

Working with East European Roma children and families: challenges and effective engagement

Salford City Council

ROMA
SUPPORT GROUP

 Migration Yorkshire
supporting local migration services

1 February 2012, Nottingham

Purpose of the seminar

Increasing numbers of service providers across many parts of the UK need to work with Roma people who have recently arrived from Eastern European countries. At present, there are very few established resources to assist service providers, who are faced with some new and difficult challenges.

Language and cultural differences (including differences between Roma groups), lack of documentation, a low level of literacy and education, and complex extended families all create considerable obstacles for service providers. Tensions often arise between newly settled Roma and established local communities. Organised criminal activity involving child exploitation and trafficking, with children used for street robbery and benefit fraud, have introduced new child protection and safeguarding challenges.

This seminar brings together individuals who have worked with East European Roma, and begins with a cultural awareness session from the well-established Roma Support Group. It will go on to look at identifying the needs of Roma families and some effective ways to engage with communities.

Key learning outcomes

- ✓ A better understanding of East European Roma culture
- ✓ Awareness of new resources to help shape services
- ✓ Practical information on how to engage with East European Roma families
- ✓ Addressing issues around identifying and protecting children

Agenda (subject to change)

- **Chaired by Claire Lockwood** - Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement Service, Leeds City Council
- **Cultural awareness session** - Gabriela Smolinska - Poffley, Roma Support Group
- **Roma SOURCE: a project to improve local and regional practice** - John Donegan, Migration Yorkshire
- **Engaging with Roma families** - Roma Support Group
- **Roma children and families: the challenges around identity and child protection** - Chief Inspector Colin Carswell, Operation Golf, Metropolitan Police
- **Promoting social cohesion: one city's approach** - Philip Martin, Equalities and Cohesion Team and Natalie Stables, Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service, Salford City Council

See www.ccclimited.org.uk for full programme and details on speakers' organisations.

Who should attend

- Children and families social workers
- Child protection specialists and Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- Family support services including Children's Centres
- Other organisations working with children at risk
- Refugee support organisations
- Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Services
- Criminal justice system
- Community health professionals
- Education services and schools
- Housing services
- Advocacy services

Delegate Booking Form

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Standard delegate rate £165 + VAT
Reduced delegate rate £140 + VAT

(limited number available only to small community organisations / registered charities with 10 or fewer employees)

The delegate rate includes lunch, refreshments and a delegate information pack.

Discounts are available for multiple bookings - please telephone for further details.

Delegate Details (please print in black ink) Mr Mrs Ms Dr

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