



MOVING FOR CHANGE

MOVING FOR CHANGE NETWORK LAUNCH MEETING

27th October 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm, Online

Chair: Violet Cannon, York Travellers Trust

Minutes: Billie Dolling, Friends Families and Travellers

Speaking: Sarah Sweeney from Friends Families and Travellers, Violet Cannon from York Travellers Trust, Helen Jones from Leeds GATE, Lucy Hetherington from Friends Families and Travellers, Neil Coulson from NCVO, Siobhan and Joanna Leigh Price from DGLG, Sami McLaren from Friends Families and Travellers, Sarah Mann from Friends Families and Travellers, Win Lawlor from Irish Community Care, Debby Kennet from London Gypsies and Travellers, Josie O'Driscoll from Gate HERTS and Lynne Tammi

1. Housekeeping – Violet Cannon

VC welcomes guests and thanks them for attending. VC asks everyone to keep themselves on mute unless they're talking and asks if attendees can turn their video on if possible. VC explains that the call is being recorded and if anyone has any objects, to make them known within 24 hours before the recording gets released. VC asks for people to introduce themselves in the chat if they want to ask questions, but if attendees are uncomfortable then VC explains that there is a phone number to voice note questions to; 07425 419853. VC then explains that this meeting should be a positive space with open discussion, so anyone who is deliberately disruptive to the meeting or being rude to other participants will be removed from the meeting with no warning.

VC runs through the meeting agenda;

Time	Topic	Presenter
12:00	Housekeeping Introduction to Board Introduction to Moving for Change	Violet Cannon
12:20	Breakout sessions: 'What do we need to do to preserve nomadism in the UK?'	Breakout session leaders
12:40	Feedback from breakout sessions	Breakout session leaders
12:50	How to get involved: The Moving for Change Network	Neil Coulson, NCVO
13:00	Q&A – in chat and via Whatsapp Voice Notes	Violet Cannon
13:20	Next steps	Violet Cannon



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2. Introduction to Board – Violet Cannon

Violet Cannon – CEO of York Travellers Trust and Chair of MfC

Helen Jones – CEO of Leeds GATE and Board Secretary of MfC

Debby Kennet – CEO of LGT

Win Lawlor – Strategic Policy and Partnership Lead at Irish Community Care and Director of MfC

Johanna Leigh Price – Director of MfC

Siobhan – Coordinator at DGLG and Director at MfC

Josie O’Driscoll – CEO of Gate HERTS and Director of MfC

Lynne Tammi – Independent Researcher and Director for MfC in personal capacity

Sarah Mann – Director at Friends Families and Travellers and Director of MfC

3. Introduction to Moving for Change – Violet Cannon

Chair introduces Moving for Change by saying that nomadism in the UK is under deep threat, as much as it ever has been in living memory, from a Government who appear hell-bent on destroying nomadism and the indigenous culture that goes with it. Politicians of all parties, the media and local communities (who only ever experience Gypsy and Traveller ‘homelessness’ as a temporary blip in their lives) fall into line with an Anti-Gypsy narrative which they find compelling and useful for furthering their own interests.

Gypsy and Traveller people and their allies need to create compelling evidence and narratives to push back against the destruction of travelling lives and culture. Across the whole UK there is effort in this direction from groups and individuals, but these voices can be fragmented and frankly too quiet in the face of anti-Gypsyism and the demonization of nomads.

Moving for Change has come into being as a result of development work initiated by Leeds GATE in 2018. As funds for their Negotiated Stopping project work came to an end, Leeds GATE and colleagues asked what next?

Delegates from across the UK including people who were living ‘roadside’ for some or all of the time were able to contribute their views about how the issues faced by roadside people should be addressed.

During the development phase of the work important themes emerged which has led to MfC being designed the way that we are describing today. Most importantly amongst these themes were –

That Gypsy and Traveller people, particularly roadside people, should be able to lead and deliver the work as far as possible.



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That MfC should not compete for projects or funds with existing Gypsy Traveller organisations.

That MfC should support groups to collaborate around issues of roadside and nomadism.

The result of this work is Moving for Change and the Moving for Change Network which we are launching today. Our new approach of collaboration and commissioning work is seen as innovative and we are very pleased that the National Lottery Community Fund has decided to support us for the coming five years.

We are particularly keen that individual activists and community members should be able to bid to carry out work, and this may be work that only those with a direct experience and connection would be placed to do.

In incorporating the three themes mentioned, the Chair highlighted that MfC have created support mechanisms, including a training hub, communications support, and a policy function which should act as a shared resource to all in the Network. In being able to offer support via training, shared communications and policy support, MfC feel that they have found a way to make this work.

VC highlighted that within the funds provided MfC have budgeted to support internships. Bearing in mind that an internship is a learning opportunity not a job, organisations delivering MfC work will be able to bid to host an intern. VC highlighted that she hoped very much that these opportunities will provide an entry into work in this environment which might otherwise be difficult to find for people whose education has been interrupted or whose life on the roadside creates other challenges to employment for example. VC said that whether you are a large university, a working roadside Dad or a young person looking to gain new skills, there is a place for you in the work of MfC.

VC then explains that attendees will now be assigned to random breakout rooms; Zoom then put designated members into these.

4. Feedback from breakout sessions – Breakout session leaders

VC asks group facilitators to feedback on their individual group discussions.

Win Lawlor: Group 1 facilitator

- A stronger voice from the community - Travellers' Times made an offer of an animation;
- A need to challenge street level discretionary decision making - as in law and policy devised at central government level not being delivered fairly or equitably at local level;
- A strong research agenda - the Irish Traveller community is particularly excluded/ignored when it comes to sites and stopping places;



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- Work to change the narrative, or social representations, of the communities - push back at the divisive language used by the media and decision makers;
- There is a need to 'write the culture' into planning and other legislation;
- Education and training across the piste.
- There are, as we know, variations across the UK with policy/legislation differences, but that the networking and partnership of this group is key to driving change as there are issues across the whole of the UK, and smaller populations/countries' people need the wider support of a network.

Sarah Mann: Group 2 facilitator

Educate and challenge about the public understanding about nomadism

- Poster campaigns
- Overcome ignorance and discrimination
- Test cases

Understand the impacts of forced movement in a human rights and social justice context

- Health impacts – long term impacts on children in particular
- Gathering evidence
- Health needs when stopped- water, sanitation, access to health care

More stopping places

- Which meet the needs of Travellers, not ones which are so bad they are just there to be turned down

Stop the criminalisation of trespass proposed by the government

Look at the international evidence

- Where are nomadic rights protected around the world
- How do other countries make things work well (Ireland, France, Netherlands, Belgium)

Solidarity with other marginalised groups

Councils doing what Walsall did

- Talk to Travellers on roadside camps
- Really listen to what they want and need - not just tick box
- Showing respect and a bit of humanity!



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Debby Kennet: Group 3 facilitator

- We need to address the continual negative portrayal of roadside camps - change the narrative around nomadism. The media has a big role here
- The story needs to be told from the GT community perspective as a way of educating the public who are not aware of the realities
- Influencing government policy and legislation is key. Challenging proposals to criminalise trespass. Challenging injunctions.
- Education - The lack of any inclusion of GT history and culture in school curriculum is a real issue. Also, the amount of prejudice and discrimination in education has a big impact on GT staying in school
- The needs of younger people in the community need to be understood. They have nowhere to live and no prospects for the future. We need more sites and temporary stopping places
- Roadside Travellers need stopping places for a temporary period. At the moment families are being moved on every week. 3 or 4 weeks in a camp along with portaloos would make a huge difference.
- What are the other allies – will this include the needs of nomadic boaters?
- Showman – nomadic traditions are different as Showman will have arrangements with councils on where to stop ahead of time, but the coronavirus has had a huge impact on all the fairs and probably will next year as well
- The GT community voice isn't loud enough or strong enough. It's important that there are community members in roles that will influence policy makers. But also, there is often a lot expected of community members who often don't have the necessary resources to try and change the situation.
- There needs to be a lot more support from politicians
- We need to understand more about the collection of data and who is doing it

Josie O'Driscoll: Group 4 facilitator

Visibility:

- Fight for it: march (although conscious of COVID) enhance visibility of campaign and solidarity between groups

Education:

- Education of history and heritage around stopping places: use resources and approaches proven to work (e.g. London GT oral project, homelessness museum)
- Challenge marginalising policy:
- Basic support and sanitation to ensure relations are built with settled com.
- Social media community standards need revamped and challenged nationally



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- Make Children's education more flexible and accessible as a pathway for GT
- Discuss mental health of nomadism
- Challenge Institutional racism of policy and licenses (e.g. waste disposal relying on permanent address)

Siobhan: Group 5 facilitator

- Make contacts by sharing history with other indigenous groups (not just nomadic groups) learn about others struggles to fight our own, so we do not live in a bubble of our own worries and struggles, having a wider network like this makes you stronger
- A united stronger voice from the community to fight anti-Gypsyism in papers and media, encourage people to vote
- Work in a coordinated way to improve stopping places for those in transit and tailor/improve services
- Work in a coordinated way to change the planning system in relation to how people can stop on land
- Making travelling culture part of planning legislation as a legitimate way of living
- (forgot to mention yesterday the new statutory instrument they are looking at in relation to stopping longer than 28 days on land you own etc)
- Being able to travel for work purposes (which is also the bugbear in planning, if someone spends time inside bricks and mortar, very often impossible to get sited)
- At this present time and especially through COVID, financially families not managing.

Helen Jones: Group 6 facilitator

Legal challenges

- How can MfC support legal challenges going forward?
- Seek to promote positive requirement on UK Gov to facilitate nomadism (Chapman v UK)
- Outline of current actions including challenge to Government definition, and injunctions, and regarding the legality of the Gov consultation
- Challenge hate crime and anti-Gypsyism and institutional/structural racism
- Other law and policy around education and health access – put pressure on policy makers
- Challenge around new planning white paper



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Narratives

- Very strong message about using art and other medium to promote positive identity of nomadic people.
- Challenge the '1 story' about G/T.
- Use Billboards and other non – digital means to get attention
- Link to stories of other nomads and indigenous people around the world
- Showcase people as rounded individuals.
- Celebrate nomadism as a positive way of life which benefits individuals and communities

Build Alliances

- Note positive alliance with Jewish people and groups which already exists.
- Encourage people to have confidence in challenging anti-Gypsyism (G/T and non-G/T)
- Create alliances with 'nearby' interests such as motor homers, walkers,
- Gather 'champions' from other groups (Marcus Rashford style)
- Create alliance with other nomads and indigenous people from across the globe.
- Promote negotiated stopping as a wide platform for alternative positive approaches to nomads
- Promote re-opening of previous (traditional) stopping places
- Promote alternative models for education which is inclusive of nomadic children
- Raise issues of hate crime and mental health

VC then hands over to Neil Coulson.

5. How to get involved: The Moving for Change Network – Neil Coulson, NCVO

NC introduces himself and explains that MfC is setting up a Network which will be made up of individuals and organisations that will be invited to bid for funding, to deliver activities on behalf of MfC; only individuals and organisations who are members of the MfC Network will have the opportunity to bid for funding. NC explains that these opportunities will include small-scale, short-term activities along with larger, longer-term contracts, which could involve piloting new approaches, carrying out research, coming up with policy guidance and so on. NC states that to win commissions for work on behalf of MfC, providers will have to show that they can deliver safe, effective and good quality work.

NC explains the 5 categories of Network membership:

1. Individuals/freelancers
2. Micro groups (annual turnover/income of less than £25k)
3. Small organisations (annual turnover/income of £25k to £150k)



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4. Medium to large-sized organisations (annual turnover/income of more than £150k)
5. Key Partner Agencies such as Universities and Local Authorities

NC then explains that membership is open to both established providers and those who are just starting up, and that membership benefits mean Network members can help to design projects, as well as being in a position to bid for opportunities to deliver activities on behalf of MfC. NC says that Network members will also be able to engage in key MfC panels, such as the panel that will evaluate members' bids for opportunities and the panel that will evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the activities that are delivered on behalf of MfC; members will benefit from training and capacity building support, and will also receive the findings from the research that MfC commissions.

NC then explains how to apply for Network membership; a brief application needs to be completed to show that certain criteria is met. NC states the 4 criteria:

1. You will need to be committed to supporting MfC's core purpose
2. You will need to preserve MfC's good name and reputation
3. You will need to show good practical understanding of the needs and strengths of the Gypsy and Traveller communities you either already work with, or are going to work with (the MfC Board has not defined what this criterion might look like in practice, as it wants to be open and responsive to Network members' own ideas on this).
4. You will need to show that you have specialist interests/areas of activity in terms of work with Gypsy and Traveller communities, which could prove useful to MfC (again the Board has not defined this, so as to get the ideas of Network members on this)

NC explains that to become a Network member, whatever category you fall into, you will have to meet all of these 4 criteria, and these application forms will be web-based and available from 28th October 2020. NC states that a link will be circulated to access these forms, and support can be given to help complete the form; details of this support will be circulated on 28th October 2020 also.

NC then hands back to VC.

6. Q&A – in chat and via WhatsApp Voice Notes – Violet Cannon

VC asks Sami for received questions for the Q&A.

Sami reads out question from Tyler Hatwell: **We've talked about roadsides - are we including liveaboard boaters as nomadic? The CRT is really coming down hard on them at the moment and it's a separate but equal concern.**

Helen Jones answers by stating that this issue hasn't come up yet but in terms of promoting nomadism and making alliances it is very important. HJ explains that even though it hasn't



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come up doesn't mean it can't be included, and that this is one of the purposes of the Network to highlight this importance.

VC says that conversations were had surrounding what MfC encompasses, and anything broader than ethnic nomadism MfC is willing to consider.

Sami reads out second question from Tyler Hatwell: **Can we know which organisations were approached to be a part of this today? (an email might be better than reading a list)**

SS answers by explaining that there is a list of organisations that have been invited to the Network Launch which can be shared but cannot share individuals due to GDPR rules. SS then explains that the general consensus is for everyone and anyone to be involved, this Network Launch meeting isn't exclusive so if people are not included in this call then it doesn't mean that they can't apply for the Network.

SM expands that this meeting is an initial invitation to the network, but future invitations will be distributed and there will be plenty of future opportunities to gain information and apply.

VC then explains that you do not need an invitation to apply to join the Network, this is just a launch event to tell people about MfC.

Helen adds that lots of invitations went out and not all have been able to make it, so not comfortable to share invitees that were unable to attend, and echoes that there will be plenty more opportunities to join the Network.

Sami reads question from Davie: **Who will decide the funding allocation and what measures have been built to ensure inclusive representation of community voice and/or geographical demographics?**

NC explains there will be a commissioning panel which will look at individual and organisations bids, who will then make recommendations to the MfC board about who gets funding. This panel will be drawn from Network membership, from all category groups, to make sure it is as inclusive and reflective as possible.

Sami reads question from Chris McDonagh: **Is there any way we could try and pressurise or bring up and cause issue to the fact that authorities haven't upheld their obligations concerning site allocation and creation etc.?**

VC states that this is something she would love to push for personally.



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Siobhan answers that it is important to let groups know that MfC has its eye on the ball, a review has been done and it's important to keep the momentum going. Siobhan states that this definitely comes into MfC work because if what's happening in the planning system isn't on the board, otherwise there won't be the stopping places that are needed.

Siobhan states that MfC doesn't know how to develop this yet but waiting to see if a Network member suggests something, or something gets developed on the way.

Sami reads out question from Mike Doherty: **How much are you budgeting to give out in grants over the length of the current MfC project?**

Helen explains that a budget for over three years was applied for, and MfC was awarded the budget for over five years from National Lottery. Due to COVID, Helen explains that the Lottery lent on MfC to distribute some work during this period. Helen explains that MfC has an allocated amount for each year for research and development, as well as internships and placements.

Helen then explains that further meetings are needed to collate and commission to prioritise projects and costing, and to look at what MfC are aiming to achieve so people can bid for this. Helen also explains that there will be an impact panel, in addition to the commissioning panel, which is drawn from Network membership and the commissioning panel; the impact panel will examine the impact of each project so this can be fed into the next part of MfC work.

SM also adds that although there has been initial funding granted for MfC, other funding is being looked into to help support other things over the development of MfC.

Sami asks question from Davie: **Could you give a broken-down funding allocation (e.g. max £ available to each tier)?**

VC explains that this has not been done yet, but lower tiers will be given higher levels of funding than higher tiers – i.e. tier one (individuals and freelancers) will receive more funding than tier four (universities and local authorities).

Helen adds that there are wider offers, such as training and communication support, and that individuals that need support will get that they need to help facilitate research; individuals will get a package of support in whichever way they need. Helen explains that even though MfC will help to facilitate projects, she hopes it is a thriving network that shares learning and policies.

VC adds that MfC is about empowering people whose voices haven't necessarily always been heard, as this is part of the MfC constitution and aims.



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Sami reads question from 'Samsung Tablet': **Is this initial meeting for the board? Or just the network? Will the board members be able to bid?**

VC explains that this meeting was for anyone to come to, not the initial board meeting. VC then explains that any Network member can bid as long as they meet the brief.

Helen adds that making MfC work will need people to get involved and bid, and be present on the impact and commissioning panels, for MfC to work. MfC is about helping to influence policy work

VC adds that MfC needs Travellers to recommend and disregard points put forward to help influence projects. VC then explains that board members of MfC can bid, which is why MfC don't want board members on the impact and commissioning panels to ensure fair distribution of funds.

NC explains that there will be things in place to help counter conflict of interests, for example people cannot assess their own bid, and that MfC will be really open and transparent to help manage all of this.

Sami reads question from Claire Hubbard: **Do you think it would be useful to invite someone from the business community e.g. Chambers of Commerce to help support the many small businesses? Just wondering how the communities were contacted about the financial packages which were provided to nomadic small businesses as part of Covid-19?**

VC explains that lots of conversations were had about areas like this, but they needed to be brutal as MfC is about roadside families having a future. VC says that this is not something that was previously thought about, but this will be looked into and feedback can be given about this.

Sami reads question from Jayne: **Is there a deadline for bids?**

NC explains that when bids come through the Network, there will be a deadline – opportunities for bids will be early next year. NC states opportunities arise, it will state that bids need to be in by a certain date, but the framework is just being set currently so there are no bidding opportunities at present.

VC responds to question posted in Zoom chat from Davie (Does it cost money to join?), that it doesn't cost anything to join, and that MfC welcomes anyone to say that they will be a part of the boards to help MfC.



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7. Next steps – Violet Cannon

VC expresses thanks for attendees joining the meeting and supporting MfC, and she hope to see attendees at future events. VC explains that the website goes live on 28th October 2020, address being www.movingforchange.org.uk. VC explains that once the website is live, there will be an application form and pack, and encourages attendees to sign up.

VC explains that Network members will be developed and encourages attendees to let MfC know if they have any training needs, as MfC have a budget for this, and can help people to hit the ground running if they have a project ready to go.

VC explains that MfC will also be developing a commissioning strategy based on working groups feedback and findings from the 'test and learn' phase of MfC; MfC will decide on another batch of 'test and learn' projects in the near future to be commissioned. VC explains that there will be mini launches of findings from the 'test and learn' phase of MfC projects so far; these have been smaller pieces of work so far, which will be released on Facebook Live - VC encourages attendees to join this Facebook Live event to give feedback and ideas. VC also mentions that Facebook meetings will be hosted to share information on MfC more accessibly for Gypsies and Travellers that do not have Zoom.

VC expresses that this launch news is confidential until 28th October 2020, so asks attendees to not share anything until the website goes live.

VC thanks attendees for being at the meeting, and states she looks forward to work with attendees in the future. VC mentions that MfC will only work if there are enough authentic and true voices to dictate direction.

VC says goodbye.

End of Meeting.