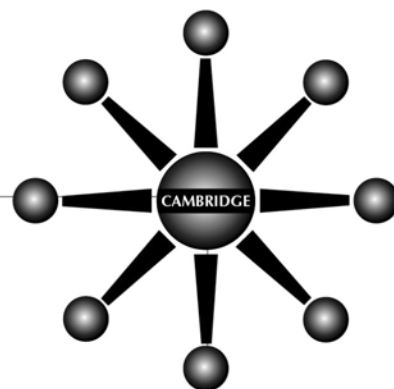


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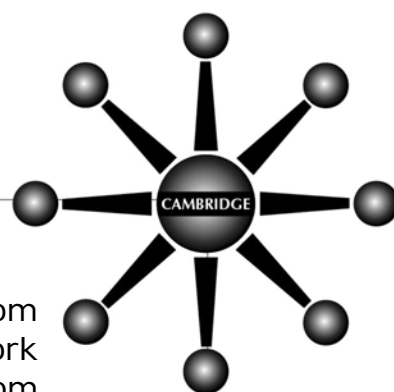
Improving Opportunities for Travellers and Gypsies

- Gypsies and Travellers often face discrimination, but a conference on 20th April aimed at people from the Eastern region with responsibility for skills and employment has helped to improve practice and levels of engagement with Gypsies and Travellers around learning and earning.
- The conference, at Churchill College, Cambridge was hosted by Ormiston Children & Families Trust and funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP). It shared learning and showcased examples of best practice from Ormiston's *Learn and Earn Advocacy Project* for Travellers (LEAP) and Cambridgeshire County Council's Traveller Skills Project *Skills for Adult Travellers*, both funded by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) / Investing in Communities monies via the GCP.
- A series of speeches and workshops by a broad range of local, national and international organisations who lead the way in improving practice in the field of Gypsy and Traveller skills and employment were also presented to delegates committed to improving employment opportunities for individuals from Gypsy and Traveller communities.
- Mike Carter, GCP's IiC Manager said, "This was a great opportunity for people already working with the Traveller community to come together to share best practice and better understand the needs of Travellers to help overcome the social and economic exclusion faced by the majority of this group."



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- Sherrylyn Touray, Consultancy Service Manager from Ormiston Children & Families Trust said, "The work showcased by Pavee Point and Exchange House from Ireland demonstrated that there is a long way to go in breaking down barriers and improving the employment opportunities for Gypsies and Travellers in the UK, but we hope this conference will be a catalyst for thinking about the issues and getting work underway here in England".
- Delegates who attended the conference, said it raised awareness of issues affecting Travellers and gave an insight into resources available in the community to develop learning and earning opportunities, resulting in "...a very enjoyable day with lots to think about."

For more information contact:

- Mike Carter, Investing in Communities Manager, Greater Cambridge Partnership tel: 01223 714083 / 07768 775256
www.gcp.net.uk

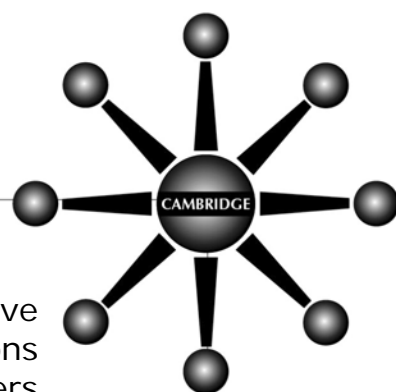
Notes to Editor

- Ormiston's *Learn and Earn Advocacy Project (LEAP)* enables Gypsies and Travellers to maximise their skills to improve their work chances by offering help and information about employment services, employment rights, setting up in self-employment, and entitlement to benefits. It helps Gypsies and Travellers to maximise their skills for learning and earning, access expert advice and make their voices heard.
- Cambridgeshire County Council's Traveller Skills Project *Skills for Adult Travellers* supports Travellers over 16 throughout Cambridgeshire to access skills training and to develop mainstream awareness of the needs of Traveller



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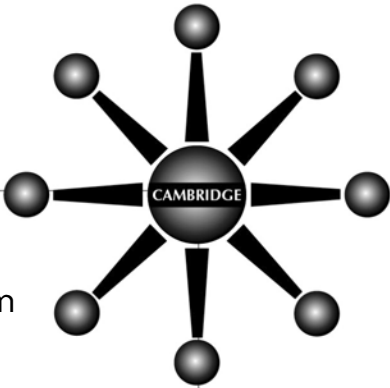
learners. Since August 2006 over 70 Traveller learners have taken part in a variety of skills training courses and sessions covering a wide range of topics. Many service providers have been contacted and are working to identify existing provision or the development of alternative arrangements.

- Speakers at the conference included: Pavee Point Travellers Centre; Cambridge and Peterborough Learning Partnership; NIACE, Exchange House Travellers Service, Advice for Life, Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridgeshire Traveller's Initiative, Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Service – Team for Traveller Education.
- The conference looked at:
 - The key issues for Gypsies and Travellers around learning and earning
 - What can be learnt from employability work with Gypsies and Travellers in Ireland
 - The importance of local projects
 - Meeting the needs of young Gypsies and Travellers for vocational training
 - Tailoring the BBC's RaW (Read and Write) project to meet the needs of individual groups including Gypsies and Travellers
 - The skills needed for employment
 - Racism and nomadism – barriers to employment?
- The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is the sub-regional economic partnership (SREP) covering a 25-mile radius around Cambridge. The sub-region includes Huntingdon, Ely, Newmarket, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Royston and Stansted. It has a population of 635,000 people, 25,000 businesses and an annual economy worth over £12 billion.



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- The partnership brings together senior representatives from the public sector, business and community as a cohesive driving force with a unique mandate to meet the goals of the sub-regional economic strategy. The common vision is to advance the interests of Greater Cambridge and enable the realisation of its potential as a world-class, thriving economic area. GCP projects aim to create a balanced framework for structural, economic, social, environmental and cultural development of Greater Cambridge.
- For more information visit: www.gcp.uk.net



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