

**NORTH KENT
GYPSY & TRAVELLER
STUDY**

**FINAL REPORT
2006**



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- 1.1.1 DCA would like to acknowledge the help and support provided by local staff during the fieldwork period. This study depended on good links being established with the community via local site managers and liaison staff and other staff with day to day contact with the community.
- 1.1.2 DCA would also like to thank members of the community who attended the community consultation meetings. The input from the community enabled DCA to develop a questionnaire that met the expectations of the community and give the results a “reality check”.
- 1.1.3 Finally DCA would like to thank the steering group for their guidance and input during the project.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Aims & Objectives

- 2.1.1 In May 2006, Local Authorities in North Kent: Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale formally commissioned David Coultie Associates (DCA) to carry out a Sub-Regional study of the accommodation needs and aspirations of Gypsies and Travellers who are housed or living on authorised or unauthorised sites within the study area.
- 2.1.2 The methodology developed for the North Kent study was based on the requirements of draft guidance for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments, issued by ODPM in February 2006.
- 2.1.3 Guidance clearly recommends that Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments be carried out at a sub regional level in order to achieve:-
- A bigger sample and hence more accurate results and a better understanding of needs across administrative boundaries;
 - A better understanding of the travelling patterns of Gypsies and Travellers, particularly where they cross administrative boundaries;
 - A common approach and consistency across the study area;
 - Economies of cost and scale;
 - Reduce the risk of double counting;
 - Opportunities for local authorities to work together to devise a strategic approach to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation shortages and enforcement against unauthorised sites.
- 2.1.4 The aims of the study were:
- To identify current and projected accommodation needs of gypsies and Travellers who reside in the study area.
 - To provide a robust evidence base for the development of Local Development Frameworks and Housing Strategies within the study area.
 - To inform regional housing and planning policy set out in the South East Regional Housing Strategy and South East Plan.
- 2.1.5 Recommendations are made on the level of need for new permanent and transit pitches over the next five years. DCLG recognise that once adequate provision is made for permanent stopping places, Local Authorities will be in a better position to enforce against inappropriate development and unauthorised encampments. Recommendations are also made on planning policy issues raised through the research, partnership working, future Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments, management of sites and access to services.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Following a period of consultation on the questionnaire design the fieldwork was carried out between 14th – 29th August 2006. The interviews included households living on authorised (90 households) and unauthorised sites (27 households), and a sample of 39 interviews were completed with households living in bricks and mortar housing.
- 2.2.2 When planning the fieldwork the study team estimated the number of site based households in the study area on the basis of the Caravan Count; this calculation was then refined on the basis of the survey findings showing the number of living units per household once the fieldwork was complete.

Table 2-1 Number Of Households Authorised Sites

	Caravan Count July 2006	Average living units per household	Est. number of households
Dartford	53	1.181	45
Gravesham	20	1.5	13
Swale	75	1.565	48
Medway	22	1.6	14
Total	170	1.461	120

Table 2-2 Number Of Households Un-Authorised Sites

	Caravan Count average July 2004/05/06	Average living units per household	Est. number of Households
Dartford	10	1	10
Gravesham	13	1.538	8
Swale	35	1.5	23
Medway	7	-	5
Total	65	1.346	46

- 2.2.3 Table 2-3 below compares the estimated number of households to the number of interviews actually achieved during the fieldwork period. The final column shows the number of interviews carried out with households living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

Table 2-3 Number Of Interviews Achieved By Area

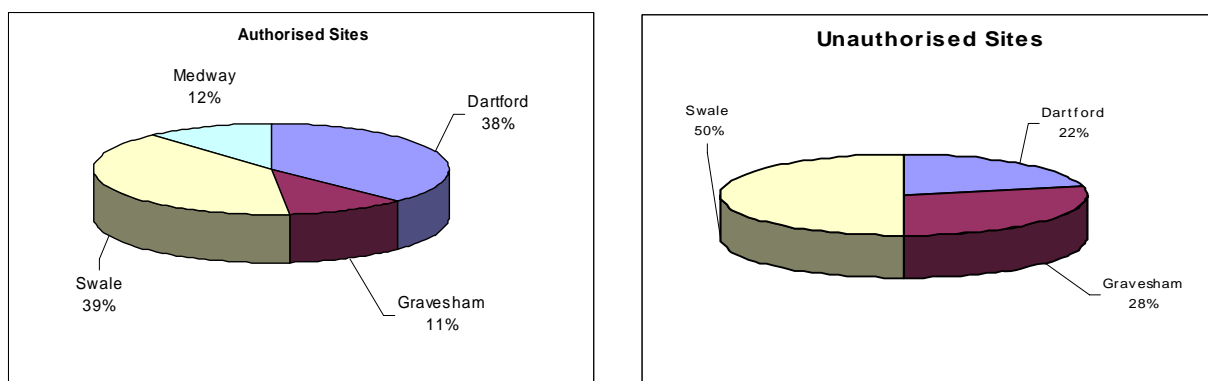
	Estimated number of households		Number of interviews achieved		Bricks and Mortar interviews achieved
	Authorised	Unauthorised	Authorised	Unauthorised	
	N ^{os.}	N ^{os.}	N ^{os.}	N ^{os.}	N ^{os.}
Dartford	45	10	22	2	8
Gravesham	13	8	12	13	17
Medway	14	5	10	0	4
Swale	48	23	46	12	10
Total	120	46	90	27	39

- 2.2.4 The survey response rate was 75% on authorised sites and 59% on unauthorised sites. A high response rate was recorded on authorised sites in all districts except Dartford (48.9%) where a number of households were away from their sites during the fieldwork period.
- 2.2.5 Although the achieved interview level was very high overall, and high in comparison to general household surveys where a response rate of around 30% could be expected (although general household surveys are generally postal surveys) not every site based Gypsy and Traveller household in the study area took part in the survey and the response rate varied between districts.
- 2.2.6 The site based survey data was weighted so that the interviews carried out would reflect the estimated number of Gypsy and Traveller households living on sites in each district. The data was also grossed to the total estimated household population across the study area as a whole.
- 2.2.7 The grossed data allows the findings from the 90 authorised site interviews carried out to reflect the 120 total households living on authorised sites and the 27 unauthorised site interviews to reflect the 46 households living on unauthorised sites.
- 2.2.8 The Caravan Count was used as the basis for the weighting and grossing calculations for the site based interviews, alongside data from the survey showing the number of caravans per household on both authorised and unauthorised sites within each Local Authority area (as shown in the tables above). Further detail of the weighting methodology is provided in Appendix VI.
- 2.2.9 The interviews with households in bricks and mortar accommodation could not be weighted as no data was available on the total number of Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar housing across the study area. The findings in section 4 of this report simply show the findings from the households interviewed.

2.3 Key Findings from the Survey

- 2.3.1 The Site Based Sample
- 2.3.2 Of those site based Gypsy and Traveller households who were interviewed, 42.7% (71 implied) were living in Swale Borough, 33.2% (55 implied) in Dartford, 15.6% (21 implied) in Gravesham and 8.5% (19 implied) in Medway.
- 2.3.3 The pie charts below show the distribution of the Gypsy and Traveller households living on authorised and unauthorised sites. 120 households live on authorised sites, 46 on unauthorised sites

Figure 2-1



- 2.3.4 The majority of households on authorised sites identified themselves as Romany Gypsies 72.7% (118 implied), a further 35 (21.3%) said they were English Travellers, 9 (5.5%) said that they were Irish Travellers. The majority of households on unauthorised sites also identified themselves as Romany Gypsies 31 (67.9%) or English Travellers 8 (17.0%).
- 2.3.5 Current Accommodation Circumstances
- 2.3.6 The majority of Gypsy and Traveller households were happy with their current site (85.6%: 141 implied). 98.2% (162 implied) respondents were living in their main home and the most common reasons for being settled in the area was family connection (55.6% / 89 implied households).
- 2.3.7 79.5% of all households said their accommodation was adequate for their needs (130 implied), the proportion was similar for authorised (79.6%) and unauthorised sites (79.0%).
- 2.3.8 Of those households saying their accommodation was not adequate for their family, the main reason was that the accommodation was too small: 10.4% (17 implied).
- 2.3.9 26 households within the sample were identified as being overcrowded: not having enough beds to accommodate all household members. Of these households 4 also included concealed / new forming households. The proportion of overcrowded households was 21.7% for those on authorised sites compared to 6.5% for those on unauthorised sites.
- 2.3.10 There was a generally high level of access to basic amenities on sites, although there was, as would be expected, a lower level of access on unauthorised sites.
- 2.3.11 Based on responses received from 164 households 21.4% (35 implied) living on sites had concerns about health and safety. The main concern was fire prevention.
- 2.3.12 In terms of the good and bad things about where people lived the households who answered could think of more good than bad things.
- The good things about current sites included access to shops, doctors, family and work.
 - Bad things included lack of access to amenities, health issues and the accommodation being temporary.
- 2.3.13 Previous Accommodation
- 2.3.14 All households were asked how long they had lived in their current accommodation, 166 implied households living on sites responded to the question. 55.7% (93 implied) of the group said that they had lived in their current accommodation for more than 5 years and 32.8% (54 implied) had lived there for between 1 and five years.
- 2.3.15 Those who had lived anywhere other than their current location (116 households) were asked where they had previously lived. The majority: 76.2% (92 households) had moved within the study area and could be considered "local".
- 2.3.16 28 households said they have moved to their current site from outside the North Kent area, of whom 13 came from the "Elsewhere in Kent".

- 2.3.17 19 households had moved to a site from bricks and mortar accommodation (11.5%). The households who had previously lived in bricks and mortar housing and others who had lived in bricks and mortar accommodation at some time in the past were asked why they chose to leave the bricks and mortar housing. The reasons given included 42.3% (14 implied) who had simply wished to live on a site again, 6.0% (2 implied) who had left because of neighbour disputes and 3.1% (1 implied) wanted to go travelling again.
- 2.3.18 In response to a further question, 31 households gave a positive reason for wanting to live on a site again. The majority (52.6%; 16 implied) stated that they prefer that way of life and 27.7% wanted to live in a family group.
- 2.3.19 Travel Patterns
- 2.3.20 Gypsy and Traveller households in North Kent were well settled in the area 55.7% of households living on sites had lived in their current accommodation for more than five years (93 implied). Respondents from authorised sites were, as would be expected, more settled than those from unauthorised sites.
- 2.3.21 Few households travel regularly. In the North Kent sample 55.2% of households stated that they do not travel (90 implied); a further 14.2% had not travelled in the last 12 months (24 implied).
- 2.3.22 Of the 50 implied households (30.2%) who had travelled in the last 12 months, 31 households travelled seasonally (61.6% of implied respondents to the question), of whom 64.5% live on an unauthorised site. 18 households said they travel all year round (36.3% of implied respondents).
- 2.3.23 Households that do travel do not travel in large groups. 24.1% (18 implied) travel only with their own household and 47.5% (35 implied) travel with between 2 and 5 households. An average of 4.0 vehicles was travelling per group.
- 2.3.24 The main reason given for travelling was that it is a way of life. Other reasons included community events, family reasons, festivals, work and nowhere to settle.
- 2.3.25 Planning Permission
- 2.3.26 Of the 163 implied households who responded to the question, 54 implied households (33.1%) said that they had applied for planning permissions for a new site and 3.4% (6 implied) to extend or adapt current planning permission.
- 2.3.27 The data showed a relatively high level of approval for applications. Of 59 applications made 20.7% (12 implied) had received full approval and 10.1% (6 implied) had been given temporary approval. A further 21 implied households (35.5%) had secured full planning permission at appeal, 2 of which were for a temporary period.
- 2.3.28 Access to Health and Education Services
- 2.3.29 171 implied children aged under 16 were identified through the survey, 25 school age children were identified as not attending school (14.6% of all children in the sample). 7 of these households were living on unauthorised sites
- 2.3.30 A high proportion of site based households were registered with a doctor: 90.0% (147 implied). There was a higher level of registration amongst households living on authorised (91.9%) compared unauthorised sites (85.1%).

- 2.3.31 Based on responses from 152 implied households, 44 implied households (28.9%) included someone with a disability or long term illness. The main issues were walking difficulties and mental health problems.
- 2.3.32 8 households were identified as needing adaptations to their current accommodation. Bathroom adaptations and ramps were the main needs identified.
- 2.3.33 Harassment
- 2.3.34 9.7% (16 implied) households had experience of harassment while living at their current site. A higher proportion (19.8% or 32 implied) had experienced harassment at a previous site, and 59.4% (68 implied) would take harassment into account if they were moving again.
- 2.3.35 Work
- 2.3.36 Based on responses from 149 implied households 28.4% of respondents (42 implied) were employed or self employed. However, work does not appear to be a major factor in determining settlement patterns: 92.4% (141 implied) said they did not live at their current site to be close to work and while a high proportion of households do work within the study area most also to travel outside it for work.
- 2.3.37 Income and Affordability
- 2.3.38 There are some real difficulties assessing the affordability of accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller households across the country. In many cases families may be reluctant to disclose their income and without a reliable baseline it is difficult to assess the ability to meet aspirations for private site development.
- 2.3.39 In North Kent 57.8% households responded to the income question. Levels of declared income were low, with 92.6% of households answering the question (92 implied) indicating that they had incomes below £10,000.
- 2.3.40 54.8% of households responded to the question on financial support (91 implied households), of whom 87.9% (29 implied) of those currently living on a local authority site receive Housing Benefit.
- 2.3.41 The data suggests a limited ability to fund private site development independently.
- 2.3.42 Future Accommodation Needs
- 2.3.43 Based on responses from 157 implied households 87.8% had no intention of moving. 7 existing households had plans to move (4.6% implied). The site not being permanent was the most common reasons for moving.
- 2.3.44 11 households wanted to move but could not do so. The key reasons given included: no pitches available on a site; unable to afford their own land; the Council had refused to re-house them; and that the Council were not able to offer accommodation in a desired area.
- 2.3.45 48.0% (4 implied) of households planning to move wanted to remain "local" i.e. within the study area. 3 planned to move elsewhere in the South East. 8 households indicated the type of accommodation they planned to move to, 4 planned to move to site and 4 to bricks and mortar accommodation. Just 13 households would consider bricks and mortar accommodation at any time in the future.

- 2.3.46 Households planning to move to a site were asked what facilities they would need at their next site. Based on responses from all 4 implied households, a wide range of facilities was required either for sole or shared use. The most important facilities for sole use were fire prevention facilities and play space; and for shared use mains electricity supply, rubbish storage and collection (Council supplied), laundry facilities and a day room.
- 2.3.47 17 implied households (10.8%) currently living on a site indicated that they had a family member who would be looking for independent accommodation in the next 3 years, this included 25 individuals who needed independent accommodation. Of this group 69.0% (13 implied) wanted to move to an authorised private site and 31.0% (6 implied) wanted to move to an authorised local authority site.
- 2.3.48 All concealed households wanted to remain in the Local Authority area where they currently live, with a preference for a rural rather than an urban location. The data confirmed the view that extended families wish to remain together.
- 2.3.49 Ideal Sites
- 2.3.50 Finally, site based households were asked what in their view would make an ideal site. For many people the ideal is a small family site. Preference was for smaller sites (less than 15 pitches); and 88.4% (145 Implied) of respondents would prefer to live on a private site, although this raises issues of affordability for families on low incomes. 93.2% (153 Implied) of respondents would prefer to live in a mobile home on a permanent site.
- 2.3.51 The main preference in terms of location was rural at 97.6% (157 implied) compared to 2.4% (4 implied) urban.
- 2.3.52 The majority of respondents wished to remain in a location within the study area, with a high correlation between existing and ideal locations.
- 2.3.53 The Needs of Households in Bricks and Mortar Accommodation
- 2.3.54 39 households were interviewed in bricks and mortar accommodation. The data for this group has not been weighted or grossed to the total population as the total number of Gypsy and Traveller households in bricks and mortar accommodation is not known.
- 2.3.55 All of those interviewed were well settled and were living in permanent accommodation; 79% (30) were renting from a social landlord, 18.4% (7) were owner-occupiers.
- 2.3.56 Family size was marginally higher amongst families living in bricks and mortar accommodation (3.3) compared to those living on sites (3.1). 26 households (66.7%) in the sample included at least one member with a disability or long term illness, far higher than the site based sample.
- 2.3.57 10 household had travelled in the last 12 months, and 4 had any plans to move from their current home.
- 2.3.58 6 (23.1%) existing households from the bricks and mortar sample included a member needing independent accommodation in the next 3 years, there were 8 individuals identified with a need from these households. All 8 wanted to move to a site rather than remaining in bricks and mortar accommodation.

2.4 Key Recommendations and Action Plan

Recommendation	Action Points	Targets
New permanent pitch provision	Provide accommodation for 114 households across the North Kent study area	By 2011
	Provide accommodation for 27 households in Dartford	By 2011
	Provide accommodation for 15 households in Gravesham	By 2011
	Provide accommodation for 10 households in Medway	By 2011
	Provide accommodation for 62 households in Swale	By 2011
	Provide 88% of new pitches on private authorised sites	By 2011
	Provide 97.6% of new pitches in rural locations	By 2011
	All new pitch approvals to accommodate 2 living units, plus space for an additional vehicles and visitors	On going 2006 – 2011
New transit pitch provision	Provide a managed transit sites in Swale	2011
	Expand local protocols for the use of transit sites	2011
	Work with Kent County Council to plan the provision of transit pitches across the County	2011
Planning Policy	Make provision for identified needs through Local Development Frameworks	2007
	Develop site search criteria within Core Strategies alongside a proactive approach to identifying suitable land for site development	2007
	Monitor the level of new planning approvals and the flow of vacancies on existing sites against the recommendations of this report	Ongoing 2006 - 2011
	Undertake a feasibility study to assess the options available to address overcrowding on individual sites	2008
	Develop a policy to provide support to Gypsy and Traveller households accessing the Planning System	2011
	Put in place systems to monitor the number of Gypsy and Traveller households in bricks and mortar accommodation	2007
	Carry out future Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments every 5 years	2011
	Carry out a study of the needs of Travelling Showpeople	2007

Recommendation	Action Points	Targets
Partnership working	Develop plans to ensure the Gypsy and Traveller community is part of future plans and strategies effecting them	2011
	Develop a Gypsy and Traveller strategy for North Kent and separately for Medway	2011
	Develop a code of guidance to enable Gypsy and Traveller households to access adaptations to their homes	2011
	Develop financial options to enable Gypsy and Traveller households to access finance for site development in partnership with local RSLs	2011
	Provide information and advice on benefits and financial support	2007
Site management	Continue to support the existing site management structure led by a senior manager	2011
	Establish consistent monitoring of site management information across the study area	2007
	Work with neighbouring authorities across Kent to develop a set of benchmarking standards to measure the performance of site management, levels of provision, and performance in relation to unauthorised camping	2011

3 INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Local Authorities in North Kent including Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale, formally commissioned David Couttie Associates (DCA) in May 2006 to carry out a Sub-Regional study of the accommodation needs and aspirations of Gypsies and Travellers who are housed or living on authorised or unauthorised sites within the Local Authority areas covered by the study.
- 3.1.2 The project was co-ordinated by the North Kent Steering Group representing authorities in the North Kent region.
- 3.1.3 The aims of the study were:
- To identify current and projected accommodation needs of gypsies and Travellers who reside in the study area.
 - To provide a robust evidence base for the development of Local Development Frameworks and Housing Strategies within the study area,
 - To inform regional housing and planning policy set out in the South East Regional Housing Strategy and South East Plan.
- 3.1.4 The assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs is a statutory requirement under Section 225 of the Housing Act 2004, which also requires local authorities to produce a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Strategy. A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) is required either as part of the housing market assessment for the general population or, as in this case, as a separate study.
- 3.1.5 Guidance for carrying out Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments is currently in draft form (February 2006), and is due to be re-issued in its final format in 2007.
- 3.1.6 The methodology developed for the North Kent study is based on the requirements of draft guidance for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments, issued by DCLG (formally ODPM) in February 2006, and has built on DCA's experience carrying on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments in other areas.
- 3.1.7 The Local Authorities in North Kent, including Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale commissioned this study jointly. Guidance clearly recommends that Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments be carried out at a sub regional level in order to achieve:-
- A bigger sample and hence more accurate results, and a better understanding of needs across administrative boundaries;
 - A better understanding of the travelling patterns, particularly where they cross administrative boundaries;
 - A common approach and consistency across the study area;
 - Economies of cost and scale;

- Reduce the risk of double counting;
- Opportunities for local authorities to work together to devise a strategic approach to Gypsy and Traveller accommodation shortages and enforcement against unauthorised sites.

3.1.8 Mill Field Services, an independent interview company, were commissioned by DCA to conduct the fieldwork for the North Kent Sub-Regional Study.

3.2 Objectives of the Study

3.2.1 The objective of the study were to provide a robust evidence base for the development of LDFs and Housing Strategies, to support the strategic choices for site provision for Gypsies and Travellers made in these documents.

3.2.2 The accommodation assessment will also inform the South East Regional Housing Strategy and the South East Plan.

3.2.3 Recommendations are made on the level of need for new permanent pitches over the next five years. DCLG recognise that once adequate provision is made for permanent stopping places, Local Authorities will be in a better position to enforce against inappropriate development and unauthorised encampments. Recommendations are also made on the need for transit pitches, Planning policy, partnership working, future Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments, management of sites and access to services.

3.3 Local Background and Context

3.3.1 The following paragraphs give a brief introduction to existing level Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision in the study area, and the level of unauthorised camping. Appendix IX gives a fuller analysis of the Caravan count over the last 3 years.

3.3.2 Dartford has one local authority site, managed by Dartford Borough Council. This site can accommodate up to 12 households. Dartford Borough also contains a number of privately owned caravan sites, most notably Knoxfield Caravan site. There has been a fall in the number of caravans counted on unauthorised sites in Dartford over the last 3 July counts with just 2 caravans counted in July 2006.

3.3.3 Gravesham has one local authority site managed by Gravesham Borough Council which accommodates 8 households. There are 4 small privately owned authorised sites which accommodate 6 households. Two of these sites have a temporary consent which expires in October 2008. There are currently 10 households located on 3 unauthorised developments. The largest of these accommodates 8 households. Gravesham has experienced an average of 20 unauthorised encampments per year over the past 3 years.

3.3.4 Medway has one permanent local authority site. This site has 11 plots, one of which is a double plot. All residents on this site are Gypsies and Travellers of English origin. In addition, Medway has a site to accommodate Showmen and their families. Medway has low level of unauthorised camping, a finding reflected in the survey data.

3.3.5 Swale has two publicly run sites, one of which is managed by Kent County Council and contains approximately 23 caravans. The second is a very small private site with only 1 pitch, this site is managed by Swale Borough Council. The number of caravans counted on unauthorised sites over the last 3 July counts has ranged from 27 in July 2004 to 42 in July 2005 and 37 in July 2006.

3.4 Terms and Definitions

- 3.4.1 A detailed glossary of terms and definitions used throughout the report is included at Appendix VIII.

3.5 Definition of need

- 3.5.1 The definition of need for Gypsy and Traveller households takes as its starting point the understanding of "housing needs" as defined in Housing Market Assessment draft guidance (December 2005):-

"Households who lack their own housing or live in unsuitable housing and who can not afford to meet their need in the housing market".

- 3.5.2 DCLG draft Planning Policy Statement 3 similarly defines housing need as:-

"Households who are unable to access suitable housing without some financial assistance".

- 3.5.3 In conventional (bricks and mortar) housing need assessments "demand" is defined in market terms as the quantity of housing that households are willing or able to rent or buy. The conventional definition of need and demand relies heavily on an assessment of affordability and an understanding of the "market" for accommodation within the study area.

- 3.5.4 In terms of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, the standard definition of needs requires some adjustment to take account of those households:-

- who have no authorised site on which to reside;
- whose existing site accommodation is overcrowded or unsuitable and are unable to obtain more suitable accommodation;
- who contain suppressed households who are unable to set up separate family units, and are unable to access a place on an authorised site, or to afford land to develop one.

- 3.5.5 Draft guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments also recognises that there may be no real "market" in sites as supply is generally very limited and low income and local hostility to the travelling community may effectively restrict the ability of Gypsy and Traveller households to exercise a free choice in the accommodation market.

- 3.5.6 Finally the standard definition of housing needs relies heavily on an assessment of affordability, which in turn depends on accurate data on household incomes related to market costs. Experience of Gypsy and Traveller studies in other areas has shown that households are often reluctant to disclose financial information, making an assessment of affordability difficult. In the North Kent study the income question was supplemented with a further question on benefits received to try to gain a fuller picture of the financial position of households.

3.6 Definition of Gypsy and Traveller household

- 3.6.1 Final guidance on the definition of Gypsy and Traveller households for the purposes of the 2004 Housing Act came into force in January 2007, and covers:
- 3.6.2 (a) persons with a cultural tradition of nomadism or living in a caravan; and
- 3.6.3 (b) all other persons of nomadic habit of life, whatever their race or origin, including:-
- 3.6.4 (i) such persons who, on the 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
- 3.6.5 (ii) members of organised groups of travelling showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such"
- 3.6.6 This study is consistent with new guidance and includes travelling Showpeople although none were identified within the study. The project Steering Group is committed to carrying out a separate of the needs of travelling Showpeople during 2007.

3.7 Methodology

- 3.7.1 The aim of the study was to conduct interviews across the study area using a "census" approach. In practice this meant that all sites and known encampments were visited and all families were given the opportunity to take part in the study.
- 3.7.2 The actual number of interviews achieved depended on a number of factors, including the willingness of households to take part in the study and the level of unauthorised activity during the fieldwork period.
- 3.7.3 Following consultation on the survey questionnaire and fieldwork, comprising site based interviews and interviews with 39 Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar housing, was carried out in one phase between 14th and 26th August 2006.
- 3.7.4 Although a census approach was taken, it was likely that some districts would get a better response rate than others. In order to address this, and ensure that the data was not biased to areas with a higher response rate, the data was weighted at a Local Authority level to reflect the number of households identified on authorised sites in the July 2006 caravan count, and the number of households identified on unauthorised sites on average over the last 3 July Caravan Counts. An explanation and breakdown of the weighting applied to the data is included at Appendix VI.
- 3.7.5 The findings reported here reflect the implied needs of all Gypsy and Traveller households within the study area. It should be noted that the use of "implied" figures throughout the assessment reflects the total estimated Gypsy and Traveller household population, derived from the weighting of the survey data. Where multiple choice is not involved, this will generally equate to the total Gypsy and Traveller household population but some individual questions may not be answered by all respondents, giving a marginally lower total.

- 3.7.6 The caravan count gave a starting point in estimating the number of Gypsy and Traveller households living in the study area and how many interviews might be achieved in each area on authorised sites, unauthorised encampments (UE's) and unauthorised developments (UD's).
- 3.7.7 The estimated number of households is derived from the Caravan Count and the average number of caravans per household in each Local Authority area, as reflected in the survey. Table 3-1 and Table 3-2 below show the number of living units per household; Table 3-1 below gives a summary of the Caravan Count and estimated number of households.

Table 3-1 Living Units Per Household And Estimated Households On Authorised Sites

	Caravan Count July 2006	Average living units per household	Est. number of households
Dartford	53	1.181	45
Gravesham	20	1.5	13
Swale	75	1.565	48
Medway	22	1.6	14
Total	170	1.461	120

Table 3-2 Living Units Per Household And Estimated Households On Un-Authorised Sites

	Caravan Count average July 2004/05/06	Avg. Living Units per Household	Est. number of Households
Dartford	10	1	10
Gravesham	13	1.538	8
Swale	35	1.5	23
Medway	7	-	5
Total	65	1.346	46

Table 3-3 Caravan Count Adjusted To Show Estimated Number Of Households

	Caravan Count				Estimated number of households	
	Caravans on Authorised sites July 2006		Caravans on UE's and UD's - average over 3 years (July 04 / 05 / 06)		Authorised	Unauthorised
	N ^{os.}	%	N ^{os.}	%	N ^{os.}	N ^{os.}
Dartford	53	31.2	10	15.6	45	10
Gravesham	20	11.8	13*	18.8	13	8
Medway	22	12.9	7	10.9	14	5
Swale	75	44.1	35	54.7	48	23
	170	100.0	42	100.0	120	46

3.7.8 Weighting issues:-

- (*) The average number of caravans counted on unauthorised sites over the last three years was 12, however during the fieldwork period 13 caravans were found. This is the number included in the table. DCA often find more encampments during the fieldwork period than the average implied by the caravan counts.

3.8 Survey Questionnaires

3.8.1 Draft questionnaires addressing the specific needs of both housed and site based Gypsies and Travellers were circulated to community representatives and members of the steering group for comments.

3.8.2 The questionnaires had already been tried and tested in East Sussex and West Kent, Bedfordshire, Wiltshire and Swindon, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight before being used in North Kent. None the less it was important to fully consult on the drafts to ensure that local concerns and issues were fully reflected. Copies of the questionnaires are included as Appendix I and II.

3.8.3 Mill Field Services were provided with the field ready questionnaires by DCA.

3.9 Community liaison

3.9.1 Community liaison is a key part of DCA's fieldwork methodology in Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments.

3.9.2 Without strong links to the community it would not be possible for the fieldwork team to achieve high response rates from both authorised and unauthorised sites in the study area. In particular it is essential that the fieldwork team have good local links to help them gain access and acceptance on sites.

3.9.3 Strong community liaison also has an important long-term impact. If the community accept both the methodology and results of the study then future planning disputes are minimised.

3.9.4 The community consultation approach developed by DCA respects the fact that Gypsy and Traveller households may have different expectations of an accommodation needs assessment compared to the settled community. In particular as an often marginalised group within the community, there is a need to build trust in the process.

3.9.5 DCA also recognise that the standard Housing Needs Assessment methods of raising awareness through letters and flyers may not be sufficient to engage the Gypsy and Traveller community, and that face to face contact from known officers and community leaders may be more effective.

3.9.6 DCA's community liaison process included:-

- consultation with key community representatives, local authority and County liaison officers and site management staff in agreeing the questionnaire design;
- a Community liaison meeting held two weeks before interviews started. The purpose of this meeting was to explain the purpose of the survey and enlist the support of community leaders and local staff in passing the word around;

- one to one contact between Mill Field Services who carried out the interviews, local site managers and Gypsy and Traveller liaison officers to arrange visits to sites and introduce the interviewers on site;
- letters and flyers distributed by local Gypsy and Traveller liaison staff to all authorised sites in the week before the interviews started;
- prior to the interview period, contact was made with Gypsy and Traveller households in Bricks and Mortar accommodation, through local liaison officers, inviting them to take part in the study.
- feedback of draft final results to community representatives;
- a stakeholder seminar to feed back findings from the final report to all those who were interviewed.

3.10 Response Rate

3.10.1 The fieldwork for this project was conducted between 14th and 26th August 2006. In total 156 interviews were completed, 90 on authorised sites, 27 on unauthorised and 39 with households currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation.

3.10.2 All sites were visited up to 3 times in order to maximise the response rate. No particular problems were encountered during the fieldwork period although some issues were reported back to DCA by Mill Field.

3.10.3 Issues encountered during the fieldwork are as follows:-

- Some households were away travelling, indicated by the absence of touring trailers and the grounds being securely locked;
- The fieldwork team were given a limited number of leads for households in bricks and mortar accommodation. Every effort was made to follow up any contacts given through Liaison Officers and relatives on sites.

3.10.4 The success of the fieldwork was not only down to the energy and enthusiasm of the interview team, but also the invaluable contribution of members of the local community, local site staff, liaison officers and other local contacts in accompanying interviewers to each house / site and making initial introductions. Table 3-4 below shows the number of site based interviews achieved against the estimated number of households in each area.

Table 3-4 Number Of Households and Site Response Rate

	Estimated number of households		Number of interviews achieved	
	Authorised	Unauthorised	Authorised	Unauthorised
	N ^{os.}	N ^{os.}	N ^{os.}	N ^{os.}
Dartford	45	10	22	2
Gravesham	13	8	12	13
Medway	14	5	10	0
Swale	48	23	46	12
Total	120	46	90	27

- 3.10.5 There was a close correlation between the estimated number of households on authorised sites and the number of interviews achieved in all areas except Dartford. Although the overall response rate on authorised sites was 75.0%, the response rate varied by area. A response rate of 48.9% was achieved on authorised sites in Dartford, 92.3% in Gravesham, 71.4% in Medway and 95.8% in Swale.
- 3.10.6 Interviews achieved on unauthorised sites were also high at 59.0%. These response rates were consistent with other recent Gypsy and Traveller studies. The findings from the site based interviews are reported in section 3 of this report.
- 3.10.7 It can be difficult to access Gypsy and Traveller households in bricks and mortar accommodation. There are a number of reasons for this; many social landlords do not maintain records on Gypsy and Traveller households moving into social housing, and data protection prevents other agencies disclosing contact details.
- 3.10.8 Links were made with Gypsy and Traveller liaison officers and Gypsy and Traveller representatives to obtain contacts, and further contacts were picked up by Mill Field Services during site based interviews where families living on sites passed on contacts for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 3.10.9 Mill Field Services achieved 39 interviews with households in bricks and mortar accommodation in the North Kent study area. The findings are shown in section 5 of this report.

3.11 Mill Field Services Quality Control

- 3.11.1 Mill Field Services have been working in partnership with DCA for almost a decade and have undertaken all the specialist Gypsy and Traveller interviews in previous Gypsy and Traveller accommodation studies undertaken by DCA.
- 3.11.2 All Mill Field interviewers working on this project have undergone cultural awareness training and have experience of carrying out Gypsy and Traveller interviews in other districts. The cultural awareness session was a full day event focusing on the specific cultural issues of the Irish Travellers and English and Romany Travellers. The session was carried out by experts in the field and Travellers themselves.
- 3.11.3 All interviewers taking part in the study were subject to a CRB check prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 3.11.4 Mill Field Services always conduct a minimum of 10% “back checks” on completed interviews. In doing this, they guarantee the validity of the interviews completed and ensure that high standards are met. Mill Field Services check that the interviews took place, verify the answers to key questions and check that the recipient was happy with the way the interview was carried out.

3.12 Study Outputs

- 3.12.1 In line with the latest draft guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (February 2006), the survey data has been gathered and analysed at a sub regional level.
- 3.12.2 In line with the latest draft guidance on Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (February 2006: paragraph 42), data tables will be provided to each Local Authority showing the findings broken down by Local Authority area. These will be provided both in SNAP / Excel and in PDF as a copy of the data tables. The data remains robust at a local level; however the statistical validity of the data broken down at a local level will depend on the response rate locally.
- 3.12.3 Section 6 of this report sets out the model identifying a global level of need for additional authorised private, socially rented and transit site pitches across the study area. Recommendations are also made on the apportioning of new pitches between local authorities based on preferences expressed through the survey; and on the preference for rural or urban site locations.
- 3.12.4 Decisions on the exact location of sites across the sub region will ultimately be a matter for debate, supported by local and sub regional plans and strategies and DCA's robust Accommodation Needs Assessment. It is our view, in line with Guidance, that local Development Schemes and Local Development Documents setting out local policies for site allocation will be more defensible if supported by a sub regional strategy for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs.

4 FINDINGS FOR HOUSEHOLDS LIVING ON SITES

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 166 households were identified as living on sites within the study area, 120 on authorised sites, 46 on unauthorised sites. This figure was derived from the July 2006 Caravan Count for authorised sites and from the average of July 2004 /05 / 06 Caravan Counts for unauthorised sites and were adjusted to reflect the number of caravans per household identified in the survey. The methodology for calculating the number of households is shown in section 2.7 above.

4.1.2 117 site based interviews were completed, 90 on authorised sites and 27 on unauthorised sites. The site based information was then weighted to reflect the total number of households in the study area (166 implied). The Table 4-1 shows the total number of household (weighted) respondents in each local authority area for both authorised and unauthorised sites. The survey results and the number of implied respondents in subsequent tables may vary between questions depending on the number of respondents in each case.

Table 4-1 Implied Household Respondents By Area

	Total	
	%	N ^{os} .
Dartford Borough	33.2	55
Gravesham Borough	15.6	21
Medway	8.5	19
Swale Borough	42.7	71
Total	100.0	166

4.1.3 Based on 166 implied households, the survey found that 42.7% (71 implied) of those interviewed were living on sites in Swale Borough, 33.2% (55 implied) in Dartford, 15.6% (26 implied) in Gravesham and 8.5 % (14 implied) in Medway.

4.1.4 The distribution of households on authorised and unauthorised sites across the study area is shown in Table 4-2 below.

Table 4-2 Household Respondents On Authorised / Unauthorised Sites

	Authorised sites		Unauthorised sites	
	%	N ^{os}	%	N ^{os}
Dartford Borough	37.6	45	21.7	10
Gravesham Borough	10.8	13	28.3	13
Medway	11.7	14	0.0	0
Swale Borough	39.9	48	50.0	23
Total	100.0	120	100.0	46

- 4.1.5 Respondents living on authorised sites were either living on a private authorised site or a local authority site. 39.7% (18 implied) of Gypsy and Traveller households living on local authority sites were in Dartford Borough, 32.9% (15 implied) in Swale Borough, 18.1% (8 implied) in Medway and a further 9.3% (4 implied) in Gravesham Borough.
- 4.1.6 The majority of those living on authorised private sites (with full planning permission), lived in Swale Borough (47.5%, 35 implied). 33.2% (25 implied) live in Dartford Borough, 11.7% (9 implied) in Gravesham Borough and 7.6% (6 implied) in Medway. 5 respondents indicated that they live on authorised private sites with temporary permission, all in Swale Borough.
- 4.1.7 In terms of households on unauthorised sites they were either on unauthorised developments (22 households of which 4 were unauthorised on an authorised private site) or unauthorised encampments (24 households, of which 4 were unauthorised on a local authority site).
- 4.1.8 At the time of the study 50% (23 implied) of those on unauthorised developments or encampments were in Swale; 21.7% were in Dartford; and 28.25 in Gravesham.
- 4.1.9 Need from households living on UE / UDs is primarily for a permanent site and is reflected in paragraph 7.3.8. Only households with a permanent pitch elsewhere are shown in section 5.2 as having a need for transit pitch, 3 households are identified in 5.2 and excluded from the need identified for a permanent pitch in 7.3.8

Table 4-3 Type Of Gypsy / Traveller

Question 1

	Authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	Total	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
Romany Gypsy	72.7	67.9	71.4	118
English Traveller	22.9	17.0	21.3	35
Travellers of Irish Heritage	3.5	10.9	5.5	9
Other	0.9	4.2	1.8	3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	165

- 4.1.10 The majority of households on authorised sites identified themselves as Romany Gypsies 72.7% (118 implied), a further 35 (21.3%) said they were English Travellers, 9 (5.5%) said that they were Irish Travellers. The majority of households on unauthorised sites also identified themselves as Romany Gypsies 31 (67.9%) or English Travellers 8 (17.0%).

4.2 Current Accommodation Circumstances

- 4.2.1 Respondents were asked what type of accommodation they had at their current site. 112 respondents (67.5%) had a mobile home, 73 (44.0%) had touring caravan / trailer, 32 (19.3%) had work vehicles.
- 4.2.2 Households living on authorised sites were more likely to have more than one living unit than those on unauthorised sites. In North Kent, the average on unauthorised sites was 1.346 living units per household compared to 1.620 on authorised sites. The breakdown of living units per household is shown in Table 4-4 below.

Table 4-4 Number Of Living Units Per Household On Authorised And Unauthorised Sites

	Average living units per household: authorised sites	Avg. Living Units per Household: unauthorised sites
Dartford	1.818	1
Gravesham	1.5	1.538
Swale	1.565	1.5
Medway	1.6	-
Total	1.620	1.346

Table 4-5 Is This Your Main Accommodation / Home?

Question 3a

	Authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	Total	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
Yes	100.0	93.5	98.2	162
No	0.0	6.5	1.8	3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	165

4.2.3 98.2% of households (162 implied) living on a site said that they were living in their main accommodation.

4.2.4 Those who stated that they were currently living in their main accommodation / home were asked their reasons for being settled in that area.

Table 4-6 Reasons For Being Settled In Current Accommodation?

4.2.5 Question 3b

	Authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	Total	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
Familiarity with the area	37.7	22.3	33.5	54
Family Connection	54.2	59.5	55.6	89
Employed in the area	2.7	0.0	2.0	3
Education reasons	6.5	0.0	4.7	8
Availability of pitch	13.0	15.9	13.8	22
Closer to facilities / services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Quality of Area	0.9	13.9	4.4	7
Other	3.6	0.0	2.6	4
Total Responses				187

4.2.6 Based on responses from 160 implied households, giving a total of 187 responses the main reason for living in the area was family connection, mentioned by 55.6% (89 implied). This was followed by familiarity with the area, mentioned by 33.5% (54 implied). Employment was a reason for settlement for just 3 households.

4.2.7 3 implied households (1.8%) said they were not living in their main accommodation; all were Travellers of Irish heritage living on unauthorised sites and were travelling through the area on holiday. When asked where their main base was all said this was within the UK but outside the South East.

4.2.8 All households were asked if they had a base / site / pitch / regular stopping place somewhere else.

Table 4-7 Do You Have A Base / Site / Pitch / Regular Stopping Place / Home Somewhere Else?
Question 3f

	Authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	All sites	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
Yes	0.0	6.8	1.9	3
No	100.0	93.2	98.1	154
No permanently travelling	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	157

4.2.9 Based on responses from 157 households 98.1% (154 implied) of households responding said that they had no other base / site / pitch or regular stopping place / home elsewhere. No households were permanently travelling.

4.2.10 All 3 implied households with a base or stopping place elsewhere were currently staying in Gravesham Borough. Of this group two households were staying in mobile homes on a permanent site.

4.2.11 All households were asked a series of questions regarding space and adequacy of their living accommodation, pitch and site.

Table 4-8 Is This Current Accommodation Adequate For Your Needs?
Question 4a

	Authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	Total sites	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
Adequate	79.6	79.0	79.5	130
Not adequate – too small	11.2	8.3	10.4	17
Not adequate – no facilities on site	0.0	2.2	0.6	1
Not adequate – too big	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Not adequate – lack of or poor facilities	5.6	8.3	6.4	10
Not adequate – problems with neighbours	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Not adequate – harassment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Not adequate – security	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Not adequate – needs repair work	3.5	4.2	3.7	6
Not adequate – need space for another caravan / living unit	3.5	0.0	2.5	4
Not adequate - other	5.6	12.7	7.6	12
Total Responses				180

- 4.2.12 164 implied households responded to the multiple choice question on adequacy, giving 180 choices. Overall, 79.5% of households (130 implied) said their accommodation was adequate for their needs, 79.6% of those living on authorised sites and 79.0% of those living on unauthorised sites said their accommodation was adequate.
- 4.2.13 The main reason given for inadequate accommodation was that the accommodation was too small: 11.2% (13 implied households) on authorised sites, and 8.3% (4 households) on unauthorised sites said their home was too small.
- 4.2.14 12.7% of those living on unauthorised sites specified 'Other' reasons for inadequacy. The 'Other' reasons specified included fear of eviction, not enough work space, bay too small, no running water, no electric, need own pitch and currently under an eviction notice.
- 4.2.15 All households were asked about overcrowding in their current accommodation. A basic overcrowding calculation was made on the basis of a cross tabulation comparing the number of beds and the number of people in the household.
- 4.2.16 It was assumed that the first 2 members of the household could share a bed while all other household members would require their own bed. On this basis 26 implied households living on sites (17.5% of 166 respondents) were identified as being overcrowded; 4 of these households were overcrowded because they included concealed households. This is the calculation used in section 6 of this report to assess the need arising from overcrowded households in the study area. The proportion of overcrowded households was 21.7% for those on authorised sites compared to 6.5% for those on unauthorised sites.
- 4.2.17 In a further question, 29 households assessed themselves as overcrowded. A cross tabulation investigated the additional space needed by the 29 households who assessed them selves as overcrowded. Based on responses from just 19 households, 89.4% (17) required an additional caravan to meet their needs.
- 4.2.18 Further analysis on reasons for inadequacy in Table 4-8 above found 17 implied households (65.4% of the 26 households assessed as overcrowded) stated that their accommodation was inadequate because it was too small. The data suggested that 9 implied households (26 minus 17) did not feel that overcrowding made their accommodation inadequate for their needs.

4.3 How Well Do Sites Meet the Needs of Households

- 4.3.1 Households living on a site were asked a set of questions relating to their site circumstances.

Table 4-9 *What Type Of Site Are You Currently On?*

Question 5a

Tenure	%	N ^{os.}
Local Authority (Council Site)	28.2	46
Authorised Private Site with full planning permission	44.9	74
Authorised Private Site with temporary planning permission	3.1	5
Unauthorised encampment	12.0	20
Unauthorised development	11.8	20
Total	100.0	165

- 4.3.2 44.9% of the sample (74 implied) live on an authorised private site with full planning permission and 28.2% (46 implied) live on a local authority site.
- 4.3.3 23.8% of the households (40 implied) responding to question 5a said that lived on an unauthorised development or encampment, compared to 46 in the basic site classification and used in the weighting. The difference is accounted for by 6 households living on unauthorised pitches on authorised sites.
- 4.3.4 Stopping in unauthorised locations causes inconvenience and anger within the settled community (Select Committee of ODPM report on Gypsy and Traveller Sites 2004). Although the police and local authorities have extensive powers to move people on from unauthorised sites, they are unable to do this unless they have first identified a legal place to move them on to. There are currently no transit sites in the North Kent area but measures are underway to address the issue. (See section 4 of this report.).
- 4.3.5 Gypsy and Traveller families are statutory homeless under the 1996 Housing Act if they have accommodation but: "it consists of a movable structure, vehicle or vessel designed or adapted for human habitation and there is no legal place he is entitled or permitted both to place it and reside in it". On the basis of the basic site classification 46 implied households within the study area are currently living on unauthorised sites; only 3 households indicated that they had a base elsewhere, suggesting a significant homelessness problem within the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- 4.3.6 All households living on sites were asked a multiple choice question, enquiring about the amenities they currently have access to.

Table 4-10 What Amenities Do You Currently Have Access To?
Question 5c

	Sole Use		Shared Use		Don't Have	
	%	N ^{os.}	%	N ^{os.}	%	N ^{os.}
Water Supply (external)	85.6	138	17.6	12	9.9	16
Water brought to the site	3.8	6	7.4	5	90.2	148
Electricity supply (mains)	83.9	135	13.0	9	12.8	21
Electricity supply (generator)	14.5	23	0.0	0	85.8	141
Gas (mains)	3.8	6	0.0	0	98.7	162
Gas (bottled)	87.2	140	0.0	0	12.8	21
Gas (LPG)	17.6	28	0.0	0	82.1	135
Rubbish storage (council supplied)	50.2	81	16.9	12	44.9	74
Rubbish storage (privately supplied)	1.2	2	0.0	0	98.8	162
Rubbish Collection (council supplied)	90.6	146	14.9	10	6.1	10
Rubbish Collection (privately supplied)	1.8	3	0.0	0	98.2	161
Shed / amenity building	83.4	134	10.2	7	12.6	21
WC	91.4	147	11.5	8	5.5	9
Bath	54.7	88	0.0	0	43.9	72
Shower	64.4	104	7.2	5	33.7	55
Kitchen facilities	97.5	157	2.8	2	4.3	7
Laundry facilities	87.3	141	7.3	5	10.6	17
Fire extinguisher / alarms	77.1	124	4.6	3	20.9	34
Space for eating or sitting	96.8	156	3.0	2	5.0	8
Play space	44.4	71	21.2	14	46.9	77
Space for animals	42.6	69	75.1	51	26.8	44
Parking space for visitors	55.1	89	51.3	35	24.5	40
Work space	46.7	75	31.7	22	41.0	67
Equipment storage	36.3	58	37.5	26	48.1	79
Parking	69.3	112	56.1	38	9.2	15
Day room for residents communal use	3.9	6	7.5	5	90.4	148
Postal service	74.5	120	12.3	8	21.1	35

4.3.7 Based on responses from 161 households 85.6% (138 implied) said that they had sole access to a water supply on the site and 83.9% (135) had sole access to a mains electricity supply. The most common facility available for sole use was kitchen facilities (97.5% of households; 157 implied).

4.3.8 9.9% of the sample (16 implied households) said that they have no water supply and 5.5% (9 implied) do not have a WC. General space for living and working is an issue with 26.8% of the sample saying that they have no space for animals (44 implied), 24.5% said that they have no parking space for visitors, (40 implied) 41.0% have no space for work (67 implied) and 48.1% have no space for equipment storage (79 implied).

- 4.3.9 A cross tabulation looked at the difference between authorised and unauthorised site amenities, the survey found that 55.6% of those with no access to a water supply live on an unauthorised site and all of those without access to a WC live on an unauthorised site.

Table 4-11 Do You Have Any Worries about Health and Safety at This Site?
Question 7

	Authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	All sites	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
Yes	24.0	14.7	21.4	35
No	76.0	85.3	78.6	129
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	164

- 4.3.10 164 implied households responded to the question on health and safety worries, of which 21.4% (35 implied) said that they had worries about health and safety on their site. 24.0% of those on an authorised site compared to 14.7% on unauthorised sites had concerns about health and safety.
- 4.3.11 Of all those living on sites, 55.0% (19 implied) of those with a health and safety concern lived in Swale Borough, 24.0% (8 implied) in Medway District, 15.2% (5 implied) in Gravesham Borough and 5.8% (2 implied) said that they lived in Dartford Borough.
- 4.3.12 Households were asked their concerns about health and safety; 33 implied households responded to the multiple choice question making an average of 3.3 responses per household.

Table 4-12 What Are Your Worries About Health And Safety?
Question 8

	Authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	All sites	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
Harassment / Vandalism	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Vandalism	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Lack of basic amenities	8.0	71.6	21.2	7
Poor drainage / sewer	47.7	71.6	52.6	17
Close to road	21.4	0.0	17.0	6
Close to pylons	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Close to rubbish tip / landfill	30.0	0.0	23.8	8
Too far from doctors	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Doctor will not visit the site	8.4	0.0	6.6	2
Overcrowding	9.4	56.8	19.3	6
Lack of heating fuel	0.0	14.8	3.1	1
Rubbish collection	8.4	0.0	6.6	2
Lack of washing facilities	8.0	43.2	15.3	5
Fire prevention issues	61.9	100.0	69.8	23
Rats / vermin	58.2	71.6	61.0	20
Noise and air pollution	12.5	0.0	9.9	3
Close to phone mast	7.9	0.0	6.3	2
Other	12.2	56.8	21.5	7
Total Responses				109

4.3.13 The main concern for households living on both private authorised and local authority sites was fire prevention (69.8%, 23 implied households). This was followed by rats / vermin (61%, 20 implied households) and poor drainage / sewer (69.8%, 14 implied households). Fire prevention was also the top concern for households living on unauthorised sites.

4.3.14 In spite of the varying level of access to basic facilities and concerns over health and safety, 85.6% (141 implied) of households living on a site said that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with the site. Levels of satisfaction were far higher on authorised than unauthorised sites.

Table 4-13 How Would You Rate Your Current Site?

Question 6

	Authorised site	Unauthorised site	All sites	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
Very satisfied	62.4	38.4	55.7	92
Satisfied	30.0	29.5	29.9	49
Neutral	0.9	10.7	3.6	6
Dissatisfied	6.7	10.9	7.9	13
Very dissatisfied	0.0	10.5	2.9	5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	165

4.3.15 A cross tabulation looked at the tenure of the site compared to level of satisfaction. The survey found that the majority of those households who were either satisfied or very satisfied lived on authorised Council owned sites.

4.3.16 Many of the issues raised above can be addressed through the existing site management structure. In addition good links to private sites and effective management of unauthorised developments and encampments should help ensure that the risks of living on unauthorised sites are minimised.

4.3.17 Households were asked about the good and bad things about where they lived. In terms of the good things, 165 implied households living on sites answered the multiple choice question giving an average of 9.3 responses each. Access to shops (91.4% - 151 implied cases), doctors (88.7% - 146 implied cases) and family (88.1%; 145 implied) were the most positive aspects.

4.3.18 The positive points raised were similar for households living on authorised and unauthorised sites, with households living on unauthorised site households putting slightly less emphasis on the quality of the site and more emphasis on access to schools and doctors, family and work.

4.3.19 There was a far lower response rate when considering the bad things about where they lived (50.0%), with 78 households living on sites giving an average of 2.8 responses each. The main concerns were lack of access to amenities (38.6% - 30 implied), health issues (33.7% - 26 implied), and that the accommodation is temporary (31.4% - 25 implied).

Table 4-14 **What Are The Good / Bad Things About Where You Live Now?**
Question 10

	% Good	N ^{os.}	% Bad	N ^{os.}
Quality of site	67.4	111	28.3	22
Neighbourhood	68.2	113	8.9	7
Neighbours / other people on site	72.2	119	7.8	6
Location	81.2	134	23.3	18
Access to shops	91.4	151	9.3	7
Access to doctors	88.7	146	11.7	9
Access to schools	69.4	115	11.7	9
Access to work	60.0	99	19.5	15
Access to family	88.1	145	1.3	1
Access to amenities	60.5	100	38.6	30
Health issues	59.9	99	33.7	26
Surrounding environment	66.8	110	22.8	18
Safety issues	59.1	98	24.2	19
The accommodation is temporary	0.0	0	31.4	25
The roadside	0.0	0	5.6	4
Other	0.0	0	2.7	2
Total Responses		1,540		218

4.4 Length of time at current location

4.4.1 All households were asked how long they had lived in their current accommodation, 166 implied households living on sites responded to the question. 55.7% (93 implied) of the group said that they had lived in their current accommodation for more than 5 years and 32.8% (54 implied) had lived there for between 1 and five years. Only 11.5% (17 implied) said that they had lived in their current home for less than a year, a much lower level than that found in recent DCA surveys.

4.4.2 Households from authorised sites were more settled than those from unauthorised sites, as would be expected.

- 4.4.3 Of the 5 households who said that they had lived at their present location for less than a month, 3 households were currently living on unauthorised encampments and 2 households are living on unauthorised developments.

Table 4-15 How Long Have You Lived At Your Present Location?
Question 9

	Authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	All sites	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
A day or two	0.0	6.5	1.8	3
Less than one week	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Less than one month	0.0	4.2	1.2	2
Less than 3 months	0.9	10.8	3.6	6
Less than 6 months	1.7	4.2	2.4	4
6 months but less than 1 year	2.6	2.2	2.5	4
1 year but less than 5 years	29.8	40.4	32.8	54
5 years and over	65.0	31.7	55.7	93
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	166

- 4.4.4 A cross tabulation looked at the previous location of households who had moved in the last year, 15 of the 19 implied households who had moved in the last year responded and all had moved within the study area.
- 4.4.5 Of those who had moved in the last year, only 4 implied households (26.6% of those responding) said that they had also lived in their previous location for less than 12 months.

4.5 Other Recent Accommodation

- 4.5.1 This section looks at where households currently living on sites lived before moving to their current accommodation. 164 implied households responded to a question asking what sort of accommodation they had previously occupied.

Table 4-16 What Sort Of Accommodation Did You Have Before?
Question 11a

	%	N ^{os.}
This is my first / only accommodation	29.3	48
House / Bungalow / Flat / Maisonette	11.5	19
Supported housing (Inc sheltered)	0.0	0
Mobile home (permanent site)	5.1	8
Touring caravan / trailer (permanent site)	15.7	26
Touring caravan / trailer (unauthorised site)	30.1	49
Touring caravan / trailer (transit site)	7.7	13
Van (i.e. camper van as living accommodation)	0.6	1
Don't know	0.0	0
Other	0.0	0
Total	100.0	164

- 4.5.2 48 households were living in their first / only home. Of the 116 households who had lived elsewhere, 88 (75.8%) had previously lived in a touring caravan or trailer of whom 55% (48) had previously lived on an unauthorised site; 19 households (16.4%) had previously lived in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 4.5.3 Of the 11.5% (19 implied) who had previously lived in a house / bungalow / flat / maisonette, 7 currently live on a non tolerated unauthorised encampment, 2 households live on an unauthorised development. 5 live on a local authority managed site and 5 live on an authorised private site.
- 4.5.4 Those who had previously lived in a house / bungalow / flat / maisonette were asked the tenure of their previous accommodation. 34 implied households responded to this question, suggesting that in addition to the 19 who had previously lived in a house / flat / bungalow or maisonette, 15 others had lived in permanent accommodation at some time in the past.

Table 4-17 Did You Own Your House or Rent It?

Question 11c

	%	N ^{OS.}
Owner	41.3	14
Council tenant	52.4	18
RSL / HA tenant	0.0	0
Renting from private landlord	3.2	1
Rent from family / friend or employer	3.1	1
Total	100.0	34

- 4.5.5 Of the 34 implied households indicating tenure, 52.4% said that they had been Council tenants (18 implied), 41.3% of tenants had previously been owner occupiers (14 implied households).
- 4.5.6 Both push and pull factors were identified: pushing people out of bricks and mortar accommodation and pulling them back to sites.
- 4.5.7 The households who had previously lived in bricks and mortar housing (19 in table 3-14 above) and others who had lived in bricks and mortar accommodation at some time in the past were asked why they chose to leave the bricks and mortar housing. The reasons given included 42.3% (14 implied) who had simply wished to live on a site again, 6.0% (2 implied) who had left because of neighbour disputes and 3.1% (1 implied) wanted to go travelling again.
- 4.5.8 The majority (16 implied) stated 'Other' reasons. These included marriage (4 implied), relationship breakdown (1 implied), lack of space (1 implied), did not like living in a bricks and mortar house (1 implied) and moved back to a site when it was refurbished (1 implied).

- 4.5.9 In response to a further question, 31 households gave a positive reason for wanting to live on a site again. The majority (52.6%; 16 implied) stated that they prefer that way of life and 27.7% wanted to live in a family group. 33.0% (10 implied) stated 'Other' reasons three reasons were stated including refurbishment of site (1 implied), wanted to be near family (1 implied) and a dispute with family member (1 implied).

Table 4-18 *Where Did You Live Before You Came Here?*

Question 12

	%	N ^{os.}
Dartford	12.1	15
Gravesham	20.2	24
Medway	11.5	14
Swale	32.4	39
Sevenoaks	2.4	3
Tonbridge & Malling	0.9	1
Tunbridge Wells	0.0	0
Maidstone	3.4	4
Ashford	0.0	0
Elsewhere in Kent	11.1	13
Wealden	0.0	0
Tandridge	0.0	0
Bromley	0.0	0
Bexley	0.0	0
Elsewhere in Greater London	4.3	5
Elsewhere in the South East	0.0	0
Within the UK but outside the South East	1.7	2
Ireland	0.0	0
Outside the UK	0.0	0
Total	100.0	120

- 4.5.10 116 households had indicated in Table 4-16 that they had lived elsewhere, however 120 implied households responded to a question asking them where they used to live, suggesting a slightly higher total. Movement within the study area is high compared to movement elsewhere, reinforcing the view that households wish to remain in areas they are familiar with.
- 4.5.11 A cross tabulation found that 2 households had moved into the study area in the last 12 months (both from Sevenoaks), a rate of in-migration of 1.2%.

- 4.5.12 76.2% (92 implied households) came from within Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale a further 2.4% (3 implied from Sevenoaks). The extent of migration from areas outside the study area is lower (25 implied cases), of whom 13 came from elsewhere in Kent.

Table 4-19 How Long Did You Live There?

Question 14

	%	N ^{os.}
Less than 1 week	1.6	2
Less than 1 month	0.0	0
Less than 3 months	7.5	9
Less than 6 months	4.6	6
6 months but less than 1 year	7.6	9
1 year but less than 5 years	26.1	32
5 to 10 years	12.8	15
Over 10 years	39.8	48
Total	100.0	121

- 4.5.13 Of the 121 implied households who responded, 39.8% (48 implied) of households said that they had lived in their previous home for over 10 years. 26.1% (32 implied) said they had lived in their previous home for over 1 year but less than five years and 12.8%; 15 implied stated that they lived there for between five and ten years.

4.6 Travel Patterns

- 4.6.1 All households were asked if they were willing to answer questions about their travelling patterns.
- 4.6.2 Travelling is an integral part of cultural identity for Gypsy and Traveller households. The ability to travel, as a way of life, is one of a number of factors that defines the Gypsy and Traveller community. The courts have accepted that nomadism, and living in a caravan is a reflection of the cultural heritage of Gypsy and Irish Traveller families, not simply a lifestyle choice. Of the 50 households that said they had gone travelling in the last 12 months, 14.4% (7 implied) were Irish Travellers, representing 77.8% of the Irish Traveller sample.
- 4.6.3 Based on a response rate of 98.8%, the majority of households living on sites said they do not travel (55.2%; 90 implied). 14.6% (24 implied) stated that they had not gone travelling in the last 12 months but that they do travel.

- 4.6.4 Only 30.2% of households (50 implied) said that they had travelled in the last 12 months, 21 (42%) of these lived on an authorised private sites; 28 households (56%) lived on unauthorised encampments or developments.

Table 4-20 When Have You Gone Travelling In The Last 12 Months?

Question 16b

	%	N ^{os.}
Seasonal	61.6	31
Weekly	0.0	0
Monthly	0.0	0
When forced to move on	0.0	0
When work dries up	2.1	1
All year round	36.3	18
Other	0.0	0
Total	100.0	50

- 4.6.5 The survey found that seasonal travel accounts for 61.6% of movement (31 implied), 18 households travel all year round.
- 4.6.6 Of those who travel seasonally, the data suggests that 44.6% of those in Swale, 32.8% of those in Gravesham and 22.6% of households in Dartford travel seasonally and may have a need for transit provision in other districts.
- 4.6.7 Of the 50 implied households who answered the question on the number of times they had travelled in the last 12 months, the majority (50.0%; 25 implied) said that they had travelled five or more times. 21.8% (11 implied) said they had travelled three times, 14.1% (7 implied) said that they had travelled twice, 7.9% (4 implied) had travelled four times and 6.2% (3 implied) travelled once in the last 12 months.

Table 4-21 When You Travel How Many Households Travel?

Question 16d

	% Households	N ^{os.}
Own household only	24.1	18
One other household	7.5	6
2-5 households	47.5	35
6-10 households	20.9	16
11-15 households	0.0	0
16 or more households	0.0	0
Total	100.0	75

- 4.6.8 Of those 75 implied households who indicated that they do travel, the majority (47.5%, 35 implied households) do so in small groups of between 2-5 households.

Table 4-22 When You Travel How Many Vehicles Travel?

Question 16d

	Authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	All sites	
	%	%	% Vehicles	N ^{os.}
One	16.5	13.7	15.5	12
Two	16.8	10.2	14.3	11
Three	5.4	0.0	3.3	2
Four	18.2	45.5	28.6	21
Five	2.3	6.7	4.0	3
Six	33.9	6.7	23.5	17
Seven	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Eight	2.4	10.2	5.4	4
Nine or more	4.5	7.0	5.4	4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	74

- 4.6.9 74 implied households responded to the question on the number of vehicles travelling, an average of 4.0 vehicles are travelling per group.
- 4.6.10 Travel times are also limited with 67.4% being away for up to a month at a time. A further 22.5% (17 implied) are away for between 1 and 3 months. Just 10% are away from their main accommodation for more than 6 months at a time.
- 4.6.11 The majority said that they travel regularly because it is part of the Gypsy and Traveller culture (70.7%; 53 implied). Other reasons included community event (32.0%; 24 implied), family reasons (27.0%; 20 implied), festival (27.0%; 20 implied), work (27.0%; 20 implied), nowhere to settle (6.7%; 5 implied), holiday (6.7%; 5 implied) and other reasons (1.4%; 1 implied).

4.6.12 Those travelling were asked when they travel; 74 implied households responded to the multiple choice question providing 223 responses.

Table 4-23 When Do You Travel?

Question 16f

	%	N ^{os.}
All year round	35.6	27
January	0.0	0
February	0.0	0
March	9.8	7
April	17.0	13
May	35.6	27
June	60.2	45
July	57.4	43
August	57.4	43
September	22.2	17
October	1.4	1
November	0.0	0
December	0.0	0
Total Responses		223

4.6.13 The most popular travelling times were May, June, July and August.

- 4.6.14 74 households responded to a multiple choice question asking where they travel to, providing 223 responses, an average of 3.1 responses each.

Table 4-24 Location of Travel

	%	N ^{os.}
Dartford	21.9	16
Gravesham	12.3	9
Medway	9.5	7
Swale	9.5	7
Sevenoaks	7.9	6
Tonbridge & Malling	4.1	3
Tunbridge Wells	4.1	3
Maidstone	13.6	10
Ashford	12.2	9
Elsewhere in Kent	52.4	39
Wealden	0.0	0
Tandridge	0.0	0
Bromley	1.3	1
Bexley	1.3	1
Elsewhere in Greater London	3.9	3
Elsewhere in the South East	44.6	33
Within the UK but outside the South East	91.1	68
Ireland	4.0	3
Outside the UK	6.9	5
Total Responses		223

- 4.6.15 Those responding travel to a variety of locations the majority (91.1%) travel within the UK but outside the South East. 52.4% travel elsewhere within Kent and 44.6% travel elsewhere within the South East.

4.7 Eviction

- 4.7.1 In North Kent the level of eviction is lower than that found in other recent DCA study areas. Based on responses from 164 households 5 households (3%) had left a site in the last 12 months because of enforcement action. No households said that they had left a site because of forced eviction.
- 4.7.2 Of the 5 households who had left a site because of enforcement action, all currently live on unauthorised sites, 3 were living on unauthorised encampments in Gravesham and 2 on unauthorised developments in Swale.
- 4.7.3 Those who had left a site because of enforcement action had left between 2 and 5 sites in the last 12 months.
- 4.7.4 Households were asked what type of site they had left. Based on responses from all 5 households 10 responses were provided. All five said that they had left a non tolerated unauthorised encampment, 61.0% (3 implied) had also left a tolerated encampment without planning consent and 39.0% (2 implied) had left a non tolerated unauthorised development.

- 4.7.5 All households had left the site voluntarily once an initial notice / summons was served.
- 4.7.6 Insecurity of tenure was not an issue addressed specifically within the survey, however this has been identified by Government (Select Committee of ODPM report on Gypsy and Traveller Sites 2004) as an issue for Gypsy and Traveller families in general. Pitches let on a licence rather than a tenancy are less secure than a secure or assured tenancy, although Government recognises that a balance needs to be struck between the needs of well established families to maintain their tenancy and the needs of site managers to act quickly to resolve conflicts as necessary.
- 4.7.7 There is a need to balance the cultural needs of Gypsy and Traveller families to maintain a mobile life style and travel seasonally with their need to develop some measure of security in terms of their accommodation, to be able to travel, but to avoid a constant cycle of eviction. The survey found all 5 families who had left a site because of enforcement action in the last 12 months are currently living on unauthorised sites.

4.8 Planning Permissions

- 4.8.1 Government research (Select Committee of ODPM report on Gypsy and Traveller Sites 2004) has found that nationally 80% of Gypsy and Traveller planning applications are refused compared to just 10% of applications from the settled community. A high proportion of Gypsy and Traveller planning applications in North Kent relate to land covered by designations such as AONB, SLA and Greenbelt. In their report of 2006, the LGA Gypsy and Traveller Task Group explained that “the most common reason for rejection of planning applications by Gypsy and Travellers are that it is Green Belt (29%), contrary to countryside policy (29%), risk to highway safety (18%) and insufficient technical detail supplied by the applicant (15%).

Table 4-25 Have You Ever Applied For Planning Permission?

Question 18

	%	N ^{os.}
Yes, for a new site	33.1	54
Yes to extend or adapt current planning permission	3.4	6
No	63.1	103
Total		163

- 4.8.2 Of the 163 implied households who responded to this question, 60 had applied for planning permission (36.5%). Of those who had applied for permission 54 had applied for planning permissions for a new site (90%), and 6 implied (10%) to extend or adapt current planning permission.

4.8.3 Households were asked about the outcome of the application.

Table 4-26 Outcome Of The Application
Question 19

	%	N ^{os.}
Granted – Full planning permission	20.7	12
Granted – Temporary planning permission	10.1	6
Refused	6.7	4
Went to appeal and won – full planning permission	32.2	19
Went to appeal and won – Temporary planning permission	3.3	2
Went to appeal and lost	0.0	0
Making current application	12.1	7
Awaiting decision of application / appeal	14.9	9
Total	100.0	59

4.8.4 Of the 60 households who had submitted planning applications 59 provided details of the outcome. 12 applications (20.7%) had been given full planning permission, of which 7 were in Swale, 4 in Dartford, 1 in Gravesham. A further 21 applications were granted planning permission on appeal, 2 of which were for a temporary period.

4.8.5 At the time of the study decisions were outstanding on 16 applications, 9 of which were awaiting the outcome of an appeal. Of those households waiting for a decision 77.1% (7 implied) said that they had been waiting for more than 6 months and 22.9% (2 implied) had been waiting a decision for between 1 and 6 months.

4.8.6 57 implied households gave details of where they applied for planning permission, All had applied for planning permission within the study area, 32 households said that they had applied within Swale Borough, 11 households had applied in Dartford, 10 in Gravesham and 4 in Medway.

4.9 You and your Family

4.9.1 Data was collected on the age and sex of individual household members. From the data collected, a picture of the households in the sample was built up. The findings are summarised in the table below.

Table 4-27 Family Composition

Family structure	%	Group %	N ^{os.}
1 adult over 60	2.5	8.7	4
1 adult under 60	6.2		10
1 adult and others	0		0
Couple no children	26.5	70.9	43
Couple with children	43.2		70
Couple and others	1.2		2
Single parent	20.4	20.4	33
Total	100.0	100.0	162

- 4.9.2 162 implied households responded to the question on family structure, a response rate of 97.6%, 4 households living on sites did not answer this question. 8.7% (14 implied) of those living on sites said that they were single person households. 43.2% of households responding and living on sites (70 implied) said that they were couples with children; a further 20.4% (33 implied) said that they were single parents.
- 4.9.3 In terms of the age of head of household and other household members, based on responses from 156 implied heads of household, the survey found 38.6% (60 implied) of heads of household living on sites to be aged between 25 and 44, compared to 47.4% (18 implied) of those living in permanent bricks and mortar accommodation. The proportion of under 16s living on sites was 36.1% (171 implied children) compared to 47.9% among those living in permanent accommodation.

Table 4-28 Age Of Household Members

Question 15b

Age of household members	Head of household		All household members	
	%	N ^{os.}	%	N ^{os.}
0 – 10	0.0	0	25.4	119
11 – 15	0.0	0	10.7	52
16 – 24	24.8	39	22.7	111
25 – 44	38.6	60	20.3	99
45 – 59	22.3	35	12.7	62
60 – 74	11.7	18	6.4	31
75+	2.6	4	1.8	9
Total	100.0	156	100.0	483

- 4.9.4 The average number of people per household was 3.1 amongst respondents living on sites, compared to 3.3 amongst those in permanent accommodation. This is higher than the UK average of 2.4 for general settled households as endorsed by the 2001 Census.

4.10 Access to Services and Facilities

- 4.10.1 The following section presents data on access to schooling and medical facilities. Data is also presented on the incidence of disability within the household and access to adaptations.
- 4.10.2 A study of the “Health of Gypsies and Travellers in England” by the University of Sheffield School of Health and Related Research (2004) found a high level of health inequality between their Gypsy and Traveller study group and the general population. The study reported health problems were between 3 and 5 times more prevalent within the Gypsy and Traveller community. The same study found that accommodation was the over riding factor in terms of health effects: concern focused on living conditions, but also extended to security of tenure, access to services, ability to register with a GP, support from the extended family and the general living environment.
- 4.10.3 A study by CURS at Birmingham University (2002) “The Provision and Condition of Local Authority Gypsy / Traveller sites in England” also found, at a national level, that suitable accommodation is critical to improving the health and educational attainment within the Gypsy and Traveller community.

4.10.4 The first set of questions in this section focused on access to education.

Table 4-29 Do Your School Age Children Attend Local Schools?

Question 15c

	Authorised sites	Unauthorised sites	All sites	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
Yes (under age of 12)	59.1	69.4	62.8	41
Yes (over age of 12)	22.3	0.0	14.4	9
No	7.6	30.6	15.7	10
Some	11.0	0.0	7.1	5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	65

4.10.5 55 households living on sites had school age children in school, of which 39 households (70.9%) said they are currently living on authorised sites and 16 (29.1%) live on unauthorised sites.

4.10.6 Households were asked if any of their children receive home schooling support from the Local Authority. Of 53 households responding, 16.2% (9 implied) indicated that they receive support.

4.10.7 10 households (15.7%) said that they had school age children who were not in school, (25 children); this represented 14.6% of all children in the sample. 7 of these households are currently living on unauthorised sites. The 2005 study "Cambridge Sub Regional Travellers Needs Assessment" also found that a high percentage of the survey population had experienced time out of education and levels of adult literacy were found to be low.

4.10.8 17 implied households reported difficulties with schooling because of their accommodation / site. Of those experiencing a problem, 7 were afraid to send their children due to local hostility, 5 had disrupted schooling due to their mobility, and 2 had experienced difficulties getting a school place. 5 households stated 'Other' reasons, including distance from the site to the school, and the statement that Gypsies take their children out of school after they reach 12 years of age.

4.10.9 No households said that they had to move to access schooling in the last 12 months.

4.10.10 The following questions looked at access to medical services.

4.10.11 Based on 163 implied responses, the data showed that households currently living on a site were marginally less likely to be registered with a local doctor than households living in bricks and mortar housing. 90.0% (147 implied) of households currently living on a site said that they were registered with a local doctor compared to 97.4% of those living in bricks and mortar housing.

4.10.12 Those living on authorised sites were typically more likely to be registered with a doctor than those on unauthorised sites. 91.9% of households living on authorised sites said that they were registered with a doctor compared to 85.1% of those on unauthorised sites. Cross tabulation of the data by type of site shows that 91.2% of those living on local authority sites and 92.4% of those on an authorised private site are registered with a local doctor, compared to only 69.5% of households who said that they live on unauthorised encampments.

Table 4-30 Are You Registered With A Doctor In Current Local Authority Area?

Question 15h

	Authorised sites	Un authorised sites	All sites	
	%	%	%	N ^{os.}
Yes	91.9	85.1	90.0	147
No	8.1	14.9	10.0	16
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	163

Table 4-31 Do You Consider Anyone in Your Household to Have A Disability or a Serious Long Term Illness?

Question 15j

	%	N ^{os.}
Yes	28.9	44
No	71.1	108
Total	100.0	152

4.10.13 Based on 152 implied responses, 44 households in the sample said they had a member with a disability or long-term illness (28.9%). This is fairly high in comparison to recent DCA studies of Gypsy & Traveller households where 21% has been the average. Levels of illness and disability are also higher than would be expected in a survey of the general population (15%).

4.10.14 The ages of those with a disability were fairly well spread, with 32.4% aged between 45 and 59 and 24.0% were aged 60 or above. 19.0% were aged between 25 and 44 and 29.2% were under 25.

4.10.15 Households with a disabled member were asked further questions about the nature of the illness / disability and the adaptations available to support them at home.

Table 4-32 What Is the Nature of the Disability / Long Term Illness?

Question 15l

	%	N ^{os.}
Wheelchair User	0.0	0
Walking Difficulty (not in wheelchair)	31.8	14
Learning Difficulty	3.2	1
Mental Health Problem	27.8	12
Visual Impairment	4.4	2
Hearing Impairment	23.0	10
Asthmatic / Respiratory Problem	25.8	11
Other Physical Disability	37.7	17
Limiting Illness	31.8	14
Total Responses		81

4.10.16 Based on responses from 44 implied households on the nature of the disability, 31.8% (14 implied) said that they had a walking difficulty and 31.8% (14 implied) a limiting illness.

Table 4-33 Do You Consider the Disability Limits Activity?

Question 15n

	%	N ^{os.}
Yes	56.2	23
No	43.8	18
Total	100.0	41

4.10.17 In 23 implied cases the disability / illness concerned was felt to limit activity; 37.1% (8 implied) households with a disability or long term illness said that they needed adaptations to the home.

Table 4-34 Does the Illness or Disability Mean You / Family Need Provision of?

Question 15o

Housing Adaptations Required	%	N ^{os.}
Adaptations to your home	37.1	8
Regular medical treatment at doctor or hospital	86.4	20
Regular prescription	82.0	19
Care & support from family / friends	75.6	17
Care & support from social services / voluntary	0.0	0
Total Responses		64

- 4.10.18 10 implied households responded to this multiple choice question making an average of 2.0 choices per household when considering the type of adaptations required. 81.6% said that they needed bathroom adaptations, 66.6% required ramps, 38.4% needed additional handrails and 13.4% required the bathroom / shower / toilet relocated.
- 4.10.19 In addition to the 10 households who still needed adaptations, households were asked if any adaptations had been done and if so by whom. 3 households had done the adaptations themselves and 2 households had adaptations done by the Local Authority, both in Dartford Borough.
- 4.10.20 Based on responses from 20 implied households, no households indicated that the disability would require them to move into bricks and mortar housing.
- 4.10.21 Section 224 of the Housing Act came into force as a requirement on 18th March 2005 giving households living in caravans equal rights to help through Disabled Facilities grants.

4.11 Harassment

- 4.11.1 9.7% (16 implied) of households currently living on a site said that they had experienced harassment at their current site, of which 11 implied households said that they were currently living on an authorised site, 1 was living on an unauthorised encampments and 4 on an unauthorised development.
- 4.11.2 A higher number of households had experienced harassment in their previous home, (19.8%; 32 implied). Of these 22 were living on authorised sites, 5 on unauthorised encampments and 4 on unauthorised developments.
- 4.11.3 Of those who had experienced harassment at their current accommodation, 70.2% (11 implied) households said that they were harassed by local residents in the area and 17.7% (3 implied) by other Gypsy & Travellers on site. 17.3% (3 implied) stated that they were harassed by 'Others', these included the education authorities, the Council, and the police.
- 4.11.4 There was a similar pattern with those experiencing harassment at their previous accommodation with 80.3% (24 implied) experiencing harassment by local residents, 23.8% (7 implied) from other Gypsy & Travellers and 38.8% (12 implied) said 'Other'. These again consisted of the education authorities, the Council and the Police.
- 4.11.5 18.0% (21 implied) of those currently living on a site said that they had left accommodation as a result of harassment. 59.4% (68 implied) of those currently living on a site said they would take harassment into consideration when deciding to move again.

4.12 Work

4.12.1 This section deals with the working patterns of households currently living on a site, including problems with working and issues around travel to work.

Table 4-35 Current Employment Status?

Question 24c

	%	N ^{os.}
Self-employed	25.0	37
Employed	3.4	5
Unemployed and looking for work	6.0	9
Retired	13.1	20
Cannot work due to disability	8.9	13
Look after the home	43.6	65
Total	100.0	149

4.12.2 Based on responses from 149 households 28.4% of respondents said they were employed or self-employed (42 implied households). The findings on the importance of self employment are consistent with other DCA Gypsy and Traveller studies.

Table 4-36 Do You Live Here To Be Near Work?

Question 24a

	%	N ^{os.}
Yes, permanent work	4.1	6
Yes, temporary work	3.5	5
No	92.4	141
Total	100.0	152

4.12.3 Work does not appear to be a major factor influencing settlement at a particular site. 11 implied households said they live at their current site to be close to work, 26% of those in employment / self employment.

- 4.12.4 38 implied households gave a location for where they travel to for work, giving an average of 3.2 locations. 14 travel to Swale, 10 travel to Gravesham, 9 travel to Dartford and 8 travel to Medway, However most travel outside the study area.

Table 4-37 Where Do You Travel To?

Question 24g

	%	N ^{os.}
Dartford	24.0	9
Gravesham	26.9	10
Medway	22.2	8
Swale	36.9	14
Sevenoaks	13.1	5
Tonbridge & Malling	16.2	6
Tunbridge Wells	13.4	5
Maidstone	21.7	8
Ashford	16.2	6
Elsewhere in Kent	40.2	15
Wealden	0.0	0
Tandridge	0.0	0
Bromley	2.6	1
Bexley	2.6	1
Elsewhere in Greater London	10.3	4
Elsewhere in the South East	42.2	16
Within the UK but outside the South East	31.4	12
Ireland	2.6	1
Outside the UK	0.0	0
Total Responses		121

- 4.12.5 23 implied households indicated that they find it difficult to get work; prejudice to Gypsies and Travellers was the main reason give (70.3%). 4 implied households said that they had moved in the last 12 months due to difficulties getting work, 2 of whom had moved 3 or more times.

Table 4-38 What are the Main Reasons You Find It Difficult To Get Work?

Question 24e

	%	N ^{os.}
Location of site	0.0	0
Lack of postal address	29.7	7
Reputation of area / site / address	8.2	2
Lack of storage for work equipment	0.0	0
Lack of access to work	12.7	3
Transportation / travel time	0.0	0
Prejudice towards Gypsies and Travellers	70.3	16
Issues with literacy / numeracy	22.2	5
Other	39.0	9
Total Responses		42

4.13 Income and Financial Support

- 4.13.1 The income of all household members was recorded to give a total annual income for the household before tax and other deductions. The response rate to the income question was 57.8% for households currently living on a site (96 implied households). This is a higher response rate than that found in other DCA studies of Gypsies and Travellers in the UK, for example Bedfordshire, East Sussex and Hampshire, where the income response was lower suggesting a reluctance to disclose financial information, in these studies the response rate to the income question has ranged from 32% to 38%.
- 4.13.2 92.6% (92 implied) of households said that they had incomes below £10,000. 91 implied households indicated that they received financial support, 54.8% of the sample. In response to a multiple choice question, households made an average of 2.3 choices each regarding the type of financial support received. 33 households received Housing Benefit, 71.7% of those on local authority sites. Take up of some other benefits was low with just 54 households claiming child benefit: 52.4% of those with children.

Table 4-39 *Does Your Household Receive Any Financial Support?*
Question 26d

	%	N ^{os.}
Housing Benefit	35.8	33
Income Support	65.5	59
Pension Credit	16.6	15
Job Seekers Allowance	3.3	3
Working Family Tax Credit	5.7	5
Disability Living Allowance	15.8	14
Attendance Allowance	3.8	3
State Pension	7.8	7
Child Benefit	59.9	54
Council Tax benefit	17.1	16
Irish welfare benefits	0.0	0
Welfare benefits from another country	0.0	0
Other	3.3	3
Total Responses		212

- 4.13.3 Households were asked how much rent they pay each week for their site. 37 households responded, 80% of those on local authority sites. The majority, 79.9% (29 implied) pay £41-£50. 11.8% (4 implied) pay between £51-£60 and 8.3% (3 implied) pay below £30.
- 4.13.4 88% of households would ideally like to live on a private site. However, the ability to meet aspirations for private site development may be limited by low incomes. We recommend that financial options are developed to enable families to access finance for site development either independently or in a shared ownership capacity with a housing association partner.

4.14 Future Accommodation Needs

4.14.1 Moving Intentions of Households Currently Living on a Site

4.14.2 The moving intentions and future accommodation requirements of those currently living on sites were considered through a set of questions to help identify the need for future planning provision.

Table 4-40 *Are You Intending To Move From Your Current Site?*
Question 25a

	%	N ^{os.}
No	85.1	134
Never	2.7	4
Depends on Outcome of a housing or other accommodation offer	0.7	1
Wish to move but cannot	6.9	11
Don't Know	0.0	0
When forced to move on	2.5	4
Yes within a month	0.0	0
Yes within 3 months	1.2	2
Yes within 6 months	0.0	0
Yes within a year	0.0	0
Yes within 3 years	0.9	1
Yes within 5 years	0.0	0
Total	100.0	157

4.14.3 Based on responses from 157 implied households 87.8% had no intention of moving.

4.14.4 11 households wish to move but cannot do so, 10 of whom currently live on unauthorised sites. 4 responded to a further question asking their reasons for being unable to move. 2 stated that they cannot get a pitch on a site, 2 specified other reasons, including being unable to afford their own land, the Council will not re-house and the Council will not offer accommodation in a desired area.

4.14.5 4.6% of the sample (7 implied households) said that they had plans to move from their current site of which 6 were currently living on unauthorised sites.

Table 4-41 *Why Are You Intending To Move From Your Current Site?*
Question 25

	%	N ^{os.}
Quality of site	12.0	1
Prefer to live in a house	12.0	1
Site not permanent	60.1	5
Do not like it here	28.8	2
Other	23.1	2
Total Responses		11

- 4.14.6 The 7 households planning to move were asked why they were intending to move. In response to the multiple choice question, households gave an average of 1.4 reasons. The site not being permanent was the most common reason given (60.1% 5 implied), all of whom were currently living on an unauthorised site. Other reasons included not liking their current site (28.8%).

Table 4-42 What Area Are You Moving To When You Leave?

Question 25c

	%	N ^{os.}
Dartford	0.0	0
Gravesham	24.0	2
Medway	0.0	0
Swale	24.0	2
Medway	0.0	0
Maidstone	16.8	1
Elsewhere in the South East	36.1	3
Within the UK but outside the South East	12.0	1
Total Responses		9

No data was received for any other location

- 4.14.7 Although only 7 households said in Table 4-42 that they intended to move, 8 implied households responded to the multiple choice question asking where they planned to move to. 4 households (44%) plan to remain in the study area, 2 from Gravesham and 2 from Swale all of whom were planning to remain in the same area. 3 movers said that they intended to move to elsewhere in the South East of England region.

Table 4-43 Are You on Any Site / House Waiting Lists?

Question 25d

	%	N ^{os.}
Yes – housing waiting list	28.2	3
Yes – site waiting list	0.0	0
No	71.8	7
Total	100.0	10

- 4.14.8 Only 3 moving households were on a waiting list, all of whom were on housing rather than a site list.
- 4.14.9 8 implied households responded to the question asking about the type of accommodation they intended to move to. 3 households said they plan to move to an authorised Local Authority site, (all are currently living on an unauthorised encampment), 1 said that they plan to move onto an unauthorised development, this household was currently living on an unauthorised development).
- 4.14.10 4 moving households plan to move on to bricks and mortar housing, (of those 3 said were currently living on an unauthorised development). When the whole sample was asked about moving to bricks and mortar accommodation 149 implied households said they would not like to live in bricks and mortar housing in the future. Of these, 67.8% (100 implied), said the reason for not considering bricks and mortar accommodation was that they want to maintain their travelling life-style.

- 4.14.11 Just 13 implied households would consider bricks and mortar housing at some point in the future. Of these, 10 would consider living in Social rented accommodation and 3 would like to buy.
- 4.14.12 All households in the sample were asked whether they would consider bricks and mortar housing if support was available. Just 11 implied households responded, 90.4% (10 implied) said that they would like help setting up utilities, 82.4% (9 implied) would like help to find bricks and mortar accommodation, 54.0% (6 implied) would like help setting up a tenancy / mortgage, 44.5% (5 implied) would like help managing finances, 36.4% (4 implied) would like emotional support.

4.15 Site Accommodation

- 4.15.1 4 households indicated an intention to move to a site. 3 implied households would plan to live on their next site for between 3 and 6 months and (1 implied) plan to stay there as long as possible before eviction.
- 4.15.2 Households planning to move to a site were asked what facilities they would need at their next site. Based on responses from all 4 implied households, a wide range of facilities was required either for sole or shared use.
- 4.15.3 The most important facilities for sole use were fire prevention facilities and play space; and for shared use mains electricity supply, rubbish storage and collection (Council supplied), laundry facilities and a day room.

Table 4-44 *In Addition to Essentials What Facilities Will Be Needed At Your Next Site?*
Question 25j

	Sole use (No's Implied)	Shared use (No's Implied)
Electricity supply (mains)	1	3
Electricity supply (generator)	0	0
Gas (mains)	0	0
Gas (bottled)	0	0
Rubbish Storage and collection (Council supplied)	2	3
Rubbish storage and collection (privately supplied)	0	0
Shed / amenity building	2	0
Bath	2	0
Shower	1	0
Kitchen facilities	2	0
Laundry facilities	1	3
Fire prevention	3	0
Play space	3	0
Space for animals	1	0
Space for visitors	0	0
Work space	0	0
Equipment storage	2	0
Parking	1	0
Day Room	1	3

4.15.4 Based on a response from one household, space would be needed for 2 vehicles on their next site.

4.16 Needs of New Households Forming

4.16.1 17 implied households (10.8%) currently living on a site indicated that they had a family member who would be looking for independent accommodation in the next 3 years, 2 in Dartford Borough, 13 in Swale and 2 in Medway.

4.16.2 In 10 implied cases there was one family member involved, in 6 implied cases there were two family members looking for independent accommodation and in 1 implied case 3 or more family members looking for independent accommodation. The data suggested a backlog of 25 individuals seeking to set up their own home. Of these 4 were currently living in Dartford, 18 in Swale and 3 in Medway.

4.16.3 It is not known how many of these individuals will form households together, they are therefore all counted individually and it is assumed they will all need separate pitches.

4.16.4 The level of future family formation is calculated in the model (section 6 of this report) and detailed in paragraphs 6.3.20 – 6.3.24 and 6.3.27. New family formation is projected to be 4.8% per year, which is in line with averages of 4 to 5% found in other GTAAAs nationally.

4.16.5 57.1% (4 implied) of new forming households were aged 16-19, a further 42.9% (3 implied) aged 20-24 and 56.2% (4 implied) were aged between 25-44.

4.16.6 Based on 19 implied responses to the question on whether the newly forming households wanted to live in bricks and mortar housing or on a site, the data showed 18 concealed households wanted to live on a site and 1 wanted to live in bricks and mortar accommodation.

4.16.7 Those requiring independent site accommodation were asked what type of site accommodation they would be looking for and which area they wanted to move to. 19 implied households responded to this question. The preference was for private sites with 69.0% (13 implied) hoping to move to an authorised private site and 31.0% (6 implied) needing an authorised Local Authority site.

4.16.8 Of those planning to move to a private site, 83.3% (12 implied) were planning to move to a site owned by their family with full permission granted.

4.16.9 89.4% (12 implied) new forming households preferred to live in a rural location, 10.6% (1 implied) preferred an urban location.

4.16.10 There was a very high correlation between existing and desired locations for new forming households, with all new forming households wishing to remain in their existing local authority areas. There were no concealed households in Gravesham and subsequently no concealed households expressed a preference to live in Gravesham. 74.6% (14 implied) of concealed households planning a move wanted to live in Swale Borough, 14.7% (3 implied) households wanted to live in Medway Borough and 10.7% (2 implied) want to live in Dartford Borough.

4.16.11 Households with one or more concealed households were asked if there was an opportunity for the concealed households to stay on the site with them. 31.8% (6 implied) said yes, 68.2% (13 implied) said no.

4.16.12 Reflecting the shortage of pitches locally and the difficulties faced by new forming households 46 implied responses were received to a question asking whether any member of their family who have formed a household of their own have moved out of the area in the last three years due to no pitches being available on sites. 36 implied households (78.9%).said that family members had moved away and all stated that the family would return if suitable sites were available. The needs and moving intentions of these households will be captured in GTAA's in other areas.

4.17 Ideal Sites

4.17.1 All households were asked for their views on what make an ideal site.

Table 4-45 *What Is The Maximum Number Of Pitches A Site Should Have?*
Question 30

	% Transit	N ^{os.}	% Permanent	N ^{os.}
1 -5	8.1	11	13.3	21
6 - 10	24.9	35	18.8	31
11 – 15	28.8	40	44.3	72
16 – 20	28.3	40	12.5	20
21 - 25	4.7	7	9.8	16
26 – 30	3.0	4	0.0	0
Over 30	2.2	3	1.3	2
Total	100.0	140	100.0	162

4.17.2 In line with other DCA surveys most households preferred smaller sites. Based on a response rate of 97.6% (162 implied), 76.4% (124 implied) said that they preferred permanent sites with 15 or less pitches.

4.17.3 Based on a response rate of 84.3% when considering transit sites, the majority again (61.8%) preferred smaller sites of less than 15 pitches.

4.17.4 Government research suggests that smaller sites have fewer health and safety risks, especially in winter when there is more pressure on sites as families are travelling less, in addition smaller sites are found to be easier to integrate into existing communities and are easier to manage.

- 4.17.5 In the view of the Select Committee (Select Committee of ODPM report on Gypsy and Traveller Sites 2004) “permanent sites should have no more than 18 pitches... all sites should be small and not disproportionate to the size of the community in which they are placed ... a cap should be placed on the number of people who are resident on the site. The number of long term visitors on a site should be controlled by planning powers and enforced by the site manager”. Although Circular (1/2006) is cautious about setting a blanket cap on new developments and individual applications need to be considered on their merits having regard to context, with pitch numbers relative to the site surroundings and population densities.

Table 4-46 What Would Be Your IDEAL Type Of Accommodation?

Question 31

	%	N ^{os.}
Mobile home – permanent site	93.2	153
Touring caravan / trailer - permanent site	3.1	5
Other	3.7	6
Total	100.0	164

- 4.17.6 Based on 164 implied responses, the ideal type of accommodation is a mobile home on a permanent site (93.2%; 153 implied).
- 4.17.7 88.4% (145 implied) of households would ideally like a private site owned by themselves or their family with planning permission, this is consistent with other DCA studies of Gypsy and Traveller households where a high level of preference for family owned sites has been evident. The preference for private sites however raises issues of affordability, and families with low levels of income may struggle to pay for land and development costs.
- 4.17.8 The preference for private sites varied across the study area 88.4% were in favour of private sites in Dartford, 100% in Gravesham, 85.8% in Swale and 80% in Medway
- 4.17.9 Just 11.6% (19 implied) said that they would prefer a Local Authority owned site.
- 4.17.10 The main preference for location was rural at 97.6% (157 implied) compared to 2.4% (4 implied) urban.
- 4.17.11 **Table 4-47 Where Would Your IDEAL Location Be?**

Question 32

	%	N ^{os.}
Dartford	33.6	55
Gravesham	15.1	25
Medway	6.8	11
Swale	40.8	67
Sevenoaks	1.2	2
Elsewhere in Greater London	0.6	1
Elsewhere in the South East	1.9	3
Total	100.0	164

No data received for any other location

- 4.17.12 164 implied households responded to a question on location, with the majority preferring to remain in the North Kent study area (96.3%). The most popular areas were Swale (40.8%; 67 implied), Dartford (33.6%; 55 implied) and Gravesham (15.1%; 25 implied). The data showed a high level of correlation between current and ideal locations was found, with all of those living in Dartford saying their current location was their ideal location, 94.3% in Swale, 84.6% amongst those from Gravesham and 78.6% from Medway.
- 4.17.13 The Government Select Committee recommendation (Select Committee of ODPM report on Gypsy and Traveller Sites 2004) is that all sites should be "located only in areas considered appropriate for general residential use". 97.6% (157 implied) of Gypsy and Traveller households said that they would prefer to live in the country and, 2.4% (2 implied) would prefer to live in a town.

5 TRANSIT PROVISION

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 In our experience transit provision is needed to accommodate families moving through the District, to accommodate families visiting the District, and to accommodate vulnerable families who have been moved on from authorised or unauthorised sites locally.
- 5.1.2 There is currently no transit provision within North Kent or Medway.
- 5.1.3 Discussions with DCLG suggest there will be further Guidance on how the need for transit pitches should be calculated and provided. In line with current Guidance (February 2006) this report focuses on the need for permanent pitches. DCLG have suggested that once there is an adequate supply of permanent pitches local authorities will be better placed to calculate the residual need for transit pitches. There is a need for continued monitoring of unauthorised encampment activity to help inform future planning for transit pitches across the County, particularly in light of the change / reduction in unauthorised encampment activity reported in local data from Medway in the last 2 years.
- 5.1.4 At a local level considerable work is underway by Kent County Council to assess the need for transit pitches across the County. The evidence from this GTAA may help inform decisions locally.
- 5.1.5 In the DCA survey all households were asked why they think Gypsies and Travellers use transit sites. 114 households responded. 35.2% (57 implied) stated that they were used when no alternative accommodation is available, 33.6% (54) that their use is a way of life for households who do not want to settle and 16.1% (26 implied) stated that they are used whilst waiting, or in transit, for other accommodation. 11.3% (18 implied) said don't know why transit sites are used, and 2.5% (4 implied) stated "other" reasons, including winter stopping and if a problem occurs whilst on the road travelling.

5.2 Need Identified Through The Survey

- 5.2.1 The survey data provided a number of indications of the level of transit provision needed in North Kent. The following bullet points provide a brief analysis of the data on for transit need.
- The survey data identified 3 households moving through the study area **at the time of the study**; all 3 were looking for permanent local authority pitches in another local authority area and would have a need for transit provision in North Kent.
 - 1 household was identified **during the survey period** on an unauthorised encampment planning to move on to another unauthorised encampment within the study area, this household represents a need for transit provision in the study area until a permanent pitch is found.

- 5 household had left a site **in the last 12 months** as a result of enforcement action. A family who has been evicted but is considered vulnerable, for example because they have young children or a member with an illness or disability may need temporary transit provision within the study area until a permanent site is found. All 5 of these households include at least one child, 2 households also included a member with a disability, suggesting a need for 5 pitches to accommodate vulnerable households who had been evicted over a 12 month period.
- The level of demand from households who are visiting family locally is difficult to determine from the data. There will be a need to accommodate visitors for family events and festivals; it is recommended that any new sites be approved with additional capacity to accommodate visitors.

5.3 Need Identified Through Local Data

- 5.3.1 In addition to the survey data, local research undertaken by Kent County Council Gypsy and Traveller Unit was considered. This looked at the flow of unauthorised encampments across the whole of Kent from 2004 – 2006.
- 5.3.2 Kent County Council select committee report (May 2006) identified a particular need for transit pitches within the North Kent area where a higher proportion of unauthorised camping has been identified. The select committee report makes a case for provision in areas of highest encampment activity, including Medway, Swale and Gravesham.
- 5.3.3 The unitary authority of Medway disputed the findings from the Select Committee Report in relation to Medway. On further examination of the secondary data provided by Kent County Council it was found that reliable data for Medway had only been supplied for 2004. Further data was requested from Medway for 2005 and 2006. Data was only available from October 2006 showing just 5 encampments between October and December 2006.

Table 5-1 *Unauthorised Encampments By District 2004 - 2006*

	2004	2005	2006	Total
Dartford	33	8	10	51
Gravesham	22	24	13	59
Medway	43	NA	5	48
Swale	46	42	32	120

- 5.3.4 Dartford has had a total of 51 encampments over a three year period; there has been a significant fall in the number of encampments recorded over time. The average stay has been 5 days, with an average of 6 vehicles and 24 people per encampment.
- 5.3.5 Gravesham has had a total of 59 encampments over 3 years. The average stay has been 9 days, with an average of 3 vehicles and 9 people per encampment.
- 5.3.6 120 encampments have been recorded in Swale. The average stay was 13 days, with an average of 6 vehicles and 13 people.

- 5.3.7 43 encampments were recorded in Medway in 2004, no data was available for 2005, and data for 2006 was only available from October. Local staff confirmed that in 2006 the encampments recorded were the same group of Travellers moving around the district.
- 5.3.8 Further local information provided by Medway to supplement the information received from the County suggested that there had been a significant reduction in the number of encampments in Medway since 2004 and that most of the encampments that have occurred since 2004 have been due to just 2 families both of whom are on waiting lists for sites outside Medway. It is believed that since 2004 as a number of long standing groups resident on encampments in the area have found permanent site provision in other areas.
- 5.3.9 The Kent County data should be treated with some caution as some encampments may have been counted more than once as they move around the district, others may have been missed, and the data for 2006 only shows those encampments that were ended in 2006, not those that were on-going. However, there does appear to be clear evidence for transit provision in Swale while all districts show some unauthorised encampment activity.
- 5.3.10 The data also suggests that encampments are moving through the study area throughout the year, although as would be expected there is a higher flow during the first 6 months. The table below shows the flow of encampments during 2006, with data provided by the County.

Table 5-2 *Unauthorised Encampments 2006 By Month*

	Dartford	Gravesham	Medway (data only available Oct - Dec)	Swale	Total
January	0	2	NK	5	7
February	1	1	NK	7	9
March	0	6	NK	2	8
April	0	0	NK	3	3
May	0	1	NK	2	3
June	6	1	NK	5	12
July	0	1	NK	5	6
August	2	0	NK	3	5
September	0	0	NK	0	0
October	1	0	5	0	1
November	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	12	5	32	59

- 5.3.11 The Kent County Council Select Committee report showed that 11% (23) of all unauthorised sites in Kent (not Medway) were on unauthorised encampments. This represents an overall decline in the number of encampments over time; there has been a corresponding growth in the number of unauthorised developments. The Select Committee report is consistent with our findings suggesting a desire for households on encampments to settle in the area rather than move through.
- 5.3.12 The Select Committee recommendations included:
- Kent County Council, in partnership with all Kent local authorities, to take joint responsibility for the establishment of a network of transit sites across Kent.

- All Transit and permanent site provision in Kent should have amenities and services and ensure adequate health and safety measures are taken.
 - Where transit sites are provided in Kent by the district authorities, Kent County Council should offer its expertise in managing sites that have special challenges.
 - For Kent local authorities to ensure any new transit sites in Kent should be self-financing.
- 5.3.13 Transit provision is a contentious issue locally, as discussed in the Select Committee report (May 2006) a need for transit provision in Kent had been evidenced as early as 2002. Although discussions have taken place between Kent County Council and District Councils, barriers to provision have included difficulties gaining political and public support.
- 5.3.14 Discussions with staff and community representatives in other areas (e.g. Wiltshire and Bedfordshire) strongly suggested that transit provision can be problematic in management terms and contentious in political terms. Our experience in other areas has suggested that transit sites are difficult and expensive to manage, with higher levels of damage to sites, and more likelihood of disturbances on transit sites. On the other hand, well managed and equipped transit sites may be difficult to move people on from, and were in danger of becoming unofficial permanent sites.
- 5.3.15 The Kent County Council select committee report recommendation addresses these issues through strong management locally and looks to changes in the planning system and new Government funding to ease the way for new provision locally.
- 5.3.16 In 2003/4 the Kent County Gypsy Unit carried out an exercise to help determine the full cost of managing unauthorised encampments in Kent and Medway across the public sector. The total reported costs to agencies were £270,000, although the actual cost may have been as high as £300,000 at the time as some agencies did not respond. Local staff in Medway reported a significant fall in the cost of managing unauthorised encampments in Medway since 2004, as would be expected given the fall in the number of encampments recorded.
- 5.3.17 The cost of dealing with unauthorised encampments was then compared to the cost of new provision. If grants are made available from Government, revenue costs can be estimated at £30,000 - £60,000 for a transit site, providing a strong financial argument for transit provision. Strategically this was also in line with Kent County Council's approach to tackling social issues through preventative measures.
- 5.3.18 The Caravan Count, local data from Kent County Council and Medway and the survey data provides an insight into unauthorised encampment activity over time; however, some care should be taken in assuming that encampments necessarily equate to a need for transit pitches.
- 5.3.19 The GTAA guidance assumes that households on unauthorised encampments should be assessed as having a need for a permanent pitch within the study area; in the district they are found. The survey methodology assumes households living on an encampment have a need for a permanent pitch, to be met locally unless they have a base elsewhere. The survey identified just 3 households on encampments have no base elsewhere and ideally they would also prefer to remain in the study area.

- 5.3.20 From the survey and secondary data, a small managed transit site is recommended in Swale. Care should be taken not to over provide transit pitches at this stage. We strongly recommend that although some transit provision is needed, the focus of new provision should be on meeting the need for permanent pitches up to 2011. A further GTAA in 2011 should assess the progress in meeting the need for permanent pitches and the residual demand for transit pitches to facilitate movement.
- 5.3.21 Transit provision may also be an issue for SEERA within the South East Plan. Transit provision should be planned in the context of the need identified across Kent and the South East.
- 5.3.22 Management of transit sites should build on the high level of joint working already achieved around unauthorised encampments via the Unauthorised Encampments Working Group and Kent Unauthorised Encampment Monitoring Group. The joint protocol developed between Kent County Council, the Police and local authorities may form the basis of further agreements on the use and management of transit sites across the County.

6 FINDINGS FOR HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN BRICKS AND MORTAR ACCOMMODATION

6.1 Current Accommodation

- 6.1.1 39 interviews were conducted with Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 6.1.2 It can be difficult to access Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar accommodation as there is little monitoring by agencies recording Gypsy and Traveller ethnicity, and those who do monitor are unable, for data protection reasons, to share the information.
- 6.1.3 Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar accommodation in North Kent were identified from a number of sources including Gypsies and Travellers living on sites that had friends or family living in bricks and mortar and introduced Mill Field Services to them, Travellers Education Service who have data on Gypsy and Traveller families with children in bricks and mortar accommodation, and word of mouth.
- 6.1.4 This section considers the current accommodation circumstances of those Gypsies and Travellers in North Kent living in bricks and mortar accommodation. The data has not been weighted, as the total population of Gypsy and Traveller households in bricks and mortar accommodation is not known. We recommend that systems be put in place to record Gypsy and Traveller households in social housing to enable a clearer picture of the needs of this group to be reflected in future GTAAs.
- 6.1.5 The households interviewed were spread across the study area, with 43.6% (17) of households in Gravesham, 28.2% (11) in Swale Borough, 20.5% (8) lived in Dartford and the remaining 7.7% (3) in Medway.

Table 6-1 Accommodation Status

	%	N ^{os.}
Temporary	0.0	0
Permanent	100.0	39
A care-of address	0.0	0
Total	100.0	39

- 6.1.6 Of the 39 households, all were living in permanent accommodation.

Table 6-2 Type Of Gypsy / Traveller

	%	N ^{os.}
Romany Gypsy	82.1	32
English Traveller	12.7	5
Gypsy Roma	2.6	1
Other	2.6	1
Total	100.0	39

- 6.1.7 82.1% (32) of households interviewed in bricks and mortar housing were Romany Gypsy, 12.7% (5) were English Travellers and 2.6% (1) were Gypsy Roma. 2.6% (1) stated 'other', this being 'Gorger' (a non Gypsy married to a Traveller).

6.1.8 Households were asked what type of accommodation they had in their current location or elsewhere. 39 households responded indicating they were currently living in a house / flat / bungalow / maisonette. None of the respondents had any vehicles or living accommodation elsewhere. 1 household also had a mobile home, 6 had a touring caravan, and 7 had a work vehicle at their current location.

6.1.9 All of the households were living in their main accommodation.

6.1.10 Households were asked how many bedrooms they had in their accommodation. Based on a 100% response rate (39) the average number of bedrooms was 2.8.

Table 6-3 How Many Bedrooms Does Your Accommodation Have?

Question 3h

Number	%	N ^{os.}
One	2.6	1
Two	12.8	5
Three	84.6	33
Four or more	0.0	0
Total	100.0	39

Table 6-4 Type Of Accommodation

Question 3j

Type	%	N ^{os.}
House	92.1	35
Bungalow	2.6	1
Flat / Maisonette	5.3	2
Supported Housing (including sheltered)	0.0	0
Staying rent free	0.0	0
Total	100.0	38

6.1.11 Based on responses from 38 households, 92.1% (35) said their main accommodation was a house.

Table 6-5 Do You Own the Accommodation or Rent?

Question 3k

	%	N ^{os.}
Owner-Occupied	18.4	7
Renting from private landlord	2.6	1
Council tenant	44.8	17
RSL / HA tenant	34.2	13
Rent from family / friend or employer	0.0	0
Total	100.0	38

6.1.12 Based on responses from 38 households, 18.4% (7) of the group were owner occupiers, 81.6% (31) were renting, of whom 79.0% (30) were renting in the social housing sector.

- 6.1.13 All 39 households answered the question on adequacy of their current accommodation. Of these 74.4% (29) said their accommodation was adequate.
- 6.1.14 Reasons for inadequacy included that the accommodation too small (3), problems with neighbours (2), and wanted to travel again (2). 12.8% (5) gave other reasons for inadequacy all of which related to the preference for living on a site rather than in a house.
- 6.1.15 Households were asked if they felt their accommodation was overcrowded for their household needs. Based on a response from 38 households, 15.8% (6) felt that their accommodation was overcrowded.
- 6.1.16 Of the 6 households who felt their accommodation was overcrowded, 83.3% (5) stated that they need more living space, 33.3% (2) need more work space, 33.3% need storage space and 16.7% (1) need other space.
- 6.1.17 All households were asked how long they had lived in their current accommodation, all 39 households responded. The majority of whom appeared to be well settled. 59.0% (23) had lived in their current home for more than 5 years. 25.5% (10) of the group had lived in their home for more than 1 year but less than 5 years.

Table 6-6 **How Long Have You Lived Here?**

Question 3n

	%	N ^{os.}
A day or two	0.0	0
Less than one week	0.0	0
Less than one month	0.0	0
Less than 3 months	2.6	1
Less than 6 months	2.6	1
6 months but less than 1 year	10.3	4
1 year but less than 5 years	25.5	10
5 years and over	59.0	23
Total	100.0	39

- 6.1.18 All households were asked about the good and bad things about where they lived. In terms of the good things, respondents made an average of 7.6 responses each, with access to shops 94.7% (36) and access to GP surgery 92.1% (35) being the most positive aspects.

- 6.1.19 There was a far lower response rate when considering the bad things about the area (43.6%), with respondents making an average of 1.4 responses each. The main concerns were problems with neighbours 47.1% (8), and the neighbourhood 52.9% (9).

Table 6-7 *What Are The Good / Bad Things About Where You Live Now?*
Question 3o

	%Good	N ^{os.}	%Bad	N ^{os.}
Accommodation	73.7	28	41.2	7
Neighbourhood	65.8	25	52.9	9
Neighbours / other people	76.3	29	47.1	8
Location	76.3	29	41.2	7
Access to shops	94.7	36	11.8	2
Access to GP surgery	92.1	35	17.6	3
Access to schools	81.6	31	5.9	1
Access to work	60.5	23	23.5	4
Access to family	84.2	32	23.5	4
Surrounding environment	52.6	20	29.4	5
Temporary accommodation	0.0	0	0.0	0
Other	0.0	0	11.8	2
Total Responses		288		52

6.2 Recent Accommodation

- 6.2.1 This section looks at where households currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation lived before moving to their current accommodation.

Table 6-8 *What Sort Of Accommodation Did You Have Before?*
Question 4a

	%	N ^{os.}
This is my first / only accommodation	2.6	1
House / Bungalow / Flat / Maisonette	30.8	12
Supported Housing (including sheltered)	0.0	0
Mobile home – Permanent site	17.9	7
Touring caravan / trailer – Permanent site	17.9	7
Touring caravan / trailer – Unauthorised site	15.4	6
Touring caravan / trailer – Transit site	15.4	6
Van	0.0	0
Other	0.0	0
Total	100.0	39

- 6.2.2 Of the 39 households responding to the question only one household has never lived anywhere else. 30.8% (12) of those currently living in permanent accommodation had also previously lived in a house / bungalow / flat / maisonette. 26 households, 66.6% had previously lived on a site.

- 6.2.3 Households who had previously lived on a site were asked why they had moved into bricks and mortar housing; 25.0% (7) had moved because they wanted to stop travelling; 21.4% (6) because no site was available. The majority (35.7%) gave other reasons, including problems with neighbours, a desire to live a settled life, the need for more space, family reasons and eviction from a site. The reasons given suggested a fairly even split of push factors (no site available) and pull factors (wanted to stop travelling).

Table 6-9 Why Did You Move Into Bricks & Mortar Housing From a Site?

Question 4c

	%	N ^{os.}
No site available	21.4	6
Health reasons	10.7	3
Schooling for children	10.7	3
To be near a relative	0.0	0
Employment reasons	0.0	0
Wished to stop travelling	25.0	7
Other	35.7	10
Total Responses		29

- 6.2.4 All households, apart from the one who had never lived anywhere else were then asked where they used to live.

Table 6-10 Where Did You Used To Live?

Question 4d

	%	N ^{os.}
Dartford	7.9	7
Gravesham	23.7	9
Medway	10.5	4
Swale	13.2	5
Sevenoaks	7.9	3
Tonbridge & Malling	0.0	0
Tunbridge Wells	0.0	0
Maidstone	10.5	4
Ashford	0.0	0
Elsewhere in Kent	5.3	2
Wealden	0.0	0
Tandridge	0.0	0
Bromley	0.0	0
Bexley	0.0	0
Elsewhere in Greater London	5.3	2
Elsewhere in the South East	2.6	1
Within the UK but outside the South East	10.5	4
Ireland	0.0	0
Outside the UK	2.6	1
Total	100.0	42

- 6.2.5 The majority of households had previously lived in the North Kent study area, 55.3% (25), a further 23.7% (9) had moved from another part of Kent. 8 households had moved from outside Kent (21%).

Table 6-11 How Long Did You Live There?

Question 4f

	%	N ^{os.}
Less than 1 week	0.0	0
Less than 1 month	0.0	0
Less than 3 months	2.6	1
Less than 6 months	0.0	0
6 months but less than 1 year	7.9	3
1 year but less than 5 years	21.1	8
5 years to 10 years	18.4	7
10 years and over	50.0	19
Total	100.0	38

- 6.2.6 50.0% (19) of households currently in permanent accommodation had lived in their previous home for 10 years or more. 18.4% (7) had lived in their previous home for 5 to 10 years and 21.1% (8) had lived in their previous home for 1 year but less than five years, again suggesting a settled sample.

6.3 Travel

- 6.3.1 All households were asked if they were willing to answer questions about their travelling patterns. This section gives details of the travelling behaviour of Gypsies and Travellers interviewed in permanent bricks and mortar accommodation in the North Kent area.
- 6.3.2 The ability of Gypsy and Traveller households currently living in permanent accommodation to travel may be limited by terms of tenancy that restrict the keeping of caravans or other vehicles at their home; or make it difficult to maintain a tenancy when they are away from home for long periods. Of the 39 respondents living in bricks and mortar housing, 25.6% (10) had gone travelling in the last 12 months, (this compared to 30% of the site based sample).

Table 6-12 How Many Times Have You Gone Travelling in the Last 12 Months?

Question 7c

	%	N ^{os.}
Once	20.0	2
Twice	20.0	2
Three	30.0	3
Four	10.0	1
Five or more	20.0	2
Total	100.0	10

- 6.3.3 Of those who had travelled, 2 had travelled once, 2 twice, 3 three times, 1 four times and the remaining 2 had travelled five or more times in the last 12 months.

6.3.4 Although 10 households had travelled in the last 12 months, 18 households responded to the following question asking how many households travelled together and 18 responses were given on how many vehicles travelled suggesting there were 8 households who had not travelled in the last 12 months but none the less do travel occasionally.

Table 6-13 When You Travel How Many Households Travel?

Question 7d

	% Households	N ^{os.}
Own household	11.1	2
One other household	0.0	0
Two households	0.0	0
Three households	22.2	4
Four households	5.6	1
Five or more households	61.1	11
Total	100.0	18

Table 6-14 When You Travel How Many Vehicles Travel?

Question 5d

	%Vehicles	N ^{os.}
One	0.0	0
Two	11.1	2
Three	5.6	1
Four	22.2	4
Five	0.0	0
Six	0.0	0
Seven	11.1	2
Eight	22.2	4
Nine	0.0	0
Ten	16.7	3
Eleven	0.0	0
Twelve	11.1	2
Total	100.0	18

6.3.5 An average of 4 households are travelling together with 6.7 vehicles, generally the bricks and mortar sample were travelling in larger groups and with more vehicles than were the site based sample where the average was 4 vehicles and 2-5 households.

Table 6-15 What Is The Main Reason For Travelling?

Question 7g

	%	N ^{os.}
Culture	61.1	11
Festival	38.9	7
Total	100.0	18

6.3.6 Culture and festivals were the only reasons given for travelling.

6.3.7 Those who travel were asked at what times of year they regularly travel, typical travel months are over the summer: June, July and August, with few households travelling at other times. Travelling times appeared to be more restricted among households living in bricks and mortar accommodation compared to the site based sample.

Table 6-16 What Times of Year Do You Regularly Travel

Question 7f

	%	N ^{os.}
All year around	5.6	1
January	0.0	0
February	0.0	0
March	0.0	0
April	11.1	2
May	33.3	6
June	77.4	14
July	72.2	13
August	72.2	13
September	22.2	4
October	11.1	2
November	0.0	0
December	0.0	0
Total		55

Table 6-17 When You Travel, How Long Are You Away From Your Accommodation?

Question 7e

	%	N ^{os.}
Up to a week	11.1	2
Up to a month	66.6	12
1-3 months	16.7	3
3-6 months	5.6	1
More than 6 months	0.0	0
Total	100.0	18

6.3.8 Of the 18 households responding to the question 66.6% (12) are away from their accommodation for up to a month.

6.4 Planning

Table 6-18 Have You Ever Applied For Planning Permission?

Question 8a

	%	N ^{os.}
Yes for a new site	17.9	7
Yes to extend or adapt current planning permission	0.0	0
No	82.1	32
Total	100.0	39

- 6.4.1 All households responded to a question on planning permission. 7 households had applied for planning for permission for a new site (17.9%), of which 1 had been granted full planning permission, 1 temporary planning permission and 1 was making a current application. The one household awaiting a decision of application / appeal and they had been waiting for a decision of more than 6 months.
- 6.4.2 Of the 7 households who had applied for planning permission, 42.9% (3) applied in Gravesham, 14.3% (1) in Dartford and 14.3% (1) in Medway. The remaining 2 households applied outside the study area.

6.5 You and Your Family

- 6.5.1 Data was collected on the age and sex of individual household members. From the data collected we were able to build up a picture of the households in the sample. The findings are summarised in the table below.

Table 6-19 Family Composition

Family structure	%	N ^{os.}	Group %
1 adult over 60	5.4	2	8.1
1 adult under 60	2.7	1	
1 adult and others	0.0	0	
Couple no children	18.9	7	59.4
Couple with children	40.5	15	
Couple and others	0.0	0	
Single parent	32.5	12	32.5
Total	100.0	37	100.0

- 6.5.2 Compared to households living on a site, a lower proportion of those living in permanent bricks and mortar accommodation were couples and couples with children: 59.5% compared to 70.9% of those on sites.
- 6.5.3 There was also a far higher proportion of single parent households (32.5%) in bricks and mortar housing compared to those on sites (20.4%) and compared to the national average (9%).
- 6.5.4 In terms of the age of head of household and other household members, based on responses from 38 heads of household, the DCA survey found 47.4% (18) of heads of household living in bricks and mortar housing to be aged between 25 and 44, compared to 38.6% of those living on a site. The proportion of under 16s living on sites was 36.1% (171 children) compared to 47.9% of those living in permanent bricks and mortar accommodation. A total of 44 children aged under 16 years were identified as living in permanent accommodation within the sample.

Table 6-20 Age Of Household Members

Question 5a

Age of household members	Head of household		All household members	
	%	N ^{os.}	%	N ^{os.}
0 – 10	0.0	0	26.2	24
11 – 15	0.0	0	21.7	20
16 – 24	2.6	1	21.7	20
25 – 44	47.4	18	16.3	15
45 – 59	23.7	9	8.7	8
60 – 74	23.7	9	5.4	5
75+	2.6	1	0.0	0
Total	100.0	38	100.0	92

6.5.5 The average number of people per household was 3.3 amongst those living in permanent accommodation, compared to 3.1 amongst respondents living on site. The average family size is higher amongst Gypsy and Traveller families than within the general population (2.4 in the Census).

6.6 Access to Services and Facilities

6.6.1 The following section presents data on access to schooling and medical facilities for households currently living in permanent accommodation. Data is also presented on the incidence of disability within the household and access to adaptations.

6.6.2 27 households included children. 3 households were identified as having school age children who were not in school (11.1%); 4 households had children who received home schooling support from the Local Authority (this includes the 3 already identified as not having their children in school).

6.6.3 However 6 households said that their current accommodation affects their child's schooling: in 3 cases the household had difficulties getting a school place; in 2 cases the households were afraid to send the children to school because of local hostility.

6.6.4 3 families had moved in the last 12 months in order to access schools, 2 had moved within the local authority area and one had moved from outside their current local authority area.

6.6.5 97.4% (38) of households currently living in permanent accommodation were registered with a local doctor. The other 1 household was registered with a doctor elsewhere. Of households living on a site, 90.0% were registered with a doctor in their current area.

Table 6-21 Do You Consider Anyone in Your Household to Have A Disability or A Serious Long Term Illness?

Question 6h

	%	N ^{os.}
Yes	66.7	26
No	33.3	13
Total	100.0	39

- 6.6.6 26 households in the sample had a member with a disability or long term illness (66.7%). The incidence of disability was far higher amongst Gypsy and Traveller households in permanent bricks and mortar accommodation than it was amongst those living on sites (28.9%). This would suggest that ill health may be a spur to settlement (these findings are consistent with the CURS study (2005) “An Assessment of the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies and Travellers in South and West Hertfordshire”).
- 6.6.7 When households in the DCA sample were asked the reasons for moving into bricks and mortar accommodation from a site, 3 households indicated that they had moved into bricks and mortar accommodation for health reasons.
- 6.6.8 The majority of household members with a disability or limiting long term illness were aged 45 and over (62.9%; 17).
- 6.6.9 Households containing a member with a disability or limiting long term illness were asked further questions about the nature of the disability / illness and the adaptations available to support members of the household. When considering the nature of the disability all 26 households with a disabled member responded. On average respondents gave 1.8 answers each. The highest proportion 42.3% (11) had a limiting long term illness, 38.5% (10) had other physical disabilities and 38.5% (10) had an asthmatic / respiratory problem.

Table 6-22 What Is the Nature of the Disability?

Question 6i

	%	N ^{os.}
Wheelchair user	0.0	0
Walking difficulty (not in wheelchair)	19.2	5
Learning disability	7.7	2
Mental health problem	19.2	5
Visual / Hearing impairment	15.4	4
Asthmatic / respiratory problem	38.5	10
Other physical disability	38.5	10
Limiting long term illness	42.3	11
Total Responses		47

- 6.6.10 In 13 cases the disability / illness was found to limit activity. The following question found that in 6 cases there was a need for adaptations to the home. 12 households indicated that a member with a disability needed regular medical treatment by a doctor or hospital.

Table 6-23 Does the Illness or Disability Mean You / Family Need Provision of?

Question 6m

Housing Required	%	N ^{os.}
Adaptations to your home	46.2	6
Regular medical treatment at doctor or hospital	92.3	12
Regular prescription	92.3	12
Care & support from family / friends	84.6	11
Care & support from social services / voluntary	15.4	2
Total Responses		43

- 6.6.11 Although only 6 households indicated in Table 6-23 that they needed adaptations, 8 people responded (30.8% of those with a disability) to a further multiple choice question asking about the type of adaptations required, making an average of 2.3 choices per household. Need was focused on bath/ shower and toilet adaptations and handrails.

Table 6-24 What Kind Of Adaptations Do You Need?

Question 6n

	%	N ^{os.}
Ramps outside / inside	37.5	3
(Additional) handrails / outside / inside	62.5	5
Any other alterations for better access	0.0	0
Stair lift / vertical lift	0.0	0
Stair rail	37.5	3
Kitchen specially designed or adapted	0.0	0
Bath / shower, toilet specially designed or adapted	87.5	7
Bath / shower / toilet relocated	0.0	0
Hoist (bath or bed)	0.0	0
Electrical modifications	0.0	0
Total Responses		18

- 6.6.12 6 households had already had adaptations done by the Local Authority and 3 respondents had done the adaptations themselves.

6.7 Harassment

- 6.7.1 This section looks at the experiences of harassment amongst Gypsy and Traveller households currently living in permanent accommodation.
- 6.7.2 The level of harassment was higher among the sample interviewed in bricks and mortar accommodation than for those living on sites. 20.5% (8) of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation had experienced harassment at their current home (compared to 9.7% in the sites sample) and 15.4% (6) in their previous home (compared to 19.8% in the sites sample).
- 6.7.3 Of those who had experienced harassment in their current home, 87.5% (7) said they were harassed by local residents in the area, similarly 83.3% (5) who said they were harassed in their previous home said this was by local residents in the area.
- 6.7.4 23.8% (21) of the sample had left accommodation as a result of harassment; in 19 of these cases (90%) the harassment had taken place at home. 14 respondents said they would take harassment into consideration when deciding to move again (35.9%).

6.8 Work

6.8.1 This section deals with the working patterns of Gypsy and Traveller respondents currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation, including problems with working and issues around travel to work.

Table 6-25 Type Of Employment

Question 12c

	%	N ^{os.}
Self-employed	26.3	10
Employed	0.0	0
Unemployed	0.0	0
Retired	26.3	10
Cannot work due to disability	10.5	4
Housewife / look after home	36.9	14
Total	100.0	38

6.8.2 26.3% of households living in permanent bricks and mortar accommodation were self employed (10). 36.9% were looking after the home.

6.8.3 2 households (5.3%) said they live in their bricks and mortar property to be close to work.

6.8.4 None of the households had moved in the last 12 months due to difficulties getting work. Although 5 households indicated that they found it difficult to get work due to prejudice towards Gypsy & Travellers.

6.8.5 12 households said they had to travel for work. The following locations were given, with the majority travelling within the study area, one household gave 2 locations.

Table 6-26 Where Do You Travel To?

Question 12g

	%	N ^{os.}
Dartford	16.7	2
Gravesham	41.7	5
Medway	0.0	0
Swale	8.3	1
Elsewhere in Kent	8.3	1
Elsewhere in the South East	25.0	3
Within the UK but outside the South East	8.3	1
Total		13

6.9 Income and Financial Support

- 6.9.1 The income of all household members was recorded to give a total annual income for the household before tax and other deductions. The response rate to the income question was 81.6% (31). This is high in our survey experience and in line with general housing needs experience rather than DCA's experience of Gypsy and Traveller households, where a reluctance to disclose income data is often found.

Table 6-27 Total Annual Income of Household

Question 14a

	%	N ^{os.}
Below £10,000	80.6	25
£10,000 – £20,000	19.4	6
£20,001 - £30,000	0.0	0
£30,001 - £40,000	0.0	0
£40,001 - £50,000	0.0	0
£50,001 - £60,000	0.0	0
£60,001 - £70,000	0.0	0
£70,001 - £75,000	0.0	0
Above £75,000	0.0	0
Total	100.0	31

- 6.9.2 80.6% (25) of households living in permanent accommodation had incomes below £10,000, compared to 92.6% of respondents living on a site, suggesting a slightly higher average income for households living in bricks and mortar accommodation although this data should be treated with some caution given the low sample size.
- 6.9.3 76.9% (30) of those living in permanent accommodation indicated that they receive financial support. Respondents made an average of 3.1 choices each, compared to 2.7 for respondents living on sites, suggesting that households in permanent accommodation may be better placed to access financial support.

Table 6-28 Does Your Household Receive Any Financial Support?

Question 14c

	% (of 30)	N ^{os.}
Housing Benefit	66.7	20
Income Support	46.7	14
Pension Credit	20.0	6
Job Seekers Allowance	3.3	1
Working Family Tax Credit	13.3	4
Disability Allowance	16.7	5
Attendance Allowance	6.7	2
State Pension	23.3	7
Child Benefit	46.7	14
Council Tax Benefit	30.0	9
Total Responses		82

- 6.9.4 27 households answered a question regarding rent they could afford to pay each week if they decided to move to a site. 18.5% (5) could afford to pay between £41 and £50. The majority (37.0%; 10) could afford to pay between £51 and £60 per week and a further 29.6% (8) could afford to pay above £60 per week. 14.8% (4) could afford to pay less than £40 per week.

6.10 Future Accommodation Needs

- 6.10.1 Moving Intentions of Households Currently Living in Bricks and Mortar Housing.

- 6.10.2 The moving intentions and future accommodation requirements of the sample were considered through a set of questions to help identify the need for future planning site provision.

Table 6-29 *Are You Intending To Move from Your Current House?*

Question 13a

	%	N ^{os.}
No	53.8	21
Wish to move but cannot	35.9	14
Yes within a month	7.7	3
Yes within 3 months	0.0	0
Yes within 6 months	0.0	0
Yes within a year	2.6	1
Yes within 3 years	0.0	0
Yes within 5 years	0.0	0
Total	100.0	39

- 6.10.3 Of all the households responding in the bricks and mortar sample 4 households had plans to move from their current home, 3 within a month and 1 household within a year. The majority (53.8%) were settled and had no plans to move.
- 6.10.4 35.9% (14) wish to move but cannot. 13 households answered the following question on why they are unable to move, giving an average of 1.1 responses each. 7 stated they could not get a pitch on a site, 1 was unable to move for family reasons and 6 gave other reasons.
- 6.10.5 All moving households were asked if they would prefer to stay in housing or move back onto a site. 7 households responded to this question even though only 4 said they planned a move, suggesting some of those wishing to move but unable to do so immediately will none the less hope to do so within the next 3 years. Of these only 3 households planned to stay in housing, the remaining 4 planned to go back to a site.

Table 6-30 Why Are You Intending To Move from Your Current House?

Question 13g

	%	N ^{os.}
Would prefer to live on site	57.1	4
Do not want to live in a house	28.6	2
Accommodation not adequate	14.3	1
Neighbourhood	28.6	2
Neighbours / other people	14.3	1
Location	0.0	0
Too far from the shops	0.0	0
Too far from GP surgery	0.0	0
Too far from schools	0.0	0
Too far from work	0.0	0
Too far from family	0.0	0
Want to travel to specific event	0.0	0
Always travel at this time of year	0.0	0
Harassment	28.6	2
Nearer family and friends	14.3	1
No security of tenure	0.0	0
Do not like it here	42.9	3
Other	0.0	0
Total Responses		16

6.10.6 7 households intending to move gave an average of 2.3 reasons for moving; with a preference to live on a site being the most common reason for moving.

Table 6-31 What Area Are You Moving To When You Leave?

Question 13i

	%	N ^{os.}
Dartford	28.6	2
Gravesham	57.1	4
Swale	0.0	0
Medway	0.0	0
Sevenoaks	0.0	0
Elsewhere in Kent	14.3	1
Within the UK but outside the South East	14.3	1
Total Responses		8

- 6.10.7 Based on responses from 7 households, DCA found that 6 movers intend to remain in the North Kent area, with preferences focused on Gravesham, reflecting the higher sample in Gravesham.

Table 6-32 Are You On Any Site / House Waiting Lists?

Question 13h

	%	N ^{os.}
Yes – housing waiting list	14.3	1
Yes – site waiting list	0.0	0
No	85.7	6
Total	100.0	7

- 6.10.8 Only 1 household is registered on a housing waiting list. The remainder are not on any waiting list.

6.11 Needs of New Households Forming

- 6.11.1 6 households currently living in bricks and mortar housing indicated that they had a family member who would be looking for independent accommodation in the next 3 years (23.1% of the sample). In 4 cases there was one family member involved and in 2 cases there were two family members looking for independent accommodation, suggesting 8 individuals will be seeking their own accommodation.
- 6.11.2 2 households answered the question regarding the age of the family members looking for independent accommodation. Both concealed household members were aged 16-19.
- 6.11.3 Those requiring independent accommodation were asked whether they want to live on a site or in bricks and mortar housing. All (8) wanted to live on a site. Of those requiring independent accommodation on a site, 3 wanted to live on an authorised Local Authority site, 1 on an authorised private site, 1 on a tolerated encampment and 1 on a non tolerated unauthorised development.
- 6.11.4 Of those who wish to move to a private site or private land, 2 wished to live on a site owned by themselves or their family with full planning permission granted and 2 wished to live on a site owned by themselves or their family with no planning permission.
- 6.11.5 Of those responding, one new household was looking for accommodation in Dartford, 1 in Gravesham and 4 in Swale.
- 6.11.6 All 39 households were asked if they had a family member had moved out of the area in the last three years because no pitches were available. 33.3% (13) said they had. Of these 90.9% (10), said they would return if there were more suitable sites available.

6.12 Ideal Sites

6.12.1 The following questions ask households currently living in bricks and mortar housing for their views on what would make an ideal site.

Table 6-33 *What Is The Maximum Number Of Pitches A Site Should Have?*

Question 17a

	% Transit	N ^{os.}	% Permanent	N ^{os.}
1 -5	0.0	0	2.6	1
6 - 10	23.7	9	15.8	6
11 – 15	44.7	17	63.2	24
16 – 20	21.1	8	18.4	7
21 - 25	2.6	1	0.0	0
26 – 30	7.9	3	0.0	0
Over 30	0.0	0	00	0
Total	100.0	38	100.0	38

6.12.2 In line with findings from the site based sample most households preferred smaller sites, with 68.4% (26) of households preferring transit sites with 15 or less pitches. 81.6% (31) of those expressing a view on the size of permanent sites would prefer sites of 15 pitches or less.

Table 6-34 *What Would Be Your Ideal Type Of Accommodation?*

Question 17b

	%	N ^{os.}
Mobile home	48.7	19
Touring caravan / trailer	12.8	5
Van as living accommodation	0.0	0
Other vehicle	0.0	0
Other	38.5	15
Total	100.0	39

- 6.12.3 Similarly to those currently living on a site, the ideal type of accommodation is a mobile home, mentioned by 48.7% (19) respondents. 38.5% (15) stated 'other', of which 14 specified a house.

Table 6-35 **Where Would Be Your Ideal Location?**

Question 17c

	%	N ^{os.}
Dartford	25.6	10
Gravesham	33.3	13
Medway	10.3	4
Swale	20.5	8
Sevenoaks	0.0	0
Tonbridge & Malling	0.0	0
Tunbridge Wells	0.0	0
Maidstone	2.6	1
Ashford	0.0	0
Elsewhere in Kent	5.1	2
Wealden	0.0	0
Tandridge	0.0	0
Bromley	0.0	0
Bexley	0.0	0
Elsewhere in Greater London	0.0	0
Elsewhere in the South East	0.0	0
Within the UK but outside the South East	2.6	1
Ireland	0.0	0
Outside the UK	0.0	0
Total Responses	100.0	39

- 6.12.4 In response to a multiple choice question, the majority of households (33.3%) wanted to live in Gravesham and 25.6% wanted to live in Dartford, again reflecting the distribution of interviews and the fact that most people prefer to remain in the area they are currently living.

- 6.12.5 Of those responding (29 households) 86.2% (25) would prefer to live in rural areas, and 31.8% (4) in a Town.

Table 6-36 What Would Your Ideal Tenure Be?

Question 17f

	%	N ^{os.}
Site owned by you / family with planning permission granted	73.8	28
Site owned by you / family with planning permission not granted	0.0	0
Site owned by another Gypsy / Traveller with planning permission granted	0.0	0
Site owned by another Gypsy / Traveller with planning permission not granted	0.0	0
Site owned by Council	18.4	7
Site owned by RSL / HA	0.0	0
Site owned by private landlord	0.0	0
Unauthorized encampment – privately owned	2.6	1
Unauthorized encampment – Council owned	0.0	0
Don't know	2.6	1
Other	2.6	1
Total	100.0	38

- 6.12.6 The majority of households expressed a preference for a site owned by themselves or their family with planning permission granted (73.8%; 28). Those living in bricks and mortar accommodation showed a stronger preference for sites owned by the Council (18.4%), rather than private sites, compared to site based Gypsies and Travellers.
- 6.12.7 Households were then asked what issues they thought was important in the area. All 39 households responded with all stating that access to local health facilities and services being important, followed by access to shopping facilities and education and training.

7 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS MODEL

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The Gypsy and Traveller needs model used in this report is based on latest Government Guidance (February 2006). Data used in the model is drawn both from the survey of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs (2006) and from secondary data provided by the County and individual local authorities.
- 7.1.2 Projections of need are made for the next 5 years, and the study will need to be updated in 2011. This approach is consistent with guidance (recommending projections between 5 – 10 years). Our view is that this initial study provides a starting point for development of plans and strategies to meet both the backlog of need and need arising from family formation over the next 5 years. Once the backlog of need is cleared local authorities will be in a very different position in terms of the need to plan for future family formation after 2011.
- 7.1.3 The sections below provide details of how the need for 114 new permanent pitches over the next 5 years has been calculated.
- 7.1.4 Section 6.2 outlines the supply of authorised pitches currently available across the North Kent study area. This is the total current “stock” of pitches available to accommodate Gypsy and Traveller families locally.
- 7.1.5 Section 6.3 outlines the need for permanent authorised pitches identified through the study. This includes both the backlog of need, and newly arising need from 2006 – 2011. The need identified through the survey has been compared with local waiting list data.
- 7.1.6 The backlog of need is made up from households currently living on unauthorised sites who do not have a base elsewhere; households who are overcrowded on local authorised sites within the study area; and concealed households with a need for their own accommodation.
- 7.1.7 Newly arising need from 2006 to 2011 comes from new family formation, and from households living on sites with temporary permission that will expire before 2011.
- 7.1.8 Section 6.4 examines the flow of pitches that are expected to become available through vacancies / pitch turnover on authorised local authority sites and through new planning approvals.
- 7.1.9 The supply from vacancies and new planning approvals will reduce the overall level of need identified, leaving a net figure of 114 additional permanent pitches needed between 2006 – 2011. This is shown in section 6.5.
- 7.1.10 The overall need for new pitches must be apportioned between districts; this is explored in section 6.6 to 6.10.
- 7.1.11 The identified need for transit pitches is shown in section 6.11.

7.2 Current Supply:

Table 7-1 Current Residential Supply

1	Current supply of occupied Local Authority residential site pitches in the Local Authority / partnership area (Caravan Count & Survey Data)	23
2	Current supply of occupied authorised privately owned site pitches in the Local Authority / partnership area (Caravan Count & Survey Data)	97
3	Unauthorised pitches tolerated for more than 10 years (Local Authority Data)	3
4	Total permanent supply	123

7.2.1 The total residential supply of authorised site pitches in Table 7-1 is based on the Caravan Count July 2006 and survey data. This is the published Count closest in date to the timing of the survey fieldwork (an analysis of the Caravan Count is provided at Appendix IX). The number of caravans is adjusted by the average number of living units per household in each district as found in the survey to reflect the number of households / pitches. Local data was also used to verify the count and where necessary adjustments were made to reflect an undercount of caravans on authorised sites in Gravesham (1) and Medway (12). 15 caravans counted in Dartford were excluded because they were in transit.

7.2.2 Table 7-2 below shows the calculation of the pitches for each local authority against the Caravan Count (2006).

Table 7-2 Pitches On Authorised Sites

	Caravan Count July 2006	Average living units per household	Est. number of households /pitches
Dartford	53	1.181	45
Gravesham	20	1.5	13
Swale	75	1.565	48
Medway	22	1.6	14

7.2.3 The number of households (120) on authorised sites is assumed to equal the number of pitches as no vacancies were reported by local authorities. On this basis 23 pitches were identified on Local Authority sites and 97 on private sites at lines 1 and 2 respectively in the current residential supply table above.

7.2.4 Line 2 of the supply table also includes pitches on private sites with temporary permission at the time of the study. Those where permission will expire by 2011 will also constitute a future arising need in line 14 below. The pitches included are shown in the table below.

Table 7-3 Pitches On Sites With Temporary Permission Due To Expire By 2011

District	Site	Number of pitches	Date permission expires
Dartford	Land at Woodside Cottages	2	March 2010
Gravesham	Millers Farm	2	October 2008
Gravesham	The Robins	1	October 2008
Swale	Oak Lane	9	March 2009
Swale	Salvation Place	3	February 2010
Medway	NK	NK	NK
Total		17	

7.2.5 In addition 3 households were identified living on an unauthorised site at Salinas in Dartford that had been tolerated for more than 10 years, these pitches are considered 'lawful' in planning terms and are included as supply in line 3 of Table 7-1. these households do not represent a need for new pitches in the calculations below.

7.2.6 Line 4 in Table 7-1 shows a total of 123 permanent site pitches were identified in the study area.

7.3 Need

7.3.1 Table 7-4 below examines the need for permanent site pitches within the study area. Lines 5 – 9 show the backlog of need; lines 13 - 15 show the newly arising need from 2006 – 2011. DCA have identified a backlog of 73 permanent pitches needed within the study area, and a newly arising need for 51 pitches from 2006 to 2011.

Table 7-4 Current Residential Backlog of Need

5	Households on unauthorised encampments where planning permission is not expected (Caravan Count & Survey Data)	43
6	Households on unauthorised developments where planning permission is not expected (Caravan Count & Survey Data)	
7	Households currently overcrowded on authorised sites (Survey Data)	22
8	Current back log of concealed / new family formation within existing households on sites in the next 12 months (Survey Data)	8
9	Total current residential demand backlog	73
10	Less Number of unused Local Authority pitches available in the Local Authority / partnership area and likely to be brought back into use (Local Authority Data)	0
11	Less number of households on unauthorised development pitches likely to gain planning permission (Local Authority Data)	0
12	Current shortfall	73
Newly Arising Need		
13	Family formation 2007 – 2011 (Survey Data)	34
14	Temporary consents due to expire by 2011	17
15	Total newly arising need	51

7.3.2 The following paragraphs detail line by line the needs identified through the study.

7.3.3 Lines 5/6 show the need arising from households currently living on unauthorised sites. Based on an average of the last 3 years Caravan counts the study identified 46 households living on unauthorised sites, this compared to 27 households interviewed during the fieldwork period. The survey data identified just 3 implied households living on unauthorised encampments in Gravesham with a base elsewhere, leaving 43 households (46 minus 3) reflected in lines 5/6 of the needs model above. The 3 households with a base elsewhere have a need for a transit pitch within the study area.

7.3.4 Households interviewed in the survey and living on unauthorised sites were asked where their ideal location would be. Based on implied responses from all 46 households the data showed a high level of correlation between ideal and existing locations.

7.3.5 Table 7-5 below shows the ideal locations of households on unauthorised sites within the study area. The study found just three household on unauthorised sites from Gravesham who planned to move out of the study area, 2 in the case of implied respondents from Swale. As the 2 households in Swale had no base elsewhere they have been retained within the model as having a need within the study area.

Table 7-5 Ideal Location Of Households On Unauthorised Sites

Dartford	10
Gravesham	10
Swale	21
Medway	2
Out of the study area	3
Total	46

7.3.6 (Data summarised in Table 7-10)

7.3.7 Line 7 shows the need arising from overcrowded households.

7.3.8 The definition of overcrowding given in the draft Guidance states that a pitch will be overcrowded where “family members have grown to the extent that there is now insufficient space for the family within its caravan accommodation and insufficient space on the pitch to site a further caravan”. An analysis of overcrowding is detailed in sections 4.2.15 to 4.2.18 of this report.

7.3.9 For the purposes of this model, an overcrowding calculation was carried out based on the bedroom standard: comparing the number of beds with the number of people in the household, allowing for the first 2 household members to share a bed and assuming that all other household members would have their own bed.

7.3.10 On this basis 26 households were identified as being overcrowded (this compared to 29 households who assessed themselves to be overcrowded); further analysis showed that 4 household from Swale had already been accounted for because they include a concealed household (included in line 8 of the needs table above), these households were removed to avoid double counting, leaving 22 households overcrowded in line 7 of the needs table above.

7.3.11 A cross tabulation looked at the ideal location of all overcrowded households in the survey. 26 households responded giving the following ideal locations.

Table 7-6 Ideal Location Of Overcrowded Households

Dartford	10
Gravesham	3
Swale	9
Medway	4
Total	26

(Data summarised in Table 7-10)

7.3.12 The data showed 10 overcrowded households whose ideal location was Dartford, 3 who would like to be in Gravesham, 9 with a preference for Swale (although 4 of these may already have been counted as concealed households), and 4 giving Medway as their preference.

7.3.13 The data does not allow a more detailed assessment of overcrowding. A cross tabulation suggested that 17 overcrowded households needed an additional caravan, however, it is not possible to tell whether there is space for additional living units to be provided to alleviate the overcrowding.

- 7.3.14 Examination of the Caravan Count data (DCLG Table 2) showed capacity for just one living unit per household on local authority pitches in Medway and Dartford, 2 in Gravesham, and 2 in Swale; the survey found an average of 1.5 living units on authorised sites across the study area, suggesting a limited potential for families to deal with overcrowding by putting an additional living unit on an existing pitch.
- 7.3.15 There is an assumption within the model that 2 pitches would be required for each overcrowded family. However, depending on the circumstances of the individual family and the particular site it may be possible to deal with individual cases in a number of ways. It may be possible to expand the boundaries of the site or increase the size of the individual pitch either by amalgamating 2 pitches or expanding the boundary. In some cases it may be possible for the family to have an additional living unit on the pitch; in others there will be a need for an additional pitch to accommodate an overcrowded family. DCA recommends that a feasibility study looks at options for tackling overcrowding on a site by site basis.
- 7.3.16 There is also an assumption that the overcrowding identified through the study would be addressed. However, when the survey asked respondents if their accommodation was inadequate because it was too small just 13 households on authorised sites were identified. The data suggests that some households who are technically overcrowded, on the basis of the bedroom-standard, do not in fact feel that this makes their home inadequate, and may not seek to address their overcrowding at all.
- 7.3.17 Line 8 covers the backlog of new family formation within existing households. This is identified as the number of concealed / new forming households currently living on an authorised or unauthorised site and looking for their own site accommodation within the next 12 months.
- 7.3.18 Section 4.16 of this report outlines the needs of new forming households living on sites. The survey asked existing households to identify any members of their household who would need independent accommodation in the next 3 years; a total of 25 individuals were identified (paragraph 4.16.2). To derive an annual figure for new family formation the total of 25 is divided by 3 years to give 8 new forming households per year, or 42 over the 5 year study period to 2011.
- 7.3.19 8 households are included in line 8, representing the current backlog of need; the remaining 34 are shown as a future need in line 13. It is not known how many of these individuals will form households together, they are therefore all counted individually and it is assumed they will all need separate pitches, there may be a small element of double counting.
- 7.3.20 New forming households were not asked specifically about their ideal location. However, data analysis in section 4.16 showed that all new forming households wished to remain in their current local authority area. Over the 5 years of the study period this equated to a demand from new forming households for 7 pitches in Dartford, 30 in Swale, and 5 in Medway. (This is summarised in Table 7-10)
- 7.3.21 The total current residential demand backlog (73 – line 9 of needs model) is the current backlog of unmet need. There are no unused Local Authority pitches likely to be brought back into use, reflected in line 10, and no pitches on unauthorised encampments / developments that were expected to gain planning permission were identified; as such 0 was entered at line 11.
- 7.3.22 To verify the need identified through the survey and in line with Draft Practice Guidance “Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (Feb 2006: paragraph 80) local waiting list data was requested and examined alongside the survey data.

- 7.3.23 Waiting list data was received from Swale, Medway and Dartford, showing that 5 households are waiting for a pitch in Swale, 12 in Medway, and 10 in Dartford. There is no waiting list kept for Gravesham. The identified backlog of need was 27 households (excluding Gravesham).
- 7.3.24 The need identified through the waiting list data was incomplete as data for Gravesham was not available; it also seemed low in our survey experience and in comparison to the Caravan Count and Survey data used in paragraphs 6.3.3 - 6.3.20 above. In addition it was not possible to determine from the waiting list data how many households were already counted because they are living on an unauthorised encampment or because they are overcrowded, so there was some danger of double counting; while other households with a need identified through the study may not have registered on a waiting list (producing some danger of under counting).
- 7.3.25 In assessing the backlog of need of need in Table 7-4 above, to avoid double counting, and ensure that all needs were covered the needs identified were derived from the survey findings and Caravan Count. Cross tabulations were applied to the data to eliminate any double counting.
- 7.3.26 Lines 13 – 15 of Table 7-4 address the newly arising need from 2006 –2011, this includes both new family formation up to 2011 and temporary planning consents due to expire by 2011.
- 7.3.27 Future new family formation is calculated from the survey data based on a forward projection of existing concealed households. The survey identified 8 new households forming per year, a total of 40 over the next 5 years (growth of 4.8 % / year: 8/ 166 households in Table 3-1), this level of household growth is consistent with advice from DCLG suggesting an average of between 4% and 5% average per year nationally. 8 households are included in line 8 the remaining 34 in line 13.
- 7.3.28 17 households were identified living on sites with temporary permission due to expire before 2011, including 2 in Dartford, 3 in Gravesham, and 9 in Swale. This is reflected in line 14 of the model.

7.4 Projected Supply 2006 – 2011

7.4.1 Table 7-7 below shows the projected flow of vacant pitches and new pitch approvals between 2006 – 2011.

Table 7-7 Current Projected Supply

16	Vacancies arising on authorised sites	2
17	New Local Authority pitches already planned in year 1 (Local Authority data)	0
18	Existing applications for private site development / extension likely to gain planning permission during year 1 (number of pitches) (Local Authority data)	0
19	Annual total pitches available	2
20	Available over 5 years	10

7.4.2 Data provided by each local authority on the number of vacancies on authorised public sites over the last 12 months was broadly consistent with the survey findings. The survey identified just 1 household in Medway planning to move from an authorised site, leaving a vacancy on the site. Local management data however suggested 2 vacancies per year on local authority sites (a turnover of 4.3%), in the last 12 months both of these were in Dartford. Line 16 of the model reflects local management data.

7.4.3 The actual number and location of vacancies arising in any year will depend on a number of factors, including the availability of alternative accommodation and personal family circumstances. We recommend that the flow of vacancies should be monitored on an ongoing basis both in terms of the number of vacancies arising and their location. The supply of vacancies is a critical factor in determining the need for new pitches over the next 5 years and any increase or decrease in the projected supply from vacancies will impact on the overall level of need.

7.4.4 Draft Practice Guidance “Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (Feb 2006: paragraph 80) also encourages local authorities to consider how the flow of new public or private pitch development will impact on the level of need identified through the study.

7.4.5 There are a number of problems with predicting new site development. For example approvals depend on suitable sites being available for development, on resources being available to develop sites and on successful applications being made through the planning system.

7.4.6 There is a reluctance to predict future new approvals on the basis of either historic approvals or existing applications for site development. The flow of new applications over the next 5 years is simply not known and may vary significantly from the historic patterns of provision. New provision will be planned on the basis of the need identified through the GTAA.

7.4.7 Local data did show that there are plans to provide 4 additional permanent Local Authority pitches in the next 12 months within Dartford, this is not reflected in the line 17 of the model although if these pitches are approved this will reduce the overall need identified in Dartford. The level of new provision should be monitored on an ongoing basis and used to inform future GTAAs.

7.4.8 There are no applications in the pipeline for private site development or extension that are likely to be granted. This is reflected in line 18.

- 7.4.9 The model assumes that the level of supply identified for year one: 2 pitches, will be sustained in future years, giving a total supply of 10 (line 20 in Table 7-7 above) over 5 years.

7.5 Summary of Needs Accommodation Model

- 7.5.1 The table below is a summary of the net need for additional pitches across the study area.

Table 7-8 The Need for Additional Permanent Pitches 2006 - 2011

Backlog of Need	73
Newly Arising need 2006 - 2011	51
Less supply from vacancies 2006 - 2011	10
Net Need for New Permanent Pitches	114

- 7.5.2 In addition to the needs arising from site based Gypsy and Traveller households within the study area there may also be a need from Gypsy and Traveller households currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation.
- 7.5.3 39 interviews were carried out in North Kent with Gypsy and Traveller households living in bricks and mortar accommodation. 4 existing households currently living in bricks and mortar accommodation expressed an intention to move back to a site in the next 3 years.
- 7.5.4 8 concealed households were identified as planning to move to a site over the next 5 years.
- 7.5.5 The needs of households living in bricks and mortar accommodation have not been included in the model because the raw data could not be grossed to a total known population of households in bricks and mortar accommodation; it simply represents a picture of the needs of those who were interviewed. Guidance encourages local authorities to collect this data, and it is recommend that systems be put in place to enable future Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments to be weighted for those living in bricks and mortar accommodation so that their needs can be more fully reflected in future GTAA studies.
- 7.5.6 There may also be some additional need from in-migrating households, although we believe that this will be broadly balanced by households who may leave the area. 2 implied households have moved into the study area in the last 12 months, 1.2% of the total households in the study area. However, as the needs of households planning to leave the area but with no base elsewhere have not been excluded from the model (see paragraph 7.3.5), we would expect that the in and out migration would broadly balance.
- 7.5.7 The needs of in-migrating households are reflected in other studies. SEERA may wish to make recommendations about the net level of in-migration to be planned for once they have reviewed the GTAAs across the sub-region.

7.6 Distribution of Sites

- 7.6.1 The distribution of new sites across the study area will be a matter for each local housing planning authority to determine. The data gathered in the survey is robust at a sub regional level, and provides a clear indication of needs and preferences locally.
- 7.6.2 There are a number of ways in which the new pitches needed could be distributed across the study area. Two methodologies are outlined below.

- 7.6.3 Firstly new pitches could be allocated on the basis of existing location, reflecting the survey finding that most moving households wish to remain in the areas they are currently living. This methodology would reinforce the existing patterns of settlement and make no allowance for those households who may prefer to move to another district within the study area.
- 7.6.4 Secondly further work could be done on the data to establish the existing location of individual households identified as having a need through the study. Mapping the current location of households on unauthorised sites, those who have been identified as overcrowded, those with new forming households, and those on sites with temporary permission and then assuming that need should be met in the area where it arises. The distribution of new pitches on this basis is shown in columns 3 and 4 of Table 7-9 below and is compared to the current distribution of Gypsy and Traveller households across the study area (column 2).
- 7.6.5 Table 7-9 shows that broadly need is arising in proportion to the existing population of Gypsy and Traveller households in each district, with a marginally higher level of need in Swale than would be anticipated on the basis of the proportional distribution of all existing Gypsy and Traveller households alone.

Table 7-9 *Projected Need For New Pitches 2006 - 2011 Based On the Allocation of new pitches in the area in which need arises*

	Existing location as a % of the current Gypsy & Traveller population	% Distribution of new pitches in the areas in which need arises	Distribution of new pitches in the areas in which need arise
Dartford Borough	33.2	23.4	29
Gravesham Borough	15.6	12.9	16
Medway	8.5	7.3	9
Swale Borough	42.7	56.4	70
Total	100.0	100	124

- 7.6.6 Thirdly the data can be analysed to establish the moving intentions of individual households identified as having a need to be met over the next 5 years. Rather than basing the allocation of new pitches on existing location this methodology allows for movement between districts within the study area, building in the expressed preferences of individual households.
- 7.6.7 This is our preferred methodology and allows new pitches to be allocated on the basis of the preferences expressed by households with a specific need identified through the study. For example, cross tabulations can be used to establish the ideal location of overcrowded households, new forming households and households currently living on unauthorised sites. Once the overall level of need is established in each local authority area the flow of vacancies anticipated can be deducted from the total leaving a net need for new pitches in each local authority area.
- 7.6.8 Table 7-10 below show the distribution of new pitches on the basis of preferences expressed by individual needs groups through the survey. Table 7-11 summarises the net need for new pitches in each local authority area having netted off supply from vacancies over the next 5 years.

Table 7-10 Projected Need For New Pitches 2006 - 2011 Based On Preferences Expressed Through The Survey

	Households on unauthorised sites	Overcrowded households	New forming households	Need from temp permissions expiring	Summary of needs by district	% Need by District
Dartford Borough	10	10	7	2	29	23.4
Gravesham Borough	10	3	0	3	16	12.9
Medway	2	4	5	0	11	8.9
Swale Borough	21	5	30	12	68	54.8
Total	43	22	42	17	124	100.0

7.6.9 The overall level of need for 124 pitches (Table 7-10 above) over 5 years will be offset by turnover on existing pitches and any new pitch approvals. The model builds in a supply of 10 pitches from pitch turnover over 5 years leaving a balance of 114 new pitches required. The distribution of these pitches, taking supply into consideration, and assuming that supply will arise across the study area over a 5 year period is shown in Table 7-11 below and explained further in sections 7.7 to 7.10.

Table 7-11 Distribution Of New Pitches 2006 - 2011

Dartford Borough	27
Gravesham Borough	15
Medway	10
Swale Borough	62
Total	114

7.7 New Provision – Dartford

7.7.1 Dartford has 1 local authority site at Claywood Lane. The majority of households live on private authorised sites, and 10 private sites were identified for the study.

7.7.2 On the basis of preferences expressed through the survey, there was a need for an additional 27 pitches in Dartford over the next five years. This reflects the high proportion of existing Gypsy and Travellers households within the District and their need for additional pitches to accommodate new family formation and deal with overcrowding.

7.7.3 10 overcrowded households and 7 new forming households expressed a preference for Dartford. In addition, 2 households living on land at Woodside Cottages in Dartford have temporary permission due to expire in March 2010, these families will need to be re-provided for within Dartford.

7.7.4 Dartford has had an average of 10 households on unauthorised encampments and developments over the last three years. Of those interviewed, all 10 households expressed a preference to remain in Dartford.

7.7.5 There is likely to be a low level of supply from turnover of existing site pitches, although there have been 2 vacancies on local authority sites in the last 12 months. In addition, Dartford has plans to provide 4 new local authority pitches and if approved this would reduce the overall level of need to 23 pitches over 5 years.

7.8 New Provision – Gravesham

7.8.1 Gravesham has one local authority site, the Denton caravan site in Gravesend, accommodating 8 families. There are 3 small private sites, one of which has a temporary permission until October 2008 which accommodates 5 households.

7.8.2 On the basis of ideal location expressed through the survey, there was a need for an additional 15 pitches in Gravesham over the next five years. This reflects the need to provide 10 pitches for households on unauthorised sites, and 3 overcrowded households who have expressed a preference for a pitch in Gravesham, no new forming households were identified through the study. In addition there are 2 households at Millers Farm and 1 at The Robins living on sites with temporary permission due to expire in October 2008, these households will need to be re-provided for within the borough. Pitch turnover is expected to make a negligible contribution to meeting needs.

7.8.3 Gravesham is a popular area for unauthorised camping. Local staff report a high flow of encampments through the area, especially over the summer months. Gravesend has particularly strong connections with the Romany community. An average of 8 households have been recorded on unauthorised encampments and developments over the last three July Caravan Counts.

7.9 New Provision – Swale

7.9.1 There are 2 authorised local authority sites in Swale. The majority of households are accommodated on authorised private sites; there are around 23 small private sites in the district. There is expected to be a low level of turnover of pitches on local authority sites. Turnover on private sites is not built into the model as vacancies on private sites are generally only available to meet the needs of family members. Vacancies on private sites may well help to meet the needs of overcrowded and concealed households within already on those sites. The likely level of turnover on these sites is not known.

7.9.2 The local planning authority should also give careful consideration to applications for private site development or extension where this is likely to help ease overcrowding or to accommodate new forming households in Swale.

7.9.3 On the basis of ideal location expressed through the survey, there was a need for an additional 62 pitches in Swale over the next five years. This reflects the high proportion of existing Gypsy and Travellers households within the District (48 households on authorised sites) and their need for additional pitches to accommodate new family formation and deal with overcrowding.

7.9.4 The study identified 9 overcrowded households and 30 concealed households with a preference for Swale, 4 of the overcrowded households also included new forming households leaving a total need of 35. In addition there is a need to provide permanent pitches for 12 families living on sites with temporary permission due to expire, this includes 9 households at Oak Lane where permission expires in March 2009, and 3 at Salvation Place where permission expires in February 2010.

7.9.5 Swale has had an average of 23 households on unauthorised encampments and developments over the last three years, the highest in the study area. Of These households 21 expressed a preference to remain in Swale with the remaining 2 expressing a preference for Sevenoaks. Local staff also report a high level of travelling through Swale during the summer months.

7.10 New Provision – Medway

7.10.1 There is just one local authority site in Medway, with 11 pitches, and a low level of private site development. Pitch turnover on existing sites is expected to have a negligible impact on the overall level of need.

7.10.2 On the basis of ideal location expressed through the survey, there was a need for an additional 10 authorised pitches in Medway over the next five years. Although Medway had just 14 households living on authorised sites, there is a need for additional pitches to accommodate new family formation and deal with overcrowding, the survey identified 4 overcrowded households and 5 new forming households with a preference for Medway over the next 5 years.

7.10.3 There has been an average of 5 households identified on unauthorised encampments and developments in Medway over the last 3 years caravan counts, the data showed a demand for 2 pitches for households currently on unauthorised sites in Medway.

7.11 Transit Need

7.11.1 Transit pitches address the needs of households travelling through the area. Transit pitches are needed in North Kent and across the whole County and consideration should be given to planning for transit provision at a County level.

7.11.2 On the basis of the analysis carried out in section 4 we have identified an urgent need for a small, managed transit site in Swale. Any further provision should be assessed at a county level.

7.11.3 Across the study area we identified a need for around 5 vulnerable families to be accommodated following eviction, and temporary accommodation for households moving into or around the study area. In addition there is a need for new site approvals to include provision for households from out of the area visiting their family.

7.11.4 We recommend that North Kent local authorities work with Kent County Council and SEERA in development of the South East Plan to determine how the provision of transit pitches should be provided.

7.11.5 We strongly recommend that transit pitches be planned, developed and managed Countywide with local protocols to enable effective use of sites locally.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 New Permanent Pitch Provision

- 8.1.1 The key recommendation from this study is for an additional 114 new authorised site pitches to be made available between 2006 – 2011 to deal with the backlog of demand existing within the study area and to meet emerging demand from new family formation.
- 8.1.2 The table below shows the recommended distribution of new permanent site pitches across the study area.

Table 8-1 Distribution Of New Permanent Sites

	Recommended Number of New pitches
Dartford	27
Gravesham	15
Medway	10
Swale	62
Total	114

- 8.1.3 Based on the preferences expressed by all Gypsy and Traveller households in the survey, in terms of the type of site required, smaller sites (15 or fewer pitches) are preferred for both permanent and transit sites.
- 8.1.4 In line with preferences expressed by all respondents through the survey 88% of new pitch approvals across the sub region should be on private sites; the proportions were 88.4% in favour of private sites in Dartford, 100% in Gravesham, 85.8% in Swale and 80% in Medway.
- 8.1.5 The main preference for location, expressed by all households in the survey was rural at 97.6% (157 implied) compared to 2.4% (4 implied) urban.
- 8.1.6 There is a need for pitches on new sites to accommodate 2 living units per household, along with additional vehicles. Pitches also need to be large enough to accommodate a modern mobile home.
- 8.1.7 New private sites should also have capacity to accommodate visitors and to accommodate future family growth.

8.2 New Transit Pitch Provision

- 8.2.1 There is an immediate need for one small managed transit site to be provided in Swale.
- 8.2.2 The distribution of further transit pitches should be discussed at County and regional level and be incorporated into the South East Plan.
- 8.2.3 Transit pitches should be managed at County level and supported by an expanded Management Protocol for Unauthorised encampments.

8.3 Planning Policy

- 8.3.1 Local planning authorities should make provision for identified needs through their Local Development Frameworks (LDF). Core Strategies should contain policies that set out site search criteria for the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites which will be used to guide the allocation of sites in relevant Development Plan documents.
- 8.3.2 New sites should be located in areas considered appropriate for general residential use, and with access to local services and facilities within existing communities. Planning applications should be considered on their merits in the context of site size and location and the population density of the surrounding area. Permissions or site licence conditions should be used to restrict the size of sites and where appropriate to recommend a “cap” on the number of people allowed to live on the site on a permanent basis and for transit / visiting.
- 8.3.3 To support the development of private sites locally support should be given to the community to help them through the planning system. And financial options should be developed to enable families to access finance for site development either independently or in a shared ownership capacity with a housing association partner.
- 8.3.4 New approvals and the flow of vacancies arising on existing authorised sites should be monitored against the recommendations of this report and used to inform future GTAAs.
- 8.3.5 The backlog of need amongst existing households should be dealt with as a priority. Existing households wish to remain together within established family units. There is a need for a feasibility study to look at the options available to address the needs of overcrowded and concealed households. A range of options should be considered including amalgamating pitches, and increasing the number of living units on existing pitches, as well as expanding existing site or individual pitch boundaries. The review should look creatively at the options for meeting needs over the next 5 years, to ensure the best possible use is made of existing sites as well as considering the need for new provision.

8.4 Future Accommodation Assessments

- 8.4.1 Future accommodation assessments should be carried out every 5 years, with the next study to be carried out in 2011, future studies should provide an update on the level of need and growth in provision locally.
- 8.4.2 A study of the needs of Travelling Showpeople should be completed in 2007, in line with the new definition of Gypsy and Traveller households for the purpose of the 2004 Housing Act (January 2007).
- 8.4.3 We recommend that all local authorities put in place systems to monitor the number of Gypsies and Travellers accommodated in social housing locally. Discussions with DCLG have confirmed the intention that Local Authorities should, in future assessments, be able to estimate the level of need arising from households in bricks and mortar accommodation.

8.5 Partnership Working

- 8.5.1 Strategies and plans need to be formulated that address both the current and future accommodation circumstances of Gypsy and Travellers across North Kent, in consultation with the Gypsy and Traveller community.

- 8.5.2 We recommend a Gypsy and Traveller Strategy is developed for the North Kent districts; this should be developed in consultation with the community and Kent County Council. A separate strategy should be developed for the unitary authority of Medway.

8.6 Site Management

- 8.6.1 The site management model in Kent is an example of good practice, with sites managed at a County level and a senior manager co-ordinating the work of local site managers. This has enabled a base of expertise to develop at a County level alongside local understanding and sensitivity to management issues on individual sites. It is essential that a strong site management structure is maintained to ensure that authorised sites are well-managed and unauthorised encampments are responded to appropriately and effectively.
- 8.6.2 The Local Authorities in the North Kent study area should work with Kent County Council and other Kent Authorities to develop a set of benchmarking standards to measure the performance of site management, levels of provision and performance in relation to unauthorised camping.
- 8.6.3 The development of plans and strategies to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller households must be based on reliable and robust local data. Local Authorities should work with Kent County Council in developing common waiting lists, and consistent monitoring of site management information in order to provide comparable sub-regional data on housing needs.
- 8.6.4 There is a high level of satisfaction with sites. Health and safety issues should be addressed through regular inspection of sites.
- 8.6.5 Allegations of harassment should be addressed in partnership with the settled community and the police. There may be a need to develop confidence in the police to tackle issues of harassment.

8.7 Health, Education and Financial Support

- 8.7.1 New sites should be developed with access to local facilities in mind.
- 8.7.2 A local code of guidance should be developed by Occupational Therapy to enable Gypsy and Traveller families to gain equal access to adaptations compared to the settled community.
- 8.7.3 Information and advice should be made available on access to benefits and financial support.
- 8.7.4

9 REFERENCES

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