children in Budget 2018

- Resource gender-specific employment and training opportunities for women from socially excluded groups, including Traveller and Roma women
- Assess the impact of the habitual residence condition on gender and ethnic minorities on accessing child benefit payments
- Make Child Benefit payments a truly universal payment that is not contingent on the

fulfilment of the habitual residence condition

- Define a specific budgetary line for Traveller and Roma children to address Traveller and Roma child poverty rates

### **3. Accommodation and Housing Supports**

- Immediately reinstate and ring-fence Traveller accommodation budget to 2008 levels, at a minimum of €40 million
- Introduce a funding line towards a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure full expenditure and delivery of the Traveller accommodation budget and to undertake periodic reviews to assess progress in meeting Traveller accommodation needs
- Resource the introduction of actions in the NTRIS to address the extreme housing and accommodation situation of Roma

### **4. Traveller and Roma Health Supports**

- Identify, ring-fence and centralise a dedicated and robust Traveller and Roma health budget as per commitments in the NTRIS

### **5. Traveller and Roma Education Supports**

- Introduce investment in Traveller specific education supports to break the cycle of educational disadvantage
- Introduce additional General Allocation Model allocation for pupils that fulfil two of the Special Educational Needs criteria

## Introduction

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***“Travellers and Roma are among the most disadvantaged and marginalised people in Ireland. During the years of the financial crisis from which Ireland is emerging, those at the margins of our society frequently – and regrettably – suffered disproportionately from the effects of financial adjustments. Now that Ireland’s economy is back on a firmer footing, it is a moral and societal imperative that we work together to address the real needs of these communities”, Minister of State for Justice, Mr David Stanton TD<sup>1</sup>***

Irish Travellers and Roma are among the most marginalised groups in Ireland and continue to live with the impact of recent austerity measures. In a new political and economic environment following a prolonged period of austerity, Budget 2018 presents an opportunity to ensure that the return to prosperity will be felt by those most socially excluded in Irish society.

Pavee Point welcomes the introduction of new national policy frameworks to advance the situation of Travellers, Roma, women and migrants with the development of National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021, National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020, and the Migrant Integration Strategy. The Strategies provide a much needed road map to the inclusion of Travellers, Roma and other socially excluded groups. In order for the strategies to have a real impact on the lives of Travellers and Roma, they must be accompanied by robust resources in Budget 2018 for their implementation.

The promises of the new Programme for a Partnership Government of an Integrated Framework to eliminate persisting discrimination on grounds of gender, race and ethnicity, and the focus on early intervention and prevention,<sup>2</sup> are yet to materialise in the budgets formed by this Government when it comes to the social inclusion of Travellers and Roma. Budget 2018 must commit to the creation of a ‘Just and Fair Society and a More Inclusive Prosperity’ by prioritising the reversal of the inequalities faced by Travellers and Roma. It is also imperative that the budgetary decisions are based on human rights considerations and principles.

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<sup>1</sup> Foreword by Mr Stanton TD, in Department of Justice and Equality, *National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021*, June 2017.

<sup>2</sup> A Programme for a Partnership Government, May 2016.

## 1. Equality and Human Rights Proofing Budget Decisions

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 mandates all public bodies to take due note of equality and human rights in carrying out their functions. In performing their duties, public bodies are required to take proactive steps to assess and actively promote equality, protect human rights and combat discrimination. This duty must also be carried out in budgetary decisions in a transparent and comprehensive way. Thus far, budgetary measures and decisions have been implemented without conducting adequate human rights impact assessments.

Pavee Point has welcomed the commitment of the Programme for Partnership Government to develop a process of budget and policy proofing as a means to strengthen social and economic rights, advance equality and reduce poverty. The new ex-post Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Framework and its associated papers published by the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service (IGEES) must focus on assessing the impact of public expenditure on specific groups facing social exclusion, including Travellers and Roma.

However, without disaggregating data by ethnicity, gender and other equality grounds, it remains impossible to monitor the impact of budgetary decisions on minority groups. Evidence based policy making is essential to good governance and equality of outcomes. Accurate and reliable data, including ethnic data, is needed in order to assess current and future needs and allocate resources appropriately to ensure protection of the most socially excluded in our society, including Travellers and Roma.

Concerns at the lack of disaggregated data to monitor and formulate policy and programming have most recently been raised by UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)<sup>3</sup> and Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).<sup>4</sup> In 2017, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) raised concerns at lack of data disaggregated by ethnicity, sex, gender, disability and age.<sup>5</sup>

### Recommendations:

- **Assess the impact of budgetary decisions on Travellers, Roma and other minority ethnic groups in a systematic and transparent way to ensure their human rights are prioritised and safeguarded**
- **Invest in systems to collect and analyse disaggregated data by ethnicity, gender and other equality grounds across all administrative systems in order to increase evidence base for equality, human rights and gender proofing of budgets**
- **Ensure that ethnic data collection, analysis, aggregation and disaggregation adhere to human rights standards and principles**

<sup>3</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of Ireland*, CRC/C/IRL/CO/3-4 4, 1 March 2016.

<sup>4</sup> UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding Observations on the Third Periodic Report of Ireland*, CESCR/E/C.12/IRL/CO/3, 8 July 2015.

<sup>5</sup> UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Ireland*, CEDAW/C/IRL/CO/6-7, 3 March 2017.

## 2. Social Inclusion and Investment in Public Services

### 2.1 Lifting Historically Marginalised Communities Out of Poverty

Travellers and Roma are one of the most at risk groups of poverty and social exclusion. Data shows Traveller unemployment rate to be a staggering 84%.<sup>6</sup> The forthcoming National Roma Needs Assessment documents a mere 16% of Roma to be in employment.<sup>7</sup>

%of Roma	Facing some or all of the issues below: <sup>8</sup>
0 - 20% of Roma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12.4% have no kitchen; 9.6% no cooker; 13.5% no fridge; many sometimes go without enough food, gas, water and/or electricity</li> </ul>
0 - 50% of Roma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children gone to school hungry (25%) or without adequate lunches (35%)</li> <li>Not always enough food (49.5%) or fuel (46.2%) and cannot keep the house warm all the time (66.3%)</li> <li>Not enough money for books and uniforms (57.5%)</li> </ul>

Comparing the percentage of Travellers living in particular situations with associated 'at risk of poverty' rate for the general population indicates serious concerns with regards to poverty rates among Travellers.<sup>9</sup>

Status	% of Travellers - Census 2011	'At risk of poverty' % rate 2014 (General Population) - Central Statistics Office
<b>Unemployed</b>	84% of Travellers are unemployed	35.9%: Unemployed
<b>Highest education level attained</b>	91% of Travellers leave school at the age of 16 or younger	21.8%: Lower secondary
<b>Tenure Status</b>	76.7% of Travellers in rented accommodation	18.8%: rented at market rate

Tax cuts and social transfers are not enough to enable Traveller and Roma families to pay for services, and focus on jobs alone will not break the cycle of poverty that many Travellers and Roma experience. Investment in public services is a vital component in reducing poverty in communities that have historically been marginalised and excluded in public services, including in education, employment, training, health and childcare, family supports, and accommodation. Equal access to affordable and quality public services creates opportunities for Travellers and Roma to access and maintain employment, thus lifting individuals, families and children out of poverty.

#### Recommendation:

- **Prioritise investment in public services to reduce poverty in communities that have historically been marginalised and excluded in public services**

<sup>6</sup> Central Statistics Office, *Census 2011 Profile 7 Religion, Ethnicity and Irish Travellers*.

<sup>7</sup> Curran, S., A. Crickley, A., R. Fay, F. Mc Gaughey (eds), *Roma in Ireland - a National Needs Assessment*, Department of Justice and Equality and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre (forthcoming in 2017).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Central Statistics Office, *Census 2011 Profile 7 Religion, Ethnicity and Irish Travellers*.

## 2.2 Post-austerity: Restoring and Introducing Supports towards Traveller and Roma Programming

The austerity measures directed towards public expenditure and Traveller specific programming in 2008-2013 have had persistent and long lasting implications on Travellers and Roma, with the measures towards Traveller specific services yet to be rectified by restoring the budgets.<sup>10</sup> The measures have severely compromised the capacity of community development programming and public services to facilitate the inclusion of Travellers.

Pavee Point has welcomed the new National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) launched in June 2017. As per Budget 2017, €1 million was put in place for the NTRIS. However, this allocation is exceptionally low to implement the ambitious list of actions introduced in the Strategy and to make a real impact in the lives of Travellers and Roma.

### Recommendations:

- **Reinstate investment to Traveller specific programming to pre-recession levels to support Traveller inclusion, particularly in areas of accommodation, education and health**
- **Increase the budget allocation towards the implementation of National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy in Budget 2018 and ensure a sufficient investment towards the promotion of Roma inclusion within this allocation**

## 2.3 Social Inclusion and Traveller and Roma Participation

Travellers and Roma have largely been omitted from national poverty reduction, training and employment initiatives. National programmes for community, local and rural development are important mechanisms for promoting engagement and inclusion of socially excluded groups. Yet, according to mid-term review of Local and Community Development Programme 2011-2012, Travellers constituted a mere 1% of total beneficiaries.<sup>11</sup> Data from Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme shows that less than 1.75% of actions have Travellers and Roma as a primary target group, delivered by only 5 out of 50 Programme Implementers.<sup>12</sup>

Although SICAP, LEADER and other programmes have a weak track record in facilitating Traveller or Roma participation to date, there are new and renewed opportunities with social inclusion strand in the new Phase 2 LEADER programme; the next phase roll-out of SICAP (2018 -20); and the Healthy Ireland and Creative Ireland strategies. In addition, the new National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017- 2020 has committed to providing key supports to those most in need in our communities, including Traveller and Roma women. The NTRIS has also committed to ensuring that Traveller and Roma participants availing of SICAP supports are made aware of the opportunities for local self-

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<sup>10</sup> The following cuts were applied to Traveller specific programming between 2008-2013: Traveller education supports were cut by -86.6%; Traveller accommodation -90%; FAS SIT Special Initiative for Travellers -50%; National Traveller organisations -63.6%. In addition, there was an underspend of the allocated budgets to programmes for Travellers with 18% of health budget, 36% of accommodation budget and 40% of FAS SIT remaining unspent, in Harvey, B., *Travelling with Austerity: Impacts of cuts on Travellers, Traveller Projects and Services*, Dublin, Pavee Point Publications, 2013.

<sup>11</sup> Centre for Effective Services, *Mid-term Review of the Local and Community Development Programme 2011-2012*, Centre for Effective Services, 2013.

<sup>12</sup> Preliminary 2015 data supplied by Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme in May 2016 on the theme of effective engagement with the core Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) target groups. Under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 Local Authorities have the lead role in economic, social and community development locally, but experience challenges in delivering Traveller accommodation, ensuring interagency work and effective service delivery.

employment and receive training to enhance their skills to take up these opportunities. These commitments need to materialise through resource allocations in Budget 2018.

#### **Recommendations:**

- **Resource independent national and local Traveller and Roma organisations to ensure Travellers and Roma are mainstreamed into a range of social inclusion initiatives at local and national levels, including in emerging NTRIS implementation structures, PPNs and LCDCs**
- **Resource Special Initiatives for Traveller and Roma training and employment**
- **Ensure that social inclusion measures and programmes are structured to complement one another and enhance outcomes for the inclusion of Travellers and Roma**
- **Re-allocate underspent amounts from relevant social inclusion and local development budgets to actions to promote Traveller and Roma engagement and inclusion**

### **2.4 Prioritising Traveller and Roma Women and Children in Budget 2018**

Traveller and Roma women and children face further social exclusion and have been severely impacted by austerity measures when compared to the general population and Traveller and Roma men.

81.2% of Traveller women face unemployment,<sup>13</sup> and only 8.2% of Roma women are in employment in comparison to 20% of Roma men.<sup>14</sup> In 2017, the UN CEDAW Committee has noted how women, particularly those belonging to disadvantaged groups who are dependent on social budgets, continue to suffer the impacts of austerity measures. The Committee has urged the Government to address the impact of austerity measures on social benefits for disadvantaged women.<sup>15</sup>

In 2016, the UNCRC expressed deep concern for the disproportionate number of Traveller and Roma children living in consistent poverty and structural barriers for them to access adequate standard of living, health care and education. The UNCRC, CESCR and European Commission have raised serious concerns about the significant increase in the number of children living in consistent poverty, particularly in jobless households and Traveller, Roma and other minority ethnic communities.<sup>16</sup> They have also raised alarms at reductions and lack of prioritising of children in such households in budgetary measures. The UNCRC has specifically recommended for the Irish Government to undertake positive action measures and define specific budgetary lines for Traveller and Roma children in order to strengthen its efforts to reduce poverty experienced by Traveller and Roma children.<sup>17</sup>

Despite the Child Benefit being a 'universal' payment in Ireland, many Roma children are not entitled to this or any other social protection payments due to the application of the right to reside

<sup>13</sup> Kelleher et al., *All Ireland Traveller Health Study*, University College Dublin & Department of Health & Children, 2010.

<sup>14</sup> Curran, S., A. Crickley, A., R. Fay, F. Mc Gaughey (eds), *Roma in Ireland - a National Needs Assessment*, Department of Justice and Equality and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre (forthcoming in 2017).

<sup>15</sup> UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Ireland*, CEDAW/C/IRL/CO/6-7, 3 March 2017.

<sup>16</sup> UNCRC, 2016 (3); UNCESCR, 2015 (4); Daly, M., *Investing in Children: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage - A Study of National Policies, Country Report - Ireland*, European Commission, 2014.

<sup>17</sup> UNCRC, 2016 (3).



and habitual residence condition.<sup>18</sup> The UN CEDAW Committee has noted that the habitual residence condition hinders entitlement to child benefit payments by Roma and migrant women in Ireland and has urged the State to assess the impact of the habitual residence condition for Roma and migrant women.

#### Recommendations:

- **Resource gender-specific employment and training opportunities for women from socially excluded groups, including Traveller and Roma women**
- **Assess the impact of the habitual residence condition on gender and ethnic minorities on accessing child benefit payments**<sup>19</sup>
- **Make Child Benefit payments a truly universal payment that is not contingent on the fulfilment of the habitual residence condition**<sup>20</sup>
- **Define a specific budgetary line for Traveller and Roma children to address Traveller and Roma child poverty rates**<sup>21</sup>

### 3. Accommodation and Housing Supports

***“Providing affordable, quality and accessible housing for our people is a priority for the New Partnership Government.”***<sup>22</sup>

Traveller accommodation situation has been in a persistent state of crisis for decades with the Oireachtas Committee on Housing and Homelessness in 2016 finding a disproportionate number of Travellers to be living in substandard accommodation.<sup>23</sup> The forthcoming National Roma Needs Assessment indicates significant issues with overcrowding, inadequate and unsafe housing conditions and homelessness among Roma in Ireland.<sup>24</sup> Yet, Traveller and Roma accommodation and homelessness are continuously excluded from debates and responses in relation to the current housing and homelessness crisis.

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<sup>18</sup> Many Roma in Ireland are unable to access any social protection due to the implementation of the right to reside, European Directive 2004/38, and habitual residence condition (HRC), policy by the Department of Social Protection. Roma face significant difficulties with proving residency in the State with lack of documentation, proof of address and language and literacy skills. 48.1% of Roma are not successful in applying for social protection. It is important to note that of Roma who are not successful in their social protection applications, the average number of years they have lived in Ireland is eight years, in Curran, S., A. Crickley, A., R. Fay, F. Mc Gaughey (eds), *Roma in Ireland - a National Needs Assessment*, Department of Justice and Equality and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre (forthcoming in 2017).

<sup>19</sup> Recommended by the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding Observations on the Combined Sixth and Seventh Periodic Reports of Ireland*, CEDAW/C/IRL/CO/6-7, 3 March 2017.

<sup>20</sup> Recommended by UN CEDAW Committee (ibid.) and UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Ireland*, 1 March 2016, UN Doc: CRC/C/IRL/CO/3-4N, para. 70(f).

<sup>21</sup> Recommended by UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> A Programme for a Partnership Government, May 2016.

<sup>23</sup> Houses of the Oireachtas, *Report of the Committee on Housing and Homelessness*, June 2016.

<sup>24</sup> Curran, S., A. Crickley, A., R. Fay, F. Mc Gaughey (eds), *Roma in Ireland - a National Needs Assessment*, Department of Justice and Equality and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre (forthcoming in 2017).

Traveller Accommodation	Roma Accommodation: <sup>25</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost 1 in 3 Traveller households living in a mobile or temporary accommodation have no sewerage facilities and 1 in 5 have no piped water source<sup>26</sup></li> <li>• In 2015, 3,876 Traveller families were without permanent accommodation living on 'unauthorised sites' at the roadside, 'sharing' accommodation due to chronic overcrowding or living in private rented accommodation without security of permanent tenure<sup>27</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24% of Roma live in households of 8 or more people and 7.3% in households with 10+ people</li> <li>• 45% of Roma report not having enough beds in their accommodation</li> <li>• 6.6% of Roma report that they are homeless</li> <li>• 45.7% of Roma report having been homeless at some stage of their lives</li> <li>• 13.5% have no fridge</li> <li>• 12.4% have no kitchen</li> <li>• 9.6% have no cooker</li> </ul>

Between 2008–2013 Traveller accommodation budget was cut from €40m to €4m, a staggering - 90%.<sup>28</sup> Pavee Point welcomed the increase in capital provision for Traveller accommodation in Budget 2017 to €9 million. However, this remains far from the pre-austerity capital funding of €40m. To make matters worse, significant amounts of the allocated Traveller accommodation budgets between 2008-2013 remained underspent (-36%) and this trend has continued since. It is reported that in 2016 over €1.2m of Traveller accommodation funding was left unspent with eight local councils failing to invest any of the allocated money towards Traveller accommodation.<sup>29</sup> In 2016 the Oireachtas Committee on Housing and Homelessness recommended for Traveller accommodation budget to be reinstated to 2008 levels immediately.<sup>30</sup>

The National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) commits to ring-fencing the capital budget for Traveller accommodation and put robust mechanisms in place to monitor expenditure and delivery, including periodic reviews to assess progress in meeting needs and to identify new and emerging needs.<sup>31</sup> However, the NTRIS contains no actions to address the housing situation of Roma in Ireland leaving many Roma families living in substandard and overcrowded accommodation conditions or facing homelessness.

#### Recommendations:

- **Immediately reinstate and ring-fence Traveller accommodation budget to 2008 levels, at a minimum of €40 million**
- **Introduce a funding line towards a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure full expenditure and delivery of the Traveller accommodation budget and to undertake periodic reviews to assess progress in meeting Traveller accommodation needs**
- **Resource the introduction of actions in the NTRIS to address the extreme housing and accommodation situation of Roma**

<sup>25</sup> Curran, S., A. Crickley, A., R. Fay, F. Mc Gaughey (eds), *Roma in Ireland - a National Needs Assessment*, Department of Justice and Equality and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre (forthcoming in 2017).

<sup>26</sup> Central Statistics Office, *Census 2011 Profile 7 Religion, Ethnicity and Irish Travellers - Ethnic and cultural background in Ireland*, 2011.

<sup>27</sup> Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, *Traveller Accommodation Statistics Annual Count 2015*.

<sup>28</sup> Harvey, B., *Travelling with Austerity: Impacts of cuts on Travellers, Traveller Projects and Services*, Dublin, Pavee Point Publications, 2013.

<sup>29</sup> Power, J., 'Over €1.2m in Traveller housing funding left unspent', *The Irish Times*, May 5 2017,

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/over-1-2m-in-traveller-housing-funding-left-unspent-1.3071590>

<sup>30</sup> Houses of the Oireachtas, *Report of the Committee on Housing and Homelessness*, June 2016.

<sup>31</sup> Department of Justice and Equality, *National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021*, June 2017.

## 4. Traveller and Roma Health Supports

Stark health inequalities are documented in the All Ireland Traveller Health Study (AITHS) and forthcoming National Roma Needs Assessment:<sup>32</sup>

- 134 excess Traveller deaths per year
- Mortality rate among Travellers is 3.5 times higher in comparison to the general population
- Suicide rates among Travellers are nearly 7 times the national average, accounting for 11% of all Traveller deaths
- 51.3% of Roma report more than 14 days of the previous month when their mental health was not good
- 50% of Roma do not have a medical card
- 38.9% of Roma report that they do not have a General Practitioner
- In 36% of Roma households Roma women have difficulty accessing maternity services

Given the significant inequalities in health experienced by Travellers and Roma, there is an urgent need to increase and introduce funding for targeted health services for Travellers and Roma in Budget 2018. The recently published National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) includes a number of welcome commitments to address the health needs of Travellers and Roma, including the development and implementation of a detailed action plan based on the findings of the AITHS; implementation of the findings of the National Roma Needs Assessment; and ensuring that specific funding is allocated for Traveller and Roma health.<sup>33</sup> These commitments must be prioritised in Budget 2018 with dedicated budget allocations.

### Recommendation:

- **Identify, ring-fence and centralise a dedicated and robust Traveller and Roma health budget as per commitments in the NTRIS**

## 5. Traveller and Roma Education Supports

Traveller specific education supports were cut by -86.6% following budget 2011.<sup>34</sup> Given the stark inequalities between Travellers/Roma and the general population in education, it is clear that Travellers and Roma require specific targeted supports to participate in mainstream education on equal terms with the rest of the general population:

Travellers - Educational Disadvantage	Roma - Educational Disadvantage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 13% of Travellers complete secondary education in comparison with 92% of the general population<sup>35</sup></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 40% of households with children under 5 have children attending pre-school</li><li>• In 78% of households children at primary school</li></ul>

<sup>32</sup> Kelleher et al., *All Ireland Traveller Health Study*, University College Dublin & Department of Health & Children, 2010; Curran, S., A. Crickley, A., R. Fay, F. Mc Gaughey (eds), *Roma in Ireland - a National Needs Assessment*, Department of Justice and Equality and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre (forthcoming in 2017).

<sup>33</sup> Action 73, 68 and 75 in Department of Justice and Equality, *National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021*, June 2017.

<sup>34</sup> Harvey, B., *Travelling with Austerity: Impacts of cuts on Travellers, Traveller Projects and Services*, Dublin, Pavee Point Publications, 2013.

<sup>35</sup> Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI), *Growing Up in Ireland Study 2012*, Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55% of Travellers have completed their formal education by the age of 15</li> <li>• Less than 1% of Travellers are in third level education <sup>36</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• age are attending school</li> <li>• In 72% of households children at post primary age are attending school</li> <li>• 6% of households have a member attending third level education <sup>37</sup></li> </ul>
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The Report on the First Phase of the Evaluation of DEIS (2011) found that the educational attainment of Travellers remains significantly lower than that of their settled peers in both reading and mathematics.<sup>38</sup> The magnitude of the difference between the scores of the two groups is large in every case.

Given that students in DEIS schools have access to a range of extra supports, it is of particular concern that even in this context Traveller students are not reaching the same level of educational attainment as their settled peers. 47% of Traveller students at primary level are in non-DEIS schools and 51% of Travellers at post primary level are in non-DEIS schools.<sup>39</sup> In these schools Traveller children do not have access to the same education supports as are available in DEIS schools. No data is available about Roma and DEIS schools.

#### Recommendations:

- **Introduce investment in Traveller specific education supports to break the cycle of educational disadvantage**
- **Introduce additional General Allocation Model allocation for pupils that fulfil two of the Special Educational Needs criteria**

<sup>36</sup> Central Statistics Office, *Census 2011 Profile 7- Religion, Ethnicity and Irish Travellers* at 32.

<sup>37</sup> Curran, S., A. Crickley, A., R. Fay, F. Mc Gaughey (eds), *Roma in Ireland - a National Needs Assessment*, Department of Justice and Equality and Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre (forthcoming in 2017).

<sup>38</sup> Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) the Action plan for Educational Inclusion was launched in May 2005 and is the Department of Education and Skills policy instrument to address educational disadvantage. 849 schools are included in the programme, 657 primary schools and 192 secondary schools. DEIS schools receive a number of supports and provisions including a pupil teacher ratio (PTR) of 20:1 in junior schools, 22:1 in vertical schools and 24:1 in senior schools. DEIS schools can also access a number of supports including :

- DEIS grant paid based on level of disadvantage and enrolment
- Access to Home School Community Liaison services
- Access to Schools Meals Programme
- Access to range of supports under School Completion Programme
- Access to literacy/numeracy support such as Reading Recovery, Maths Recovery, First Steps, Ready Set Go Maths
- Access to planning supports
- Access to a range of professional development supports
- Additional funding under School Books Grant Scheme

<sup>39</sup> Information received by the Traveller Education Strategy Advisory Consultative Forum from the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of Education and Skills, October 2012.