



**Save the Children**

# **Save the Children UK Scotland Programme**

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## **Save the Children**

- Working with Gypsy/Travellers across Scotland for over 20 years
- Direct work with families and young people
- Advocacy and policy work with local and national bodies



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## **Having Our Say - Background**

- 2001 - Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee Inquiry - made 37 recommendations
- 2005 - review to assess progress



## Having Our Say - Why?

- Article 12
- Gypsy/Travellers are one of the most marginalised groups in society
- Young people's views are often ignored



# Having Our Say - How?

## Issues

- Large numbers
- Limited number of opportunities
- Creative way to get your message across



# Having Our Say - How?

## Resources

- Trust and contacts
- Enthusiasm
- 13 young people  peer research



## **Having Our Say - What?**

- Literacy issues
- Need for comparison with 2001 research
- Young people developed simple colour coded questionnaire
- Everyone asked the same core questions about home, health, learning and discrimination
- 4 additional questions added to assess any progress



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## Having Our Say - When?

- 3 weeks during April
- 109 questionnaires returned
- Respondents aged between 7-20



## **Having Our Say - Where?**

Responses were received from all over Scotland, from the Borders in the south, to Aberdeen and Inverness in the north and the Isle of Skye in the west, down the west coast to Argyll and through the central belt of Scotland.

In total responses were received from young Gypsy/Travellers living in 17 local authority areas.



## Having Our Say - Survey Findings

- **Discrimination** - 84% of the young Gypsy/Travellers interviewed reported the situation was the same or worse than in 2001.
- **Accommodation** - 77% of the young people felt their living conditions, whether on sites, camps or houses, had remained the same or got worse.
- **School** - 71% reported conditions at school were either the same or worse.
- **Health** - 84% said getting access to a doctor or dentist had remained the same or worse.



## **Having Our Say - Additional Issues**

- No significant progress/improvement
- Limited consultation
- “Don’t use us as a political football”
- Need for more facilities/activities



## **Having Our Say - Messages for Policy Makers**

- 90% felt the Government did not listen
- Practical ways forward suggested
- “Stop hating us and listen”
- “Show some interest, hear us out, but don’t let it go in one ear and out the other, take it in and do something about it”



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## Having Our Say - Clear Messages

- Respect
- Targeted approach
- “Why not just talk to us and treat us like humans - our blood is just like yours so why treat us like animals?”