

Roma Families and Social Work/Youth Offending Engagement

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Funding mode/funder:	Seed-funding from Bucks New University and 'in kind' resource support for interviews/transcription from University of Manchester (MigROM project) and University of Derby	
Start and End date:	Autumn 2014-current (writing up)	
1. Brief summary of what the research is about.	Exploring (qualitative methods) Roma family experiences of engagement in safeguarding procedures and youth justice proceedings; approach to/attitudes engaging with local authority social services departments and YOT. Online survey of social work and YOT professionals contact with Roma families considering level of cultural knowledge; barriers to engagement and proposed solutions; issues around disproportionality and stereotypes impacting on service delivery. Impacts of engagement with above teams – e.g. models utilised by professionals and Roma individual/families responses – avoidance; migration;	

	participation in care planning/YOT diversion programmes etc.
2. What are the research questions?	• What are the views Roma people hold on the role of social work and social care with particular reference to youth offending/young people at risk of criminalisation, and child protection? • How can social work and social care agencies work to include Roma children and families in a more meaningful way? - and, • How can an understanding of these views inform the way in which social work professionals/youth offending teams, and policy professionals work to include Roma communities in more proactive, effective and impactful way?
3. What, if any, outputs so far?	Presentations at two conferences (MigRom end of project event (2017); University of Manchester and Bucks New University; Safeguarding Conference (2016))
4. What outputs are planned?	Report + minimum of 2 articles + policy briefing and input to training for social workers
5. What is the anticipated impact?	Feed-in to discourse on disproportionality in child protection system of Roma children and impact of stereotypes on how cases handled e.g. 'Romophobia' and exploration of whether transfer of models utilised in Central/Eastern Europe re family engagement/increased rate of removal into care of children; rapid transfer to secure estate of Roma offenders. See further policy discussion Greenfields et al (2015)
6. Comments / additional information / requests for data or input from the broader administrative justice community	Active engagement with NGOs active in supporting Roma (re advice/policy) and Traveller Movement Social Justice Unit – engaged in strategic litigation with a stream of work on Family Law