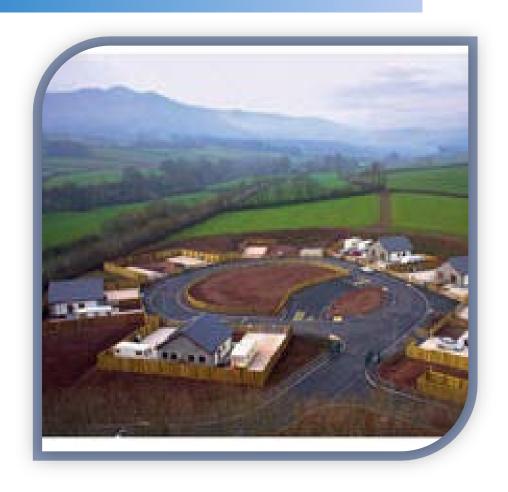
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment January 2017





Contents

Chapter One: Policy context2
Chapter Two: Background information and data analysis
Population data9
Caravan Count
Chapter Three: Methodology13
Chapter Four: Survey Findings This information cannot be disclosed/has been redacted as it could potentially identify the individual involved, especially if combined with other data, and this would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998
Chapter Five: Assessing accommodation needs25
Chapter Six: Conclusions and Recommendations28
Appendices
Appendix 1 - Glossary
Appendix 2 - Map of Density of Gypsy and Travellers in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation identified in the 2011 Census
Appendix 3 - Map of Unauthorised Encampment location during 2015
Appendix 4 - Examples of Social Media/ website advertising
Appendix 5 - Promotional Flyer
Appendix 6 - Denbighsire County Council interview log This information cannot be disclosed/has been redacted as it could potentially identify the individuals involved, especially if combined with other data, and this would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998

Chapter One: Policy context

A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment is designed to evaluate the accommodation needs of this group so that provision can be put in place if required. Such planned and specialist provision eases the potential for ad-hoc or unauthorised sites to evolve. These sites tend to lack the necessary infrastructure to support needs and will also have inherent legal issues.

Producing and then acting upon a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment is a statutory requirement as set out in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The assessment has been carried out with reference to the following additional legislation and guidance:

- Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 powers.
- Planning circulars 30/2007 and 78/91.
- Welsh Government Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites guidance.

Relevant Local Policies

There are no existing authorised sites in Denbighshire and no site specific allocation policies. The key local policy concerning Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation is contained within the Denbighshire Local Development Plan 2006 –2021 as: Policy BSC 10 – Gypsy & Traveller Sites. It states:

Proposals for gypsy and traveller caravan sites (including mixed residential and business sites) will be permitted provided the following criteria are met:

- i) the site is situated outside the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Green Barriers and the Pontcysyllte Canal and Aqueduct World Heritage site (including the buffer zone); and
- ii) the site is located within or on the outskirts of an established settlement boundary with access to a range of facilities/services (including schools), public transport and main transport routes; and,
- iii) the proposal makes suitable provision for on-site play space, storage and parking; and,

iv) the proposal would not be detrimental to the amenity of occupiers of adjacent properties.

Sites in other locations will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that sites within or on the outskirts of an established settlement boundaries are not available and all the above criteria are met.

The Council will identify permanent and transit caravan sites for gypsies and travellers should an unmet need be identified for Denbighshire in the emerging North West Wales Local Housing Market Assessment.¹

The LDP also includes rural exemptions policies in relation to the development of affordable housing. However, Gypsy and traveller site accommodation is not considered within the Welsh Government definition of 'affordable housing' so there is no direct impact on this study.

Access to Bricks and Mortar accommodation in Denbighshire is currently managed by an interim allocations policy which has been designed to reflect new legislation and a new code of practice issued by Welsh Government.

These are:

- Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on the Allocation of
 Accommodation and Homelessness Welsh Government April 2015

This interim policy ensures compliance with legal requirements while we are in the process of implementing the 'Single Access Route to Housing' (SARTH), which incorporates a move away from the current allocations points system to a single, common housing waiting list using banding for people in housing need. SARTH will be introduced in April 2017 and this will enable customers to apply through one single point and access high quality housing options advice. There will be a new regional common allocations system which will be used by Denbighshire, Conwy, Flintshire Local Authorities and five Registered Social Landlords (Housing Associations) and this will include provision for applicants to register for a pitch. The Denbighshire County Council interim Policy can be accessed via the following link:

¹ Any identified need in the study would also trigger a search for sites on the basis outlined.

https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/resident/housing/council-housing/applying-for-a-council-house.aspx

Definition of key terms

This report uses common definitions to those included in the Welsh Government's *Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments* guidance. This includes the definition of Gypsy and Travellers as follows:

Gypsies and Travellers

- (a) Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:
 - (1) Persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and
 - (2) Members of an organized group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and
- (b) All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home.

Source: Section 108, Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Other key definitions can be seen in the Glossary in appendix 1 below.

Chapter Two: Background information and data analysis

This Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment is not the first conducted for the North Wales area. The previous most recent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was conducted by Bangor University on a North Wales Regional basis in 2013. Entitled the North West Wales Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, it assessed the Gypsy & Traveller needs for Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Flintshire and the Isle of Anglesey.

The assessment utilised primary data in the form of questionnaire survey. The sampling procedure used was purposive, which is an apt sampling methodology when targeting a specific social group and where proportionality is not a primary concern.

The following data informed the conclusions on level of requirement for residential sites.

Table 1: Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs 2011–2016. Source: North West Wales Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment; Bangor University.

		Conwy	Denbighshire	Gwynedd	Anglesey	Flintshire	Total
		Ŝ	Denbiç	Gwy	Ang	Flint	To
	Current Residential Supply						
1	Socially rented pitches	0	0	7	0	20	27
2	Private authorised pitches	0	0	5	0	44	49
3	Total authorised pitches	0	0	12	0	66	78
4	Plots for Travelling Show people	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Residential pitch need 201	1-16					
5	End of temporary planning permissions	0	0	0	0	6	6
6	New household formation from sites	0	0	2	0	10	12
7	Unauthorised developments [Tolerated/not tolerated]	0	0	2	0	2	4

8a	Movement between sites and housing (out of site)	0	0	-1	0	0	-1
8b	(into site)	2	1	5	1	5	14
9	Closure of sites	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Unauthorised encampments	1	1	1	10	1	14
11	Additional residential need						
a	:Currently overcrowded	0	0	1	0	12	13
b	:Net in migration/outmigration	0	0	0	0	0	0
С	:Other residential need	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Additional supply 2011-16						
12	Pitches currently closed but re-entering use	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Pitches with permission but not developed	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	New sites planned	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Vacancies on socially rented sites	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Total Supply 2011-16	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Remaining Residential Need Shortfall 2011-16	3	2	10	11	36	62

The 2013 study found a need for 2 residential pitches to cope with demand from Denbighshire. No permanent residential sites have been identified in the County in the period since the study was conducted.

The 2013 study reached the following conclusions in relation to the need for Transit sites.

- Annually, about 55 encampments occur in the study area
- 10% of temporary encampments, about six during the year, will be from those looking for permanent site accommodation, and are discussed under the permanent site requirement
- Thus 90% of encampments, about 49 in total, would require transit accommodation
- The maximum stay would be for one month, though some encampments would be for a shorter period
- Accommodation for 7 caravans would deal with most encampments.

Using 7 as a working figure, transit requirements would be for (49 multiplied by 7) caravans per annum, or 343 over the year. On a monthly basis, this amounts to 28.5 caravans. However, [...] this can involve some element of double counting. Proportionately, about 47% of encampments are recorded in the Gwynedd and Ynys Môn area, 15% in the central area of /Conwy and Denbighshire, and 37% in Flintshire.

It is therefore suggested that the authorities work together to consider three or four transit sites accommodating up to seven caravans. More than one site is to be preferred, for a number of reasons

- They are more likely to be used if close to traditional stopping places
- The size of each site would be reduced
- Difficulties about ethnic or inter-family tensions would be reduced.
- A single transit site for the area would not resolve the issues. It is important that there is somewhere for occupants to move on, and a network is required. The local authorities should work jointly to identify appropriate sites for temporary accommodation on a regional basis.

Since submitting the 2016 assessment officers from each Authority have been exploring the practicalities of developing a joint transit site. A 'call for sites' consultation carried out by Conwy County Borough Council in 2015 considered a site at Smithy Layby, near St George/Bodelwyddan as a potential transit site or temporary stopping place, raising considerable local opposition. Discussions are on-going between Conwy, Welsh Government and other interested parties regarding land ownership.

The main obstacle to joint provision is the limitations of police powers to move on unauthorised encampments. Should trespassers refuse to adhere to a request to leave the land, sections 61–62 of Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 gives the police discretionary powers to direct trespassers to leave and remove any property or vehicles they have with them, where defined criteria are met.

Police have separate powers under sections 62 A-E of the Act 1994 to direct both trespassers and Travellers to leave land and remove any vehicle and

property from the land where there is a suitable pitch available on a caravan site elsewhere in the local authority area. Therefore if a transit site was provided in Denbighshire only, unauthorised encampments within Conwy County could not be moved onto it.

The use of police powers is therefore an important consideration when determining how to progress transit provision. If the police cannot use their powers the Authority must take steps in the County Court to seek possession of the land which is time consuming for officers, has a financial cost to the Authority and negative impact on Traveller–Council relations. The unauthorised occupiers of land must be served with notice to leave and the Authority must then wait for both a Court Order for possession and a Warrant for Possession before steps can be taken to physically remove the encampment.

Population data

Alongside the primary data collection there are other secondary data sources available. This data is only supplementary and to be used to support the main primary resource.

A useful secondary source is the 2011 Census. For the first time, the 2011 Census included in its ethnic group question a gypsy and traveller option. The data for those gypsy and travellers is included in the below table.

Table 2: Number of Gypsy and Travellers in Local Authorities 2011. Source: ONS; © Crown Copyright

Local Authority	Total Population	White: Gypsy and Travellers
Denbighshire	93,734	34

Table 3: CT0128 – Accommodation type – All Household Reference Persons with ethnic group White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller; Source: 2011 Census (27 March)

	Total: Accommodation type	House or bungalow	A flat, maisonette or apartment	A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure
Denbighshire	16	11	4	1

According to the 2011 Census, there were 34 persons identifying as Gypsy or Travellers in Denbighshire. There were 16 Gypsy Traveller households, 15 of whom were accommodated in Bricks and Mortar. It is likely that these numbers are an under representation of the numbers in each local authority at the time given. Research in other areas suggests that it is likely that some Gypsies or Travellers may be reluctant to declare themselves. The areas with the highest density of Gypsy and Travellers in Bricks and Mortar accommodation has been mapped in **Appendix 2**.

Caravan Count

A further secondary source of data is the Caravan Count taken from the biannual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count conducted by local authorities in Wales and compiled nationally by Welsh Government. The bi-annual counting arrangement is recognised by the local authority and Welsh Government as being inadequate and will be replaced by a rolling count from April 2016. The final bi-annual count took place in January 2016. Denbighshire recorded no caravans when using this method.

A much clearer picture emerges from local unauthorised encampment data. In the future this data will be able to feed the new rolling count methodology for the nationally collated Caravan Count Dataset. These local data tables are discussed as part of the section on <u>Transit Requirements</u> below

Table 4: Number of sites by authorisation and local authority 2014–2015; Source: Statistics Wales © Crown Copyright.

	lan	1.4	11		la .a	1 -	11	1 -
	Jan	-14	Jul-14		Jan-15		Jul-15	
	Authorised Sites	Unauthorise d Sites						
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5: Number of caravans by authorisation and local authority 2014–2015; Source: Statistics Wales © Crown Copyright.

					. , ,					
		Jul-14			Jan-15			Jul-15		
	Authorised Sites (with planning permission)	Unauthorised Sites (without planning permission)	. All Caravans	Authorised Sites (with planning permission)	Unauthorised Sites (without planning permission)	. All Caravans	Authorised Sites (with planning permission)	Unauthorised Sites (without planning	permission)	. All Caravans
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0

Table 6: Number of pitches by local authority; Source: Statistics Wales © Crown Copyright.

	Jan-15			Jul-15			
	Residential occupied	Residential vacant	Total of all pitches	Residential occupied	Residential vacant	Total of all pitches	
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	

We know from an examination of figures for Gwynedd and Anglesey that in general terms, a higher number of caravans is recorded in July than in January. This shows the transient nature of Gypsies and Travellers and the propensity for Gypsies and Travellers to travel to North West Wales during the summer months. It is important to note the location of Holyhead Irish Sea Port. Although not captured in these figures both Conwy and Denbighshire appear to be stopping places in this seasonal migration. This appears to be particularly the case for Irish Travellers stopping in the Kinmel Bay, Conwy / Rhyl, Denbighshire area.

There are currently no authorised residential sites in Denbighshire. Conwy County Borough Council completed a 4 pitch residential site in 2016 at Bangor Road, Conwy.

Table 7: Number of sites by authorisation and local authority; Source: Statistics Wales © Crown Copyright

		Denbighshire
Authorised	Jan-10	0
	Jul-10	0
	Jan-11	0
	Jul-11	0
	Jan-12	0
	Jul-12	0
	Jan-13	0
	Jul-13	0
	Jan-14	0

	Jul-14	0
Unauthorised	Jan-10	0
	Jul-10	0
	Jan-11	0
	Jul-11	0
	Jan-12	0
	Jul-12	0
	Jan-13	0
	Jul-13	0
	Jan-14	0
	Jul-14	0

Chapter Three: Methodology

Although this report considers the accommodation needs in Denbighshire, the methodology for the Accommodation Needs Assessment and data collection was agreed jointly between Conwy and Denbighshire, including a joint steering group and joint commissioning of fieldwork.

Welsh Government advocate the need for a steering group "to ensure the process is informed by all available expertise to produce the most effective assessment possible. It is important key stakeholders are aware and involved at an early stage. Fundamentally, the group should be composed of those who have established networks within these communities and those with accountability for meeting the accommodation needs of these communities.

These may include representatives from:

- Local Authority Housing and Planning Departments;
- Local Gypsy and Traveller community;
- organisations working to support Gypsy and Traveller communities;
- other relevant services such as Traveller education services, Gypsy and Traveller liaison officers or health board officers who work closely with Gypsy and Traveller communities and may have the best knowledge of communities in the area; and
- Local Authority Councillor, for example, the Equality or Planning portfolio holder.

For practical reasons there are two ways in which the methodology for this assessment has not followed the Welsh Government guidance above.

Firstly, due to timescales and the need to engage consultants in a timely fashion in order to undertake survey work during the travelling period, the Steering Group did not meet until the draft assessment was available for discussion. A key representative from the Gypsy and Traveller community was invited to get involved with the assessment prior to the field work commencing but declined the invitation.

Officers in both Counties feel that considerable knowledge of communities in the study area was collected through promotion and information gathering from partner agencies such as health and education (see below). Whilst a formal meeting did not take place before the fieldwork, it is not felt that this impacted on the level of information available.

Officers connected regionally through the North Wales Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Forum. A working group of Housing and Planning Officers from each Authority meet on a regular basis to review progress.

Secondly, the Welsh Government Guidance calls for members of the Gypsy Traveller Community to be members of the steering group "to counter perceptions the study is being done 'to' Gypsy and Traveller communities, rather than 'with' them......[and] provide a crucial perspective on the travelling patterns of communities and the need (or otherwise) to work on a regional basis.

Following completion of the fieldwork, with such a small population base to engage with, it became apparent that the individuals in the community who were willing to join the steering group were the same people who were expressing a need for accommodation. The group decided that there would be a conflict of interest when discussing overall need figures and any issues around local connection or cultural aversion. It was agreed that it was more appropriate for community members to attend when the assessment had been finalised and the steering group changed its focus to provision. Unity were present at the Steering Group to present general cultural awareness information.

Since completion of the initial interviews, valuable and extensive engagement with community members has taken place through further visits and discussions. This has helped to clarify the circumstances of the families. Community members will also be invited to attend future steering group meetings to enable input on the site identification and selection process.

Table 8: Project steering group composition

Name	Representing
Cllr Barbara Smith	Denbighshire CC - Lead for Modernisation &
	Housing
Cllr Phil Edwards	Conwy CBC - Lead for Housing & Social Care
Angela Loftus	Denbighshire CC - Planning Policy & Housing
	Strategy

James Harland	Conwy CBC - Planning Policy
Bryn Kyffin	Conwy CBC - Planning Policy
Sue Lewis	Denbighshire CC - Housing Strategy
Wendy Dearden	Conwy CBC - Housing
Bryn Hall	Unity Project
Mohammed Dhalech	North Wales Race Equality Network (invited)
Wayne Wheatley	Denbighshire CC - Education (invited)
Noela Roberts	Conwy CBC - Education (invited)
Members of travelling community	To be invited
Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board	To be invited

Engagement and Promotion of the Study

Unfortunately this Assessment was not able to draw upon personal data from the 2013 Assessment to make contact with the 13 households previously interviewed as this was not provided to the commissioning organisations. Personal data is also unavailable for the 16 households identified by the 2011 Census.

This Assessment has therefore had to begin the engagement process from the first principles through promotion of the assessment and inviting interested households to make contact.

The bullet points below outline the promotion and engagement activity undertaken by Denbighshire County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, and Opinion Research Services (ORS) to ensure that the travelling community knew about the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and were encouraged to participate.

- The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was advertised via both the Denbighshire County Council and the Conwy County Borough Council Websites.
 - a. CCBC Website http://intranet/doc.asp?cat=10719&doc=33172&Language=1

- b. DCC Website
 - https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/resident/home.aspx
- 2. Social Media was used to promote participation in the Assessment itself and also to promote the engagement event associated with it.
 - a. 25/8/15 the two local authority Facebook pages Do you or your family need a pitch or yard in Conwy or Denbighshire?
 - b. 1/10/15 and 13/10/15 CCBC Twitter Do you or your family need a pitch or yard in Conwy or Denbighshire?
 - c. 13/10/15 CCBC tweet advertising the survey and drop in session
 - d. 15/10/15 North Wales Regional Equality Network tweet advertising the survey and drop in session
 - e. 15/10/15 Friends Families and Travellers Facebook post advertising the survey and drop in session
 - f. Advertisement placed on the Travellers Times Facebook pages.
- 3. Advertising in relevant publications
 - a. Adverts placed in the Travellers Times (Print) and on the Travellers Times Website
 - b. Adverts Placed in Worlds Fair
 - c. A feature article in World's Fair written by colleagues in Ynys Mon and placed on behalf of the North Wales regional group promoted the reviews taking place across North Wales.
- 4. Direct approaches with support agencies and relevant community groups. Letters were sent out to Catholic Churches across the two local authority areas advertising the survey and requesting that any members of the Gypsy or Traveller communities in the congregation be advised of the survey and put in contact with the local authority if they wished. These included:
 - St Michaels RC Church, Conwy
 - Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Church, Llandudno
 - St Joseph's RC Church, Colwyn Bay

- Our Lady of The Assumption RC Church, Rhyl
- St Therese of Lisieux, Abergele
- Christ the King, Kinmel Bay
- Diocese of Wrexham, Wrexham

A similar letter was sent to Planning Aid to ask that the survey be advertised to anyone they were working with from the Gypsy or Traveller communities.

The main direct approaches to support agencies were via email. The following agencies were asked to promote the survey and drop in event with their membership and contacts. They were also asked to pass on to the local authorities any additional information that they thought should be considered.

- 'info@gtwales.org.uk'; (Gypsy Traveller Wales)
- 'travellingahead@savethechildren.org.uk'; (Travelling Ahead)
- 'unity@pembrokeshire.gov.uk'; (Unity)
- 'isaacblake@romaniarts.co.uk'; (Romani Cultural and Arts Company)
- 'lb2@smt.org.uk'; (The Bridges Projects)
- 'leesashowmensguild@yahoo.com'; (The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain)
- 'info@travellersschool.org.uk'; (The Travellers School Charity)
- 'info@travellermovement.org.uk'; (The Traveller movement)
- 'fft' <fft@gypsy-traveller.org>; (Friends, Families and Travellers)
- 'natglg@outlook.com'; (National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups)
- 'info@nationalgypsytravellerfederation.org'; (The National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups)
- 'info@gypsy-association.com'; (The Gypsy Council)
- 'info@romasupportgroup.org.uk' (Roma Support Group)

Whilst informative replies were received from Gypsy Traveller Wales and Travelling Ahead, no information was received about Gypsy Traveller households in the County. This may reflect the lack of Gypsy Traveller support agencies operating in North Wales historically. It is acknowledged that the Unity Project now has a Support/Engagement Officer based in North Wales.

- 5. Publication materials for the drop in session and participation in the assessment were distributed as flyers in the following community locations:
 - a. Flyers to CCBC and DCC Education to pass to families with children in local authority schools
 - b. Libraries
 - c. Leisure centres
 - d. Laundrettes
 - e. Surgeries and hospitals
 - f. Also Co-operative Abergele
 - g. Abergele Post Office
 - h. Kinmel Bay Post Office
 - i. Jacko's Odds and Ends
 - j. Foryd Centre
 - k. Ruthin Post Office
 - I. Rhyl Town Hall
 - m. Denbighshire Council's Brighton Road Office (Supporting People)
 - n. Westminster Park Pharmacy Ltd
- 6. Multi-Agency Drop in session on 20/10/15 drop in sessions were held throughout the day at Kinmel Bay Community Centre (the area with the largest volume of unauthorised encampments in recent years). The event included participants from North Wales Regional Equality Network (NWREN), North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, and the two local authorities; Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council. Two previously unidentified households attended the drop in and went on to take part in the assessment, indicating a preference for accommodation in Denbighshire. It is acknowledged that attendance at the drop in could have been improved with better prior notice.

- 7. The assessment also attempted to utilise other data sources available to the local Authority and to housing partners:
 - Housing data all housing associations were contacted to identify Gypsy Traveller tenants and equalities data on the housing registers was examined. Both Councils' housing waiting lists were interrogated in terms of applicants identifying themselves as Gypsies and Travellers. A single applicant/tenant was identified in Denbighshire and was invited to participate but did not respond.
 - Planning data there have been no planning applications for private sites within either County.
 - Education data information sharing between education and housing departments was an issue for Conwy. Education colleagues distributed information flyers to known households. In Denbighshire addresses were provided and information sent (including the flyer) to each address but no responses were received.
- 8. Finally a number of direct contacts were made with individuals from the Gypsy and Traveller communities known to the local authorities who we felt may have an interest in the survey. These contacts provided a further information about other community members which were fully followed up.

Study Methodology

The study consisted of gathering secondary data from Census, Local Authority, Education, Health and other partners (discussed above) and a new collection of primary data. The new primary data was collected, by joint arrangement of Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council, in the form of the Universal Questionnaire, which was adopted unamended from the Welsh Government Guidance².

The sampling procedure used was purposive, which is an apt sampling methodology when targeting a specific social group and where proportionality is not a primary concern.

² Welsh Government, Undertaking Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, May 2015

In addition to the collection of primary data through the Universal Questionnaire further insights were gained from additional interviews. These were conducted with Show People residing within and outside the Conwy and Denbighshire areas, who responded to advertisements in *World's Fair* but did not wish to participate in the Universal Questionnaire.

Who undertook the study?

Fieldwork and Data Collection for the survey was undertaken by Opinion Research Services (ORS) on behalf of Denbighshire County Council and Conwy County Borough Council. An independent group, rather than the local authority, were chosen as it was felt they would be able to engage with a wider range of community members including those who may have negative attitudes towards or have had negative experiences in the past with dealings with local authorities and other statutory agencies. A competitive procurement process was undertaken to award the contract and ORS were chosen.

ORS have a proven track record of engagement specifically with the Gypsy and Traveller Community in Wales. They have experience of conducting Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessments in the past and were engaged to conduct a number of assessments across Wales this time. As such they are well placed to understand the communities in Wales and their travel patterns. Analysis of the data was completed by Denbighshire County Council's Research and Intelligence Team.

Table 9 - Dates of the surveys undertaken

Project Stages and Key Milestones	Aug- 15	Sep- 15	Oct- 15	Nov- 15	Dec- 15	Jan- 16
Appointment to Contract						
Fieldwork Publicity						
Site Interviews						
Bricks and Mortar Interviews						
Data Processing						

Submission of Raw Data			
Analysis of Data			
Meeting with Steering Group			
Production of Draft Report			

Following completion of the initial survey work, further interviews were undertaken with the households previously contacted and currently residing in Denbighshire. These interviews provided additional information and clarification of the current accommodation needs of the families together with further information on the emerging households. This additional information has been incorporated into the survey findings.

Table 10: Compliance with engagement checklist.

Requirement		Action undertaken
1.	Visit every Gypsy and Traveller household identified through the data analysis process up to 3 times, if necessary.	All identified families visited
2.	Publish details of the GTAA process, including contact details to allow community members to request an interview, on the Local Authority website, Travellers' Times website and World's Fair publication.	Details published including on website, Travellers Times & World Fair. See details above
3.	Consult relevant community support organisations, such as those in Annex 1.	Direct approaches to support agencies and relevant community groups. See details above
4.	Develop a Local Authority waiting list for both pitches and housing, which is accessible and communicated to community members.	Denbighshire does not have a site and does not currently hold a waiting list for gypsy & traveller pitches. However, a Single Access Route to Housing (SARTH) is being introduced by April 2017 and will mean having a common waiting list for those in housing need, including provision for applicants to register for a pitch.
5.	Endeavour to include Gypsies and Travellers on the GTAA project steering group.	No Gypsy and Traveller representative was included in the first Steering Group due to a conflict of interest and another member of the community refusing to get involved with the study at an early stage. Unity attended the steering group meeting. Every effort will be made to include a representative in future meetings. Further

		details are contained at the start of Chapter 3 - methodology
6.	Ensure contact details provided to the Local Authority by community members through the survey process are followed up and needs assessed.	All identified families visited.
7.	Consider holding on-site (or nearby) GTAA information events to explain why community members should participate and encourage site residents to bring others who may not be known to the Local Authority.	Multi-agency drop in session held throughout the day on 20/10/15 at Kinmel Bay Community Centre. This area has had the largest volume of unauthorised encampments in recent years.

Chapter Four: Survey Findings

This information cannot be disclosed/has been redacted as it could potentially identify the individuals involved, especially if combined with other data, and this would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Chapter Five: Assessing accommodation needs

Table 19 - Denbighshire assessment

Current residential supply	Number of pitches
A. Occupied Local Authority pitches	0
B. Occupied authorised private pitches	0
Total	0

Planned residential supply	Number of pitches
C. Vacant Local Authority pitches and	0
available vacant private pitches	
D. Pitches expected to become vacant	0
in near future	
E. New Local Authority and private	0
pitches with planning permission	
Total	0

Current residential demand	Pitch demand
F. unauthorised encampments	2
G. unauthorised development	0
H. overcrowded pitches	0
I. Conventional housing	3
J. New households to arrive	0
Total	5

Current households	Future households (at	Future households (Plan		
	year 5)	period)		
K. 5	6	6		
L. Additional household	1	1		
pitch need				

Unmet Need	Need arising	Need accommodated
M. Current residential	5	
demand		

N. Future residential demand (5 year)	1	
O. Future residential	1	
demand (plan period)		
P. Planned residential	0	0
supply		
Q. Unmet need (5 year)	6	
R. Unmet need (Plan	6	
period)		

Transit unmet need

Despite little evidence from the national caravan count data and from the survey undertaken as part of this assessment there is sufficient local data to demonstrate a need for transit provision. Survey responses (E4) show that interviewees suggest that transit sites are required all over Wales and particularly in Conwy and Denbighshire.

However, current local data show a large proportion of unauthorised encampments occurring in a geographical area close to the north-west border of Denbighshire and north-east border of Conwy.

In the 12 month period since October 2014 17 of the 29 unauthorised encampments within the Conwy County Borough Council boundary occurred in Kinmel Bay. Over the longer period from 2012³ 11 of 20 unauthorised encampments in Denbighshire occurred in Rhyl. The point is further emphasised when it is considered that 71 of the 83 recorded occupants of unauthorised encampments in Conwy resided in unauthorised encampments in Kinmel Bay. Unfortunately we do not have occupant level data for Denbighshire.

In addition the geographical analysis of the Bricks and Mortar population identified in the census show concentration in these areas suggesting the likelihood of family and cultural ties in the area.

_

³ Denbighshire has fewer unauthorised encampments per year but had records going back allowing for a longer period to be analysed.

Table 20 – Distribution of Unauthorised Encampments in Denbighshire since 2012

Unauthorised Encampments - Denbighshire						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	
Rhyl	2	3	5	1	11	
Prestatyn	2	1	1	1	5	
Denbigh			1		1	
Ruthin			1		1	
Llandegla			1		1	
Meliden	1				1	
Total	5	4	9	2	20	

When considering potential solutions for this identified transit need we have to consider the likely pitch requirements and the cultural requirements. The largest group in unauthorised encampments throughout the year is Irish Travellers at encampments in Kinmel Bay. The next largest being Gypsies (English, Welsh or Scottish) also at Kinmel Bay. From the conversations between Officers of Conwy Council and these communities we know that the two groups follow different patterns of encampment.

For Irish Travellers the Kinmel Bay and Rhyl area is an important stopping place on the route between Ireland and Britain via the Holyhead ferry terminal and is used throughout the year although predominantly in spring and summer.

We do not have detailed information about the different communities using unauthorised encampments in Denbighshire. However, we do have figures showing that the mean number of caravans per encampment over the period since 2012 is 4 caravans.

Table 21 – Unauthorised Encampments in Denbighshire

Unauthorised Encampments - Denbighshire						
2012 2013 2014 2015 Total						
Unauthorised Encampments	5	4	9	2	20	
Total Number of Caravans	17	18	34	11	80	
Mean Number of Caravans per	3.4	4.5	3.8	5.5	4	
Encampment						

Chapter Six: Conclusions and Recommendations

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 clearly sets out that Local Authorities have to assess the needs of Gypsies and Travellers and meet any need identified. The Denbighshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2016 has been carried out in accordance with Welsh Government guidance and considers the potential future need for both residential and transit Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation provision.

It should be noted that the Council recognises the lower level of engagement in this assessment compared with the previous one in 2013. Lessons have been learnt during the process in terms of advertising, arrangements for events, the most appropriate form of communication and data sharing. However, the further interviews and discussion undertaken with Gypsy and Traveller households have provided valuable additional information which has informed the findings and conclusions of the Assessment.

Recommendations:

Residential Provision

Develop a residential site for Gypsy and Traveller families in Denbighshire, subject to Council approval to meet the need evidenced for residential site provision. A residential site for 6 pitches would be sufficient to meet current needs together with needs of emerging households. This should be delivered as a priority, in advance of transit provision within the County.

Transit Provision

In the light of the need evidenced for transit provision, but also the limitations of joint provision, develop provision for a transit site in Denbighshire, subject to Council approval. Encampments in the County vary in size; however it is recommended that 4 - 5 transit pitches would be sufficient for the majority.

Next Steps:

On approval of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment by Welsh Government, the next steps are to progress a 'call for sites', undertake a site search for available land in public ownership and site deliverability assessment. Subject to further agreement by the Council, the preferred locations for a residential and a transit site will then be progressed via a planning application and/or the formal LDP Review process. The LDP Review will start in 2017 following submission of a LDP Review Report to Welsh Government.

The overall process and 'call for sites' will be progressed in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005. The Site Deliverability Assessment and preferred site will be informed by Welsh Government's 'Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites Guidance' (May 2015).

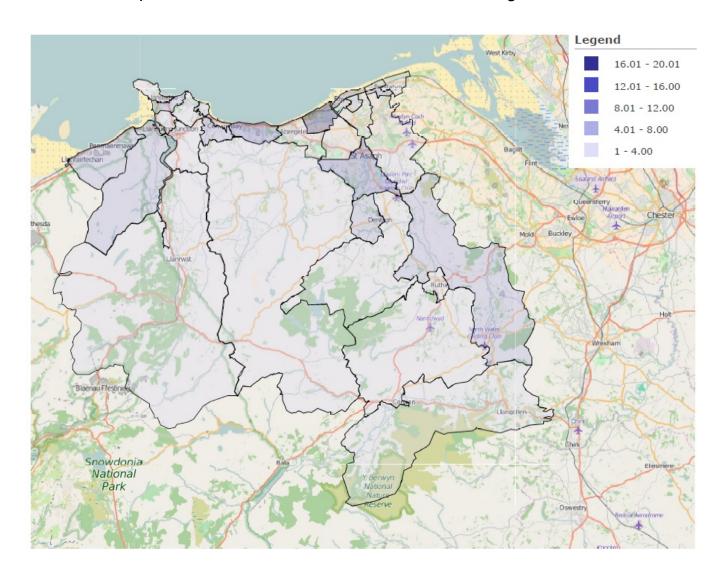
Appendix 1 Glossary
Definitions of key terms and concepts in this report

Gypsies and Travellers	(a) Persons of a nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including: (1) Persons who, on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age, have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, and (2) Members of an organized group of travelling show people or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such); and (b) All other persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or of living in a mobile home. Source: Section 108, Housing (Wales) Act 2014
Residential site	A permanent residential site can be privately owned or owned by the Local Authority. This site will be designated for use as a Gypsy and Traveller site indefinitely. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013. Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.
Temporary residential site	These sites are residential sites which only have planning permission or a site licence for a limited period. Residents on these sites can expect to occupy their pitches for the duration of the planning permission or site licence (or as long as they abide by the terms of their pitch agreements, under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 – whichever is sooner).
Transit site	Transit sites are permanent facilities designed for temporary use by occupiers. These sites must be designated as such and provide a route for Gypsies and Travellers to maintain a nomadic way of life. Individual occupiers are permitted to reside on the site for a maximum of 3 months at a time. Specific terms under the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 apply on these sites. Working space may also be provided on, or near, sites for activities carried out by community members.
Temporary Stopping Place	Also known as a 'stopping place', 'Atchin Tan', or 'green lane', amongst other names. These are intended to be short-term in nature to assist Local Authorities where a need for pitches is accepted, however, none are currently available. Pro-actively identified temporary stopping places can be used to relocate inappropriately located encampments, whilst alternative sites are progressed.

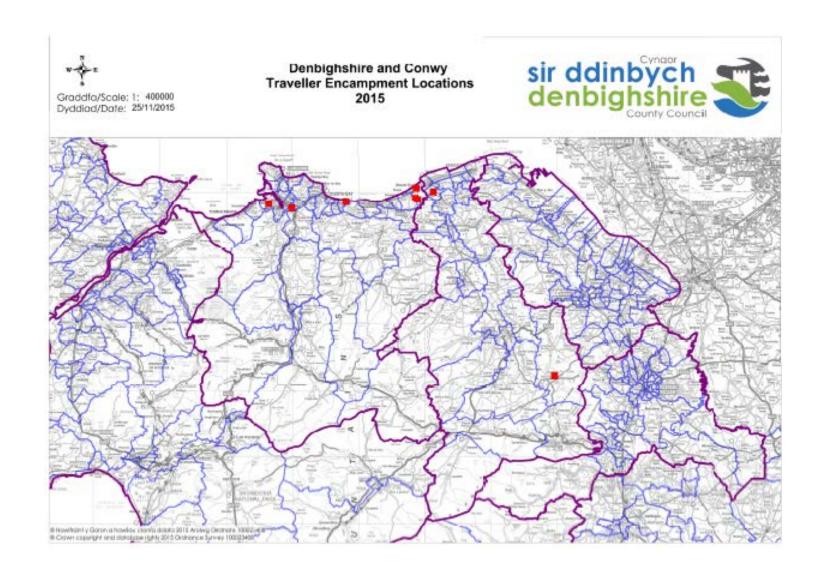
	Temporary stopping places must make provision for waste disposal, water supply and sanitation at a minimum.
Residential pitch	Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes indefinitely (unless stated in their pitch agreement). Typically includes an amenity block, space for a static caravan and touring caravan and parking.
Transit pitch	Land on a mobile home site where occupiers are entitled to station their mobile homes for a maximum of 3 months. Transit pitches can exist on permanent residential sites, however, this is not recommended.
Unauthorised encampment	Land occupied without the permission of the owner or without the correct land use planning permission. Encampments may be tolerated by the Local Authority, whilst alternative sites are developed.
Unauthorised development	Land occupied by the owner without the necessary land use planning permission.
Current residential supply	The number of authorised pitches which are available and occupied within the Local Authority or partnership area. This includes pitches on Local Authority or private sites.
Current residential demand	Those with a need for authorised pitches for a range of reasons, including: an inability to secure an authorised pitch leading to occupation of unauthorised encampments; an inability to secure correct planning permission for an unauthorised development; households living in overcrowded conditions and want a pitch; households in conventional housing demonstrating cultural aversion; new households expected to arrive from elsewhere.
Future residential demand	The expected level of new household formation which will generate additional demand within the 5 year period of the accommodation assessment and longer LDP period.
Overall residential pitch need	The ultimate calculation of unmet accommodation need, which must be identified through the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment process. This figure can be found by adding the immediate residential need to the future residential demand. The overall residential need will capture the needs across the 5 year period within which the accommodation assessment is considered to be robust.

Planned residential pitch supply	The number of authorised pitches which are vacant and available to rent on Local Authority or private sites. It also includes pitches which will be vacated in the near future by households moving to conventional housing or in other circumstances. Additional pitches which are due to open or private sites likely to achieve planning permission shortly should be included as planned residential supply.
Household	In this guidance this refers to individuals from the same family who live together on a single pitch / house / encampment.
Concealed or 'doubled-up' household	This refers to households which are unable to achieve their own authorised accommodation and are instead living within authorised accommodation (houses or pitches) assigned to another household. This may include adult children who have been unable to move home or different households occupying a single pitch.
Household growth	In this guidance household growth is defined by the number of new households arising from households which are already accommodated in the area.

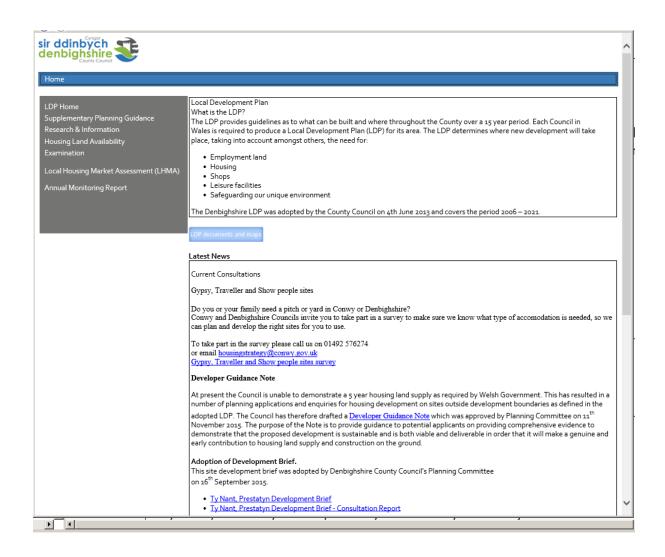
Appendix 2 - Map of Density of Gypsy and Travellers in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation identified in the 2011 Census. The numbers in the key relate to actual numbers within the stated ranges

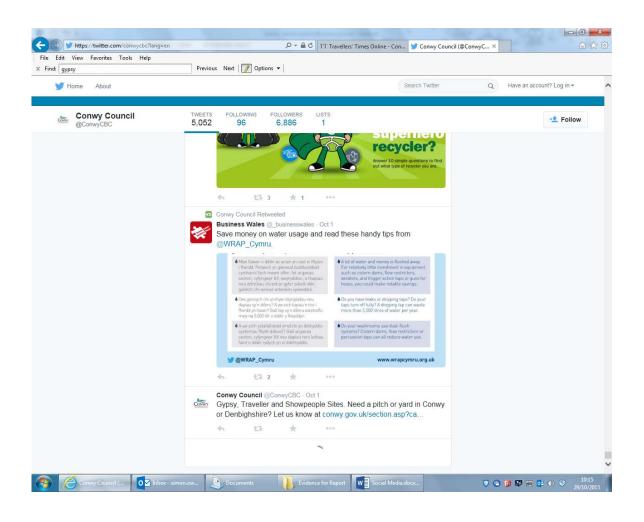


Appendix 3 - Map of Unauthorised Encampment locations during 2015.

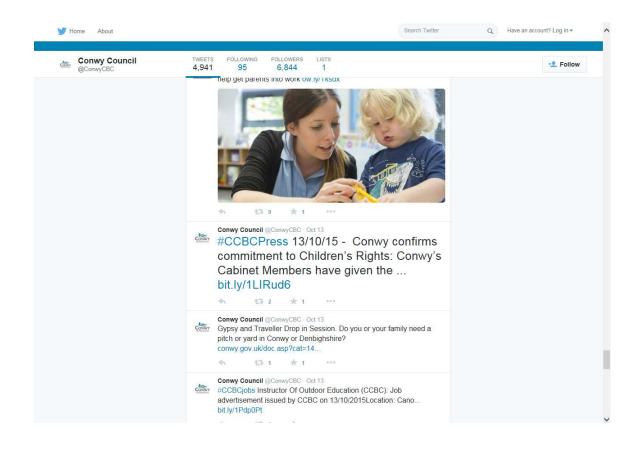


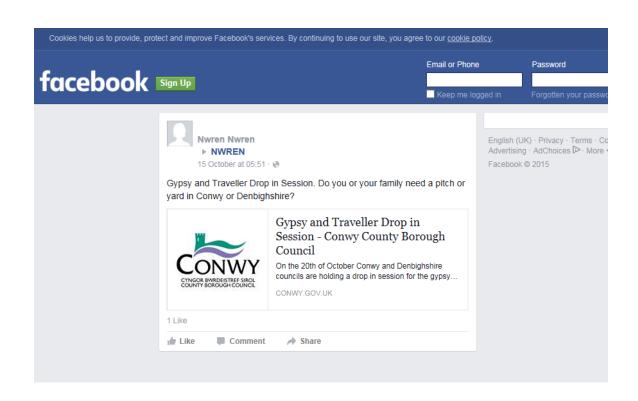
Appendix 4 - Examples of Social Media/Website Advertising















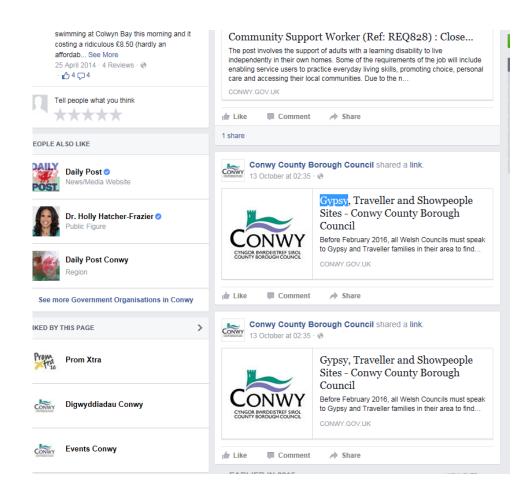
http://travellerstimes.org.uk/Events/Conwy-and-Denbighshire-Drop-In-session.aspx



Conwy and Denbighshire G/R/T Drop In Session 20/10/2015

20 October 2015 / Charles Newland











Appendix 5 - Promotional Flyer

Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites

Do you or your family need a pitch or yard in Conwy or Denbighshire?

Before February 2016, all Welsh Councils must speak to Gypsy and Traveller families in their area to find out how many pitches, sites or yards are needed. A new law called the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 means each Local Council must then make sure they are built.

Conwy and Denbighshire Councils invite you to take part in a survey to make sure we know what type of accommodation is needed, so we can plan and develop the right sites for you to use.



To take part in the survey

Please call us on 01492 576274
Or email housingstrategy@conwy.gov.uk
You will need to give your full name and phone number or email address

Thank you for your help.







Safleoedd i Sipsiwn, Teithwyr a Pherfformwyr Teithiol

A ydych chi neu eich teulu angen llain neu iard yng Nghonwy neu Sir Ddinbych?

Cyn mis Chwefror 2016, mae'n rhaid i holl Gynghorau Cymru gysylltu â theuluoedd Sipsiwn a Theithwyr yn eu hardal i ganfod faint o leiniau, safleoedd neu iardiau sydd eu hangen. Mae deddf newydd, Deddf Tai (Cymru) 2014, yn golygu y bydd yn rhaid i bob Cyngor Lleol sicrhau y caent eu hadeiladu.

Mae Cynghorau Conwy a Sir Ddinbych yn eich gwahodd i gymryd rhan mewn arolwg i sicrhau ein bod yn gwybod pa fath o lety sydd ei angen, er mwyn i ni allu cynllunio a datblygu'r safleoedd cywir i chi eu defnyddio.



Er mwyn cymryd rhan yn yr arolwg

Ffoniwch ni: 01492 576274

Neu e-bostiwch: strategaethtai@conwy.gov.uk Bydd angen i chi ddarparu eich enw llawn a rhif ffôn neu gyfeiriad e-bost

Diolch am eich help.







APPENDIX 6 - DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL INTERVIEW LOG

This information cannot be disclosed/has been redacted as it could potentially identify the individuals involved, especially if combined with other data, and this would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998.